

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



Vol. 111

January/February 2012

No. 1

32 Pages



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Dime Box Brethren Church 100-Year Anniversary Celebration

. . . and much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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RATE –

\$12.00 per year for individual
subscriptions, via Hard Copy & E-Mail
\$10.00 per year for congregational
subscriptions only
\$6.00 after June 1st

(All subscriptions expire December 31st)
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SUBMISSION – DEADLINE is the first day
of the month preceding publication.
Write: *The Brethren Journal Editor*, 3635 CR
225, Caldwell, TX 77836.

Permit #064220

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL (ISSN 0006-9655)
is published monthly except for January and
July, which are bimonthly, at \$12.00 per year
by The Unity of the Brethren through Centex
Business Center, 813 E. 2nd Street, Taylor,
TX 76574, periodical postage paid at Taylor,
TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to *The Brethren Journal*, Attn: Business Man-
ager, 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836.
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Primetimers Retreat 2011 Participants (front cover)

Row 1: Vlasta Surovik, Joyce
Baletka, John Baletka, Susan
Hanna, Linda Flens, Marie Ann
Ripple, Gloria Martinez-Watts,
Edna Pechal, Doris Svoboda,
Charlie Groseclose, Gordon Hejl

Row 2: LaNelle McKay, Maurice
Maluschka, Mary Maluschka,
Evelyn M. Henry, Lanelle Lesikar,
Rubie Loessin, Angeline
Malicoat, Lillian Beasley, Barbara
Junek, Calvin John Vojtek, Grace
Labaj, Georgia Tyrock, Pat Hejl

Row 3: Carrol Ronald, Evelyn
Matcek, Georgia Kovar, Margie
Kelarek, Charlene Lednicki,
Dorothy Haisler, Rose Ann
Groseclose, Marvin Chlapek,
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Labaj, Marvin Labaj

Row 4: Lawrence Junek, Ester
Merritt, Kimberly Kennard,
Dorothy Milberger

Row 5: Frank McKay, Leslie
Loessin, J. T. Verwold, Daniel C.
Lesikar, Eugene E. Haisler, Wiley
Marx, J.B. Kennard, Donna
Verwold, Steve Holcomb, Mary
Holcomb, Jeanette Labaj West

President's Column . . . James Marek

MEANINGFUL NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The Lord has blessed us with another year. A true gift from His generosity, love and grace. Now the question is, what will each of us do with it? The beginning of a new year is traditionally a time for change – a time for “new year’s resolutions”. As Christians, we can use the beginning of a new



are drawn closer to our heavenly Father, come to know Him better.

Spiritual growth often includes giving, faith and dependence on God, while personal growth often encourages taking, and is implicitly dependent on our own efforts. To build our spiritual lives we are called to serve, while our personal growth

year to make spiritual resolutions that lead to spiritual growth. Resolutions to improve not only our physical lives, but more importantly our spiritual lives. Psalms 90:10 tells us that our lives here on this earth are likely only 70-80 years. Conversely, we know our spiritual lives are eternal, so it only makes sense that we should give priority to improving our spiritual lives.

Christian spirituality has its origin in a relationship with God. As Christians, we are to pursue unity with God and with each other. In this effort we

is often measured by how much we are served. Spiritual growth has eternal benefits while personal gain is temporary. Unfortunately, the ways of personal growth are much more natural to us because in them we focus on ourselves. Spiritual growth often includes adversity and requires selfless service and a desire to bring glory to God.

In 1 Peter 4, we are called to bring glory to God in all that we do. This verse provides a good game plan for spiritual growth. The tough part is



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actually measuring up to it. Although it is difficult to always strive to bring glory to God in all we do, scripture provides encouragement to help succeed. Verses like what the apostle Paul said in his letter the Philippians. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Each of us are called to examine our hearts and lives and to allow God to show us where we each need to grow spiritually. I am convinced that if we set out to bring honor and glory to God, we will be well on our way to discovering where we need the most improvement. My prayer at the beginning of this new year is that we as a Unity will use this new year to build unity with God and our neighbor. What area of spiritual growth does God want YOU to focus on this year? Is it Bible study or biblical knowledge? Is it loving others, even the unlovable? Is it serving God and others in the church or

community? Is it something totally different? Ask Him! He his faithful and cannot only be trusted to reveal His will for our lives, but help us fulfill it. As we go forward in this new year, may we keep passages like Psalm 124:8 and Psalm 105:4 in mind. Psalm 124:8, "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. And Psalm 105:4, "Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles and the judgments He has pronounced."

May 2012 be the best year yet for you and your family. Happy New Year, and may the Lord bless and prosper you and your loved ones in new and meaningful ways!

