

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

November 02, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is "Be Wise, Be Ready"

We think we are
In -
So why worry?
Entertain the thought.

Are You Ready?

When talking about our military, we speak of the state of readiness. Christians also must remain in a state of readiness. We must be ready for Christ's return and to stand before Him in judgment.

A few days before being crucified, Jesus taught His disciples about being ready. Jesus' teachings in Matthew 24:36-25:46 were specifically spoken concerning the end (24:6, 13, 14) from which we learn:

No one knows the day or hour (Matt. 24:36-44). Jesus illustrates this fact with Noah. Up to the day of the flood, people continued eating, drinking, and marrying. They did not know the day or hour of the flood just as we do not know the day or hour that Christ will be revealed. Nor do we know that day or hour that we will pass from this life. So Jesus said: "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him" (Matt. 24:44).

There are faithful servants and evil servants (Matt. 24:45-51). God is man's Creator. Therefore each man is God's servant. But there are two types of servants - faithful and evil. The Lord looks down upon His servants and finds the faithful servant doing His will while the evil servant is disobedient to His will. The faithful servants are ready for their Master's return while the evil servant is not ready. The faithful servant will be rewarded at his Master's coming but the evil servant will be punished.

A faithful servant is wise and therefore ready (Matt. 25:1-13). Jesus told His disciples a parable about the kingdom of heaven. He said that the kingdom of heaven was likened to ten virgins. Five of the virgins were foolish and five of the virgins were wise. The five wise virgins were ready for the bridegroom and entered into the wedding. But the five foolish virgins were not ready for the bridegroom and did not enter the wedding. Then Jesus said: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (Matt. 25:13).

A wise and faithful servant is working to the best of his ability (Matt. 25:14-30). After the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus told His disciples another parable. He said that the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling into a far country who called his servants and gave them talents (i.e., money). One received five talents, one received two talents, and the last received one talent. After a long time, the Lord came back and settled accounts with his servants. The servants with five and two talents doubled their lord's money, but the last servant did nothing with his lord's talent. The profitable servants were rewarded and the unprofitable servant was cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

A wise and faithful servant is ready for judgment (Matt. 25:31-46). Jesus ends His discourse emphasizing the judgments of which He has already taught. The

unprofitable servants will go into everlasting punishment, but the profitable servants will go into eternal life.

Let's ask ourselves these questions: Am I a faithful servant or an evil servant? Am I wise and therefore ready for Christ's return? Am I working to the very best of my ability? Am I ready for judgment?

-- By Allan McNabb

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.

We will be collecting items to include in a box that we will send to a soldier in Iraq. Please bring the items to the church.

November 2nd - 6:30 – Jennifer and Kip Decker will host the Wednesday fellowship at their home. Sue Turner will be facilitating. Mark your calendars and RSVP to the Deckers.

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 – \$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

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a count of attendees so that there will be sufficient supplies. This is a Temple School class. Please bring a dessert to share.

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

November 13th – Potluck after the worship service.

November 20th – 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 3rd - 5:30 – Family Christmas Party at Fairbanks. Please plan on bringing and appetizer to share. Crafts activities will be available for the children to participate in. Please RSVP to Jennifer Decker.

December 4th – Fairbanks will once again be supporting HOT for Christmas. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the church between now and December 4th. 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 18th - 9:30 am - Christmas Brunch - Bring a brunch item to share.

December 25th- 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:

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

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
Nov 20th – 10:00 - Fairbanks Congregational Conference
Dec 9 – 11th Sionito Work Party- Direct questions to Tim Everett- Tim.r.everett@exxonmobil.com
Dec 19th – 9:30 – Christmas Brunch
Dec 25th – Christmas Service
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.

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

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!

A MUSIC FESTIVAL for our community of friends **in Livingston** is being presented by the Community of Christ church, **November 12th from 3:30-6pm**. The church is located on 350 North off 190 West, across from Pace Funeral Home.

The congregation has invited the renown actor and minister Theo Boyd, of Independence, Missouri. Br. Boyd will share throughout the afternoon his portrayal of Simon Peter, apostle of Jesus Christ. His thorough study of a character’s personality, life style, dress, mannerisms, faith and written words make the character come to life. It is easy to think you are in the presence of the actual person being portrayed.

Joining Br. Boyd will be musicians sharing their special talents in songs and instruments. A lively afternoon is expected. A fish dinner is to be served 5pm. Simon was a fisherman, as Peter he was a fisher of men for Christ. Fish for dinner sounds logical for invited friends, **THAT’S YOU.**

Sunday Theo Boyd will share with us his love for Jesus Christ in sermon.

Gathering at 10:00 A. M. Worship service 10:30 followed by lunch provided by Livingston congregation.

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.

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