

# Community of Christ

## Fairbanks Branch Happenings

### August 3, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Risk in Faith”

**Rock your soul. Live  
In a  
Spirit led  
Kind of lifestyle**

#### Living on the Glorious Edge

I recently encountered an individual who disparaged the pursuit of holiness. This person made the statement that the Christian life is too safe, too easy.

What is the point to living if all you do is take the easy way?

Where is the excitement, the rush when all you hope to do is the right thing?

The thought possessed behind these questions is the false assumption that living can only truly be experienced through sin. Through chasing after the lures and desires of the flesh.

People who reject living the Christian lifestyle on this basis believe that yielding to Jesus means that you will forever abandon the thrills and exultation of an unrestrained life.

Au Contraire.

The Christian life is replete with excitement.

It is fraught with risk.

It is overburdened with moments that shake the core, rock the soul and awake the spirit.

Christian living is life on the glorious edge.

It is life totally set free from the temporal restraints of this life.

It is eternal awareness in a secular world.

For example:

- There is great risk when I sit with a couple on the edge of divorce and share with them the glory and fulfillment of a Christ-centered message.
- There is excitement when I talk with the young soul about the peace and comfort of giving of one's life to Christ.
- There is palpable exhilaration that comes with confronting the wandering soul with the good news of God's grace.
- There is risk in standing for absolute truth in a world that seems dead set on absolute uncertainty. People may reject you but they will not doubt who you belong to.
- There is reckless disregard for the flesh when we abandon the desires of this life in exchange of the relentless pursuit of heaven.
- There is risk in loving unconditionally
- There is risk in faith. Of launching out with the full expectancy that our steps are not guided by our own might or reasoning ability but by the ever-present Hand of God.
- There is risk in sharing. We know that only *some* will believe. And we accept the danger of rejection with glad and sincere hearts. Because some *will* believe.

Every week as I prepare my thoughts for Sunday I am struck by the risk. When I pore through the Scriptures in an attempt at understanding I am seized by delight. As I consider how to best present the gospel I am overwhelmed, humbled and excited at the enormous responsibility that has been thrust upon me. I am calling people weekly to surrender all that they have.

All of their meager attempts to get ahead. All of their futile efforts to procure sense in this life through their own reason. To lay down their life in exchange for the life God longs for you to have. In so doing, I see all that I still have left undone. All that God still needs to transform within me.

It is not safe.

It is definitely not easy.

There is risk in giving your life over.

There is excitement at giving God control

There is exhilaration in living for something greater than yourself.

The Christian life is the life of true risk-takers. It is the journey of the joyous.

The manner of the magnificent.

The glory of God.

To live the Christian life is to live in joyous expectancy of Heaven.

To live the Christian life is to boldly risk all for another world.

To live the Christian life is to be willing to die to self and live for Christ.

To live the Christian life is to count all but loss compared to the unsurpassing joy of knowing Him.

To live the Christian life is to experience the excitement of seeing others lay down their burdens, their sins, their hurts, their pains and embrace the Gentle Healer.

It is a life on the tight-rope of living trapped between two worlds: the world we inhabit and the world for which we eagerly await.

It is a life in the lion's den of those who despise the message armed only with the love of Jesus.

The Christian life is not easy. It is not boring.

It is not the coward's way out.

It is life.

True life.

Life on the Glorious Edge.

Try it.

Above extracted from: <http://scottfreeman.typepad.com/>

Summer is upon us and that means <b><u>camps and reunions</u></b> !! Check out the mission center web page to get dates and forms for the various camps and reunions planned for this summer.
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Plant and seed, watch it grow, cultivate it, care for it and harvest the fruit. Do you have a gift, talent, idea etc. for an upcoming worship service? If so, contact the person presiding for that service in advance and let them know that you have seeds that you want to sow- ok you have an idea or want to help in that particular worship service. Please refer to the priesthood schedule posted in the fellowship hall for the name of the person presiding. The themes for this liturgical year can be found at the World Church web site under the Resources tab or you can enter the following URL in your web browser - [http://www.cofchrist.org/worship/Year\\_A/](http://www.cofchrist.org/worship/Year_A/)

