

# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL

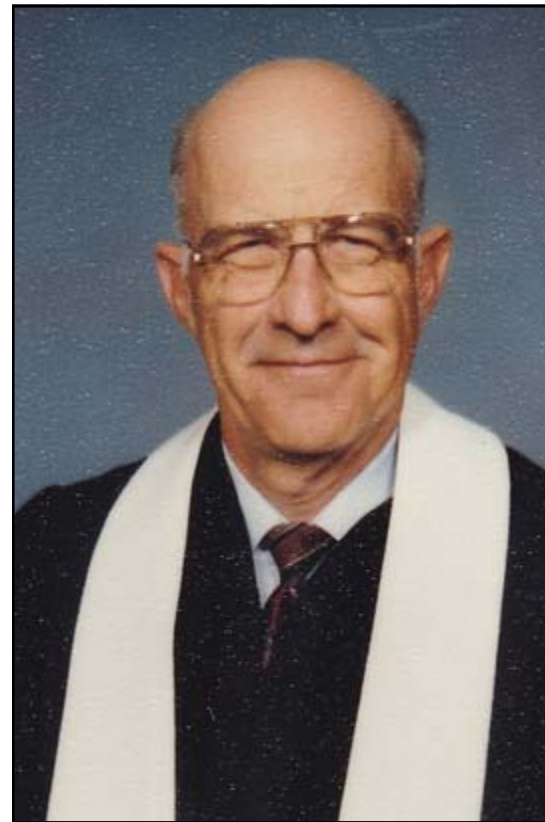


Vol. 110

December 2011

No. 10

32 Pages



**Reverend  
William John  
Baletka  
July 22, 1926 –  
October 20, 2011**

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Celebrating the Life of Reverend William John Baletka  
Reports from the Synodical Committee and Foreign Missions Board  
Blessing of the Pets and Honoring Our Vets at Industry  
Holiday Services and Activities

**. . . and much, much more!**

## THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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## YOUTH NEWS . . .

**SHINE LIKE STARS**  
**State Children's Rally**  
**Saturday, March 3, 2012**  
**Check-in 8:30-9:00am**  
**Dismissal 3:30-4:00pm**  
**Ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade**  
**Cost \$15**

**Registration forms available**

**January 1**

**Registration due February 1**

For God who said,  
"Let light shine out of  
darkness," made His  
light shine in our hearts...



2 Corinthians 4:6

## WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

**Saturday, January 7-**  
**Sunday, January 8**

Theme & Details coming soon!

Registration forms available

**December 1**

Registration due January 1

For more information on these  
and other activities, as well as  
registration forms, visit  
[www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com)  
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[jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto:jennchervenka@farm-market.net)

## President's Column . . . James Marek

### IS GOD CHALLENGING THE UNITY OF THE BRETHREN?

Life is full of challenges – some-  
times challenges come more often  
and in greater magnitude  
than we would prefer or  
even feel equipped to  
face. Challenges can make  
us uncomfortable, but of-  
ten make us and our faith  
stronger. As any athlete  
can testify, the body is  
improved when it is chal-  
lenged. Lifting weights

or running is seldom comfortable, but  
is necessary to condition the body  
for peak performance.

God also uses challenges. I believe  
God most often allows us to face  
challenges to deepen our faith and  
draw us into a closer relationship with  
Him. Most Christians agree that they  
are closest to God during trials or  
challenges. Due to some of the things  
that have taken place in the Unity  
within the last 12 months, I wonder if  
God may not be challenging us as a  
Unity in the area of missions. I think

it is very possible that God has en-  
trusted the Unity with some very  
important kingdom work  
in both foreign and home  
missions. These mission  
efforts are manifestations  
of the fulfillment of Jesus'  
mandate we know as the  
Great Commission. Mis-  
sions is one of the col-  
lective efforts we as a  
Unity have agreed to un-

dertake together. One of the reasons  
the Unity exists is so we can work  
together in missions. Recently, it ap-  
pears God may have added to our  
mission work domestically with the  
beginning of the mission at Cade  
Lake. God seems to be moving in a  
special way there, as well. While it is  
exciting to see new Christians being  
adopted into God's family, we must  
remember that mission work takes  
commitment as well as prayerful and  
monetary support. The Unity funds



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(Unity of the Brethren)

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Rev. Henry Beseda  
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Rev. Rick Chandler  
(281) 355-1474

Church Phone – (281) 955-1655

12915 Cypress North Houston  
P.O. Box 0233  
Cypress, TX 77410-0233

President: Rev. Henry Beseda

in mission accounts are low. The funds particularly in the foreign mission coffers are at the point where any reserves will likely be consumed in 2012 if mission giving is not increased. Meanwhile we as a Unity have started the Home Missions Fund to support domestic missions like that which is being carried out at Cade Lake. This mission effort will also require funding. Since our mission work has increased, our prayerful and monetary support must also increase in order to continue the work God appears to have laid before us as a Unity. At the last mission festival, David Miller opened with a great devotional on Jesus' first mission trip. As a part of that devotional, David referenced a book that I would highly recommend called *Desiring God*. David quoted the author's findings that the churches who support missions generously are the most likely to grow.

