POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Brethren Journal, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

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.

THE BRETHREN







Vol. 114

April 2015

No. 3

32 Pages



Sanford Schmid with Representative (now Senator) Lois Kolkhorst at his Honor Celebration. (see story – inside cover)

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

From the President . . . *Untiring Service Irreconcilable Differences* . . . by Jim Pokorny Hope Does Not Dissappoint . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell Constitution and Bylaws . . . by Jerry Terrill Memories of Long Gone By Days of Spring

... and a whole lot 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 Secretary: Kay Polasek

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

RATE – \$15.00 per year via hard copy and/ or email; \$7.50 after June 1st

(All subscriptions expire December 31st) FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS, AND GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS, Hard Copy & E-Mail, write The Brethren Journal Business Manager (see addresses above.

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES – Include address label from your most recent issue and write to: *The Brethren Journal* **Business Manager**, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836, or email manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com.

FOR ADVERTISING -

Rates (per column inch per year) Commercial coverage – \$50.00 Religious coverage – \$50.00 Write:

The Brethren Journal Business Manager

FOR ARTICLE AND REPORT

SUBMISSION – DEADLINE is the first day of the month preceding publication. Write: *The Brethren Journal* Editor, 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836, or email: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com.

Permit #064220

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL (ISSN 0006-9655) is published monthly except for January and July, which are bimonthly, at \$15.00 per year by The Unity of the Brethren through SuzAnne Kurten dba Your Business Center, 1050 S. Hwy. 95, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-921-1068, periodical postage paid at Taylor, TX. POST-MASTER: Send address changes to The Brethren Journal, Attn: Business Manager, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

Visit the Unity of the Brethren Website: unityofthebrethren.org

Honoring Sanford Schmid

Sanford Schmid's 95th birthday was on November 20, 2014, and at the request of Representative Lois Kolkhorst, a Texas flag was flown over the state capitol in Austin in honor of his birthday. Sanford has donated this flag to the Industry Brethren Church, where he served on the Board of Elders years ago. He is also a WWII veteran. The flag will be placed in the display cabinet in the front of the church with the attached handwritten note from Mr. Schmid:

"December 20, 2014: With gratitude I accept this Texas flag. My pathway with the Brethren Church of Industry – To all friends and in memory of John Dockal, immigrant from Chesni. Sanford Schmid 95"

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



"Neighbors helping Neighbors Since 1914"

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

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

DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS

FULL TIME PASTORS

Rev. Linda Von Chandler, 13108 North Ridge Circle, Leander, TX 78641. (512) 267-4826 (h), (512) 267-4655 (ch) Pastor Tim Chaplin, 1326 Starlight Dr., Temple TX 76502. (254) 778-5954; tchaplin@hot.rr.com

Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez, 3913 Brinkman Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642. (409) 293-2065

Rev. Michael Groseclose, 352 Nelsonville Church Rd., Bellville, TX 77418, (979) 865-3026

Rev. Jim Heckman, 9849 PR 1015, Rockdale, TX 76567. (979) 739-1393, leave message. If no answer, try 2nd number, (979) 200-0513; jimheckman46@gmail.com

Rev. James D. Hejl, 309 Cherrywood Circle, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-6890

Rev. James Henry, 1726 15th Ave. N., Lake Worth, FL 33460. (561) 533-3893

Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood, Waco, TX 76712. (254) 776-5886

Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-1838(h), (979) 220-3822(c); pastordibama@gmail.com

Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4311 Fir Valley Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. <u>lwkoslo@aol.com</u> (281) 328-2442 (off), (713) 594-4518 (c)

Rev. John Kueker, P.O. Box 325, Buckholts, TX 76518. (254) 605-0434

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 409 E. Upshaw, Temple, TX 76501. dkaym@hot.rr.com

Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX 77845. (979) 574-0268; <u>lajoiededieu@gmail.com</u> Bloa: notboxinotheair.wordpress.com

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

josephjpolasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Kay Polasek, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 220-1289; revkaypolasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437, Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 931-2000; papasebek@gmx.com

Rev. Thomas Tallas, 3829 Sandstone, San Angelo, TX 76904. (325) 949-7543; rev.tjt@gmail.com (h), rev.tjt@zipnet.us (ch)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

jerryleeterrill@comcast.net

Rev. Ron Winsman, 3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504. (254) 742-0827

Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie Bishop Place, Cedar Park, TX 78613. (903) 265-2277; zabcikville@ymail.com

SUPPLY OR INACTIVE PASTORS

Rev. Charles Amos, 845 Airville Road, Temple, TX 76501. (254) 742-2629

Rev. Whitney Amos, 845 Airville Road, Temple, TX 76501. (254) 742-2629

Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern Crossing Dr., Temple, TX 76502. (254) 791-0420; joe.emerson_ma@yahoo.com

Rev. Gordon Hejl (retired), P.O. Box 426, Granger, TX 76530. (512) 963-9219

Rev. William J. Hodge, 528 N. Post Oak Lane, Houston, TX 77024. (713) 957-8294

Rev. Robert W. Janek, 261 Edinburg, San Angelo, TX 76901. (325) 942-8515

Rev. Lawrence Junek, 3316 Lyle, Waco, TX 76708. (254) 714-2622

Rev. Eugene Kotrla, 4406 Antelope Trail, Temple, TX 76504. (254) 774-7484

Dr. Mark L. Labaj, 3410 Meadow Creek Lane, Temple, TX 76504. (254) 774-8179; mark.labaj@utexas.edu

Rev. Milton Maly, 6703 FM 2502, Brenham, TX 77833. (979) 277-2619; miltmaly@gmail.com

Rev. Albert Michalik (retired), 304 Thunder Valley Trail, Georgetown, TX 78626. (512) 688-1104

Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail, Temple, TX 76502. (254) 778-1860

Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, P.O. Box 228, Dennison, OH 44621-0228. (281) 433-7704 (cell); WilliamR90@aol.com

Rev. Nello Strickland, 1006 Top Hill Drive, Brenham, TX 77833. (979) 836-2609

Rev. Tony Taylor, P.O. Box 1680, Hilltop Lakes, TX 77871. (936) 855-2563

UNDER CALL OF THE UNITY

Military Chaplaincy

CH (Maj) Daniel Husak, 1627 Lakeview Street, DeRidder, LA 70634. daniel.husak@aggienetwork.com

