

# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL



Vol. 111

December 2012

No. 10

36 Pages



*Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you;  
He is Christ the Lord. Lk. 2:11*

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

President's Column

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

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

## THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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## President's Column . . . James Marek Unprecedented Mission Budget Calls for Unprecedented Mission Support

The recent Fall Synodical Commit-  
tee meeting held on October 20th  
provided the setting for  
an encouraging demon-  
stration of faith on the  
part of the Synodical  
Committee members. The  
consideration of the 2013  
budgets of the Foreign  
Mission Board and Home  
Mission Board was the  
issue that spawned a cre-



ative and productive discussion on  
the future of the Unity's mission  
programs. The decision that resulted  
from this discussion has the potential  
to unite and expand our mission effort  
within our denomination while chal-  
lenging our commitment to mission  
outreach.

The expansion of the Unity's mis-  
sion footprint began in 2009 with the  
creation of the Home Mission Board.  
The Home Mission Board began as a  
compliment to the Unity's Foreign  
Mission work. The purpose of the

Home Mission Board is to spread the  
good news of Jesus Christ domesti-  
cally just as the Foreign  
Mission Board has done  
internationally since its  
inception.

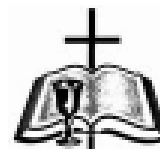
Since 2011, the work  
of the Home Mission  
Board has largely been  
focused on the mission  
outreach at Cade Lake, a  
community just 5 miles

West of Caldwell, Texas. Rev. Jim  
Heckman and his wife, Diane, began a  
mission outreach within Cade Lake in  
response to a call they felt from God  
to minister to the people within this  
small community beginning in April  
of 2011. Cade Lake is a community of  
approximately 1000 people. Fifty to  
one hundred of these people are  
school-age children. The community  
is one in which many residents face  
daily struggles with harsh economic  
conditions, as well as various forms  
of addiction and crime.



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Rev. Johnny Kueker  
P.O. Box 325  
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(254) 605-0434

The Unity, through the action of the Synodical Committee, agreed to provide modest worship and Christian educational facilities for the Cade Lake mission. These facilities have become known as the Cade Lake Community Chapel. These facilities continue to be utilized by the residents of Cade Lake as the community of believers has grown out of the mission. This community of faith has begun to positively impact their neighbors in various forms of ministry and service under the leadership of the Heckmans.

In addition to providing the physical structures, the Unity also agreed to provide a salary for Rev. Heckman as he and Diane minister to the community. These expenses have been funded through the Unity's Church Extension and Contingency Funds. Twenty percent of all Brethren Fund dues go to the Church Extension Fund, while thirty-five percent of all Brethren Fund Dues go to the Contingency Fund. The Synodical Committee had most recently agreed to continue to fund the Cade Lake mission expenses from the Unity's Contingency Fund through the end of 2012. As the balance of the Contingency

Fund continued to decline, it was incumbent upon the Synodical Committee to find a way to permanently fund the mission effort in Cade Lake.

Simultaneous to the growth in the domestic mission outreach of the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board wrestled with the financial challenges of continuing its international mission effort in Mexico, China, and the Czech Republic with fewer financial resources. In 2012 the Foreign mission effort was expanded to include Africa as our own Carolyn Groseclose responded to God's call to serve in the mission field there.

Although the mission outreach of both mission boards has increased, mission giving within the denomination has remained the same. This has served to widen the gap between mission resources (income) and mission outreach (expense). In other words, the expansions of mission work in both Foreign and Home Missions have brought blessing as well as challenge.

The Synodical Committee was compelled to act. What could be done to narrow the gap between mission efforts (expense) and mission support (income)? The Foreign Mission Board

was at a point of seriously considering the reduction of its missionary support to match the income it had received within the last 2 years. Meanwhile, the Home Mission Board needed to increase its budget in order to assume the salary and operational expenses associated with the work in Cade Lake previously funded by the Unity from the Contingency Fund.

The first proposal by the Foreign Mission board was to reduce the budget by 16%, which would have meant that all of the missionaries currently supported by the Foreign Mission Board would have been susceptible to a pay decrease. The Synodical Committee was not comfortable with these cuts and suggested that the Foreign Mission budget be maintained at the 2011 level of \$67,000. It was decided that the Foreign Mis-

sion Board and the Home Mission Board would present mission programs together at Unity congregations in a cooperative effort. This effort would be focused on jointly soliciting monetary support for all Unity mission programs.

