

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



Vol. 113

September 2014

No. 7

36 Pages



Members of the Hus School of 2014 enjoy time together at the park in Brenham after a day of community service.

From left to right: Ben Wilde, Deanna Hairrell, Jordan Eilers, Matthew Stewart, John Palicka.

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. . . and a whole lot more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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RATE –

\$15.00 per year via Hard Copy and/or
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\$7.50 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
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editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com.

Permit #064220

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL (ISSN 0006-9655)
is published monthly except for January and
July, which are bimonthly, at \$15.00 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, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

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Christ." (Gal. 6:2)*

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President's Column . . . James Marek Hope for the Future in our Youth

One of the things I have enjoyed about my current role in the denomination is the opportunity to meet and work with a wide range of people around the Unity. Back in July I had the chance to spend some time with the 2014 Hus School Class. We were meeting for the purpose of exploring our denominational government and church polity.

We opened our discussion with a brief review of our Unity Constitution and By-Laws, since they are the organizational and administration documents by which the Unity operates. It was noted that, according to the Unity Constitution, when a person joins a church in the Unity of the Brethren, they agree to be subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Unity. The students were asked if they knew what they had agreed to (or would agree to) when they joined a congregation in the Unity. There was even a question if it was a good idea to read what the Constitution required of members at this time because one of the students was just about to join a Brethren Church. The following portions of the Constitu-

tion were read to the students: Article IV (Membership) Paragraphs (B) 7 and 8, which say:

7. Persons who are members of a local congregation of the Unity of the Brethren in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Unity of the Brethren and of the local congregation are members of the Unity of

the Brethren (By-Laws Article XXII).

8. Members of the Unity of the Brethren shall live sober, righteous, and godly lives and labor faithfully to bring others to Christ. They shall take an active part in the life and work of the Unity of the Brethren. This shall include regular attendance at divine worship; devout use of the sacraments; diligent observance of private devotions; liberal financial and moral support toward Unity of the Brethren maintenance and its benevolent undertakings; obedience to the Unity's established law and authorities; untiring zeal in bringing the unchurched under the influence of the church; and sincere endeavor to apply the teachings of Jesus to all human relationships. Parents shall provide ad-



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equate Christian training for their entire household.

The students were asked how they felt about the expectations of membership. There was a short silence, and then one of the young men spoke up and said, "That is the reason I am joining the Brethren Church that I am." He went on to say that he believed that the Brethren Church he planned to join held its members accountable and expected their members to be involved in the church. I have to admit – I was stunned and almost had to pinch myself to be sure I was not dreaming. This young man was not only excited to become a church member of a church that had standards and expectations, but he also expected to be held to the standards of Christian living by the church. Wow! I thought. What a mature and extraordinary perspective for any Christian, but particularly for one so young.

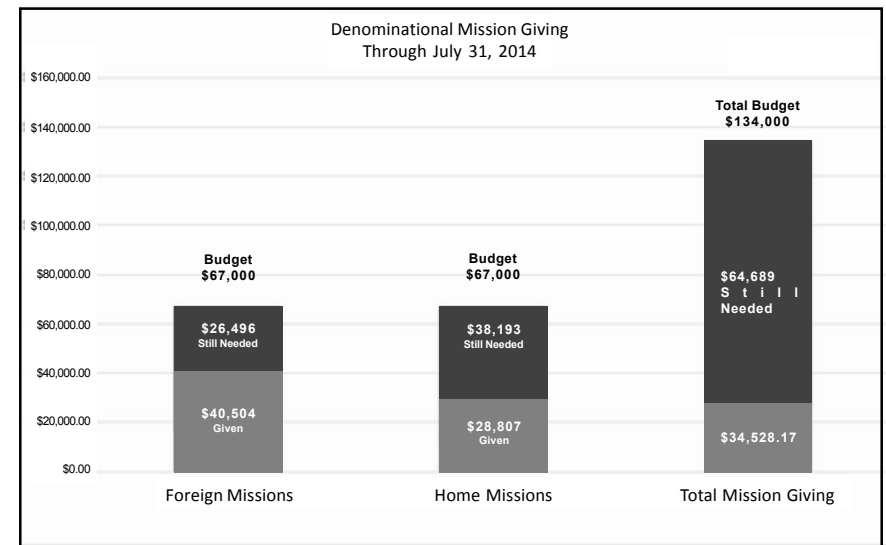
The short time I spent with these young people re-energized my hope in our youth today. To hear such a statement from a young person was an illustration of how bright our future could be if such young people grow up to be our leaders of tomorrow. While the class was small in number, with only 4 students, they were an impressive group. There were only 2 young ladies and 2 young men in the class, which initially made me wonder if it was a wise decision to have Hus School for such few students. However, after my time with them, I am so glad that people smarter than me made the decision to move forward and offer Hus School for these young people. They were some of the most mature and promising

young people that I have been around in quite some time.

My experience with the Hus School Class also led to the following personal reflections.

1. How many Brethren know that they are agreeing to a certain lifestyle when they join a Brethren Church?
2. How many of our churches have expectations and communicate those expectations to new members, whether through The Unity Constitution and By-Laws or through other means?
3. What are we doing to help each other stay on the Christian lifestyle path?
4. Have we allowed our the standards of membership to decline and even disappear because we want to remove as many barriers to membership as we can so that our churches "can grow."
5. What are prospective members, especially young people, looking for in a church? Do they want to just join to enjoy the benefits of church membership, or do they want (and expect) to be challenged and held accountable?
6. What benefits would we see if we let our members know what is expected of them and worked to help them be successful?

