

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY FBH!!!!!!!!!!

*Did you know that we have just completed our second year in print!!! The first FBH was published in October 2003!!!!*

## Community of Christ Fairbanks Branch Happenings October 25, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is "Jesus Is Our Teacher"

The lessons  
Etched in  
All of our minds and hearts  
Call and draw us to  
Hope and trust in our  
Eternal  
Redemption and salvation

### Jesus: Teacher

The Rabbi from Nazareth didn't need a blackboard to teach eternal lessons .by **Tami Rudkin**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:1, 2a, NIV).

Chalk dust, blackboards, and bells. Desks, colored pencils, and paper- Teachers, students, and grades  
Bring back memories?

Can you smell the musty books just out of storage, hear the shuffling of paper, feel the excitement?

Do you remember the first time you could solve that algebra problem? Or the thrill of putting together a line of poetic words? What about the moment you first learned of prejudice and hatred in our world?

The gift of learning -- discovering something we never knew before -- is one of the greatest gifts. Teachers are the givers of such life-changing gifts.

### Unique approach

Jesus was called Rabbi, the teacher. Many sat at His feet to learn the wonders of life. Unlike our teachers today, Jesus had no blackboard as His backdrop, but He did have a hillside. Rocky, warm, and inviting.

Jesus had no chalk to sketch His illustrations, but He did have nature. Sparrows, lilies, and the soil served as examples to teach of God's love, His desire for our lives, and our responsibilities.

Jesus had no desk to lean upon, but He did have a bobbing fishing boat set to the rhythm of the waves upon the sea.

Jesus had no colored pencils to outline with, but He did have the purple-blue sky, the snow white clouds, the earth's deep brown, and the emerald green sea.

Jesus had no bells to interrupt His teaching, but He did have the sunset. Colors He had created in the beginning of time were thrown across the skies to draw lessons from dramatic conclusions no one could ever forget.

## Master teacher

Jesus was a master teacher.

He changed lives because He was wise and was enthusiastic to impart His wisdom to others.

He changed lives because He took life's dilemmas and addressed them with thought-provoking stories. He changed lives because He asked His hearers questions and encouraged them to draw their own conclusions. He changed lives because He stood among them, not behind a massive desk. Jesus touched His students. He hugged them. He laughed with them. With His students He explored the wonder of knowing life's greatest lessons: forgiveness brings life, unconditional love brings harmony, and God brings all.

Jesus had all kinds of students during His three years of teaching. There were those who were skeptical from the beginning, those who adored Him only because He mesmerized the crowds, and some who, from their hearts, wanted to understand Him.

## Introspection

I wonder where we are? Always questioning His deity? Following because *spiritual* is in? Or do we want to know Jesus?

He welcomed all. He expected all. Like any good teacher before and since, Jesus wanted His students to take their newfound knowledge and allow it to change their lives. Will His teachings change our lives today? Will His words fill our being until we can actually live their truths? Will His Spirit invade our minds, our hearts, our deepest souls?

His words still echo off the rocky hillside just as the warm water of the sea still splashes against the shore. Will you hear the Teacher's words, engrave them upon your heart, and live them outside the classroom? He desires new life for you.

Wait a second. Look to the sky: Do you see those thin, feather-like clouds? I think I see an A+.

**Tami Rudkin** is a Christian writer living in Casper, WY.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Last Sunday, Ruth Chatburn delivered the Message for the first time at Fairbanks and for the first time ever!! All that were in attendance were truly blessed by what Ruth had to say and by the way Ruth was able to connect on a personal level with those in the congregation. Great job Ruth and we look forward to you delivering many more Messages in the future.

Yeah Beth and Steve Herold!!!! Thanks to Beth and Steve deciding to take action and set up the organizational meeting for Wednesday nights, it looks like Wednesday night have RETURNED TO FAIRBANKS!!!! Words put into action. Each one of us can make the difference in our congregation and in our spiritual and secular life.

Approximately 2 dozen attended the meeting at the Herold's home. It was decided that every Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. there will be a gathering. It will rotate from individual homes and the church. Children are very welcome and a separate, supervised activity will be available for them. Each week someone will volunteer to present the material for discussion.

**Wednesday, October 26**, we will meet at the church at **6:30**. It is a potluck since it will be dinner time. David Swart is in charge of the meeting. Mark your calendars and plan on participating!!!

**Vibrant Witness Workshop sign up** is underway. Please sign up as soon as possible so that we can order sufficient materials for the class. Contact Joanne Chapman ASAP. 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. This is a Temple School class. Please bring a dessert to share. Another opportunity for us to convert our words and prayers into action!!!!

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.

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.

**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.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>- 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 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 – \$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 a count of attendees so that there will be sufficient supplies. This is a Temple School class. Please bring a dessert to share.

**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.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Fairbanks Congregational Conference at **10:00 am** – Agenda items will include review and approval of 2006 budget, discussion of possible facility “facelift” projects and other business as may arise.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Fairbanks will once again be supporting HOT for Christmas. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the church between now and December 4<sup>th</sup>. A table will be set up in the family center for your donations. Please do not donate toys that could be construed as violent – such as toy guns, knives, etc. As always, there is a special need for the older children. Children range in age from birth to teenagers. As you start your Christmas shopping, consider those children who are less fortunate. Your gift may be the only gift they may receive.

**December 18<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 am** - Christmas Brunch and Children Crafts - Bring a brunch item to share.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Service

See the calendar on bulletin board in the fellowship hall for upcoming events at Fairbanks and Mission Center events. November & December have 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 30<sup>th</sup>** – Andrea Watson and Alex Turner

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Steve and Beth Herold

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** – Gary & Ruth Chatburn

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** - Sherry & Christy Caesar

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** – Jeff and Rena Whitehall

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Sue and Alex Turner

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** – Paul and Angela Baird

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Dave and Andrea Watson

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** – 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](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

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

**Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – 6:00** - Turkey Fry dinner at Fairbanks

**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

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00 - Fairbanks Congregational Conference

**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)

**Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – 9:30** – Christmas Brunch

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Service

**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 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 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*