

**Community of Christ**  
**Fairbanks Congregation Happenings**  
**July 5, 2006**

The theme for this Sunday is “Experience God’s Grace”

Gift that  
Redeems  
Absolves  
Cleanses  
Everyone who wants it

The theme for this week is “Experience God’s Grace.”

Grace is a fairly basic word in our Christian language and a fundamental Christian belief. Often we say things like – by the grace of God so and so happened or failed to happen, salvation is by grace alone, God’s grace was showered upon us, etc.

What is the definition of this word/concept we hold on to so dearly?

John Mark’s Ministries defines grace as follows:

*“When a person works an eight-hour day and receives a fair day’s pay for his time, that is a wage.*

*When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for his performance, that is a prize.*

*When a person receives appropriate recognition for his long service or high achievements, that is an award.*

*But when a person is not capable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserves no reward - yet receives such a gift anyway - that is a good picture of God’s unmerited favor. This is what a Christian means when we talk about the grace of God.”*

Fortunately, many Christians believe that it is by the grace of God that we are granted entry into the eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. If it were not for this gift, which is available to all that want to claim it, heaven could be a pretty lonely place. Mankind, unlike Maytag washers, has a tendency to break and fail. We are not perfect and can travel paths that can separate us from God.

In the adult Sunday School class, we are reading *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. Talk about a great fit with the theme! God’s love, His Grace and our imperfections resonate throughout the book. It is almost a relief to know that we are not perfect and we are not alone in this state of imperfection. And yet even in our imperfect state God loves us and will grant us grace and salvation if we choose it. We can experience His grace if we choose. And we do experience His grace in many ways, shapes and forms. In mountaintop experiences and in everyday mundane events – it is there for us to see and embrace. In the book Brennan Manning says:

*“The saved sinner with the tilted halo has been converted from mistrust to trust, has arrived at inner poverty of spirit, and lives as best as he or she can in rigorous honesty with self, others, and God.*

*The question which the gospel of grace puts to us is simply this: Who shall separate you from the love of Christ? What are you afraid of?*

*The gospel of grace calls out: Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*You must be convinced of this, trust it, and never forget to remember. Everything else will pass away but the love of Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Faith will become vision, hope will become possession, but the love of Jesus Christ that is stronger than death will endure forever. In the end, it is the one thing you can hang on to.”*

When have you experienced the grace of God in your life?

### **Announcements:**

**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 discuss Chapter Four- Tilted Halos – Sue Turner will be facilitating

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

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

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

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** – Congregational Business Meeting – Agenda items will include election of congregational officers and a budget resolution to add Outreach International to the budget.

**Aug 20<sup>th</sup>** – Stone Soup – Mission Center event at Fairbanks – 9:00 am- 4:00 pm –

**Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** – Joint service with North Houston at North Houston church

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>**– 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 2<sup>nd</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.

July 9<sup>th</sup> – Carole and Leo Caesar  
July 16<sup>th</sup> – Sue Turner  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Doug White  
July 30<sup>th</sup> – Gary Chatburn  
August 6<sup>th</sup> - David Romig  
August 13<sup>th</sup> – Gary Chatburn – Testimony Service  
August 20<sup>th</sup> – Mission Center Stone Soup  
August 27<sup>th</sup> – Doug White  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ruth Chatburn  
September 10<sup>th</sup> – Joint Service at North Houston  
September 17<sup>th</sup>- Carole and Leo Caesar – Church Historian visiting  
September 24<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://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*