I remain convinced that if the Unity is to grow spiritually and have greater impact on our communities and our world, we as laypeople will need to adhere more closely to the standards of the Christian life. Standards such as those contained in our Unity Constitution, which encourage a life of faithfulness and service as we seek to build a more intimate relationship with God our Father and Christ our Savior.



Giving and Stewardship Corner

The Giving and Stewardship Corner is a small way of reminding us what the Bible has to say about giving and stewardship. Generosity is not only an act of worship, but an expression of our gratitude to God our Father and provider. Giving is also a spiritual discipline that promotes spiritual development and maturity. For more information, visit www.maximumgenerosity.org

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 *'You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today.'*

1 Timothy 6:10 *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."*

Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs".

As Thunder follows lightning, giving follows grace. When God's Grace touches you, you can't help but respond with generous giving.

- Randy Alcorn

Randy Alcorn is an American Protestant author and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries, a non-profit Christian organization dedicated to teaching an eternal viewpoint and helping the needy of the world.

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Play Us a Tune, Laddie

- by Jim Pokorny

I have always gotten along well with my coworkers and am blessed enough to count them among my friends.

One such friend and her husband are very active in their church. One of the many things this friend and I have in common is our fondness of Vacation Bible School. I attend the Taylor Brethren Church, and we schedule our program for the early part of June, whereas her church schedules theirs later in the month. Beginning in the month of May, this topic tends to dominate our conversation.

I always schedule a week of my vacation to coincide with our program, and I make certain to send her photographs of our outreach via email. She, in turn, lifts us up in prayer, and I make certain to repay the kindness while their program is under way.

Something out of the ordinary occurred when I returned from my vacation this year. As I had expected, she stopped by my office, but rather than being full of joy and anticipation, I could see that she was visibly upset instead.

Concerned, I asked her what was wrong, and she proceeded to tell me about someone she knew who asked her for a favor during the week she would be busy with Vacation Bible School. She politely turned this individual down, explaining that she was going to be very busy with their outreach that week. She then suggested that she might have time the following week.

This individual reacted in a way my friend did not expect. She began by asking, "What is it with you people anyway?"

That was just the tip of this iceberg. Suffice it to say that the remaining comments were equally harsh and that the relationship between them is now strained.

I could empathize with what she told me, and I also knew she needed to vent some of her frustration, and so I allowed her to vent in my direction. Afterward, she thanked me for listening and headed back to her office.

As soon as she left, I sent her the following verse via email:

1 Corinthians 1:25 (NET) – For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Moments later, I received a reply of gratitude.

The sad fact of the matter is that there are people we know who may very well like us, but will never completely understand why we believe as we do, and they understand even less the directive we have been given to share that belief with others.

In many cases this makes absolutely no sense to them at all. They might even conclude that there is something a bit strange about us.

All of this reminded me of the story of a Scot by the name of Will Millin.

Millin took part in that epic event known as the D-Day invasion in World War II.

On June 6, 1944, Allied forces took part in the largest amphibious assault in the history of mankind. The goal of this invasion was to capture five specific beaches code named Gold, Juno, Omaha, Sword, and Utah near Normandy in France. Once these footholds on the European continent were established, the liberation of the coun-

tries occupied by Nazi Germany could begin.

Millin was part of an all-Scottish regiment in the British Army that was to take part in the capture of the beach code named Sword.

As the landing craft plowed through the choppy seas, the men aboard them kept their heads down. As the craft neared the beaches the men could hear the sound of enemy gunfire as well as the more ominous sound of bullets ricocheting off the ramps directly in front of them. These ramps would soon be dropped, leaving them completely vulnerable to attack.

The men on board held their rifles close.

The one exception was Will Millin, who had no rifle to hold. Instead of a rifle he held his bagpipes. Millin was also the only man in the entire assault to wear a kilt. It was the same one worn by his father in Flanders in World War I.

While bagpipes have been used in battle by the Scotch and Irish for centuries, in World War II the British Army restricted their use to areas away from combat.



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In preparation for the battle, Millin reminded his commanding officer and fellow Scot of this restriction. His commander, Lord Lovat, replied, "Ah, but that's the English War Office. You and I are both Scottish, and that doesn't apply."

When the ramps were dropped, Millin and his compatriots stormed Sword beach. The carnage was horrific. With men dying all around him, Millin played "Hielan' Laddie" followed by "The Road to the Isles".

Millin was absolutely certain that he would be one of the first casualties, because in order to play the bagpipes properly one has to stand fully upright and march in time with the music. This made Millin an incredibly easy target of opportunity. As he played on, Millin could simply not understand why he remained untouched while men all around him perished.

Millin survived the invasion. Sword beach, like the others, was taken and a number of German soldiers were taken prisoner. Curiosity got the better of Millin. In spite of the language barrier, he simply had to know why the Germans had not taken advantage of such an easy target. A German

sniper answered Millin's question by tapping the side of his own head.

The reason Millin had not been shot was that the German gunners simply thought he was crazy.

From Sword beach, Millin's detachment was sent to reinforce the small group that had bravely taken Pegasus Bridge. That group arrived by glider miles behind enemy lines before the invasion began in order to secure that bridge for future use by Allied forces.

