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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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No. 2

32 Pages



*Pictured during the blessing of the lap quilts (left to right):
Janet Kennedy, Sandra Stepan, Liz Ripple, Ginger Marshall, Pastor Kay,
Betty Yoakum, Martha Dove (see story inside this issue.)*

Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

— from the editor

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

From the President . . . *Great Things He Hath Done (and
Continues to Do) in Mission Support*
The Beginning of Unity . . . by Jim Pokorny
Mutual Aid Society Scholarship Announcement
Wall Brethren Christian Sisters Celebrate 75 Years
Don't Forget to Renew Your Subscription!!

. . . and much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

EDITOR –

Cathleen Schlechte
3635 CR 225
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 255-8266
editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS MANAGER –

Ben Polasek
705 Woodson Dr.
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 220-9270
manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

BUSINESS COMMITTEE –

President: Rev. Mike Groseclose
Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger
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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS –

Daily Morsels: Dorothy Kocian,
107 S. Barbara, Waco, TX 76705-1317.
Sunday School Helper: Angie Hairrell,
11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879.
Hairrell@gmail.com
Jim Pokorny, jwppsa@yahoo.com;
blog: otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com

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Visit the
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Website:
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Fayetteville Brethren Lap Quilt project

Several members from Fayetteville Brethren, two from Industry Brethren, along with some friends and Pastor Kay, gathered in the fellowship hall to sew four lap quilts. Ann Heintschel was in charge of the project, which included cutting, sewing, and pressing pieces of material to make the quilt tops. A flannel backing was added and tacked with yarn.

The group met on November 5, 12, & 19 from 9 a.m. to 12, which began with a devotional led by Ann Heintschel. The quilts were blessed during the worship service on December 7. Those receiving the quilts were very pleased with them and appreciated all the effort that went into this project. The project was a blessing for all involved.

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rev.tjt@gmail.com (h), rev.tjt@zipnet.us (ch)
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Dorothy Kocian: dekocian@yahoo.com;
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rschlechte@hotmail.com
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mrlindaj47@yahoo.com
Rosenberg – Alice Kocurek;
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Wall – Dewyan Weise; hdweise@zipnet.us
Wesley – Kristina Janes; klojanes@yahoo.com
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President's Column . . . James Marek

Great Things He Hath Done (and Continues to Do) in Mission Support

March is typically the month in which we finalize our mission giving numbers. It is usually March before the 4th quarter giving from all the congregations is received and the final giving numbers are available. At the writing of this article the final numbers have not yet been tallied; however, several things are already known about our mission support. First and foremost, we know God has done (and continues to do) great things through people inside and outside of the Unity to further his kingdom via missions. We also know that when the final mission numbers are tallied, the Foreign Missions budget will be fully met and the giving will exceed the current budget by at least 25%. We know that the Home Missions will have received more than 80% of its 2014 budget with over \$55,000 being collected.

This is all great news and a clear indication that God is at work in Unity mission fields. What once seemed impossible now seems but a milestone. Over the last several months, we have seen more interest in missions. There have been some questions and also some concerns. More regular mission donors have been added in 2014, although we are still well short of our goal of 150 monthly gifts of \$75. Some have asked if the funds given to Foreign Missions in excess of their budget will either go back into contingency funds or possibly be redirected to Home Missions since that budget is likely to end 2014 in a deficit. The answer is that all of the funds given to Foreign Missions will remain with Foreign Missions and not redirected elsewhere. We want to always honor the wishes of



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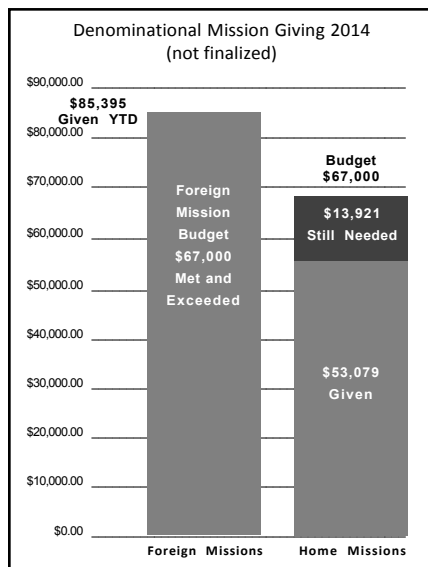
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Westheimercommunitychurch.org



the individual donor so the funds will continue to be applied in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

Some have expressed concern that the Home Missions budget is not being met while Foreign Missions has funds in excess of their budget. Although this is an understandable concern, progress is being made each year, and we are now closer than ever to meeting the Home Missions budget. If I have learned anything, it is that throughout the history of the Unity God has led Brethren to respond when a need is brought their attention. I believe we are in the process of seeing such a response. It is important to remember that all mission giving has increased each of the last 2 years. It is also worth noting that the Unity has been supporting foreign missions for many years while home missions is a relatively new mission effort. I am convinced that as time goes on and more people learn about how God is at work in Cade Lake, Texas, just as he is in China, the Czech Republic, Africa, Mexico, and Central America, the funding will come.

