

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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36 Pages

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.

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Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament Tier One Winners

***Left to right: Billy Marricle, Jason Beamon, William Peschel,
and Paul Martinez***

(See story and additional winners in this issue.)

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

From the President . . . *Final Report*

That's a Good Question . . . by Jim Pokorny

Resisting the Blanket Statement . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell
History Symposium Invitation

Summer Volleyball Tournament Results

. . . and much, much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

EDITOR –

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

BUSINESS MANAGER –

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

BUSINESS COMMITTEE –

President: Rev. Mike Groseclose
Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger
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

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Temple Brethren Church Christmas Invitation

The Temple Brethren Church will host the University of North Texas presentation of ‘Ceska mse vanocni’: traditional Czech music under the direction of Dr. Tom Sovik on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

The original composition is dated 1796 by Jan Ryba. The musical group is being hosted in Temple by the Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center. The event is open to the public and there is no admission fee. Non-perishable food items may be donated and they will be given to Churches Touching Lives for Jesus, a local food pantry that is supported by multiple congregations in the Temple area.

For more information, please contact the church or email Grace Labaj at elabaj@hot.rr.com

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Pastor Tim Chaplin, 1326 Starlight Dr., Temple TX 76502. (254) 778-5954;
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Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez, 3913 Brinkman Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642. (409) 293-2065

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(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. 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);
pastordjbama@gmail.com

Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4311 Fir Valley Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. lwkoslo@aol.com
(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@hotmail.com

Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX 77845.
(979) 574-0268; lajoiendedieu@gmail.com
Blog: notboxingtheair.wordpress.com

Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54, Snook, TX 77878, (979) 272-1624;
josephjpasek@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
jerryleterrill@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. James Henry (retired), 1726 15th Ave. N., Lake Worth, FL 33460. (561) 533-3893

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

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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 – krusedadb@yahoo.com
(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 Republic
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: rvtiessen@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. Ron Dusek; (979) 567-3732;
rdusekdds@aol.com

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

Dorothy Kocian; dekocian@yahoo.com;
(254) 713-2761

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

Synodical Committee Liaison: Kent Laza

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Martha Dove, Chair – walhalla71@gmail.com
Alton Urbanovsky – (No email address)
Angie Hairrell – hairrell@gmail.com
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Claren Kotrla – kotrla@flash.net
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SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

President: Kent Laza, (979) 690-7608;
kent.laza@verizon.net

1st Vice President: Rev. Mark Sebek,
(254) 931-2000; papasebek@gmail.com

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

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

Secretary: Angie Hairrell, 11482 FM 2155,
Somerville, TX 77879; Hairrell@gmail.com

Treasurer: Harvey Treybig, 2504 Timberline
Dr., Austin, TX 78746; (512) 327-2504;
htreybig@austin.rr.com

Financial Secretary: Liz Ripple, 311 W State
Hwy 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940;
lizripple@hotmail.com

Ministerial Alternate: Rev. Larry Zabcik,
(903) 265-2277; zabcikville@ymail.com

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

Non-Voting Lay Alternate:
Wiley Marx, wmarx@jcgllc.com

Lay Members:

Austin – Eric Haynes;
newhope4nextgeneration@live.com

BCS – Todd Snelgrove; tsnelgrove@ag.tamu.edu
Buckholts – Charlene Vogelsang;
cakv@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;
mjcarc@airplexus.com

Fayetteville – Liz Ripple; lizripple@hotmail.com
Good Shepherd – Alfredo Wilson

Granger – Edwina Jezisek,
momawina@yahoo.com

Houston – Dorothy Hinson;
Dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com

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

Nelsonville – Daniel Merz;
dan.merz@williams.com

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@hotmail.com

Snook – Connie Janac, cjanac@st-joseph.org
Taylor – James Marek; james@cnbt.com

Temple – Kellie Chaplin;
kelliechap74@gmail.com

Wall – Dewyan Weise; hdweise@zipnet.us
Wesley – none

West – Roy Janek; grandpajanek@att.net
Westheimer – Leroy Parthum;
betty_parthum@yahoo.com

President's Column . . . James Marek Final Report

Although my last report given at the convention was less than 3 months ago, there have been several developments in the Unity since that time. These developments have primarily been in the areas of Missions, the History Symposium planning, the website, and the new administrative position. In this report we will focus on these developments.



Missions

Our mission efforts and the funding required to support these missions continue to be a primary focus for our denomination. As of August 25th, home mission donations totaled \$27,909 while foreign mission donations totaled \$31,291. Comparing these giving levels with the current budgets of \$67,000 for each mission board, we can see that each budget is less than 50% funded. This is obviously “not good news.” We also have lost one of our monthly mission supporters due to a relocation, so we will need to find someone else (or hopefully more than one) to commit \$75 a month so that we do not lose ground in the area of individual monthly

support for missions. It is worth repeating that both of our mission budgets would be fully funded if each member in the Unity gave just \$75 a year or if just 10% of our members would give \$75 per month. I remain confident that there are many people in the Unity that could commit to this level of support or more, we just need to keep praying that God will continue to touch hearts to support the work He is doing through our mission outreach. Anyone who would like to become a monthly supporter of missions should contact a member of the Synodical Executive Committee to implement a monthly bank draft on the date of the giver's choice.