MINISTERIAL STUDENTS

Ben Kruse – <u>krusedadb@yahoo.com</u> (Westheimer)

DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Carolyn Groseclose NDO P.O. Box 630260 Choma, Zambia

e-mail: carolyngroseclose@yahoo.com

Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak Norska 42 77900 Olomouc Czech Repubic e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

Phil & Eunice Raiford (parents' address in U.S.) 230 SW Sandy Way Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 pbrmissions@gmail.com

Rob and Anne Thiessen 25 E. Camino Nacional Tlalixtac de Cabrera Oaxaca, MEXICO 68627 (011) 52-1-951-145-8947 e-mail: rythiessen@gmail.com

Michael and Caroline Woo P.O. Box 27 Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand e-mail: mcswoo@psmail.net To access their pictures, go to http://gallery.mac.com/woofamily

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jon Farrow: jfarrow@hot.rr.com; (254) 933-1673; (254) 718-1938

Dr. Dawn Marie Baletka: DawnHayes@aol.com, BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org; (h)(979) 693-2710; (c)(979) 777-9940; (w)(936) 825-1112

Connie Janac; cjanac@st-joseph.org; (979) 587-0363

(9/9) 58/-0363 Dorothy Kocian; dekocian@yahoo.com;

(254) 713-2761

Adviser: Dr. Larry Koslovsky: lwkoslo@aol.com; (281) 328-2442

Synodical Committee Liaison: James Marek

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Rev. David Johnson – Chair pastordjbama@gmail.com

Alton Urbanovsky – (No email address)

Angie Hairrell - hairrell@gmail.com

Ben Kruse - KRUSEDADB@yahoo.com

Dorothy Hinson – dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com

Dorottiy Timison dorottiy.minson@notman

Martha Dove - walhalla71@gmail.com

Claren Kotrla - kotrla@flash.net

Rev. Lawrence Junek - ljunek@hot.rr.com

SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

President: James Marek, (512) 352-6165; james@cnbt.com

1st Vice President: Rev. Lawrence Junek, (254) 714-2622; ljunek@hot.rr.com

2nd Vice President: Rev. Michael Groseclose, 979-865-3026, umhbpg@yahoo.com

3rd Vice President: Dr. Jerry Terrill, 281-364-9865, jerryleeterrill@gmail.com

Secretary: Liz Ripple, 311 W. State Hwy 71. Fayetteville, TX 78940; (979) 378-2239; lizripple@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Dewyan Weise, 6006 FM Hwy 765, San Angelo, TX 76905; hdweise@zipnet.us

Financial Secretary: Daniel Merz, 220 Nelsonville Church Rd, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-1141, <u>dan.merz@williams.com</u>

Ministerial Alternate: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, (979) 574-0265; <u>lajoiededieu@gmail.com</u>

Pastor to Pastors: Dr. Larry Koslovsky; lwkoslo@aol.com

Non-Voting Lay Alternate:

Wiley Marx, wmarx@jcgllc.com

Lay Members:

Austin – Darrell Kolinek; dkolinek@yahoo.com
BCS – Todd Snelgrove; rtsnelgrove@ag.tamu.edu
Buckholts – Charlene Vogelsang; caky@hotmail.com

Caldwell - Ron Dusek; rdusekdds@aol.com
Crosby - Debbie Clark, foxfire890@aol.com
Cy-Fair - Roger Runnels; rogerhr@swbell.net
Dime Box - Marvin Chlapek;
micarc@airplexus.com

Fayetteville – Liz Ripple; <u>lizripple@hotmail.com</u> Good Shepherd – Alfredo Wilson

Granger – Edwina Jezisek, momawina@vahoo.com

Houston – Dorothy Hinson;

Dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com

Industry – Harvey Treybig; htreybig@austin.rr.com

Nelsonville – Daniel Merz;

<u>dan.merz@williams.com</u> New Tabor – Robert Schlechte;

rschlechte@hotmail.com

Ocker – Robin Brinkley; wphalia@rocketmail.com

Pasadena – Linda Planka; mslindaj47@yahoo.com

Rosenberg – Alice Kocurek;

katalice@tconline.net

Seaton – Leonard Mikeska; mikeskains@hot.rr.com

Snook – Connie Janac, <u>cjanac@st-joseph.org</u> Taylor – James Marek; <u>james@cnbt.com</u> Temple – Gayle Farrow; <u>gfarrow@hot.rr.com</u>

Wall – Dewyan Weise; hdweise@zipnet.us Wesley – Kristina Janes; klojanes@yahoo.com West – Dorothy Kocian; dekocian@yahoo.com

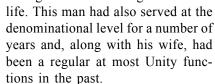
Westheimer – Leroy Parthum; betty_parthum@yahoo.com

President's Column . . . James Marek

Untiring Service

One evening in late January I received an interesting phone call. The

voice on the other end of the line belonged to a pleasant man with whom I have been acquainted for many years. He is a man who has been a member of more than one Brethren Church as his residence changed throughout his working



To my surprise, the purpose of his call was to make contact with one of our daughters to wish her a happy birthday. He had become acquainted with our daughter when they attended the same Brethren church while she was in college. As we talked, I learned that his health had declined in recent years and that he was no longer able to be as active in the church as he had in previous years. In recent years he had struggled with issues with his legs and was no longer able to even attend church on a regular basis. Nevertheless, when the church was looking for someone to help with a phone ministry, he volunteered. He told his pastor that, although his health wasn't as good as it used to be, he did still have a phone in his room at the retirement facility in which he lived and he could make phone calls. As I talked to him, I got goose bumps. Even though this faithful

servant's creative ministry was not directed at me that night, it certainly

touched me.

As I hung up, I could not help but be impressed and inspired by the caller's service and example. Here he was in his later years when he could have easily chosen to "retire" from the Lord's service. He could have chosen to use

his situation as a reason to leave his church's ministry to the preacher and to those who were younger and in better health. Instead of dwelling on what he could no longer do, he had chosen to use what he still had to continue his service. Something as simple as a phone combined with his love for God, his church and fellow members had led him to this simple yet impactful service role.

How many times have we failed to serve because we have focused on what we don't have instead of trying to find ways to serve with the gifts and the resources that we do have? None of us can do everything, but we all can do something to support God's kingdom expansion. We all have gifts and resources that God has entrusted to us. Our job is to identify them and put them to work!