It is not too late. If you have been thinking about becoming a regular mission supporter, we urge you to join God and the Unity in the great things that are happening in the mission programs.



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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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.

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

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.

Proverbs 11:25

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be
refreshed.*

Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus said “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We are not cisterns made for hoarding, we are channels made for giving.

– Billy Graham, Evangelist

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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Worship 10:15 AM

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Mutual Aid Society Scholarship Announcement

The Mutual Aid Society will award up to \$4,000 in the Spring of 2015. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the number of qualified applications received.

Candidates must be high school seniors or undergraduate students who will be attending an accredited university, college, or technical school during the Summer or Fall of 2015. Past recipients may apply again; however, preferential consideration will be given to first-time applicants.

Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at:
<http://unityofthebrethren.org/mutual-aid-society/>.

Application and essay must be postmarked by March 31, 2015, and mailed to: Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President, Mutual Aid Society, P.O. Box 54, Snook, TX 77878.

In addition, an electronic copy of the essay must be emailed by March 31, 2015, to Rev. Joseph Polasek at josephjpolasek@yahoo.com.

Recipients will be announced after May 1, 2015.

If you would like to donate to the Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund, please send checks payable to 'Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund' to Ruth Ann Wuensche, Mutual Aid Society Treasurer, 2451 CR 405, Taylor, TX 76574.

VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS RECEIVED

By Affirmation of Faith

PERSIS ANN (GRISWOLD) JOHNSON was welcomed into membership at New Tabor Brethren Church on Sunday, January 25, 2015. Minister: Rev. David Johnson.

RECENT BAPTISMS

HICKMAN JR., DOUGLAS WILLIAM, son of Douglas and Lindsay Hickman, was baptized on January 11, 2015, at Taylor Brethren Church. Sponsors: Bill & Carolyn Hickman and Norman & Paige Hearn. Minister: Rev. James D. Hejl.

RECENT DEATHS

O'BRIEN, MILDRED "MILLIE" (MACHU), age 75 and lifelong, faithful member of the Taylor Brethren Church, died Monday, January 5, 2015. Services were held Thursday, January 8, 2015, at the church. Burial was at Taylor City Cemetery. Survivors include her loving and devoted husband, OB; her daughters Shelley Pyle & husband Barry and Kelley Gilbert and husband Shawn; four grandsons, Colton Lloyd Pyle, Peyton Joe Pyle, Griffin Michael Gilbert, and Grant O'Brien Gilbert; sisters, Melba Roepke and husband Gene, Lorene Machu, Johnnie Machu and wife Aileene, and Howard Machu and wife Bonnie; and numerous nieces and nephews. Minister: Rev. James D. Hejl.

TAYLOR, CHARLES CURTISS Sr., Age 83, of Waco, Texas, died January 25, 2015, in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born on May 6, 1931, in Thornton, Texas. Services were held on January 31, 2015, at Waco Memorial Park Mausoleum Chapel; burial was at Waco Memorial Park, Robinson, Texas. Survivors include his two sons, Richard Taylor and Charles C. Taylor, Jr.; and two daughters, Julie Anders and Carol Brown; 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Minister: Rev. Lawrence Juneke.



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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.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for March 2015

Dorothy E. Kocian

1. **Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!**
Jn. 1:29
2. O God, you are my God, I seek You, my soul thirsts for You. Ps. 63:1
3. There is one God; and there is no other but He. Mark 12:32
4. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and counsel one another with all wisdom. Col. 3:16
5. The Lord your God is with you, and He is mighty to save. Zeph. 3:17a
6. The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made. Ps. 145:13
7. Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord. Ps. 144:15
8. **He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love; He will rejoice in you. Zeph. 3:17b**
9. My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my strength is lifted high.
1 Sam. 2:1
10. Discipline your child, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul. Prov. 29:17
11. "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening." 1 Sam. 3:10
12. Once more the humble will rejoice in the Lord, the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. Isa. 29:19
13. Yet a time is coming and has now come when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Jn. 4:23
14. Since You are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of Your name lead and guide me. Ps. 31:3
15. **When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth."**
Jn. 16:13
16. Do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given to you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.
Mk. 13:11
17. The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. Acts 10:45
18. When he (Barnabas) arrived and saw evidence of the Grace of God, he encouraged them to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.
Acts 11:23
19. The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom. 14:17
20. It is not to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. Acts 1:7
21. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8
22. **"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you."**
Jn. 20:21
23. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him. Ps. 67:7
24. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the people justly and guide the nations of the earth.
Ps. 67:4
25. See, your king comes to you, gentle, and riding on a donkey. Matt. 21:5
26. The Lord their God will save them on that day as the flock of His people.
Zech. 9:16
27. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Ps. 150:6
28. The Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation.
Ps. 149:4
29. **"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9**
30. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. 1 Cor. 15:3
31. The Lord is faithful to all His promises, and loving toward all He has made. Ps. 145:13.