God has entrusted the church (universal) with the privilege of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. While not all of us can be missionaries per se, most of us can help support our mission efforts prayerfully and with

the financial resources with which God has entrusted to us. I encourage all Unity churches to examine their budgets and prayerfully consider ways to increase mission giving. It is important that we continue the mission efforts in which we are currently involved. It is a privilege to work as a Unity with God in this area, but it does not come without challenge. It is going to take a Unity commitment on behalf of each church. Our missions effort within the Unity is solely supported by voluntary donations. Neither foreign nor home missions receive any portion of the Brethren Fund contributions. They operate totally on voluntary donations. If you and/or your family would like to support foreign missions, home missions or both directly or through your local congregation, I encourage you to do so. Please ask God what he wants your role to be in the Unity Missions program. He appears to be entrusting us with the privilege of more service in the area of missions, now it is up to all of us how we will respond. Please pray about missions, and let's keep the momentum going.

## WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road  
Houston, Texas 77082

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Westheimercommunitychurch.org

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Holy Communion



## WILLIAM JOHN BALETKA, JR.

William John Baletka, Jr., completed his earthly journey and went to join the Lord on October 20, 2011. He was born on July 22, 1926, in the Barclay community on the border of Bell and Falls Counties in Texas. He was the son of William John Baletka, Sr., and Rosalie Mikulencak Baletka. He graduated from Rosebud High School and the University of Texas at Austin, attended Moravian Theological Seminary, and then received his Master of Divinity Degree from the Presbyterian Seminary in Austin, Texas. Following his ordination, John became known more familiarly as Brother John.

In 1948, John was the co-leader of a summer Christian leadership training program of The Unity of the Brethren known as Hus School. During that summer, he met his future life mate, Joyce Siptak, who was a student in the program. Three years later, August 16, 1951, they were married at the New Tabor Brethren Church.



John was ordained by The Unity of the Brethren in April 1951 at the Ocker Brethren Church. He began his ministry at the Temple Brethren Church, and continued in that pastorate for 16 years. During that residency, the congregation carried out two major building programs, and John also traveled to serve the congregations of Granger, Buckholts, and Austin at varying times.

John and Joyce were blessed by the birth of three sons during their years in Temple: John Mark, James Craig, and William Andrew.

In 1953, John was charged with the responsibility of leading an effort to find a permanent home for Hus School. Land was donated in the New Tabor community, funds were raised, and scores of volunteers responded to the call to assist with the building of the Hus School Encampment near Caldwell, Texas. The facility was dedicated in June 1957. Throughout the



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years, the teaching programs and the building facilities were expanded. John and Joyce continued their involvement with the Hus Encampment through 2005.

The Baletka's moved to Austin in 1966 and remained there serving the Austin Brethren Church until 1977. During this ministry, the Austin congregation relocated and built a new facility on Peyton Gin Road.

During the last two years of living in Austin, John commuted to San Angelo, Texas, where he preached at the Wall Brethren Church for two Sundays a month. In 1977, John accepted a call to serve the Wall Church. During his service there, a new Fellowship Building was built in 1982. John continued that pastorate until 1985.

John accepted a call to serve the New Tabor Brethren near Caldwell in the summer of 1985 and served there until his retirement from the active ministry in 1993.

Throughout his ministry, John was active in the Unity of the Brethren in numerous capacities, including his service as President of the Synodical Committee from 1961-65 and 1979-83. He was also instrumental in the development and implementation of the Ministers' Retirement and Medical Programs.

After moving to Caldwell, John and Joyce began singing with the Burleson County Czech singers. Wearing traditional Czech costumes, they annually opened the Kolache Festival program by singing the Czech National Anthem. In 1998, John and Joyce were honored to be named the King and Queen of the Festival recognizing their involvement in promoting the Czech heritage.

On August 16, 2011, John and Joyce celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Both agreed that it was God who gave them dedicated Christian parents, who brought them to-

gether in 1948, and who blessed and guided them throughout their lives.

John enjoyed God's handiwork in nature. He built a homemade trailer for camping supplies, as the family traveled around Texas and Colorado, as well as numerous fishing and hunting trips with his sons and other relatives. He also enjoyed the hobby of bird watching with Joyce wherever they traveled.

One of the highlights of working with Hus School Classes was teaching the students to sing the challenging Czech anthem "Hoj Verni v Boj" (Ho! Faithful in Battle) and then leading all Hus Ex-Students in singing the anthem at Unity conventions and Hus School closing programs. Fittingly, this was sung in tribute to

Brother John by all in attendance at his funeral service.

John is preceded in death by his parents and his son, William (Bill) Andrew. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce, son Mark and his wife Susan, son Jim and his wife Dawn Marie, his sister Adele Windrum, and brother-in-law Joe H. Siptak and his wife Vicki, six grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces, other relatives, and many friends.

Funeral services were held Sunday, October 23, at the New Tabor Brethren Church. Burial was at the adjacent Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Hus Encampment (PO Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836) or charity of your choice.

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## THE BUCKHOLTS BRETHREN CHURCH

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Study 10:30 AM  
(No service on  
fifth Sunday.)