AMOS ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

LIGHT FIXTURES • APPLIANCES
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

(254) 778-4271 5120 S. General Bruce Dr., Temple, TX 76502

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. What is God prompting your heart to give?

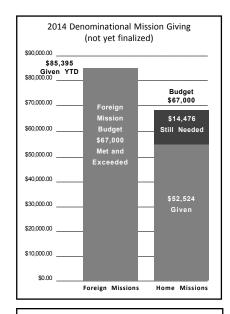
Proverbs 14:31

Whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Luke 14: 13-14

When you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and the blind and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, vou will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

A wealthy Christian man who lost everything in a financial downturn was asked if he ever regretted all the giving he had done to the Lord's work. He replied, "What I gave, I still have. What I kept, I lost."



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek. President Daniel Voitek. Vice-President Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer Dorothy Hinson, Jr. Dept. Secretary Ann Sebesta, Board Member Rev. Michael Groseclose, Synodical Liaison

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

. . . regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact: Dawn Marie Baletka 600 Benchmark Drive College Station, TX 77845 (979) 777-9940 or (979) 693-2710 BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org

*This must be done well in advance.

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. Jóhn 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. - Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

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 - Rev. Jim Heckman Sunday.

Fayetteville - Sunday School at 9:45 AM, worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday. - Rev. Kav 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 Heil

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

2015 Summer Camp Dates

Encounter Camp (ages 7-8) June 11-13, 2015 Alpha Camp (ages 9-10) June 14-18, 2015 Pioneer Camp (ages 11-12) June 21-26, 2015

Discovery Camp (ages 13-15) June 28-July 3, 2015 Challenger Camp (ages 16- HS Seniors) July 12-17, 2015

Questions? Contact Kayla Marek-kmarek2012@gmail.com. All registration forms are due by April 15. Additional fees apply after this deadline.

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.

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.



Irreconcilable Differences

- by Jim Pokorny

[Author's Note: To say that the period immediately following Gregory was complicated is an understatement. That is why I chose to address it in two parts. Differences of opinion between the first and second generations led to division within the Unity shortly after its inception. I continue to extend my gratitude to Craig D. Atwood for both his attention to detail and the compassion he extended to those involved who are unable to defend their positions. -J.P.]

While Jan Hus lived the reformation movement had a leader. With his martyrdom on July 6, 1415, that movement lost its leader. It took years for another leader to emerge. In Peter Chelcicky, the people found a message around which they could rally... renounce everything worldly and return to the original teachings of Jesus and the disciples. Then, under the leadership of Gregory the Patriarch, the people sought the will of God, and a new priesthood or Unity was founded in 1467.

Persecution was an ever-present reality. Gregory was a leader in every sense of the word, and under his guidance the Unity weathered each storm. After Gregory's death in 1473, the Unity would face a new challenge, a challenge that would test both them and their faith. The Unity would survive, but the process would prove to be extremely difficult and would change the Brethren forever.

When a community of faith first comes together, its members are held together by their loyalty to a leader. It becomes necessary for the community to institutionalize its beliefs. There is simply no other way for the leader's vision to be effectively passed on to the generations that follow. If this is not done, one of two things will inevitably occur. The community will either cease to exist and be relegated to the dust bin of history, or it will undergo continual division, with each segment having a separate interpretation of the original leader's vision.

Life complicates matters. The challenges of daily life faced by succes-

→

WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road Houston, Texas 77082

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



sive generations will be different from those faced by the first. Things deemed vital by the first generation may seem less important to the one that follows. Conversely, things that the first generation deemed unimportant may be viewed as critical by the next. The second generation has the benefit of being better educated than the first. As such, they tend to view matters through the lens of education while the first generation relies on the lens of experience.

This pattern has repeated itself time and again. As such, it becomes necessary for the original leader's successor to be, in a sense, the community's second founder.

Gregory was considered "the Patriarch". He required no special ordination or other sign of office. His eventual successor was Luke of Prague, who was born in 1460 and

died in 1528. Luke was an educated man. He was extremely well read and a theological scholar. He served on the Inner Council for three decades and was made senior (bishop) in 1500. Prior to Luke, the Brethren adhered to the teachings of Gregory and Chelcicky. The winds of change began to blow and a new kind of storm was on the horizon.

When the settlement at Kunwald was founded, most of its members were farmers and simple tradesmen. Under Gregory's leadership their numbers grew. The region in which they lived became more populated. Educated men along with those of rank began to share this 900-square-mile region with the Brethren. A large colony of Waldenses also took up residence in the region. As time went by, the Brethren increasingly came into contact with the rich and influen-



Insuring & Enriching Lives

A fraternal benefit society serving Texans and their families for 118 years.

> Call us if you have questions about naming your church or a Unity of the Brethren agency as a beneficiary in an existing or new SPJST insurance certificate.

Membership Benefits

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

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

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

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

May 3 – Industry Brethren Church Fund Raiser; Sunday, at Industry Fireman's Hall, Industry, TX, starting at 11 A.M. Fried chicken meal to eat in or to go; Deserts, Auction, Raffle; Country Store. Not necessary to be present to win raffle. Many useful and wonderful items to select from. Contact Liz Treybig, 512-217-2140, for additional information.

SAVE THE DATE...

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.

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

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@gmail.com
Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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

PresidentPastor/Director of YouthChurch OfficeBoard of Eldersand Young Family MinistriesSecretaryDavid MillerRyan VolkmanJohnie Smith325-651-7597325-213-0671Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for April 2015

- by Dorothy Kocian

- When those guarding Jesus saw the earthquake, they exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God!" Mt. 27:54
- 2. "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son." Gal. 4:4
- "You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here." Mk. 16:6
- 4. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ, all will be made alive. 1 Cor. 15:22
- Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 Cor. 15:20
- For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. Jn. 3:16
- Be subject to rulers and authorities, be obedient, be ready to do whatever good. Titus 3:1a
- Slander no one, be peaceable and considerate, and show true humility toward all men. Titus 3:2
- 9. Serve one another in love. Gal. 5:13
- 10. Love your neighbors as yourself. Gal. 5:14
- Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Col. 3:14
- 12. We know we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. 1 Jn. 3:14
- We are God's children, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. Rom. 8:16-17
- 14. You are a shield around me, O Lord! Ps. 3:3
- 15. Your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Col. 3:3
- 16. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Jn. 15:9

- 17. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us. Eph. 5:1,2
- 18. Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Eph. 5:25
- 19. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God! 1 Jn. 1:8
- 20. If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 Jn. 1:8
- 21. If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 Jn. 1:9
- 22. Love one another. 2 Jn. 5
- 23. This is love; that we walk in obedience to the Father's commands. 2 Jn. 6
- 24. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Rom. 16:20b
- 25. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God. 2 John 9a
- 26. Be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. Rom. 16:19
- 27. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 3 Jn. 4
- 28. I praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right and all of His ways are just. Dan. 4:37
- 29. "Be strong, show yourself to be a man and observe what the Lord requires." 1 Kings 2:2,3a
- "Walk in His ways and keep His decrees and commands, His requirements, as written in the Law of Moses." 1 Kings 2:3b

In God's Hands Ministry

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

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

tial. Many joined the ranks of the Brethren by their own request.