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

Youth Minister: Position open

The Beginning of Unity

- by Jim Pokorny

In my last article, I wrote about Peter Chelcicky. In it I referred to him as the "second voice" after Jan Hus. In this offering, I turn my attention to the third man. Like Hus and Chelcicky, he also willingly followed the path upon which God placed him.

When this man came into this world, he was given the name Gregory (Rehor). He would eventually come to be known as Gregory the Patriarch, the founder of the Unitas Fratrum, or the Unity of the Brethren. Historically speaking, the story of Gregory and the Unity that emerged with him is a true gem; a rare thing of extreme beauty and great value.

To relate his story properly, one must turn the calendar back to 1448. In that year a Hussite noble named George Podebrady ascended the throne. Podebrady allowed Rokycanna, the Utraquist "archbishop", to preach from the pulpit of Tyn Church in the Old Town portion of Prague. Rokycanna was convinced that the legacy of Hus was being lost to threats from both within and outside the movement.

By the mid-1450s, his sermons emphasized the examples set by the martyrs including Jan Hus. What Chelcicky did as an author, Rokycanna did with his voice by preaching fiery sermons that began to attract large numbers at Tyn Church. Unlike Chelcicky, Rokycanna did not go on the attack against the structure of medieval society.

Fiery sermons were one thing. Action, however, was another.

Among those who came to hear Rokycanna were young men who adhered to the teaching of Chelcicky. They were convinced that it was their duty to quit the Church of Rome. They listened to and transcribed Rokycanna's sermons. They studied them afterward and debated them among themselves. After a time, they were convinced that in Rokycanna they found a man to lead them in their cause.

To put it kindly, Rokycanna refused to put the words he spoke from the pulpit into action and he declined to lead them. These young men dis-



Fayetteville Brethren Church

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



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Prairie Church Road;
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Fayetteville, TX 78940

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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

covered that their hope had been misplaced. They had to look elsewhere for leadership.

Fortunately, they found a leader.

Rokycanna had a nephew named Gregory. Gregory was a personal friend of Chelcicky and was particularly fond of his essay *The Image of the Beast*.

Gregory spent his youth as a monk. Once there, he quickly discovered that the cloister was not as moral as he expected it to be. So, he left it in disgust. Gregory was already a middle-aged man by the time Rokycanna began to preach at Tyn Church. According to J. E. Hutton, Gregory had the reputation of being “a man of sterling character, pious and sensible, humble and strict, active and spirited, a good writer and a good speaker.”

Those that drifted away from Rokycanna found themselves naturally attracted to the light of Gregory, and they turned to him for leadership. This time they would not be disappointed.

Gregory heard of the village of Kunwald on the north-east border of Bohemia that lay in the shadow of Lititz castle. This village was practically deserted, and the few inhabitants that remained were of a similar

heart and mindset as Gregory and those who gravitated to him. Gregory formulated a plan around Kunwald and laid it before his uncle. Rokycanna brought the matter to the king who owned the estate.

The king gave his consent and Gregory and his band made their way to Kunwald, and there they formed their settlement in 1458. As the news of this settlement spread, others came from near and far to make Kunwald their new home.

Some came from the Tyn Church. Others came across the Glatz Hills in Moravia. Some came from Wilenow, Divischau, and Chelcic (Chelcicky's birthplace). They came from backgrounds including the Utraquists, the Adamites (fully clothed and of sound mind) and the Waldensians.

These settlers were not driven from the Church of Rome. Rather, they sought to leave it of their own free will.

The name initially chosen for their unity (*jednota*) was “The Brethren of the Law of Christ.” Their first priests were ordained in the Utraquist or Catholic churches. These priests taught, preached and administered the sacraments. The lay elders as-

Unity of the Brethren 2015 Summer Camping Program Information Form

Encounter Camp (ages 7&8)

June 11-13 (Thurs 2 p.m. to Sat 3 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15 – \$200; By 5/1 – \$250; By 5/15 – \$275

Directors: Peggy Hejl, Vernell Labaj

Pioneer Conference (ages 11&12)

June 21-26 (Sun 3 p.m. to Fri 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15 – \$300; By 5/1 – \$350; By 5/15 – \$375

Directors: Don & Laurie Bagby, Tim & Kellie Chaplin,
Jon & Gayle Farrow, Brad Wilde



Alpha Camp (ages 9&10)