This relief detachment advanced to the strains of Millin's bagpipes, and twelve men in this detachment perished. Once again, Millin had survived without a scratch.

After the war, Millin became a psychiatric nurse. He suffered a stroke in 2003. A short time later, Millin donated a set of his bagpipes to the Pegasus Bridge Museum. In 2004, he donated another set and his kilt to the Dawlish Museum just prior to the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

In 2009, France awarded him the Croix d'Honneur (Cross of Honor) for gallantry.

Millin died in 2010.

Why was I reminded of Will Millin? You and I and my friend have some-

thing in common with Millin. Many of us remember marching into Sunday School or Vacation Bible School or Confirmation not to the strain of bagpipes, but instead singing *Onward Christian Soldiers*. We go through this life obeying God just as Millin obeyed the orders of his commanding officer.

All the while, those who do not know the Lord as we do sometimes look upon us as the German gunners looked upon Millin. They do not understand what motivates us to do the things we do, and some may even conclude that there is something remarkably odd about us.

The similarity does not end there. Just as Millin donated his bagpipes and kilt and received one of France's highest honors in return, we have a hymn that reminds us that one day we will lay down our trophies and ex-

change them for a crown. That is an assurance we have no matter what anyone cares to think about us in the meantime.

(Author's Note: I wish to dedicate this article to the memory of Dr. Robert C. MacDonald. "Dr. Bob" was that all too rare combination of employer, colleague, mentor, and friend. It has been both an honor and a privilege to have worked alongside this man for over 23 years. He had several degrees, including a doctorate in philosophy, and we had some really great conversations over the years. I had the initial draft of this article written when the office was informed of his passing. He also happened to be of Scottish descent. I am sure he would have had something very philosophical to say about that. - J. P.)

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Let's Take a Look at What the By-Laws Say...

- by Liz Ripple

Plans have already begun for next year's 66th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren that will be held at the Nelsonville and Wesley Brethren churches. I anticipate that the date for the convention will be set at the upcoming October 4 Synodical meeting. According to the by-laws, the convention "shall be held the first half of July in accordance with the wishes of the host congregation after consultation with the Synodical Committee." Holding the convention in the first half of July is a tradition of the Unity. In the past, it was held on July 6, the memorial day of the martyrdom of Jan Hus.

The official membership of the convention includes the delegates of local congregations and members of the Synodical Committee (executive officers, lay members, and pastors). Congregations in official standing with the Unity of the Brethren have the privilege and responsibility to send as many delegates to the convention as the by-laws allow. Congregations with less than 76 members are entitled

to one delegate, from 76 to 125 members to two delegates, etc. At last year's convention, a by-law change was approved that will make next year's convention a little different. How will next year's convention be different than others? Let's take a look at what the by-laws say about the official membership of the convention. In Article IV. Conventions, Section B:

The Official Membership of the Convention shall be composed of the following:

1. The delegates of local congregations in regular standing with the Unity of the Brethren who have presented proper credentials.

2. Members of the Synodical Committee as the administrative officials of the Unity of the Brethren:

- a. The executive officers, lay and pastoral, who are also the officers of the Convention;

- b. The other lay members as elected officials (Article VI, Section A); and

- c. The other pastors of the Unity of the Brethren as spiritual advisors

and representatives of the spiritual work of the Unity of the Brethren (Article VI, Section A).

3. Chairs of the convention-approved standing committees/boards including, but not limited to, Pastoral Relations Committee, Board of Christian Education, Hus School Encampment Board of Trustees, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Board for Grants and Bequests.

4. Ministerial students under the care of the Synodical Committee.

5. Those called, commissioned, and actively engaged in specialized ministries through the Unity of the Brethren.

Anyone thus regarded as an official member of the Convention has the full privilege of deliberation and voting. All non-official members may address the Convention by permission of the majority of the official members of the Convention on specific items. The proceedings at the Convention shall be open to the public, unless the Convention rules otherwise.

Numbers 3 and 4 above were added to the by-laws to allow for the Chairs of several standing committees to be part of the official membership of next year's convention and also any ministerial students under the care of the Synodical Committee. So we can expect a few more voting members at the convention. If a person serves in 2 positions – say as the Representative of their church and also as a

committee chair – they will only get one vote at the convention.

Another change to the membership of the convention and the Synodical Committee – after the 2015 convention, churches that have lay members serving on the Executive Committee will be able to elect another representative and could have 2 voting members on the Synodical committee along with their pastor. The President only votes in case of a tie.

Next time – more ways next year's Unity of the Brethren convention will be different than other conventions.

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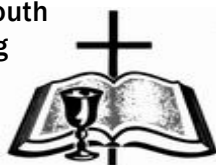
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The number one comment on the suggestion tally each year is it would be even more fun if more people attended!

Wouldn't it be fun to see your brothers & sisters in Christ another time besides meetings, and enjoy Hus

Encampment as our ancestors intended?

Saturday breakfast is served at 8 a.m., and worship begins at 9 a.m. Weekend retreaters can arrive Friday afternoon after 4 p.m. for fellowship, dominoes, and light supper.

Registrations should be in your church now, or you may find it at www.unityofthebrethren.org.

Hope we don't miss YOU!

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

. . . regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact:

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**This must be done well in advance.*

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

From the Woo's...