In the way of good news on the mission front, it appears that the proceeds from the 2nd Annual Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf tournament will be over \$9,000 this year. This represents a 20% increase over last year's tournament. On behalf of the Unity, I would like to thank Trish, Rev. Michael Groseclose, and all those involved in putting on this fund raising event. We are certainly



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Diane Heckman, Manager

grateful for the huge benefit this event provides to our mission program and we are also grateful for the inspiration and example the event provides for the rest of us. We applaud the demonstration of what can be accomplished when a few people have a good idea and are willing to commit the resources, time, and effort necessary to advance a good idea to a beneficial reality.

I am also glad to be able to share another creative and successful mission fund raising project. One member of the Unity had the idea to do a garage sale for missions. This person shared the idea with a few other people in their congregation as well as their family, and they all agreed to give the idea a try. The garage sale netted over \$600 and all proceeds were given to Unity missions. When I spoke to this person, they told me that when some of the garage sale customers asked how much a certain item cost, the member simply responded, "whatever you think it is worth, all the proceeds are going to missions." This selfless response was well received by the garage sale customers and seemed to increase the price the customer was willing to pay

for the item. The person who hosted the garage sale was quick to say that they did not want any praise for the idea because they had a lot of help from their church and their family. This Brethren went on to say "God has been very good to me, so a garage sale for missions seemed to be the right thing to do." This made me think, what other ideas will God plant in the minds of Brethren to further His plans for missions? It is both exciting and inspiring to see God at work in our small denomination. My prayer as I conclude my service on the Synodical Executive Committee is that we as a denomination will continue to support and expand our missions programs. As we have said before, we have the easy part of mission outreach, that is to support our mission efforts prayerfully and monetarily. It is God and our missionaries that are doing the heavy lifting in the mission fields so the least we can do is support our mission efforts with our and finances and our prayers.

Unity Website

The convention committee tasked with reviewing the website returned a frank and generally unfavorable as-

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-6423

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

President
Kevin Page
512-689-1593

Secretary
Mary Kokes
M-Th 8:00 am-noon

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

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for October 2015

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

1. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Heb. 1:3
2. I will be their God, and they will be My people. Jer. 31:33
3. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. Jer. 31:34b
4. **Once more made perfect, Jesus Christ became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. Heb. 5:9**
5. Jesus Christ was designated to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. Heb. 5:10
6. This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. Like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. Heb. 7:1,3
7. Because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Heb. 7:24
8. He is able to save those who come to God through Him. Heb. 7:25
9. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Heb. 9:22
10. When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Rom. 5:6
11. **He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. Titus 3:5**
12. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever. Ps. 107:1
13. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this, those He redeemed from the foe. Ps. 107:2
14. Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 Jn. 2:2
15. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8
16. Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Jesus Christ. Rom. 6:11
17. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. Rom. 6:14
18. **I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord. Phil. 3:8**
19. If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. Gal. 1:10
20. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jn. 8:12
21. Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Heb. 12:1a
22. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Heb. 12:2
23. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy. Col. 2:8
24. Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him. Col. 2:6
25. **It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. Ps. 118:8**
26. With everlasting kindness will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. Isa. 54:8
27. God has said, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you." Heb. 13:5
28. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Heb. 13:8
29. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Ps. 90:2
30. If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9
31. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. Mt. 5:16

assessment of the new Unity website. The committee cited the need for the site to be upgraded to function on mobile devices such as iPads, Android devices, and Smart Phones. They also expressed concerns that the site was not user friendly. In addition to recommending that the rotating banner on the home page be modified to include a brief description of who the Brethren are, the committee also recommended adding features such as the ability for visitors to download the Unity emblem in several different file formats, including "print ready" files. These files could be used by Unity churches whenever marketing materials or signage was needed at the local level. Finally, the committee recommended that the committee consider finding a new web developer after September 1, 2015, when the current agreement with the web designer expired. Two of the main issues that led to the committee's recommendations were the need for timely updates and the ability to easily update and maintain the site going forward. These issues had plagued the website due to the language in which the site was created. The new site was built in a platform that al-

lowed for the expansion of the site as well as the implementation of modern web site tools. This functionality, however, requires someone with at least a small level of programming knowledge to adequately manage the site and someone who can be responsive to maintenance needs and site changes.

Our Unity website committee met with the current web designer on August 28th to discuss these and other issues related to the website. In that meeting, the web designer agreed to add mobile functionality to the site, modify the banner page, and add the marketing files to the site so that they can be downloaded by local churches as needed. The committee also received some initial instruction on website maintenance. The designer also agreed to host instructional webinars for committee members so that the committee members could make some changes to the site going forward. In addition to instructing the committee on web changes, the web designer offered to continue maintaining the site for \$25 per month. The fee would be sufficient unless the changes required more than an hour a



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month to do. The synodical committee will need to decide how to proceed with the current website, who will maintain the site and be responsible for the ongoing updates that will be required.

The project of updating and rebuilding the website has definitely been a huge undertaking. The website committee has encountered expected and unexpected challenges along the way. Nonetheless, the website committee generally believes that the website now contains more information than ever before. We have worked diligently to update the information so that it is timely and useful. We understand that the site is a work in progress and one we see as a vital resource for the denomination. We encourage all local churches to send information about local activities to the Unity secretary so that we can include as much information about "what is going on around the Unity" as possible. We welcome any suggestions on how to make the site easier to navigate, user friendly and helpful. While we welcome input about things that are wrong or need to be fixed, we are really in need of more people who are willing to volunteer their time and

expertise to maintain the site on an ongoing basis. In other words, while we appreciate "noses" (people who are able to identify a problem), we would really like to find more "hands" (people who are willing and able to address the problems) to make the website better. If you know the web tool *Word Press* and are willing to join the Website committee, please contact a member of the Synodical Executive Committee. If you don't know who the members of the executive committee are, get on the internet and go to www.unityofthebrethren.org. Once on the site click on the "About Us" link at the top of the page and then "Synodical Committee."

