

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Congregation Happenings

June 28, 2006

The theme for this Sunday is “Excel in Generosity”

Ever want to
X out the inertia and
Create the
Energy to
Live as we are called

“If you really want to understand a man, don’t just listen to what he says, but watch what he does..” The Ragamuffin Gospel – Brennan Manning

The theme for this week is “Excel in Generosity”. Doing my typical online research there were many hits and long, discussions about monetary generosity. As it was put it in one of our recent offertories – Does everyone not know that churches need money to operate and that we are supposed to give money?

Money – Money – Money – This seems to be the main focus when we talk or think about giving. While giving money is not to be belittled- I struggle with it being emphasized so much. Sometimes being generous with our money or possessions can be easier than being generous with our time, our thoughts, our caring, our concern, our other physical, spiritual, emotional and intellectual gifts and our love.

When my son was in elementary school, he was involved in many activities of which all had fund raisers associated with them. While I understood that these organizations – like our churches- needed money to continue to offer the programs, I often felt like everyone was asking all at once for money, money, money and time. Often I felt that it would be better if they would just increase the fees to cover their expenses and stop the fund raisers. Often times I would take the option to “buy out” of the fundraiser and just send a check for an amount that would equal the expected profits from our share of the fundraiser. It was easier for me to just write the check and move on.

Sometimes in your spiritual/congregational lives’ have you caught yourself “taking the easy route” and just “writing the check and moving on?” I would dare to say that many of us have. You see being generous with our time causes us to make a personal commitment. It forces us to put ourselves out there and initiate and share – either in a one on one setting, a group setting or even a behind the scenes setting – like the stewardship commissioner, teachers/facilitators preparing lessons, people preparing sermons, invocations, worship settings, pastoral prayers, potluck set up and clean up, people that pray for us and the list goes on.

Sharing our time, our talents and our love crosses into all aspects of our life and is just not relegated to our natural or church families. It goes further and reaches all that we come in contact with and even those that we do not come in contact with. Sharing generously implies a joy in sharing. If the sharing is joyous – it removes or softens the feeling of obligation or guilt. If the sharing is joyous it may also remove the “strings” that giving may become entangled and entrapped with.

We are called to “excel in generosity”- What does this mean to you when you hear this phrase? Is it just a catchy phrase that we have because we need to have a Sunday theme? Do you think about the theme and focus on it for a least a nanosecond outside of the worship service?

To excel to me means to do more – to go to greater measures – to do an above average job – over and way above the average. If you are excelling at something, you are pretty darn good – you are excellent at it.

To be generous to me means to share richly and liberally what I have with others. The theme does not say “excel in giving” it says “excel in generosity”.

Generosity can be defined as - a readiness or liberality in giving; freedom from meanness or smallness of mind or character; largeness or fullness; amplitude; bountifulness; nobleness; magnanimity; fertile; prolific; open-handed, free; plentiful, copious; fruitful

The verb “Giving” is used to indicate that somebody presents or delivers something that he or she owns to another person to keep or use.

When you put the word excel and generosity together – it has a superlative meaning, message and standard of measure.

II Corinthians 9:6-7

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

How about it? Are you excelling in generosity or are you “writing the check and moving on?”

PS – I did participate in fundraisers.

Announcements:

No Potluck this month.

Sunday Morning Prayer Gathering - Each Sunday morning for those that wish to be part of the prayer team for our congregation's missionary outreach, we will be meeting **at 9:45** for a time of prayer and consideration. This is not a traditional prayer meeting, but instead a focused time to pray for guidance for our growth as witnessing disciples of Christ. This is in preparation for the Witness Community Training that is scheduled for September 23 and 24 and will continue after to support witnessing and community. We will meet in the class room closest to the front of the church. Sue Turner is facilitating this event.

Ragamuffin Gospel class – 10:00 Class will continue discussing Chapter Three- The Ragamuffin Gospel – Sue Turner will be facilitating

July 16th – Potluck and Baby Shower for Tawanna Bowser immediately after the worship service. Tawanna is registered at Wal-Mart and Babys R us.

July 16th – Congregational planning meeting after Potluck and shower – Come prepared to share in the planning for future events and projects and discuss current business.

July 30th – Aug 4th – Congregational Leaders Workshop – Lamoni, Iowa – See Mission Center or World Church webpage for details.

Aug 20th – Stone Soup – Mission Center event at Fairbanks – 9:00 am- 4:00 pm –

Sept 10th – Joint service with North Houston at North Houston church

Sept 23rd -24th – Witnessing Community seminar - Make plans now to attend this event.

See Mission Center web page for more information

See the mission center web page for camp and reunion information

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 2nd 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.

July 2nd – John Reimer

July 9th – Carole and Leo Caesar

July 16th – Sue Turner

July 23rd – Doug White

July 30th – Gary Chatburn

August 6th - David Romig

August 13th – Gary Chatburn – Testimony Service

August 20th – Mission Center Stone Soup

August 27th – Doug White

September 3rd – Ruth Chatburn

September 10th – Joint Service at North Houston

September 17th - Carole and Leo Caesar – Church Historian visiting

September 24th – Gary Chatburn

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

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

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