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# THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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**Fall 2014 Youth Retreat Participants at the Hus Encampment**

*Front L to R: Kami Hooker; Krystal Dusek; Jaycee Johnson*

*Back L to R: Taylor Brinkley; Deanna Hairrell; Jordan Eilers*

*(see story and additional photos inside this issue)*

**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**

From the President . . .

*President's Report to the Synodical Committee*

*Ride for the Brand . . . by Jim Pokorny*

*Primetimer's Rereat Invitation*

**. . . and more!**

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Featured items in the sale  
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sale/rummage shop will be  
opened. Sandwiches and home-  
made soup will be available to  
purchase for lunch. Quilts will  
be on display in the sanctuary.

A hand-made quilt, a \$75 and  
a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart, a  
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cards will be given away for a  
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# President's Column . . . James Marek President's Report to the Synodical Committee

As we welcome Fall and prepare for the holiday season, we are also keeping an eye on the upcoming 66th biennial convention. The upcoming convention will be very special and significant in the life of our denomination as we will celebrate the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jan Hus. The convention will be held in Nelsonville, and will be hosted by the Nelsonville and Wesley congregations. The date for the convention is targeted for July 9-11, 2015. Rev. Dr. David Schattschneider, Dean and Vice President Emeritus of the Moravian Theological Seminary, is slated to be our special guest and convention speaker. Dr. Schattschneider is an authority on Hus and Unity History and will make several presentations during the convention.

## The Moravian Northern Province Synod and Actions

The Northern Province of the Moravian held their Synod in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on the campus of Moravian College and Seminary on June 19-24. At our last Syn-

odical Committee meeting held in April, we reported that we did not plan to send a representative to the Northern Province Synod. However, after the Synodical Committee meeting several members of the Synodical Committee felt strongly that we should have representation at this important convocation. After checking with a couple of pastors whose schedules would not allow them to attend, I decided to make the trip, and I am glad that I did. It was both informative and enjoyable to be on the campus of Moravian College and Seminary and to meet a number of people from many parts of the Northeast and Canada. It was also good to be in the company of people who also trace their denominational beginning back to Jan Hus and who place a high value on Hus' life, ministry, and martyrdom. While attending the Synod, I learned that Moravian College is the sixth oldest institution of higher learning in the country, established in 1742. I also learned that Moravian was the first to offer such education to women. The campus was beautiful, and fea-



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tured a huge statue of John Amos Comenius, the last bishop of the Ancient Unity of the Brethren.

The Moravians not only share our denominational roots back to Hus, they are very similar to us in the average congregational size. The average size of a congregation in the Moravian church is 100 to 125. The Moravian Church is separated into two Provinces and is currently found in 13 states. The Northern Province has 93 congregations while the Southern Province has 56 congregations. During the Synod, the leadership announced that the Moravian Church had recently eclipsed the one million member mark world-wide. The largest concentration of Moravians is in Tunisia (Africa), where approximately 630,000 Moravians live.

The first session Friday morning was highlighted by singing and the presentation of over 400 hand-made prayer shawls. There were approximately 250 delegates plus guests who attended, and each person in attendance was allowed to select a prayer shawl of their choice. The session was concluded by singing as we stood together with joined hands around the huge auditorium.

During one of the sessions, Paul McLaughlin, Chairman of the Moravian Ministries Foundation, addressed the Synod. Mr. McLaughlin leads an investment group whose clients are Moravian Churches and organizations. After briefly touching on the services that were available through the Moravian Ministries Foundation, he expressed his love for the Moravian Church and shared how his service to the Moravian church had impacted his life. Mr. McLaughlin said that although he was a Catholic, throughout his 17-year tenure he had come to love the Moravians and considered them his family. He went on to say that his estate plan now included giving 10% of his assets at the time of his death to the Moravian Church, but he also had felt led to do something more. He told the audience that he had begun a monthly letter-writing campaign to the new Pope in Rome and to the Bishop in Boston.