Shortly after approving the Foreign Mission budget, the Synodical Committee also approved a \$67,000 budget for the Home Mission Board. The result of the Synodical Committee action is a total mission budget of \$134,000. The implication was that while the combined mission budget represented a sizeable undertaking, it was achievable. If each member of the Unity gives just \$75 a year to missions, each mission budget would be met. While the Mission Boards have been instructed to present their re-



## WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

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



## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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### *Pastor*

**Rev. Ron Winsman**

3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504

(254) 742-0827

ronwinsman@hotmail.com

### *Youth Director*

**Jennifer Chervenka**

9494 Big Elm Creek Road

Rogers, TX 76569, (254) 983-1002

### *Cemetery*

**Sharon Marek**

23383 Milam Road

Burlington, TX 76519

(254) 869-2845

### *Elder Board President*

**Doug Rowald**

2227 Huskaville Road

Temple, TX 76501

(254) 985-9236, cell (254) 913-2568

dougrowald@yahoo.com

### *Elder Board Vice President*

**David Sebek**

3910 Red Ranger Road

Temple, TX 76501

(254) 985-2578, cell (254) 913-0732

spective programs to congregations at the same time, the local congregations may still decide the appropriate levels of support for each mission board and their respective outreach efforts.

Admittedly, the 2013 combined mission budget represents a significant faith challenge for us as a denomination. This level of mission support has never been attempted by the Unity of the Brethren in our history as a denomination. This is the exciting and encouraging part of the challenge. We have a chance to do something, with God's help, that has never been done before. That said, it will take a cooperative effort, lots of prayer, faithful stewardship and God's blessing for us to be successful in this exercise of our faith. Please join me in supporting this pivotal mission challenge. Ask God how he wants

you to respond to this challenge personally.

Not only is this a challenge for us as current members of the Unity, but also presents an opportunity for those who have previously belonged to the Unity and still believe in its work in the Kingdom of God in the mission field. Please help get the word out to all former Unity members you may know that we have accepted this challenge and we welcome and encourage support from all who still believe God still has plans for the Unity of the Brethren and that he continues to work through us.

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## **Order In The Church!**

**- by Rhonda Johnson**

Not everyone will appreciate what others do as service in the church. No matter the time, energy, effort, or cost you devote, some will simply not care or appreciate to the full extent what is done.

This is not said to discourage believers, but to help us keep from becoming discouraged. Our works and acts of service (dedication) are not to our fellow church members, but are to the Lord. Our service is to the Lord, our friend, who keeps record of the very INTENT of our motives and actions; how much more does He keep watch and record our devotion and acts of service, which are worship.

Leviticus 10 tells a story of the Son's of Aaron; Nadab and Abihu. Just after God's glory had come down from heaven, consumed a sacrifice, and left all the children of Israel filled with joy and laying face down in God's Glory, they (Nadab and Abihu) mindlessly took their sensors and offered unauthorized fire to the Lord. The brother's were both killed instantly by God's glory. God had given explicit instructions on the handling

of sacrifices, sensors, and especially His fire. But, perhaps in their excitement, they acted inappropriately and contrary to God's instructions.

With this story in mind, think about the theme of the New Testament. Resoundingly, we are told to love one another, serve the lord with gladness, be in God' presence where there is fullness of joy. We are taught to pray, serve, give (mercy, our coats, our time, our service) and even to teach. If God is the same yesterday, today and forever, do we really think it is wise to assume that if he held Nadab and Abihu to such a high standard of obedience that we will truly get away with our own abuse of power?

David and I served in a church in East Texas for nine years where the members wanted every imaginable ministry. The problem, they thought David and I should DO them all ourselves. We actually tried to do most of what was expected of us only to find ourselves exhausted, angry, and disappointed that our efforts seemed fruitless. One Monday morning, after



### **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

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

President: Rev. Henry Beseda

the previous Sunday which included: having led a Sunday School teachers' meeting, preparing the service for worship, leading worship, teaching children's church, praying with member's post service, trying to be sure to greet each visitor and new member, speaking to (and deeply appreciating) each musician, usher, and greeter, preparing lunch, spending quality time with our children, taking a nap and getting ready for our evening Sunday service (which was a re-run of all of the above minus the Sunday School Teacher's meeting and Children's Church) I told the Lord that I did not feel like a fruitful vine and that I did not feel that I had abundant life or His joy. I felt God's presence every day in prayer; I knew the Holy Spirit was present in our home, in our church services and in every part of my life. However, there was no joy... just sheer exhaustion.

I believe the Lord took me on a tour of my ministry beginning that day. I began to see how that I did things because of other's expectations, not because God had moved on my heart to do them. I saw how that because of disappointment from people not showing up to help me I would

just do things myself that were not my place to do (such as moving heavy tables and chairs that would damage my back). Because of my own pride and my own sense of wanting to "WOW" people with what I had done I would miss nights of sleep and make sure that when they entered a room that they were blown-away by what they saw. Because of my personality and because I am not a last minute "on my feet" thinker, I liked to have every detail planned, pre-thought, and delivered ON TIME. Because of this, I found delegating very difficult. When people wouldn't show up and I had to fill in at the last minute, I would be so uncomfortable that I would just do things myself the next time and not allow others to participate to keep from having to fill in the gaps at the last minute. You may be thinking that this is reasonable and understandable; I did too, until the Lord showed me service *His* way.

As time would go by I would realize that if people don't show up to do things, it is probably because it isn't important to them. Let events be cancelled or delayed until people catch the vision, or let it die. The ministries of the church belong to God, He will

provide for His service. Our job is to be obedient, not to be the mortar in the bricks of the church house when God has not ordained it.