History Symposium

Assuming that expenditure for the History Symposium passes the referendum, the event is planned for Saturday November 14th on the campus of Blinn College in Brenham. The event will be also sponsored by the Unity, Blinn College, and The Central Texas Historical Society. The convention recommended that the funds needed to pay for the Symposium be taken from those funds under the management of the Board for Grants

Hus to Comenius. Information on registration and hotel accommodations will be distributed in the next few weeks. For any other information, please contact Dr. Larry Koslovsky at (281) 328-2442 or email; lwkoslo@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE...

December 2, 2015 – Presentation by the University of North Texas of "Ceska ms vanocni," traditional Czech music at the Temple Brethren Church. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The event is open to public and there is no admission fee. Non-perishable food items may be donated and they will be given to Churches Touching Lives for Jesus, a local food pantry. For more information, please contact the church or email Grace Labaj at elabaj@hotmail.com.

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.

Fayetteville Brethren Church

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

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

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

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

www.FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

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(281) 342-3060

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Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM
Prayer Service and Bible Study

Youth Minister: Position open

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

DOROTHY LEE ONDRASEK, age 86 and a member of Seaton Brethren Church, died on May 15, 2015. She was born on December 4, 1928. Services were held on May 20, 2015, at Seaton Brethren Church. Burial was in the Seaton Cemetery. Survivors include sons, David Ondrasek and wife Gwen, Michael Ondrasek and wife Mindy, grandchildren Chad, Dustin, Cole & Carly Ondrasek, sister, sister-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

October 9-11 – Annual Primetimers’ Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Bible Study and Discussion on Enhancing Prayer Life. Cost for the entire weekend including food and lodging is \$45 per person, or if you can only come for the day on Saturday the cost is \$25. Registrations should be available at your church or by contacting Kimberly Kennard at (254) 931-5657.

October 24, 2015 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment – 9:00 a.m.; refreshments served at 8:00 a.m. A light lunch will be served at noon. The newly elected officers for 2015-2017 will be installed and the results of the referendum votes from the 66th Biennial Unity Convention will be canvassed. All congregations are kindly asked to please return the Referendum Results and the name of the Representative that will serve their church for the next 2 years by the designated deadline to Liz Ripple – outgoing Secretary. The agenda will be sent out soon. Please share this information with your church members. If you have any questions, contact Kent Laza, kent.laza@verizon.net or 979-690-7608, or Angie Hairrell, Hairrell@gmail.com.

November 7, 2015 – Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters Annual Bake Sale & Quilt Show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton community). *For additional information, see article in this issue.*

November 8, 2015 – Industry Brethren Church Honor Our Veterans Service: Texas A&M Singing Cadets Quartet will perform. For more information, please contact Liz Treybig at: Liztreybig@yahoo.com or (512) 327-2504.

November 14, 2015 – Unity of the Brethren History Symposium commemorating the 600th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Jan Hus, to be held on the campus of Blinn College, Brenham, Texas, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Unity, Blinn College, and The Central Texas Historical Society. Speakers are: Dr. Thomas Fudge, who is considered by many to be the world authority on Jan Hus, and; Dr. Craig Atwood, author of *The Theology of the Czech Brethren from*

and Bequests. Back in July, the Board for Grants and Bequests balances topped \$373,000, and it was agreed that this project met the criteria spelled out in the Bylaws relative to use of these funds. Appendix C, Article II (B) of the Unity Bylaws says “The Board will receive and manage special grants and bequests for the benefit of agencies and undertakings of the Unity of the Brethren in coordination with the Synodical Committee and responsible to Unity of the Brethren Conventions.”

Dr. Thomas Fudge, who is considered by many to be the world authority on Jan Hus and Dr. Craig Atwood, author of “*The Theology of the Czech Brethren from Hus to Comenius*,” have both agreed to speak at the symposium. These two gentlemen are some of the most knowledgeable individuals in the world on our denominational roots and history and stand to

make this event very interesting and informative for Brethren and non-Brethren alike. This symposium should be an excellent tool, especially for Brethren to learn more about our denomination and better equip us to explain to others when we are asked that (sometimes dreaded) question “What is Brethren?”

Administrative Position

Over the last several years the executive committee has discussed the possibility of creating a new paid position to serve at the pleasure and assistance of the Synodical Executive Committee. While the specifics of the job description are yet to be determined, the purpose of the position would be to ensure that direction provided by the Convention and Synodical Committee is followed and to



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also ensure continuity and consistency is maintained as the executive committee changes year after year. Ideally, the person who fills this position would have a good understanding of and familiarity with the Unity Constitution and Bylaws. This knowledge could help the executive committee, Synodical Committee, and even the Convention operate within the boundaries of the Constitution and Bylaws while making sure that the work of the denomination is completed even in the midst of constant change in the personnel serving in these leadership positions. After serving in Unity leadership roles, I support the creation of this position and believe the Unity would be wise to invest in such a position.

In closing, I would like to thank the Unity for their confidence and support which has been extended to me in my roles of service on the executive committee over the last 8 years. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding. I want to also thank everyone on the executive committee and throughout the Unity with whom I have served and worked over these last 8 years. As I conclude my service on the Synodical Executive Committee, I remain convinced that God has a definite plan for the Unity of the Brethren, and I pray we will continue to seek that plan and make ourselves available for His service.

