

# THE BRETHREN



## JOURNAL



Vol. 114

May 2015

No. 4

40 Pages



**2015 Christian Sisters Officers from the  
Community Christian Church of Rosenberg**

*L to R: President, Mary Jane Kocurek; Treasurer, Cathy Kuritza;  
Secretary, Virginia Macik; Vice-President, Genevieve Bowman.*

*Not pictured: Corresponding Secretary, Lee Brandt.*

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*— 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 . . . *Report to the Synodical Meeting*  
*The Schism . . .* by Jim Pokorny  
*Presence of Mind . . .* by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell  
Oldes Member of the Unity of the Brethren Passes  
Summer Camps and Youth Retreat info

**. . . and so much more!**

## THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Commercial coverage – \$50.00  
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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. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Brethren Journal*, Attn: Business Manager, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

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Unity of the Brethren  
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## SUMMER YOUTH RETREAT JULY 18-JULY 19

The Summer Youth Retreat, Volleyball Tournament, & Convention are right around the corner! All reports, volleyball information, and registration forms are due by June 30. (All forms are available at [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com).) Check-in will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 18. The convention will begin at 9 a.m. All participants are asked to be in the classroom building by 10 a.m. so that we can have a registration check and activities can begin. A trophy presentation will be held on the courts as soon as the tournament concludes. There will be no evening worship. Sunday morning a continental breakfast will be provided and there will be no organized activities. Dismissal Sunday will occur as soon as the camp is cleaned.

Please note that **the beds in the dorms and camp cabins are reserved for the YOUTH and 1-2 sponsors per church group**. All other adults will be “lodged” as space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Our numbers have increased greatly for the summer retreat, and most adults will need to secure their own accommodations.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Chervenka: 254-913-1244; [jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto:jennchervenka@farm-market.net).

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# President's Column . . . James Marek

## President's Report to the Synodical Committee

In John 15:5 Jesus said, *"I am the vine and you are the branches..."*

*apart from Me you can do nothing."* This passage has been chosen as the scriptural reference for the upcoming 66th Biennial convention. It was chosen because it carries a powerful reminder of our purpose as the body of Christ while also reminding us that

we are powerless to do anything apart from our Savior. We are keeping this passage in mind as we continue our plans for this commemorative convention where we will praise and thank God for His blessing upon the Unity throughout our history beginning with the martyrdom of Jan Hus 600 years ago.

This year's convention will be co-hosted by the Nelsonville and Wesley congregations on July 10th-12th. The convention will be preceded by the 2nd Annual Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Jr., Golf Tournament. The golf tournament will be held at the Faith Bridge Ranch Golf Club just outside of

Hempstead on Thursday, July 9th. Everyone is invited to come to the

convention one day early and enjoy some fun and fellowship on the golf course while supporting Unity Missions.

The convention schedule had been modified to maximize the time we spend in worship and celebration. As we commemorate the 600th anni-

versary of the martyrdom of Jan Hus, we believe it appropriate to conclude the convention with a Unity-wide joint worship service. We are encouraging all Brethren congregations to permit their pastors to attend this special service, and also encourage all Brethren to be a part of this historic time of worship and celebration.

We are looking forward to multiple presentations by Rev. Dr. David Schattscheider, Professor Emeritus at Moravian Theological Seminary. Rev. Schattschneider will speak on Hus and Unity history and will share his insights on Hus' life and impact on the Unity. ➔



### To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

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

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

## Nominating Committee Update

During the convention we will elect new Synodical Committee Executive officers as well as several other positions on various boards and committees. To that end, the nominating committee has been working to develop a complete slate of candidates for these positions. Their work is reflected in the following list:

### Executive Committee Candidates

President – Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky  
1st Vice Pres. – Kent Laza, Bryan/College Station

2nd Vice Pres. – Rev. Mike Groseclose, Nelsonville

3rd Vice President – Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Houston

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Treasurer – Harvey Treybig, Industry  
Financial Secretary – Liz Ripple, Fayetteville

Lay Representative – Wylly Marx, Ocker

Pastoral Alternate – Rev. Mark Sebek  
Board of Christian Education- Chair-Tami Laza – Bryan/College Station  
Board for Grants and Bequests – Eugene Haisler, Ocker; Ron Tyson, Houston; Alan Tomasek, Taylor; unfilled position

*Brethren Journal* Business Manager

– Ben Polasek, Industry

*Brethren Journal* Editor – Cathleen Schlechte, New Tabor

Foreign Mission Board Chairman – unfilled position

Home Mission Board Chairman – Rev. Lawrence Junek, Waco

Hus School Board of Trustees Chairman – Mark Olsen, Taylor

Pastoral Relations

Jon Farrow – Temple

Connie Janac – Bryan/College Station

Dorothy Kocian – West

Dr. Ron Dusek – Caldwell

### Mission Giving Finalized

One of the most evident ways God has recently blessed the Unity is through our mission support. Mission giving for 2014 totaled over \$146,000. The foreign mission budget of \$67,000 was exceeded by 33% with total giving of \$89,582. Home missions received \$56,833 which was just 15% shy of the \$67,000 budget. Information from the annual Unity questionnaires indicates that 19 of the 23 Brethren churches reporting so far have included Unity Missions in their budgets. These budgets indicate a

## 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 – A Home Mission Project since 10-22-11 – 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 Sunday.  
– Rev. Jim Heckman

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:45 AM, worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.  
– Rev. Kay Polasek

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 9:00 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 – A non-official member congregation of the Unity of the Brethren – 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



**Fayetteville Brethren Church**  
"Site of the First Czech Protestant Preaching in Texas – 1855"

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Come join us!  
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Worship 10:45 a.m.

