

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Congregation Happenings

October 31, 2006

The theme for this Sunday is “Put Love First”

Following
In Your steps,
Risking perceived personal
Safety
To share Your love with others

Well you can imagine my confusion when I went to church on Sunday and Dick Davies preached a sermon on the theme of “Take Heart”. I wrote about the theme “God is By My Side”. Well folks, Dick preached a wonderful sermon on the correct theme, and I wrote about the theme for the last Sunday in October- 2007 - Ooops!!!! I warned you guys that I was losing it!

For those that want to look, the themes for the liturgical year C are now available on the world church website.

Well I have now checked the site several times and I do believe that the theme is “Put Love First” for next Sunday – Communion Sunday.

What a better example of putting love first than the sharing of communion. In this sacrament we are reminded that Christ put His love of us first – beyond His life- so that we could have the opportunity of eternal life. As you partake in the sacrament next week, consider what this means to you and to those that you love.

Many times, we go to church and become complacent about what is really happening while we are gathered to search, to pray, to be rejuvenated, to worship, to receive a sacrament, to receive or to give a blessing.

Look around you next Sunday and take in everything that is present and available to you. Consider that someone put their love for you first. I am not only referring to Christ and the sacrament of communion – but I challenge you to look further than the obvious.

Look at the altar setting – this setting changes weekly and it is not some magic or hocus pocus. It is because someone loves the congregation enough to take the time to prepare it for us.

Listen to the music – Do you think that it is easy for someone to make the commitment to play week after week? Could it be that they care for us and the quality of the service?

Look at the faces of the children and the youth Sunday school teachers. Do you see the love that is put first so that our children can also learn what we have learned and gain tools to help them on their spiritual journey?

Go get a cup of coffee before church. Someone put you first and prepared that pot of coffee so you could enjoy it. And that someone will probably clean up after everyone has forgotten about how good that cup of coffee tasted. Someone put love first. Someone cared.

Listen to the message that is being delivered. Even if you do not agree or think that it was poorly done and could have been better or if you think that it was wonderful and right on. The person standing up there cared enough about me and you to take the chance and stand in front of everyone and speak to us a message about Christ and give a testimony by their presence. Do our preconceived attitudes about people and ideas cloud what we listen to and what we hear? Was the love for us and the congregation put first as the speaker prepared and delivered the message? I think so – Have you ever gotten up and had to do this, even when it was not the best of days for you?

Look at faces of the people in the pews. Listen to the greetings these people give you. Feel the hugs that these people give you. Do they put the love of you first when they greet you and give you a hug? I think so. What about you?

These are just a few of the many things that our church family does for us. Sit back and observe. Feel that love that is present in the faces, the hearts, the words etc of the people in the church building.

Take this further and extrapolate to other areas of your life. Look at people through loving eyes and see if it makes a difference in your interaction. Put your love of your children, your spouse, your parents, your friends, your co-workers, your church family etc. first.

Sounds easy- But I feel that this message needs to come with a warning. Putting love first is not easy. It can cause personal pain and suffering. It can sometimes backfire on you. It takes courage. It may require that you let down your defenses and let people see the loving caring part of you and not the facades that we all put on in given situations.

We have the ultimate example in Jesus Christ of putting love first. Reflect on others that have modeled this for you.

After all if it were easy, anyone could do it. Are you up to the challenge???

Put love first in all you do and say.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN- My hope is it will be a safe and a fun event with family and friends for all of those that will partake in any celebration.

Recently, I have started having difficulties with Yahoo and reaching some distributions limits. Yahoo must have changed its tolerance levels recently. 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.

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

Announcements:

Ragamuffin Gospel class – 10:00 Continuation of Chapter 10 - The Victorious Limp

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

November 12th- Thanksgiving Pot Luck after the service

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 4th 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.

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