

THE BRETHREN



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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Ocker Brethren Church Sunday School Facility

It's official - the new Sunday School Facility is complete! Ocker Brethren Church dedicated the 5000 sq. ft. building on February 1, in conjunction with the Soup-Your-Bowl Sunday fund-raiser. Ground breaking was in August 2008 and the project was completed in six months.

Reverend Ron Winsman said, "It was wonderful to have the lay people commit to this project." Congregational and community support paved the way for this project. Prayers were answered as laymen of the church donated their time to help in various phases of the construction. After the dedication and fund raiser, Bill McGuire, Board of Elders President, said, "The edition cost \$200,000, but has been paid in full."

What a testimony to the Lord's work! What an outreach facility! The new unit consists of 6 classrooms, 2 restrooms, a multi-purpose activity room, and an upstairs storage area.

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President's Column . . . Claren Kotrla INCREMENTALISM CONTINUED

Last month's discussion on incrementalism focused on many of its negative aspects. This month's article will continue with those examples but will also explore many of the positive aspects of incremental steps. Proverbs 3:4-6 which states "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all ways acknowledge Him and he shall direct your path." still applies.

As a young man I remember a book titled "Nineteen Eighty Four" which was actually about the Russian Empire. When it was published, 1984 was in the future. The book talked about how the government controlled everything and people did something called double speak to prevent them from getting in trouble with the authorities. There were other aspects of the book, but these will serve to illustrate incrementalism. At the time many of us were looking at the book



and saying it couldn't happen in the United States. Americans wouldn't stand for it. A few were fearful that it was where the United States was headed.

Today we have cameras at many intersections to make the intersection safe. However those same cameras are used to track the movements of individuals and shows where those individuals traveled and at what time. Of course the cameras are there to protect public safety. Today's technology allows the insertion of identification chips and radio frequency chips in animals as well as humans. For instance, in San Marcos, TX, a city ordinance proposal requires every pet to have a chip placed in the animal for safety reasons. Some people put chips in their children for safety reasons. Legislation is being proposed to require all livestock owned by farmers and ranchers to have mi-



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crochips in their animals. All in the name of public safety. This was incrementally accomplished. If someone had told you several years ago that where you traveled you would be tracked by intersection cameras you would have not accepted it. If someone would have told you a few years ago that you would have to insert a microchip into your animals you would have laughed. Today it has become a reality. This development could have come right out of the book "Nineteen Eighty Four".

Another interesting development is the cell phone. All modern cell phones now provide the government the ability to locate your position even when you aren't using it. This technology plays a part in many TV police shows. The argument for this technology being put into our cell phones is for safety and to track the "bad guys". Of course the "bad guys" buy a disposable cell phone and throw it away before being tracked. The only ones who can be tracked are the "regular law abiding guys". A few years ago this intrusion on our personal lives would simply not have been accepted. But incrementally we accept these types of changes usu-

ally for safety purposes or for the children.

Another example is the proposal from our leaders in Washington to place GPS tracking units in automobiles to track the miles we travel to more fairly tax us on the miles we travel rather than the gallons of fuel used. Of course, the technology can be used not only to track the miles traveled for taxing us, it can also track where we went, when we went there, and how long we stayed. This technology for the good of all (taxes) is an incremental step complementing the cameras and chips. We tend to accept these changes because they are done in small and almost incremental steps with subtle urging to make things safe. After all, who wouldn't want to be located by their cell phone if they were lost. We seldom ask how often does this actually happen?

The term double speak from the book "Nineteen Eighty Four" also illustrates what we see today. "Win or lose and pass or fail" are terms that have almost been eliminated when we talk about youngsters. But I can assure you that after the baseball game or soccer match, the kids who lost know it. You can tell by looking at the

kids who won. The attitude by each of these teams tells the story even if the adults refuse to keep the score or recognize the win. In the same way we are encouraged to tell our children everything they do is good. However, they know they are not good at everything. Some do math well, others read well, but they may not do both well. I suspect that even the first graders have figured out which kids are the best students in their class, even if the teachers don't mark wrong answers with a red pen. They know where they fall in their respective class rooms even if adults don't acknowledge it. Even with the various tests needed to advance to the next grade the rate of social promotions for those that fail those exams are in excess of eighty percent as reported on the local radio station this morning. Those kids who failed one grade are being promoted to the next level of education without being properly prepared and they become further frustrated. In addition, the kids who can handle the new material are held back because those who can't do the work require additional help. This phenomenon is an example of double speak, where we can't say someone

isn't capable. Yet on the football field if you can't perform, you aren't in the starting lineup. In fact, life is that way. You can think of any number of other politically correct words and concepts that have replaced regular words such as yes or no.

The Dallas School System eliminated the requirement to finish homework by a deadline. They also allow the students to retake their exams until they succeed, and no one receives a zero even if they do nothing. Not surprisingly, the reports are that the student's grades have greatly improved. That doesn't necessarily translate into better learning. This change occurred in incremental steps rather than a radical, instantaneous change. How these students will actually perform in life is unknown.

Incrementally we are becoming less inclined to mention Christianity. We are more likely to use the more politically correct word religion rather than Christian. This is double speak. The word immigrant no longer means a person who immigrated through the legal process of immigration. It usually means someone who came into this country illegally. The news re-



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ported that an immigrant was charged with the murder of a young lady. They didn't clarify if this person immigrated like our forefathers did or if the person is here illegally. This is double speak straight from "Nineteen Eighty Four". Gradually we accept these kinds of word changes and eventually we don't know what anyone really means, or, conversely, we can believe the words mean whatever we want them to mean.