His request to the Pope and Bishop was to "do the right thing" and finally lift the Catholic Church's condemnation of Jan Hus. McLaughlin said that after his first letter to the Pope at the Vatican in Rome, he received a reply that his request would be considered.

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And so fulfill the Law of  
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[dekocian@yahoo.com](mailto:dekocian@yahoo.com)
- Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan,  
PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX  
78940, 979-378-4167,  
[sandrainustan@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrainustan@yahoo.com)
- Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO  
Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836,  
979-272-9102,  
[mjcarc@airplexus.com](mailto:mjcarc@airplexus.com)
- Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115,  
Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-  
3362, [bfsinc@tconline.net](mailto:bfsinc@tconline.net)
- Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109  
Friendship Ln, Temple, TX  
76501-9614, 254-742-1405
- Dallas #10: \*\*Natalie Outlaw, 7575  
Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-  
8085, 979-589-2012,  
[natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com)
- Cooks Point #12: Patsy Albright,  
2105 Rivendell, Bryan, TX  
77807-4812, 979-779-8463
- New Tabor #13: Evelyn Henry, PO  
Box 336, Caldwell, TX 77836-  
0336, 979-567-4397
- Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel,  
8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX  
77418, 979-865-5095
- Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek,  
7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX  
76501, 254-984-2283
- Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 3130  
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77471, 713-826-7993,  
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- Placedo #30: Dorothy Elsik, PO  
Box 1054, Victoria, TX 77902,  
361-575-2298
- Robstown #31: Annette Korff, 1207  
Baker, Robstown, TX 78380,  
361-387-5241
- Austin #32: Doris Boriski, 17111  
Oak Cliff Circle, Dripping  
Springs, TX 78620-2527, 512-  
264-2273
- Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118  
Coventry Ct., Friendswood, TX  
77546-3001, 281-482-1501
- B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575  
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8085, 979-589-2012,  
[natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com)

\*\*Position currently filled by  
Administrative Board members

Mr. McLaughlin wrote back saying, “You have had 600 years to consider it, it is now time for action.” McLaughlin vowed to continue to write letters each month to the Pope and Bishop until the Catholic Church lifted the condemnation of Hus or he (McLaughlin) died. Upon hearing this, all in attendance stood in applause.

One of the issues that was addressed during this Synod was the consideration of ordination of gay and lesbian clergy. The Northern Province had been discussing and considering this issue for a number of years, and it was decided that it was time to make a decision. The leadership of the Synod encouraged all delegates who wanted to speak on the topic to do so, but to be respectful in their comments. After everyone had spoken, the vote was taken. While the votes were being counted, the entire assembly joined hands and sang hymns together. When the votes were all tallied, the motion to allow Moravian Congregations in the Northern Province to call a gay or lesbian pastor passed by a count of 181-62. It was noted that none of the Moravian Congregations in the Northern Province would be forced to accept a gay

or lesbian pastor. This decision was only applicable to the Northern Province as the Southern Province has not yet taken any action on the matter.

In light of this action, many within the Unity may ask, “how does this affect us?” “What (if anything) should we now do in response to this action?” My encouragement to all Brethren is to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ and our denominational brethren in the Moravian Church. This action has caused division and heartache within the Northern Province. Regardless of how we may feel about their decision, they are suffering right now and they need our prayerful support. In years past, the Unity has taken steps to separate ourselves from the Moravians when we have disagreed with their actions or decisions. My prayer is that we do not do that this time. As I have already told several people within the Unity since returning from the Synod, I see this situation as one similar to those many of us may have in our immediate or extended families. Many of us likely have people within our families with whom we don’t agree or whose actions, beliefs, or politics



## WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road  
Houston, Texas 77082

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
[Westheimercommunitychurch.org](http://Westheimercommunitychurch.org)



don't align with ours. In those situations we still love those with whom we disagree, commune with them, and share family gatherings with them, in addition to offering our support to them. The Moravians are family, and my hope and my prayer is that we treat them with the love and support that we would expect if our situations were reversed. While we may not agree with the decision, I believe we are called to continue to remain in fellowship with them as they work through these difficult times.

