

Community of Christ
Fairbanks Branch Happenings
June 15, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Does God Care?” - Father’s Day

Caring sometimes
Appears in
Round about
Expressions that are realized later for what they were.

Have you every found yourself in a situation that causes you to wonder – Does God Care?

How did you answer the question? Did you answer the question or do you still wonder?

If Christians are “God’s chosen people”, then why do we have to suffer? Does it make sense?

Why is there disease, why is there hunger, why is there abuse, why is there pain, why is there natural disasters, why, why, why?????

Do bad things happen to only “bad” people? And if you believe this, then how do you define a “bad person” and how do you define the “bad thing”.

Do bad things happen to “good” people? Why or why not?

"By itself suffering does no good. But when we see it as the thing between God and us, it has meaning. Wedged in the crux--the cross--suffering becomes a transaction. The cross is a place of transaction. It is the place where power happens between God and us."

--Joni Eareckson Tada in "When God Weeps: Why Our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty"

It has been suggested that we sometimes have to endure adversity and pain to be honed and strengthened as metal is forged and strengthened by fire.

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you knew that God Did Care?

How did you know? What did you feel? What did you know? And why do we forget?

Why are there cures, why are there bumper crops, why is there love, why is there joy, why are there natural wonders, why, why, why?

Sunday is Father’s Day – Think back to the years when you were at home and growing up. – Well at least advancing in years physically! – Were you ever in a situation when you felt that your Dad or father figure did not “care” about you or “loved you”? How did you feel when you were being corrected or reprimanded? Think again. Was it love that caused them to correct you? Did you learn from the experience? Think about when *you* have had to correct or allow *your* child to experience pain – physical or emotional. Did you feel love? Did their pain hurt you too.

God sent us the gift of His Son and “watched and allowed” Him to feel our human pain? As a “Parent” – I suggest that God may also “feel” our pain.

What do we focus on? What do we remember? Does God Care? What do you think? How do you answer this when someone asks you?

On Saturday, June 11th we heated up the new grill and had the “great cook out”. Many thanks goes to all those that participated in this fun event. Special thanks to the organizers and to all that cooked, set up, cleaned up and made this event happen for all of us. After the cook out, we had a rousing round of camp songs around the campfire. All had a great time singing and acting like “chubby bunnies” and “elephants” – watching was fun too... The evening was topped off with what else but the making of S’mores. Can’t have campfire without roasting marshmallows!!! Needless to say we had great food, great fellowship, great praise and great times. We were very glad to welcome our friends and guests from Live Oak and Pasadena congregations. I am sure that one of the highlights for the young children was being “chased” by Larry Kibbey!!!! Plans will be in the making for another cookout/campfire in the fall so keep posted!!!!

- 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 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.

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.

July 31st – 4:00 p.m. – Lunar Golf at Katy Mills Mall. Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

See the calendar on bulletin board in the fellowship hall for upcoming events at Fairbanks and Mission Center events. June and July have been posted.

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

Nursery Schedule:

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.

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 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