We don't get into credit problems all at once. It is usually done in small increments. We use our credit cards a little at a time, and before you know it are several thousand dollars in debt, which will take many years to pay. Our government has done the same thing, only on a much grander scale. The solution is called a stimulus, but is nothing more than greatly increased debt generated by poor decisions in business and government. The consolidation of finance companies into mega corporations that the government says can't be allowed to fail are costing taxpayers more than the corporations are worth. Years ago those companies would not have been able to consolidate on this massive a scale due to anti monopoly laws. By incre-

ments those laws were changed or ignored by our elected officials and usually unknown to most Americans. Those hidden changes are contributing to the financial problems we have today. The legislation is written in such a way as to sound great but leaves out the hidden costs and negative impact on the citizens.

So much for the negatives of incrementalism. Let's look at some positives. They are just as numerous and just as important. Just as we get into debt, by incrementally putting money into savings we begin to float on wealth rather than drown in debt. Most of us didn't get into debt over night and we won't get out of debt or become wealthy over night either. It takes time and dedication to save and increase wealth. This also occurs when we gain weight. We don't gain a lot of weight over night. It takes time. Those extra pounds won't go away over night, either. It will take time, diet management, and, of course, exercise, to lose those unwanted pounds. Incrementally you can gain control of pounds or debt, or any other aspect of life.

When you meet that special person who becomes your life mate, the

relationship doesn't happen over night even in "love at first sight" meetings. Even in those relationships, the love and caring becomes more complete in incremental stages as we understand each other better and face life's challenges over time. Sometimes those incremental steps add that certain spice to our lives and keeps the relationship special.

Did you become a Christian all at once and, once becoming a Christian, did you fully grasp it all at once? Not likely. For most of us it was an incremental journey. First, maybe as a child we learned about Christianity. Then as we grew older, our depth of understanding about Christianity increased. After further study and life experiences, we began to blossom into a full Christian. Remember, as a child we thought as a child and as an adult we think as an adult. Incrementally we continue our grow in our Christian Faith.

Like many other aspects of our life, incrementalism is neither good nor bad. It's how we use it and how we react to what is before us that counts. Incrementally we can become failures or, conversely, incrementally we can become successful in all aspects of our lives, including sharing our Christian Faith. We seldom bring someone to the Christian Faith the first time we meet them or witness to them. But we can incrementally by word and action do so.

Please take the time to reflect on these observations. Look at them as an opportunity. Most of us will not be able to make immediate, major, radical, or massive impacts on large groups or in our own lives. However, we can make an impact on an individual or in our community. Take that opportunity and don't be afraid to incrementally move forward in your own Christian faith, and share that faith with others through word and deed.

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Sunday School Island



The theme for this month's section is **JOY**. The Bible Verse is Matthew 28:8, "So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with *joy*, and ran to tell his disciples."

Parent's Lagoon

April brings us Easter, a great season of the Church year. It brings us the story of resurrection and forgiveness. It also brings us great joy. Share the joy of the resurrection with your children or grandchildren this Easter with a new kind of Easter basket. Each item and its meaning is below.



1: *Lamb*—the Lamb of God.

2: *Plastic egg with jellybeans* in each of the following colors: black (our sin), red (Jesus' blood), white (forgiveness), yellow (heaven), and green (new life).

3: *Easter story book*.

4: *Rock candy*—the stone that was rolled away.

5: *Chocolate coins*—the 30 pieces of silver.

6: *Empty plastic egg*—the empty tomb.

Please see the Unity of the Brethren website for this information also!

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Matt 28:8



Easter Goodies

Sunday School Teacher's



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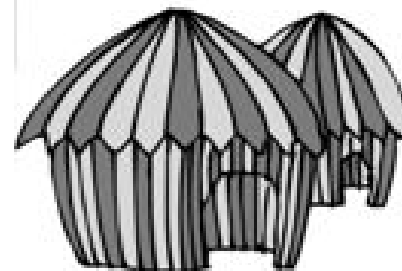
Toddler's Easter Rhyme

1, 2, Jesus loves you.
3, 4, 5, Jesus is alive.
6, 7, 8, I can't wait
9, 10, 11 to see Him in Heaven!

Easter Promise Craft

Using stickers or markers, decorate the outside of a plastic cup or flower pot with smiley faces (to remind us of the joy of Easter). Tie a ribbon around the container (to remind us of God's gift of salvation). Fill the cup with soil and plant seeds (to remind us of our new life in Christ).

Annual Christian Sisters Bazaar, 2nd Saturday in September
The Rosenberg Brethren Church
Christian Sisters
5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, Texas 77471



Teen Cabana

What is the difference
between joy for the
moment and lasting joy?

Joy may be viewed as having fun, being happy, or doing whatever you want. But **joy** that is focused on temporary things will only last a few moments and must be continually renewed. Too often, some things people find **joy** in are just plain wrong! Temporary joy is not what God has planned for us. God wants us to have **LASTING JOY** through Him.

Some things that bring us lasting **joy** may not seem at all **joyful**. Take the example of Jesus. He was obedient to God's plan, even to the cross. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

In the world, **joy** and fun are synonyms. **Joy** and suffering (like Jesus endured on the cross) seem to be opposites. Yet, **joy** comes from obedience and service to God. By living in God's plan for our lives and staying true to His purposes, we will have overflowing and **LASTING JOY**; a **joy** from God that provides great strength for life (Nehemiah 8:10). Let Him be the eternal source of your **JOY**.

