

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

June 8, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “What Will I Give?” -

Give
In Joy & with praise
View giving in a new light, Be an
Extension of Jesus Christ

Here it is again. **GIVE**. It seems that every time we turn around, everyone and every organization wants something from me and you. It is exhausting..... And here it is again. This Sunday we are asked “What Will I Give?”. (Keep reading to the end- Don’t stop here.)

When you think of giving, what comes to your mind? Some things that came to my mind were:

- Money – Money for church- (local and world), money for the campgrounds, money for the firemen, money for the 100 Club, money for fundraisers, money for alumni associations, money for the American Heart Assn, the Diabetes Foundation, the March of Dimes, and whatever charity that calls. – The list is exhausting and can bankrupt a person.
- Time (church)- to attend church, to teach Sunday School, to attend church meetings, to prepare sermons, to prepare the worship setting, to attend church social functions, to listen to people that need to talk it out, to volunteer on outreach projects, etc. etc. etc.
- Time (family) – to make meals, to sit and eat the meal together, to shop for the ingredients for the meal, to clean house, to have fun together, to listen to each other, to attend school functions, help with homework, car pool children to activities, be Girl/Boy Scout leader, be a room mom, etc. etc. etc.
- Talents – Fix this or that, help with this or that etc. etc. etc.
- The lists and opportunities are endless.

What comes to your mind? The lists can be exhausting and overwhelming. They can zap any strength or motivation you might have. They can make you a non-starter. They can make us sound like whiny babies.....

Giving – Is it a chore to you or is it a joy? Is it a task we do or is it a gift we give?

Have you ever been given something? Do you feel a responsibility to give the giver something in return? Do you just accept what is given and thank the giver or does it become a burden – “Now I have to figure out what I will return”? Does what we give need to be elaborate or expensive?

When God gives, does He expect in return? Does He give freely with love and joy? How do we receive His gifts? How do we acknowledge them? Do they become a burden to us? Do we expect Him to give to us?

I would like to suggest the following- The “things” that we give freely, with joy and without expectation of any recompense are the most rewarding and rejuvenating. They do not tax us in the same way as when we give because of obligation or guilt. They can uplift us and re-energize us.

What Can I Give? – Perhaps we can start with praise to and communion with God. Perhaps we should first analyze how we are able to give and focus on a few things that we can do with true joy and without strings or expectation. Whatever we decide to give, give with joy, give with love, give in faith. Try it – our acts of giving may be a gift to ourselves.

Psalm 116:12-19:

12What can I give back to GOD
for the blessings he's poured out on me?
13I'll lift high the cup of salvation--a toast to GOD!
I'll pray in the name of GOD;
14I'll complete what I promised GOD I'd do,
and I'll do it together with his people.
15When they arrive at the gates of death,
GOD welcomes those who love him.
16Oh, GOD, here I am, your servant,
your faithful servant: set me free for your service!
17I'm ready to offer the thanksgiving sacrifice
and pray in the name of GOD.
18I'll complete what I promised GOD I'd do,
and I'll do it in company with his people,
19In the place of worship, in GOD's house,
in Jerusalem, GOD's city.
Hallelujah!

(You will want to make sure you come to the worship service on Sunday and see what David's and Sue's take is on this theme.)

- Summer is upon us and that means **camps and reunions**!! Check out the mission center web page to get dates and forms for the various camps and reunions planned for this summer.
- The adult Sunday school class started a class series on “**Hope**” this week. Bonnie Whitehall will be facilitating these classes and will tie in the hope that was needed in the early years of the Community of Christ and the hope that is still needed in the current church.
- The adult Sunday school class is compiling “Our Prayers” in an album. Each week we will have a volunteer offer a prayer to the class and distribute the prayer to the class for inclusion into our class prayer book. Dick Davies will offer the prayer on June 12th. Are you praying and praising daily?
- **The children's Sunday school class** is making Father's Day cards during class and these cards will be **delivered** to the nursing home on **Sunday, June 19th** – Father's Day. We will leave the church at **10:00 a.m.** and go to the nursing home. This is the same nursing home that we visited at Christmas and did caroling. Please have your child at the church by 10:00 am. We will need parent volunteers to drive and to accompany the children as they make the deliveries. Please notify Ina Mae if you and/or your child are planning on attending this event. Share with your child in the joy of sharing. The children have really enjoyed making these cards and are looking forward to delivering them.

June 11th–Cookout and Campfire – 6:00 pm We will be firing up our new grill on Saturday, June 11th and serving up hamburgers, hot dogs and all of the fixings!!! Yum, Yum. A campfire is being planned and should be great for all young and young at heart.

We have invited the Houston area congregations to our cookout. Would some of you want to invite a friend to join us in the fellowship and fun? Sign up sheets have been posted in the fellowship hall. Make sure that you sign up for something!! Also, **please RSVP** to Margie White. We need a count for the food etc.

July 7th – Play Ball!!! Fairbanks will be attending the Houston Astros vs. the Padres on Thursday, July 7th at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 each for mezzanine level seats. Your check will hold your seat. All seats must be prepaid. See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. See Margie with your check to reserve your spot.

DEADLINE APPROACHING -- If you are planning on attending the Astros game, Margie will need your *money by June 19th*. A *minimum of 20* participants are required to obtain the \$7.50 price per ticket.

The worship and nursery schedules have been posted in the family center for January through March, 2005. Please check these .

Nursery Schedule:

June 12th - Jennifer & Kip Decker

June 19th – Ruth & Gary Chatburn

June 26th – Andrea & David Watson

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list. Pray that we will recognize what we can and should give and be able to give freely with love and joy.

Calendar & Mission Center News:

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at www.coastalbendmc.org

Visit the World Church Webpage and view/listen to events from World Conference.

June – July - Camps and Reunions

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 2nd quarter. This is not the “official list” and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

June 12th – David Romig

June 19th – David Watson

June 26th – Gary Chatburn

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes.

Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

Martha Romig