

Community of Christ
North Houston Happenings

October 27, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is "Jesus Is Our Teacher"

The lessons
Etched in
All of our minds and hearts
Call and draw us to
Hope and trust in our
Eternal
Redemption and salvation

Jesus: Teacher

The Rabbi from Nazareth didn't need a blackboard to teach eternal lessons .by Tami Rudkin

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:1, 2a, NIV).

Chalk dust, blackboards, and bells. Desks, colored pencils, and paper- Teachers, students, and grades
Bring back memories?

Can you smell the musty books just out of storage, hear the shuffling of paper, feel the excitement?

Do you remember the first time you could solve that algebra problem? Or the thrill of putting together a line of poetic words? What about the moment you first learned of prejudice and hatred in our world?

The gift of learning -- discovering something we never knew before -- is one of the greatest gifts. Teachers are the givers of such life-changing gifts.

Unique approach

Jesus was called Rabbi, the teacher. Many sat at His feet to learn the wonders of life. Unlike our teachers today, Jesus had no blackboard as His backdrop, but He did have a hillside. Rocky, warm, and inviting.

Jesus had no chalk to sketch His illustrations, but He did have nature. Sparrows, lilies, and the soil served as examples to teach of God's love, His desire for our lives, and our responsibilities.

Jesus had no desk to lean upon, but He did have a bobbing fishing boat set to the rhythm of the waves upon the sea.

Jesus had no colored pencils to outline with, but He did have the purple-blue sky, the snow white clouds, the earth's deep brown, and the emerald green sea.

Jesus had no bells to interrupt His teaching, but He did have the sunset. Colors He had created in the beginning of time were thrown across the skies to draw lessons from dramatic conclusions no one could ever forget.

Master teacher

Jesus was a master teacher.

He changed lives because He was wise and was enthusiastic to impart His wisdom to others.

He changed lives because He took life's dilemmas and addressed them with thought-provoking stories. He changed lives because He asked His hearers questions and encouraged them to draw their own conclusions. He changed lives because He stood among them, not behind a massive desk. Jesus touched His students. He hugged them. He laughed with them. With His students He explored the wonder of knowing life's greatest lessons: forgiveness brings life, unconditional love brings harmony, and God brings all.

Jesus had all kinds of students during His three years of teaching. There were those who were skeptical from the beginning, those who adored Him only because He mesmerized the crowds, and some who, from their hearts, wanted to understand Him.

Introspection

I wonder where we are? Always questioning His deity? Following because *spiritual* is in? Or do we want to know Jesus? He welcomed all. He expected all. Like any good teacher before and since, Jesus wanted His students to take their newfound knowledge and allow it to change their lives. Will His teachings change our lives today? Will His words fill our being until we can actually live their truths? Will His Spirit invade our minds, our hearts, our deepest souls?

His words still echo off the rocky hillside just as the warm water of the sea still splashes against the shore. Will you hear the Teacher's words, engrave them upon your heart, and live them outside the classroom? He desires new life for you. Wait a second. Look to the sky: Do you see those thin, feather-like clouds? I think I see an A+.

Tami Rudkin is a Christian writer living in Casper, WY.

LOTS GOING ON AT NORTH HOUSTON!!!

Read below for more info.



World Religions Event

Will be held at the Pasadena Congregation on October 28 - 30. More information to follow.



'Vibrant Witness: Who me?' Workshop

President of Seventy John Wight will be in our Mission Center November 12 - 13 to facilitate a Workshop titled 'Vibrant Witness: Who Me?' The Fairbanks Congregation in Houston has graciously agreed to host this event. John Wight, President of the Seventy and assigned to our Mission Center, will present a workshop on a "Vibrant Witness" at Fairbanks. There will be a small supply fee

– approximately \$15 - \$20 payable on the day of the workshop. The Bauman Road Congregation will be serving a meal at lunchtime as a fundraiser. Please plan on staying and sharing a meal with John and support the Bauman Road Congregation. We will need an approximate count of attendees so that there will be sufficient supplies.

UPDATED TIMES The times for the class are: 9 AM – 5 PM on Saturday the 12th and 11AM on Sunday the 13th with preaching by President of Seventy John Wight at the Fairbanks Congregation. Potluck lunch to follow after service on Sunday.

UPDATED INFO Joanne will be ordering books on November 1st so if you plan on attending, you should RSVP immediately to assure that you will receive the class materials.

I have been told by a member that formerly attending the Stone Church that John Wight is a terrific presenter and was asked to participate often in their outreach.

Per our pastor - John Reimer- this class should be of great benefit to our congregation especially since we as a congregation have embarked on a path to actively pursue outreach as a congregational goal. Each Sunday we have been offering a prayer dedicated to outreach so that we may prayerfully discern what our congregational outreach will be.

What a great opportunity we have been presented by being selected to host this Mission Center seminar and to host John Wight - President of the Seventies.

Would it not be great if we could have a huge turnout for this event!!!!

The Hispanic Mission will serve lunch - This will be a fundraiser for them and I believe that a love offering will be collected for the lunch. Margie has asked that we bring a dessert to share.

Hope to see everyone there - but first remember to RSVP.



North Houston Christmas Party!

Congregational Christmas Party at the church for the evening of **Saturday, Dec. 17th**. Mark your calendars!!!!

We will decorate the Christmas tree and bring gifts and non-perishable food for a family but other activities have not been planned as yet. We would love to include your suggestions for some fun and fellowship. Friends & Family invited!



Psalty's Funtastic Praise Party Is still scheduled to take place on January 14 if all goes as planned. We still need children!!! Plus some adults to help chaperone, build sets, and etc. We need one person from our congregation (one person from each congregation in the Mission Center) who would be willing to go over the music and the words with the youth at their congregation in-between meetings and rehearsals. Sherry will be hosting meetings one time a month or every 6 weeks to rehearse as a group and of course this would be more often the closer the program gets. Please contact Sherry Caesar at 281-345-8344 or 281-300-1225 if you have any questions. This should be a fun and great youth event that you will want to make sure that your youth participates in. *Parent volunteers are always appreciated.*

[Items needed for costumes and sets are attached.](#)





October Birthdays

- John Brosemer 10/1
- William Hall 10/7



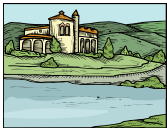
October Service Schedule

October 16 Presider—Jimmie Radliff Speaker—Dorothy Hibbard
October 23 No church service at North Houston. Congregation will be traveling to Lake Charles to help clean up from Hurricane Rita.
 October 30 Presider—Mike Turner Speaker—Carol Nelson



DON'T FORGET

- Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update someone on the Church Leadership Team with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Church Leadership Team if you wish to add/remove someone from the list. Pray that we will recognize what we can and should give and be able to give freely with love and joy.



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/>>