The Brethren held fast to their rule that any nobleman who wished to join them first had to lay down his rank. As time went by, the reputation of the Brethren improved. Others began to see that, because of their character, they were just the sort of men the State needed. Men like the Brethren, it appeared, would make ideal magistrates and alderman.

This proved to be a huge problem for the Brethren. A decision would have to be made that was certain to make some people unhappy. Thus, two camps formed within the Brethren. The larger group was known as "The Major Party" because of their numbers. Led by Luke of Prague, they wanted to relax the Brethren's policies especially where membership was concerned. The smaller group, known as "The Minor Party" was led by two farmers named Amos and Jacob. This group held rigidly to the teachings of Chelcicky and Gregory.

To be completely fair, the "educated Brethren" associated with Luke were initially attracted to the Brethren by Chelcicky's writings. They joined the Unity during a time of persecution

seeking to live a more Christian life. They knew only too well that in joining the Unity they were putting themselves at great personal risk. They came to realize that it was impossible to live up to Chelcicky's ideal. While they did not wish to push his teachings aside completely, they perceived gaps in his interpretation of scripture.

The Minor Party focused their blame squarely on the "educated Brethren" that joined in the 1480s.

One key player in the transformation of the Unity was Thomas. He was one of the original priests ordained in 1467. Self-educated, he was extremely well read in Hussite and patristic literature. As a result, he later successfully defended the Brethren before The Inquisition in 1500.

Thomas held that Christians should be tolerant of the beliefs of others. He maintained that persecution cannot lead to truth. He also believed that truth could not be completely known until the time God would choose to fully reveal it.

The Unity was still illegal in Bohemia and Moravia, and so the Brethren relied on the protection of powerful





nobles. Because of this, some Brethren asked if the rejection of nobility was too extreme. They asked the elders if the original restrictions could be loosened, thus making it easier for pious nobles to join the Unity without having to give up their responsibilities as lords.

Nowhere was this issue more felt than in the town of Litomysl. Jan Kostka was not a member of the Unity, but he wanted to atone for his brother's fervent persecution of the Brethren. Like other lords in a sparsely populated Bohemia, he was in need of hard-working subjects to restore his estates. He saw the Brethren as a peaceful, educated, and law-abiding people with excellent skills. So, he offered his protection to those that chose to move to Litomysl.

As time went by, the relationship between Kostka and the Brethren grew stronger. Eventually Jan Kostka encouraged his son Bohus to join the Unity. In 1486 the matter came to a head when Bohus became the Lord of Litomysl. The Inner Council was now forced to make a decision. Could Bohus remain a member of the Unity without surrendering his responsibilities as lord?

The debate now began in earnest. But with the debate came other questions. Would it not be wise to allow Brethren to assist governing authorities rather than anger them by refusing to swear an oath? Some had already renounced their faith under extreme torture. Was it wise to invite persecution? Could compromise save someone from facing a trial that was too great for him?

Other questions were raised by the congregation at Litomysl. Bohus Kostka promised the Brethren religious freedom. He also encouraged them to take a more active role in civic life because he considered them very trustworthy.

The Brethren at Litomysl wrote a letter to Matthew and the Inner Council in 1490. How could they, they asked, remain members of the Unity and live in a town where their livelihood depended on civil law and belonging to trade guilds?

The reply from the Inner Council could not have been less helpful or more evasive. The congregation at Litomysl was told that they should have remained in the countryside. If they had, then they would not have found themselves in such a predica-

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South 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



OBJECT LESSON: It's What's Inside That Counts

Objects: A rock that you can show the rough and ugly exterior and the beautifully colored interior. (You probably have a friend who collects rocks or you may have a rock shop in your city.)

Theme: Don't judge people by their outward appearance!

Scripture: The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

I have a friend who is a rock collector. I probably wouldn't make a very good rock collector, because if I saw a rock laying on the ground that looks like this one (show the exterior) I probably would not even bother to stop and pick it up. But my friend knows that you can't judge a rock by what it looks like on the outside. A rock that looks like this on the outside may be beautiful on the inside (show the interior). So my friend picks up the rocks and looks on the inside and polishes them into something beautiful.

The same thing is true about the way God looks at people. The Bible says that "the Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Do you ever make the mistake of judging people by the way they look on the outside? I'm ashamed to say that I do. Wouldn't it be better if we looked at their heart the way God does?

This morning I have a rock for each of you. My friend took some ugly old rocks and polished them up and turned them into something beautiful. I want you to have one of these rocks to remind you that we should not judge people by the way they look on the outside. It's what's inside that counts.

Dear God, we are thankful that you don't judge us by how we look on the outside. Help us to look at others the same way you look at them. Amen

A Child After God's Own Heart: David

BACKGROUND: As a child, David was picked by God to do great works for HIM. In this lesson we learn of David's anointing by Samuel.

READ AND TELL: The following website provides a virtual

storybook: http://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/David%20the%20Shepherd%20Boy%20English.pdf

Or Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6HaCjJlzRs

Or Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

DO: Make an anointed crown. Directions and materials here: http://www.jesus-without-language.net/david-anointed-1-samuel-16-make/



BIBLE TRUTHS:

- Even young children can do mighty things for God.
- God looks on the inside.
- It is important for you to read your Bible.
- It is always important to obey God.

For comments/questions/ information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

Hairrell@gmail.com



ment. The reply went on to criticize them for seeking a more comfortable life rather than suffer like the founders who left their professions behind when they migrated to Kunwald.