In other activity and business of the Unity, there continues to be much being accomplished, yet so much more to do.

The work to redesign our Unity website continues. We have executed a contract with a web designer and the redesign process is underway. We expect that the work on the new website will be completed before the end of the year. Once the new website is completed, we anticipate that we will not only have an updated and expanded website, but also one that is much easier to maintain and update. Ben Polasek has served as the Unity Webmaster since the website was created. We are extremely grate-

ful for Ben's faithful service, commitment and expertise. We are also excited that Kelly Zrubek of Granger has agreed to assume the role of webmaster and succeed Ben in this vital position.

On a related subject, we have been communicating with the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History as a possible permanent repository for Unity historical records. The Dolph Briscoe Center is located on the University of Texas campus just across from the LBJ Library and has the facilities necessary to store historic documents on a long-term basis. The Briscoe Center currently houses the records of the late Rev. Joseph A. Barton, and the center has agreed to receive additional documents that the Unity would like to donate to the care and custody of the Briscoe Center. The need to develop a long-term record retention strategy has recently been amplified with the receipt of the pastoral records of the late Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr. Rev. Beseda left his pastoral records to the Unity as a part of his will. The records contain over 2000 funerals, 1500 weddings, and 500 baptisms, all of which took place between 1951 and 2006. Our first priority is to

## Fayetteville Brethren Church

*"Site of the First Czech Protestant Preaching in Texas - 1855"*



**1022 Kramr Rd at Ross  
Prairie Church Road;  
P.O. Box 11  
Fayetteville, TX 78940**

*Come join us!*  
**Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 10:45 a.m.**

**Pastor: Rev. Kay Polasek**  
**Home: 979-567-1999 Cell: 979-220-1289**  
**Email: revkaypolasek@yahoo.com**

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

## 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



## VITAL STATISTICS

### MEMBERS RECEIVED

#### By Affirmation of Faith:

VIOLET NEELEY was welcomed into membership at Community Christian Church of Rosenberg on Sunday, August 24, 2014. Minister: Bro. Larry Butcher.

KENNETH MILLER was welcomed into membership at Community Christian Church of Rosenberg on Sunday, August 24, 2014. Minister: Bro. Larry Butcher.

#### By Letter of Transfer:

KAREN G. ZABCIK, joined with the Granger Brethren Church on June 15, 2014. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik

### RECENT BAPTISMS

BROWNING, JACKSON SCOTT, son of Scott & Kim Browning, born May 17, 2013, was baptized August 17, 2014, at Community Christian Church of Rosenberg. Sponsors: Matt White & Natalie McClure. Minister: Bro. Larry Butcher.

### RECENT DEATHS

ANDEL, JUDY MARIE, age 73 and a member of Seaton Brethren Church, died on August 5, 2014. She was born on July 16, 1941. Services were held on August 9, 2014, at Seaton Brethren Church. Burial was at Seaton Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Kenneth; daughters, Barbara Wagner and Kelli Andel Janes; sons, Rick Wiseman and Keith Andel; a sister, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

### The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

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

Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM  
Prayer Service and Bible Study

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

### 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](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.**

<i>President</i>	<i>Youth Director</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
David Miller	Susan & Bryan Neal	Johnie Smith
325-651-7597	325-227-7242	Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

digitize these valuable records and then decide where to permanently store them thereafter. Our hope is that by digitizing the records, we may eventually be able to make these and other similar records available through the Unity website. Also, by digitizing the records an electronic copy will be created so that the records will be preserved indefinitely into the future.