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# DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

## Daily Morsels for May 2015

- by Dorothy Kocian

1. May the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful. Ps. 68:3
2. Fear the Lord; serve Him only. Deut. 6:13
3. **He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, godliness and honor. Prov. 21:21**
4. God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thes. 5:9
5. You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the spirit of sonship. Rom. 8:15
6. Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb. Rev. 7:10
7. In Your great love, O God, answer me with Your sure salvation. Ps. 69:13
8. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God is in him. 1 Jn. 4:16
9. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Ps. 27:13
10. **The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal. 5:22**
11. Be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, who was crucified, both Lord and Christ. Acts 2:36
12. Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31
13. You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. 1 Pet. 1:18
14. O Lord, my God, I will give You thanks forever. Ps. 30:12
15. They will walk with Me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. Rev. 3:4
16. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13
17. **Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 Jn. 3:18**
18. It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only. Mt. 4:10
19. The Lord said, "Look and watch – and be utterly amazed." Habakkuk 1:5
20. The earnest prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16
21. Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Col. 4:2
22. Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong. Ps. 37:1
23. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Rom. 15:7
24. **Let us continually offer praise to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name. Heb. 13:15**
25. The entire law is summed up in a simple command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Gal. 5:14
26. The Lord is compassionate and gracious; slow to anger, abounding in love. Ps. 103:8
27. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. 1 Jn. 4:19
28. Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Jn. 13:34
29. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. Jn. 13:35
30. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love. Ps. 33:5
31. **He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? But to act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8**

total in excess of \$55,000 for foreign missions and almost \$35,000 for home missions. When the current regular individual donations are added to these totals, foreign missions are expected to receive more than \$74,000 and home missions more than \$50,000 in 2015. These numbers do not include numerous one-time gifts that have been given over the last 2 years. Clearly, God is at work in the Unity of the Brethren Missions program. It will be exciting to see what He will do in 2015 through many faithful Brethren.

### From the Mission Field

We were saddened to hear the news that 2 of our missionaries have been recently diagnosed with cancer. Anne Thiessen and Caroline Woo have both recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. Anne has been serving the Unity in the mission field in Mexico with her husband, Robert. Anne will be receiving treatment in Canada. Caroline has been serving the Unity in Asia with her husband, Michael, and will receive treatment in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. We are asking all Brethren to keep these 2 families in prayer as they make their way through this difficult time.

### Website Update

The redesign and rebuilding of the Unity website has been a lengthy and challenging process. The website committee remains committed to its original plan, which is to expand and update the site while making it easier to maintain going forward. The website committee has overseen the work of the web design contractor and has recently provided a list of the items that still need to be fixed. The web designer has agreed to make these changes and is currently in the process. Kelly Zrubek has agreed to serve as our webmaster and has made some changes to the site already. However, the language in which the website is constructed is one that Kelly is not completely familiar with, so the committee plans to meet before the convention to decide the best strategy for the site going forward. The website is certainly functional and remains a great resource for denominational information and history, and we encourage visitors to provide feedback that can be incorporated in future plans.

### Ministers Benefits Program

A need to modify the current Min-



## WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

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



isters Benefit Program has been identified and an effort is underway to restructure the program so that all Unity pastors are eligible to participate. The current program was created many years ago when such retirement programs were not as heavily regulated as they are today. Consequently, ministers who joined the retirement program before the laws changed are allowed to continue in the current program. However, ministers who have joined the Unity more recently are currently not eligible to participate in the retirement program until the program is updated to meet the current legal requirements. Plans are being made to update the program so that all Unity pastors (current and future) will be able to participate in the program. A proposal for such an update is anticipated at the upcoming convention.

### Accountable Reimbursement Plans for Ministers

The accounting firm currently handling the tax reporting for the Unity has recently suggested that local congregations consider using "accountable reimbursement account plans" when reimbursable expense

accounts are a part of minister's compensation. An accountable plan is one in which the pastor has an expense account set up in the church budget. The pastor may spend money on qualified expenses and then submit the receipts with proof of payment to the church for reimbursement. The benefit of accountable plans is that the church is not required to include the reimbursements on the pastors W-2 and the pastor is not required to include the expenses as income or deductions on his or her personal tax return. Prior to implementing accountable reimbursement plans, congregations should consult a local tax professional or contact our account firm, Wehring Wealth Management, at 979-865-5959 for more information.

In closing, the Unity continues to face many opportunities and challenges as we seek God's will for our denomination. Please keep the upcoming convention, your local congregation, and the Unity as a whole in your prayers. Pray that we as the branches will continue to find ways to bear much fruit and bring glory to God our Father.

## 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.

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>James D. Hejl</i>	<i>Kevin Page</i>	<i>Mary Kokes</i>
<i>512-365-6890</i>	<i>512-689-1593</i>	<i>M-Th 8:00 am-noon</i>

## VITAL STATISTICS

### MEMBERS RECEIVED

#### BY REINSTATEMENT:

KAREN (HRUSKA) KNICKERBOCKER was reinstated into membership at Fayetteville Brethren Church on January 13, 2015.

### RECENT DEATHS

URBAN, Miss ALMA FRANTISKA, age 101 years, 10 months, and 20 days; lifelong member of the Fayetteville Brethren Church and oldest member in the denomination, died Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Columbus, Texas. She was born on April 27, 1913, in Ellinger, Texas. She was baptized on June 15, 1913, by Rev. Jindrich Juren at the Czech Moravian Brethren Evangelical Church at Ross Prairie. Private graveside services were held Monday, March 23, at Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery. Survivors include cousins and church friends. Minister: Rev Kay Polasek.

### PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

### THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

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

### HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### Voting Members:

**Chair:** Mark Olsen, 1316 Howard St., Taylor, TX 75674. (512) 630-5153; [olsenemcee@yahoo.com](mailto:olsenemcee@yahoo.com)

**Vice-Chair:** Rick Weise, P.O. Box 28, Vancourt, TX 76955. [rick.weise@sanangelotexas.us](mailto:rick.weise@sanangelotexas.us)

**Treasurer:** Ron Krueger, P.O. Box 1225, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-7191; [krueg98@austin.rr.com](mailto:krueg98@austin.rr.com)

**Secretary:** Connie Janac (Chr. Sis. 2010) 1002 Munson, College Station, TX 77840. (979) 696-1953; [cjanac@st-joseph.org](mailto:cjanac@st-joseph.org)

**At-Large:** Phil Michalik, 1131 Ashland, Houston, TX 77008. [Pmichalik1@peoplepc.com](mailto:Pmichalik1@peoplepc.com)

**Member:** Debbie Grimm (Chr. Sis. 2010) 1409 Stone Ridge Rd., Taylor, TX 76574. C: (512) 718-2310; [mama\\_dgrimm@hotmail.com](mailto:mama_dgrimm@hotmail.com)