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Wild About God Children's Rally



Imagine the sounds of a jungle: the trees blowing, leaves rustling, birds chirping, eagles screeching. Imagine the roar of a lion and the hoops of a monkey. Does it sound exciting? Well it was.

On Saturday, March 7, 43 children ages preschool through 3rd grade gathered at the encampment to celebrate being Wild About God. Although our jungle was quite a bit different, it was still filled with the exciting sounds of children who were talking, laughing, singing, playing, and learning about Jesus.

Our focus was Proverbs 20:11, "Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right." We shared the stories of Daniel and the lion's den and the Ten Commandments. We learned that we should love God and love others. Most importantly, we learned that no matter how hard we try, sometimes we are going to make mistakes. Yet, God loves us and He forgives us when we ask Him to.

Isn't that a simple lesson that is so fitting for us all? God loves you. He will always love you no matter what. He knows when you've done something wrong, and He is ready to forgive you. All you have to do is ask. There is nothing that He cannot forgive, and there is nothing that can keep Him from loving you.

To the volunteers that helped in the kitchen, with crafts, with puppets, leading groups, and in so many other ways, thank you. Thank you so much to both the youth and adults who gave their time to share love with these children. Thank you for showing them that they are important and that they are special.

I am looking forward to an even more exciting event next year. It's not too early to mark your calendars for Saturday, March 6, 2010. I hope to see you there!

Jennifer Chervenka
State Youth Coordinator

In Christ's Love . . . from the Mission Field

From the Thiessens . . .

The next two weeks are a break of some kind for me. This next week a prof from the US is coming to give us teachers a week's training while our kids enjoy Missionary Camp away in Puebla. They can hardly stand themselves they are so excited. Then next week I fly to Honduras to teach a Church Planting seminar for YWAM in Tegus. I look forward to going back there, even though I won't know any of the people in the seminar. I owe Honduras so much.

Meanwhile, we are under a cloud here at the school. Migration has

turned down the visa requests for two of our teachers and has made it clear that they mean to shut down the school. We have no idea what this means for our family. Will the school survive? Do we put the kids into the Mexican system? How would RuthE respond to that? She is going into 9th grade and does not adjust quickly to change, and that would be a biggie. We just don't know. We don't feel it is time to leave Oaxaca with our apprenticeships and the church just taking off. So...

Help us pray through this one,
Anne Thiessen

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Past to Present and On...



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit..."
 John 15:5
 [NIV]

Hello, Macie and I are excited, once again, to update you on the ministry to college students at Texas A&M. As staff with Great Commission Ministries (GCM) we work full time with Fellowship Church (a campus focused GCM Church). Many years ago Fellowship started a campus organization (not only a student group within the church) called A&M Christian Fellowship. With over 200 students now, this is where Macie & I focus our energy. Fellowship was formed as a church in 1977 by a church-planting team that came from Houston. Pastor Herschel Martindale had commissioned the team a few years after he had been challenged by Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright about trying to fulfill the Great Commission in this generation. Since then, Fellowship has been reaching college students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, training and equipping them to be followers of Christ, and sending them out into the world. Macie and I are a part of this heritage and are working hard to serve God here at Texas A&M. The majority of our time is spent in some form of close contact with students within the ministry. This time is crucial because it allows us to really be a part of the students' lives, so much so that we can discuss things like life and doctrine.

In addition to whole-life discipleship, I have been focusing on sharpening my skills in evangelism and also training others to share their faith in a very clear and systematic way. My heart and passion is that others would at least know the message of God laid out in the Bible. I am making it my goal to be on campus sharing the gospel Tuesday through Friday, and also at some point to use a free speech area at least once this semester to open air preach. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Mathew 9:37 (NIV). And I want to thank you for the ability to do this because your giving has freed me to go. **Please pray that God would bless our discipleship and evangelistic efforts.**

Serving Christ with you, Mark

Out in the Gospel! By: Macie Gonzalez



Like Mark, I am also so excited to be training and preparing more servants in the Gospel this semester. Specifically, I get to take Nancy (at left), who has been part of homegroup for over 2 years now, through Outreach Class. This class teaches students a reproducible Gospel presentation, complete with over 30 memorized scriptures and their references. Over the course of 13 weeks, Nancy and I "go out in the Gospel" once a week, to engage students in conversation about spiritual things and share what the Bible has to say about how they can be sure they have eternal life. Mark is also taking Justin through Outreach this semester. We are so thrilled God is training more laborers for the harvest!

Also, I have the privilege of taking Chrissy, a freshman who joined homegroup this semester, through Discipleship Class. Already this week, Chrissy and I shared thoughts and questions about faith as we poured through scriptures about being "New Creations in Christ." Chrissy has lots of questions, and desires to know more about God. **Please pray for Nancy, Chrissy, and me as we learn together through Outreach and Discipleship classes.**

Last month, our homegroup had the opportunity to connect with Nehemiah's Vision, a Christian relief organization in Beaumont, Texas for a weekend of service and compassion. The painting process took us all day Saturday, and we had the joy of laughing and learning to serve alongside each other without grumbling or complaining. Developing our servants' hearts in this way has been a great blessing! **Please pray that we would continue to serve the Lord and effectively disciple the students God has brought our way.**

Love in Christ

Mark & Macie Gonzalez

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Mission Festival Overview

- by Claren Kotrla



The Mission Festival held Saturday February 28, 2009 at Hus School was a resounding success. We had over eighty people attend and the enthusiasm was catching. In addition to the annual mission trips to Honduras and the funding of various overseas mission projects including the Czech Republic, through the Unity Mission Board, several independent mission efforts have taken place in Texas and across our boarder to the

South. Additional work is either being planned or is in progress.