Rev. Johnny Kueker  
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## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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Worship 10:15 AM

*Pastor*

**Rev. Ron Winsman**

3112 W. Ave. R

Temple, TX 76504

(254) 742-0827

ronwinsman@hotmail.com

*Elder Board President*

**Sharon Marek**

23383 Milam Road

Burlington, TX 76519

(254) 869-2845

shadimar@vvm.com

*Cemetery*

**Sharon Marek**

23383 Milam Road

Burlington, TX 76519

(254) 869-2845

*Youth Director*

**Jennifer Chervenka**

9494 Big Elm Creek Rd.

Rogers, TX 76569

(254) 983-1002

## A Report on the Unity of the Brethren Synodical Committee Meeting of October 22, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President James Marek. Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Highfill from Christ Covenant Church in Winston Salem, North Carolina, joined in the meeting by Skype. The devotional on Perseverance was led by Denise Mikeska and was based on Hebrews 12:1.

The referendum results from the 64th Unity of the Brethren Convention were ratified; all decisions passed. Written reports were given by Marvin Chlapek – Financial Secretary report; Dewyan Weise – Treasurer’s report; Rev Tommy Tallas – Third Vice-President Report; Jennifer Chervenka – State Youth Coordinator Report; Ministers’ Benefit Program – Rev Tommy Tallas; Hus Encampment Board of Trustees – Rev Whitney Amos. The Roll Call was submitted by Liz Ripple, Secretary.

### Items of Business:

Denise Mikeska, Pastor Larry Zabcik, and Mark Sebek were endorsed and recommended for ordination. After each candidate was examined, there was a deliberation among

synodical members. All candidates were accepted for ordination in the Unity of the Brethren.

President Marek presented a plaque to Rev Milton Maly for serving as the Editor of the *Brethren Journal* for 26 years and thanked him for his service.

The motion that passed at the Convention to consolidate the work and the assets of H.I.L.L. into the Board of Christian Education was overlooked as a referendum item. Consequently, the bylaws change that was also part of the motion could not be effective, and therefore the instruction contained in the motion could not be implemented until the next convention, and only after referendum approval.

A Power Point presentation was given by Rev. Jim Heckman of the progress that has been done at the Cade Lake Community Chapel. The Advisory Board consists of Bro. Jim (Ex-officio), Claren Kotrla, Rev. Linda Chandler, Rev. Kay Polasek, Rev. Larry Koslovsky, Guy Huffman, Justin Lewis, Lori Suehs, Jesse Johnson, and David Johnson. The Cade Lake Community

Chapel was classified as a Home Missions Project.

Recent pastoral changes: Mark Sebek has been called to Bryan/College Station Brethren Church; Rev Kay Polasek has been called to Fayetteville and Industry Brethren Churches. Rev Joe Emerson has resigned from Seaton Brethren and has accepted a position with Texas Hospice. He will be on the supply list.

The PRC will be working on a minister’s retreat.

A budget of \$67,000 was accepted for the Foreign Mission Board budget. Foreign Mission Board appointments are Marvin Chlapek, Susie Dusek, and John Brinkley.

The Home Missions Board budget was presented.

Alice Kocurek was appointed as Treasurer of the *Brethren Journal* Business Committee.

Dorothy Kocian and Jean Kotrla were appointed to the Board of Christian Education.

Martha Dove was appointed to the Board of Home Missions.

A motion was made and passed for several appointments to be made by the Synodical Executive Committee, which include Hus Encampment Board of Trustees Chairman, Treasurer, and Board member, and *Brethren Journal* Secretary/reporter.

The term “vacancy” was defined as such: In consideration of a lack of attendance at some committee meetings, resignation is a vacancy or incompleteness of a term. The Executive Committee suggests encouraging the chairman of the committee to get active board members and to approach those who are not active to resign.

Update on Christ Covenant Church in North Carolina: President Marek reported on the church and their desires. They are interested in the art of making kolaches. They are hungry for connection with anything Brethren. Contacts are Carl and Melanie Shamel.



## TAYLOR BRETHERN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574  
512-352-6423

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

*Pastor*  
*James D. Hejl*  
512-365-6890

*President*  
*Larry Kotrla*  
512-818-1504

*Secretary*  
*Mary Kokes*  
M-Th 8:00 am-noon

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

**Sunday School**  
9:30 AM  
**Sunday Worship**  
10:30 AM





Report by Rev. Tommy Tallas on the Unity Bylaws: The bylaws would be updated and rewritten to make them more consistent by the October 2012 synodical meeting. The committee appointed includes Bro. Tommy (chairman), Rev. Whitney Amos, Marvin Chlapek, Jean Blaha Davis, Pat Hejl, Peggy Hejl, Kent Laza, Dawn Marie Baletka, and Rev. Nello Strickland.

A committee will be formed at the next meeting to organize a 100-year celebration (to be held in 2014) of the Hus School being formed.

During the lunch break, a dedication of playground equipment was held in memory of Barbie Fojtasek.

Before the second session began, Claren Kotrla (outgoing President) led everyone in a prayer for Unity in the church as follows: "Holy Spirit, as in the past you united different men and women and made them one, so bring us together in a oneness that celebrates our diversity of talent and ability. May our personalities blend in

a superb harmony, as, laying our egos aside, we learn to prefer one another and to delight in encouraging the gifts we see in others. Let there be no star temperament, no prima donna behavior among us, but a sense of ensemble, as we try to be as anonymous as possible so that you can shine through our efforts to the glory of Christ. And when all is done, may we be in the wings and HE in the spotlight, taking center stage and receiving all the applause! Holy Spirit, you who are fully God and yet so anonymous, hide us that we may reveal Him. Amen."