This in no way assisted the Brethren at Litomysl, so they pressed the issue further. They asked whether they had to choose between remaining members of the Unity or earning a living as members of a guild. They pointed out that Paul wrote letters to Christians living in cities such as Corinth, Ephesus, and Rome. How was it possible, they asked, for urban life to be contrary to faith?

According to Luke of Prague, the Inner Council held numerous meetings and discussions on the matter. There was a man named Klenovsky on the Inner Council who was sympathetic to the Brethren at Litomysl. He was concerned that the Brethren were becoming perhaps a bit self-righteous.

At the council's urging, Matthew called for a synod of the priests, deacons, elders, and helpers to meet at Brandys in 1490. The synod was to consider two questions. First, how far could a brother go in exercising power under a governing authority? Second, did the Lord forbid the swearing

of oaths so completely that a person might never swear under any circumstances?

Klenovsky opened the synod. He stated that the Inner Council did not wish to decide matters of such importance based solely on its authority. He suggested that all participants of the synod write their answers to these questions on paper. As the responses were read, a consensus emerged that indicated that the Brethren should be allowed to use secular power, but warned that some positions were dangerous in that they could allow one to wage war or contribute to the death of a condemned criminal. The potentiality of taking a human life became a central issue.

It was decreed that the Brethren should avoid all situations in which they might be forced to contribute to the death of another person. It was also decreed that it was possible for Brethren, with God's help, to maintain a clear conscience in the performance of civic duties. In fact, it was possible for a Christian to use secular authority to prevent injustice and violence rather than passively allow them.

This was a clear departure from



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 President Secretary

James D. Hejl Kevin Page Mary Kokes

512-365-6890 512-689-1593 M-Th 8:00 am-noon

Chelcicky's separatist view. The synod concluded that the Brethren should use 1 Peter 3:1-11 as their guide in both domestic and civic matters. "He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it."

In addition, the synod agreed that those who would choose persecution rather than swear an oath should be free to do so without criticism.

The synod recognized that these matters were complex, but held that members of the Unity should follow their conscience while using scripture as a guide. While they did not separate politics from church discipline completely, they recognized the need for flexibility in dealing with the practical realities of a secular and frequently hostile world.

The decision at Brandys was unanimous, but there was an awareness that the decision made would not sit well with everyone, especially those

who were members of the Minor Party. The decision also included a prohibition against open dissent.

This prohibition basically stated that if a person objected "after thinking things over," he should neither speak nor act against the agreement. That person should come before Matthew and the Inner Council or the Brother in charge of the province. Furthermore, if the individual was stubborn and unwilling to accept correction, he would first be excluded from the body and blood of the Lord. Should he persist, then he could be removed from the congregation. Eventually, he could find himself expelled from the Unity.

Amos and Jacob left the synod dissatisfied. They wrote to Matthew in protest. Moreover, they were unwilling to abide by the prohibition and publicly voiced their disagreement. Amos in particular found a large

Brethren Book Store

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

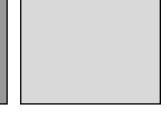
Seaton Brethren Church

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 The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7







Sunday School Helper



This month we continue to explore Children of the Bible. Our next lesson is about a young boy named David. Even though he was young, he knew what he could do with God's help; in fact, he knew better than King Saul. God chose David because he saw his heart. A great reminder to us all that it doesn't matter what's on the outside (how we look, how old we are, our disabilities, or even how others see us), it's more important what we are like on the inside (our attitudes, our yearning to know God better, our hopes and dreams) and our relationship with God.

Mutual Aid Society – Listing of Local Secretaries' Addresses and Phone Numbers

- Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box 362, Granger, TX 76530, 512-859-2837
- Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916
- West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331,
- <u>dekocian@yahoo.com</u> Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO
- Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 979-378-4167, sandrainaustin@yahoo.com
- Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-272-9102,
- mjcarc@airplexus.com Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115, Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, bfsinc@tconline.net
- Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109 Friendship Ln, Temple, TX 76501-9614, 254-742-1405
- 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, 2728 Osborn Appt #1002, Bryan, TX 77803, 979-779-3835
- Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053 Learning Oak Lane, Brenham, TX 77833, 979-836-5196, koehns72@yahoo.com
- Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120
- Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220 Reading Rd., Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-344-1386, michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann c-machann@tamu.edu 979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898 Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum, 3620 Ave. O, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 713-826-7993,

dparthum@sbcglobal.net

- Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Dr., Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480,
- dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com
 Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222
 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX
 76903-9106, 325-651-5884
- Caldwell #27: Matthew Hyvl, 9760 FM 3058, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-255-0025, mhyvl131@gmail.com
- Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box 599, Crosby, TX 77532, 281-426-5506
- 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: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012,
- natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com
 Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118
 Coventry Ct., Friendswood, TX
 77546-3001, 281-482-1501
- B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

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

audience. As a wax merchant, he travelled extensively and expressed his disagreement with the synod everywhere he went.

Amos was correct in his assessment that the decision at Brandys made concessions to changing social conditions and this constituted, in essence, a reversal of the Unity's position on the issue of participation in government. The bigger question was whether this change amounted to a rejection of its faith and doctrine.

The Minor Party argued in stark terms of black and white. Matthew was lukewarm on the decision at Brandys and was persuaded by the arguments of both Amos and Jacob. Matthew appointed a new Inner Council which immediately overturned the decision rendered by the synod and reinstated the former prohibitions.

This did not resolve the issue facing the Unity and the sense of division loomed larger than ever. The Minor Party became more and more rigid. It was now clear to Luke of Prague that the Unity would have to decide its own direction with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The younger and more educated members of the Major Party were no longer represented on the Inner Council. They decided to send four brothers in search of the "church of the apostles" in the hope that perhaps other churches might be able to shed light where the New Testament seemed ambiguous.

The four who were sent traveled together as far as Constantinople. There, they split up. What, if anything, would they find?

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53 Temple, Texas 76501

Preaching the Word, Loving the PeopleSunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM

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

Youth Director Jennifer Chervenka 9494 Big Elm Creek Road Rogers, TX 76569 (254) 983-1002 Elder Board President
John Brinkley
119 CR 3000, Lott, TX 76656

(254) 721-3196 wphalia@yahoo.com

> Cemetery Sharon Marek 23383 Milam Road Burlington, TX 76519 (254) 869-2845

^{**}Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

Hope Does Not Disappoint

- by Rev. Vanessa L. Mitchell

How many times have you felt disappointment in life? With a family member? With a job? With yourself? With your church? The glorious call we have upon our humble limited selves is the call to take up hope even in the darkest of hours, and we cannot despair, for even those hours pale in comparison to the darkness of Gethsemane... the heaviness upon our precious Lord Christ. We shall never suffer to the point of shedding our blood, not for the sins of humanity.