I also learned that if the kitchen floor isn't spotless when everyone else leaves the church, finding it a mess the next time they arrive may help members to realize that they need to clean it before THEY leave. This same concept works in the areas of bathrooms, kitchen pantries, and nurseries, as well.

I believe that if you are doing a job for the Lord and you are not enjoying it, you should stop. Your presence in the position is more than likely keeping someone who is called from doing it. Of course, I am not talking about temporarily filling in until someone else can be found. However, letting it be known that you are working on a temporary basis is imperative.

God does not call us into His service by the demands of others. When God calls us He moves on our hearts with concern, drive, and determination to make a difference and make things better. When we serve as a result of others expectations and/or demands we are allowing the de-

mander to serve as our Lord and the reason we answer their call is to get them off our backs, not to make a difference or make things better. The real reason the person who is demanding and expecting you to do something may be because they don't want to do it and they feel that it is what they are suppose to do. Many positions, jobs, and duties in churches are done today because there was a legitimate need at one time and now it has become a yoke around someone's neck to continue to do things "the way we've always done them".

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-29, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Yes, someone has to clean behind the toilets in the church. However, I have been a church janitor for a period of time in my life, and during that time it was a great blessing. When God has us doing things for Him it is not a hard, weighty burden, but a delight.

## 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

Rev. Joseph Polasek  
P.O. Box 54  
Snook, TX 77878  
(979) 272-1624

#### Board of Elders President

Justin Lewis  
P.O. Box 222  
Snook, TX 77878  
(979) 272-0416

#### Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See  
P.O. Box 345  
Snook, TX 77878  
(979) 272-8179

## TAYLOR BRETHREN 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

Kevin Page  
512-689-1593

#### Secretary

Mary Kokes  
M-Th 8:00 am-noon

## One Hundred Twenty-one Years of Ministry

At the October 20, 2012, Synodical Committee Meeting, President James Marek, recognized Reverend Gordon Hejl's sixty years of ministry in the Unity of the Brethren. Reverend Hejl was ordained at the Wall Brethren Church on June 17, 1952, by Reverend Josef A. Barton.

Reverend Henry Beseda was also recognized for his sixty-one years of ministry. Reverend Beseda was ordained on June 18, 1951, at the Caldwell Brethren Church.

The Committee gave a standing ovation to these gentlemen for their combined one hundred, twenty-one years of ministry in the Unity of the Brethren.



Reverend Gordon Hejl and Reverend Henry Beseda during the Synodical Board Meeting at the Hus School Encampment.

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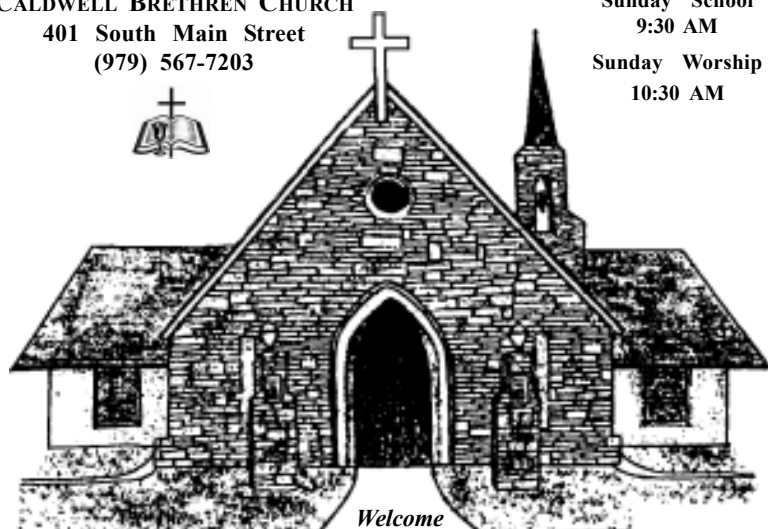


Sunday School

9:30 AM

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM



Welcome

## CZECH MISSION TRIP 2012

- by Dorothy Milberger

It is so amazing how God works... The seed for this trip was planted when Bro. Ron Winsman and Bro. Larry Zabcik did their presentation at The Prime Timers' Retreat about their trip to The Czech Republic to work with Pavel and Stana Kozak. Esther Merritt and I looked at each other and said, "You want to go?" We each said "yes." There were 5 of us who went: Gladys Frank, Esther Merritt, Kathy Smith, Stacy Hooker, and Dorothy Milberger. It was a "family" affair as everyone is related.

We were assigned to read, "I'm Glad You Asked" and write a summary of what we learned. We also were given a workbook to complete "You Can Tell It". We met at Hus Encampment with Tom Prohaska of Fields of Faith and the Kozaks for a training session. Before we went we were given tools to use, but we all were a bit unsure of what we were called to do.