### Pastoral Changes

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell has tendered her resignation of her pastoral position at Caldwell Brethren. Rev. Mitchell concluded her formal ministry to the Caldwell congregation in July and has elected to return to her full-time teaching position in the public school system. Rev. Larry Butcher, Pastor at Rosenberg Community Christian Church (formerly Rosenberg Brethren) has begun a new chapter in

his life with the announcement of his retirement, which was effective in September. Please keep the Caldwell and Rosenberg congregations, Rev. Mitchell, and Rev. Butcher in your prayers as they listen for God's leading for their ministries in the future.

### Mission Giving

As we move closer to the end of the year, our focus on our mission giving has never been more important. While our giving has increased, we still have a ways to go in order to meet our combined mission budget of \$134,000. As we have mentioned in the past, our Unity mission effort is important for a number of reasons. Primarily it is a tangible response to the Great Commission that Jesus gave to all believers before His ascension. It is also one of only a handful of



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**Temple, Texas 76501**  
**(800) 727-7578**  
**[www.spjst.org](http://www.spjst.org)**

projects that we as a denomination do together. We now have missionaries in 6 different parts of the world (one domestic mission team and five international efforts), all of which rely on us to support their ministries. In the past we have offered a number of ways to look at and meet this ambitious goal. One approach is through individual monthly gifts. It has been said that if we could get 150 people in the Unity to give \$75 per month, we could meet our current mission goal. We currently have approximately 22 of those 150 units being given each month either through bank drafts or by check. We continue to encourage individual participation in our mission campaign and ask that everyone prayerfully consider joining this group of individual mission supporters. As a denomination we are making good progress overall in the area of mission giving. Using the giving received so far this year as a benchmark, it is possible that we could reach our Foreign Mission Budget by the end of 2014. Using the same benchmark of giving year to date, it appears that we will fall thousands of dollars short of our Home Mission Budget goal. That said, there is still time and anything is

still possible. Mission giving is greater than previous years, including last year when almost \$100,000 was given to missions. We just need to stay focused on this ministry and maintain faith that God will continue to bless our faith and our efforts and allow us to reach the current mission goal.

In conclusion, we request your prayers for the work of the Unity, the upcoming convention and for all those in service and leadership roles. May God continue to bless the efforts of the Unity for His honor and glory.

Submitted in Service to Christ,  
James Marek, President

#### CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

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**Hus Encampment Rep.:**  
To Be Announced

**Unity Mission Board Rep:**  
Jean Kotrla, (512) 491-7802;  
[kotrla@flash.net](mailto:kotrla@flash.net)

**Synodical Committee Liaison:**  
Rev. Dr. Jerry Lee Terrill, 7 Torch Pine Ct., The Woodlands, TX 77381; [jerryleeterill@gmail.com](mailto:jerryleeterill@gmail.com)

## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

### Daily Morsels for October 2014

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. "You will be My people, and I will be your God." Jer. 30:22
2. "I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts." Declares the Lord. Jer. 31:33
3. God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Ps. 66:19
4. O Sovereign Lord, what god is there in heaven or earth who can do the deeds and mighty works You do? Deut. 3:24
5. **The Sovereign Lord is my strength. Hab. 3:19**
6. The Lord says, "Call on Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jer. 33:3
7. I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in god my Savior. Hab. 3:18
8. I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. Job 19:25
9. Submit to God and be at peace with Him. Job 22:21a
10. In God I trust; I will not be afraid. Ps. 56:4
11. By this I will know that God is for me. Ps. 56:9b
12. **The Sovereign Lord is my strength. Hab. 3:9**
13. As for me, I call to God and the Lord saves me. Ps. 55:16
14. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and God hears my voice. Ps. 55:17
15. Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall. Ps. 55:22
16. This is what the Lord says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me." Jer. 15:19a
17. The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. Nahum 1:7a
18. He cares for those who trust in Him. Nahum 1:7
19. **The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Prov. 18:10**
20. You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You. Ps. 86:2
21. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long. Ps. 86:3
22. Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth. Ps. 86:11
23. I wait for You, O Lord; You will answer, O Lord, my God. Ps. 38:15
24. God alone is my rock and my salvation, He is my fortress; I will never be shaken. Ps. 62:2
25. When we were overwhelmed by sin, You forgave our transgressions. Ps. 65:3
26. **Lord, I know that You can do all things; no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. Job 42:2**
27. Tell us whatever the Lord our God tells you. We will listen and obey. Deut. 5:27
28. The Lord said, "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to obey Me and keep all My commands always, so that it would go well with them and their children forever! Deut. 5:29
29. Lift up your heads, O you gates, that the King of glory may come in. Ps. 24:7
30. Who is this King of glory? The Lord Almighty – He is the King of glory. Ps. 24:10
31. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies – make straight Your way before me. Ps. 5:8

#### Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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979-574-7134

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



## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**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](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org). For more information contact Kimberly Kennard at (254) 931-5657, or email her at kimberlykennard@yahoo.com.

**October 26 & 27 – Revival Services** at the Granger Brethren Church, 300 W. Broadway, Granger, 6:30 p.m. each evening. Rev. Ron Winsman will be preaching. For more information contact Rev. Larry Zabcik at (903) 265-2277 or email him at zabcikville@yahoo.com.

**October 31 – “No Fear Zone”** sponsored by the New Tabor Brethren Church on the Parsonage Lot, 902 Timber Lane, Caldwell. Games, treats, and lots of fun for the entire family! For more information, contact Rev. David Johnson at (979) 567-1838(h), or (979) 220-3822(c).

**November 15 – Annual Fall Bazaar** at the Granger Brethren Church beginning at 9 a.m. For more information contact Rev. Larry Zabcik at (903) 265-2277 or email him at zabcikville@yahoo.com.

**December 13 – Annual Christmas Singing** at the Granger Brethren Church at 6 p.m. For more information contact Rev. Larry Zabcik at (903) 265-2277 or email him at zabcikville@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](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com). Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.*

## You are invited to the 20<sup>TH</sup> PRIMETIMERS' RETREAT OCTOBER 10-12, 2014



*Primetimers' Retreat 2013*

Primetimers is celebrating 20 years of Worship, Praise, Music, Fellowship, Study, Entertainment and Food, and the only thing missing is, YOU!

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](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org). Hope we don't miss YOU!

## 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

## 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](http://www.maximumgenerosity.org).

**Deuteronomy 14:22-23** “Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine, and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of

*the Lord your God at the place He will choose as a dwelling for His Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.”*

**1 Timothy 6:18-19** “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

The world asks, “What does a man own?” Christ asks, “How does he use it?” *Andrew Murray, Pastor and Author, 1828-1917*



## 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**

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[ronwinsman@hotmail.com](mailto:ronwinsman@hotmail.com)

### ***Youth Director***

**Jennifer Chervenka**

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Rogers, TX 76569  
(254) 983-1002

### ***Elder Board President***

**David Sebek**

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Temple, TX 76501

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

### ***Cemetery***

**Sharon Marek**

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Burlington, TX 76519  
(254) 869-2845

### **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.*

## BYF Fall Retreat

### Don't Just Run, Overcome!

#### 1 Corinthians 9:25

The fall youth retreat was held September 13-14 at the Hus School Encampment. Fifty-eight youth and several adults compared earthly rewards to heavenly rewards, and were challenged to strive for Godly success rather than earthly success.

Just as athletes train to better themselves as individuals and as a team, we as Christians must also train. We must spend time in God's Word, learning and seeking His will. We must begin to obey God's Word, setting boundaries to the things we participate in and testing everything. We must let go of things that are sinful (especially in entertainment)

and keep hold of what is good.

We must support and encourage one another in love. We need to be pointing out to our friends when something isn't pleasing to God. We need to be reaching out to our friends when we are struggling. We need to be growing individually and as God's team, striving to not just run through life like everyone else, but to overcome, bringing God all the glory.

