

# **Community of Christ**

## **Fairbanks Branch Happenings**

### **March 10, 2006**

The theme for this Sunday is “Embrace the Cross”

Carry the  
Risen Christ  
Openly in your hearts and life  
So all can  
See

The suggested focus from the world church for all of the congregations of the Community of Christ is “Embrace the Cross.” What picture does this bring to your mind when you hear the concept of embracing the cross? Is it a literal picture where we are to give traversed beams of wood big hug? Is it a picture of penance and martyrdom where we decide to take on and own all of the problems and issues that surround us? Is it a picture of adoration and awe where we embrace the symbolism and truth of Christ’s ultimate sacrifice and precious gift to us? Is it a reminder of what our responsibility as Christians is when we decide to take Christ into our lives?

This is the Second Sunday of Lent. A journey of that leads to the conviction, the suffering, the death and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A journey that is celebrated and commemorated in varying ways by the various Christian religious denominations, but still a Christian journey that ultimately ends with the death and glorious resurrection of Jesus. A journey symbolic to some as the death and resurrection of the spirit and flesh that we too, as believers and followers of Christ, will ultimately also experience.

Especially during the Lenten season, many Catholic and non-Catholic denominations embrace the devotional – The Stations of the Cross- and “walk” the “Via Dolorosa” that Christ walked to his crucifixion and ultimate resurrection. As a child growing up in the Catholic faith, I remember walking the Stations of the Cross with my parochial school classmates. It was a very solemn and thought provoking experience even for a young child. It brought to a new awareness of what might had gone in the time as people watched Christ process with his cross, fall, rise, fall, die and ultimately is resurrected. There were historically 14 stations and in more recent times station 15 was added. At each station, there was picture depicted a scene and we were to pray and think about each scene as we made our way around the church’s perimeter. Each station evokes different thoughts and emotions and this can vary each time you walk the stations. Consider the power and insight we might feel as we walk and pray at each station.

Station 1 – Jesus is condemned  
Station 2- Jesus carries the cross  
Station 3 – Jesus falls for the first time  
Station 4- Jesus meets his mother  
Station 5 – Simon helps Jesus  
Station 6 – Veronica wipes the face of Jesus  
Station 7 – Jesus falls the second time  
Station 8- Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem  
Station 9 – Jesus falls the third time  
Station 10- Jesus is stripped

- Station 11 – Jesus is nailed to the Cross
- Station 12 – Jesus dies
- Station 13- Jesus is taken down from the Cross
- Station 14 – Jesus is laid in a tomb
- Station 15 – Jesus is Resurrected from the dead

Below are several links to more information regarding the Stations of the Cross. The stations can be walked in less than an hour or over a period of several weeks. Similar to the labyrinth – which by the way was also mentioned on the world church web page – it is a wonderful tool for devotion, adoration, meditation, re-adjustment, focus etc.

<http://frpat.com/stations.htm>

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html>

<http://www.ixeh.net/faith/Stations/via-menu.html>

What do you embrace? Why embrace the cross? Is it just traversed beams? Is it a symbol of death and suffering? Is it a symbol of reverence, birth and joy? What do you think???

**Embrace – as defined in Miriam Webster dictionary.**

**1 a :** to clasp in the arms : [HUG](#) **b :** [CHERISH](#), [LOVE](#)

**2 :** [ENCIRCLE](#), [ENCLOSE](#)

**3 a :** to take up especially readily or gladly <*embrace* a cause> **b :** to avail oneself of : [WELCOME](#) <*embraced* the opportunity to study further>

**4 a :** to take in or include as a part, item, or element of a more inclusive whole <charity *embraces* all acts that contribute to human welfare> **b :** to be equal or equivalent to <his assets *embraced* \$10>

*intransitive senses :* to participate in an embrace

**synonym** see [ADOPT](#), [INCLUDE](#)

**Cross- as defined in Miriam Webster dictionary.**

**1 a :** a structure consisting of an upright with a transverse beam used especially by the ancient Romans for execution **b** *often capitalized :* the cross on which Jesus was crucified

**2 a :** [CRUCIFIXION](#) **b :** an affliction that tries one's virtue, steadfastness, or patience

**3 :** a cruciform sign made to invoke the blessing of Christ especially by touching the forehead, breast, and shoulders

**4 a :** a device composed of an upright bar traversed by a horizontal one; *specifically :* one used as a Christian symbol **b** *capitalized :* the Christian religion

**5 :** a structure (as a monument) shaped like or surmounted by a cross

**6 :** a figure or mark formed by two intersecting lines [crossing](#) at their midpoints; *specifically :* such a mark used as a signature

**7 :** a cruciform badge, emblem, or decoration

**8 :** the intersection of two ways or lines : [CROSSING](#)

**9 :** [ANNOYANCE](#), [THWARTING](#) <a *cross* in love>

**10 a :** an act of [crossing](#) dissimilar individuals **b :** a [crossbred](#) individual or kind **c :** one that combines characteristics of two different types or individuals

**11 a :** a fraudulent or dishonest contest **b :** dishonest or illegal practices -- used especially in the phrase *on the cross*

**12 :** a movement from one part of a theater stage to another

**13 :** a hook thrown over the opponent's lead in boxing

**14 :** a security transaction in which a broker acts for both buyer and seller (as in the placing of a large lot of common stock) -- called also *cross-trade*

[\[cross illustration\]](#)

## **Announcements:**

We will be collecting new men's underwear and baby receiving blankets to donate to LBJ hospital. Please bring the items to the fellowship. We will be collecting until Easter Sunday.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Pot Luck at Fairbanks- Bring a lunch item to share and plan on staying after the service for a meal.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** – 9:30 – 9.50 - Second and fourth Sundays of each month – Coffee Talk and Continental Breakfast- Warm hearted conversation and loving each other is the purpose of the gathering. Got an idea for the future of Fairbanks? This is your opportunity to express yourself. Coffee Talk is scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Give yourself a treat and be there!

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**- Pancake Breakfast 9:30 am- Please bring breakfast meat or fruit to share. We will invite the community.

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**- Easter Sunday - Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt 9:30 am

**Pre-Baptismal Class series started last Sunday and is conducted by Dick Davies.**

**See Mission Center web page for more information**

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

March 12<sup>th</sup> – John Reimer

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Sue Turner

March 26<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

The Coastal Bend Mission Center (CBMC) has established a Youth Campership Fund to assist youth attending summer youth events. This program is not tied to any local congregational campership program. Any youth, member or friend of Community of Christ, residing within CBMC, may apply for one (1) campership per youth event (Sionito Youth Camp, IYF or Spec). Each eligible camper will receive up to \$50 per event, depending upon demand for

camperships. To receive the campership, the youth must complete the application information shown below.

Please complete the application information by April 30, 2006 and forward to the Mission Center President and Financial Officer, Mark Euritt.

The options for completing and forwarding the application are:

1) online using the <a href="#">website</a> form
2) send a copy you can get <a href="#">HERE</a> via mail to:
Mark Euritt, Coastal Bend Mission Center 311 West Annie Austin, TX 78704

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*