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. in prayer. Everyone was invited to attend the Dedication service of the Cade Lake Community Chapel.

Submitted by Liz Ripple, Secretary, Unity of the Brethren

A copy of the minutes from the October 22, 2011, meeting is on the Unity website.



*Synodical Board President, James Marek, presenting an Award of Appreciation to Rev. Milton Maly for 26 years of dedicated service as Editor of The Brethren Journal.*

## WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas

P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957

Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100



Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

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

Home: [rev.tjt@verizon.net](mailto:rev.tjt@verizon.net)

Church: [rev.tjt@zipnet.us](mailto:rev.tjt@zipnet.us)

[www.wallbrethrenchurch.org](http://www.wallbrethrenchurch.org)

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

*President*  
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325-651-8550

*Youth Director*  
Susan & Bryan Neal  
325-949-5259

*Secretary*  
Johnie Smith  
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## FROM THE FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

Now there is definitely a hint of fall in the air. This reminds us of fall festivals and Thanksgiving and fall congregational meetings, and such meetings usually call for congregations to set budgets for the coming year. This is true for the Forgoing Missions Board, as well. However, at this time the Board is concerned about completing the necessary funding for the current 2011 Budget.

It is important for all of us to understand that Foreign Missions income is not keeping up with expenditures needed to fulfill our commitments to the missionaries representing us out in the world. The purpose of this newsletter is to remind us of the 2011 Budget approved by the Synodical Committee.

### FOREIGN MISSIONS BUDGET FOR 2011

Robert & Annie Thiessen (So. Mexico) .....	\$20,000
Michael & Caroline Woo (Southeast Asia) .....	\$12,000
Pastor Pavel & Stana Kozak (Moravia) .....	\$12,000
Phil & Eunice Raiford (Mexico) .....	\$ 8,000
Ahuas Work Crew .....	\$ 5,000
Administrative Board Expenses .....	\$ 1,000
Special Projects .....	\$13,000
*Fields of Faith Admin. Costs (\$4,000)	
*Transportation for visiting missionaries	
*Mission Education and awareness events	
*Short term mission trips for youth	
TOTAL .....	\$71,000

**PLEASE**, give careful consideration to the immediate and urgent need for completing the funding of this 2011 budget. Checks should be clearly marked "For Foreign Missions" and mailed to the Unity Financial Secretary, now: Marvin Chalpek, P.O. 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836. Your prayers and financial assistance are deeply appreciated.

## Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501

Mail: P.O. Box 4615, Temple, TX 76505

Church Phone: 254-985-2694

[seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com)

Rev. Joe Emerson, Lead Pastor – [sbcpastorjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcpastorjoe@yahoo.com)

Denise Mikeska, Associate Pastor – [sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com)

Steve Davis, Youth Pastor – [sbcpastorsteve@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcpastorsteve@yahoo.com)

Dolores Skrabanek, Board of Elders Chair

[www.seatonbrethren.com](http://www.seatonbrethren.com)

## God's Provision of Spiritual Leadership

- by Dawn Marie Baletka, PhD, LPC, GPC

The Pastoral Relations Committee is pleased to announce that three Unity of the Brethren Churches have recently ended their search for spiritual leadership.

In the weeks following the Unity's convention in New Tabor, TX, both Industry and Fayetteville Brethren Churches extended a call to Rev. Kay Polasek. Both congregations, formerly served by Rev. Milton Maly, spent months in prayer and discernment before being lead by the Holy Spirit to offer the pastorate position to Rev. Polasek.

Although the churches have a long history of working together and sharing the services of a pastor, it was not a foregone conclusion that one pastor would lead the two churches into the future. The Board of Elders of both congregations met often with the Pastoral Relations Committee and

each sought God's will in making this very important decision. Pastor Kay first received the call to service from the Industry Brethren Church, and a few weeks later was honored with a similar request from Fayetteville Brethren Church.

Kay and her husband, Ben Polasek, currently reside in Snook, TX. Pastor Kay has served the Unity of the Brethren in a myriad of ways, including leadership positions in Christian Sisters, Christian Education, Sunday School Union, and as the pastor of Faith Brethren in Bryan, TX. Kay has also served many families in her position of Chaplain for Hospice Brazos Valley.

The Bryan/College Station Brethren Church deliberated on their search for a pastor for approximately 18 months. During this time, they were blessed in being served by numerous



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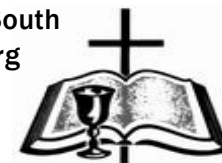
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Pastor Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9283

College Station, TX 77842



Church 9:00 A.M.

Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

Off: 979-693-3606

email: [papasebek@gmx.com](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

qualified pastoral candidates and Unity of the Brethren ministers. Although the journey was long, confidence in knowing that they were led by God's timing fortified their commitment to persevere.

The decision to call Mark Sebek as spiritual shepherd of the Bryan/College Station Brethren Church came late in July of 2011. Mark Sebek, and his wife Valerie, currently reside in Rogers, TX. Mark, a graduate of Texas A&M University, is currently bi-vocational as he continues to teach Biology for Troy ISD.

