

Community of Christ
Fairbanks Branch Happenings
December 29, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Grow in the Spirit”

Get going
Reach
Out
Work it - choose it.

Discipleship:

Lord Jesus, you made it very clear in your teaching that if I want to be your disciple I must take up my cross and follow you. But I have to admit I have a problem with this. My problem is I know what they did to you on the cross. Surely you don't expect me to go through something like that.

I wish you could have offered something less demanding, like maybe an associate membership. Then I could have some of the benefits of being a disciple without having to make a total commitment. But it seems that you don't allow spectators among your disciples. I can't just stand by and watch you save the world. I have to actually get involved.

What seems to be at the heart of this is an unexplainable mystery of continual dying and rising that makes up the life of the human soul. If I stay just the way I am, not taking any risks or making any commitments, I cannot grow in the Spirit. And if I do not grow, I begin to die. You want me to know that the only way to become more in the Spirit is to become less in every other way, to let go of all the earthly things that keep me small, to open myself to the life-giving Spirit without which I cannot be fully human, to open my heart to receive the wonderful gift of your love.

Being your disciple is an all-or-nothing commitment. To say *yes* to you means opening myself to the promise of eternal life. To say *no* has unbearable consequences. The cross may seem hard to bear, but not to take it up is unimaginably worse.

Above excerpted from www.grainofwheat.blogspot.com

Announcements:

Wishing everyone a happy, prosperous and blessed new year- May all of your wishes and dreams come true in the new year and may we keep our new year resolutions – if any are made for longer than we did last year!!!!

We are not having an Early Morning Worship Service or Church School this coming Sunday, January 1st. We ARE, however, having our normal Sacrament Service at 11:00 a.m.

The following is a message from Carole Caesar regarding the formation of a choir at Fairbanks.
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Monica Livingston is an experienced Choir Director and has agreed to serve the Fairbanks congregation in that capacity.

Monica will be introduced to the congregation on **January 8th** at the 11:00 o'clock service. Hopefully, her nine year old son Melvin will also be in attendance.

There will be a brief meeting with Monica and all who are interested in participating with the choir immediately after church. In the meantime, please be considering your preference for a rehearsal time. The suggestions currently being considered are Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM and Saturday afternoons at 2:00 PM.

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 1st 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. To be posted next week

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

Nursery Schedule:

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

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.

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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