The most recent mission board trip was to Ahaus, Honduras where the crew put up framing for solar panels. This will help reduce the electrical demands on the already stressed generator system in this remote village which can only be reached by small plane or by boat, usually a dugout canoe, on the river. You could hike



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through the jungle but it would be a long and grueling walk since there are no roads leading to Ahaus. If you want to get involved in this annual work contact David Miller.

Several reports by individuals and individual congregations about the work they are doing were shared with the attendees. For instance the Ocker Church has several outreach programs under way including taking food, usually in the form of beans, and clothes to the border town of Redford, Texas. From there it is taken to Northern Mexico where both of these items are in great need. At Cade's Lake Rev. Heckman and the Cade Lake community are moving forward in the rebuilding of a garage which will serve as a community outreach facility.

A youth oriented mission project at Oak Island, south of Anahuac on the East side of Trinity Bay is scheduled for the last week in June. This fishing community was devastated by Hurricane Ike. Several people from Crosby have been helping this community. Now Youth from the Unity will spend a week there with youth from the Moravian Church in witnessing and helping with reconstruc-

tion work. The youth will need several adults so if you are an adult who ever wanted to participate in a mission trip but didn't have the time or inclination to go out of the country this is an opportunity for you as well. Age is not an excuse not to participate.

The presentations by Jill Miller, and Ray and Laurie Griggs really showed what it is to be on the front lines in the mission field. The experiences and sense of dedication they shared with the attendees was simply outstanding and moving.

One of the things this Mission Festival showed was that we all have individual and congregational assets that can be used for Mission efforts. Just a few dedicated Individuals drive the beans and clothes to Redford. It only takes a long week end but the results are rewarding. (Of course they sacrifice not hearing Bro. Ron preach on that Sunday.) The work at Cade's Lake is an ongoing effort with a little work being done regularly, and now a skilled person has given his time to make it complete. Others are doing numerous things that can be classified as mission work. You and your congregation can do the same. Just think of

what assets you have and where the needs might be. It doesn't have to be in another country or even in the next county. In fact a mission opportunity could be right across the street from your church.

Every once in a while we hear that the Unity is dying or already dead. When we have witnessing through word and deed such as found

at this Festival, those negative murmurings are put to rest where they belong. Based upon what happened at this Festival the Unity is growing and going about God's work in a strong and enthusiastic way.

Thanks to Rev. Linda Chandler and those who supported her in this successful event!

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For information please contact one of the following:

Dorothy Hinson
President
7331 Misty Morning Lane
Humble, TX 77346
(281) 620-0480

Larry King, Secretary
Board of Elders
1611 Palomino Ln.
Kingwood, TX 77339
(281) 358-3355



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A Report from David Miller, Unity Mission Board Chairman:



2009 Work Crew

During January 16th thru the 29th, 2009; seven Brethren from Texas traveled south of the largest tropical rain forest to the Moravian Missions Hospital, on the Patuca River at Ahuas, Honduras, to put into practice that “unity” with our southerly brethren. We did this the way Texans do this; kind of a bold hand shake, a big smile, a friendly “howdy” and what I think Texans do best, a helping hand. We started our busy days with a devotional, scripture, and prayer, then on to breakfast with the doctors at 7:00,

and by 8:00 divided up and worked on various projects. We chased down and repaired numerous water leaks, did general maintenance or repair to water wells, generators, and electrical systems, constructed and hand painted a new sign for the entrance to the compound. We were also able to participate (Daniel had us up front singing) in Sunday Worship, twice. The build up and maintenance was not just physical, but also spiritual. I believe the fact that we were there to listen to the doctors was worth the

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
*“Bear ye one another’s burdens
 And so fulfill the Law of Christ.”*
 (Gal. 6:2)

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President
 Calvin J. Vojtek, Vice-President
 Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary

Guy E. Huffman, Treasurer
 Stanley F. Mrnustik, Junior Dept.
 Dorothy Hinson, Board Member

trip alone; Gerard and Norvelle Rudy share their concerns, struggles, and victories in the Lord. And in the short time we were there, we were able to see their countenance grow increasingly brighter and their spirit lifted.

Doctor Gerard Rudy stated that the two major things they consistently needed were reliable water and electricity. Other than during surgery, the hospital relies on one of two generators for electricity from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., during which all jobs requiring electricity are done; washing clothes, pumping water cisterns full, charging batteries, operating the autoclave and the lab, among other things. One of our major projects was to start a three-year project to convert the compound to solar electricity, a more consistent and reliable system (God willing). This year’s plan (first phase) was for us to construct the foundational framework for the solar system. The second crew from North Carolina (completed by the

time of this article) would install the operating system, the deep cycle batteries and one third of the projected solar panel needed. This should eliminate the morning generator time, cutting that cost by almost half. Alleluia!

Next, tackling the need for abundant clean, reliable water, something we Texans take for granted. The hospital now operates on three hand-dug water wells (an abundant supply during the wet season, but slim during the dry season) that are seldom reliable and never drinkable without filtration and chlorination. Our crew worked on the wells almost daily. The three hours the generators ran was not enough time to fill the overhead water reservoirs. We only had flush and shower water about half the time we were there. In Ahuas few houses have running water in them, but try running a hospital without it. Sadly the day we left, the water system was not operating. This hospital needs water



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Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 656-8558

Home: rev.tjt@verizon.net

Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us

www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:45 a.m.