Brother Mark is a licensed minister in the Unity of the Brethren who was recently approved for ordination (contingent on successful completion of final educational requirements) at the October 2011 Synodical Committee Meeting. Mark journey of faith led him to serve the Unity of the Brethren as both a lay and licensed minister for over seven years. His dedication and commitment as a servant of the Lord has touched the hearts of many throughout the denomination.

The Pastoral Relations Committee would like to encourage everyone throughout the Unity of the Brethren to join with us in prayer and thanksgiving for the leadership and guidance that God has sent to us in Rev. Kay Polasek and Bro. Mark Sebek.

## Bryan/College Station Welcomes Brother Mark Sebek as Pastor

The Bryan/College Station Brethren Church is honored to welcome their new pastor, Mark Sebek, and his wife Valerie, to their congregation. Brother Mark became licensed this past July during the Unity Convention and accepted a call to the Bryan/College Station congregation shortly thereafter. Brother Mark anticipates his ordination service will be this next January.

Rev. Sebek had been serving the Unity with pulpit supply in recent years while completing his instruction with the Hus International School of Ministry. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, and is currently a Biology teacher in the Troy School District, though previously he has served as a coach and athletic director for various school districts.

The Bryan/College Station Church is excited to have reached their goal of having their own pastor after years of partnership with the Snook Congregation. Brother Joseph Polasek faithfully served both congregations until this past year.

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

## HUS THINK TANK and the HUS SCHOOL PROGRAM 2012

We are excited to announce the outcomes of the Hus School Think Tank. The Think Tank began with small group discussion – 15 Hussites representing 16 Hus School classes between the years 1948-2007 discussed what Hus School had meant to them. Discussion points centered around how each individual had grown with God and with their peers through their Hus School experience and what challenges the program faces today. A second discussion group of people who did not attend Hus School focused on the challenges and benefits of a program like Hus School from their fresh perspective and shared insights on similar programs within other denominations. After sharing the key points from these discussions in a large group setting, the Think Tank began to work toward a vision for the Hus School Program, focusing on Hus candidate requirements and the program's purpose.

There was an agreement that Hus School should be a separate program from the regular camping program and should be offered to persons

ages 16 and above. These candidates should be carefully selected through an application and recommendation process. It was recognized that not all youth who applied would qualify for the program. To serve these campers, it was suggested that a Sr. High, *Challenger* camp be offered for individuals ages 15-high school senior as the next progression in the camping program.

It was determined that Hus School will be an intense three-week program that will create Christ followers for life. Hus School will raise up and equip individuals that utilize their spiritual gifts and talents to thrive in the midst of hostility in the world and in their own churches. Hus School will focus not only on leadership skills for teaching Sunday school, leading worship, VBS, and other programs, but will also teach the skills necessary for thriving in the workplace, education, and modern culture. The Hus School program will also include a hands-on service opportunity and guide candidates in being



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servant leaders and provide a study of church and denominational history.

Hus School dates have been established for the summer of 2012 during the weeks of July 1-July 20. Candidates must be able to commit to the full three-week program. Registration forms and applications will be available from Camp Programmer, Megan Stauffer, in February.

Counselors are also needed for each week *and* weekend Hus School is in session. If you are available to volunteer for one or more weeks/weekends, please let Hus Director, Jennifer Chervenka, or Camp Programmer, Megan Stauffer, know as soon as possible.

jennchervenka@farm-market.net,  
Megan\_Stauffer@baylor.edu

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#### HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 – (713) 864-6707

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

For information please contact one of the following:

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

*John David Skrivanek*  
*Secretary*  
P.O. Box 1605  
Bellaire, TX 77402  
(713) 626-0522



#### Sunday School Island

#### Great People of the Bible

***"Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our adomition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."***  
**I Corinthians 10:11**



*This month we will look at another Famous Bible Person – Samson. This story is chock full of Biblical truths for all ages – young to old. There are lessons in obedience, faithfulness, love, dating, marriage, peer pressure... If you haven't read the story of Samson in a while, I want to encourage you to do so. The story can be found in Judges 13-16. As you read, discover the answers to these questions:*

- *When is roadkill not only disgusting to look at, but a major spiritual problem?*
- *Should a believer ever have to worry about putting raisins in their Grape Nuts cereal?*
- *Moms, when is it a spiritual disaster for you to trim your split ends?*

See the Unity of the Brethren website for the online version!

- Send all suggestions/questions/ideas to [hairrell@gmail.com](mailto:hairrell@gmail.com)

## Sunday School Teacher's



Easy Button

## Edible Barbells

Materials:

Toothpicks or pretzel sticks

Life Savers

Marshmallow

Carrot slices

Directions:

Make edible barbells by placing marshmallows, Life Savers, or carrot slices on the ends of toothpicks or pretzel sticks.