The next youth retreat will be January 3-4, 2015. Forms are due December 1. More information will be available at

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



## Riding for the Brand

- by Jim Pokorny

I have worked with my friend Judy for 15 years. Being that her office is just two doors down from mine, I speak with her on a daily basis. I know her husband, Nolan, well and visit with him at various company functions.

They say that "it's a small world," and the friendship I have with Judy offers some indication of that.

Judy's father is a retired Texas State Trooper. So is a personal friend of mine with whom I have coffee almost every weekend. It turned out that my coffee buddy and Judy's father once worked very closely together on the force and also became good friends.

Many times over the years I have played the role of messenger, relaying words of good will between them.

Although I never met Judy's father, I discovered that I had a few things in common with him. Like me, Judy's father taught Sunday School. Like me, he was also a huge fan of the Western genre.

About two years ago his health began to deteriorate and I tried to be

a good friend to Judy during this difficult phase in their lives.

Just over a year ago, her father's earthly journey came to an end. I still exchange messages of good will, but these are now between my coffee buddy and Judy.

Shortly after her father's passing, Judy approached me and asked if I would be willing to accept her father's collection of Louis L'Amour westerns. Being a fan of the genre I said that I would. She then informed me that she would bring them to the office the next day.

At lunch time the following day, Judy told me that she parked her car next to mine so I would not have to carry them so far. Granted, I am not in peak physical condition, but even I felt that a load of paperback novels could hardly qualify as exercise.

I followed Judy to her car, and once there she opened the trunk. There to my surprise were four large boxes. Curiosity got the better of me so I opened one of them.

These were not paperback novels.



## 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.**

**Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor**  
**(254) 718-3898**

These were leather bound hard covers and part of a special commemorative edition her father had been collecting.

I was overwhelmed.

"How many books are there?" I asked.

She told me that her father had managed to collect 53 of them while he was able.

"Judy," I said, "I really appreciate the offer, but I think you should really consider keeping these."

"No," she replied. "We just do not have room for them."

I understood that this was her way of saying, "They would be a constant reminder of my father."

At this I added, "I do not feel right about taking them. You should consider selling them instead. To the right collector..."

She interrupted, "I discussed this with Nolan. We decided that we wanted someone to have them who would appreciate them as much as Dad did."

At this her voice began to falter and she added, "We both agreed that someone should be you."

I must confess that by then even I was beginning to feel a bit emotional.

"In that case," I said, "I accept

your offer and I can promise both you and Nolan that I will appreciate them in the same way."

I then transferred the boxes to my car, and these novels now have a special place in my personal library.

In the year that has gone by I have read 22 of these novels in addition to my other reading.

I generally save these for the end of my day when I have my last cup of coffee. I find this helps me to relax before turning in for the night.

Many times, when I have finished my reading for the evening, I will simply close the book and run my hand over the leather cover and think of Judy's father. Although we never met and our professional lives were completely different, these books are but one common bond we share. In my mind's eye, I can picture him as he closed that same volume and perhaps ran his hand over the same leather cover.

Every time I finish reading one, I make certain to tell Judy the next day and she, in turn, shares the information with Nolan.

I also make certain to thank God for one of His most precious blessings – the blessing of friendship.

## Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53

Temple, TX 76501

Church Phone: 254-985-2694

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

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor –

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

Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair

### Play

Take a variety of objects and see which ones will sink and which will float.

### For the Older Kids

The disciples saw the calm rescuing eyes of Jesus when they were sinking in the storm.