June 2014

Dear Friends and partners,

We were in Thailand for over 2 months. We attended field council meetings, helped with child care for another field, we both were on the planning committee for our conference, we attended our conference, and let's not forget we had baby number 5. Salem Victoria Woo was born on May 9, around 6:30 a.m., and weighed 8.3 lbs., named after Caroline's sister.

Most of you may know that Michael and I were a little too relaxed about this 5th baby and we actually should have gone to the hospital a lot sooner than we did. We arrived at the hospital, and as we were walking toward the hospital door, Caroline felt the baby's head sliding out. So she sat down right there on the sidewalk outside the hospital, and Michael delivered baby Salem. The ambulance drove the 200 meters around the corner to pick us up and take us to the emergency room and up to the labor

and delivery floor of the hospital. It was all quite beautiful in our eyes. We praise God for this baby girl, who is already 7 weeks old, doing great, and loved by her brothers.



We also praise the Lord for a 1-year visa for China. When we left China we had just finished our discipleship book called "Know a little, do a little, pass it on." Now that we are back, we see again the need for this small church to go out. We are called to give testimony to HIM! There is no need for a discipleship book unless you have new believers to disciple. We are thankful that the Lord is bringing us some help this fall. Mary Clapp from Winston Salem is coming to live with us for a year. She will help us with the homeschooling of our 3 older boys!

It's always hard to come back home, even from Thailand. Many of you say to me "Oh you must REALLY love it there to live there for so many



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years.” Actually it’s more of an obedience thing than a like thing. Please lift up our transition back home with 5 little ones now. Please also lift us and our teammates up. There seems to be some disagreement between us, and we feel it is spiritual attack.

We are also so thankful to Jesus for all of you. Jesus is all about bringing people to Himself in relationship. Thank you for not forgetting about those, especially in Asia, that have not heard about His love and forgiveness. Thank you for praying for us, for giving to us and encouraging us.

Blessings and much love.

July 2014

Dear Praying Partners,

We have been back home for 4 weeks. Baby Salem is now 11 weeks old and fat and happy. The Lord is on the move. There is lots to pray for.

Please pray for

1) The MEN

Michael has been going to Mary’s home to meet with her husband. He has believed for years now but has not been baptized, nor does he go to

church or do much of anything. In the past he even has yelled at Mary and asks her why she believes. Before we went to have the baby and for the past few weeks Michael has been going over and looking at Bible stories with him. I think Mary’s husband really is enjoying the company. The only thing for any men to do around this city is to work, or go out and do things with friends that are not very healthy: drinking, smoking, gambling, women. There are no health clubs, swimming pools, basketball teams, or men’s Bible studies, etc. Mary’s husband has dropped by to see us as he is warming up to Michael. Last week Michael took Mary and her husband and May out to share the gospel. Yesterday Mary and her husband went to share the gospel **by themselves**, just the two of them. Yippee. Mary said that her husband spoke up a lot and shared. There are other men that Michael wants to reach out to and disciple: Brad, Joan’s husband, a new man, and Stephen, who we have mentioned before.

2) Sunday group

The local Sunday group is still meeting. They have 2-3 more people

now, but not due to evangelism. These new people have believed for a while and have just recently found out about the group. Please pray that this group would grow “Deep and Wide”. Pray that they would all grow deeper in their love for Jesus. Pray that they would go out and reach out to others, that’s the wide part. These people are still an unreached people, so few have even heard of JC.

3) Mary and her husband’s village homes

Mary’s village and her husband’s village are two different places. They have been recently going home to share with their friends and family. Mary’s niece, an 8-year-old girl, was bitten by something and she is very close to death. The Doctors don’t know how to help her. Her family doesn’t believe in JC. Please pray for these villages that there can be two new places where believers can come together and worship and share with others.

4) Our favorite village

Remember the story about how a few years ago we prayed for our friend and he felt heat come in his leg

and he was healed and they all wanted to believe. Well, we went to visit this family today to show them baby Salem. We took May and Mary with us. We sang a bit, and then May shared with them the story of Noah, one of the 20 stories we are working on. After we shared, Grandma started talking about how there is no god higher than Jesus. That He loves people and we don’t have to sacrifice anything to Him, that it’s grace. Grandma seems to understand the gospel. The daughter-in-law was FULL of fear, though. When we asked them if they wanted help in throwing out their idols the daughter-in-law quickly said, “No, no, no, we can’t throw out our idols. No way. If we do that what would other people say? We have lots of family, we can’t do it.” They have a HUGE fear of others. Then I referred to the Noah story that we just shared. All the people were in sin, idolatry, and they died in the flood. Noah followed and obeyed God. He went into the thing of salvation, the ark. We, too, have to go into the thing of salvation, or rather the person of salvation, Jesus Christ. If we follow other people out of fear, we will die in



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Board of Elders President

Rayfield Slovacek
P.O. Box 267
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-8845

Youth Directors

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

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.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

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

sin with the people. We must follow the God of love, peace, and joy that is giving us a way to be saved. Noah couldn't put one foot on the ark and one foot on the land could he?

It was amazing how the Noah story fit perfectly in that situation. I don't think I have ever had the Noah story come alive to me personally like it did today. Amazing.