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17th Primetimers' Retreat Hears About Unity Outreach

- by Marvin and Alice Chlapek

The Primetimers gathered for their 17th annual retreat October 7-9, 2011, at the Hus School Encampment. It was a beautiful October weekend. Twenty-four participants arrived Friday evening for fellowship and a light meal. The others arrived on Saturday morning in time for breakfast of biscuits, gravy, jellies, cocktail sausages, fruit, cereal, juice, and coffee.

A short devotional at 9 a. m. was followed by enthusiastic singing and a group get-acquainted mixer. The retreat theme was "Reaching Out", the retreat song was "Song of the Nations", and the Scripture was Luke 10:10. The morning session was led by Rev. Ron Winsman and Rev. Larry Zabcik. They shared their experiences from a recent trip to the Czech Repub-

lic and the work Pavel and Stana Kozak are doing in Moravia to reach the Czech people.

The Saturday afternoon guest was the Apostle Paul (Phil Smith), who shared from memory the Book of Philippians. Phil's wife assisted the presentation by setting up the stage and preparing Phil in appropriate dress. Rev. Jim Heckman had a video and oral presentation about a new local (Unity) outreach mission at Cade Lake near Caldwell. Rev. Vanessa Mitchell led the evening vesper. All of the presenters were well received and much information was gleaned.

Fellowship around the tables during lunch and supper was enjoyed by all. Lunch consisted of chicken ten-



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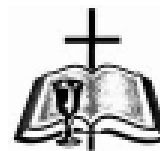
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ders, gravy, buttered potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, tea, lemonade, jello, and homemade desserts made by individuals. For supper the group enjoyed grilled hamburgers, vegetables, chips, fruit salad, ice cream, cookies and tea.

Sunday breakfast consisted of pancakes, sausage, cereal, bananas, juice and coffee, and lunch of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, drink, and dessert. The Sunday morning worship and communion service was led by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell.

Those who planned the retreat were Marvin and Johnnie Ann Labaj of Temple, Margie Kelarek of Hilltop Lakes, Wiley and Kimberly Marx of Ocker, and Marvin and Alice Chlapek of Dime Box. Linda Flens served as the retreat photographer.

It was wonderful to have 59 in attendance on Saturday, including 14 newcomers. The 18th Annual Prime-timers' Retreat is scheduled for the second weekend of October 2012. Please mark your calendar now and make plans to attend.

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Dime Box Brethren Church 100-Year Anniversary Celebration of the Building of the Church

- by Jean Blaha Davis

The Dime Box Brethren Church celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the building of the first church in the Hranice community in 1911 on November 26, 2011, at the third Brethren Church building located on FM 141. A rededication service was held in the sanctuary. Past ministers Henry Beseda and Dell Miller addressed the group, as did the President of the Unity, James Marek. A brief history of the church was given by Jean Blaha Davis, and then the audience was asked for their thoughts and comments. Families identified as having their ancestors involved in building all three churches were recognized. They were Balcar, Blaha, Marek, Kubena, and Krenek. After the service, a catered dinner followed in the fellowship hall, where a pictorial display of all of the churches was available for all to look at, as well as the Christian Sisters scrap book and the Dime Box Museum Brethren Church history.

The history of this church begins in 1894 when Rev. Adolph Chlumsky visited the area for the first time and started organizing the Protestant families at Hranice. He was successful, even though he was able to come only a few times each year. Some families went to Ross Prairie Church in Fayetteville to be baptized or married. After the Hranice School was built, church functions and services were held in the schoolhouse alternately with the Catholic services. The first confirmation class was held in 1900. In September of 1902 the choir began to practice singing, with Chlumsky as the leader and playing the organ. Later the local organists were Fannie Balcar and Vlasta Balcar.

The congregation began to grow and the need for a new separate building soon became evident, and the new minister, Rev. Joe Barton, led this effort. The first Czech Moravian Brethren Church at Hranice was built

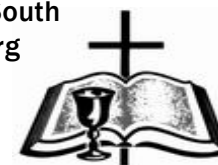


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by local members who donated their time, but carpenters from Temple, Josef Hunka, John Hunka, Charles Kalenda, and Charles Mikus, were hired to help. Josef Blaha and Vinc Balcar donated the very large cast iron bell, which had their names inscribed in relief. Dedication services were on September 22, 1911, with the congregation walking from the Hranice schoolhouse to the new church building; Albina Balcar presented a recital in Czech and the key to Rev. Adolph Chlumsky to open the doors of the new building.

