

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Congregation Happenings

September 26, 2006

The theme for this Sunday is “Pass on the Plenty”

Peace and
Love
Everyday
Needs and wants
To be filled by
You and by through You

I’M BACK!!!!!! DID YOU MISS ME!!!!!!

This week’s theme is “Pass on the Plenty”. – HUH??? -Plenty of what? - What do they mean about the Plenty?

Right now – “Plenty” is sometimes more than what I want. Plenty of work, plenty of conflicts, plenty of tasks, plenty of demands, plenty of change - Plenty, Plenty, Plenty... - To the point that I am “plentied out”- . Big WAH! I know – Sorry- But does anybody else have the case of the “plenties”. I know that I cannot be the only one with “plenty” on my plate.

Boy do I wish I could permanently pass out my “plenty”. What about you? Why don’t we plan a “plenty” distribution date and just pass out all of our “plenty”? Who wants to come and join me??

When I get this type of “plentied” out - and it seems to go in spurts – sometimes the spurts are far apart and sometimes they just seem to come right after the other with little or no abatement – I have to regroup, refocus, reprioritize and rethink my situation. And when I can bring myself out of my frenzy of activity and or self-pity – I can think about my other “plenties” that I forget in my frenzied state.

I must confess – I am not very good at stopping and asking for help, guidance and relief. You see – as an “alpha female” – I still think that I can still fix everything and deal with all of the “plenties” that life sends my way. Does God send me all of these “plenties” so I can practice coping skills? I hope not – Maybe if I listened better – my “plenties” would not come so often or in such mass. Or are my “plenties” “plenty” bigger and “plenty” negative because of the way I chose to deal with them and retain the control? What do you think?

It does seem that when I have reached the end of my “plenty” road – the stubborn alpha female portion of me sometimes get real close the end of the road – and I realign myself with God, the Holy Spirit and Christ- the “plenties” still exist – but they are not so overwhelming and you know what?

I GET NEW “PLENTIES”---- and I am glad to have them and to remember them. You see these “plenties” are the plenty of the love I feel and receive from my family and friends, the plenty of support I receive at home, at work and at church, the plenty of health I still have, the plenty of joy I feel, the plenty of time I have to go on vacation, the plenty of beauty that our Creator made for all of us, the plenty of resources I have to be able to live a somewhat comfortable lifestyle with plenty of food and shelter, the plenty of love I feel and am given by God, the guidance the Holy Spirit provides and the biggest plenty Christ gave me and you in the gift of salvation, forgiveness and the opportunity for an eternal life full of “GOOD” “plenties”.

We as members of the family of God we are so very lucky – so very lucky- You might think “What’s she talking about Willis?” – Especially in times where our focus in on the dark “plenties” we encounter in life. But the bright and radiant “plenties” are always around us and God’s presence is always with us – even when we have our dark sunglasses on and have trouble seeing His light radiating over our lives providing us with warmth, love and guidance.

Below are the Central Ideas and Questions for the Speaker found on the church world website for this week. Read them over and ponder them. Make a concerted attempt to answer them for yourself. I apologize in advance to whoever is speaking – I have not even looked yet – so sorry if I am “stepping into” your message...

Central Ideas

1. The people of God draw courage and hope from God’s promise of presence, even in the face of overwhelming odds.
2. God’s loving deliverance can be seen in many ways and in many of life’s situations, if we are open to seeing with the eyes of faith. This is especially true as we partake of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Questions for the Speaker

1. When has it seemed as though you were about to be overwhelmed by the forces of the world?
2. How have you experienced God’s deliverance in such situations?
3. Can you think of life situations that call for Christ-centered speech in the face of temptation to speak otherwise?
4. How has your congregation experienced God taking their side in order to accomplish a seemingly impossible task

Please Pass on Your Plenty –

If your plenty is like the first plenty I talk about – pass it up to God. Pass it on to someone you know and trust and be open to receive help with the burden and seek to see the guidance and love offered by God and those around you.

If your plenty is like the second plenty I talk about – pass it also up to God and to others around you. Give thanks to God and use your plenty in ways that are helpful for others. These “plenties”, when shared, have a knack of giving back and multiplying.

