

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

October 13, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “God Has Chosen You”

Your choice
Offers me opportunities to
Understand Your will.

“God has chosen you.” That means that He chose “me”. Think about what that means. Many times do not personalize what this means. We think of other people or groups as being chosen; but this also means ME!!!

In order to “choose me” He must know me. Consider just that thought and what it means.

Consider how many people attend our congregation. How many of these people do you know? Consider how many people are in your family – extended and close? How many of these people do you know? Consider how many people live in Houston? How many of these people do you know? Consider how many people live in the United States, the Western Hemisphere, or the world. How many of these people do you know? Yet God knows each one of us by name. WOW! I cannot remember my close friend’s name half of the time!

What does “chosen” mean? If you look up the word in the dictionary, being chosen is defined as being the object of choice or of divine favor: an elect person. Selected from or preferred above others: *the chosen few*- Having been selected by God; elect.

What a great honor it is to be “chosen”!! I am special. I am looked on with favor. I am preferred. I am choice. Wow!! Sounds great doesn’t it.

However, after I got over the “big head” of being “chosen”, I started to think about what this really meant. Being “chosen” is a great thing, but being “chosen” also carries responsibility. Why am I being selected and set apart? How am I to behave and conduct myself to maintain a “chosen” status? Does chosen mean that I am “in like flint” and will always be in favor?

How many times have I thought – I am not going to do that – No one else is. It is not my job or my deal so I do not have to worry about it. Who me? You have got to be kidding. – I do so much and everyone else just rides one my coattails. Why don’t “they” start doing something?

Not nice thoughts are they. Not thoughts of a “chosen” person. They appear to be more of a judgment of others than a focus on what I must do. How many times have I judged instead of focusing on what I need to be doing in my life? I was not placed here to judge, but to live a life pleasing to Him. In the end, my judgments will count for nothing and His judgment will be final and binding. God will make the selection.

He chose me. The honor of choice bestowed upon me compels me to look at myself and my life and evaluate it. It compels me to look at my relationships and my goals and evaluate them. It also compels me to look at my purpose and determine what it is and look to see how it intermeshes with His purpose. He chose me even when I know that at times I am unlovable and unworthy. So

now does this mean that I too must also love those that are unlovable and unworthy in my eyes? That is a tough one if we were to be truthful.

It seems to me, that in being chosen, I have been gifted and tasked. Gifted by his love and salvation and tasked to be more like Him.

He chose you too. What do you think about that?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ruth Chatburn was **ordained as elder** last Sunday in Tulsa. Congratulations Ruth. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she transitions into the office of elder.

Vibrant Witness Workshop sign up is underway. Please sign up as soon as possible so that we can order sufficient materials for the class. Sign up sheet will be on bulletin board. As a congregation we are trying to focus on outreach, this seminar should be a great opportunity to obtain or hone outreach skills. Please plan on attending and listening to John Wight – President of the Seventy.

Just a reminder that ongoing volunteer, cleanup and repair work is needed in the Beaumont area. And soon it will be needed in Lake Charles as well. The first of the Rita evacuees are returning home to Lake Charles. **Joanne Chapman is still taking names for volunteer work.** Contact Joanne directly if you are interested. This is a good outreach opportunity for Fairbanks.

Pasadena needs 2-3 people to volunteer to help in the nursery during their 50th anniversary celebration. Children in the nursery will be under age 2. Need help from 5-9 on Saturday and 10-12 on Sunday. They hope to be able to offer a small stipend. You must be Youth Worker approved. This could be a nice outreach opportunity for Fairbanks. Contact Sarah Davis if you are interested in helping out.

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.

Last Saturday, Beth and Steve Herold volunteered their time to help with the clean up in the Beaumont area. A few members of the Hispanic mission joined them. They saw a great need for more people to volunteer to help fellow members and friends of the Community of Christ in their time of need. Many thanks to out to Beth and Steve for giving of their time and labor to help those in need. Thanks guys.

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.

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 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.

October 16th – Potluck following the worship service

October 19th – 6:30 – Beth and Steve Herold are hosting a dinner and organizational meeting in their home on Wednesday, October 19th. The purpose of the meeting is to plan and organize future Wednesday evening function/worship. All interested in returning a Wednesday evening function to Fairbanks should plan on attending.

Saturday, October 22nd - 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 22-23rd- Pasadena will be hosting its 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 22-23. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday

4:30 pm - Gather at the Church

5:00 pm - Dinner

6:30 pm - Sharing about the past

8:00 pm - Service of Reminiscing

Sunday

10:00 am - Worship Service (President Dave Schaal sharing the message)

12 Noon - light lunch (to eat there or on the road)

If you plan on coming or if you need housing, please notify us by one of the methods below. We are looking forward to a joyful time with all our church family through the years! Contact: Sarah Davis (281-426-4646 or peaceduck@ev1.net), Joyce Conrad (713-944-4020), Bea Diamond (713-477-9411), Karen Coit (281-458-0381) or rkcoit@hotmail.com).

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 5th - 6:00 – Turkey Fry at the Church. Plan to attend this evening of fun. Please RSVP to Margie White and plan on bringing a side dish to share.

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.

November 13th – 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 16th- Jennifer and Kip Decker

October 23rd- Paul and Angela Baird

October 30th – Andrea Watson and Alex Turner

November 6th – Steve and Beth Herold

November 13th – Gary & Ruth Chatburn

November 20th- Sherry & Christy Caesar

November 27th – Jeff and Rena Whitehall

December 4th – Sue and Alex Turner

December 11th – Paul and Angela Baird
December 18th – Dave and Andrea Watson
December 25th – No Nursery

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

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.

October 23rd – Planning Meeting – Fairbanks – Pizza Provided – 5:00

Oct 21 – 23rd – Sionito Work Party - Direct questions to Tim Everett-Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com

Oct 22nd – HOT Golf Tournament

Oct 23rd – HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY – PASADENA CONGREGATION

Oct 28 -30th – World Religions Retreat with J.W. Winland – Pasadena Congregation

Nov 5th – 6:00 - Turkey Fry dinner at Fairbanks

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 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.

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 an 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