

Community of Christ
Fairbanks Branch Happenings
September 15, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Accept God’s Generosity” – Heritage Day

A
Compliment, a show of
Concern
Ever so lovingly
Proffered - ever so
Tough to accept – Why....

Has anyone ever paid you a compliment? Did you graciously accept it or did you say something like – “this old thing

Is God generous? Has He ever stood in front of you and given you something? Has He physically been in your presence and gifted you? How do we know of His generosity?

Do you accept help when you are in need? Do you accept help at all?

Interesting thoughts.... Many of us consider ourselves to be “independent” and do not need to “accept help or gifts.” We might be ashamed, embarrassed, offended, feel unworthy etc.

If we “accept the generosity” do we truly accept it and treasure it or do we accept it momentarily and forget about it moments later.

If we are hesitant to “accept generosity” from our family, our peers, our friends, our church – “tangible flesh and blood that we can see, hear and touch”; how can we accept generosity from God – who we have never physically seen, heard or touched?

Sunday is Heritage Day. A day to look back and reflect on our roots, on how we were formed and molded, on who before us influenced our lives today, on what made us into what we are today. Our beginnings help shape our present and our future. Our heritage influences our beliefs and our morality and our faith.

Faith- a powerful concept- through which many things are possible and tolerable.

We have been taught by our family, our friends and/or by our church Christian beliefs. We have been taught about God, about the Bible, about the commandments, about Christian doctrine and “code of conduct” (the golden rule).

But it is through our personal faith journey that we experience the teachings given to us and explore and start to know God and know His love, His mercy, His grace and His generosity. Through this journey we come to know that God does exist in our lives and is ever present.

How do we know that God is generous? The answer for some may lie in their heritage. For others it might lie in their present and for yet others it may lie in their future.

It is my hope that where ever we are on our faith journey, we will be able to see and graciously accept God's infinite generosity and treasure it and pass it on to those that come into our lives daily.

Will we accept generosity? Will we give generously? What will we proffer?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

As a congregation, we have committed to being intentional about including prayer for Outreach as an element of each service. We would like to give everyone an opportunity to participate. The Outreach Prayer could be one that asks God to open the hearts of the Congregation so that their hearts and minds can be filled with a desire to bring others into a relationship with the Divine. It could express a desire to become aware of the people in our every day lives who do not now have a relationship with the God. The Outreach Prayer might express a desire to discern the Holy Spirit to help each member of the Congregation grow in the desire to bring others to the Christ. It could also contain a request that God would convict the Congregation of where they fall short in their Spiritual walk so that they can be better witnesses for Jesus Christ. It could also ask God to call to mind the correct words to use in witness so as to touch the life of another. If you would like to offer a prayer for Outreach please contact those listed on the Worship Schedule as presider. The Worship Schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

We are continuing to take donations for things for the "quiet bags" for the children. These items need to be for quiet individual activity. Some suggestions are: Veggie Tale items (can be found at religious book stores), Bible storybooks, crayons, activity books, animal puppets or finger puppets (especially lion and lamb), lacing cards, stencils, etc. We do not want Barbie dolls, electronic games or anything battery operated. Ruth will be out of town Sept 11 and 18 so she will collect everything on the 25th and have the bags ready to be used on Oct. 2nd. Any suggestions or contributions are appreciated. For these bags to be successful, we will need the cooperation of the parents and the congregation. Each child will take a bag and go sit with his or her parents or another responsible adult. This is a wonderful time to show the children that we care for them and that we love them. Please consider inviting a child to bring their "quiet bag" and sit with you.

[Members of the North Houston Community of Christ provided much-needed aid to a Haitian church family that had been living in New Orleans but found themselves displaced in Houston. – From John Chatburn's Katrina update – Found on World Church website.](#)

The North Houston congregation has "adopted" the Fleurigne family. They are from New Orleans and were displaced by Katrina. Austin is a taxi driver and speaks good English. His wife can communicate but does not speak or understand much English. They have a girl – age 3 and a boy – age 18 mos. They will be living at the North Houston church through October and are looking for work. Dorothy Hibbard – N Houston's pastor, has asked the local congregations for assistance to cover increased utility bills and food costs. A special collection box will be placed at Fairbanks to collect funds to assist North Houston defray additional costs incurred in supporting this family.

September 18th – Seekers & Disciples Class- 10:00 a.m. Joanne Chapman will be facilitating a Seekers class. This class is several weeks long and focuses on the beliefs and fellowship of the Community of Christ. All are invited to attend.

October 1st – 3:00 p.m. - The “senior” Whitehalls will be hosting a BBQ and hayride at their place. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall for side dishes and drinks.

October 2nd – Seekers Class – Sue Turner will be the facilitator

October 15th – 5:00 p.m. – Cookout for HOT volunteers- Houston Outreach Task will be relocating by the end of October. We would like to show our appreciation for their hard work. Many of the volunteers are also clients. The cookout will be at HOT – 922 Fisher – Houston 77018. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Everyone should bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Margie White by October 8th if you will be attending and assisting. Signup sheet is also in the fellowship hall.

November 12th 9:00-5:00 and November 13th 9:00 - 11:00 - John Wight, President of the Seventy and assigned to our Mission Center, will present a workshop on a “Vibrant Witness” at Fairbanks. There will be a small supply fee – approximately \$15 - \$20 payable on the day of the workshop. The Bauman Road Congregation will be serving a meal at lunch time as a fundraiser. Please plan on staying and sharing a meal with John and support the Bauman Road Congregation. We will need an approximate count of attendees so that there will be sufficient supplies.

November 13th – John Wight will deliver the Message at Fairbanks during the 11:00 worship service.

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

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

Nursery Schedule:

September 18th – **Need Volunteer**

September 25th – Beth & Steve Herold

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

Sept 16- 18th – Sionito Work Party -Direct questions to Tim Everett- Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com

Sept 24- 25th – Coastal Bend Mission Center Conference & Retreat – Camp Sionito

Oct 1st 3:00 – Cookout at Bonnie and Jeff Whitehall’s home

Oct 15th – 5:00 – Cookout for HOT Volunteers

Oct 14- 16th – Men’s Retreat- Livingston – Otis Harding providing guest ministry- Contact David Siddall for reservation or visit the Mission Center webpage for registration forms. Due by October 1st.
Oct 21 – 23rd – Sionito Work Party - Direct questions to Tim Everett-Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com
Oct 23rd – HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY – PASADENA CONGREGATION
Oct 28 -30th – World Religions Retreat with J.W. Winland – Pasadena Congregation
Nov 11 – 13th – Sionito Work Party -Direct questions to Tim Everett- Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com
Nov 12 – 13th – Vibrant Witness Workshop- Fairbanks Congregation- John Wight
Dec 9 – 11th Sionito Work Party- Direct questions to Tim Everett- 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 and 4th 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.

September 18th – David Romig
September 25th – Doug White
October 2nd – John Reimer
October 9th - Jeff Whitehall
October 16th – Sue Turner
October 23rd – Doug White
October 30th – Leo & Carole Caesar
November 6th – David Romig
November 13th – John Reimer
November 20th - Gary Chatburn
November 27th – David Watson
December 4th - Doug White
December 11th - Sue Turner
December 18th – Leo & Carole Caesar
December 25th - John Reimer

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

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