*"The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8:26) (NRSV)*

*"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13) (NIV)*

On August 16, 2012, we left Sealy, TX, around 8 a.m. for Houston, took a flight to Dallas where we met our leader, Tom. From DFW, we left at 6 p.m. We flew to London, and then took a short flight to Prague. We arrived in Prague at 1:30 pm on Friday, August 17, 2012. This was about 6:30 a.m. Texas time. One of the suggestions that Tom made was for us to get as much sleep as we could on the flight from Dallas to London, because when we arrived in Prague we would check into the hotel and begin touring the city. After dinner at a quaint restaurant where we had authentic Czech food (dumplings and meat), when we arrived back at the hotel, we all were very tired and had a good night's sleep. Tom's suggestion certainly helped with the adjustment for the time change.

On Sunday, August 19, we attended The Maranatha Church in Decin. It has about 40 adults and 40



### 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.

Associate Pastor: Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

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



*Stana Kozak, Pastor Pavel Kozak,  
Dorothy Milberger, Esther Merritt,  
Gladys Frank, Kathy Smith  
and Stacy Hooker*



*Tom Prohaska and Pastor Pavel Kozak*

children. It was established in 2002 from scratch by the Kozaks. The Church members are trained to minister to the lost people daily. Decin is about 55,000, and this small church is ministering to the entire city and is the only church willing to share their faith publicly. It means that other churches are not willing to share the Gospel openly. Both Pavel and Tom preached. The chief of police for Decin, his wife and daughter were in attendance. The police chief was just amazed at the difference Pastor Pavel is making in the gypsy community. Several of the members gave their testimony of how their lives had been changed from drug addicts and involvement in

gangs. It was so reassuring to see the little children take part in the singing and witness how the Lord is working in their young lives. Then it was time to get on the train for our three-hour ride to Olomouc.

On Monday, August 20, we began our evangelism in "The Club". This is where Pastor Pavel and Stana have their meetings. It was soon renamed to "Club 63" as there were 63 steps to climb up and then down. We would gather here each morning. We had a time for devotions and prayers before we went out. We also met our translators: Lenka, Bara, and Jitka. We had already met Misha. The translators were great. Even though some of us



*Children at the Maranatha Church*



*Statue of Jan Hus in Prague*

were able to speak Czech, it was good to have them to help. We split up and went in groups to the downtown square and parks to share the Gospel. We would gather at noon at a very nice restaurant for lunch, share our experiences, and then we would go back out. One day the temperature was 104 and we did not go out until in the evening. We thought that we left the Texas heat behind! There is no air conditioning. Each evening we would gather back at Club 63 and share the day's evangelism efforts and results. One evening some youth came and entertainment, games, and food were provided for them.

On Friday, August 24th, we had a celebration dinner. After a week of street evangelism, approximately 281

folks heard the Gospel shared. Only a handful professed to know Jesus. Some were interested and others just did not want to hear anything because their minds were made up that death was the end and that if there was a hell, it might not be such a bad place because their friends would be there. One man told us that if they did not have rock music in Heaven, he did not want to go there. Most would say that they were their own god. They were responsible for their own destiny, and when they died, they would be food for the worms. It is so sad to see this attitude because this is the homeland of our ancestors who came here and started churches. For some it was the first time to hear that Jesus



## **BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH**

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South  
[www.unityofthebrethren.org](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org)

**Rev. 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)**

## **Temple Brethren Church**

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

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

**Rev. Larry Zabcik**  
(254) 718-3898  
[zabcikville@hotmail.com](mailto:zabcikville@hotmail.com)



died for their, sins and we encouraged them to trust in Jesus as their Savior. We had tracts that we passed out, and also gave New Testaments. One gentleman who was homeless was grateful to get the Bible in his own language.

On Sunday, August 26th, we attended church services at the church in Zadverice, where the relatives had attended church before coming to America. The same pews are still there, as well as the bell that was saved several times during war times. It is just amazing to hear the same bell as the ancestors had heard. As the cousin who attended the church service with us from Lutonina said, "Your grandparents may have sat in this same pew." We visited after church in the fellowship hall. It was interesting to see the articles about the people who left and came to America. They have pictures of the Brethren churches in Fayetteville and Wesley. After Church, it was time to go back to the

cousin's house, where more relatives and friends from Frydek-Mistek came to visit, and, of course, it was time to eat again. Finally goodbyes had to be said and Pavel and Stana took us back to the hotel in Zlin.

Tuesday, August 28th, it was time to head back to Texas. We took a flight to London, and then another long 12-hour flight back to Houston.

Pastor Pavel and Stana would welcome new teams of folk who would be willing to minister with them during the summer in a short-term mission campaign. Even though we felt discouraged at times, we know that the enemy wants to stop this work. Our hope is that this campaign put seeds in the hearts of those who heard. We just pray the seeds will sprout and grow and the Harvest will come later. The work that Pavel and Stana are doing is very difficult. They need much support from us, both prayerfully and financially.

I would encourage anyone who

has even the smallest thought of going, to do so. It will change your life. It would be wonderful to see some of our youth make this trip. More information may be obtained from Tom Prohaska of Fields of Faith at website <http://www.fieldsofffaith.net>.

