

Community of Christ
Fairbanks Branch Happenings
December 15, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is "Give Birth to Love"

Grow in love and
In
Virtue and
Express your love often and freely

Never underestimate the power of Love.

When we bring our Love to everything that we do, we change all that is. Just as one drop can spread ripples through an entire body of water, so our Love can send a ripple out that will be felt by the collective consciousness. We need not demonstrate a grand act of sacrifice in order to make a difference. A small seed of Love will do. For that seed will give birth to more seeds, which will give birth to yet more seeds.

And what kind of seed are we talking about?

Sending a genuine smile to the stranger on the street is one seed. Sending a note of gratitude and appreciation to a friend is another. Every time we do the dishes, if we bring mindfulness and loving attention to each dish, each washing, each rinse, we are planting a seed. We are expressing all the Love which we are through that one simple task.

Every time we take out the trash, we might silently give thanks for all the goods, services, and blessings we received from each discarded item before it became trash. We might give thanks to all the people who were a part of making those goods and services.

When we receive a telephone call from a wrong number or a sales person we don't want to talk to, we might honor and bless them and end the call politely with dignity and respect. For we know that they, too, are God, that they are us.

We sow a seed of Love when we put our physical surroundings in impeccable order. For it does not matter if we live in a palace or one room, it is what we make of our space that determines the quality of our living there.

When we are spending time with a loved one and they have something to communicate to us, we might give them our full attention and look them in the eye. We might take as many opportunities as possible to look into the Heart and Soul of each person we interact with. And we can't forget those other magnificent opportunities to express the Divine which we are; such as eating a meal, working at our desk, doing the laundry, sitting on the toilet, paying our bills, walking the dog, and so on.

All daily routines can become an immense experience of our Divinity when we make it Sacred. We need not run from the mundane cares of life to find enlightenment and Awaken. We need not seek out an ashram, a guru, or a burning bush. We are the burning bush. It is the demonstration of our Love, like a single drop, that brings the Sacred to the seemingly mundane aspects of our lives.

Above excerpted from: <http://www.soulonline.org/prose/writings/november/sowing.htm>

Announcements:

Welcome to everyone. The Fairbanks Happenings has been on hiatus for the past month. With the daily pressures and time schedules especially at this time of the year, serious consideration was being given to discontinue this and end it after a two-year run. Burn out, time and thoughts that this was just one of many e-mails received - all came together. Fortunately or maybe unfortunately – depending on the perspective, someone said that they really missed this and looked forward on weekly basis to this e-mail. A seed was replanted as the article above refers to. Never hold back and underestimate the power of planting seeds.

So here we go again. Participation is highly encouraged and any announcements need to be received via e-mail no later than Tuesday afternoon. If you have any news that you would like to share, or if you have run across something that has inspired you and would like to share, please send it.

This Sunday is the fourth and last Sunday of Advent – the season of preparation for the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. A time to prepare to receive the God’s ultimate gift of love.

Last Sunday Fairbanks went caroling at the Heartland nursing home. See the comments below submitted by Margie White. It was a truly blessed event – for the residents and for the carolers.

“Martha, please put a note in the Fairbanks Happenings that the caroling went very well. It was touching for all involved. The residents seemed to enjoy it very much. Several of them joined us as we walked through the nursing homes and sang with us. For some of us, it was hard to see the words on the page through our tears. Even the small children that couldn’t read were holding the caroling books and singing as they walked. It was a wonderful evening” – submitted by Margie White.

No Sunday school until the second Sunday of January 2006 Sue will continue the seeker’s class and we will be discussing the sacraments in the Community of Christ.

December 18th - 9:30 am - Christmas Brunch and children’s crafts - Bring a brunch item to share. Craft activities and cookie decorating will be available for all of the young and young at heart.

December 25th - Christmas Service

December 29th – January 1st – Junior and Senior High Yuletide retreat at Camp Sionito. Information and registration forms were sent on separate e-mail or see Mission Center webpage.

January 8th - Ordination of Ron Saur to office if High Priest – Round Rock- See article below

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.

December 18th – Leo & Carole Caesar

December 25th- John Reimer

The worship and nursery schedules have been posted in the family center for October through December 2005. Please check these .

Nursery Schedule:

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

Dec 18th – 9:30 – Christmas Brunch

Dec 25th – Christmas Service

Dec 29th – Jan 1st- Yuletide Retreat – Sionito – Jr. & Sr. High

Jan 8th – Ordination of Ron Saur- Round Rock

Feb 10-12th 2006- Silent Retreat at Cenacle House

The Coastal Bend Mission Center Worship Service for the Ordination of Ron Saur to the office of High Priest that was previously scheduled for the September Mission Center Conference has been rescheduled for January 8, 2006 to be held at the Round Rock Congregation.

Date & Time: January 8, 2006 - 10:30 AM

Location: Round Rock Congregation

Cedar Park Public Library

550 Discovery Blvd.

Cedar Park, TX 78613-2200

Guest Ministry:

Bill and Barbara Gardner (New England Mission Center)

Dale and Jan Jones

Mark Euritt

BBQ Lunch will be provided by the Round Rock Congregation Free Will Offering to benefit Roofs Over Africa. (For planning purposes, we need to know how many will be planning to stay for lunch. Please mail a note or send an email to Cheryl Saur (csaur@nat.com - 7002 Evans Drive, Round Rock, TX 78681) or Betty Beatty (bbhambon@msn.com - 1911 Old Mill Road, Cedar Park, TX 78613-5370) if you will be staying for BBQ.

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