Eleven years later, on April 4, 1922, a tornado turned the building over during the night and destroyed it. The congregation, with Minister Rev. Frank Horak, began plans immediately to build another church at the same site. John Maresh from Deanville was the carpenter in charge, with the members helping again. This church was dedicated in 1924, with Mary Kubena giving the recital and pre-

senting the key to Rev. Frank Horak Sr. to open the door.

On July 30, 1954, this second church building was struck by lightning and was completely destroyed by fire. The organ and other items were saved through the windows. Rev. Henry Beseda Sr. was the minister, and under his guidance the congregation gathered together for the third time. The third church building was started at a new location on a 2-acre tract north of Dime Box on land donated by Leonard & Millie Mikulin. Ed Peters was the carpenter in charge, and the members again donated their time. This church was dedicated on May 29, 1955, with Rev. Albert Michalik officiating. The president of the Church, Ed Krenek, gave the key to Rev. Michalik to open the door to the third new building. Two years later a Fellowship Building was built on land behind the church and dedicated on May 4, 1958. Thanks to God, both of these buildings are still there.

Ministers who have served this church were Rev. Adolph Chlumsky, Rev. Joseph Barton Sr., Rev. Josef Hegar, Rev. Frank Horak Sr., Rev. Henry Beseda Sr., Rev. Henry Beseda Jr., Rev. Dan Marek, Rev. Jesse Skrivanek as reserve pastorate, Rev. Albert Michalik, Rev. Dan Marek, Rev. Richard Stone, Dan Husak, Rev. Del Miller, and now Rev. Jim Heckman. There were Czech services by Rev. Frank Svoboda, Rev. Josef Barton, Rev. Frank Kostohryz, Rev. Josef Barton Jr., and Rev. Henry Beseda Sr. The services in Czech were discontinued in 1968.

Early families were Krenek, Blaha, Simek, Balcar, Kubena, Ripple, Kutej, Turecek, Matejcek, Marek, Cottrell, Hejtmancik, Pertl, Schumann, and Pecena. Burleson County was represented by Jakubik, Kaiser, Luksa, Dancak, Holubec, Horak, Dlabay, Pohorelsky, Sebesta, Jancik, Lomica, Jaap, Maresh, Kovar, Marek, and Skrivanek.

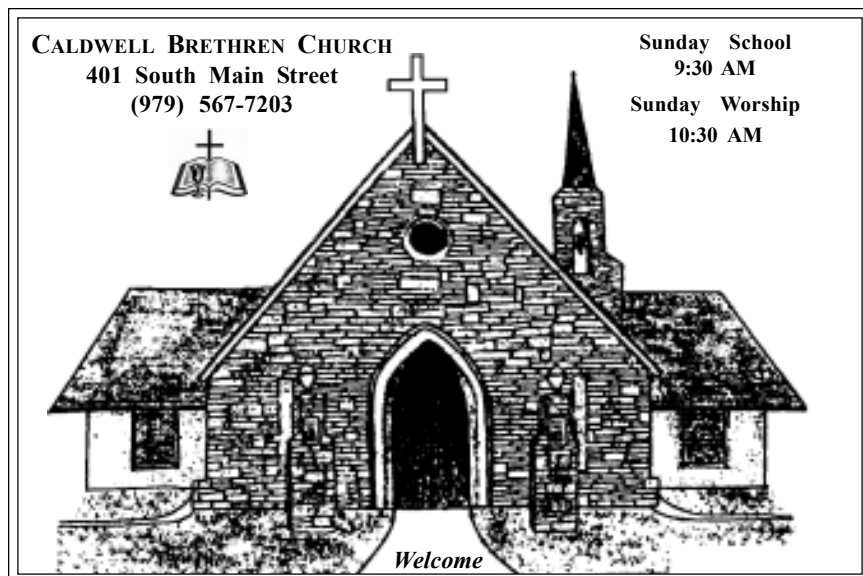
Later members were Vavra, Urbanovsky, Schwierzke, Nimitz, Hajdik, Goodson, Spitzenberger, Spacek, Bridges, Kovar, Allen, Marburger, Mikulin, Fillip, Juroska, Grundman,

Buchan, Becvar, Beason, Brinkman, Chernosky, Cottrell, Davis, Dobos, Dodd, Fegan, Freeman, Hartfield, Higgins, Hogan, Maluschka, Mason, Massey, Mayer, Riske, Westbrook, Jurchak, McClellan, Parsons, Strom, Sharp, Miller, and Weaver, with Burleson County represented by Luedke, Schumacher, Polasek, and Ondrasek.

The Ladies Aid Club was organized by Rev. Frank Horak Sr. on October 26, 1926, with 18 charter members, and it is still in existence today.