Below are some words that Pavel shared with me in an email:

"You know all these mission campaigns are just putting the SEED into the hearts... The HARVEST will come later. It is very common that almost nobody answers positively for the sharing, for the invitation, for the Bible study. It is thanks to the "sin of the SILENCE" which most churches have. And IF some people like us, during the campaign go downtown and teach the Gospel, the listeners are polite, saying OK, OK, OK, but they have almost no willingness to do something for their salvation. We do not have enough evangelists or ministers who are willing to be downtown and be as the LIGHT of Christ through the Gospel.

Stana and I are personally continuing to minister to the young people whom we do know more than one year already. This is how the ministry here in Czech works. Make contacts, friend-

ships, eat together, have some games, etc... Then they slowly open their hearts to the message which we want to share with them. It is very slow ministry.

It's good that I have a chance to influence some of them and make some friendships. One of them asked me this question: "Pavel, how many like you are in the Czech Republic?" I told him that there are many like me, BUT that it is still a BIG LACK of the Disciples of Christ. Then he asked me how many are like me in Olomouc? I said – NOT MANY, really...

*We do humbly appreciate all the BLESSINGS, LOVE, SUPPORT and PRAYERS by the Brothers and Sisters and by the specific Brethren churches! It means SO MUCH in Christ for us. We would like to welcome new teams of ministers who would be willing to minister with us during the summer in the short-term mission campaigns here in Czech Republic. It is surely both sides BLESSINGS!*

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers in his harvest fields." Matt. 9:37-38 NIV



Church in Zadverice



Morning prayer time.



Altar in Church at Zadverice

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

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

Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair



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### PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

*"Bear ye one another's burdens  
And so fulfill the Law of  
Christ." (Gal. 6:2)*

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

### From the Thiessen's... November 2012

#### All Saints and the Dead

Hello, friends,

Yesterday and today make the biggest religious festival of the year: All Saints Day and Day of the Dead. Halloween, a mere shadow of this season, bears little resemblance to what is still an intense spiritual moment in the lives of Mexicans, especially the indigenous population. Many of them believe that the spirits of the dead come back on these days and restlessly seek to be "appeased," or satiated with offerings of favorite foods and alcoholic drinks. For some it is merely tradition, but for others it is quite real. Emotions range from happiness to fear often mixed together. Evangelical Christians tend to distance themselves completely from these festivities, refusing to eat food "offered to the dead" as it is shared from house to house. Their attitude widens the distance already strongly marked between them and the Catholics.

Isai, a young Mexican from one of the Mennonite churches in the north

of the country, arrived here over a month ago and is living out an apprenticeship in cross-cultural missions. His first task was to "disengage" from the familiar evangelical community and find meaningful relationships in the Catholic community. He is doing well and has found genuine Christ followers to associate with and live among. But this All Saints and Dead time of the year is an unsettling part of his acculturation. His evangelical assumptions that there is nothing redeemable about this celebration are being shaken, and he is facing choices about how to live out his faith practically among people who build altars and feed the dead.

He, along with others on our team, is waiting for God to lead them to an unreached people group. Join us in prayer for him and for Harold Mills; Maru, a Mexican woman doing an apprenticeship with teammates Jack and Vasti Rose; Samuel and Mati, part of the leadership of "our" organic church here in the city. Rejoice for Phil and Eunice, finally granted permission to live and set up a doctor's practice in the Mixe town of Juquila. ➔

#### 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](mailto:BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org)

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

We play a part in their training and strategizing while we continue meeting with Mixtecs of Guerrero. Next week I will visit the Mixtecs I mentioned in my last letter, taking along Craig, who is from Ontario and is spending four months learning the language and living with a local family. Pray for all of us, as it is so easy to feel that we are working alone and accomplishing little. There are setbacks in cross-cultural work that come from circumstances and from being outsiders. None of us have it all together. Our emotions range from happiness to fear, too. Sometimes it can feel like the “in-between” world of the departed; this world failing, but the Kingdom not yet arrived.

Deep thanks to you all, and may you be blessed, Robert.

### From the Woo's... November 2012

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for participating in Pray for the Shan every day during the month of October. Go on Facebook: “Pray for the Shan--Tai” to read all

the stories. We would encourage you to start a Pray for the Shan group and to continue to fast on Tuesdays. Let us know if you do. We will have more prayer at our house in November and December.

Welcome to our new partners that are receiving this letter for the first time. When we all stand around the throne, with every tribe and tongue and nation, we will rejoice together with the Shan. When we see them praising Him, we will all know we had our small part to play in seeing them there!

### Our Status

The boys are still enjoying local school and time with their cousins. Financially we are at about 85% pledged support. Thank you to all who have financially supported us through these 9 years and to those who have given one-time gifts. May the Lord bless you! Thank you to all who are just beginning to partner with us financially.