June 14-18 (Sun 3 p.m. to Thurs 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15 – \$300; By 5/1 – \$350; By 5/15 – \$375

Directors: John Paul & Jennifer Chervenka, Taylor Brinkley

Discovery Conference (ages 13-15)

June 28-July 3 (Sun 3 p.m. to Fri 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15 – \$300; By 5/1 – \$350; By 5/15 – \$375

Directors: Amy Snelgrove, Mark Olsen, Rebecca Gibbs, Steve Gleinser

Challenger Conference (ages 16-High School Senior)

July 12-17 (Sun 3 p.m. to Fri 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15 – \$300; By 5/1 – \$350; By 5/15 – \$375

Director: Jennifer Chervenka

Questions or Comments? Contact Kayla Marek, Camp Programmer
(512) 944-2619 or kmarek2012@gmail.com

EVERY CAMP needs counselors.

Camp cannot happen without the support of wonderful volunteers, so if you are interested in serving as a counselor, please contact Kayla Marek as soon as possible (email above) and submit your application by March 30.

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



Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

March 7 – State Children’s Rally at the Hus Encampment. Registration is closed. No late registrations as crafts and shirts must be ordered prior to Rally day. Check in at 8:30-9 a.m. Dismissal at 3:30 p.m. Full day of Bible lessons, crafts, music, and more!

March 28 – Spring Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment, 9 a.m.; refreshments served at 8 a.m. A light lunch will be served at noon. The 2014 Unity Questionnaire has been sent out. The deadline to return the complete form is March 1, 2015. Please send back your completed form as soon as possible to Liz Ripple. A copy of the form is posted on the Unity website (see calendar – forms). If you have any questions, contact James Marek, email: james@cnbt.com, or (512) 352-6165; or Liz Ripple, email: lizripple@hotmail.com, or (979) 378-2239.

April 18 – Camp Planning at the Hus Encampment. For information, contact Kayla Marek at kmarek2012@gmail.com or (512) 944-2619.

SAVE THE DATE...

May 1-3, 2015 – State Youth Fishing Retreat in Port O’Connor, Texas.

July 17-19 – Summer Retreat, Convention, & Volleyball at the Hus Encampment

****Date Change** July 10-12, 2015 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) – 66th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren** at the Nelsonville and Wesley Brethren Churches. Plans are also being made to memorialize the 600th anniversary (1415-2015) of the martyrdom of Jan Hus. The main speaker will be Rev. Dr. David Schattschneider, former dean of Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He is one of the pre-eminent scholars of Moravian history, particularly in the areas of Moravian missions and Jan Hus. More information on the convention will be announced soon.

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.

sisted by focusing on discipline and oversight. It is interesting to note that they associated the word “church” with the state church. This view, over the course of time, would change when the word “church” would come to be associated with the entire body of believers with Christ as its head.

As their community grew, it became clear to them that they would not be able to continue to rely on Utraquist priests sympathetic to their cause as persecution was an ever-present reality. One of their earliest friends was Friedrich Reiser. Reiser, along with his disciple, Stephen, instructed Gregory and the early Brethren in both Waldensian and Taborite doctrine. This continued until Reiser was burned at the stake in 1458.

When the same punishment was inflicted upon Jakub Chvala, a member of the community, it became plainly evident that they could no longer depend on receiving sacraments from either Utraquist or Catholic priests.

The time appeared right for these early Brethren to consider forming a new priesthood. If they were to do so, they wanted this priesthood to be both legitimate and connected to the historical Christian Church.

At first they considered securing a bishop from one of the Eastern Orthodox churches. Gregory was not encouraged by their ceremonialism or the behavior of those living in Prague at the time. Other options were considered and they, too, were rejected. This left them one viable option. Perhaps it was time they looked within their own ranks for priests to lead them.

1467 is the most reliable date as to the founding of the Unity of the Brethren because it was in that year that they decided to break decisively with the Utraquist Church and establish their own priesthood.

The Brethren proceeded with caution in the selection of its first priests in that they wanted to assure themselves that this was indeed God’s will for them. They turned to scripture for guidance, and they found it in the book of Acts where the selection of the Apostle Matthias was described.

With Gregory to guide them, they asked God if the time had come for them to completely abandon the Roman assembly and establish a new one according to the ordinances of the first church. Gregory reported



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

that they trusted in the promise of Matthew 18 that “where two or three are gathered” in the name of Christ, He will be there also.

They chose to pray and fast for a time. At the conclusion of this period, they would reassemble and draw a lot to determine God’s will in the matter.

The historic synod convened on Maundy Thursday, March 26, 1467. About 60 men attended. There, they elected 20 elders whose purpose would be to advise, teach, and lead the people. Next, they selected nine candidates of impeccable character for the priesthood. Gregory was not among the nine as he was already considered “the patriarch” by this time.