In 1987, Dan and Bethel Blaha retrieved pieces of the original bell used in the first and second churches. It fell during the fire and was partially buried in the ground at the original site. The remaining pieces were brought to the location of the third church and reconstructed and are on display.

The size of the congregation has diminished in the last few decades with movement of the younger people to the cities, but the Church is still alive and active, and will be as long as we have good and reliable members and a minister who is willing to serve our group.



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Fayetteville Brethren Re-Dedicate Historic Church Cemetery



The Fayetteville Brethren Church re-dedicated their historic church cemetery on Sunday, October 30, 2011. In the fall of 2010, a lot of work was done in the cemetery by church members to try to reduce some of the maintenance required in keeping the cemetery looking nice. Over 100 graves were lined with tar paper and covered with gravel. Several unknown graves were marked with "Unknown" markers purchased that also had inscribed on them a Czech phrase "Zde odpociva v Panu Zesnula" which means "Here rests in God the deceased." This phrase is on many of the tombstones in the cemetery.

The welcome was given by Joe Ripple, President of the Board of Elders. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ann and Milton Heintschel. The opening prayer was given by Jerry Dove. A history of the cemetery was given by Liz Ripple.

Leander Minar, caretaker of the

cemetery and church grounds for 12 years, was presented a plaque by Kathy Voshalike in appreciation of the loving and attentive care he showed for the cemetery. Mr. Minar is not a member of this church, but he does have relatives buried in the church cemetery. He and his wife, Ann, worked many long hours making sure everything looked just right.

The Act of Dedication was led by Tom Kubena. This was followed by the reading of all the names of those buried in the church cemetery by Liz Ripple, Tom Kubena, Margaret Michalsky, and Kathy Voshalike. The closing prayer was given by Ray Stepan. Everyone then enjoyed refreshments of sandwiches, chips, cookies, tea, and coffee.

The area around the church is known as Ross Prairie, named so for James J. Ross, a member of the "old 300" who was an important figure during the



early years of settlement in this area. The church is still fondly called Ross Prairie Church, or the CMB Church (Czech Moravian Brethren).

The land for the church and cemetery was donated by Thomas and Katerina Jecmenek in 1874. The church was built in 1874 and the cemetery is behind the church. The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of Katerina Jecmenek, who died on November 17, 1875, at the age of 25. There are approximately 300 known graves and several unknown graves. Rev. Henry Juren, longest serving pastor of the church (some 45 years), is buried in the cemetery, as well several World War I and World War II veterans. There is also one Civil War veteran, Jan Hruska, who is buried there. Some European birthplaces found on the tombstones include villages from Bohemia and Moravia such as Cermna, Vsetin, Jablunka, Jasenka, Lipa, Ratibor, and Ruzdka.

In October 1999 the cemetery was

listed as an Official Historic Texas Cemetery. A medallion and marker was erected in 2002. On some tombstones are the initials CSPS or SPJST. These were Czech fraternal insurance organizations: Cesko-Slovensky Podporujici Spolek and Slovanska Podporujici Jednota Statu Texas (Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas). Many of the inscriptions on the tombstones are in Czech. A few of the tombstones have interesting epitaphs that read like poems. One is on J. W. Jecmenek's: "His words were kindness, his deeds were love, his spirit humble, he rests above. Not lost blest thought but gone before where we shall meet to part no more." Also on Emmett J. Blinker's: "Death is but to sleep in Jesus. When this life is o'er, and to sorrows, sins, diseases, never to awaken more." And on Leslie O. Hruska's, who was 10 when he died: "Beautiful, Lovely, He was but given, a fair bud to earth to blossom in heaven."

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

From the Thiessens . . .

A "Normal Thanksgiving"

On Thursday we will celebrate Thanksgiving with a full house of at least 16 people. The turkey is already thawing in the fridge, and everything else will be brought by our friends. This year, though, Anne and the kids will be the only Americans! It's a complicated story, and we certainly aren't trying to get Mexicans to take up American cultural events. This evolved over the past seven years (that's how long we've been in Oaxaca City), as each year the celebration came to include mixed couples (one American, one Mexican) and displaced Mexican friends (from other parts of

the country). Well, this year, all the other Americans are no longer around, but we have this network of friends that have gotten used to doing something at this time, so we're going ahead anyway.

We are thankful for many gifts God is giving us, and whether we celebrate with Canadians back in October or now with Mexicans for the American holiday, or with Mixtecs in December, we can never have too many opportunities to "return thanks". Our life has been fairly normal for the last while, things going along more or less as planned, no "big" events that immediately lend themselves to a stirring letter to you all. Nevertheless, there is much to be grateful for, and I want to highlight a few of those for you.