To clarify, OMF International is a faith-based organization. They want us to have 100% pledged support before we return to SE Asia. We have

individuals and churches financially supporting us to serve in missions. Some pledge per year and some pledge per month. Some even use auto draft. If you have just started to receive our newsletter for the first time, please officially sign up with OMF by going to [www.omf.org/us/partner](http://www.omf.org/us/partner). This is also the place to go if you desire to learn about financial partnership. Please pray that the Lord raises up people to join us as monthly or yearly financial partners.

### Back in Target City

May

If you receive our occasional prayer email, then you already know that May, our local worker, is having some trouble. Her step-mother is always complaining about May not having lots of money. May felt very angry, and out of this anger she took all her own money and went and tried to gamble it to prove to her step-mother that she can make money. Well, she lost it all, and some local Dai believers saw her doing it and the news spread throughout the area that May was gambling. She is sorry and has confessed. Please pray for her family pressures and her husband and marriage.

### New Business

When we go back to Asia we will start a new business. We hope to do

some sort of green technology, composting consulting business. So please pray for this situation as we need vision, understanding, and favor all around to get something like this going. In the past, with our English school, our clients were rich Chinese kids. By doing this new business we truly want to help the Dai on their farms, in their lives and economic status.

### Our Current Schedule

Come hear us speak! Set up an appointment. Give us a call: Caroline (336) 655-4850, Michael (336) 682-2032, or [mcswoo@psmail.net](mailto:mcswoo@psmail.net)

### In Winston-Salem, NC

- Deceember 2 – Enrique’s Church (translated into Spanish)
- December 12 – YMCA Men’s group 7-8 p.m.
- December 26-January 1– Urbana, mobilizing for OMF
- Mid January – travel to Boston to see Michael’s family
- Feb. – back to Asia

(We still have available dates in Dec/Jan/Feb. Give us a call.)

Happy Thanksgiving!

Michael, Caroline, Samuel, Ian,  
Zach, and Isaac.

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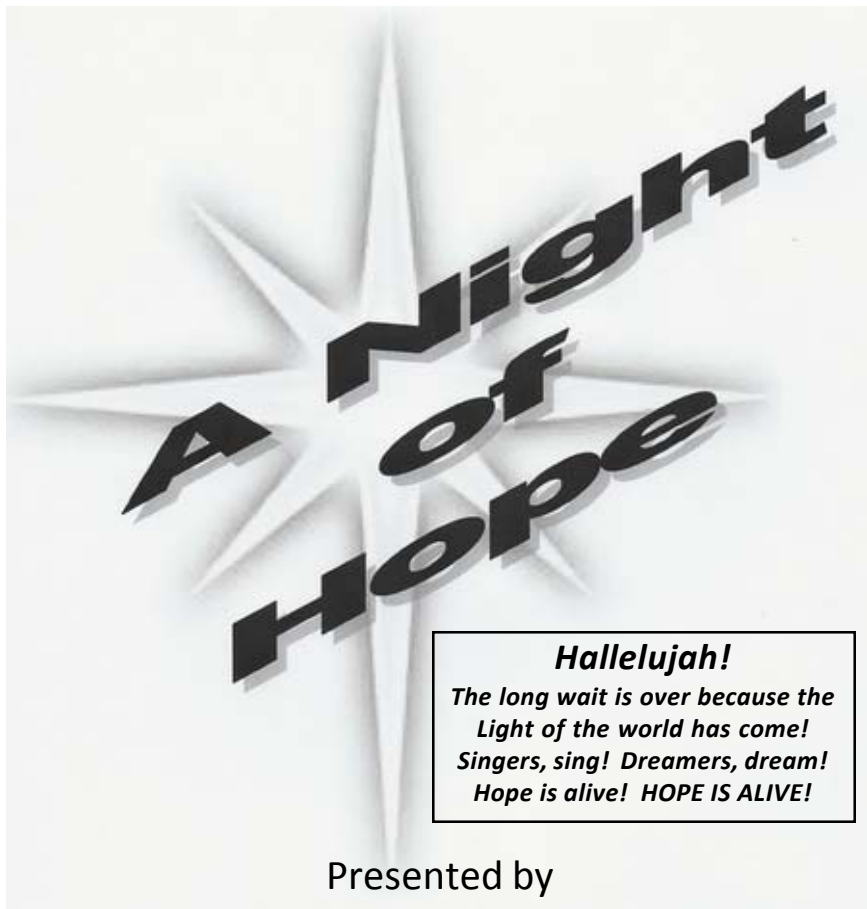
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**Hallelujah!**

*The long wait is over because the  
Light of the world has come!  
Singers, sing! Dreamers, dream!  
Hope is alive! HOPE IS ALIVE!*

Presented by

**Brighter Vision**

Tammy Pechal, Joe & Christi Emerson  
and Their Children (Jerry, Rebecca & Audrey)

**A Christmas Worship Celebration**

**Sunday, December 16, 2012**

**Hus School Encampment at 3 p. m.**

**Bring finger food for fellowship after concert**

**Love offering for singers**

**For more info, contact: Marvin & Alice Chlapek**

**979-272-9102 or mjcarc@airplexus.com**

## **Fayetteville Christians Sisters**

### **Attend Women's Event**

**- by Pauline Ott, Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters VP**

Friday, October 12, and Saturday, October 13, the Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters and their family and friends went to a Women of Faith Event in San Antonio, TX.