Respectfully Submitted in Christ's Service, James Marek, President



2nd Place: Bryan-College Station Brethren



3rd Place: Wall Brethren

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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Temple, Texas 76501

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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

Summer Retreat a Success Fall Retreat September 12-13



1st Place: Snook Brethren

The BYF year ended with a heat wave at the summer convention and volleyball tournament. Convention business was good, and 2015-2016 retreat dates were set for September 12-13 and January 9-10. The summer retreat dates will be set after the camp

dates are set. The volleyball tournament began around 10:30 a.m. and players braved the heat until midnight to determine the champions. Snook Bigs took first place. B/CS took 2nd. Wall took 3rd. Wesley/Industry/Nelsonville AB took 4th.

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(281) 620-0480

John David Skrivaneck
Secretary

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

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 8: 18-21

“Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice sil-

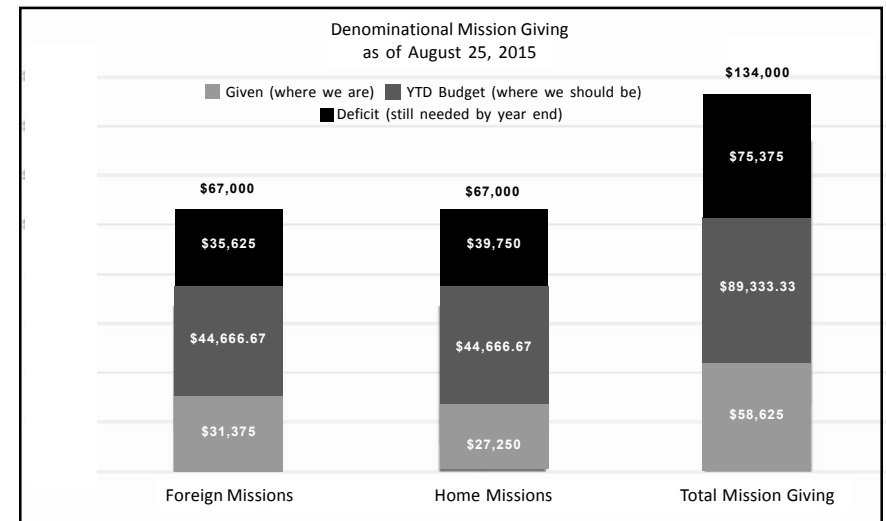
ver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.”

Hebrews 13:16

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

“People go through 3 conversions: Their head, their heart, and their pocketbook. Unfortunately, not all at the same time.” – Martin Luther

Have you gone through all 3 conversions yet?



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Jan Hus after 600 Years: History and Heritage **History Symposium**

The Unity of the Brethren will be sponsoring a history symposium entitled, *Jan Hus after 600 Years: History and Heritage*. Co-sponsoring the event with the Unity of the Brethren will be Blinn College and the Texas Historical Society.

The event will allow for reflection about who Jan Hus was and what his significance is for Christians today. The symposium is also geared at acknowledging other events in the world that were taking place in this era as well as the lingering impact that Jan Hus has had on thousands of Czech Americans.

The main speakers for the event include Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood and Dr. Thomas Fudge. Atwood is the director for the Center for Moravian Studies. Fudge is the author of *The Magnificent Ride: First Reformation in Hussite Bohemia* and *The Crusade Against the Heretics in Bohemia, 1418-1437*. Dr. Fudge has worked at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand lecturing mainly on European History.

In addition, Dr. Arnold Krammer, professor emeritus from Texas A&M University, Dr. Kenneth W. Howell from Blinn College, and Dr. Charles Gear from Central Texas College

have been instrumental in assisting with planning and logistic arrangements for the event.

The anticipated audience include: members of the Unity of the Brethren, others from Czech descent (including the large population of Catholics in Texas), students of history, historians and seminary students. It is believed that between 100 and 200 individuals will participate the history symposium. Partnerships with organizations not listed above who are interested in this event are actively being sought by committee members.

If you, or an organization that you are affiliated with, would like to lend support to the history symposium, please contact Dr. Larry Koslovsky, lwkoslo@aol.com or Dr. Dawn Marie Baletka, DMBaletka@gmail.com.

The event will take place on November 14, 2015, at Blinn College in Brenham, TX, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Information on registration and hotel accommodations will be distributed in the next few weeks.

If you have any questions concerning this event, please feel free to contact any of the Hus History Symposium Committee members or chairperson, Dr. Larry Koslovsky, lwkoslo@aol.com.

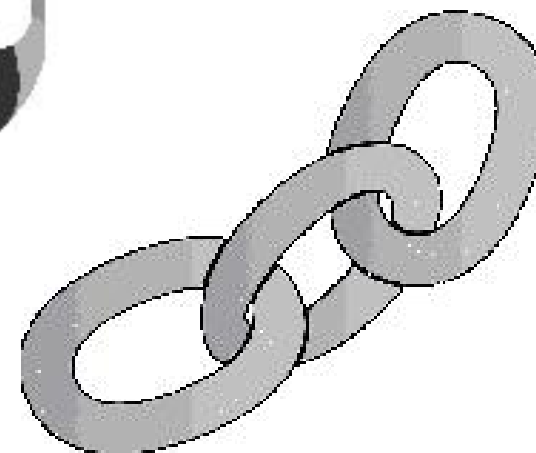
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Use the pictures below to retell the story of Samson. Cross out the ones that do not belong.