President
Dewyan Weise
 325-651-8550

Youth Director
David Love
 325-656-8363

Secretary
Johnnie Smith
 Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

wells drilled and cased at least 70 ft. deep to have abundant clean, reliable water. The plans are in the works; we have a portable drilling rig (Ray Griggs was able to borrow one for the Unity through his contacts in Puerto Lempira, Honduras). We have men ready to drill the well, and we're investigating resources for submersible water pumps, PVC casing, drilling mud, and sufficient funds. Gratitude was often expressed and an invitation was given to the Unity of the Brethren to return.

Personal note: The Unity of the Brethren mission budget goal fell way short in 2008. Missions giving is down over \$20,000 in recent years, and I do understand the state of the economy. I also understand, thru God's Word, that the economy will increasingly worsen, especially for Christians in the end times. What an exciting time to live in! Alleluia! I have great faith in what God can do thru this small remnant called the Unity of the Brethren!

Unlike our government, your Mission Board is fiscally responsible. Therefore in 2009 the ongoing Unity effort to participate in the Great Commission and planned efforts to expand into the Czech Republic may be trimmed or dropped. If you agree with the work of the Unity of the Brethren thru the Mission Board and would like to support their work by personal prayer or by mission's awareness in your local congregation, great! And when you are prayerfully considering the work God is doing through the Unity, ask God if you are a goer or sender. God requires his children to be one or the other! The Mission Board budget funds the ongoing Unity projects, and at times request are made known for special projects God presents, like clean, reliable water wells for the mission hospital in Ahuas, Honduras. Thanks! Thanks! Thanks, to those who are supporting the Unity of the Brethren mission's work!!!

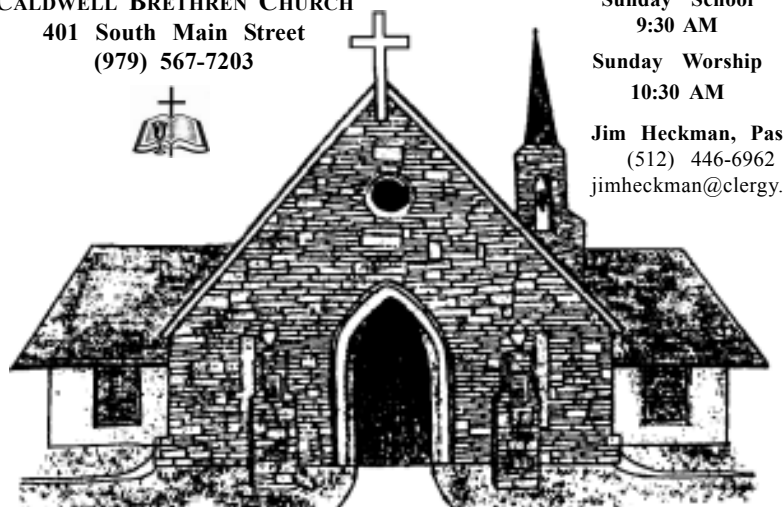
David

CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH
401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Jim Heckman, Pastor
 (512) 446-6962
jimheckman@clergy.net



Welcome

Greetings from the State Youth Coordinator

What a blessing God has bestowed upon me!

For those of you who do not know me personally, I will share a little about myself. I am married to John Paul Chervenka, and we have four beautiful daughters: Jessica-7, Jacelyn-5, Joanna-3, and Jaidyn-5 months. We live in the Rogers area and enjoy being in the country. We are members of Ocker Brethren Church. I have worked with Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry, and I currently serve as the Youth Director. I have volunteered with the State BYF for the past eight years, and I am humbled that God has given me the opportunity to serve as the State Youth Coordinator.

I would like to thank Mrs. Kimberly Stewart for her many years of service to the youth of the Unity. She has been an inspiration. Her love and dedication has made the youth program what it is today. She has done a wonderful job, and she will be missed. I hope to continue the programming that she has established, and I am excited about many new opportunities to minister to both youth and children in the denomination.

Pray for this transition. Pray for renewal and strengthening in the future of the Unity - our children and youth. Pray that God would use this as an opportunity to help us grow. Pray that His will would be brought forth and that His message and His love would be shared.

I am in the process of visiting with local congregations to better understand their individual needs. If you are a pastor, a youth worker, a parent, a grandparent, a youth, a child, or just someone with an idea, please contact me. I would love for you to share your ideas and suggestions with me.

I look forward to the plans that God has for my future as the State Youth Coordinator, and I look forward to meeting you!

In His Love, Jennifer Chervenka
 254-983-1002
jennchervenka@farm-market.net

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COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:30 AM; Worship – 10:45 AM
 Bible Buddies – 2nd Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 PM

Pastor	Board of Elders President	Youth Directors
Rev. Joseph Polasek	Rayfield Slovacek	Randall & Jonna See
4241 Blue Heron	P.O. Box 267	P.O. Box 345
Bryan, TX 77807	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 779-3634	(979) 272-8845	

BYF Leadership Team 2008-2009

Chairperson: Megan Stauffer, 9206 Sunlake Court, College Station, TX 77845. Megan Stauffer@baylor.edu

Registrar: Casey Stauffer, 9206 Sunlake Court, College Station, TX 77845. jesusfreak7209@yahoo.com

Secretary: Kathryn Laza, 13858 Apricot Glen, College Station, TX 77845. guardian.angel14@verizon.net

