

# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL



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## ***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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***Anne Thiessen standing amid the beautiful autumn colors in Canada.***  
*(Read more about the Thiessen's in "In Christ's Love" in this issue.)*

## **IN THIS ISSUE . . .**

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*The Greatest Miracle . . .* by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell  
Veterans' Day Celebration at Industry-Fayetteville

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## Seaton Brethren Church Annual Sausage Supper Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church annual sausage supper fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 20th, 2016, beginning at 4:00 p.m. until the sausage is gone.

The menu consists of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, new potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread, homemade desserts, and tea or coffee. Dine in or drive thru plates will be available.

The **LOCATION** of the supper will be at **Seaton Star Hall**, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton). There will also be a bake sale consisting of kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels, and other baked goods, and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the church building improvement fund. The public is invited.

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Rosenberg, TX 77471  
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## Feels Like Far

- by Jim Pokorny

December is once again upon us. As we make the transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas, I feel a certain obligation to invite you back for one final trip into that corner of my living room where I keep special reminders of my connection to my family.

This visit will not be an easy one for me, for there is one final object that I keep in that corner which I have not shared with you before.

This object stands about three feet tall, is made mostly of aluminum and has a handle. It is my mother's cane.

December 22, 2015, will mark the ten-year anniversary of Mom's passing.

Mom was 40 years my senior. Although she was mentally sharp, physically she suffered from debilitating arthritis. Pain was her constant companion.

When the weather was cold, she was in pain. When it was damp, she was in pain. When it was cold and damp she was in incredible pain.

Suffer as she might, she did not complain much. She did not have to. When you spend so many years with someone, you learn to read them like a book. Each morning I could look at her face and accurately gauge the

amount of difficulty she was going to face during the day while I was at work.

As the years went by and her condition worsened, she counted on me more and more. We found that our roles were reversing themselves. When I was young, I relied on her. Toward the end, she relied on me. She accepted this reversal of roles with both quiet dignity and remarkable grace. For my part, I was merely returning the kindness and love she once gave me.

I do not recall the exact point in time when that cane entered the picture. I do remember it being my idea rather than hers. Working 40 miles away, I told her I would have more peace of mind knowing she utilized it. She was not enthusiastic about the idea, but she eventually saw the wisdom in using it.

When weekends rolled around, I would take her shopping. This served two purposes. First, it would keep her mobile. I knew it was important that she stay as active as possible. Second, it would give her the opportunity to be around other people and socialize.



## In God's Hands Ministry

P. O. Box 321

Caldwell, TX 77836

979-574-7134

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

Ironically, people often got the wrong idea. They regularly suggested that I pull the car up to the door so she would not have to walk so far. I am certain many of them got the wrong impression of me. In their kindness they simply failed to understand that my motivation was for her to keep moving.

We certainly were not setting any speed records, and she often commented about that. I would respond by telling her that we were not in a race. I reminded her that what mattered was that we would get where we were going and that we were going to get there together.

As time went by I learned the location of every bench in every store that had one. When I felt she was tiring, I would alter our path to take us to the nearest bench. There I would suggest she have a seat while I finished the shopping.

Winter was the only thing that sometimes interfered with these plans. If it were cold and rainy I was more concerned about her slipping, so I would not take her out on those days.

If it were cold and dry I would insist on taking her out just so she could get her exercise. Many times as

we walked from the car to the store in the frigid wind she would say to me in Czech, “Syn, je to dobre rozum?” which translates, “Son, does this make good sense?” To this day I recall those words every time a cold front blows in.

As the years went by, I knew it grew more likely that there might come a day when she would no longer be a part of my life, and I consciously began trying to prepare myself for that eventuality. That effort was completely futile. No matter how prepared you think you are, you discover that you are not prepared at all when the time comes.

December 21, 2005, began like any other day. Mom and I had breakfast together, and as I prepared her lunch we talked about our plans for Christmas Day.

We said our goodbyes and told each other “I love you” just before I left for work.

I had no way of realizing it at the time, but those were to be the last three words she would say to me in this world. When I came home from work that evening, I knew something was wrong as she was not there to greet me at the door. I found her lying

## 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 – Come as you are! **Sundays** – explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages); KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; & worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out [lifeatcbc.org](http://lifeatcbc.org) for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook!  
– 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.  
– Pastor Ben Kruse

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

## 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  
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**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.**

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on the kitchen floor unconscious and barely alive.