One Strong Kid

Background:

The story of Samson is from Judges 13:1-5, 24, & 16:4-6, 15-20. Samson was born to be dedicated to the work of the Lord. His hair was to never be cut. He grew up to be the strongest man to ever live. He fell in love with Delilah, who cut his hair, causing him to lose his strength and become a prisoner. He realized his strength came from God and pushed down the pillars of the temple.

Read & Tell:

Go to the Bible Story Guy for the story of Samson.

<http://www.essex1.com/pages/paul/bible42.html> or

<http://childrensministry.com/articles/bible-activity-samson-samson/>

Do:

A Recipe of Me

This activity will help students identify the special gifts and talents that God has given them.

1. Give each child an index card or use the template on the blog.
2. Under ingredients, list characteristics that make you unique. You can include physical characteristics (blue eyes, brown hair, strong legs) and personality characteristics (sense of humor, love of music, good at math).

Bible Truths:

1. God can use the good and the bad to accomplish His work.
2. All sin has consequences.
3. God would rather forgive than judge. God saw Samson as a man of faith; he is listed among those in the hall of faith (Hebrews 11:32).
4. God gives us gifts and talents. Samson was the strongest man to ever live. God gave him this strength, and Samson let himself be used by God.

Check out the blog and Pinterest Board for more ideas and links!

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

<https://www.pinterest.com/ahairrell/ss-helper-samson/>

That's a Good Question

-by Jim Pokorny

On the morning of Sunday, July 12, 2015, members of the Unity of the Brethren from various places gathered together for a worship service on the grounds of the Wesley Brethren Church. A large tent was set up to accommodate a gathering of this size.

As dawn broke, the overnight fog began to concede defeat to the rising Texas sun. A gentle breeze made its way through the tent promising a degree of comfort for those who would soon gather.

As final preparations were made, members of the Unity began gathering together to take part in what promised to be a very special worship service. A service that marked both the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jan Hus and the 150th anniversary of the congregation at Wesley.

One of the things that emerged from that worship service was how to best answer the question: What is the Unity of the Brethren? That is a very profound question and one could take a number of different approaches in attempting to answer it.

Certainly one way to approach the

question is by comparison. We can compare ourselves to other Protestant denominations such as Lutheran or Calvinist. We might then clarify that answer by pointing out a distinction or two. In reality, the Unity predates these and all other Protestant denominations. The Unity was part of the Czech Reformation long before there was a Protestant Reformation. Once it became part of the larger Protestant Reformation, the other denominations had some influence on the Unity. It must also be stated that the Unity also had a great deal of influence on them, as well.

We can also approach the question historically. We can say that Unity came into being in Kunwald, Bohemia, where men of like mind and heart looked to the martyr Jan Hus for example as well as men of integrity like Peter Chelcicky. There Gregory and his followers sought the will of God and forever parted with the Catholic and Utraquist Churches. This occurred at a historic synod which took place on Maundy Thursday in 1457.



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Having assured themselves that this was indeed God's will for them, they looked within their own ranks and established a new priesthood.

One could also approach the question somewhat philosophically. The sixteenth century Dutch Humanist Erasmus described his own theology as "The Philosophy of Christ." It was based on the example of Christ and his teaching, especially the Sermon on the Mount. This was, in the words of Erasmus, "more real and precious than any material relics of him that could be found." In 1519 Erasmus was the first Western writer to defend the Brethren publicly. Erasmus approved of the Unity's stricter discipline and offered the heretical Unity as a model the Catholic Church should emulate.

These are just some of the approaches one could take in answering such a profound question.

As the worship service continued, the pastors who led the service shared special memories of Nelsonville, Wesley, and other Unity congregations. Each shared his particular gift of wit as they good naturedly sparred with each other. This took me back several decades, as it very much

reminded me of the camaraderie my father once shared with his brothers. I was reminded of the laughter they loved to share with each other and those around them. As my laughter mingled with the laughter of the other worshippers, I imagined that joyous sound making its way across the Texas countryside. I could not help but wonder at how inviting that sound must have been to any who happened to hear it. Perhaps this is yet another way in which one could approach the question.

Of course, my thoughts also turned to Jan Hus who preached outdoors to large crowds and how fitting a tribute this worship service was to a man who served as an example and an inspiration to the founders of the Unity in 1457.

Communion was served to all in attendance. Communion is always a special experience, but to share the body and blood of the Savior with other members of the Unity was uniquely special and exceeds my capacity for description. Music in the Czech language was offered up. As Czech was my first language, this brought back a flood of wonderful memories of my parents, grandpar-

*For I know the plans
I have for you...*

Jeremiah 29:11a

Sunday School Helper



Samson was a child with a purpose from before he was born! Samson's parents longed for a child and were excited when the angel proclaimed they would have a child who would be Nazirite, meaning he was set apart for service to God. Even when Samson strayed from his original purpose, God used him for His glory. The story of Samson reminds us that God created each of us for a reason and we each have a purpose. God wants us to use our gifts and talents and do things we enjoy for the glory of God. Knowing God created us for a purpose gives children a confidence and a security like nothing else. They become confident of their worth – worth that is not bound to what they do or how they act or what they wear, but worth that is inherently theirs because they are a child of God. Because He created them for His purpose.

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

What to Do With All the Stuff?