Eleven women car pooled, shared hotel rooms, meals, and attended the two-day event called; Women of Faith "Celebrate What Matters".

We had nine speakers during Friday evening and all day Saturday who shared their stories, some which made you laugh and others which made you cry. Our emotions rolled through the event, as well as having our thinking stimulated. We also experienced three different musical groups who sang, moved us to our feet, and raised our voices to praise

the Lord. Throughout the music, ballet dancers moved to the music. There was opportunity to purchase many books by the speakers and other spiritual items, and also CDs of the musical entertainers.

So the final question was "what do you celebrate?" They said there is no wrong answer. You are unique and your answer may be, as well. Some days it's easy to find something to celebrate, some days not so much, but every day – if you look – you will find a reason to rejoice. So after hearing the many stories and messages, celebrating our faith, and even if you weren't there, what will you celebrate today?

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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*

*Roy Martin*

325-651-8788

*Youth Director*

*Susan & Bryan Neal*

325-227-7242

*Secretary*

*Johnie Smith*

Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

## Thoughts about giving...

**Remembering the Unity of the Brethren or any of its ministries is a fitting testimony of your belief. Your gift in a will can be a legacy that continues to affect the Christian values, mission, and ministry that is important to you.**

*You can give without restrictions and let us use the funds for the most pressing needs or you can specify how, when, or where you want the funds used.*

*You can require that we hold the principle as an endowment and use only the earnings each year.*

*You can give in memory or in the honor of someone.*

*Your gift can be contingent. The funds go to someone if they survive you and if not, then to the Unity.*

*You can tell us now that you have named the Unity in your will and allow us to express our gratitude...or you can let it be known later.*

**There are many other ways to give. Contact any Board of Grants and Bequests member about what you can give and how you can give.**

Ron Dusek, Treasurer – Caldwell – 979-567-3732,  
rdusekdds@aol.com

Roger Runnels – Cy-Fair – 281-469-4302,  
rogerhr@swbell.net

Ron Tyson – Houston – 281-373-4376 (home),  
rdtyson1@hotmail.com

Eugene Haisler – Ocker – 254-985-2316, dmheeh@msn.com

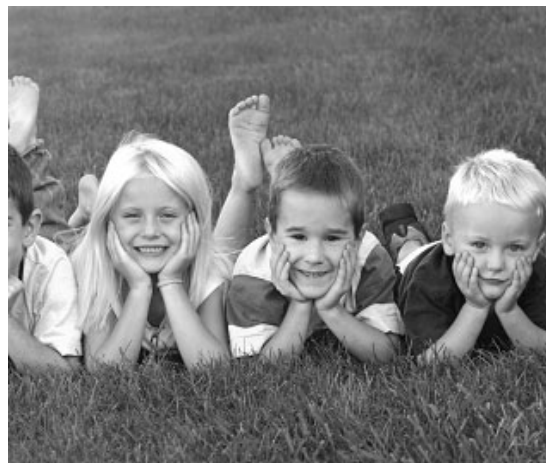
Brett Mikeska – Nelsonville – 979-357-2102  
bmikeska@hotmail.com

Rev. Jimmy Hejl – Taylor – 2nd Vice President and  
Synodical Committee Liaison – 512-365-6890,  
jhejl@austin.rr.com

Psalm 35:28

My tongue will speak of your  
righteousness and of your praises  
all day long.

## Sunday School Helper



What an honor and privilege we have to celebrate the most gracious and wonderful gift ever given! Christmas arrives with all its splendor, but yet we hold tight to the true meaning of the season. With such media hype over the secular celebration of Christmas, it is so important that we take time to teach our children and grandchildren about the true meaning of this holiday. May your family have a blessed Christmas season celebrating the birth of our Heavenly Savior.

# Sunday School Holiday Symbols

Here's a new take on the familiar Christmas symbols. For younger students, print out pictures ahead of time. Older children can draw the pictures on their own. These can be assembled into a book, mural, or mobile. This take on the symbols will help children see Christ in Christmas everywhere!

**THE TREE** – The Christmas tree points to heaven and reminds us that God is eternal.

**THE WREATH** – The wreath is a circle without any end, the same as God's love for us.

**THE CANDLES** – The candles shine brightly to tell us that Jesus is the light of the world.

**THE BABY** – The baby in the manger shows the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

**THE STAR** – The star was placed in the sky for the wise men to follow and reminds us to follow Jesus.

**THE PRESENTS** – The presents are given to remind us of God's gift to the world. "...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans 6.23b*

For  
comments/questions/  
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



# Thoughts for Teens

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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2010  
**THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING  
THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!**

## Join the Secret Service

Use these ideas to build a Secret Service in your youth. By doing so you will help teens learn about compassion, discipline, serving, and missions.