**August 7<sup>th</sup>- 10:00 a.m. Fairbanks Congregational Conference-** Currently the known items on the agenda are as follows:

- 1) Consideration of Mission Center's Proposed 2006 Program of Ministry Budget and Fairbanks' Congregational Response.
- 2) Election of 5 Representatives and Alternates for the September 24/25 Mission Center Conference at Sionito.
- 3) Election of Pastor and Secretary
- 4) Other new business as might be raised and considered by the Congregation.

**August 13- 14<sup>th</sup>** – Youth Lock In at Fairbanks- Starts noon on Saturday and lasts until start of church on Sunday. Bring snacks to share, sleeping bags, pillows, clothes for church. All mission center children and friends ages 5 to 14 are invited. This will be a rehearsal for the Psalty Praise Party production to be presented January 14, 2006. Come rehearse and enjoy games and a campfire. Contact Sherry Caesar for more information. 281-300-1225. Also need some parent volunteers to help host this event.

We will need to get a head count so we will know how much food to have for dinner on Saturday evening and breakfast on Sunday morning. Please email Sherry Caesar at [sccmdc@yahoo.com](mailto:sccmdc@yahoo.com) with a head count from your congregation or call her at 281-300-1225. Also, CD's with the music. If you are interested in a CD please email your address to Sherry and she will get that to you as soon as possible.

Need young actors and actresses for the Psalty Praise Party production to be held at the Fairbanks congregation. This is a call to all mission center children and their friends. Also need parent volunteers to chaperone, build sets, and help with the production. List of needed supplies will be posted in the fellowship hall.

**August 21<sup>st</sup>** – Potluck and Congregational Planning Meeting after the worship service.

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

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

Nursery Schedule:

August 7<sup>th</sup> – **Need Volunteer**  
 August 14<sup>th</sup> – Andrea and David Watson  
 August 21<sup>st</sup> – **Need Volunteer**  
 August 28<sup>th</sup> – Ruth and Gary Chatburn  
 September 4<sup>th</sup> – **Need Volunteer**  
 September 11<sup>th</sup> – Beth & Steve Herold  
 September 18<sup>th</sup> – **Need Volunteer**  
 September 25<sup>th</sup> – Andrea and David Watson

We need volunteers for the nursery. Please see David Romig.

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](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

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

**July** - Camps and Reunions

**July 31 – Aug 5<sup>th</sup>** – Congregational Leadership Workshop – Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa

**Aug 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.** – Fairbanks Congregational Conference

**Aug 12 – 14<sup>th</sup>** – Sionito Work Party- Direct questions to Tim Everett- [Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com](mailto:Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com)

**Sept 16- 18<sup>th</sup>** – Sionito Work Party -Direct questions to Tim Everett- [Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com](mailto:Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com)

**Sept 24- 25<sup>th</sup>** – Coastal Bend Mission Center Conference & Retreat – Camp Sionito

**Oct 14- 16<sup>th</sup>** – Men’s Retreat- Livingston – Jimmy Munson providing guest ministry

**Oct 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Sionito Work Party - Direct questions to Tim Everett-[Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com](mailto:Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com)

**Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>** – HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY – PASADENA CONGREGATION

**Oct 28 -30<sup>th</sup>** – World Religions Retreat with J.W. Winland – Pasadena Congregation

**Nov 11 – 13<sup>th</sup>** – Sionito Work Party -Direct questions to Tim Everett- [Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com](mailto:Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com)

**Nov 12 – 13<sup>th</sup>** – Vibrant Witness Workshop- Fairbanks Congregation- John Wight

**Dec 9 – 11<sup>th</sup>** Sionito Work Party- Direct questions to Tim Everett- [Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com](mailto:Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com)

**Feb 10-12th 2006-** Silent Retreat at Cenacle House

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 3rd 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.