Editor's Note: Is your church looking for a way to raise money for Missions? The following was sent in as a possible idea how your church could raise money for missions and get rid of "stuff" at the same time. A win-win idea! If you have an idea how to raise funds for Missions that you would like to share with others, send an email to:

editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com

I have moved and "down sized". This effort is still going on. Question is: What to do with all the "stuff". I had donated and given away much, but still there was more.

My Church did a clean-up in preparation for the Church Convention and had a lot of "stuff" to get rid of also.

So the idea came together that we would do a garage sale. With the help of Church members we got it set up, and with help from my family it was

accomplished. When all was done, \$635 was collected and donated to Home Missions. Items not sold were then donated to Goodwill, Faith Missions, and other local mission agencies.

Just an idea for raising \$\$ for missions.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: rev.tjt@zipnet.us
www.wallbrethrenchurch.org

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<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.

ents, uncles, and aunts.

For the record, I did not participate in the singing in Czech. I have always held that God gave my mother the gift of music. He gave me the gift of wisdom because I am wise enough to know that I do not have the gift of music. Perhaps that is one of the reasons I sit up front in church. The only one who regularly gets a good dose of my singing is Brother Jimmy, and he pretty much has to forgive me.

Of course, it will come as no surprise to anyone remotely familiar with the Unity that a meal was served afterward. It was a wonderful experience to share in that meal with so many members of my extended church family. Afterward, I continued to experience God's love for me as I visited with many individuals from throughout the Unity.

I also spent a great deal of time inside the original church erected at Wesley. In January I found myself at the old church for the first time, but was only able to see it from the outside. This time would be different. Before entering, I paused below the sign above its doors and reflected upon the words written in the Czech language "Ja tsem ta cesta i pravda i

zivot – slova Jezise Krista" which translate "I am the way the truth and the life – words of Jesus Christ."

I will not deny there is a special feeling that comes over me each time I read those words in Czech. That is why I referred to that very sign in the closing of my devotional which revolved around Jan Hus who defended the truth even though it would ultimately cost him his life.

I then stepped inside that historic church building and took many photographs of its wondrously painted interior. As I absorbed the history around me and photographed its beauty, I was reminded of something very important a pastor shared during the worship service. The church is not the building; it is the people.

Pastor Lacjak began painting the interior of the church before his untimely death, and it remains just the way he left it. I was able to clearly photograph the pencil marks on the ceilings and walls indicating where he intended to continue his work.

This served to remind me that the work of the church – the work of the people – is never really complete. As long as we draw breath there remains work for us to do.



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

As I prepared to depart, my thoughts turned once again to John Amos Comenius, the last bishop (elder) of the Bohemian Unity of the Brethren.

In spite of the tragedies and losses he personally experienced, his theology remained one of hope. Some of today's so-called experts mistakenly regard him as little more than a pious dreamer. I continue to hold that Comenius was a true genius in every sense of the word. He had no illusions about the states of the world, the church and society, having experienced many of their injustices first hand.

It was during the darkest period of his life that he wrote his truly beautiful epic *Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart*. In that allegory Comenius examined many injustices, but his conclusion is evidence that he never relinquished hope.

The Unity of his day was a victim of persecution and political intrigue and Comenius could do little but watch it die. In spite of these circumstances, Comenius never lost hope. He wrote, "the wise, good God was tearing down his little house in order to prepare a place for a bigger one... that is, in place of his dear little Unity erecting a bigger one, even more beloved by him. In this way not only everywhere in the fatherland, but among the peoples of the entire earth, the candle, which hitherto only glimmered under a bushel of particular sects and unities, would now be placed on a high lampstand. From there it would shine brightly to all humanity in the houses of the church and in the houses of the world."

Comenius saw himself as the door-

keeper whose duty was "to close behind me the door of the little Unity and to open before me the door of the great Unity." Such was the unfailing hope of Comenius.

Although many days have passed since that worship service, my thoughts have returned many times both to it and that profound question: What is the Unity of the Brethren?

To be completely honest, I am rather glad that there is no simple, cookie cutter way to answer that question. I think it is the kind of question we need to keep asking ourselves from time to time if we desire not only to survive but to serve effectively.

I remain convinced that God has kept the Unity alive for reasons of His choosing rather than our own. The Unity of today faces many challenges, but if we look back upon our history, we find we are well equipped to face any and all of them.

In Christ, we find our faith. In Jan Hus, we find an example. In Peter Chelcicky, we find integrity. In Gregory the Patriarch, we find leadership that seeks the will of God. In John Amos Comenius, we find unfailing hope.

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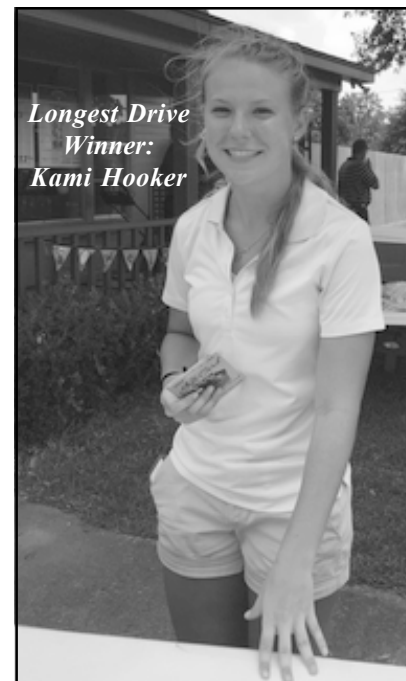
Bellville	Sealy	Wallis
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hole sponsors, those individuals who donated items to the gift bags, as well as the members from Nelsonville and Wesley who volunteered their time and efforts to make this event such a huge success. Without their support we could not make this event work.