The following morning, after consulting with the doctor in charge of her case, I leaned on God harder than I ever had before. Around noon, I finally found the strength to make the decision to take her off life support.

It is one of life's greatest ironies that when you are at your absolute weakest, you find yourself forced to make an all-powerful and irreversible decision.

Fortunately, I had the wisdom to know that the decision was too big for me alone. Thanks to the foundation of faith this remarkable woman instilled in me, I knew it would not be too big for God.

I would have one final chance to say farewell to her. I have been told that people who are unable to respond can still hear and are aware on some level of what is going on around them. If this were true, I felt my best hope of reaching her would be saying my final farewell in the Czech language; the language she grew up speaking.

When the time came, I leaned in close and spoke directly into her ear, "Ja jsem tvuj syn, Jimmy. Miluji te.

S Panem Bohem." This translates. "I am your son, Jimmy. I love you. Go with God."

A moment later, she slipped peacefully away.

It is difficult for me to comprehend that ten years have passed since that most difficult of days.

Looking back on that day, I had absolutely no idea as to the path my journey would take without her. It is possible that she would have been a bit surprised at how my life has turned out thus far. I certainly have been.

There is one thing of which I am absolutely certain. This wonderful woman taught me throughout our years together. When I was young, she taught me with words. When I became a man, she taught me by example.

Proverbs 22:6 (NET) *Train a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

As I continue my journey, I keep her cane in that special corner. It is not as a reminder of her infirmity. I need no reminder of that. Rather, it is a daily reminder of the kind of relationship that we had.

So often she held that cane with



## WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

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one hand and mine with the other.

Life is full of ironies. Dad passed away two days before my 19th birthday. I lost Mom three days before Christmas. As each of these events approach, I cannot help but think of them.

I am still able to celebrate Christmas. Knowing how much she loved the Christmas season helps.

There is really only one thing about Christmas that causes me any real discomfort. It is the song *Christmas Shoes*. In fact, I find myself getting more than a little misty just thinking about it. My friend Becky has a beautiful voice, and her rendition hit me where I live. We now have an understanding. She has promised to give me ample warning before she sings it and I am holding her to that promise.

A very wise pastor once asked the question, "If you had the power to

bring someone back, would you do it?" Without waiting for an answer, he then followed it with another question, "If so, would you be doing it for them, or for yourself?"

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NET) *Thus we are full of courage and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

For ten years now, Mom has been at home with the Lord she loved and has not suffered even the slightest bit of pain. Even if it were possible, I could not find it within myself to ask her to leave that; not even for me.

As for me, the journey continues.

I am reminded of the 1972 movie *Jeremiah Johnson*, which starred Robert Redford. Near the end of that movie a mountain man by the name of Bear Claw commented on Jeremiah's journey, "You've come far, pilgrim."

Jeremiah replied, "Feels like far."



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## VITAL STATISTICS

### RECENT BAPTISMS

WALKER, DASH OWEN, son of Daniel and Marcie Walker, was baptized in October 2015 at Caldwell Brethren Church.

### RECENT DEATHS

STANLEY E. ZETAK, born January 14, 1929, in Granger, Texas; died October 13, 2015, in Temple, Texas. He was a member of the Granger, Taylor, and Temple Brethren Churches. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth (Maly) Zetak; sons Scott M. Zetak and Kelly W. Zetak and wife, Susan; daughter Paula E. Vasek and husband, Gary; and three granddaughters, Lesli E. Vasek, Emily A. Vasek, and Claire C. Zetak. He was preceded in death by his sister, Bertha Malik, and his brother, Cleo Zetak. Services were held on October 19, 2015, with full military honors at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas. Officiants were Rev. Mark L. Labaj and Rev. Larry Zabcik.

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## “The Greatest Miracle”

Do you believe in miracles?

It is tough to believe sometimes...  
 when the lab reports reveal diminished health;  
 when family just will not come together;  
 when a spouse leaves the marriage;  
 when dreams that you have held for years turn out to not be within God's perfect and beautiful plan;  
 when your finances have taken a downward turn;  
 when work is no longer fulfilling;  
 when retirement becomes a place of isolation, or even increased helplessness.