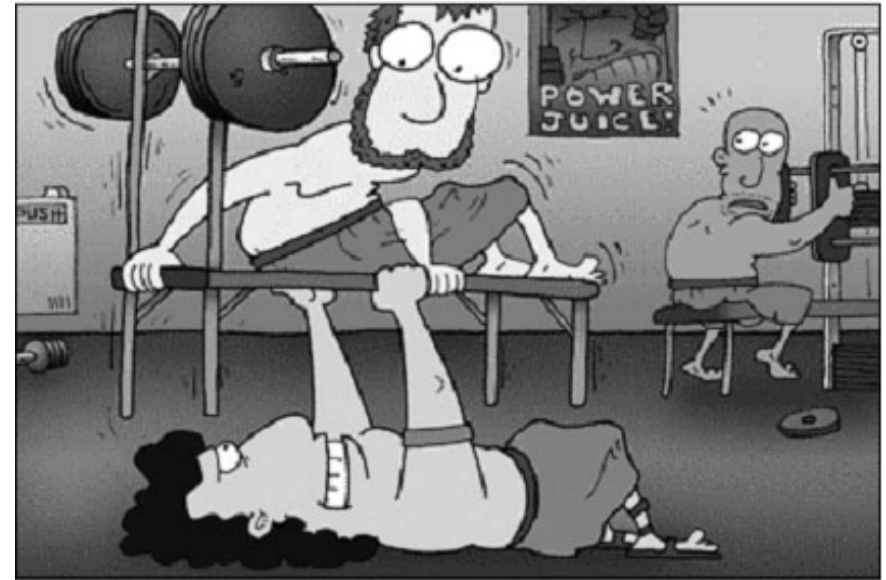
**Illustrate the Story Using a Demonstration** – You will need empty aluminum soda pop cans. Show your children an empty pop can, place it on the floor, and put your foot on it and balance your weight over it while holding onto the back of a chair. Let your children step on it and try to balance their weight on it also. Comment on how strong the can is.

Tell the children that Samson didn't always do what he was supposed to do. He did a bad thing when he wanted to please Delilah more than God. God cannot be around sin, and didn't help him to be strong when the bad men came and put him in prison. Putting a dent in this can is like letting sin into your life. (Place a dent in the can.) Now what do you think will happen if I try to step on this can? (Show your children how the can cannot hold your weight any longer.) This is what sin does to our lives, and what it did to Samson's life. But remember, when we ask God to forgive us, he takes away our sins and it is like we have no more dents. (Show your children a new can.) God makes us strong again. (Let your children try the demonstration on other cans.)

## Teen Cabana



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THE GYM JUST WASN'T CHALLENGING ENOUGH  
FOR SAMSON

### Lessons from Samson's Life:

Samson's life was largely a failure, but there are still lessons we can learn.

1. **Incomplete repentance:** Samson never asked for forgiveness in one area of his life. This led to backsliding in many other areas. Are there sins you are just unwilling to confess?
2. **Assimilation:** The Philistines were successful in assimilating the Israelites to their culture and ways of thinking. This led them to ignore the lessons they had been taught. What pressures are you facing to conform to the world's standards?
3. **Compromise:** Samson was willing to compromise his beliefs to be accepted by others. This led to sin. Are you willing to compromise your values to be accepted by others?

### Camping Program Dates!

Listed below are the dates of the various camping programs that will be offered during the summer of 2012 at the Hus Encampment in Caldwell, Texas. We look forward to the campers and staff who will be attending these various camps in the summer to come! Please mark your calendars now! Camper registration and staff applications will be made available by February 1, 2012.

Encounter (ages 7 - 8) June 7<sup>th</sup> - June 9<sup>th</sup>  
Alpha (ages 9 - 10) June 10<sup>th</sup> - June 14<sup>th</sup>  
Pioneer (ages 11 - 12) June 17<sup>th</sup> - June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Discovery (ages 13 - 14) June 24<sup>th</sup> - June 29<sup>th</sup>  
Challenger (ages 15 - high school senior)  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> - July 27<sup>th</sup>

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
Camp 2012 Dates  
Listed Here!

### Announcement of 2012 Hus School!

July 1<sup>st</sup> - July 20<sup>th</sup>

For ages 16+ upon approval of application

We are pleased to announce that there will be a Hus School class this year. Hus School is an intense three week program that is a continuum of confirmation training. The focus of Hus School is to create Christ followers for life. We will be gaining knowledge and wisdom in these areas of study: life of Christ, Bible study, church history, Sunday School teaching and CIT training, contemporary issues, forming relationships, financial stewardship, and worship/music. Our goal will be to raise and equip individuals to use the spiritual gifts that God has given them.

Hus School is open to persons 16 years of age or older. Applications and recommendation letters must be submitted no later than May 1, 2012. Individuals must be able to attend the full three week program. Applications for Hus School will be made available by February 1, 2012.

### Calling Counselors and Counselors In Training for Summer Programs 2012!!!!

If you are interested in serving as a counselor or CIT at one of the summer camps, we would love to have you join us. Counselors are also needed for each week *and* weekend Hus School is in session. If you are available to volunteer, please contact Megan Stauffer as soon as possible! Include your name, your contact information, and which programs you are interested in serving at!