**Member:** Erin Brinkley (BYF: 2012), 119 CR 3000, Lott, TX 76656; [erinbrinkley@yahoo.com](mailto:erinbrinkley@yahoo.com)

**Member:** Angie Hairrell (Bd. Chr.Ed.), 11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879; [Hairrell@gmail.com](mailto:Hairrell@gmail.com)

**Member:** Todd Snelgrove, 5207 Draycott Ct., Bryan, TX 77802. (979) 229-7524; [rsnelgrove@gmail.com](mailto:rsnelgrove@gmail.com)

#### Non-Voting Appointments:

**Programming Director:** Kayla Marek, 901 Hidden Valley Dr. #9302, Round Rock, TX 78665; [kmarek2012@gmail.com](mailto:kmarek2012@gmail.com)

**Unity Youth Coordinator:** Jennifer Chervenka (Synodical Committee Appointment), 9494 Big Elm Creek Road, Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 983-1002; [jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto:jennchervenka@farm-market.net)

**Facilities Manager(s):** Jim and Dawn Marie Baletka, 600 Benchmark Drive, College Station, TX 77845; [txnfish@aol.com](mailto:txnfish@aol.com); [BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org](mailto:BaletkaD@navasotaisd.org)

**Caretakers:** Robert and Cathleen Schlechte, 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX 77836; (979) 324-5560, (979)255-8266; [rschlechte@hotmail.com](mailto:rschlechte@hotmail.com); [schlechte86@msn.com](mailto:schlechte86@msn.com)

**Oversight of Synodical Committee:** Rev. Dr. Jerry Lee Terrill, 7 Torch Pine Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381. (281) 364-9865; [jerryleeterrill@gmail.com](mailto:jerryleeterrill@gmail.com)

# 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



## 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

## 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

## 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 Program-  
mer

(512) 944-2619 or kmarek2012@gmail.com

# Invitation to the 66th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren “Branches Bearing Fruit”

To the Synodical Committee Lay members, Pastors, Delegates, Members & Friends of the Unity of the Brethren:

The Board of Elders of the Nelsonville & Wesley Churches most warmly invite you to the 66th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren to be held July 10-12, 2015. The 10th & 11th will be at Nelsonville and the 12th will be at Wesley. The churches are located on Nelsonville Church Road & Wesley Church Lane.

The convention will begin Friday, July 10, with registration at 9:00 AM. Opening Worship with Holy Communion will begin at 10:00 AM. Convention business will be done at Nelsonville on the 10th and 11th and a Unity-wide Worship Service will be held at Wesley on the 12th. This Convention will center on “Celebration” commemorating the 600th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Jan Hus and the 150th Anniversary of the Wesley Brethren Church.

This year’s Convention theme is “Branches Bearing Fruit” with scripture from John 15:5 – *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

Housing accommodations have been set up in Brenham, TX 77833, and rooms have been blocked off at the following hotels: Comfort Suites (\$104.99 per night, reserve before July 1), 2350 S. Day Street, 979-421-8100 or 1-800-300-8800 (comfortinn.com).

Hampton Inn & Suites (\$109 per night, reserve before June 18), 2605 Schulte Blvd, 979-337-9898-or 1-800-426-7866.

Best Western Inn of Brenham (\$98.99 per night, reserve by June 9), 1503 Hwy 290 E (Bestwestern.com).

La Quinta Inn & Suites (\$116 per night, reserve by June 18), 2950 Wood Ridge Blvd; 979-836-5551 or 1-800-642-4241 (lq.com).

Mention Unity of the Brethren Convention to get these rates. If you bring a Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate from your Church, you can avoid the State tax.

The meals which will be provided are:

At Nelsonville Brethren Church Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11: 8 a.m. Continental Breakfast, complimentary; Lunch 12 p.m., \$10.00; Supper 6 p.m., \$10.00.

At Wesley Brethren Church Sunday, July 12: 8 a.m. Continental Break-



## Brethren Book Store

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Caldwell, TX 77836

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Diane Heckman, Manager



fast, complimentary; Lunch 12 p.m., \$10.00.

Let us all join in prayer that God will bless this gathering and that the work of the Holy Spirit will be evident among us as we seek to serve our Lord in this day and time.

From the Nelsonville & Wesley Brethren Churches,  
Jon Schroeder, President of the Nelsonville Elders  
J. T. Grounds, President of the Wesley Elders  
Rev. Michael Groseclose, Pastor

Nelsonville Brethren Church, 332 Nelsonville Church Rd, Bellville 77418  
Wesley Brethren Church, 9643 Wesley Church Lane, Brenham 77833  
Nelsonville Brethren Church office and Pastor's Phone – 979-865-3026

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Jean Kotrla; [kotrla@flash.net](mailto:kotrla@flash.net)  
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Synodical Committee Liaison;  
[jerryleterrill@comcast.net](mailto:jerryleterrill@comcast.net)  
Debbie Clark  
Peggy Hejl

the Unity Website (see Calendar/Forms). Hotel information is listed in the invitation (also in this issue). Contact for further information: Liz Ripple, Secretary, Unity of the Brethren, email: [lizripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lizripple@hotmail.com), or 979-378-2239.

If you have not sent in your Brethren Fund Assessments for 2014 or 2013, please do that soon. The assessments should be sent directly to Dan Merz, Financial Secretary ([dan.merz@williams.com](mailto:dan.merz@williams.com)).

**July 12-17, 2015 – Challenger Camp:** (ages 16-HS Seniors)

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

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



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Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558  
Home: [rev.tjt@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)  
Church: [rev.tjt@zipnet.us](mailto:rev.tjt@zipnet.us)  
[www.wallbrethrenchurch.org](http://www.wallbrethrenchurch.org)

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

<i>President</i>	<i>Pastor/Director of Youth</i>	<i>Church Office</i>
<i>Board of Elders</i>	<i>and Young Family Ministries</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
David Miller	Ryan Volkman	Johnie Smith
325-651-7597	325-213-0671	Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



# Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**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.