Do you believe in miracles?

We must and we do, if the love and hope of Jesus Christ lives within us.

We cherish this time of year as we hang wreaths and put up Christmas trees. Great delight comes from giving gifts to those we love and to those in need. Joy wells up in us as we sing Christmas carols in our homes, with friends, and especially within our church families. Even so, the underbelly of life can be dark and

filled with grief of all sorts. The birth of Jesus Christ commands us to never lose hope in God, to never turn our backs to God's will and absolute promises in the Holy Bible.

The prophet Habakkuk, in the final days of the Israelites' dismay, as Judah fell to the Babylonian empire around 597 B.C., not long before the 400 years of silence between the Old and New Testaments, demonstrates what it is like to genuinely believe in a miracle. Not surprisingly, the greatest miracle, as it turns out, is not a resolution within his tattered nation. It is not relief from exile. Rather, the greatest miracle is the faith that the prophet Habakkuk has received by God's grace, in the prophet's darkest moment of life.

*Look deeply at the miracle of faith:*

The Book of the prophet Habakkuk, from the Holy Bible, chapter 3, verses 17 through 19:

*Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails,*



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*and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.*

Whatever miracle you are praying for this Christmas, consider the gracious miracle of the salvation by faith that comes through Jesus Christ. Habakkuk had faith in Yahweh, the Lord God, and one day of the Messiah's arrival. We have Jesus Christ right here and now.

Is there anything that we cannot endure with a love so wide, so deep, and so full, as that of the One and Only Jesus Christ?

**Believe in the miracle of the Presence of Jesus Christ with you and within you.**

**Just believe.**

**That is the miracle that changes how you endure everything you are facing.**

**Faith is the greatest miracle to possess.**

**So go move some mountains this Christmas season!**

**Have a Blessed Christmas.**

**Amen.**

*In Jesus' Inexpressible Joy,  
Sister Vanessa Mitchell*

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ronwinsman@hotmail.com

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**Jennifer Chervenka**

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*Cemetery*

**Sharon Marek**

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## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

### Daily Morsels for December 2015

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

1. He (the Lord) has triumphed gloriously. Ex. 15:1
2. I will rejoice and take delight in My people. Isa. 65:19
3. They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord. Isa. 62:12
4. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. Isa. 9:2
5. Blessed is he who trusts in the Lord. Prov. 16:20
6. **I will make music to the Lord our God. Judges 5:3**
7. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise His holy Name. Ps. 97:12
8. God has spoken to us by His son, His heir of all things. Heb. 1:2
9. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Jn. 1:14
10. The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Jn. 1:14
11. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. Prov. 3:6
12. Those who believe that is the Christ are born of God. 1 Jn. 5:1
13. **God exalted Him to be a prince and a Savior. Acts. 5:1**
14. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1
15. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God. Ps. 71:18
16. The Lord will be a refuge in times of trouble. Ps. 9:9
17. "I am with you, even to the end of the age." Matt. 28:20
18. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him. Rom. 15:13
19. You, brethren, are not in darkness... You are all sons of light. 1 Thess. 5:4-5
20. **Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is upon thee. Isa. 60:11**
21. How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth! Ps. 47:2
22. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Jn. 3:16
23. You will know that the living God is among you. Joshua 3:10
24. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." Lk. 2:14
25. For unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord. Lk. 2:11
26. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind will see it. Isa. 40:5
27. **The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Ps. 117:2**
28. The hope of the righteous is gladness. Proverbs 10:28
29. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord. Ps. 77:2
30. You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding to all who call on you. Ps. 86:5
31. I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. Philipians 4:11

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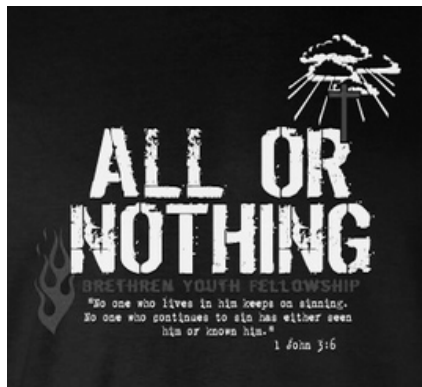
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## Winter Youth Retreat

**Saturday, January 9** – Check-in: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

through

**Sunday, January 10** – Dismissal: 10:30 a.m.

(Friday arrivals must contact Jenn and have a sponsor present.)