- Jesus made His disciples get into the boat. **Lesson: Obey Jesus!**
- Jesus left them all night. He waited until 3 a.m. – when the disciples were at the extremity of their trial. Jesus does not run to us to prevent the trial. His purpose was to demonstrate to His disciples that He would do whatever was necessary to rescue them. He wants to do the same for us as well. **Lesson: Trust Jesus!**
- Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. Jesus' pathway was the very object that was testing their faith. They were never out of His sight. They might have forgotten all His promises, but Jesus did not forget. There is never a valid reason to fear, nor to be anxious. We are to trust in the One who will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). So through the storm, on the pathway, and in whatever it is that is giving you a hard time, know that He is coming to your aid. **Lesson: Keep looking for Jesus!**
- Jesus brought calm. When we are obedient to the Lord, we are in the safest place in the universe. No matter how frightening the circumstances may be around us, Jesus is there; He will calm the seas of trouble in His time. Peter sank because he did not understand that the lesson was to love the Lord Jesus enough to trust Him. We should not think badly of Peter for sinking; we should love Jesus as he did, and do whatever He says. **Lesson: Love Jesus!**

When you invite Jesus into the boat of your stormy life, your life will become calm. (Anything that is "out of control" has not been fully surrendered to God.) Even though you may be tossed all about, if the Lord is in your boat, all is well!

**Taken from "Look Into Christ's Eyes" by Discover the Book Ministries.**

# Here Comes Jesus

## 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/>



Although some would disagree with me, I have discovered that even works of fiction have lessons to teach if you are observant enough.

In the case of the Western genre, one of the themes that recur time and again is the concept of "riding for the brand."

In the "Old West" each outfit branded its livestock in order to publicly display its ownership of that stock.

When a hand signed on with an outfit, he was expected to "ride for the brand."

It meant that he was not just on their payroll. It meant he was going to be a team player. It meant that he was going to do whatever the outfit asked of him. "Riding for the brand" inspired loyalty, camaraderie, and leadership. It meant that the hand had signed on for a mission, and that he was now dedicated to it.

You and I are "riding for the brand", in a manner of speaking. That brand is the cross. It means that we have dedicated our lives to Jesus and have promised Him our loyalty. And, if I may take the Western analogy one step farther, there are many unbranded

strays out there that still need rounding up.

When we examine our friendships, it is very easy to conclude that "it's a small world" due to the things we have in common. But it goes much deeper than that.

C. S. Lewis put it this way: "In friendship...we think we have chosen our peers. In reality a few years' difference in the dates of our births, a few more miles between certain houses, the choice of one university instead of another...the accident of a topic being raised or not raised at a first meeting – any of these chances might have kept us apart. But, for a Christian there are, strictly speaking, no chances. A secret master of ceremonies has been at work. Christ, who said to the disciples, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you," can truly say to every group of Christian friends, "Ye have not chosen one another, but I have chosen you for one another." The friendship is not a reward for our discriminating and good taste in finding one another out. It is the instrument by which God reveals to each of us the beauties of others.



## BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

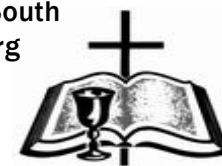
[www.unityofthebrethren.org](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org)

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)

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

- by Liz Ripple

Planning has begun for the 66th Biennial Convention, which is only 9 months away. The convention will be held July 9-11, 2015, at the Nelsonville Brethren and Wesley Brethren Churches. At this convention, we will be observing the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jan Hus (c. 1369-July 6, 1415). Last month we learned how some changes made to the by-laws in 2013 will affect the official membership of future conventions. This month we will look at some other changes that were made. Let's take a look at what the by-laws say about conventions (Article IV).

What constitutes a quorum at the convention? Since 1957 (and quite possibly several years before) the by-laws stated that "a simple majority of the delegates shall constitute a quorum..." In 2013, this was changed to include "members of the Convention" and now reads, "A simple majority of the members of the Convention shall constitute a quorum, i.e., a body empowered with deliberation and decision."

The mileage expenses and meals of

the members of the convention are paid out of the Unity's Convention Expense Fund. This fund is funded with payments made by the congregations according to their representation of delegates to every convention. In 2013, a change was made to the by-laws that allows for lodging expenses for members of the Executive Committee to be paid by the Convention Expense Fund. Lodging for other members will not be paid.

Traveling expenses in 2011 were paid on the basis of ten (10) cents per mile to the nearest ten cents. The change made in 2013 will now allow a default rate of twenty-five (25) cents per mile (round trip) be paid if the Synodical Committee fails to set a mileage rate at the Fall meeting preceding the Convention.