August 7<sup>th</sup> – John Reimer

August 14<sup>th</sup> – Gary Chatburn

August 21<sup>st</sup> – Dale Jones

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Sue Turner

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Gary Chatburn – Testimony Service

September 11<sup>th</sup> – John Reimer

September 18<sup>th</sup> – David Romig

September 25<sup>th</sup> – Doug White

**Encounter World Religions Retreat** - Friday, **October 28** – Sunday, **October 30-** 7p Friday, 9-6 Saturday, 9 – noon Sunday- **Pasadena** Community of Christ (713) 473-0608 - 1118 Pasadena Blvd - Pasadena, TX 77506 - Contact: Mark Euritt - 512-567-1581, [meuritt@austin.rr.com](mailto:meuritt@austin.rr.com)

Through varied, thought-provoking presentations and activities this retreat introduces you to the values, stories and traditions of the diverse religious-cultural groups that comprise the North American mosaic. You will experience world religions in a way that textbooks cannot convey and which will allow fear and misunderstanding to melt away.

**JW Windland, Toronto, Canada** JW is a comparative mythologist and founder of the ENCOUNTER WORLD RELIGIONS CENTRE. For the past thirty years, JW has been passionately involved in experiencing the world religions first hand. In addition to his academic background in religious studies, JW attends mosques, synagogues, gurdwaras, churches and temples on a regular basis as a testimony to his interest and love for the world religions. This background gives JW a perspective that is unique and tangible. He has established genuine friendships in these religious-cultural groups, has joined in their rituals and has introduced thousands of people to these diverse communities. He is an expert in interreligious dialogue and in creating comfort across religious and cultural barriers. He brings a familiarity and a deep knowledge of the diverse communities and traditions that make up the North American mosaic. (<http://www.worldreligions.ca/>)

As noted in the Coastal Bend Calendar President of Seventy John Wight will be in our Mission Center **November 12-13** to facilitate a Workshop. The Workshop is "**Vibrant Witness: Who Me?**" The **Fairbanks** Congregation in Houston has graciously agreed to host this event. Please plan on attending!

**February 10-12, 2006 - Annual Silent Retreat at The Cenacle Retreat House**

**420 N. Kirkwood, Houston, TX 77079** Sponsored by Live Oak –Marlene Krueger - Retreat Spiritual Director. Those interested are invited to participate in this opportunity to experience the Spirit of God in new ways. This will be a silent retreat except for discussion of experiences during a Saturday evening activity. Some direction will be given on how to direct your thoughts, but the most important thing is that you allow the Holy Spirit to direct you. You may bring inspirational reading materials, Bibles, journals, or other materials that you feel will help you to be in a deeper relationship with God as you meditate during the day. There is a outdoor labyrinth for meditation. Spiritual Directors from the Cenacle will be on hand for individual spiritual counseling to those desiring and administration will also be available. A free yoga class and/or massage therapy (\$35/half hour) may be provided based on advanced interest. Silence is sometimes a difficult thing for us to do in this busy world of ours and it can be a little scary. The reward can be a quiet reflective time between you and God. You can use the silence to listen for that still small voice or to rest in the Lord. The weekend will be what you make of it and can be a powerful tool for healing and restoring the spirit, if that is what you seek. Check-in will be at 7:15 PM on Friday, February 10th and the retreat will conclude with a Sunday morning service followed by lunch.

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The cost of \$130 per person includes a private bedroom with lavatory, community toilets and showers, and all meals, beginning Saturday breakfast. Towels and bedding are provided.

Number included in this registration: Female \_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_

Interests: Yoga \_\_\_\_ Massage Therapy \_\_\_\_ (\$35/half hour; paid separately to therapist)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the lower portion of this form and send it by January 6, 2006 to:

Community of Christ, P.O. Box 16685, Sugar Land, TX 77496-6685.

Payment should be by check payable to Community of Christ. Please send payment with the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact Marlene by phone at 970-577-0657 or email: markru\_99@yahoo.com

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*