Registration Forms available at  
[www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com).

**Registration and fee (\$30) due by December 1.**

**T-shirt orders (\$10) due by December 1.**

Questions: contact Jennifer Chervenka 254-913-1244;  
[jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto:jennchervenka@farm-market.net)

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 email: [papasebek@gmx.com](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

## Fall Synodical Committee Meeting Minutes

The Fall Synodical Committee Meeting was held Saturday, October 24, 2015, at the Hus School Encampment. There were 49 people in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President James Marek. Rev. Ron Winsman provided a devotional from John 20:24-31. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$194,144.06. A report was also given by the Audit Committee. It was approved by the Committee to spend \$25/month for on-going website maintenance. Dr. Larry Koslovsky provided information on possible changes in tax reporting for congregations.

Ministerial student Ben Kruse was examined. After a successful examination, he was granted a license beginning 10/24/2015 for one-year for the Rosenberg Church. The Committee asked that the educational requirements be completed in six months. The Referendum Vote results were accepted and the new Executive Committee Officers were installed by Dr. Larry Koslovsky.

Under New Business, the Granger Brethren Church requested funds (ap-

proximately \$60,000) to repair the church bell tower. After much discussion, no action was taken, but individuals were encouraged to help on their own and support the fundraising efforts of Granger.

Pastor Tim Chaplin (Temple Brethren Church) was granted a one-year license. Pastor David Johnson (New Tabor Brethren Church) was granted a five-year license. Appointments to all committees were approved, with the Executive Committee given the approval to fill any vacant positions as needed. The definition of a part-time pastor was approved. This was necessary for determining retirement benefits. It was approved that the *Brethren Journal* Treasurer would receive monthly remuneration of \$100.

The Foreign Mission Budget (\$68,000) and the Home Mission Budget (\$67,000) were approved. The Home Mission Board was also authorized to perform oversight and advisory functions for the Cade Lake Mission Project. Pastor David Johnson shared a revised Marriage Certificate that can be used by Unity Pastors. Dr. Larry



### TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

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*James D. Hejl*  
 512-365-6890

*President*  
*Kevin Page*  
 512-689-1593

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

Koslovsky (Chair), Rev. Mark Laby, and Rev. Jimmy Hejl will work to update the Catechism in time for approval at the 2017 Convention. Dr. Larry Koslovsky closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Hairrell, Secretary  
Unity of the Brethren

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9865; [jerryleeterrill@gmail.com](mailto:jerryleeterrill@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATES...

**February 20, 2016 – Seaton BC Sausage Supper Fundraiser** at  
Seaton Star Hall.

**March 5, 2016 – Children's Rally** at the Hus Encampment.

**April 29 - May 1, 2016 – Annual Fishing Retreat** in Port O'Connor,  
Texas.

**July 15-17, 2016 – BYF Summer Retreat, Convention and  
Volleyball Tournament** at the Hus Encampment.

## Summer Camp Dates:

**Encounter Camp** (ages 7-8) June 9-11, 2016

**Alpha Camp** (ages 9-10) June 12-16, 2016

**Pioneer Camp** (ages 11-12) June 19-24, 2016

**Discovery Camp** (ages 13-15) June 26-July 1, 2016

**Hus School** (ages 16 – High School Seniors) July 3-15, 2016

*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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12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas

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Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558

Home: [rev.tjt@gmail.com](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	Johnnie Smith
325-651-7597	325-213-0671	Tu-F-8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**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.

**December 12, 2016 – Granger Brethren Church Annual Christmas Singing** will be held beginning at 6 p.m. For many folks, this event marks the beginning of the Christmas season. Refreshments are available after the program. The church is located at 306 W. Broadway.

**January 9-10, 2016 – BYF Winter Retreat** at the Hus Encampment. Check-in: **8:30-9:00 a.m.** For additional information, see article in this issue.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER...