Kelsey Marek, 1304 TH Johnson Drive, Taylor, TX 76574. swtexas33191@yahoo.com

Brittany Coots, 926 FM 437, Burlington, TX 76519. brittanyacoots@yahoo.com

Christian Kirby, 1366 FM 437, Burlington, TX 76519. meekofreeko13@aol.com

Emily Surovik, 535 CR 208, Caldwell, TX 77836. emilysurovik@gmail.com

Ryan Surovik, 535 CR 208, Caldwell, TX 77836. ryansurovik@gmail.com

Advisors:

Laurie Griggs 1806 Southwood; College Station, TX 77840. lgriggs@swmail.sw.org

Robert Schlechte, 3635 CR 225; Caldwell, TX 77836. greasemonkey86@hotmail.com

Diane Surovik 535 CR 208, Caldwell, TX 77836. dianasurovik@gmail.com

Albert "Pee Wee" Surovik 535 CR 208 Caldwell, TX 77836. awotipka@yahoo.com

Pastoral Advisor: Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, 19 Brandenberry Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381. Williamr90@aol.com

Youth Coordinator: Jenniver Cherveka, 9494 Big Elm Creek Road, Rogers, TX 76569. jennchervenka@farm-market.net

Upcoming Youth Activities...

In May...

B.Y.F.FISHING RETREAT
Friday, May 1-Sunday, May 3
Port O'Connor, Texas

The Retreat Fee is \$50; this fee includes registration, food, and fishing supplies. Participants are responsible for food and snacks while traveling. The participants (ages 17 and older) must have a fishing license with a salt-water stamp. The registration deadline is Friday, April 10 (post-mark). For information contact Jennifer Chervenka:

(jennchervenka@farm-market.net, 254-983-1002)

In June...

During the last week in June the Unity has two outstanding Christian growth opportunities for our young people. We will have both the Senior High Camp at Hus School, and a Mission Trip to the fishing community of Oak Island, TX, which was devastated by Hurricane Ike. Both of these activities will provide opportunity for Christian fellowship, learning, and service. For further information, please contact Kim Stewart:

(kcstew@austin.rr.com).

MISSION BOARD

Chairman (elected by the Synodical Committee):

David Miller, 3593 Blumentritt Road, San Angelo, TX 76905. (325) 651-7597; dm103157@hotmail.com

Unity Representatives:

Robert Marsh, 2201 Real, Waco, TX 76712. (254) 420-1378; redplanet52@yahoo.com

Daniel Vojtek, 5434 Marcia Lane, Bryan, TX 77807. (979) 823-4147; cdvojtek05@yahoo.com

Mark Olsen, 1316 Howard St., Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 630-5153; olsennmc@yahoo.com

Curtis Stewart, 407 Kates Way, Hutto, TX 78634. (512) 846-2925; kcstew@austin.rr.com

Kent Laza, 13858 Apricot Glenn, College Station, TX 77845. (979) 690-7608; kent.laza@verizon.net

Joyce Baletka, P.O. Box 614, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-4563; jlbaletk@peoplepc.com

Marvin Chlapek, 11026 Elm Bridge Ct., Houston, TX 77065. (281) 469-7630; mjcarc@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School Representative:

Pat Mynar, 911 N. Hull St., Caldwell, TX 7836. (979) 567-4020; patsy104@verizon.net

Christian Sisters Representatives:

Janet Pomykal, P.O. Box 560, Brenham, TX 77834. (979) 836-3772.

Sharon Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Dr., San Angelo, TX 76903. (325) 651-5884

BYF Representative:

Kelsey Marek, 1304 T.H. Johnson Dr., Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 844-8520; marek1304@hotmail.com

Synodical Committee Liason:

Rev. Linda Chandler, 13108 North Ridge Circle, Leander, TX 78641. (512) 203-7293; L77c@aol.com

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Juneke
Rev. Milton & Jean Maly
Ray & Laurie Griggs
Jill Miller

CURRENT MISSIONARIES

Robert & Annie Thiessen
Michael & Caroline Woo
Phil Rayford
Pastor Pavel & Stanya Kozak
Steve & April Brown

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman:

Mike Emery, 104 Pecan Ridge, Lorena, TX 76655. (254) 857-9873; xluddite@earthlink.net

Treasurer:

Marvin Chlapek, 11026 Elm Bridge Ct, Houston, TX 77065. (281) 469-7630; mjcarc@sbcglobal.net

Member at Large:

Charles Groseclose, 358 State Highway 53, Rosebud, TX 76570. (254) 583-4160; cmrag@aol.com

Christian Sisters' Union Representatives:

Secretary: Lillie Chafin, 800 County Road 284, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 272-1136; LChafin9@cs.com

Anna Wotipka, 652 County Road 324, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-4613; awotipka@caldwell.kiz.tx.us

Sunday School Representative:

Joel Mitchell, 2070 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX 77845. (979) 574-3212; joel@mitchellandmorgan.com

Friends of the Hus Encampment Representative:

Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, 19 Brandenberry Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381. (281) 433-7704; WilliamR90@aol.com

Brethren Youth Fellowship Representative:

(Currently vacant)

Facilities Managers:

Jim & Dawn Marie Baletka, 600 Benchmark Drive, College Station, TX 77845. (979) 693-2710; txnfish@aol.com; BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org

Program Director:

Kimberly Stewart, 407 Kates Way, Hutto, TX 78634. (512) 846-2925

Camp Caretakers:

Robert and Cathleen Schlechte, 3635 County Road 225, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 272-8176 (Hus Encampment #), (979) 324-5560 or (979) 255-8266; GreeseMonkey86@hotmail.com Schlechte86@msn.com

NOTE: Please direct Encampment reservation requests to the Schlechtes & Baletkas. Other Board of Trustees inquiries please send to Mike Emery or Jim & Dawn Marie Baletka.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for April 2009

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. 1 Pet. 2:21
2. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. 1 Pet. 2:24a
3. By His wounds you have been healed. 1 Pet. 2:24b
4. Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Lk. 6:28
5. **Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Lk. 23:34**
6. He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. Isa. 53:5
7. I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Gal. 2:20
8. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Phil. 3:10
9. The Lord lives, and blessed be my Rock; and exalted be the God of my salvation. Ps. 18:46
10. Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:13
11. Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Ps. 30:5
12. **God raised Jesus from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to take its hold on Him. Acts 2:24**
13. Jesus said, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Lk. 24:44
14. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 1 Jn. 4:14
15. The Lord said, "Now go; and I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." Ex. 4:12
16. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Prov. 16:3
17. Give to the Lord the glory He deserves! Bring your offerings and come to worship Him. 1 Chron. 16:29
18. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1
19. **Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jn. 20:29**
20. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God through Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:32
21. Do for others what you would like them to do for you. Mt. 7:12
22. Love is patient, love is kind. 1 Cor. 13:4
23. God has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 Jn. 4:21
24. Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 Jn. 3:18
25. If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of the least of My followers, will surely be rewarded. Mt. 10:42
26. **The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gal. 5:22**
27. As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal. 6:10
28. How good and pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity. Ps. 133:1
29. This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Ps. 118:24
30. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-discipline. 2 Tim. 1:7
31. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Ps. 23:6

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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

Keep these activities in your prayers.

April 30: Application due for the Joyful Noise Choir Retreat.

July 9, 10, & 11, 2009: The 63rd Convention of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas . . . hosted by the Temple Brethren Church.

January 8-10, 2010: Joyful Noise Choir Retreat. **The Joyful Noise Retreat Scholarship application is due April 30, 2009.**

Youth Events

(see details in the Youth Section)

May 1-3: BYF FISHING RETREAT at Port O'Conner, Texas.

June through July: Summer Hus Encampment Activities.

July 25-26: BYF Convention and Volleyball Tournament.

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53

Temple, Texas 76501

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Rev. Ron Winsman

3112 W. Ave. R

Temple, TX 76504

(254) 742-0827

ronwinsman@hotmail.com

Elder Board President

Bill McGuire

2418 South 49th

Temple, TX 76504

(254) 778-2988

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

23383 Milam Road

Burlington, TX 76519

(254) 985-2457

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

9494 Big Elm Creek Rd.

Rogers, TX 76569

(254) 983-1002

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Letter of Transfer:

DOUG AND CAROL ROWALD, on January 18, 2009, at the Ocker Brethren Church.

By Profession of Faith:

MARGOT OVERLIE and CLAUDIA NAPIER, on March 1, 2009, at the Rosenberg Brethren Church.

By Reaffirmation of Faith:

RICH AND STACY ROSA, on February 15, 2009, at the Ocker Brethren Church.

By Rite of Confirmation:

On February 8, 2009

At the Wesley Brethren Church: ANNA DUSEK.

At the Nelsonville Brethren Church: KATELIN DUDENSING, ASHLEY GROSECLOSE, HUNTER MACIK, ZACHARY MIKESKA, BRILEY MLCAK, KENNEDY SAXON, LINDSAY SCHOMBURG, and ANGEL SCHRAMM.

By Letter of Transfer:

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Brighter Vision

Tammy Pechal, Joe & Christi Emerson

Bringing Glory to God in Song

Contact Pastor Joe Emerson
(254) 931-1653 for booking

At the Taylor Brethren Church: BRITTANY SEGGERN.

RECENT BAPTISMS

BRIANNA GAYLYNNE MIKUSH, daughter of Charles, Jr., and Leslie Diane (Kremling) Mikush, born on January 19, 2009, in Hallettsville, was baptized on February 22, 2009, at the Vsetin Brethren Church. Sponsors: James and Kandyce Grahmann. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

RECENT WEDDINGS

COUFAL/TASKA. Crystal Elissa Coufal and Dale Lee Taska were joined in marriage at the Industry Brethren Church on Saturday, December 27, 2008. Minister: Milton Maly.

RECENT DEATHS

HELEN (SEBEK) TOME died January 12, 2009. She is survived by nieces and nephews. The funeral was at the Ocker Brethren Church January 15, 2009, with burial in Ocker Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Ron Winsman.

HERRING, LYDIA (RICHTER), died January 14, 2009. She is survived by two daughters, and one son. The funeral was held in Rosebud, January 17, 2009, with burial in Rosebud Cemetery. Officiating: Rev. Ron Winsman and Rev. Larry Koslovsky.