**June 11-13, 2015 – Encounter Camp** (ages 7-8)

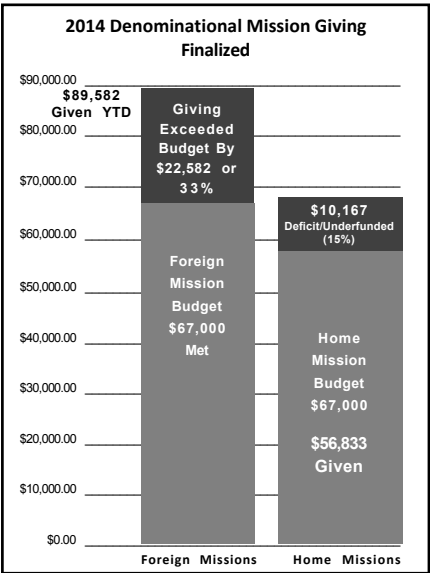
**June 14-18, 2015 – Alpha Camp** (ages 9-10)

**June 21-26, 2015 – Pioneer Camp** (ages 11-12)

**June 28-July 3, 2015 – Discovery Camp** (ages 13-15)

**July 10-12, 2015 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) – 66th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren** – The 10th & 11th will be at Nelsonville and a Unity-wide worship service will be held at Wesley on the 12th. 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. (See the official invitation with additional important information in this issue).

**REMINDER FROM THE UNITY SECRETARY:** All of the convention information has been sent to ministers, synodical representatives, organizational members, committee chairpersons and other Unity contacts. *Ministers and Representatives* – please communicate so the person in charge of filling out the credentials form gets the form. The deadline to send back delegate credential forms w/\$250 fee per delegate and for all reports is **June 1, 2015**. Please return the credential forms with fees and all reports to the Secretary. Copies of the Convention invitation, secretary’s letter, and credential forms are on



**CHRISTIAN SISTERS’ UNION OFFICERS**

**President:** Ann Sebesta, P.O. Box 115, Snook, TX 77878. (210) 244-3362; [bfsinc@tconline.net](mailto:bfsinc@tconline.net)

**Vice President:** Jean Kotrla, (512) 491-7802. [kotrla@flash.net](mailto:kotrla@flash.net)

**Secretary:** Kimberly Kennard, 4501 Oxford Dr., Temple, TX 76502. (254) 931-5657; [kimberlykennard@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberlykennard@yahoo.com)

**Financial Secretary:** Linda Planka, (832) 335-2248 or (713) 472-3192; [mslindaj47@yahoo.com](mailto:mslindaj47@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Carol Miller, 1710 West O.S.R., Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 567-7774 or (979) 272-3008; [delandcarolmiller@verizon.net](mailto:delandcarolmiller@verizon.net)

**Hus Encampment Rep.:** Paula Wagner

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

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

# 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 23:4-5 – *Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle*

Luke 12:15 – *Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”*

Giving 10% isn’t the ceiling of giving; it’s the floor. It’s not the finish line of giving; it’s just the starting box.

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## 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

### OBJECT LESSON: Picnic Fun

**Materials:** Blanket, picnic basket, napkins, snack

Spread out a blanket where everyone will sit picnic style. Once everything is in place and the children are seated ask, Okay, now who brought the food for our picnic? Someone may have a piece of candy or gum. Ask if they would be willing to share it with the entire class. After attempting to split any items the kids come up with, pull out your picnic basket and look inside. Have a small piece of food (a slice of bread or a couple of crackers). Talk about whether this would be a very enjoyable picnic. This is the same problem the disciples faced one day when thousands of people followed Jesus on a grassy hillside. Let's share a real snack as we listen to the story from God's Word. Prior to reading the story from John 6:3-14, pass out small baggies of Goldfish and oyster crackers to enjoy while they listen.

#### Questions:

- What did Philip say when Jesus told him to get food for the crowd?
- Did he show that he had faith?
- What could Philip have said or done to show that he did have faith?
- Imagine that you were the boy who had brought his lunch from home. How would you have felt if Jesus asked you for the lunch?
- Is it easy for you to be generous?
- When have you been generous?
- How did you feel after you were generous?

Let's pray and ask God to make us generous with others.

# A Little Boy with a BIG Lunch

## 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:

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15.

Or Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6HaCjJlZRs>

## DO:

Make a basket with five loaves of bread and 2 fish. Directions and materials here:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3uNEVAAKowpc2loNGtaeXpqQjg/edit>

## BIBLE TRUTHS:

- Jesus fed 5000 people plus women and children because of 1 little boy's generous heart.
- Jesus' disciples focused on the problem rather than on God. When we are confronted with an unsolvable situation, we need to remember "For nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37, NIV)
- God is not only a generous provider, but He has unlimited resources
- This miraculous feeding of the multitude was another sign that Jesus was the Messiah.
- This miracle when Jesus feeds 5000 is recorded in all four Gospels, with only slight differences in details.

For  
comments/questions/  
information, contact:

Angie Hairrell

[Hairrell@gmail.com](mailto:Hairrell@gmail.com)



## The Schism

- by Jim Pokorny

[Author's Note: This is the conclusion of a two-part article on the period of history which immediately followed the passing of Gregory the Patriarch. 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.]

As you may recall, differences of opinion between the Major and Minor parties resulted in division within the Unity. Shortly after the synod at Brandys in 1490, the arguments of Jacob and Amos persuaded Matthew to appoint a new Inner Council. This council immediately overturned the decision of that synod. The Major Party was not represented on the new council. In response, they chose four trusted brothers to seek out the "church of the apostles" in the hope that such

a church might be able to shed some light where the New Testament seemed ambiguous.

Lord Kostka arranged for their passage to the East and covered their expenses. In 1491 the four brothers traveled together as far as Constantinople. Kaspar remained there. Mares Kokovec traveled to Russia. Martin Kabatnik made his way to Palestine and Egypt. Luke of Prague went to the Balkans to observe Orthodox worship.

The four faced many dangers in their journeys. Although each learned a great deal, they never found the apostolic church that they sought. Luke was convinced, now more than ever before, that the Unity would have to find its own way with the help of the Holy Spirit. After he returned from his quest, Luke of Prague even-



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10:30 AM

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor  
[lajoiededieu@gmail.com](mailto:lajoiededieu@gmail.com)

Church website: [www.lifeatcbc.org](http://www.lifeatcbc.org)  
Church email: [lifeatcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lifeatcbc@gmail.com)

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

*Welcome*

tually emerged as the intellectual leader of the Unity.