First of all, normalcy itself means at least that we are safe, in a country increasingly in the news for violence of all sorts. Just Saturday, as I was returning home, the road was blocked by all kinds



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of police and soldiers. Turns out that a few minutes earlier there had been a confrontation between drug dealers and the state police, leaving two dead, one from each group. We rarely get to see this sort of problem that close, and in general we have no real contact with what you all read about.

Next, there are at least three groups of Mexican missionaries that we are able to help mobilize, refine, and coach. One is the group that had the wedding, written about by RuthE last month. Another is a denomination of more than 2000 churches throughout this country where some of their main leaders are working hard to raise awareness of cross-cultural missions. Anne has already taught among them several times, and I joined her two weeks ago to help with one session. It can seem slow at times, but there are signs of movement. They are very aware of the needs of the unreached indigenous people of Mexico, and are planning on sending missionaries there first. We are privileged to help shape some of that awareness, and hopefully their way of responding. A third is a group in Baja California, where Anne and I will be leading workshops during a January missions conference that is expecting 500 participants.

And, not least, we are thankful for all of you, our network of supporters, who pray and care and give. Your

love is a gift to us, and we are keenly aware that you are an integral part of God sustaining us in Mexico.

There are many more blessings to be thankful for, of course.

Blessings, Robert.

From the Woos . . .

October 25, 2011

Dear friends and family,

On Sunday, October 23, 2011, 10:30 a.m., Caroline and Michael left for the Sripat hospital. After laboring for 4+ hours, Caroline had a natural delivery. Praise the Lord. We named him Isaac Daniel because we desire to have more laughter in our family. For the first day they monitored his breathing, but he seems to be fine and hope he may leave the hospital today. Thanks for remembering us and joining in the celebration of new life.



Isaac Daniel Woo born, born October 23, 2011, at 3:36 p.m., 8 lbs. 9 oz., 20 in.

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December 2011

Dear partners in ministry,

Merry Christmas! We have been back in Target City for 2 weeks now and are getting back into life here with 4 boys! Isaac is doing well, and is now smiling at 7 weeks old. His older brothers love him and often hold him and kiss him.

May has shared with us about the training she held while we were gone, but it seems we are still learning what happened as more and more information comes out. We praise the Lord that she led a two-day training, with about 11 people attending. She had 4 more come and help with cooking the food. They sang and prayed and studied the Man of the Tombs story, a Creation to Church story, how to give a personal testimony, and some

teaching about the Holy Spirit. Many of the believers had never heard about the power that is available to us through the Holy Spirit. On the second day of the training they went out in two groups to share with people in the market. It was the first time for many of them to share with others.

Since then, she has been leading a fellowship group on Sunday night as a substitute teacher for another lady who leads this group in Burmese. Two of the women who attend this group are Dai, and we are praying that they, too, can get a vision for their own people. We praise God that May has grown so much. Remember when she was not willing to share anything? And now she is able to lead trainings, pray for the sick, and to lead Sunday fellowship groups. It's



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- Life Insurance
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- Home Loans
- Family Activities
- Community Involvement
- Youth Activities and Camp
- Scholarships
- Vestnik weekly newspaper

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520 NorthMain Street
Temple, Texas 76501
(800) 727-7578
www.spjst.org

amazing what the Holy Spirit can do! Lord, may the training go deep into the hearts of those who came. Give them spiritual boldness!

Our next step is for May to start one to two small fellowship groups. She already has an idea of where to do this. She would lead these groups in a very simple format where one-third of the time is worship and pastoral care, one-third of the time is sharing a new story from the Book orally, and one-third is sort of a now what are you going to do about what you have learned time. The goal is that during the last one-third every person in the group can think of people they want to share with and so they can also go out and start their own groups. When they start their new group, they can just copy the easy format they have been shown. We are keeping it very simple so others can teach others and they can teach others and on and on until the entire Dai nation and beyond can hear the Good News!

Last Wednesday, Michael and our teammate, and May and her husband all went across the border to a Kachin

refugee camp. This camp had 2000 Kachin people living in it. There are a total of 14,000 Kachin that have run from their northern Kachin state of the country beside us. Six months ago, the military of that country started fighting the Kachin. There are horrific stories about rape, murder, and torture. We have learned of their needs and are praying for them and getting the word out about how we can help these people. Most of the Kachin people are Christians.

Blessings for a New Year,
Michael, Caroline,
Samuel, Ian, Zach, and Isaac

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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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 Skrivaneck
Secretary
P.O. Box 1605
Bellaire, TX 77402
(713) 626-0522

. . . from the Home Mission Field

Cade Lake Community Chapel celebrated Thanksgiving this year courtesy of the Brethren Youth Fellowship. At the conclusion of the BYF Fall Retreat, 31 members and sponsors brought a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and 16 (yes 16) pumpkin pies.

