

**Community of Christ**  
**Fairbanks Branch Happenings**  
**October 5, 2005**

The theme for this Sunday is “God of Peace Be With You”

**Bring Your Peace over**  
**Each of us dear Lord**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Phillipians 4:4-9 – The Message

**In Search of Peace** – Published September 30, 2005 – Bill Peatman – The-Tidings.com

As I write this, the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are in ruins. Criminals rule the streets of New Orleans. People who survived a hurricane are dying from the lack of food, water and medicine. Fuel prices are spiraling. The situation seems out of control.

In today's second reading, Paul tells the church at Philippi: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

I don't know about you, but I find peace hard to come by. Even without an unthinkable catastrophe upon us, I rarely feel at peace. I am usually anxious about my career, my finances and my children's future. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the situation in the southeastern United States will have stabilized. But will you and I be any more at peace?

Of course, Paul is talking about the peace of God. This is not a peace that can be delivered by the United Nations, the National Guard, or the New Orleans Police Department. Paul is talking about an inner peace, not a circumstantial peace. This is not the absence of conflict but the presence of contentment. How do we rid ourselves of the anxiety that plague us? "By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."

Paul says that prayer is the key to inner peace. If you're like me, prayer is often the last thing you do in a time of crisis. When faced with a crisis, I usually simply try and escape or otherwise avoid the crisis. If it is a financial crisis, I try and save more money. If it is an occupational crisis, I try and find a new job. If one of my children is having a problem, I try and fix it. It doesn't usually occur to me to pray.

When I do pray, I usually ask God to make the crisis go away. Rarely do I pray for peace in the midst of a crisis.

Paul also gives some additional advice to the anxious: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things...then the God of peace will be with you."

In addition to prayer, we are challenged to reflect on what is good in our lives and our world. This is a helpful reminder in our world where we are bombarded by bad news. Fear sells newspapers and drives people to the television, so that is what the media gives us --- the frightening events of the day. Reflect on the good things in your life, Paul says, and the God of peace will be with you.

We need the peace of God, and we need the God of peace. While we must work to rid the world of the sources of pain and strife, we must also be able to experience God in the midst of these crises. We cannot manufacture peace. We can only receive it

*Bill Peatman writes from Napa*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Gloria Branch was baptized into the Church the weekend of the Mission Center Conference at Camp Sionito.

Andrea Watson has volunteered to co-ordinate the scheduling for the nursery. Please see Andrea and let her know when you would like to volunteer. Many thanks to Andrea for volunteering to head up this important ministry!

If you are not a registered youth worker, please see John Reimer and he will help you with the forms and the procedure to become a registered youth worker.

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. 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.

**Psalty's Funtastic Praise Party-** Is still scheduled to take place on January 14 if all goes as planned. We still need children and some adults to help chaperone, build sets, and etc. We need one person from our congregation (one person from each congregation in the Mission Center) who would be willing to go over the music and the words with the youth at their congregation in-between meetings and rehearsals. Sherry will be hosting meetings one time a month or every 6 weeks to rehearse as a group and of course this would be more often the closer the program gets. Please contact Sherry Caesar at 281-345-8344 or 281-300-1225 if you have any questions. This should be a fun and great youth event that you will want to make sure that your youth participates in. Parent volunteers are always appreciated.

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 3pm** - Join the Pasadena Congregation for a faith tour! . Through the Interfaith Ministry of Houston the group will be touring a Buddhist Temple, Hare Krishna house of Worship, and then end at an Islamic Mosque. While with the Buddhist, we will have pastries and tea. While with the Hare Krishna we will have a vegetarian lunch. There is a \$5.00 charge at the Buddhist Temple, and no charge for the lunch. Please contact Jonathan Coit at 'havepeacenow@yahoo.com' if you would like to attend.

**October 14-16, 2005** – Texas Men’s Retreat - Guest Ministry: Otis Harding  
Livingston Mission Theme: God Has Chosen You Contact David Siddall at 281.353.1433

**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.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** – Potluck following the worship service

**Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 3rd Annual HOT Golf Classic** at Clear Creek Golf Club 3902 Fellows Rd., Houston, TX 77047-6702 Who to Contact For More Information About: HOT – Carole Caesar (713)812-1741, The Tournament – Diane Wilson (281)337-7411, Clear Creek Golf Course – Pro Shop (713) 738-8000

**October 23rd – 5:00** – Congregational Planning Meeting - Pizza will be served. Come join and participate in planning future events and direction of your congregation.

**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:

**October 9<sup>th</sup>**- Margie White

**We need volunteers for the nursery. Please see Andrea 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](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>.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Planning Meeting – Fairbanks – Pizza Provided – 5:00

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>** – HOT Golf Tournament

**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 10-12<sup>th</sup> 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 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*