While the Unity continued to struggle in coming to terms with its relationship to secular authority, an additional complication arose. This controversy came about in its understanding of salvation. Was salvation a product of God's grace through faith or did it come by good works? The early Brethren believed that faith must be completed in love. The more theologically literate warned against the belief that works led to salvation. The Brethren were by no means the only church ever to struggle over the concept of grace versus works, nor would they be the last.

They searched the New Testament for guidance. Scripture often leads to more questions before it leads to an answer. Scripture stated on one hand that Christ's yoke is easy and His burden is light; on the other hand it stated that a believer must pick up his cross and follow Him.

Matthew and the Inner Council were disturbed by the questioning of grace versus works. To them it seemed that the Brethren were losing their simplicity and engaging in fruitless speculation. They feared that if the

people relied too much on Christ for salvation, they would become lax in their discipline. This, in turn, could only lead to immorality in their behavior. The elders were concerned that some of the Brethren, especially the more educated who joined in the 1480's, were promoting a theology of grace.

This was a debate that could not be resolved administratively because it involved fundamental questions of biblical teaching. As a result, some of the priests formed a "grace party". The formation of a "works party" quickly followed. Thus, the sense of division seemed more overwhelming than ever.

Those with theological training pressed the issue. Klenovsky concluded that each side had merit, but at the same time each was imperfect. He published a treatise dealing with this division. In it he pointed out that the "works party" promoted righteousness, without which faith would be dead. He also added that they spoke more about righteousness than they practiced it. Similarly, he pointed out that the "grace party" erred by relying too heavily on God's grace and had thus grown weak and become

*There's a young boy  
here with five barley  
loaves and two fish.  
But what good is that  
with this huge crowd?*

*John 6:9*

## Sunday School Helper



This month we continue to explore Children of the Bible. Our next lesson is about a little boy with a BIG lunch, because he was willing to give all he had to Jesus. Jesus still does this today! It was not about the size of the gift, or the expected return from the gift, but instead it was just the innocence of a child wanting to help in any way he could. Even young children have much to give to the Kingdom. It is our job as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and Sunday School teachers to help them know their potential and help them develop a heart that is soft to the needs of others and the calling of Jesus.

## Temple Brethren Church

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

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

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

## 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, [dekocian@yahoo.com](mailto:dekocian@yahoo.com)

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 979-378-4167, [sandrainastin@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrainastin@yahoo.com)

Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlapek, PO Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-272-9102, [mjcarc@airplexus.com](mailto:mjcarc@airplexus.com)

Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115, Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, [bfsinc@tconline.net](mailto:bfsinc@tconline.net)

Ocker #8: Doris Svoboda, 109 Friendship Ln, Temple, TX 76501-9614, 254-742-1405

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](mailto: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](mailto:michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net)

Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum, 3620 Ave. O, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 713-826-7993, [dparthum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dparthum@sbcglobal.net)

Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Dr., Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480, [dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com)

\*\*Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

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worldly. His critique of the “grace party” was extremely effective because he came from a wealthy family but lived a simple life.

Although much of the dissension was blamed on the influx of educated members, theologically speaking, a belief in justification by works is problematic. In 1489, Prokop publicly criticized the works party while he was a member of the Inner Council. He argued that the Brethren had never lived up to their ideals.

This controversy of grace versus works was also connected to the one regarding the swearing of oaths and participation in secular government. The older Brethren, led by Amos, aggressively promoted the older understanding. The younger Brethren sought a relaxation of the rules and promoted the discussion of the church’s theology.

Luke, as he continued to emerge as a leader, identified the strengths and weaknesses of each side of the debate.

In 1493, Luke published a work entitled *The Ship*. In it he stated, “is not a particular manner of life marked by the negation of different regulations of the world, but rather a funda-

mental new beginning which makes a Christian a Christian. This involves full dependence on Christ. Only the sacrifice of the Son of God is the foundation of the church. ‘Without his death and the merit of his grace and sharing in his righteousness, no suffering, nor self-denial, nor merit makes for the gaining of salvation.’”

This gives us some indication of the direction Luke would pursue in his theology over the course of time. Faith must be completed in love, but works of piety alone could not save a person. It is possible that they could, in fact, make one less loving and Christlike.

According to Craig D. Atwood, “Rather than reject the teaching of the early Unity, Luke recovered some of the original meaning and concept of faith completed in love. Love was a gift of God rather than an act of the human will.”

When one considers the fact that Luke and others like him were originally attracted to the Unity by the writings of Chelcicky during a time of persecution, this makes perfect sense.

With the sense of division within the Unity ever present, another synod



## Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53

Temple, TX 76501

Church Phone: 254-985-2694

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

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor –

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

Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair

was held at Rychnov in 1494. This synod reaffirmed the decision previously rendered at Brandys in 1490. Membership in the Unity would no longer be based on renouncing the world, but rather on one's readiness to begin a new life. The Unity would still maintain strict discipline, but it would not turn away the weak. In fact, priests were to take special pains to help those weak in faith and morals.

These changes in doctrine were controversial and would remain so for a very long period of time. According to Atwood, "In fairness to the Unity of the Brethren, they discovered what every radical social movement learns: that it is nearly impossible to maintain the ideals of the Sermon on the Mount in the temporal world."

A period of rigorous debate took place within the Unity for at least the next five years following that synod. Leadership encouraged each side to be tolerant of the views held by the other. This proved difficult.

Some of the leading priests, including members of the Inner Council, met at Prerov to discuss changes and the future organization of the Unity. Matthew was removed from his position as primate but maintained his ordina-

tion. This was the earliest move in the Unity to separate church oversight from episcopal authority. Prokop was restored to the Inner Council and was made judge of the Unity.

Taborsky, the pastor of the Litomysl congregation, Luke, the pastor of Mlada Boleslav, and Klenovsky, a layperson, were made part of the new Inner Council.

Jacob openly criticized the Inner Council and the Unity's priests for being lax. He and other members of the Minor Party encouraged Brethren to refuse communion from priests who agreed with the synod. He was eventually threatened with expulsion. He grudgingly repented and was eventually reconciled with the Brethren.

The Inner Council was fully aware that they were departing significantly from the writings of Chelcicky and Gregory. The council met in Rychnov in 1495. There, they stated that they still valued those writings, but acknowledged that they were insufficient. They added that they should only be used as long as they coincided with scripture and served the purpose of edification.