Twelve slips of paper were prepared. Nine of these would be left blank. On three slips the word *Jest* (Czech for ‘Is’) was written. The slips were then placed in a vase. A boy named Procop then entered the room. He drew a slip for each of the nine candidates leaving three in the vase.

The fate of the new Unity hung in the balance. Had God selected three men to be the first priests in this new church? Or, had God answered, “No” by having the three marked slips remain in the vase.

The tension of the moment must have been overwhelming.

The answer was ‘Yes’.

The lot fell on Matthew (Matej), a farmer’s son of Kunwald, Elias, a miller of Chrenovice in Moravia, and Thomas (Tuma), a tailor who knew Latin.

Though Matthew was only in his twenties, he was chosen as head (or senior) priest. This was confirmed by the lot.

The question remained as to who would lay hands on these men and ordain them. The Unity had chosen laypersons and God confirmed the choice. Many were satisfied with this arrangement. Others were not.

A compromise was reached. Michael was a Catholic priest before joining the Unity. He consecrated Matthew as “senior” as the Unity connected the term “bishop” with the Catholic Church. To make things more complete, an unnamed Waldensian priest also laid hands on Matthew as an additional consecration. To complete the circle, Matthew then ordained Michael as a priest in the Unity after he, too, was confirmed by the lot.

The hymn sung at that first ordination is still sung in Moravian services

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878

Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM

Bible Buddies – 2nd Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 PM

Pastor

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

Board of Elders President

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

DO: Baby Moses Jello craft

Instructions are for 12 projects.

- 2 packages blue Jello
- 12 paper plates
- 12 clear plastic cups
- 1 package refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 12 Teddy Grahams
- 1 Fruit by the foot
- 36 pretzel sticks
- 36 spearmint leaf gumdrops
- 12 toothpicks
- 1 tube black decorating icing
- 12 knives or popsicle sticks

Do ahead:

1. Prepare Jello according to directions, pour about 1/3 cup into each plastic cup.
2. Prepare cookie dough baskets. Roll dough thin and cut into 12 2.5-inch circles. Place each circle in a greased mini-muffin tin, press into cup. Bake at 350 for 5 minutes. Remove from oven and use a spoon to press the puffed-up cookie dough down into a well in the center. Return to the oven for 5-7 more minutes, until brown. Remove from oven and press with spoon again if needed. Cool before removing from pan.

For class:

Give each child a plate with a cup of Jello, a cookie basket, a Teddy graham, a 1-2 inch strip of fruit rollup, a toothpick, 3 gumdrops, 3 pretzels and a blunt knife. Squeeze a dollop of icing onto each plate, and have the kids coat the outside bottom and sides of their basket with “pitch,” spreading on icing with the knife. They can wrap their “Baby Moses” Teddy graham in the fruit-roll-up “blanket” and put him in the basket. Place the basket on the blue Jello water of the Nile. (Kids like “jiggling” it at this step to watch baby Moses “float.”) For weeds, have them make a small hole in the gumdrop with their toothpick, then insert a pretzel. Stick the “weeds” in the water around Baby Moses’ basket.

Finished craft looks like this:



Super Siblings: Moses and Miriam

BACKGROUND: Pharaoh made a law that all baby boys must be thrown into the Nile River. Moses was born during this time. His mother was able to hide him for three months, but it became impossible to keep him safe.

READ AND TELL: Exodus 2:1-10. At this time there was an Israelite couple who were expecting to have a baby. When they had a baby boy they decided to hide him because they wouldn't let anyone kill this beautiful, precious baby of theirs. They hid Moses for three months, but as he got older he didn't sleep as much and he cried louder than before. So his parents did the only thing they could do, they made a strong basket and put blankets around the baby and placed the basket in some tall grass in the Nile river. Baby Moses had a sister named Miriam, and she watched from a distance to see what would happen to her baby brother. While she was watching she saw somebody coming, she realized it was Pharaoh's daughter and her servants. Pharaoh's daughter had come for a swim. While she was swimming she noticed a basket floating a little ways away in the tall grass. So she asked one of her servants to go see what it was. The girl brought the basket over to her, and when Pharaoh's daughter opened it, the light startled Moses so he woke up and started to cry. "What a sweet, beautiful little baby. It must be one of the Israelite's," Pharaoh's daughter said to her servants. Miriam had seen what had happened, and she hurried over and asked, "Would you like me to go find an Israelite woman to feed the baby for you?" "Yes, go and find someone who can nurse the baby." She answered. Miriam ran as fast as she could and told her mother that Pharaoh's daughter had found him and wanted someone to come nurse him. They went and found Moses with Pharaoh's daughter, and she asked them, "Please help me and nurse this baby, and I will pay you for helping me." Later he became the son to Pharaoh's daughter, and that's when she named him Moses, which means she got him out of the water.