1. Go to the nursing home and just visit.
2. Go to a local restaurant or business and ask if you can clean the bathrooms. Bring your own supplies!
3. Get a rake and go rake leaves for the elderly or disabled individuals in the community.
4. Go to a grocery store and volunteer to be a cart pusher or help take out groceries.
5. Go to a local gas station and offer to pump people's gas and wash their windows.
6. Have a totally free car wash. No donations.
7. Go grocery shopping for a needy family.
8. Go with a group and go door to door. When people answer the door, ask, "Is there something I can do for you today?" then do it!
9. Have a date night for parents in your community and provide babysitting at no charge.

## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**December 16: A Christmas Worship Celebration – “A Night of Hope”** at the Hus School Encampment at 3 p. m. – presented by Brighter Vision (Rev. Joe and Christi Emerson and Tammy Pechal and their children). Love offering accepted. Please bring finger food to share during fellowship following the concert. For more info, contact Marvin and Alice Chlappek at 979-272-9102 or mjcarc@airplexus.com.

### December 25: Christmas

**December 31: All Brethren Journal Subscriptions Expire!** Thank you if you have already mailed in your payment. If you haven't yet, please do as soon as possible. Please refer to the renewal form in this issue for additional information. Thank you for your continued support of *The Brethren Journal*.

**January 1: Registration Deadline for the Winter Youth Retreat** on January 19-20. Forms available at [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com) or contact Jennifer Chervenka at (254) 983-1002.

**January 19-20: Winter Youth Retreat: *Man vs. Wild*,** at the Hus School Encampment. Check in 8-9 am Saturday with dismissal at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. For additional information, go to [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com) or contact Jennifer Chervenka at (254) 983-1002.

### Looking Ahead for 2013:

February 1: Registration Deadline for State Children's Rally.

February 9: Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters Fundraiser on the Square.

March 2: State Children's Rally: *Grow With God*.

April 1: Youth Fishing Retreat Deadline.

April 26-28: Youth Fishing Retreat in Port O'Connor.

July 18-20: Unity of the Brethren 65th Convention at the Taylor Brethren Church.

*Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number, and/or email address to The Brethren Journal Editor at: [editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com). Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.*

## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

### Daily Morsels for December 2012

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. For You are indeed God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised me good things. Sam. 7:28
2. Grace and peace to you from God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:2
3. You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household. Eph. 3:19
4. God predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with His pleasure and will. Eph. 1:5
5. You were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Eph. 1:13a
6. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promise of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 1:13b
7. Christ came and preached peace to you who were far away and to those who were near. Eph. 2:17
8. Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. Ps. 118:19
9. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Cor. 5:17
10. The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets. Ps. 50:1
11. The Lord will be king over the whole earth... On that day there will be one Lord, and His name the only name. Zech. 14:9
12. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:26
13. You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:3
14. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called. Eph. 4:4
15. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all, and in all. Eph. 4:5,6
16. Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. Eph. 4:15
17. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.) Eph. 5:8,9
18. If anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in Him. 1 Jn. 2:5
19. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in Your presence. Ps. 16:11
20. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. Lk. 19:10
21. Jesus said, "...I am the bright and morning star." Rev. 22:16
22. Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him. Col. 2:6
23. Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself for a fragrant offering, and sacrifice to God. Eph. 5:2
24. To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. Jn. 1:12
25. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Lk. 2:11
26. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Titus 2:11
27. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philemon 1:3
28. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to peace. Col. 3:15
29. The Lord gives strength to the people; the Lord blesses His people with peace. Ps. 29:11
30. I have come into the world as a light so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness. Jn. 12:46
31. For the Lord is righteous, He loves justice; upright men will see His face. Ps. 11:7

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## VITAL STATISTICS

### RECENT WEDDINGS

LABAJ-HENRY. Christi Labaj was married to Tyler Henry on November 3, 2012, at Nature's Pointe at Lago Vista, and will live in Dallas. Witnesses: Angie Labaj and Matt Northcutt. Minister: Mark L. Labaj.

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Pastor Pavel & Stana Kozak  
Carolyn Groseclose

## Youth Ministry Positions Available

Community Christian Church of Rosenberg has openings available in our Youth Ministry. The primary position is Youth Leader for a small group. This part-time position requires Wednesday evenings 5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The church is located at 5220 Reading Road in Rosenberg.

We also have a position available with the younger children on Sunday mornings from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The youth director provides the curriculum needed.

These positions will require an interview and a background check. Please contact Carla Butcher at 281-381-4408 for more information or to apply for either or both positions.

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## 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.  
– Rev. 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

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

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

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

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:45 AM,  
worship at 10:45 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.  
– Dr. Jerry Terrill  
Ben Kruse once a month

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

Community Christian Church of 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 – Prayer Gathering;  
9:30 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. Denise Mikeska  
Pastor Steve Davis, Youth Pastor

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.  
– Rev. 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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