For the first time, the Unity's leadership asserted that no human writ-



## BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

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



Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 9283  
College Station, TX 77842

Church 9:00 A.M.  
Sunday School 10:45 A.M.  
Off: 979-693-3606  
email: [papasebek@gmx.com](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

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### Unity Archivist

Clint Machann  
[c-machann@tamu.edu](mailto:c-machann@tamu.edu)  
979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898





ings, not even those of its founders, set forth “unalterable laws”. All doctrinal statements were subject to continual examination and change in light of scripture and reason. It was determined that the Brethren had tried to live up to Chelcicky’s ideals, but in the end they began trusting more in their good works than in the cross of Christ.

The Minor Party argued that the New Testament had to be taken literally. Luke distinguished between the law of grace and the written word. According to Luke, God imparted the law of grace directly into the believer’s heart and its content was faith, love, and hope. He reminded the Brethren that Christ instructed people to hear the Gospel and not read it. Furthermore, he contended that the Gospel preceded the New Testament which, according to Luke, was written because early Christians began wrangling over doctrine rather than adhering to Christ’s simple truths.

This in no way satisfied Amos and the rest of the Minor Party. Additional synods were held in 1497, 1498, 1499 and 1500, each ruling in favor of greater freedom and tolerance within the Unity. After 1500, the Inner Coun-

cil approached the dispute as a matter of discipline within the Unity, ruling that the Minor Party was “prideful and fractious”.

During this same period, Luke traveled to Italy to visit the Waldensians to see if the Minor Party’s claims had any merit. His assessment of the Waldensians was negative, but it is altogether possible that his bias against the Minor Party played a part in his findings. In spite of his criticisms of the Waldensians, he wrote a catechism for them. This catechism played a key role in their reorganization on the eve of the Protestant Reformation. In that sense, Luke was almost as important to Waldensian history as he was to Moravian history. While in Florence, Luke witnessed the burning of the reformer Savonarola. This event cemented his belief that there must be separation between the church and the state.

In 1500, Amos and others in the Minor Party left the Unity outright and formed a new priesthood which is often referred to as the Old Brethren. For several decades, their published arguments only brought trouble to the Unity from the state.



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In response, the Unity's writers grew increasingly hostile to the Old Brethren's theology. Moreover, the Unity also began to distance itself from Chelcicky's writings, which faded from view. Even Gregory the Patriarch came to be remembered as an early organizer with extreme views.

The final traces of the Old Brethren disappear in the mid 1500's. Most of its followers appear to have united with the Hutterites and other Anabaptist groups after 1528.

By 1500, the Inquisition turned its attention to the Unity. Thomas, one of the original priests ordained in 1467, successfully defended the Brethren. This was not an easy task because of the nature of the allegations made against the Unity. Thomas was both self-educated and well read. He always maintained that persecution could not lead to truth. Moreover, he believed that the truth could not be completely known until the time God chose to fully reveal it.

Luke of Prague is recognized as Gregory the Patriarch's successor. He was also, in a broader sense, the Unity's second founder. Luke died December 11, 1528.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. For over one hundred

years the Czech Reformation stood alone. Now, it was to be a part of a much larger Protestant movement.

Although the Unity and Luther each broke with the Catholic Church, it is important to remember that they did so for entirely different reasons.

Luther faulted the church for emphasizing works rather than justification by grace through faith alone.

Gregory and the early Brethren formed a separate community because they saw the Catholic and Utraquist churches as being too lax, not too strict. They sought the narrow path of Christ rather than the easier path offered by the state church.

Before Jan Hus was martyred on July 6, 1415, he was given the opportunity to recant his teachings. He responded, "You are now going to burn a goose, but in a century you will have a swan which you can neither roast nor boil."

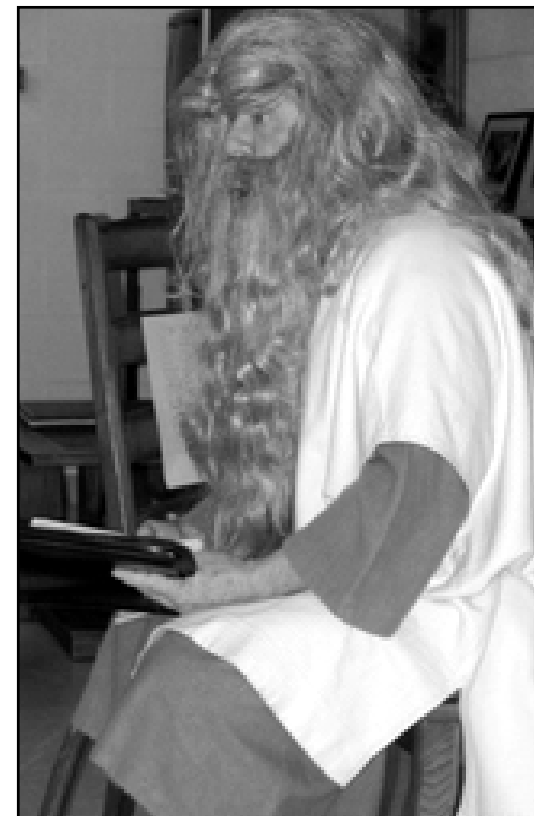
Many felt that this was a prophecy which came to pass in Martin Luther. Luther's fulfilment of this prophecy by Jan Hus was even mentioned in the sermon at Luther's funeral in 1546. After his death, Martin Luther was frequently portrayed with a swan in Lutheran art. Every depiction of Luther with the swan hearkens back to the words of Jan Hus.

## GLOW: God GLOWS in Me! Children's Rally 2015



Thirty children gathered at the Hus School Encampment for a day of glowing, and we learned what it means to glow. Bible study sessions focused first on how our God glows. Our God is good, loving, omni (all), wise, and saving. Furthermore, our God calls us to be good and loving as we rely on Him for everything, including wisdom and salvation. "Moses" visited us for our afternoon session, teaching us about the 10 commandments that help us glow for God.

Participants also enjoyed music through song and dance. They made slime; played parachute games; painted glow in the dark frames; ate delicious snacks and lunch; and ended the day with a slide show and glow-in-the-dark party.



### In God's Hands Ministry

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a printer, also called a “ribbon girl”, and was an inspector and handled the shipping. She also did some house-keeping and babysitting. In 1988, she moved to Columbus, where she lived alone in a modest rent house on Travis Street. When she was 95 she became ill, and after 2 weeks in the hospital, she was moved to the River Oaks Health Care Center.