But do remember to Pass on Your Plenty and remember to not hold it in. What are you going to do? How? When? Ok first week back so enough with the questions.....

The last few weeks have been very busy at Fairbanks and in the Mission Center.

The Stone Soup event held at Fairbanks at the end of August was by all accounts a great success. Many were in attendance and the Holy Spirit moved in the group. Maybe this will become an annual Mission Center event. Many were fed that day.

Fairbanks and North Houston held a joint worship service in September. Many thanks to all of those that participated in planning and executing this worship service – It was good to be able to visit a neighboring congregation and share in worship.- Many thanks to North Houston for the hospitality and welcome given.

Mark Scherer, “the church historian” was at Fairbanks in September and presented a very great and very insightful presentation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It was very thought provoking and informative. -Very interesting to go back in time and look to see what the roots of this denomination were from an historical perspective. -Not only looking at the facts from the past but seeing how history impacts today and how it is always evolving. We also had the pleasure of having visitors from Live Oak congregation join us for the Sunday worship service. The worship service was truly Spirit Filled.

Joanne Chapman, Mission Center Outreach coordinator, -presented “Witnessing Community” last Saturday and Sunday. It was a very thought provoking presentation as to what we as a community see our focus and outreach to be. As the Mission Center motto says – Everything we do is outreach. The Witnessing Community Program is a program sponsored by World Church and takes months or even years to complete. John Wight will be presenting Missionary Outreach training at North Houston in November. This is open to all and I hope that all can attend.

In addition to all of the activities we had the opportunity to participate in – several other things happened this month.

John Reimer, Carole Caesar and Margie White transferred pastoral responsibilities to Sue Turner for the current administrative year. - Many thanks to John, Carole and Margie for their efforts in guiding the congregation for the past two years. Also, many thanks to Sue Turner for accepting the responsibility of being pastor for the next year. Please remember to thank John, Carole, Margie and Sue when you see them. Also, please pray and uphold Sue and the congregation as we transition. As many of us know – being pastor or being related to the pastor is a very demanding job and one that is made easier with teamwork and prayer at all levels in the congregation and in our church family.

Special thanks and recognition also need to go to Ruth Chatburn and David Romig. Ruth is the Congregation Financial Officer and David is the Congregational Missionary Officer. Thank them also and give them the “high five” for selflessly giving of their time.

Hopefully I can spread my “plenty” around so I can get back on schedule with the newsletter. David and I were out of town for 2 weeks – touring the Alaskan Inside Passage and Alaska. It was wonderful. I am sure that – as usual- at some point in time-

our vacation pictures will be coming to sermon that David is contemplating. The beauty of the state and the pristine areas of nature are true examples of God's paintbrush at work. Being gone 2 weeks was great – but coming back to work after 2 weeks – well there is a toll to be paid. I need not say more.

Recently, I have started having difficulties with Yahoo and reaching some distributions limits. Yahoo must have changed its tolerance levels recently. I am looking into setting up a Yahoo Group or something similar to post information for the congregation and to post newsletters. If you are not receiving the newsletter, it can also be found on the Mission Center webpage under our congregational information. Larry Haywood has been very good about posting all newsletters he receives in a very timely matter. Stayed tuned for further information about this distribution.

Let me know what is happening so I can include it the newsletter.

Announcements:

Ragamuffin Gospel class continues after it hiatus – 10:00 Class will continue discussing Chapter Eight- Freedom from Fear – David Watson will be facilitating

October 14th – 5th annual HOT Golf Tournament – See Carole Caesar or Margie White for details. Mark the date.

November 11th- Missionary Seminar- Presented by John Wight – President of the Seventy – North Houston

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.

October 1st – Sue Turner

October 8th – David Watson

October 15th – Leo and Carole Caesar

October 29th – Dick Davies

November 5th – Ruth Chatburn

November 12th – Sue Turner

November 19th – Gary Chatburn

November 26th – Jeff Whitehall Sr.

December 3rd – Carole and Leo Caesar

December 10th – David Romig

December 17th – Sue Turner

December 24th - Ruth Chatburn

December 31st – David Watson

The nursery schedule cannot be posted in the family center for October - December 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