Forty-two members of the community joined to enjoy the meal. Everyone ate all they wanted... and there was food left over. In addition to the folks who attended the dinner, several meals were sent out to homebound members of the community. Bro. Jim had the honor of bringing God's Word to nearly 70 folks.



Everyone at Cade Lake Community Chapel would like to thank the BYF for their efforts and good cooking. In a time of thanksgiving, we also want to thank the Unity for all the support received since the idea of a mission to Cade Lake was offered in April.



Rev. Kay Polasek Installed at Brethren Churches



Industry Brethren Church

On Sunday, December 4, at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Rev. Kay Polasek was installed at the Industry Brethren Church and the Fayetteville Brethren Church, respectively. Rev. Polasek was given a corsage, and a boutonniere was given to her husband, Ben, prior to the services. President of the Unity of the Brethren, James Marek of Taylor, Texas, installed Rev. Polasek at both of the services. Following the installations, Rev. Polasek was presented with gifts from both congregations. Following the installation at Fayetteville, a delicious buffet of food and desserts, including a large cake with "Welcome Rev. Kay and Ben" on it, was enjoyed by all in attendance.



Fayetteville Brethren Church

Guests included Rev. Kay and Ben Polasek's daughter, Kim, and grandson, Seth, of Bryan; former Unity of the Brethren President, Claren Kotrla, and wife, Jean, of Austin; Susan Marek, wife of Unity of the Brethren President, James Marek, of Taylor; and Guy & Martha Huffman of Caldwell and their granddaughter, Lillian Mateck. Both congregations invite the communities to come and meet their new minister and attend services at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday at Industry and 10:30 a.m. at Fayetteville. The Polaseks look forward to moving to the Brenham area and becoming involved in the church community.

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878
Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM
Bible Buddies – 2nd Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 PM

Pastor	Board of Elders President	Youth Directors
Rev. Joseph Polasek	Justin Lewis	Randall & Jonna See
P.O. Box 54	P.O. Box 222	P.O. Box 345
Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624	(979) 272-0416	(979) 272-8179



Sunday School Island

Great People of the Bible

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



In the past two months we have examined Noah and Samson. From their lives there is much we can learn that applies to our daily lives.

This month we will look at Moses. Moses could be the focus of months of study, from his amazing trip down the Nile in a basket as a baby to bringing his people out of captivity.

This month's activities will focus on the story of the Ten Commandments. The full story can be found in Exodus 20:1-20.

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

- Send all suggestions/questions/ideas to hairrell@gmail.com



Easy Button

An easy way to remember the 10 Commandments

From http://daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_t.html#ten

- 1. One God** – draw the number one large.
- 2. No Idols** – draw a face and ears on the number two to make it look like a gargoyle
- 3. Do Not Take the Lord's Name in Vain** – add to the number three to make it look like a pair of lips.
- 4. Remember the Sabbath to Keep it Holy** – make the top of the number four taller and turn it into a cross.
- 5. Honor Thy Father and Mother** – draw faces in the number five and you get a lady at the bottom and a man with a flat top hair cut.
- 6. Do Not kill** – turn the six sideways and turn it into a gun.
- 7. Do Not Commit Adultery** – turn the 7 sideways and turn it into an A.
- 8. Do Not Steal** – turn the eight side ways and turn it into a pair of handcuffs..
- 9. Do Not Bear False Witness** – draw a face inside circle of the nine and ears to look like a bear.
- 10. Do Not Covet** – turn the 1 into a c – CO stand for covet.



Teen Cabana



Lessons from Moses:

1. We need a personal relationship with God.

Moses had face-to-face experiences with God. While God initiated, Moses was not afraid to establish an intimate relationship with God.

2. Moses was an excellent ambassador for God.

Even among the complaining and negativity in the desert, Moses never got tired of talking about God and making sure God's Laws and commandments were followed.

3. God gives us what we need.

When God asked Moses to save his people from the Egyptians, Moses argued he was too slow of speech. However, God gave him all he needed to accomplish His work.

4. God will lead you on a daily basis.

God led the Israelites on an everyday basis through their 40-year journey in the wilderness. The lesson to be learned from this is that not only will God anoint you with His power to get the job done, but He will also guide and lead you every step of the way to get the job done.

7. God will fight battles for you when needed.

God was wanting His people delivered from their slavery to the Egyptians and He was not going to take no for an answer. God threw 10 judgments at the Pharaoh. Finally, after breaking on the last judgment, the Pharaoh agrees to let God's people go. Then the Pharaoh changes his mind and starts to come back after them. The Israelites then get caught before the Red Sea. God then parts the Red Sea so they can safely cross.

