

Community of Christ

North Houston Happenings

November 17, 2005

LOTS GOING ON AT NORTH HOUSTON!!!

Read below for more info.



COLLECTING GIFTS FOR HOT!

North Houston will once again be supporting HOT for Christmas. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the church. between now and December 4th. A table has been set up in the family center for your donations. Please do not donate toys that could be construed as violent - such as toy guns, knives, etc. As always, there is a special need for the older children. Children range in age from birth to teenagers. As you start your Christmas shopping, consider those children who are less fortunate. Your gift may be the only gift they may receive.



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!



THE MYSTERY OF YULETIDE

Camp Sionito JR & SR High School Retreat. **December 29 – January 1**. Cost is \$85. More information please contact David Clark at 512-360-4140 or at dclark15@austin.rr.com



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.



November Birthdays

- Sparky Hibbard 11/1
- Steve Portz 11/4
- Meagan Venable 11/6
- Brooklyn Dietz 11/18
- Jared Venable 11/25
- David Siddall 11/29



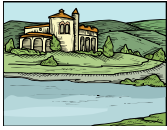
November & December Service Schedule

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|----------|---|----------------------------|
| ▪ Nov 13 | Presider – Janine Turner | Speaker – Mike Turner |
| ▪ Nov 20 | Presider – Dorothy Hibbard | Speaker – Jan & Dale Jones |
| ▪ Nov 27 | Presider – Olivia Turner | Speaker – David Siddall |
| ▪ Dec 4 | Presider – Mike Turner | Speaker – Teri Portz |
| ▪ Dec 11 | Presider – Dorothy Hibbard | Speaker – Bob Turner |
| ▪ Dec 18 | Presider – David Siddall | Speaker – Jimmie Radliff |
| ▪ Dec 24 | (Christmas Eve) Surprised By the Light
Dorothy Hibbard, Mike & Olivia Turner | |



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>>

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 The theme for this Sunday is "When Did We Meet You?"

May we
 Explore Your ways and
 Entrust our lives to You
 Til we see Your face

The following was excerpted from sermons given by [Paul Church, Chonju, Republic of Korea-
 www.comhom.net](http://www.comhom.net)

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 Matthew 2:1-12
 Wise men meeting infant Jesus
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Like the three wise men, we are on a journey, a holy pilgrimage throughout our lives to find Christ. The three wise men, the Magi, are from the Persian priestly caste, from the East, from present day Iraq and Iran. They are seekers, wisdom figures, and they are Gentiles, non-Jews.

Epiphanies require following stars, doing something foolish in the eyes of the world. In other words, we too have to be contemplatives if we want to have an epiphany.

Epiphanies require community. Notice that the Magi travel as a threesome, not as individuals. They seek the holy child together as a community. They worship together as a community. They share joy in the presence of Jesus together as a community, and they disobey the war making government that kills children as a community.

Epiphanies are journeys onto the margins of the world, among the homeless, the poor, and refugees. God is found not in the world of the rich and powerful, but among the poor and powerless, among homeless children.

Epiphanies fill us with joy and lead us to worship God and offer gifts to God. When we meet God, we are filled with joy. These are contemplative experiences of prayer and praise because they are encounters with Christ.

Then we are told that the pilgrims go home by a different route. Their encounter with Christ changes them. A movement of the spiritual life according to our story is how our lives change after we meet Christ, how like the three wise men, we go home a different way. Once we meet Christ, like the three wise men. Remember we cannot go back the way we came.

Are we on the road to Christ, are we meeting Christ, or are we going home in a new direction? When did you meet Christ? How has your life changed because you have met Christ?

What have been the epiphanies in your lives, those moments when you encountered God?

How are you seeking Christ in your life now?

What gifts are you bringing to God?

How has your encounter with God, your own epiphany, changed your life?

How have you gone home a different route after meeting God?

How have you changed your direction?

My hope and prayer is that you will see the star in your life and, like the Magi, meet Christ, and be filled with joy.

Glory and Praise to the Lord

Amen.

As we prepare during the Advent season for the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, let us recall the first time we met Jesus and what it meant to us and how it has changed our lives. As we travel through our faith journey; may we meet Him many times on the trail.

Next Sunday marks the last Sunday in this liturgical year, the beginning of a new year and the beginning of the Advent Season. The World Church theme for the new year is "Allow the Spirit to Fill You". As we prepare for His birth during Advent, open yourself and allow the Spirit to fill you.