Alma never married. She enjoyed gardening and planting flowers. She loved her family dearly and missed them every day, especially her mother and her Aunt Marie Slovacek. Her prayer to be with them and her Lord has been answered. She was buried with her most treasured item, a quilt given to her by the ladies of the church, the Christian Sisters.

Miss Urban was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Otto Leopold in 1987 and Leopold (Leo) Josef in 2003. Survivors include cousins and church friends. Private graveside services only were held on Monday, March 23, at 2:00 p.m. at the Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery with Rev. Kay Polasek officiating. Funeral arrangements were by Henneke Funeral Home of Columbus, Texas.

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## Presence of Mind

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

What is on your mind today?

Do you have the presence of mind to move through the next few seconds, minutes, or hours, with an intentional synergy with the mind of Christ?

Will you allow God to be your Resource for every detail and every question that seems unanswered?

What is on your mind today?

Can you hear the Holy Spirit whispering to you, “Let go. Just let go.”

What is on your mind today?

Joy in life stems first from an eternal friendship with Jesus Christ – a gift unparalleled...a gift that is yours if you ask the Savior of humanity to indwell your being and bring to life that which was dead to the effects of sin, the effect of unbelief.

Does that friendship need a rekindling?

Joy comes steadily then as you thrust your mind without ceasing into prayer in order that you may have the mind of Christ in all things...at all times...in every way.

What is on your mind today?

Pain?

Grief?

Loneliness?

Do you have the presence of mind to move through the next few seconds, minutes, or hours, with an intentional synergy with the mind of Christ?

Will you allow God to be your Resource for every detail and every question that seems unanswered?

What is on your mind today?

King Solomon, in all his wealth, and even in his sinfulness, by the grace of God, had the presence of mind to ask for the one thing that would change his world and even the world of many that he knew: God’s wisdom, God’s mind!

2 Chronicles 9:23, affirms:

*All the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.*

**Your mind steers your life, and thus only the Presence of Christ therein will enable you to walk in joy regardless of your circumstances.**

What is on your mind today?

Let go. Pray. Have the presence of mind to pray that Jesus would grant you the wonderfully mysterious and mighty gift of His mind!

Come Holy Spirit. Come anew this day. Amen.

In Jesus’ Inexpressible Joy,  
Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

#### The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

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## Kairos Prison Ministry

- by Rev. Lawrence Junek

Thanks for your prayers for Kairos Prison Ministry at the Boyd Unit between Teague and Fairfield, October 23-26, 2014. God was at work on the hearts and minds of the participants there.

Kairos goes to the Prison Unit and speaks with the Warden. If approved, Kairos presents a program of talks about choices, decisions, Christ's call, his death and resurrection, friendship with God, Spirituality, discovery thru study and Christian action, God's word the Bible, forgiveness, and God's Love, 'Agape'. The program includes discussions, creativity making posters related to subjects, singing, praying, and chapel talks.

There were 42 inmates, called "men in white" and 30 inside team (men from the free) presenters and others, plus a support team of 20 (Barbara was part of this team) for food, logistics, and prayer warriors. Also there were about 30 stewards, previous participants, who prepared the rooms, attended to needs in the community room as drinks, food, posters, etc., attentively.

We went in on Thursday afternoon thru security checks and a number of counts before we got to the Gym, converted into three rooms – dining room, community room, and chapel. We were assigned to a table of 6 (7 tables). Three discussion leaders were at each table; after speeches or a testimony is a discussion. After one of the testimonies, a young man at our table professed faith in Jesus, the first of several, who professed for the first time faith in Jesus and several re-commitments for a total of 13. There is no pressure. In discussions the "men in white" asked questions and discussed. Why do they come? – food, fun, curiosity, wanting to know about Christ and Christianity. We have counselors (5 pastors) and other Christians. (We pay our portion, but donate more and raise funds for meals of the 42 and supplies and ask for prayers.) Singing is mostly contemporary songs led by a three-member praise band. We had interruptions by guards for count and pill window. There are lot of cookies eaten and given out and fresh fruit and raw

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## Oldest Member of the Unity Passes



*Martha Dove presenting the Fred's Spool quilt to Alma Urban.*

Alma Frantiska Urban, 101 years, 10 months, and 20 days, died Thursday, March 19, 2015, at the River Oaks Health Care Center in Columbus, Texas. Miss Urban was the oldest living member of Fayetteville Brethren Church for many years and was a member her entire life. She had the distinction of being the oldest member in the denomination, the Unity of the Brethren. She was an honorary member of the Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters Society.

Alma was born on Sunday, April 27, 1913, in Ellinger, Texas, the middle

child of Leopold and Hermina (Minnie) Slovacek Urban. She was baptized on June 15, 1913, by Rev. Jindrich Juren at the Czech Moravian Brethren Evangelical Church at Ross Prairie, now known as Fayetteville Brethren Church. Serving as sponsors were Joseph and Frantiska Batla.

Miss Urban lived in Houston in the Montrose area for several years. She worked for Clarke and Courts Printing & Lithography Co. The company moved its headquarters to 1210 W. Clay Ave. in 1936. Miss Urban was



April 8, 2015

Dear friends,

**Thank you** for continuing to lift up our family. We are happy, full of peace, and having lots of fun with cousins, enjoying local food, Easter traditions, and friends.

**Praise:**

We praise God that Caroline doesn't have the BRCA gene. This is great news!

**Update:**

Next Tuesday morning, April 14, Caroline will have mastectomy surgery. Then after a few weeks of resting she will then have another meeting with the oncologist to talk about if there is need for chemo and/or radiation. They will not know that until they finish the surgery, lymph node test, and biopsy.

**Please pray for:**

- Continued peace
- Good surgery, wisdom, and skill of doctors
- For NO cancer in the lymph nodes – they will find this out next Tuesday.

- Wisdom for the Woos
- Our homeschool helper, Mary, as she has come home with us. Pray for her housing, job, and resettlement back to the USA.
- For no need to do chemo or radiation.

Thanks so much for walking with us in this.

Caroline

**Editor's Note:** If you are interested in a mailing address for either, the addresses are below. A note or card would be encouraging (please note – extra postage is required to mail a letter to Canada).