Megan Stauffer, Camp Programmer  
Mailing Address: 2001 S 5<sup>th</sup> Street #90  
Waco, TX 76706  
Email Address: Megan\_Stauffer@baylor.edu  
Phone: 9979) 255-9713

**Calling All CITs  
and Counselors**

## Blessing of the Pets at Industry Brethren Church



On Sunday, October 9, 2011, the Industry Brethren Church had their first Blessing of the Pets worship service. There were six pets (dogs) blessed during the service, as well as several other members provided pictures of their pets to be blessed by Pastor Kay Polasek. All of the guests were "super good" and welcomed their blessing with the best of disposition. (We think they knew what was going on.) It was very endearing to share the service with our pets and be reminded of their devotion and companionship to us. Blessing of the Animals or (Blessing of pets as commonly called) began as a remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Francis, whose feast day is October 4<sup>th</sup>, loved the animals of his hilltop town. He wrote a canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things, "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." The bond between pet and his

master is like no other, so it is understandable why man would want to take his beloved pet to church to be blessed, too. This is the blessing that is commonly used:

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet by the power of your love, enable it to live according your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures. Amen." The pet is then sprinkled with holy water.

On Sunday at the Industry Brethren Church, following the blessing each pet was given a gold-colored fabric scarf with a cross on it to wear home and a treat to eat later. The service was enjoyed by all in attendance.

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

## Industry Brethren Church Holds “Honor Our Vets” Service

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, at the regular 9:00 a.m. worship service at the Industry Brethren Church in Industry, Texas, 58 veterans were honored on the program, plus 2 from the Shelby American Legion (August Voelkel and William (Bill) Vasicek). This was the second year that this service of “Honor Our Vets” was held by the Industry Brethren Church.

At the beginning of the service, three Boy Scouts, Jordan Spiess, Sam Luedeker, and Matthew Luedeker, carried in a religious military banner as the congregation sang “Onward Christian Soldiers”. The program illustrated the sacrifice of the servicemen and their families to our country, no matter in what capacity they served. “Let us never forget to remember them” was the tone of the service. Liz Treybig called the names of the honorees, and the church bell rang one time for each as their names were called. Living vets came forward to receive a remembrance ribbon with a Red Buddy Poppy and a small labeled US flag from the Boy Scouts. Each representative of the deceased vets came forward and lighted a candle in the triangle holder

decorated with red, white, and blue bunting. The church was decorated with flags and patriotic theme items, as well as the walk to the church and Fellowship Hall was lined with US flags.

A donation was made to the VFW on behalf of the veterans being honored so that the church could provide a Red Buddy Poppy to each person attending. Two Girl Scouts, Emily Spiess and Kaylin Krebs, assisted Joan Coufal, Vice President of the Industry Brethren Board of Elders, with pinning the ribbon/flowers on the vets. Terri Ross played the harp (including all the five branches of the military theme songs) during the service, and each vet or his representative came forward to be honored. Sharon Spiess, organist provided the organ music for the congregation to sing patriotic songs.

There was a large wreath with red and blue flowers to represent each deceased vet, with a wooden cross in the center and a white dove at the top below five small US flags to represent the five branches of the military and on the bottom the words “Thanks



*Veterans recently honored at the Industry Brethren Church Veterans Service.*

Vets” was flanked with white doves. Each vet that was honored had his/her name on large red ribbons that were held by a US flag throw on a tripod in the front of the church.

Afterward, everyone went to the Fellowship Hall next door to enjoy a catered meal by Orsak’s Cafe of Fayetteville and many delicious desserts. A large banner with “We say Thank You to our Vets” was above the food serving bar. Everyone had an opportunity to read the biography written on each vet honored. There were many military-related items that the vets brought to exhibit, as well as displays of military interest that attracted attention. Terri Ross played background music while the people ate, visited, and viewed exhibits in

Fellowship Hall. People attended from Oklahoma, Garland, Bryan, Taylor, Austin, Brenham, Giddings, Bellville, Columbus, and surrounding communities. There were 88 people in attendance.

James Marek, current President of the Unity of the Brethren and his wife, Susan, of Taylor, and Claren Kotrla, former President of the Brethren Unity and his wife, Jean, of Austin, were present. For those vets that could not attend due to health, etc., a certificate (stating that the church was honoring them for their military service) with a US flag pin and remembrance ribbon were sent to them. A US flag was placed on each veteran’s grave in the cemetery.

### **To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .**

. . . regarding scheduling\* of meetings or events there, contact:  
Dawn Marie Baletka  
600 Benchmark Drive  
College Station, TX 77845  
(979) 777-9940 or (979) 693-2710  
BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org

*\*This must be done well in advance.*

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# DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

## Daily Morsels for December 2011

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham saying, "Leave your country and your people, and go to the land I will show you." Acts 7:2-3
2. God promised him that he and his descendants would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. Acts 7:5
3. Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Gal. 3:6
4. **The scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." Gal. 3:8**
5. So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Gal. 3:9
6. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Ps. 32:8
7. He (Abraham) was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. Heb. 10:11
8. By faith Abraham... was able to become a father because he considered him faithful who had promised. Heb. 11:11
9. Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness. Gen. 15:6
10. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. Ps. 33:5
11. **Do not be afraid. I am your shield, your very great reward. Gen. 15:1**
12. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Ps. 34:18
13. Praise the Lord who has given rest to His people... Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave. 1 Kings 8:56
14. Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies. Ps. 36:5
15. This is the day the Lord has made, let us be glad in it. Ps. 118:24
16. He redeemed us in order that the blessing given through Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise. Gal. 3:14
17. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Lk. 9:23
18. **The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness. 1 Sam. 26:23**
19. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God. Isa. 61:10a
20. He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness. Isa. 61:10b
21. The Lord declared to Abraham, "All nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." Gen. 22:18
22. "His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation." Lk. 1:50
23. The Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation. Ps. 149:4
24. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. Jn. 1:14a
25. **We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn. 1:14b**
26. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6
27. Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness. 2 Tim. 2:19
28. Flee from the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Tim. 2:22
29. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 2 Tim. 2:23
30. Flee from sexual immorality. 1 Cor. 6:18
31. You are not your own; you are bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body. 1 Cor. 6:20