We also want to thank Faith Bridge Ranch Golf Course for allowing us the use of their facility for this event. A very big thank you goes to Jenell Zettel, whose generous gift allowed us to do many things at the tournament, including sponsoring a youth team in the tournament.

Plans are already being made for next year's golf tournament, which will probably be held in June.

In Christ,
Bro. Mike Groseclose



**Longest Drive
Winner:
Kami Hooker**



**Closest to the
Hole Winner:
Tommy Hooker**



**Closest to the
Hole Winner:
Gladys Keaton**

Beseda Memorial Golf Tournament Results

On July 9, 2015, 50 Golfers and another 20+ people gathered at Faith Bridge Ranch Golf Course in Monaville to enjoy a day of golf, great Bar-B-Que, and fellowship at the 2nd annual Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Jr., Golf Tournament for Missions. A great time was had by all.

We were able to raise \$9,586.73 for the Unity's Mission Fund.

Results of the Tournament are as follows:

Tier One Winners: They had the best score of all the teams that participated: Billy Marricle, Jason Beamon, William Peschel, and Paul Martinez.

Tier Two Winners: Kathy Gardner, Jim Gardner, Boo Lindgrin, and Gladys Keaton.

Winner of both Longest Drive Contests: Kami Hooker

Winner of the Closest to the Hole Contest: Gladys Keaton and Tommy Hooker.

The winners of the contests won \$50 gift cards and the teams won trophies.

Along with the golfers and visitors, Trish and I want to thank our 37



Tier Two Winners:
Kathy Gardner, Jim Gardner,
Boo Lindgrin, and Gladys Keaton

“Resisting the Blanket Statement”

- by Rev. Vanessa L. Mitchell

We all do things that are wrong.
We all say things that injure.
We all think things that are toxic.
We all fall short of perfection.

Yet with this reality in mind, we all tend to believe that we are living right in God's eyes.

One of the most often forgotten genres of prayer is the prayer of forgiveness. We know in the depths of our beings that simply asking the Lord Jesus to forgive us in a blanket statement reveals that our hearts are deceptive. Naming our sins to God and more importantly, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal our specific sins to us, is critical to the mission of living a life that not only pleases God, but genuinely enjoys the freedom of having been forgiven for all that we say, think, and do.

I challenge myself and I challenge you to take Psalm 51 below, written by King David in the biblical Book of Psalms, and pray this aloud until you feel that God has cleansed you of the rightful guilt that your sins and the world's merit. Pray this aloud on your

knees at home, standing out in a field, or walking down a quiet sidewalk during your lunch break. Pray it because you cannot afford not to. Not a single person can. Do it now and see how good the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to your heart, mind and soul.

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and glad-



SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

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

Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

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

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

Pastor

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

Board of Elders President

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

Youth Directors

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

ness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. 14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**Do you feel free now?
Is the weight of your particular
sins off of your shoulders now?
Go in the peace and joy of Jesus
Christ.**

**He will continue to walk with you
as you strive to remain open to the
ministry of cleansing of the Holy
Spirit in your being.**

**You can resist the temptation of
the "blanket statement prayer" of
forgiveness.**

Amen.

Amen.

Amen.

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Vice-Chair: Rick Weise, P.O. Box 28,
Vancourt, TX 76955.
rick.weise@sanangelotexas.us

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Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-7191;
krueg98@austin.rr.com

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1002 Munson, College Station, TX 77840.
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Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77059.
Pmichalik1@peoplepc.com

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1409 Stone Ridge Rd., Taylor, TX 76574.
C: (512) 718-2310;
mama_dgrimm@hotmail.com

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

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11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879;
Hairrell@gmail.com

Member: Todd Snelgrove, 5207 Draycott
Ct., Bryan, TX 77802. (979) 229-7524;
tsnelgrove@gmail.com

Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Kayla Marek, 901
Hidden Valley Dr. #9302, Round Rock,
TX 78665; 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

Facilities Manager(s): Jim and Dawn
Marie Baletka, 600 Benchmark Drive,
College Station, TX 77845;
txnfish@aol.com; DMBaletka@gmail.com

Caretakers: Robert and Cathleen
Schlechte, 3635 CR 225, Caldwell, TX
77836; (979) 324-5560,

(979)255-8266; rschlechte@hotmail.com;
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

From the Woo's...

September 1, 2015

Greetings partners,

It's hard to believe September is here. The boys are having a BLAST in school! We are so thankful.

I have 8 more treatments, every Friday, hopefully ending on Isaac's 4th birthday, October 23. Then I will have a few weeks to rest and then start 6 weeks of every-day radiation ending around Christmas.

If you have seen me lately I've probably looked pretty good. But then my stomach pain hits and I will have a terrible day. This week I have felt really bad from Sunday night all the way to Tuesday. This stomach pain is probably connected to some extreme constipation caused by the chemo. Please pray the Lord will make things move and flow in my body and for the pain to go.

OCTOBER is coming – and that means it is October month of daily prayer for the SD people we work with. If you have participated before you are probably still on the list. If you are not please consider signing up for one of the following.

Those who want to participate can sign up by 3 ways:

1) Sign up for a daily email letting them know you want to be on the list (or off): prayfortheshan@gmail.com

2) Like the Facebook: pray for the Shan-Tai

3) Follow us on Twitter: @ShanPrayer

Would you also consider being the advocate for your congregation? This would mean you could ASAP do some of the following.