5) Mary our homeschool helper

Mary Clapp from Winston-Salem is coming for a year to help us with our 3 older boys' homeschooling. We don't think we could have planned her coming any better. It's perfect for her to come this year, as we will teach 3 kids this fall, and also taking care of baby Salem. This will allow Caroline

to have more time to do ministry and also help with homeschooling, too.

6) Continue to lift up:

- their sunday meetings
- their going out to new places
- the men
- that leaders would be raised up
- that their world view would change
- that those who already know would disciple those who have just heard

We love you. Thanks for your prayers. May HIS Kingdom Come, may HIS will be done!

Love, The Woos:
Michael & Caroline,
Samuel, Ian, Zach, Isaac, Salem

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53
Temple, Texas 76501

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Rev. Ron Winsman

3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504
(254) 742-0827
ronwinsman@hotmail.com

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

9494 Big Elm Creek Road
Rogers, TX 76569
(254) 983-1002

Elder Board President

David Sebek

3910 Red Ranger Road
Temple, TX 76501
(254) 985-2578, cell (254) 913-0732

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

23383 Milam Road
Burlington, TX 76519
(254) 869-2845

Swinging Into God's Word Alpha Camp 2014

Directors: JP & Jennifer Chervenka, Taylor Brinkley

Camp Pastor: Rev. Ron Winsman

Thirty campers and several adults swung into the jungle for a week of Bible study, music, fellowship, and games. Lessons focused on God's word and how to use our Bibles, the Ten Commandments, sin, and salva-

tion. Special activities included a scavenger hunt and water games.

A special thank you is given to the Friends of the Hus Encampment for providing Bibles for campers who did not own their own.



Alpha Camp 2014

Back Row (left to right): Madison Benton, CIT; Mary Vasek, counselor; Carsen Amos, sitter; Pam Benton, counselor; Dee Winsman, aide; Rev. Ron Winsman, pastor; Taylor Brinkley, Director; Ben Wilde, counselor; Krystal Dusek, counselor; Sarah Jacobs, CIT; Jaycee Johnson, CIT; Jordan Eilers, CIT; Zachary Fojtasek, counselor; Donald Lancaster, counselor; John Brinkley, counselor

Second Row (left to right): Campers- Jacelyn Chervenka; Morgan Lesikar; Anita Heckman; Keeley Jones; Micayla Polasek; Melanie Morehead; Gabby Harrison; Massie Toney; Allie Snelgrove; Jazmin Guerrero; Crystal Heckman; Aspen Ruebsamen; Sierra Beasley

Third Row (left to right): Connie Janac, nurse; Maddox Janac, camp kid; Campers- Blayne Hoelscher; Chip Amos; Trent Wuensche; Joshua Gross; Kyler Caldwell; Nathaniel Drees; Ryan Dusek; Logan McMurrian; William See; Trevor Wuensche; Tammy Paddenburg, counselor

Bottom Row (left to right): Campers- Bailey Krcha; Audrey Corporon; Macy Narro; Jaiden Beasley; Lacie Elkins; Jillian McIntyre; Tori Deardeuff; Jaidyn Chervenka, camp kid; Jessica Chervenka, camp kid; Joanna Chervenka, camp kid

Not shown: Directors: JP and Jenn Chervenka (taking photo)



Pioneer Matchmaker

- by Rev. David Johnson

Seth and Kacie Johnson on their wedding day.

Recently, Seth Johnson (son of Rev. David and Rhonda Johnson) and Kacie Sulak (Daughter of Joe and Cindy Sulak) were married at New Tabor Brethren Church. Several years ago and only one mile away, they met for the first time as volunteers at the Unity's Pioneer Camp. Seth was a counselor and Kacie was camp nurse. Their first camp together they were co-workers with a dynamic camp team led by Don and Laurie Bagby. They were drawn like the rest of the team to serve a bunch of 11 & 12 year olds for a week of fun and spiritual growth. Service for the Lord tends to draw excellence from our Unity congregations and from those outside the

Unity to serve in the many camps at Hus Camp every year. I was proud that my son Seth was volunteering with his two brothers, Jesse and Matthew.

Seth and Kacie volunteered for the Pioneer camp team to make a difference in some kids' lives. That is the motive for all Christian service. But there are sometimes benefits from being at the right place at the right time with people of like faith and passions. In the 1980's, the movie "Urban Cowboy" told the story of a young man who came to Houston looking for a job and love. He found his girl in a bar and suffered the hardships of finding love in a hard



Seth and Kacie at the Hus Pond after she said "Yes!"

place. Even though he somehow won her back in the end (Hollywood not imitating real life), he lived out the hit song of the movie, "Looking for love in all the wrong places".

Our lives and destinies are too valuable and important to settle for what the world has to offer. Now, I'm not saying that every volunteer to Hus camps have Mr. or Miss Right waiting there, but I would say that they are in a "right" place doing "right" things and the possibility is better they will meet someone worthy of companionship there than at Gilley's.

The first flirt was when Seth brought his cabin of boys to the nurse's cabin one night and had them knock on the door one at a time with different ailments. The final boy held his hand over his eyes and yelled, "I think I'm blind!" Flirting led to a post camp date, to a traveling (back and forth from Caldwell to Temple) relationship. Kacie then left for Africa to serve for 6 months on the Mercy Ship off the coast of The Congo. When she returned, Seth had arranged a campground proposal under the guise of "Let's drop by the camp on the way to dinner and see the camp improve-

ments..." Robert Schlechte had mowed the grass. Seth had arranged a candle-light steak dinner and dance at the meeting room where they first met, followed by the proposal and fireworks at the pond. 90 days later they were married, in June of 2014 at New Tabor Brethren. Two excellent people met while following their hearts to ministry. They were sharing the love of Jesus, and in so doing found love for each other; a match made in service.