For
comments/questions/
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



and thanks God for raising up leaders for the community in times of need.

According to J. E. Hutton: "The goal was reached; the Church was founded; the work of Gregory was done. For 20 years he had taught his Brethren to study the mind of Christ in the Scriptures and to seek the guidance of God in united prayer, and now he saw them joined as one to face the rising storm."

Gregory lived a full life and died on September 13, 1473. For as long as he remained in their midst, the Brethren had in him a true leader. He did not have within him a trace of personal ambition. It is certainly possible that he could have become a "bishop" had he so desired. Instead, he remained a laymen to the end.

(Author's Note: The study of history is unique in that it is one based on authority. Without the benefit of actually having been present as the

events occurred, one has to accept what was written, more or less, as fact. When it comes to early church history, the surviving documents were written sometimes decades after the fact. Thus, the details of the actual proceedings have to be pieced together from multiple sources and the result can be somewhat controversial at times. One must bear in mind that the early Unity did not document the events as they occurred because what they were doing in the eyes of the established church was illegal and punishable by death. That said, a fairly accurate picture can be painted based on the sources available. I wish to extend my gratitude to Craig D. Atwood for both his work and his careful attention to detail. I am also grateful to the late J. E. Hutton, whose ability to present history as a narrative helped bring our story to life in my mind. – J. P.)

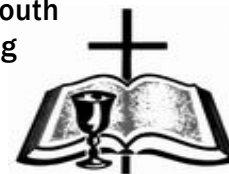
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www.unityofthebrethren.org

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

Wall Brethren Christian Sisters Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Wall Brethren Christian Sisters celebrated 75 years of ministry with recognition through a Power-point presentation and altar flowers in their honor during worship on November 9 and an anniversary cake at their Christmas dinner in December.

The Wall Christian Sisters officially organized on November 8, 1939, with 25 charter members: Agnes Simcik (President), Annie Lichnovsky (Vice-President), Clara Hunka (Secretary), Lillian Stasney (Financial Secretary), Ida Chlapek (Treasurer), Frances Batla, Lillie Batla, Minnie Chasak, Mary Chasak, Evelyn Drgac, Hermina Dusek, Anna Hejl, Mary Kohutek, Theresa Kohutek, Lillian Kotrla, Emily Krupala, Mary Krupala, Frances Laza, Vera Machann, Albina Martinec, Emily Michalik, Livie Motl, Anita Sefcik, Anna Shiller, and Anna Tomcik. Dues at that time were ten cents per month. The first fund-raiser was a raffle on a quilt in the spring of 1940. The income from the raffle was \$20.45.

Current president of the group, Sharon Hohmann, is the daughter of Ida Chlapek, the first treasurer of the

organization. Kay Krupala, who serves as treasurer, is the daughter-in-law of Emily Krupala, one of the charter members. Other current members of the Christian Sisters are related to charter members.

The Wall Christian Sisters sponsor an annual kolache bake at which over 1000 dozen kolaches are baked on a pre-order basis. This three-day event draws support and help from men, women, and young people in the church and community. Ten percent of the gross proceeds from the bake are donated to a need outside the local church.

The kolache bake proceeds and those from the Country Store at the church's annual Harvest Festival provide the funds necessary to support the projects of the Sisters. The group gives poinsettias each December to senior adults in the church and community as well as to family and friends who may have health concerns or other needs. This is an opportunity to let those outside the local congregation know someone cares about them.

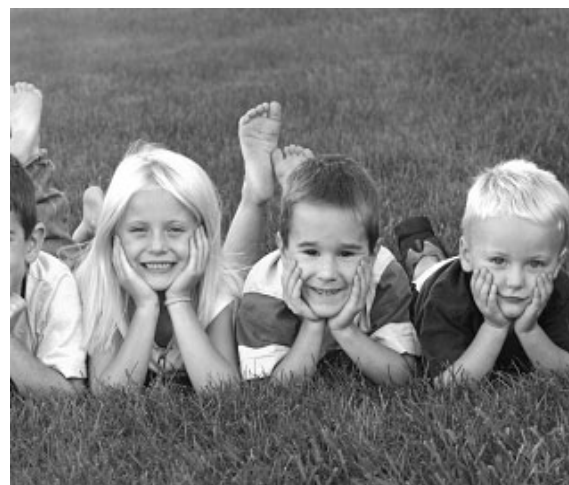
The Christian Sisters are contacted



Ida Chlapek Sharon Hohmann & Kay Krupala Emily Krupala

*Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.
Matthew 19.14*

Sunday School Helper



This month we continue to explore Children of the Bible. This month we learn about two children in one very famous Bible story – Baby Moses and his sister, Miriam. God's plan for the rescue of the Jewish people was started with a tiny baby and his sister. God is constantly at work, and He uses people of all types and ages to carry out His work!