I have enjoyed sharing with you looking at what the by-laws say. Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, pastor of Houston Brethren and currently serving as the Third Vice-President on the Executive Committee, will also be contributing to this column. One of the duties of the third vice-president is to keep

### 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

*You do great and  
wonderful things,  
Lord God Almighty...*

*Revelation 15:3*

## Sunday School Helper



We continue with our lessons using Sunday School songs to teach bigger concepts. This week we are digging into the story of Jesus walking on the water. There are so many Biblical lessons in this one story... the Power of Jesus, the power of faith, the importance of listening to Jesus...

Be sure to check out the Blog page. It contains many additional links of resources, including a Pinterest page of crafts and activities for this story!



### Lord we pray:

For baby Salem, as she has a crick in her neck that is causing her to cock her head.

For our kids as they start Chinese school again on September 1.

For new churches to be started in area villages as the gospel goes out.

For our homeschool teacher, Mary C., coming from North Carolina in September.

For 3 villages, relatives of Mary, to believe and throw out their idols.

For the Lord to soften Stephen, a local believer's, heart and humble him.

For Jeremiah, one of Ian and Samuel's best friends. He fell out of a

4th floor window and is in the hospital with broken bones and injuries.

For health for our family and the area. There has been an outbreak of Dengue fever here.

For us to get 2 discipleship books we have worked on edited and our Bible stories done. For the locals to share these stories with all they know.

For Michael's left shoulder. He dislocated it last week. It is an old wound, but hasn't happened for over 14 years.

Blessings and much love,  
Michael & Caroline  
Samuel, Ian, Zach, Isaac, Salem

**KUBENA Funeral Home**  
507 South Main St.  
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Pre-Arranged Funerals  
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## 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](http://www.lifeatcbc.org)  
Church email: [lifeatcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lifeatcbc@gmail.com)

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

Welcome

abreast of possible Constitution and By-Laws changes. In the upcoming months, Dr. Terrill will share with you his thoughts on some items in the by-laws.

### State Youth Leadership Team 2012-2013

#### Youth Members:

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#### State Youth Coordinator:

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**Unity Youth Coordinator:** Jennifer  
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**Facilities Manager(s):** Jim and Dawn  
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**Oversight of Synodical Committee:** Rev.  
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9865; [jerryleeterrill@gmail.com](mailto:jerryleeterrill@gmail.com)

## 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

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

### From the Woo's...

August 2014

Dear Friends and partners,

We feel so privileged and blessed to be here. Lately it has been very exciting to see how the Lord is moving. He is really working on Mary's heart. She is quite the character. She will often just show up at our home because her house is "too hot." She'll ask us to help her scrape her neck (which is a weird cultural thing we won't do for her), then she will lie on our sofa and take a nap.

She and her husband have been trying to go out and share more. Out of the entire church group she is, in many ways, the least. She has never had a job. She can't read. She probably only has a middle school education. She often falls asleep during Bible studies. A few weeks ago May shared with her the story of Noah. Mary had never heard it before. Can you believe that she has known Jesus

for more than 7 years and yet has never heard stories of Noah or Abraham before? But in many ways she is more obedient than many of us who have heard these stories a thousand times. Even though she doesn't know much, she is obediently going to her relatives and praying for their sickness to leave in the Name of Jesus. She is also sharing her testimony and the Good News of Jesus with them. She is trying, and that's all Jesus wants.

We praise the Lord that this small group of about 5 strong women, 2 nominal husbands, and 1 proud man are trying to do the work of God. They come together on Sundays. They share with their friends. A handful fast and pray during all night prayer times. They pray for the sick. They are doing what they should be doing, the Lord just hasn't fallen in power yet. Please pray with us that the Lord will come upon this area with His power and love and bring many into a saving relationship with Him



## 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

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

#### 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