Are there more matches to be made? Well, there is Encounter, Alpha, Pioneer, Discovery, Challenger, and Hus School; all opportunities to make a difference for Jesus, and who knows, just maybe; but you have to volunteer! Seth, Kacie, Jesse, Matthew, and I will be back next summer at Pioneer. I hope you will join us or one of the other camp teams as we continue to follow our hearts with others of like faith and passions. Every year I have served as camp pastor. It has been a joy to serve with the level of excellence at Pioneer. Seth and Kacie are just two of the many wonderful people who serve, and I am thankful they found each other. Congratulations to Seth and Kacie Johnson!

In God's Hands Ministry

P. O. Box 321
Caldwell, TX 77836
979-574-7134

Everyday Ministries to Meet Everyday Needs
A Home Mission Work to Cade Lake and Burleson County

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



*"Neighbors helping Neighbors
Since 1914"*

- Service all Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
- Share Plan Concept with Pre-Arranged Funerals
- Sponsor Mission Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans

Bellville	Sealy	Wallis
865-3121	885-3535	478-6311

HUS School 2014



Hus School 2014

Back Row: John Palicka; Ben Wilde; Matthew Stewart.

Front Row: Anna Wotipka, Counselor; Deanna Hairrell; Connie Janac, Nurse; Jordan Eilers; Jennifer Chervenka, Director.

The five students of Hus 2014 were trained for 3 weeks in the areas of personal spiritual growth, Bible study, and history. Many of the classes were led by Unity pastors and lay persons. Thank you to each of these individuals and families for giving of their time to train the future leaders of our denomination. A list of the classes and the teachers is given below.

Hus students also participated in several ministries. They prepared and served a meal for the Celebrate Recovery Program, worked at Churches Touch Lives for Christ outreach center, visited a Caldwell Nursing Center, and refurbished the camp sit-upons. Students also learned to make kolaches and homemade ice cream. Outings included a trip to Wesley Brethren Church, the Bluebell factory, Grand Station, as well as swimming at the Laza and Chervenka homes.

Camp History and the History of Hus School—Marvin and Alice Chlapek

Denominational History and Jan Hus — Rev. Mark Labaj

Our Ancestors in Texas — Rev. Mike Groseclose

Spiritual Discipline — Rev. Larry Koslovsky

Apostle's Creed — Rev. Joseph Polasek

Leadership in Practice — Marvin and Alice Chlapek

Unity Missions — Kent & Tami Laza

Denominational Organization — James Marek

Purposes of the Church — Rev. Ron Winsman

Prayer — Rev. Mark Sebek

Faith and Fear — Rev. Whitney Amos

Trek through the Old Testament and New Testament; Homeletics; Spiritual Fruits and Gifts; Religion and Science; Preparing for the Future — Jennifer Chervenka

Hoj Verni Boj! — Ms. Joyce Baletka, Jim Baletka, Marvin and Alice Chlapek



Ben Wilde, Deanna Hairrell and Jordan Eilers repairing and restuffing the camp sit upons.

Hus students at Blue Bell Creamery.



Hus student Jordan Eilers being baptized by Rev. David Johnson at the Hus Camp Pond.

Hus students enjoying water day



Summer BYF Retreat, Convention, and Volleyball Tournament Saturday, July 26-Sunday, July 27

One hundred twelve youth and many adults came to Caldwell to enjoy the volleyball tournament this summer. The weekend's activities began at 8:30 a.m. with the annual youth convention. Seven groups were represented: Bryan/College-Station; Crosby; Nelsonville/Industry/Wesley; Ocker; Snook; Taylor; and Wall.

Following the convention, everyone gathered in the classroom for praise and worship led by the State Leadership Team. The lesson focus was on love to wrap up our year of

studies from the fall and spring retreats.

Thirteen teams competed in the volleyball tournament. The tournament began at 10:30 a.m. and ended around 1:15 a.m. Wall team A took home first place; Wesley/Industry/Nelsonville team A took 2nd; and BCS team A beat Taylor team A for 3rd.

Retreat dates for 2014-2015 are: Fall Retreat, September 13-14 (registrations due September 1); Winter Retreat, January 3-4 (registrations due December 15).



Wall Team A, 1st place.



Wesley/Industry/Nelsonville (WIN) Team A, 2nd place.



Bryan-College Station Team A, 3rd place.

Mutual Aid Society Officers Installed for 2014-2016



Newly installed Mutual Aid Society Officers

L to R: Rev. Mark Sebek (installing Pastor), Ann Sebesta, Ruth Ann Wuensche, Rev. Joseph Polasek, Natalie Outlaw, Dorothy Hinson, Daniel Vojtek. Not pictured: Rev. Michael Groseclose

The Mutual Aid Society of the Unity of the Brethren Church held Convention on July 12, 2014, at the Bryan-College Station Brethren Church in College Station, Texas.

Officers for the Society were elected and installed by the host Pastor, Reverend Mark Sebek.