VLASTA (ERMIS) VALCHAR, age 89, and for many years a member of Temple Brethren Church, died January 26, 2009, in Temple. She was born on April 13, 1919, at Schulenburg and married to Jerry Valchar on January 21, 1946. Mrs. Valcar is survived by 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren. Services were on January 30, 2009, from the Scanio-Harper Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Bellwood Memorial Park Cemetery. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

ALBERT SMOTEK, age 86, a member of Vsetin CMB Church, and prior to 1988 for many years a member of the Houston Brethren Church, died February 5, 2009, in

Hallettsville. He was born on August 3, 1922, in Snook and married Margaret Schiller in Houston on September 15, 1946. Mr. Smotek is survived by his wife, two children, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, four brothers, and four sisters. Services were on February 7, 2009, from the Vsetin CMB Church with burial in the Vsetin CMB cemetery. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

HUDSON LESHIKAR, age 83, died February 12, 2009. He was born October 31, 1925, in Williamson County. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and three sisters. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, three daughters, and four grandchildren. Services were held at the Providence Funeral Home on February 15, 2009, with the Rev. James Hejl officiating.

Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53

Temple, Texas 76501

254-985-2694



Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m.

Prayer Gathering

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for ALL Ages

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Wednesday Schedule

6:30 p.m.

Kid's NITE Out (ages 3-5th gr.)

Priority ONE Youth (6th – 12th gr.)

Adult Bible Study

7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Pastor

Rev. Joe Emerson

P.O. Box 4615

Temple, TX 76505

(254) 791-0420 hm

(254) 931-1653 cell

Youth Director

Steve Davis

P.O. Box 658

Rogers, TX 76569

(254) 913-1214

Board of Elders

Chairperson

Dolores Skrabanek

13107 State Highway 53

Temple, TX 76501

(254) 985-2344

At SBC...

...We Are A True Community

We Do *LIFE* Together

Mutual Aid Society – Listing of Local Secretaries’ Addresses and Phone Numbers

Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box 86, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-859-2837

Shiner #2: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012

Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916, hripple@att.net

West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com

Dime Box #6: Olga Brinkman, 2302 E. Mercer’s Landing, Bryan, TX 77808, 979-731-8681

Snook #7: Marie Shelfer, Box 138, Snook, TX 77878, 979-272-8100, shelfer@tamu.edu

Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109 Friendship Ln, Temple, TX 76501-9614, 254-742-1405

Dallas #10: James A. Marek, 2511 Wedglea, Apt 608, Dallas, TX 75211, 214-942-5168, jamcei@aol.com

Cooks Point #12: Patsy Albright, 2105 Rivendell, Bryan, TX 77807-4812, 979-779-8463

New Tabor #13: Evelyn Henry, PO Box 336, Caldwell, TX 77836-0336, 979-567-4397

Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095

Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-984-2283

Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 1505 E 27th, Bryan, TX 77802-1318, 979-779-3835

Wesley #18: Mary Surovik, 2530 S Berlin Rd, Brenham, TX 77833-2048, 979-251-7485

Smithville #19: ** Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012

Temple #20: Ed Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120

Rosenberg #21: Virginia Macik, 1209 Tobola, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-342-8802

Alief #22: Daniel W. Psencik, 1216 Damon Street, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 979-793-6783

Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Dr., Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480

Industry #24: **Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012

Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884

Caldwell #27: Guy Huffman, PO Box 216, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-567-7089, cpaguy@cpaguy.com

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B/CS #34: Mary Polasek, 4241 Blue Heron Road, Bryan, TX 77807-9027, 979-779-3634, josephpolasek@hotmail.com

**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin – Bible Study at 10:00 AM
Worship at 11:00 AM.
– Rev. Linda Chandler

Bryan-College Station – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday.
Snook – worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

Buckholts – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday except the 5th Sunday.
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.
– Rev. John Kueker

Caldwell – Sunday School at 9:30 AM, worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:30 AM.
– Rev. Jim Heckman

Crosby –
Sunday – 9:00 AM: Worship
10:00 AM: Faith Adventure
11:00 AM: Celebration
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Cy-Fair Community Church – worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays – Rev. Rick Chandler
2nd & 4th Sundays – Rev. Henry Beseda
– Rev. Henry Beseda

Dime Box – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Jim Heckman

Faith Brethren in Bryan –
Bible Study - 9:30 AM
Worship 10:45 AM
– Pastor Kay Polasek

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:30 AM, worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Milton Maly

Good News Fellowship Church of West Palm Beaches – worship at 1:00 PM every Sunday at Boynton Springs Presbyterian Church, Boynton Springs, Florida.
– Rev. James Henry

Good Shepherd Moravian – worship at 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.
– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – worship services every Sunday at 9:00 AM; Sunday School at 10:15 AM.
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday – Rev. Charles Amos
4th & 5th Sunday – Mark Sebek

Houston – Every Sunday:
Sunday School at 9:15 AM;
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Pastor Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

Industry – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday with Sunday School for all ages following.
– Rev. Milton Maly

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9:00 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9:30 AM & Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday, “Tune Up” on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.
– Rev. Dave Johnson

Ocker – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Ron Winsman

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
Bible Study at 7:30 PM on Wednesday.
– Scott Keaton

Rosenberg –
Sundays: Adult Bible Study and Sunday School for children at 9:00 AM; worship at 10:30 AM.
Wednesdays: 5:30 PM, Dinner; 6:30 PM, Bible Study; 6:50 PM, Prayer Meeting.
– Bro. Larry Butcher

Seaton –
Sunday, 9:15 AM – Sunday School, All Ages; 10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Service.
Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kid’s NITE Out and Priority ONE Youth (BYF), Adult Bible Study.
– Rev. Joe Emerson

Taylor – worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM., Worship at 10:45 AM.
– Pastor Larry Zabcik

Vsetin –
Worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30 AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Thomas Tallas

Wesley – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday. Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

West – Sunday School at 9:00 AM and worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Curtis Holland

Westheimer Community – 9:30 AM, Christian Education; 10:30 AM, Worship, with Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

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