What are we waiting for?

Hope is at the door; it will not disappoint.

Yet disappointment creeps in when we are not looking, when we have left doors unlocked, when we have not insulated the home of our faith properly. To experience Christ is to live in Christ, practicing His Presence, invoking His Name, saturating oneself in the control of the Holy Spirit.

What are we waiting for?

Hope is at the door; it will not disappoint.

Send disappointment on its way. Soak up the Holy Bible. Pray. Pray. Pray in the reality that the abundant life is fueled by prayer and the power of the holy seed that the Holy Spirit planted in you the moment your eyes first awoke to Christ's unmistakable, unforgettable, immovable... Love.

What are you waiting for?

Hope is at the door; it will not disappoint.

How many times have you felt disappointment in life? With a family member? With a job? With yourself?

With your church? Here is what the Holy Spirit has for you this day:

The hope of Jesus Christ never disappoints.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Romans 5:1-5).

Will you let the Holy Spirit build the character that produces everlasting hope in you? Surrender away your self and run for Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit. Come anew this day. Amen.

In Jesus' Inexpressible Joy, Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Website: notboxingtheair.wordpress.com

KUBENA Funeral Home 507 South Main St.

Hallettsville, Texas 77946
Pre-Arranged Funerals
Low Cost Funeral Insurance
Phone 361-798-3271

good friends in southern California (the Mattfelds) who used to live in Oaxaca. This is one benefit from all this – catching up with friends we wouldn't otherwise see.

Last week, while waiting for different pre-op things to happen, I spoke with a missions seminary class. Several of the students seemed interested in our approach to the Kingdom and asked about visiting Oaxaca after graduation. One couple was interested in doing a missionary apprenticeship.

So with all this and with some writing for MBMission, I haven't had much time to think about the surgery. So far it all is a bit of a cross-cultural experience to be immersed in the medical world of the U.S. Thanks for your concern and prayer.

Blessings, Robert

February 20, 2015

Dear friends,

I am sitting up this morning, trying to find the least uncomfortable position. Last night on the way home it felt a bit like being in Mexico as we drove around to several pharmacies trying to fill the prescription for the pain med and not finding it anywhere, and having to wait until we got on the phone this morning.

I went under around 10 a.m. on Wednesday and woke up at 6 p.m., the surgery itself lasting five hours. The night was odd, waking up every hour or two to hospital sounds and having my vitals recorded. The morphine kept everything a bit hazy.

I was released around 6 yesterday afternoon, and Anne is doing a fine job of nursing me. They gave me a walker, but I've been managing without it so far. We are staying with

friends for the next two weeks. This couple has been very helpful in arranging for surgery, and two doctors hosting you after this kind of thing is quite reassuring.

The surgeon is very happy with how well the spinal column was realigned, and my host, the radiologist, thought it a work of art. Everything went as it should, and I have a favorable prognosis for recovery, albeit with pain. The surgeon put in four large titanium screws as long as (according to Anne who saw the x-rays) her little finger. But it won't set off the airport security machines.

Thanks for your thoughts and prayers.

Grateful, Robert

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, news was received from Rob Thiessen that his wife Annie has also been diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer. They are currently in Dallas visiting with their kids and are still trying to figure out what her treatment options are right now. At the present time they are asking for prayers and will send out more information when available.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Tami Laza, Chair;
tami.laza@verizon.net
Charles Groseclose, Representative
to Foreign Mission Board;
cmrag@aol.com
Angie Hairrell, Representative to Hus
Board of Trustees; hairrell@dishmail.net
Jennifer Chervenka;
jennchervenka@farm-market.net
Dorothy Kocian;
dekocian@yahoo.com
Jean Kotrla; kotrla@flash.net
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill:

jerryleeterrill@comcast.net

then come home to visit you all for 6 months (July-January). In January 2016 we will move back to the big city. There, we will have a different role of encouraging the same sort of work but among several people groups.

We want to finish strong here, so please pray we can do the following in the next 4 months.

- 1) All 38 Bible stories written, edited, recorded, and given to locals.
- 2) That the locals understand how to USE the stories.
- 3) That Michael can have energy and wisdom to pour into the men in the area.
- 4) That we can go many times weekly for prayer walk through many of the villages.
- 5) That we can have one more training with them.
 - 6) That we can pack up and move.

Just as our churches back home have traditions and habits (Wednesday night fellowship, small groups, and Christmas celebrations), we are trying to put certain habits or DNA into this church. Please pray that the following can become the local habit and culture of this church.

- 1) That they all go weekly to brand new places to share.
- 2) That they all go weekly to those that already believe and train them to be disciples.
- 3) That they start new groups that know how to start new groups.
- 4) That they can pass on the freedom in Christ training.
- 5) That they can have a monthly fast and prayer time.
- 6) That leaders can be raised up in the groups.

We are looking forward to coming home. We will be in Boston for the months of July and part of January 2016. We will be in Winston-Salem August through December 2015. We would love to visit with you or even set up a time to share with your group. Email us to set up a meeting.

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

Editor's Note: Shortly after this article was written, I received an email from Michael asking for urgent prayer for Caroline. Unfortunately, she has been diagnosed with breast cancer. They have decided to return to the United States to Winston-Salem, NC, where Caroline already has an appointment set up with a doctor to discuss a course of action for treatment. She and baby Salem will come first while Michael and the boys stay behind to move their belongings from their apartment to the capital city in China, after which they will join Caroline and baby Salem in the U.S. The family is requesting that we pray for 3 things: Healing, Peace, and Wisdom. They appreciate your prayers and feel much loved.

From the Theissen's . . .

February 17, 2015

Well friends,

Tomorrow they will knock me out and poke a hole in my side and fix my back. Pre-op starts at 7:15 a.m., and then around 9 a.m. the surgery. I should awaken by noon and walk out the next day.