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Pastor Pavel & Stana Kozak

## VITAL STATISTICS

### MEMBERS RECEIVED

#### By Profession of Faith:

ROBERT & SHEILA HAISLER were welcomed into the membership of the Seaton Brethren Church by profession of faith on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

AMY LIBHART made her profession of faith and joined the membership of the Seaton Brethren Church on Sunday, September 25, 2011. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

CAROLYN RUMFIELD was welcomed into membership of the Seaton Brethren Church by profession of faith on Sunday, September 25, 2011. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

### RECENT BAPTISMS

LEVI LIBHART was baptized by immersion and welcomed into the membership of the Seaton Brethren Church on Sunday, September 25, 2011. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

HALEY GRACE EYRE, daughter of Shawn and Shannon Eyre, born on January 14, 2011, was baptized on October 30, 2011, at New Tabor Brethren Church. Sponsors: Bruce and Marleyna Urbanovsky, Jerry and Sheila Eyre, and Maxine Marek. Pastor: Rev. David Johnson.

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5220 Reading Road  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
(281) 342-3060

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Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM  
Prayer Service and Bible Study

**Bro. Larry Butcher**  
3030 Prescott, Houston, TX 77025  
(713) 299-4813 (Home)  
Youth Minister: Debbie Gloria

## In God's Hands Ministry

P. O. Box 321  
Caldwell, TX 77836  
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Oh Yes – GREAT FISHING, too!**



## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**December 4** – Installation of Rev Kay Polasek as Pastor of Fayetteville & Industry Brethren Churches during the worship service at Fayetteville Brethren Church – 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served after the service. Installation Ceremony will be conducted by James Marek, President of the Unity. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**December 11** – Pasadena Brethren Church Sunday School Christmas Program and Banquet. The dinner will be at 5 p.m. with the program at 7 p.m. The event is held conjointly with Amor Fraternal who also uses the facility. RSVP is to Becky Lively at 281-984-7311.

**December 17** – The Industry Brethren Church will have their Christmas Candlelight service at 6 p.m. with a meal following the service in Fellowship Hall.

**December 18** – The Bryan-College Station Brethren Church will have their Christmas Program Evening Service at 6 p.m. at the church.

**December 18** - The New Tabor Brethren Church Christian Sisters Crock Pot Lunch Fundraiser after Morning Worship (Service begins at 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.).

**December 18** – The New Tabor Brethren Church Christmas Program “Living Nativity” beginning at 6 p.m. featuring the Choir, Children, and Animals on the Front Lawn of the church. Seating in the parking lot.

**December 24** – The Fayetteville Brethren Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 p.m., in the newly restored historic sanctuary.

**December 25** – The Bryan-College Station Brethren Church Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m.

**December 25** – The Industry Brethren Church Christmas Day Service with Communion at 9:00 a.m..

## Temple Brethren Church

2202 Birdcreek Drive  
Temple, Texas 76502  
(254) 778-8759  
tbc@hot.rr.com

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

Pastor Larry Zabcik  
(254) 718-3898  
zabcikville@hotmail.com

## 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.  
– Pastor Mark Sebek

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.  
– visiting ministers

Crosby – 9:00 AM: Worship  
10:00 AM: Faith Adventure  
– 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

Cade Lake Community Chapel – Sunday  
School at 11:00 AM; Fellowship Lunch  
at Noon; Worship at 1:00 PM.

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

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:30 AM,  
worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.  
– Rev. Kay Polasek

Good News Fellowship Church of West  
Palm Beaches – worship at 1:00 PM every  
Sunday at First 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.  
– Rev. Whitney Amos and  
Rev. Charles Amos

Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;  
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.  
– 1st & 2nd Sunday, Dr. Jerry Terrill  
3rd & 4th Sunday, Visiting Ministers

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

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.  
Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday.  
– Rev. Ron Winsman

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM  
and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.  
Midweek Study twice per month on  
Thursdays at 6:30 PM.  
– Rev. Bill Rinderknecht

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

Snook – Sunday School – 9:00 AM;  
Worship – 10:15 AM.  
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

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 5th Sunday.  
– Visiting Ministers

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*The Brethren Journal has been publishing life and activities of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas for over 100 years. All of these include records of weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., of the ministers... when they were submitted. These records are invaluable for families who wish to research their family history or activities that have taken place in our congregations and the denomination. It would be fitting, in the eyes of the Brethren Journal Business Committee, to ask for financial support for the continuation of this publication.*

*If you wish to become a special FRIEND OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL, please send your donation to the Business Manager, Cathleen Schlechte (address inside front cover). These donations are tax deductible.*