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 200-0513
Diane Heckman, Manager

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



whenever there is a need for food at a church function. They host meals for bereaved families, assist with the appreciation meal each year for the Wall ISD teachers and staff, help with refreshments during Vacation Bible School and following the Sunday School Christmas program, and provide punch for the Community Thanksgiving Service.

The Sisters share the cost of church camp fees and flowers for funerals with the church and the Sunday School.

Through the Christian Sisters Union, the Wall Christian Sisters sup-

port the American Bible Society, *The Brethren Journal*, the Hus Encampment, and home and foreign missions.

The Wall Christian Sisters are blessed to continue the work begun 75 years ago *to deepen the spiritual lives of the women of the church, to promote the welfare of the church, to increase the knowledge and/or participation in Christian missions, to assist in the maintenance and improvement of the Hus Encampment, and to take responsibility for the alleviation of suffering wherever it may arise.* (From Handbook for Christian Sisters)

Temple Brethren Church

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

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

Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor
(254) 718-3898

Happy 99th Birthday Silvia Vavra!



Sylvia Vavra was feted with a catered luncheon at the Houston Brethren Church after church services on December 14, 2014. An active church member for decades, she was born near Wesley on December 13, 1915. Relatives, friends, and neighbors gathered to make it a very special occasion for her.



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jerryteeterrill@comcast.net

State Youth Leadership Team 2012-2013

Youth Members:

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kassie.benner@gmail.com
Erin Brinkley - Board of Trustees Rep., 119 CR 3000, Lott, TX 76656.
erinbrinkley@yahoo.com
Taylor Brinkley - Registration Manager, 406 Elmwood Street, Gainesville, TX 76240. taylordbrinkley@yahoo.com
Ian Zamorsky, P.O. Box 556, Taylor, TX 78634. ianzamorsky@yahoo.com
Jaycee Johnson,
jbpeacelovehope@hotmail.com
Kami Hooker,
longhornall97@sbcglobal.net

Board of Foreign Missions Rep.:

Deanna Hairrell, d.abcd108@gmail.com
Jordan Eilers,
dancerbaby2015@gmail.com

Advisors:

Kari Raesz, 4900 CR 101, Taylor, TX 76574. kari.raesz@dps.texas.gov
Tammie Riethmayer, 1401 Giolmore Street, Taylor, TX 76574.
riethmayer@aol.com
John Eilers, john.a.eilers@hotmail.com
Stanley Zamorsky, P.O. Box 556, Taylor, TX 78634.
stanleyzamorsky@yahoo.com

Pastoral Advisor:

Bro. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437, Rogers, TX 76569. papasabek@gmx.com

State Youth Coordinator:

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

Unity Archivist

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

the last several months we have gone through the process of accepting an appointment as the Facilitator of Yunnan and Beyond.

What does this mean?

First of all, the role is still working with Unreached People Groups (UPG). I will be supervising or facilitating several UPG groups in our province. Currently our organization has 5 teams in Yunnan: the Bai, the Shan Dai, the TaiLu, Hmong, and Kunming city minorities. I will be working with the team leaders of these groups helping them to cast vision and keep them accountable to that vision. We also hope to launch new teams as God brings forth the right people with vision for the task to reach the unreached.

It also means my family will be moving back to the capital city of Kunming. This is where we started over 11 years ago when we began our Chinese language study. Other responsibilities will possibly include

orienting new workers, helping short-term teams, and participating in leadership with our sector. This is a huge change for us, but it will not take place until next year, January 2016.

For the next 5 months we still have many goals to accomplish in this city and hope to finish well. Then in July of this year we will be coming home for a state-side visit, living mostly in Winston-Salem, and returning to China in January 2016.

We have shared about many successes stories over the last few months. However it is often 3 steps forward, one step back in ministry. We have been trying to launch 2 new meeting points and have seen limited success. Some have surprised us in their faithfulness while others have fallen away. Continue to pray that the Lord will raise up leaders to give these groups some roots to remain.

Blessings,

Michael, Caroline,
Samuel, Ian, Zach, and Salem

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



ond opportunity to speak at a gathering of ladies. This is a group that our friend Vasti has pulled together, ladies that have little to do with organized church (some even opposed). The first time, before Christmas, went so well that they want to keep doing this. About 20 of them meet for breakfast, and then Anne speaks on a relevant topic that leads into discussion. She and Vasti have around 20 topics lined up, but the ladies will be choosing the order. This is an outlet for Anne's teaching gifts that helps her as an introvert (today's topic was about "Introverts"!) make contact with women she wouldn't meet otherwise.