Officers are: Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President; Daniel Vojtek, Vice President; Natalie Outlaw, General Secretary; Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer; Dorothy Hinson, Secretary/Treasurer Junior Department; Ann Sebesta, Board Member; Synodical Liaison, Rev. Michael Groseclose

CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH



401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church website: www.lifeatcbc.org

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:
1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month

Welcome

Unity of the Brethren FISH FRY

Saturday, September 20

6:00 p.m.- ?

At: Ocker Brethren Church
Zabcikville, TX

Free-will donations
To-Go plates available

All fish "wild-caught" from the Texas Coast;
served with all the trimmings; dessert and tea.

Make donations payable to Unity Youth
and memo "fish-fry" on your check.

*All proceeds will benefit the
State Youth Fishing Retreat*

ADERHOLD
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
"Thoughtful Service –
A Payne Family Tradition"
West, Texas
254/826-5321

Unity Archivist
Clint Machann
c-machann@tamu.edu
979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

Then Moses and
Aaron did so; just as
the Lord commanded
them, so they did.

Exodus 7:6

Sunday School Helper



School is in full swing now! It is a busy yet exciting time. As I perused through the vast array of Sunday School Songs to share, I came across a new one, which has the added benefit of many online resources. What caught my eye was the topic – Moses and the 10 Plagues. Moses is a fascinating Bible hero. Such a simple man, but with obedience (sometimes hesitant), he followed God's commands. God did great things through Moses. It is a great lesson for us – with our obedience, God accomplishes greatness.

The 10 Plagues Song

SING:

(Tune: 10 Little Indians)

One plague, two plagues, three plagues on the land,
Four plagues, five plagues, six plagues on the land,
Seven plagues, eight plagues, nine plagues on the land,
Ten plagues on the land.

First, came the blood in the Nile,
Second came frogs by the mile,
Third came lice for a while,
These were the plagues on the land.
Number four was buzzing flies;
Fifth the Pharaoh's livestock dies;
Sixth came boils of every size;
These were the plagues on the land.
Number seven was fire and hail;
Eighth came locusts over hill and dale;
Ninth came darkness like a veil;
These were the plagues on the land.
The saddest plague was the first-born died.
Pharaoh's people cried and cried;
Pharaoh let God's people go
Because of the plagues on the land.

TELL

The story is found in Exodus 5-9. A wonderful series of images can be found online to tell the story in a simple way (link found on the blog page)

BLOG PAGE

<http://sundayschoolhelperbrethrenjournal.blogspot.com/>



Play

10 Plagues Relay Race (This is definitely for older students!)

Divide the group into Twelve Tribes (teams) if possible. There is one activity for each of the 10 plagues.

1. **Blood** *Water Relay: Place several drops of red dye in an empty cup. This way the Nile water turns into blood.*
The tribe lines up behind the mark. Each tribe has a spoon and a large bowl filled with water. Each player takes a turn spooning water into the cup, then passes the spoon to the next player. This continues until the cup is filled or a fill line is reached.
2. **Frogs** *Leap Frog:*
Tribes line up. The player at the back starts leaping over those in front of them. The race ends when the player who started at the front leaps all the way back to the front of the line.
3. **Lice** *Dizzy Relay: The lice itched so that people became dizzy.*
Five players from each tribe line up. The first person runs to a marked spot, puts their finger to the ground and, with finger on the ground, runs in a circle three times. Player then runs back to tag the next player.
4. **Insects** *Sweat Suit Relay: The insects got inside their clothes and bit them, so they had to take them off.*
Divide the tribe in half and put half at the finish line and half at the start line. The first player is wearing an oversized sweatshirt. Player one runs to the finish line, takes off the sweatshirt and hands it to the next player. Continues through the entire tribe.
5. **Cattle Disease** *Wheel Barrow Race: The cows were sick so the people had to take over pulling the plows.*
Tribes line up. One person places hands on the ground. Another person grabs their feet, lifts, and runs to the designated line and back. This continues until all players have walked on their hands.
6. **Boils** *Pass the Apple: Their bodies became sore and blistered. They couldn't sue their hands.*
Line up tribes. The first player is given an apple. Teams pass the fruit from player to player using their chins.

The remaining plague games can be found at
<http://sundayschoolhelperbrethrenjournal.blogspot.com/>

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

September 13-14, 2014 – BYF Fall Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Registrations due September 1. Contact Jennifer Chervenka for more information at 254-913-1244 or jennchervenka@farm-market.net.

September 14, 2014 – 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Temple Brethren Church. Worship at 10:45 a.m., lunch following the service (reservations closed September 1). Program at 2 p.m., followed by a reception and fellowship. For more information contact Grace Labaj at 254-773-4427 or elabaj@hotmail.com, TBC 254-778-8759 and leave a message, or e-mail tbc@hotmail.com, or write Temple Brethren Church, 2202 Birdcreek Drive, Temple, Texas 76502.

September 20, 2014 – Fish Fry at the Ocker Brethren Church. 6:00 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the State Youth Fishing Retreat. Free-will donations and to-go plates available. For additional information contact Jennifer Chervenka at 254-913-1244 or jennchervenka@farm-market.net.