Anne arrived last Saturday, and we were able to spend the weekend with

Constitution & Unity Bylaws

- by Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

This summer the 66th annual convention of Unity of the Brethren will be remembering the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jun Hus. Part of the work of the convention will be dealing with old and new issues. This will necessitate a reading of the constitution and bylaws. Too often the constitution and bylaws are neglected, even misunderstood, a group of dusty catch-all documents. Thus, in preparation for the convention, now would be a great time to go the Unity website and familiarize yourself with the current constitution and bylaws that were recently updated under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Tallas in 2013. This will give you the opportunity of reviewing the fundamental rules of parliamentary procedure as found in the Unity bylaws.

The constitution and bylaws are the legal documents of the Unity of the Brethren, the standards that define the internal workings of the Unity. These documents are what the Unity believes, creating the mechanics of the day-to-day operations of the denomination. They help deal with questions and procedural issues that come before our congregations, synodical meetings, and at the annual convention.

In addition, they spell out the church's stance on the real world issues which may conflict with the theology, doctrine, and biblical beliefs of the Unity. In the last convention an amendment to the bylaws clearly defined the Unity's stance on what constitutes a marriage in the sight of God, for pastors, and congre-

gations in the Unity of the Brethren in the state of Texas.

Ecclesiastically, the constitution and bylaws gives structure and stability on how the family of God operates as a denomination, as a people serving God. Acts 6:1-7 gives an example of how Christians can agree to disagree and come to a Godly agreement. This prevents the church from being tossed to and fro (Eph. 4:14-16), giving it stability, rules of order, and continuity. The constitution and bylaws then help deal with the "grey" areas of modern life that the Bible does not deal with or specifically speak to. The constitution and bylaws allows the church, synod, or convention to prayerfully come to a decision for the benefit of the entire body of Christ. Thus, in a time of crisis, when problem arise, catastrophes or calamities can be averted by following the Unity's guidelines as set forth in the constitution and bylaws. Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18-20.

In closure, the constitutions and bylaws reflect the Unity's mission statement, giving a historical sense of a continuity of policies, beliefs, creating a congruent vision of God's plan and purpose for believers in the Unity today and for the future generations to come.

GRANGER NATIONAL BANK

Ryze Ceska Banka, Member F.D.I.C. Granger, Texas www.grangernationalbank.com

Memories of Long Gone By Days of Spring

As the sunset comes later and the days have more daylight and are much warmer, our minds might wander back to times when we were younger and there were routine things that spring time would bring into our lives.

Perhaps not everyone did some of the things that our household did as a routine function of spring, but there are other folks who did these things and more in speaking to them. One of the things that we were required to do was get out all the heavy home-made cotton mattresses and beat them with a broom on a sunny warm day. They would stay out there all day sunning. and would smell warm and fresh on the bed that night and nights to come. There was many a broom handle broken doing this task, for which we would get scolded for not being more careful. Then there was the trip to town, whether to LaGrange or Fayetteville, to the hatchery. We would be driving home with big boxes of fluffy yellow chirping chicks that you could hardly hear yourself speak over. Of course, the brooder house had been prepared days in advance when

soft sandy soil was put into a cleaned house and a big metal hanging-fromthe-ceiling light was prepared to keep them warm. Once we arrived home with the chicks, we had to count them again and make sure all were healthy.

Following winter and prior to hot summer days, our cousin, Willie Coufal, would come by the house and shear all our sheep. As kids we had to gather the wool up into a roll and put it in croaker sacks. We did not have gloves and our hands would get grassburr stickers and cockleburs in them that were imbedded in the wool. It was not a fun job.

Betty Ullrich tells me that it was custom to always plant potatoes on George Washington's Birthday (a little before spring in February). When preparing the potatoes to plant, it was always important to make sure each piece had an "eye" on it so they would come up. She said they also would get out the rug from the living room and place over wooden saw horses and beat with a broom to clean when they did the mattresses. Betty says they did a super job of "spring cleaning" each year, too, which meant

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

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

From the Woo's . . .

February 27, 2015

Dear friends and partners,

It is a privilege to live here and see all the Lord is doing. His love is so great! Praise Him for His deeds. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

We wanted to update you on Paul. Paul is a 40-year-old man who has recently believed. He has been crippled since he was 8 months old and his body looks like it is twisted in knots. He crawls on the floor and can move about in a hand cranked wheelchair. He has been faithfully and joyfully coming to all the local meetings even though it means he must ride his wheelchair on a busy road for almost an hour one way.

A few weeks ago he was baptized. He also came to a training we had that lasted long into the night. This late night training may have been the last straw for his family. A few days later the elders of his village had a meeting and decided that Paul must be kicked out of the village if he continues to follow Jesus. His sister beat him and then he spent the night outside. The next day he was at our house with Mary the local believer and others. We prayed and took Paul back home. Some from his village then called Mary the local believer and told her not to call him or pick him up again, and that if the Christians did call then they would beat Paul.

Paul has said he wants to follow Jesus no matter what. His village has taken a stand and publicly said they will not allow any Christians to even come into their village.

Lord, we pray you would use this village to show your power and might to the whole area. Pour out your love, joy, and peace on Paul. Lord, heal his body, and raise him up to walk so all can know you are God. Bring many in this village to know you. Give Paul and others boldness to share, and wisdom to know what things Paul should and shouldn't attend.

We did have a great training for the local group, teaching them about freedom and joy in Jesus. Mary and May have been going out and they are realizing more and more that just telling people about Jesus, or inviting people to church is not enough. They are trying to make disciples that go and make disciples, and make churches that go and make churches.

We have about 4 months left in this area. It is bitter sweet as we will miss it and yet we do feel the Lord preparing us to go. We have lived in this area almost 9 years. In the future we hope to visit this area a few times a year. Our teammates will still be here and there are many others already here to encourage the local believers. We will pack up our stuff in June and



ADERHOLD FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"Thoughtful Service – A Payne Family Tradition" West, Texas 254/826-5321

Lent Services Wednesday Nights

On Wednesday, February 18, at 5:15 p.m. (Ash Wednesday) there were 27 people (includes baby Cullen) that attended Ash Wednesday services in Fellowship Hall. Those attending were from Fayetteville Brethren Church: Liz & Joe Ripple, Lille Mae Brightwell, Betty Yoakum, Sandra Stepan, Ann Heintschel, Jerry & Martha Dove, and Ben Polasek. Attending from Industry Brethren Church were J.B. & Marian Branam, Shirley Maeckel, Paula & Betty Ullrich, Dale & Lynwood Ullrich, Ernest Platte, Liz & Harvey Treybig, Joan Coufal & Cullen, Lee & Eleanora Coufal, Barnard Coufal, Lillie Coufal, and Larry Treybig.

