

Community of Christ
Fairbanks Branch Happenings
January 18, 2006

The theme for this Sunday is “Believe and Follow”

By
Examining the way we
Live and love gives us
Insight to
Evaluate our beliefs and
Vision of what we should be
Executing daily

Do You Believe?

Do you believe that Jesus gave His life
that He suffered and He died in His love for you?
Do you believe when He hung upon the cross
that He did it all for us, in His love for you?

**For with each precious drop of blood He shed
His heart went out to you and I,
Jesus Christ gave all He had to give
even when it meant His very life**

Do you believe that Jesus gave His life
that He suffered and He died in His love for you?
Do you believe if you'd been the only one
He'd have wanted still to come in His love for you?

**For with each precious drop of blood He shed
His heart went out to you and I,
Jesus Christ gave all He had to give
even when it meant His very life**

<http://www.songsofjesus.com/audiochristian/doyoubelieve.wma>

(Insert the above in you browse to listen to this song)

The theme for this week is “Believe and Follow”. Sounds great - I suppose. This theme brought more questions to my mind – what an unusual event- than answers.

Questions like- What do I really believe and really buy into? Why do I believe it? What do I do with it? What do I not do with it? How strong is my belief?

With the explosion of technology in our lifetime, we are exposed to many ideas, thoughts, opinions, contradictions etc. How do we distill the available information and create our belief system? Does new information change what you believe in? Does it threaten your belief system?

Imagine someone coming up to you today and asking you to leave behind your family, friends, livelihood, home etc and follow them. What would you do? Imagine the dilemma that faced the apostles early on. How did they know to believe and follow? Do we have the same level of conviction to believe and follow?

Fortunately, many of us are give an out. That is – that maybe for most of us - to follow today

does not necessarily mean that we have to physically leave our families etc like the early apostles did. What a relief! We are not off the hook entirely though. Believing causes us to change and to do things differently. Sometimes what we are called to do is very easy for us and other times it is very difficult – but each one of us are called in different ways to follow.

Does believing mean that we stop questioning and follow blindly? I hope not, because for me it is in the questioning where I still learn the most. It is where discovery and spiritual growth still occur.

What do you believe and how do you follow?

Announcements:

Herald in Every Home – If you would like to continue receiving or start receiving The Herald, it is renewal time. To sign up please drop your check in the collection plate or give it to Paul Baird. The check should be marked that it is for The Herald and should be made out to Community of Christ for \$24.00.

Last Sunday the Fairbanks **choir made its debut**. Thanks to everyone that is participating in this ministry. It is enjoyed and appreciated by all – especially those of us that are musically challenged!

Congrats to Kristen Jackson for being accepted at Texas Tech. Go Red Raiders!!!

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.

It is my pleasure to announce the **call of Joanne Chapman** to Office of Seventy. I received official notice of this recommendation from President of Seventy Bob Kyser. I know I join with all of you in celebrating this call to ministry for our dear friend. The Mission Center will consider the call at our next conference. Let us keep Joanne in our prayers as she begins preparation for service in this new line of ministry. By - Mark Euritt - Mission Center President

See Mission Center web page for more information

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 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