October 4, 2014 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment, 9:00 a.m.; refreshments served at 8:00 a.m., pre-meeting time of prayer, 8:30 a.m. A light lunch will be served at noon. The Unity Constitution and By-Laws with revisions up to and including those passed by the 65th Convention held in July 2013 are now available on the Unity website. All congregations will receive a copy of the By-laws at the Fall meeting. If you have any questions, contact James Marek, email: james@cibt.com, or (512) 352-6165; or Liz Ripple, email: lizripple@hotmail.com, or (979) 378-2239.

October 10-12 – 20th Annual Primetimer's Retreat at the Hus School Encampment. Registrations should be in your church or you may find it at www.unityofthebrethren.org. For more information contact Kimberly Kennard at (254) 931-5657, or email her at kimberlykennard@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE...

January 3-4, 2015 – BYF Winter Retreat at the Hus Encampment (registrations due December 15).

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. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for September 2014

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. Blessed is the Lord who daily loads us with benefits. Ps. 68:19
2. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. 2 Cor. 5:17
3. Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil. Prov. 15:16
4. Blessed is he who trusts in the Lord. Prov. 16:20
5. The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice. Ps. 97:1
6. If sinners entice you, do not give in to them. Prov. 1:18
7. The Lord guards the cause of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones. Prov. 2:6
8. For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared. Prov. 3:26
9. Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:2
10. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. Phil. 4:12
11. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Phil. 4:13
12. In Him we have redemption through His blood. Eph. 1:7
13. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or hunger or danger? Rom. 8:35
14. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Mt. 28:20
15. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Mt. 6:33
16. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Ps. 34:18
17. Submit to God and be at peace with Him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Job 22:21
18. The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. Nahum 1:7a
20. Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are His. Daniel 2:20
21. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Prov. 14:34
22. Teach a child in the way they should live, and when they are growing old they will not depart from it. Prov. 26:6
23. As a father has compassion for His children so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him. Ps. 103:13
24. He leads me in the right paths for His name's sake. Ps. 23:3
25. Guide our feet in the way of peace. Lk. 1:79
26. The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. Prov. 12:15
27. How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity. Ps. 133:1
28. I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord," Ps. 122:1
29. Jesus Christ is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Col. 1:17
30. He is the head of body, the church. Col. 1:18

GRANGER BRETHREN CHURCH

1903 *Where it all began*

306 WEST BROADWAY STREET, GRANGER, TX 76530

Bible Study
Worship Services

9:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.

Pastor, Rev. Larry Zabcik
(903) 265-2277



VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Affirmation of Faith:

ROBERT and NATASHA GUEL, JR., were welcomed into membership at the Community Christian Church, Rosenberg, Texas, on Sunday, May 11, 2014. Minister: Bro. Larry Butcher.

BEN CHUPIK was welcomed into membership at the Community Christian Church, Rosenberg, Texas, on Sunday, June 22, 2014. Minister: Bro. Larry Butcher.

RECENT BAPTISMS

POLASEK, KEVIN RAY, son of Charles Polasek and Renee Ridling, born January 19, 2002, was baptized July 13, 2014, at Caldwell Brethren Church. Sponsors: Sam and Frieda Polasek. Minister: Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell.

RECENT DEATHS

HICKMAN, BERTHA MARIE (MAREK), age 91 and long-time member of the Community Christian Church, died Saturday, July 5, 2014, at SPJST Nursing Home in Needville, Texas. She is survived by her son William and his wife Carolyn, and brother Edwin and

his wife Emma, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Services were on Tuesday, July 8, 2014, in the Chapel of Davis-Greenlawn in Rosenberg, Texas. Minister: Bro. Larry Butcher.

KLINKOVSKY, FRANK SR., age 87 and a member of Seaton Brethren Church, died on May 10, 2014. He was born on June 30, 1926. Services were held on May 14, 2014, at Seaton Brethren Church. Burial was at Seaton Cemetery. Survivors include son Frank III and daughter-in-law Debbie, a grandson, a granddaughter, a great-granddaughter, and a brother. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

THOMPSON, MADELINE JENELL (SKRABANEK), age 70 and a member of Seaton Brethren Church, died on June 11, 2014. She was born on February 16, 1944. Services were held on June 14, 2014 at Seaton Brethren Church. Burial was at Seaton Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Robert Thompson III, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, and nieces and nephews. Minister: Rev. Joe Emerson.

YOUNG, ROSE MARIE (MIKESKA), AGE 71, died on June 26, 2014. She was born on March 17, 1943. Services were held on July 1, 2014, at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home. Burial was at Seaton Cemetery. Survivors include a son, a daughter, 6 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and a brother. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

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

P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957

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

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

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

Home: rev.tjt@verizon.net

Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us

www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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

President
David Miller
325-651-7597

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
Dewyan Weise – Wall – Unity Treasurer and Synodical

Committee Liaison – 325-651-8550, hdweise@zipnet.us

Alan Tomasek – 512-859-2197, amtomasek@thegateway.net

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.
Family Night, 1st & 3rd Weds. each
month in Fellowship Hall. Bring a
snack, a game, and a friend if able.
– Visiting Ministers

Christ Covenant Church – Tuesday
Evening Bible Study.
– Carl Shamel

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 Sundays – Rick Chandler
2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays – open

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, a Provisional Church of
the Unity of the Brethren – 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 – Bible Study every Sunday at
9:00 AM with worship service following
at 10:15 AM.
– Rev. Larry Zabcik

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

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
Nelsonville – 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.
– Visiting Ministers

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

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 Tim Chaplin

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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