8. God will part your Red Sea.

If God can literally part the Red Sea, then God can part and take care of your red sea if you are willing to press in, request that He help you out, and be willing to believe and have faith that He will take care of the situation.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for January 2012

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. **The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. Zeph. 3:17a**
2. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love. Zeph. 3:17b
3. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. Ps. 125:4
4. The Lord watches over all who love Him. Ps. 145:20
5. Be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. 1 Sam. 12:24a
6. Consider what great things the Lord has done for you. 1 Sam. 12:24b
7. God gives wisdom and knowledge to the person who is good in His sight. Ecc. 2:26
8. **You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice. Deut. 13:4a**
9. Serve your God and hold fast to Him. Deut. 13:4b
10. You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call on You. Ps. 86:5
11. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:32
12. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the love of Christ. Gal. 6:2
13. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Gal. 6:10
14. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. Gen. 45:8
15. **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find help in the time of need. Heb. 4:16**
16. If is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Rom. 12:18
17. Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Rom. 12:19
18. Be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. 2 Pet. 3:17
19. But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Pet. 3:18
20. The Lord delights in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation. Ps. 149:4
21. He led me to a place of safety; He rescued me because He delights in me. Ps. 18:19
22. **Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Heb. 10:23**
23. "...listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, ...pay attention to His commands." Ex. 15:26
24. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 Jn. 5:14
25. The Lord says, "Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you." Jer. 29:12
26. Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Isa. 30:21
27. For this is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide, even unto death. Ps. 48:14
28. "I will sing to the Lord for He is highly exalted. The horse and rider He has hurled into the sea." Ex. 15:1
29. **"The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him." Ex. 15:2**
30. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be people of courage; be strong. 1 Cor. 16:13
31. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Isa. 25:9

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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for February 2012

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. We know that a person is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Gal. 2:15
2. My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19
3. For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Phil. 1:21
4. Jesus said, "All that the Father gives to me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." Jn. 6:37
5. **I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Gal. 2:20**
6. Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. 1 Jn. 5:4
7. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11:1
8. Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God." Mark 11:22
9. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. Ps. 130:5
10. The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Ps. 138:8
11. No one is justified before God by the law, because "The righteous will live by faith." Gal. 3:11
12. **By faith, Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. Heb. 11:17**
13. Love the Lord your God; walk in His ways and keep His commands, decrees and laws. Deut. 30:16
14. As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:26
15. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. Ps. 18:30
16. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Heb. 12:2
17. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and that not from yourselves; it is the gift of God. Eph. 2:8
18. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:29
19. **You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:26**
20. By faith, Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. Heb. 11:27
21. For nothing is impossible with God. Lk. 1:37
22. Abraham did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God. Rom. 4:20
23. He was fully convinced that God had power to do what He had promised. Rom. 4:21
24. We walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7
25. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Joel 2:27
26. **For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. Rom. 6:14**
27. Wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Prov. 8:11
28. To fear the Lord is to hate evil. Prov. 8:13
29. I, wisdom, walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice. Prov. 8:20

Brethren Book Store

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(979) 200-0513
Diane Heckman, Manager

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 3-3rd grade

Cost \$15

Registration forms available January 1

Registration due February 1

Participants will receive t-shirts



For God who said,
"Let light shine out of
darkness," made His
light shine in our hearts...
2 Corinthians 4:6

"ORPHANED"

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

Saturday, January 7 -

Sunday, January 8

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
or contact Jennifer Chervenka,
254-983-1002
jennchervenka@farm-market.net

"Wipeout" Fall Youth Retreat

Several youth and adults gathered at the Hus School Encampment Saturday, November 19, through Sunday, November 20, for the State Youth Fall Retreat. Scripture study focused on wiping out sin. Youth enjoyed games led by the retreat coordinator youth team of Erin Brinkley, Taylor Brinkley, and Lanie Watts. Retreat participants also donated canned food items to In God's Hands Ministry and prepared and served Thanksgiving Lunch at the Cade Lake Community Chapel.



Photo: Youth share how individuals have shined a Christian light for them. Each person who has served as an inspiration or example for us is only one strand in a web of Christian love, and each strand connects us in Christ.

Annual Christian Sisters Bazaar, 2nd Saturday in September

The Rosenberg Brethren Church

Christian Sisters

5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, Texas 77471

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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.*

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	Guy E. Huffman, Treasurer
Calvin J. Vojtek, Vice-President	Stanley F. Mrnustik, Junior Dept.
Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary	Dorothy Hinson, Board Member

Relax in Port O’Connor at Kotrla’s Coastal Retreat!

