

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

January 11, 2006

The theme for this Sunday is "Known by the Spirit"

Because of
You - we know

Known by the Spirit – At first glance I understood this to mean that we are known by the Spirit. That the Spirit knows each one of us personally and knows what is in our hearts and thoughts. After doing some preliminary research, this phrase began to take a new meaning and I considered that it could mean that all things we know, we know by the Spirit.

An interesting concept- All that we know, we know through the Spirit.

How can we know that there really is a God; that Jesus came to us to give us eternal salvation and redemption, that there is eternal life after death; that heaven exists? Lots of pretty heavy and abstract concepts exist in our Christian beliefs, many of which that are intangible yet we accept and embrace them.

How can this be?

Many of us are beings that demand proof- solid evidence- Missourians that that say "Show Me". We want to know how, why, when, where. We want empirical proof, we want something tangible.

So if many of us need proof- and we say that we are believing and practicing Christians- where do we get the "proof" that we say we need?

Last week's article included an analogy of the Holy Spirit being like chocolate syrup in a glass of milk. The syrup sinks to the bottom and does not really become part of the milk. The act of stirring or shaking the glass causes the milk to join with the syrup making it one and changing the characteristics and properties of the milk. This analogy cannot be all bad – after all it does make reference to chocolate!!

Maybe it is through receiving the Spirit we know what we know. Maybe the Spirit is that inner voice that guides us and teaches us. Maybe the Spirit is what allows us to believe and have faith. Is receiving the Spirit enough or do we have to do something like in the syrup analogy. Maybe we need to shake ourselves up a little and allow the Spirit permeate our being and transform us.

The Spirit knows us and everything we know we know through the Spirit.

What do you think- what do you know- how do you know it- what do you believe- what do you have faith in-why? Do you know the Spirit? Does the Spirit know you?

Shake and stir. Be one with.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, "Come, follow me." ⁴⁴(Philip's hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.) ⁴⁵Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, "We've found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It's Jesus, Joseph's son, the one from Nazareth!" ⁴⁶Nathanael said, "Nazareth? You've got to be kidding."

But Philip said, "Come, see for yourself." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw him coming he said, "There's a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body." ⁴⁸Nathanael said, "Where did you get that idea? You don't know me." Jesus answered, "One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree." ⁴⁹Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰Jesus said, "You've become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven't seen anything yet! ⁵¹Before this is over you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again."

John 1:43-51 (The Message)

Announcements:

No Potluck in January.

Wednesday Night Group – Beth Herold has sent out a survey to assist in determining the interest and the focus for the Wednesday night group. Please contact Beth with your input.

See Mission Center web page for more information

Jan. 13-15 - Young Adult (ages 18-25) Retreat at Camp Sionito

Feb. 12-14 - Silent Retreat in Houston Texas- See article below

Feb. 18-19 - Congregational Leadership Retreat at Camp Sionito

Feb. 24-26 - Exploration Group Session (Houston, TX)

Sunday, February 12th – 5:30 p.m. – Valentines dinner for adults at the church- Catered dinner will include pasta bar with salad and deserts. Tickets are now being sold to this dinner for \$11.00 per person. See Margie White to buy your ticket.

Monica Livingston, our new volunteer Choir Director, was introduced to the congregation last Sunday, January 8th. An initial meeting was held after the service with approximately 20 people interested in participating in the Fairbanks Choir. We agreed to have our weekly **practices** on Saturdays from **9:30 a.m. until 10:30 at the church**, beginning this coming **Saturday, January 14th**. We're excited to have Monica's energies and talents to help us grow our musical talents and provide ministry to our services. – By John Reimer

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.

January 15th – John Reimer

January 22nd- Doug White

January 29th – Gary Chatburn

February 5th – Sue Turner

February 12th – John Reimer

February 19th- Doug White

February 26th – Leo & Carole Caesar

March 5th- David Romig

March 12th – John Reimer

March 19th – Sue Turner

March 26th – Leo & Carole Caesar

The nursery schedule cannot be posted in the family center for January through March 2006. Please contact Andrea if you are interested in volunteering in the nursery this quarter.
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

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

Feb 12th – Valentines dinner at Fairbanks

Feb. 18-19 - Congregational Leadership Retreat at Camp Sionito

Feb. 24-26 - Exploration Group Session (Houston, TX)

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