Next weekend (February 6-8) we have another team meeting. "New Fields Team" now has another fam-

ily – the Clarks. You can see a video about them on the MB Mission website (<http://www.mbmission.org/video/submission>). They finally arrived last Thursday evening and are settling in well. We had arranged beforehand a furnished house so that they could hit the ground running on language learning and acculturation. They face some challenges that Anne and I didn't way back, since they have four children that will be attending the school where Anne teaches. Please pray for them to adjust quickly, to survive culture shock, and to build strong relationships with the people they meet during language learning (the antidote to culture shock).

Thanks again for your love, prayers, and support. Robert and Anne

From the Woo's...

December 2014

Dear Friends and Family,

Last October I, Michael, attended a leadership training course believing that God was preparing me for a new ministry. It was during that time we were also nominated for a leadership position with our organization. Over

"Old Fashioned Christmas" Candlelight Program

On Sunday, December 21, 2014, an "Old Fashion Christmas Candlelight" service was held at the Industry Brethren Church. Scott Marshall played the trumpet to "O Come All Ye Faithful" as the children marched up the aisle (some in angel costumes). The girls went to the front of the church where they sang "Away In The Manger" as the nativity scene was lit up. When the audience sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", a large, beautiful, sparkling angel was lit up overlooking the lighted nativity scene. Casey Mashall played "Star Gazing" on the piano. Nia Koite, Grace Martinsen, Brynn Martinsen, and Noah Koite took turns reading the Christmas story from the Bible. Lillie Matcek sang "Love Came Down" with a pantomime presentation. Martha Huffman & Rachel Matcek played "O Holy Night" and "What Child Is This" on flutes. Alyssa Martinsen played the cello while the audience sang "Silent Night, Holy Night" in four languages; Czech, German, Spanish and English.

A nativity scene was displayed outside the church and live poinsettias in pink and red were in front of the alter inside the church. Decorations of greenery, candles, etc., were in all the windows, and the Christmas tree had religious ornaments on it. Candy canes with the meaning of the candy cane were given to everyone as they left the church. A porcelain nativity scene was displayed on top of the piano in front of the church. Two large wreaths were on the front church doors as you entered the church.

Following the service, everyone went to Fellowship Hall where a Christmas tree was adorned with strung cranberry and popcorn and old-time handmade ornaments, candy canes, apples, and minature dolls. A lighted nativity scene was displayed outside of Fellowship Hall, too. Advent candle logs were on all the tables. A 2-1/2-foot nutcracker was beside the tree and a wooden nativity scene below the tree. Gifts from long ago were



Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53

Temple, TX 76501

Church Phone: 254-985-2694

seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor –

sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com

Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair





displayed on a table beside the tree. Sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes, noodles, cranberry, bread, koch caesa, chips, dip, cheese, ham, poppy seed rolls, apple strudel, gingerbread cookies, Christmas decorated sugar cookies, apple, cherry, pecan, and buttermilk pies, kolaches, fruit cakes, and various other desserts were served. Eggnog, hot spiced cider, coffee, hot chocolate, and tea were served. In addition, candies from the 40s, 50s, and 60s were served that included ribbon candy, pink, white, and chocolate coconut candy, cherry cordials,

and various other flavors.

Everyone was given a bag with an apple, orange, banana, trail mix package, walnuts, almonds, and candy to take home. (This was a practice when you visited Santa many years ago that you were given a bag of “goodies”.) One hundred people attended with ninety taking holy communion.

Industry Brethren Church was extremely blessed to have all the program participants give their time and talent for this wonderful presentation as they are not members of this congregation.

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

From the Theissen's...

January 26, 2015

Dear friends,

Thank you for your prayers and concern for my back situation. The trip to California to see the doctor in Bakersfield went well, and we now have a plan.

They will insert a plastic cage (coming in through the side of my body – with cameras) between L3 and L4 vertebrae that will realign and separate them. They will then pin that to the bone with steel pins (coming in through tiny incisions in my back). The cage has two hollows that will have growth hormones packed in that should cause the bones to grow together through it, eventually forming a solid fusion. I should only need to spend the night after in the hospital, and then walk out the next day.

They call this “minimally invasive” – nevertheless, I will be on narcotic pain killers for at least two weeks. I can't lift “even a dinner

plate” for a month after. I will need checkups every three months, but should be able to send x-rays taken here to the doctor.

I will be going up for a pre-op appointment on February 9th, and then have to wait 'til the 18th for the operation. Then I will hang out for two more weeks 'til a post-op exam on March 2nd. Anne will come up a week after me (on the 14th) and stay with me after that.

Even though the x-ray shows a fairly misplaced spine, I only have pain while standing, walking, or working. If I sit down, it goes away. So I sit a lot. My shop is right beside the house and I have been doing small jobs that I can sit on a bucket to do (mostly). And writing here at the computer. And friends and people I've been mentoring come over for coffee, so it is working out. I won't drive over to Guerrero for a while, and I'll miss that.

This morning Anne had her sec-



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