Everyone was served Holy Communion and ashes were placed on the hand or forehead. A meal of chopped

BBO on a bun was served with Polish donuts, chocolate cake, king's cake, several kinds of cookies, blueberry pie, chips, tea, coffee, fruit tray, and "koch caesa" sandwiches. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about Jesus's sayings "I Am."

On Wednesday, February 25, there were 18 persons attending the class. and a meal of stew and chili was served with many desserts, fruit tray, ham and cheese, different crackers & breads, coffee and tea. Everyone once again enjoyed an evening of learning and sharing fellowship. There were eight from Fayetteville Brethren Church and nine from Industry Brethren Church attending. This class will continue each Wednesday through Lent, and we invite you to attend.



washing windows, walls, floors, etc. Betty noted that her brother looked forward to spring so he could go to school barefoot. My mother would have us begin the "preparation for canning," too, which meant washing a lot of canning jars with hot soapy water. By the time you were finished, your hands were all red and wrinkled up and did not look like they belonged to the rest of your body. This meant she would only have to scald them later for canning as she kept them clean.

Of course, spring meant we now could go barefoot outside all day as the days were warmer and ground not so cold or hot. It was always fun following a spring shower to go outside barefoot and splash in the water puddles in front of our house. I am not sure who had more fun; the goose we had as a pet in front of the house (he served as a "guard dog/goose") or us.

There was always the garden planting in the spring, also. We had to get all the plants out that were put up from seeds. Yards had to be mowed now with the "push kind" not seen anymore. And that rye grass could get tall and it required quite some

muscle to do! There was no need to go to a "gym to work out" in those days, as of course there was not such a thing or no one would have even dreamed of it. Then there was the chopping out of weeds in the flower beds so the Easter lilies and other flowers could survive and bloom. The ladies of the church would plant red and white small carnations so they would be "just right to bloom for Mother's Day." My Aunt Tillie always had the most beautiful flowers, and she was an expert on this carnation blooming time. It was also at this time that our cellar had to be cleaned out of cob webs, mud dabbers, etc. We would have to put fine sand on the floor to store the potatoes that would be harvested when ready and canned goods would be stored on the shelves as well as onions laid out on the shelves. I always was afraid to go down those steps and into this area as it was dark and scorpions were frequently there and many times I got stung. That meant my tongue would swell and I had a hard time breathing. Of course, today I recognize I was having a reaction to the

Temple Brethren Church

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

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Tim Chaplin, Interim Pastor (254) 718-3898

sting, but at that age it was pure "fear"! The wonderful thing about the cellar was sitting at the kitchen window and watching the little lambs (we had sheep) run up the tin roof and slide back down. Rarely, but sometimes, one would go so high as to go over to the other side and the other lambs would be looking for it and frolicking around very silly. It was better than if we had a television to watch (which we did not).

Since Easter is generally in March or April, this was a time that the ladies got their permanents either at the beauty shop with the long wires attached to hot rollers that would smell strong or the home kind with common names like "Tony" and "Lilt". Our mother would be watching for either nice feed sack material or maybe a wonderful piece of purchase material to be made into a new Easter outfit. In those days, ladies wore gloves and hats to church, also, with some matching handbag. If you were the youngest boy or girl in the family and did not have to hand down your jeans to the next sibling, you were blessed with the opportunity to cut those long pant legs and now have a wonderful pair of shorts for spring and summer days. It was now time to put away the flannel pajamas that you wore during the cold winter nights with only a wood heater to keep the house warm. Aw, the feel of clean wind-blown, freshly washed sheets and just a cotton night gown was what made heavenly dreams and sleep full nights.

Paula Ullrich says she remembers spring as the time for "spring break", which meant there would not be many more weeks of school till it would be out for summer.

Henry Lee Franke says this was a time to open all the windows and let the house air out. Of course, no one does that with central air or air conditioning now. You can almost see the curtains blowing and flapping as the breeze rushed through the house and one could smell the soft fragrance of freshly grown grass or cut lawn. The smell of bluebonnets sometimes could be smelled for it seemed miles as the Texas winds shook their blossoms for the wind to carry their fragrance. It is this kind of special time that makes one realize the miracle of God's creation and our blessing of sharing in it each day of our lives.

Some families had/have a practice

to go fishing during the Lenten season (spring) in order to get fish that can be prepared for a Good Friday fish fry. Seems fish bite good in the spring and this works out well.

Betty Ullrich also recalls that about Washington's birthday (late February) or first of March, corn was planted. Cotton would be planted the last part of March or first part of April. She recalls that one year the corn was up about eight inches to one foot when a late freeze came and killed it all. The next planting was late and did not do well at all. She also recalled that her Uncle Edwin came at Easter for lunch, and afterward the boys went with him to Mill Creek to fish, and they stayed out all day long. The kids would go swimming in Mill Creek and dam off the creek with sand, but it did not work. It would always break. Betty also recalled that in the spring, the youth of the church started to practice volleyball and would have tournaments. One year there were about 50 teams from all the local churches in the area. One of the things that the Surovik family did at Easter with the colored chicken Easter eggs was that after they were hidden for the children to find, the kids would re-hide

them for each other to hunt and find. She said by the end of the week, they smelled bad and had to be thrown out or the dogs found them and ate them.

I remember going to Easter sunrise services at the West End School on the outside and it was very cold. All the girls had on little gloves, heels, and of course a hat. In those days, one of the popular fabrics was a kind of nylon sheer thin fabric for girls' dresses and it did not provide any warmth on this occasion. It was very inspirational to see the sun rising and hear all the people singing from the different churches.

So, what memories do you bring forth as the days grow longer and the sun sets later and spring has arrived in all its majesty of fragrant smells and beauty to the eyes? It is an assurance that life renews and we are promised everlasting life. We are to be thankful for our days on this earth that we can feast in God's blessings. May you build many more new memories of spring this year and share them with your family as you remember the wonderful gift of this season, the "resurrection of Jesus" on Easter Sunday.

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 Youth Directors Rayfield Slovacek P.O. Box 267

Randall & Jonna See P.O. Box 345 Snook, TX 77878 Snook, TX 77878 (979) 272-8845 (979) 272-8179

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

