

**Community of Christ**  
**Fairbanks Branch Happenings**  
**September 29, 2005**

The theme for this Sunday is “Press On”

**Onward**  
Now and tomorrow

Press on – What a timely topic. In light of the natural events we have experienced in the last month, what a better concept to consider as we “press on” in our lives.

Pressing on; - what does this mean to you? Is it moving forward? Is it keeping the faith? Is it keeping the hope? Never giving up? Is it an overwhelming concept at times?

As humans we encounter events on an almost daily basis that could derail us and keep us from pressing on. What keeps us pressing on? Is it our faith in God? Is it our faith in our parents? - In our spouses? - In our friends? - In our church? – In ourselves? – Our stubbornness?- Our pride? – Our sense of adventure? – Our compassion for others? – Our need to rise up to the next challenge? – Our fear of failure? - Our hope in a new beginning or resolution? What is it for you?

In the scriptures, we are given examples of Jesus “pressing on”

- Feeding the multitude
- Curing the sick, the blind, the lepers, the cripples
- Confronting the Pharisees
- Providing an example to His disciples
- Understanding the less fortunate, the woman at the well

What kept him “pressing on”? Did He ever grow weary and tired?

Even Jesus would need to spend time in prayer and contemplation to rejuvenate Himself so He could “press on”

What do you do to rejuvenate yourself so that you can keep “pressing on”?

**Focused on the Goal**

12I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. 13Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward--to Jesus. 14I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

15So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision--you'll see it yet! - Philippians 3: 12-15 – The Message

The activity scheduled on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Whitehall's home has been cancelled

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. **Since we did not have services last Sunday, Ruth was not able to pick up any donations for the "Quiet Bags".** If you still have any items for the bags, please bring them this Sunday. 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.

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.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Seekers Class** – Sue Turner will be the facilitator. Please come and learn and discuss about the history, belief, structure etc. of the Community of Christ. Be it a refresher, be it a learning process- plan on sharing. If you "Know It All" still plan on coming and share your knowledge with those that might not "know it".

**October 15<sup>th</sup> – 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 8<sup>th</sup> if you will be attending and assisting. Signup sheet is also in the fellowship hall.

**November 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00-5:00 and November 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>** – John Wight will deliver the Message at Fairbanks during the 11:00 worship service.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** – Potluck after the 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 October through December, 2005. Please check these.

Nursery Schedule:

**NO ONE HAS VOLUNTEERED!!!!!!!**

**SO NO NURSERY THIS WEEK.....**

**If you want to volunteer – contact David Romig –**

**If we have no volunteers then the choices are - not have a nursery or have David assign you to nursery duty.**

**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)

**Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – 5:00** – Cookout for HOT Volunteers

**Oct 14- 16<sup>th</sup>** – 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Reimer

October 9<sup>th</sup>- Jeff Whitehall

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Sue Turner  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Doug White  
October 30<sup>th</sup> – Leo & Carole Caesar  
November 6<sup>th</sup> – David Romig  
November 13<sup>th</sup> – John Reimer  
November 20<sup>th</sup> - Gary Chatburn  
November 27<sup>th</sup> – David Watson  
December 4<sup>th</sup> - Doug White  
December 11<sup>th</sup> - Sue Turner  
December 18<sup>th</sup> – Leo & Carole Caesar  
December 25<sup>th</sup> - 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](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*