Reservations: Contact Valerie at 361-920-4663, or Valerie@tigrett.com
Oh Yes – GREAT FISHING, too!

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 and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

January 7-8 – BYF Winter Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Theme is “Orphaned” with two missionary speakers and many great activities. Registration forms available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com or contact Jennifer Chervenka at (254) 983-1002, or jennchervenka@farm-market.net.

February 4 – Church Fellowship with Wesley, Fayetteville, Industry & Nelsonville churches at Nelsonville Brethren Church - Praise Service & supper served. For more information contact Liz Ripple at lizripple@hotmail.com or (979) 378-2239.

February 11 – Fayetteville Brethren Church Christian Sisters fundraiser – 7:30 a.m. on the square in Fayetteville. Breakfast tacos, bake sale, raffle. For additional info contact Liz Ripple.

March 3 – Shine Like Stars State Children’s Rally for ages 3 through 3rd grade. For more information and registration forms please contact Jennifer Chervenka at (254) 983-1002, or jennchervenka@farm-market.net.

Unity Giving Calendar and Reminders

Reminder:

Congregational Questionnaires are due to be returned in January. Please check with your church secretary to ensure your congregation has submitted theirs.

Notice:

The minutes of the October 2011 Synodical Committee meeting are now available at the Unity website, www.unityofthebrethren.org.

Special Offerings Calendar:

Our current Unity By-laws provide the following instructions on Special offerings, Article II Section O:

Offerings shall be made in all congregations for Missions throughout the year:

- for Interdenominational Work in May;
- for the Brethren Fund in September;
- for the Student Fund in October;
- for the Bible Fund (American Bible Society) in December.

May has also traditionally been designated as Mutual Aid month.

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

MIKESKA, NELSON FRANK SR., age 89, member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died on July 23, 2011, in Bellville. He was born February 19, 1922, in Bleiberville, Texas, and was married to Ethel Sebesta on June 26, 1948. He is survived by 2 children, 2 grandchildren, and 3 sisters. Services were held on July 27, 2011, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church with burial in National Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Michael Groseclose.

MILBERGER, WILBERT, age 68, member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died on August 25, 2011, in Houston. He was born May 3, 1943, in Bellville, Texas, and married Dorothy Kalina on May 21, 1966. He is survived by his wife, 2 children and 7 grandchildren. Services were held on August 29, 2011, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church with burial in the Kovar Brethren Cemetery in Smithville, Texas. Minister: Rev. Michael Groseclose.

FICK, OLGA SUSAN, age 94, member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, died on October 16, 2011, in Brenham. She was born in Bleiberville, Texas, on October 2, 1917 and married Albert Fick on July 22, 1936. She is survived by 1 child, 4 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. Services were held on October 19, 2011, at the Nelsonville Brethren Church in National Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Michael Groseclose.

State Youth Leadership Team 2011-2012

Youth Members:

Erin Brinkley, 119 CR 3000, Lott, TX 76656. erinbrinkley@yahoo.com
Taylor Brinkley-Registration Manager, 119 CR 3000, Lott, TX 76656.
taylorbrinkley@yahoo.com
Monique Duron - Secretary, 1613 Southwest Pkwy, College Station, TX 77840. cutesi101@aol.com
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Chris.Stauffer011@gmail.com
Lanie Watts, P.O. Box 645, Little River, TX 76554. x3lsw1110@yahoo.com

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Advisors:

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Megan Stauffer, 9206 Sunlake Court, College Station, TX 77845.
Megan.Stauffer@baylor.edu
Anna Wotipka, Treasurer, 652 CR 324, Caldwell, TX 77836.
awotipka58@yahoo.com

State Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka, 9494 Big Elm Creek Rd., Rogers, TX 76569.
jennchervenka@farm-market.net

Pastoral Advisor:

Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, 8787 Shenandoah Park Drive, Apt. 634, Shenandoah, TX 77385. williamr90@aol.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.
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



CY-FAIR COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Unity of the Brethren)

Worship – 10:45 A.M.
Sunday School – 9:30 A.M.



Pastors:

Rev. Henry Beseda
(979) 567-7033

Rev. Rick Chandler
(281) 355-1474

Church Phone – (281) 955-1655

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Cypress, TX 77410-0233

President: Rev. Henry Beseda

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e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

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(parents' address in U.S.)
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pbrmissions@gmail.com

Rob and Anne Thiessen
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Tlalixtác de Cabrera
Oaxaca, MEXICO 68627
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e-mail: rvthiessen@yahoo.com

Michael and Caroline Woo
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Chiang Mai 50000
Thailand
e-mail: mcswoo@psmail.net
To access their pictures, go to
<http://gallery.mac.com/woofamily>

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

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