Robert and Annie Thiessen  
**4350 Moyer Rd**  
**Campden, ON**  
**L0R 1G0**  
**Canada**

Here is the address of the Ardmore mission house in Winston-Salem for the Woo's.

**Michael and Caroline Woo**  
**2025 W. Academy St.**  
**Winston-Salem, NC 27103**

vegetables during discussions. These were called Agape gifts.

On Saturday the talks were about Christ, his death and about forgiveness. The day ended with a forgiveness service, at which the men, including the men from the free, the stewards, and the 42 participants, were asked to drop into a bucket a list of things asked to be forgiven and whom to forgive. Then there was the washing of hands ceremony, at which time they came to a pastor with a basin of water at one of two sites and declared: "I give to God" the lists of forgiveness, and the pastor washing their hands said "God forgives", and then their hands were dried by another pastor who pronounced a blessing. After the bucket of lists was burned up, we were to leave the prison, but there was a mess up in count, missing an inmate (who was being counseled by a pastor and not seen). We and the men had to stay in the gym until the count was right. To spend our time, one and a half hours, we had a praise service, during which other men came to Christ or re-committed themselves. As the participants left for the night they were given two bags of one dozen cookies each, one for themselves and the other to give to someone they disliked or had problems with. That speaks volumes.

On Sunday morning the men reported informally what happened to them and the cookies. Those to whom they gave cookies were surprised and probably shocked. Agape gifts. God was working. Sunday we worshiped and then spoke about faith and about walking in God's grace and about carrying on as newborn Christians.

After lunch we left the gym while the stewards prepared it for the closing ceremony. All the participants and we the team went to the small chapel in the education building. There we had a cross ceremony at which each participant was given a cross and a Bible. After the guests for the closing ceremony had arrived, we went back to the gym for the closing. The outside support team of about 20 and others were admitted under strict guidelines and on an approved list. Then after being greeted again by the stewards as each day with handshakes and hugs, we sang. There was an open mike for the participants to tell what condition they came in, what they learned, and what they would do with their learning and faith. Some were lost, disillusioned with life, and had problems and curiosity, and for food. What they learned was about their spiritual life, about God and Jesus loving them, and about the love of others, like the Kairos people. Some said they were going to go on a new road with a new life. During that time two more men came forward and professed Christ as savior. One had been emotionally affected by the love we shared. The other was a Muslim who learned who and what Christ Jesus was; he originally came out of curiosity. The closing was very joyously emotional.

For information there are other men and women in the Unity who participate with Kairos in other units. Please support this mission.

At one meeting before the Kairos weekend, our leader began his prayer at the beginning of the meeting: "Almighty God, Father, I thank you that



**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

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Board of Elders President</b>	<b>Youth Directors</b>
Rev. Joseph Polasek	Rayfield Slovacek	Randall & Jonna See
P.O. Box 54	P.O. Box 267	P.O. Box 345
Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624	(979) 272-8845	(979) 272-8179

the state of Texas wants to return men from prison as responsible and good people and that we, Kairos, has the privilege and opportunity to help in that effort....” Wherever Kairos has been there is a difference in the attitude of the prisoners and personnel.

How did I and Barbara get involved with Kairos? A friend was waiting for me next to our Sunday School classroom and said, “Would you help us in Kairos on Palm Sunday (April 9, 2014)? We need pastors.” Since I had told the Lord Jesus I was available to him and we were free that Sunday yet, I said, “yes.” Then he briefly told me why he asked me and invited me to preparatory meetings. So I was one of 7 pastors and Barbara was drafted to the support team which

prepared meals for the weekend in prison for prisoners and us, sent in other food as cookies and fresh fruits and vegetables and other supplies, and prayed for us and each inmate. It was a great experience, with a hitch at the end. We saw God work in the lives of the men.

The Kairos weekend event is layered in prayer from the first preparatory meeting thru the whole event. The outside team members have two or three inmates to pray for for the whole weekend event.

Please pray for all who minister to the prisoners that the prisoners may come to know Jesus and accept him. Also Please support this mission and ministry.

## In Christ’s Love . . . from the Foreign Mission Field

### From the Thiessens...

Dear Friends,

We just started Anne’s chemo yesterday (April 10), and so the journey begins. She still feels fine, probably take a few days to hit her. We are staying with friends.

Robert

### From the Woos...

March 30, 2015

Dear friends and partners,

#### Caroline’s update

I had a CT scan last week and it was all clear, meaning my breast cancer has not spread throughout my body. Yeah. I am working on scheduling a mastectomy, either single or double depending on my BRCA gene test results and personal preference. So hopefully in the next few weeks that will happen. After that, they will know what they want to do, either chemo and/or radiation. My treatment could take up to a year. It’s a lot of waiting right now. Thank you for your prayers.

The boys got home, and we even started some homeschool today. A surprise last-minute cold front has sort of shocked us a bit.

We have a car (thank you Haleys), car seats, a home, lots of clothes, great family, even soccer and golf lessons for the boys. We feel very blessed. Thanks to all of you for your notes and help.

**Tomorrow, join us in the battle!**

Please join us Tuesday, March 31,

in a world-wide prayer and fasting event. Would you set aside some time to pray for the foreign workers, including ourselves, who work among the Shan Dai people? In the past months, among the foreign workers there has been:

- 3 miscarriages.
- a bad motorcycle wreck which dislocated a shoulder.
- a child is currently having seizures.
- a child is currently having arthritis symptoms.
- my breast cancer.
- another child being born soon with physical issues – heart, feet, etc.

These physical problems have happened to about 8 different family units in two different organizations. We feel the Lord is moving among the Shan Dai and the enemy is fighting back.

#### So let’s push ahead and pray for

- physical healing in all the above.
- peace and joy.
- wisdom to know what to do.
- wisdom for doctors.
- the Kingdom of God to go forth among the Shan Dai.
- protection for those working among the Shan Dai.

Here are our Winston-Salem phone numbers:

Caroline: 336-508-8980

Michael: 336-508-8650

We are still wanting to speak at your church or small group and meet with you this fall. Please let us know when is good for you.

Love, Caroline Woo



## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53  
Temple, Texas 76501

### *Preaching the Word, Loving the People*

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

#### *Pastor*

**Rev. Ron Winsman**

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

#### *Youth Director*

**Jennifer Chervenka**

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

#### *Elder Board President*

**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