

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

February 3, 2006

The theme for this Sunday is “Pause to Pray”

Praising
Adoring
Unceasingly
Sustaining
Edifying

Work, school, family, exercise programs, friendships, church, clubs, vacations, meals, parties, husbands, wives, children, yard work, shopping, resting, sleeping, reading, commuting etc. etc. etc. Demands on our time and energy. Demands physically and mentally. Too many to enumerate, too many to fathom. What are we to do?

Evaluate your day. Evaluate your week. Evaluate a month. Evaluate a year. Evaluate your life.

Where do all of our moments go? What do we decide to do with them either consciously or unconsciously?

Many of us sometimes feel that one of our most precious and non-renewable resources is our time. Many times we feel as if we cannot dictate how we spend our time and feel that we never have enough time.

Again we are asked to stop and do something. Pause and pray. Several months ago, the congregation was challenged to individually spend 5 minutes a day in prayer. This suggestion or “challenge” was discussed at an early morning worship service. 5 minutes a day. Sounds easy, yet in reality it was a very hard thing to keep up and do. Why is this I ask?

Aren't we instructed to pray and to pray unceasingly? Aren't we anxious to enter in to a dialog with our Friend Jesus or with our Father God? Aren't we blessed when we do pray. Aren't we comfortable being in prayer? Why don't we pray daily?

The other night in my Wednesday Bible Study we discussed how hard it was to pray daily and how good it felt when we did. It seems that this is not a problem that just I have. Someone brought up the fact that they used to do daily devotionals and then stopped and had a very difficult time starting again. Reminded me of an exercise program- you feel great when you exercise – but miss a few weeks and it is hard to get back into the program. Feels great when you do it so why don't we continue it.

Maybe we need to look at how we define prayer. Is it a canned recitation of prayers that were taught along the way or is it a conversation with Jesus and our God? Is there a proper and improper way to pray? Is there an appropriate or inappropriate place to pray? Do you have to be spiritually “right” to be able to pray? Does God hear one prayer over another?

I know that I feel better when I exercise. I know that I look better when I exercise. I know that I am healthier when I exercise. So why don't I exercise?

Is prayer the same way? I know I feel better after I pray? I know “look” spiritually better when I pray. I know that I am spiritually healthier when I pray. So why don't I pray?

Pause a moment first thing in the morning before your feet hit the ground. Pause a moment when you are driving to work or school. Pause a moment at your desk. Pause a moment at lunch or at dinner. Pause a moment before you fall asleep. Fill this moment with prayer. Fill yourself with the peace and blessing of a connected-ness with God.

Feel the connection with God. Welcome the Holy Spirit – shake up the Spirit so we feel it pop in us. Feel the peace. Feel the calm. Feel the love. Feel the joy. Feel the hope. Feel the companionship.

Sounds easy huh? Sounds good? So let us all pause to pray. Can you do it?

Pause A Moment

There is no special time for prayer,
One can pray 'most anywhere,
When things aren't going quite your way --
Pause a moment, just to pray...

If everything seems to bother you
And nag at you the whole day through,
To dispel those awful clouds of gray --
Pause a moment, just to pray...

If there is no hope in sight,
You see the tunnel but not the light,
do not wander, do not stray --
Pause a moment, just to pray...

When all your efforts seem in vain,
You struggle hard but see no gain,
Do one thing without delay --
Pause a moment, just to pray...

When you feel there is no hope,
When with life you cannot cope,
God will help along the way --
Pause a moment, just to pray...

By Joseph Ferrara

The link below takes you to a web page with the Stations of the Cross. With each station there is a prayer topic idea- for those times that we just cannot “think of what to include” in our prayer. Also as you go through the Stations of the Cross, we reminded of the Passion of Jesus and how He so loved each and everyone of us.

<http://www.angelfire.com/md2/poor/station.html>

Announcements:

Camp Sionito is in search of a **logo**. See the Mission Center web page for information on submitting ideas for the new logo. An e-mail regarding this with attachments was sent earlier this week.

The Fairbanks congregation answered a call from the Community of Christ's Power House program in Baltimore and donated funds to help buy chairs for this program. It is the hope that someone might find comfort, peace and Christ in the chair. Visit their web page at www.pigtownchurch.org and what they are all about and what they are doing.

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.

The Adult Sunday school Class is looking for topic ideas for the next adult Sunday school series and the Wednesday night group might also be looking for program ideas. Check the links on pigtownchurch.org for possible ideas. One idea might be the link for the Purpose Driven Community – Small group resources.

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

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.

Read about important information regarding updated severance packages, newly chartered teams, and more in NewsPEACE. <http://www.CofChrist.org/NewsPEACE/>
Testimonies and stories are now available for use with the Disciples Generous Response beginning with the first Sunday in February 2006. <http://www.cofchrist.org/offertory/>
The [2006 Reunion Schedule](http://www.cofchrist.org/events/2006reunion.asp) has been posted. <http://www.cofchrist.org/events/2006reunion.asp>
To find the most recent Temple School offerings, look here for the current catalog. <http://www.CofChrist.org/templeschool/catalog/Jan06.pdf>
Looking for ways that Outreach International can be a part of your reunion experience? Read how to get involved. <http://www.CofChrist.org/events/OI-letter.asp>
Updated forms for application and reporting for World Hunger and Tangible Love can now be downloaded. <http://www.CofChrist.org/hunger/applyingforfunds.asp> and <http://www.CofChrist.org/tlove/apply.asp> - Released by Mission Center Communications

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.

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.

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