1) Announce this upcoming event in your congregations' newsletter or bulletin or webpage.

2) Encourage small groups and Sunday schools classes to take up this challenge.

3) Pray for the SD from the pulpit during Sunday morning.

If you want to be an advocate I may be able to give you a video and some helpful things to encourage those in your congregation. Just let me know.

Your prayers do matter and DO have POWER. Join with hundreds all over the world as we boldly go before the throne of God and plead for these beautiful people.

Thanks so much for your encouragement and love,
Caroline

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hairrell@dishmail.net

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jennchervenka@farm-market.net

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dekocian@yahoo.com

Jean Kotrla; kotrla@flash.net

Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Synodical Committee Liaison;
jerryleeterrill@comcast.net

Debbie Clark

Peggy Hejl

dress, though, for now). Mikael had driven here on his way from TX to Wheaton (where they are both at the college) and was a great help in moving things over (as well as a group from our church). He and Elai left last Monday, since their school started on Wednesday. So, we are just a mile or two to the north of where we were staying for the first five months, still in the same circle of close friends who are helping provide for us during this year. This year of big changes has been made so much easier through the loving help of many friends, and especially the ones hosting us. We are incredibly blessed by these provisions. Thanks!

Another marker of summer being done is Anne's upcoming mastectomy and lymph node removal surgery this Tuesday, September 1st. That will start around 11 a.m., and she is supposed to be released that evening. Then she will have six weeks of recovery followed by five weeks of daily radiation. If everything is healing well from the surgery, we hope to travel to Oaxaca for a two-week visit, right before the radiation.

We also hosted some fellow MBMission missionaries for four days.

They are from Columbia, have spent 13 years now with an indigenous group in Panama, and are on their way to a retreat at headquarters and some time with supporting churches. They've only visited BC and SK in the winter (and the Toronto airport), so to be toured around this verdant fruit and wine country in the fullness of summer was special for them. They had a hard time reconciling this with their previous image of Canada. And Einer and I got to spend yesterday afternoon helping my nephew harvest three tons of organic potatoes, not exactly only by hand, but certainly in a labour-intensive manner that my friend loved. He is a farmer at heart, and has done some organic farming in his mission work in Panama (at the very end of the Pan American Highway), and this was a perfect ending to their short visit here in the south of Canada. We got up at 4:30 this morning to take them to the airport, and hopefully they will enjoy the rest of their visit to Canada as much as this part.

We are thankful for all the ways you uphold us and help us.

Thank you, Robert

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

Seaton Brethren Church Bake Sale and Quilt Show Invitation

The Christian Sisters of Seaton Brethren Church are hosting a bake sale and quilt show on Saturday, November 7th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton community).

Featured items in the sale will be kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies, bread, jellies, home-made canned goods and craft items. A re-sale/rummage shop will be opened. Sandwiches and home-made soup will be available to purchase for lunch. Quilts will be on display in the sanctuary.

A hand-made quilt, a \$100, a \$75 and a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart, two \$50 HEB gift cards, a \$50 Bush's Chicken gift card, & other gift cards will be given away for a love donation of \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. The proceeds from the fundraiser benefit

the many projects the Sisters' support. The sale is open to the public with free admission.



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor
lajoiededieu@gmail.com
(979) 574-0268

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Children's Choir
Practice, Sundays
10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

www.lifeatcbc.org

Come as you are . . .

Friend us on Facebook!

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.

Leroy Parthum, Chair – Westheimer; betty.parthum@yahoo.com
Roger Runnels – Cy-Fair – 281-469-4302, rogerhr@swbell.net
Harvey Treybig – Industry – Unity Treasurer and Synodical Committee Liaison, 512-327-2504; htreybig@austin.rr.com
Ron Tyson – Houston – 281-373-4376 (home), rdtyson1@hotmail.com
Alan Tomasek – 512-859-2197, amtomasek@thegateway.net
Dewyan Weise – Wall – Unity Treasurer and Synodical Committee Liaison – 325-651-8550, hdweise@zipnet.us
Eugene Haisler – Ocker – 254-985-2316, dmheeh@msn.com

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

From the Thiessen's...

August 30, 2015

Hello dear friends,

Our summer is drawing to a close; it's good to be back where there are seasons to watch. We just celebrated 25 years of marriage last week (the 26th) with two nights and two plays in one of Ontario's theatre centers, Stratford. We enjoyed the time away, and to ourselves, with walks around the small city in blustering cool weather, and leisurely mornings and quiet nights.

That came right on the heels of having Elai with us for three weeks. She came for a visit after a summer job in Fresno, CA, staffing a two-week re-entry retreat for third culture kids going to university, and a week with her friends in TX. She was only going to stay for three days, but things started to change drastically with her announcement getting off the plane, "I'm getting married!" Mikael Berthiaume, her boyfriend of two years, proposed to her while she was in TX. After a bit of thinking about how quickly that might happen, we are



Elai and Mikael

pleased to announce that Elai and Mikael have decided on December 22nd as a wedding date, here in Ontario. This is kind of a general invitation, too, so just let us know if you can come, and we'll send you a "real" one.

Sandwiched between these two things, actually at the end of Elai's time here, we moved into a small house that recently became available (we will continue with the same ad- ➔

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
DMBaletka@gmail.com

**This must be done well in advance.*