ALL Brethren Journal Subscriptions expire on **December 31st of each year**. Please send your renewal in early! You can use the form in this issue or go to the Unity website at [www.unityofthebrethren.org](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org) and click on the “Organizations” tab and then the “Brethren Journal” tab to find the pdf form that can be printed out and mailed with your payment. Annual subscription rate is \$15.00 per year. Please make your checks payable to the “**Brethren Journal**” and mail to: Ben Polasek, Business Manager, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836. You can contact Ben at [manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com) for additional information or questions.

### HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 – (713) 864-6707

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill**

*Dorothy Hinson*  
President  
7331 Misty Morning Lane  
Humble, TX 77346  
(281) 620-0480

*John David Skrivaneck*  
Secretary  
P.O. Box 1605  
Bellaire, TX 77402  
(713) 626-0522

## In Christ's Love . . .

### From the Foreign Mission Fields

#### From the Thiessen's...

November 9, 2015

Dear friends,

Anne is half way through her radiation treatments (30 altogether – she'll be done the 27th) and holding up pretty well. She's not sure if she's more tired from the daily doses or from worrying about how Elai's wedding is going to work out. We're refining details about the wedding, every week two steps ahead and one back. It's still on December 22nd, a Tuesday, and you're all still invited. We'll send a copy of the invite in a few weeks.

We travelled to Oaxaca for two weeks in late September, visiting teammates and catching up on different parts of our life there. We weren't able to renew our residency papers, so when we finally are ready to go back to live in Mexico (early summer), we will have one extra layer of paperwork to process, but it shouldn't be too difficult.

One part of our team was up in the US, and so for Canadian Thanksgiv-

ing we drove to eastern Pennsylvania to visit with Phil and Eunice and Ian, catching them on part of their tour around the NE. So in the beauty of fall in the Poconos amid old and new friends we celebrated and gave thanks, for another taste of glory divine.

We've been going to the hospital daily since then for Anne's treatment. Just a few seconds, not even two minutes, of actual “beaming” happens, but there is the waiting, and then the positioning (don't want to hit any wrong parts). We sometimes follow the session up with a walk through the gorgeous hillsides that the escarpment makes around here, taking in the changing colours and gradually revealed contours of the land as the leaves and underbrush fall and lend it sharpness. Sometimes we follow that with a small scoop of Italian chocolate gelato (for Anne).

Tomorrow I fly to Vancouver for five days, to visit the MBMission office and spend a few days teaching on cross-cultural kingdom building. I will visit with a few family and friends in the immediate area, too, and enjoy



#### 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](mailto:DMBaletka@gmail.com)

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

meeting new missionaries preparing for long term outreach.

Then in early December I fly back to Oaxaca to visit our team again, and to spend a week with the missions pastor of a Southern Baptist church from Florida that is gearing up for outreach in the Mixtec area of Guerrero where we have been involved for so long. It is a welcome addition to what God is doing in the area, and I am glad that I can help them understand and implement the kind of cross-cultural outreach that most serves the indigenous people there.

Thank you again for your partnership, in prayer support and other ways, with us in this journey. I know God is blessing you.

Robert

## From the Woo's...

November 2015

Dear Beloved friends and family,

October was breast cancer awareness month. We have enjoyed the season change as Caroline continues in her cancer journey. We have pressed on through chemo and hope to finish by the middle of this month. The latest

delay is numbing in her feet. Sometime in December she will start radiation.

The kids have adjusted to local school and are fully engaged in sports (soccer, now basketball) and other activities. We are so proud of Ian, who received 4 A's and 1 B this past quarter!

We thank everyone (participants from around the world) who joined in the month of October prayer for Shan Dai. This was a great year as each story gave a different aspect of the ministry. It was great to be highlighted by the OMF US office as the 5x5x5 prayer group. Please continue to pray for the Shan as a whole and for the work we have done. Check out all the stories on Facebook by looking up Pray4ShanDai.

At our weekly prayer group we called May over the internet/phone to get an update. She has recently been struggling a bit as she is not currently employed. She was working at a kindergarten as a helper/cook. She also had a bad spell with her husband and spent about a month apart working through issues. The small church has not been meeting regularly. Our teammates will be going back to this area in December, so it will be great to con-

Now, **SOLVE**. Instead of arguing, try to come up with a solution.

- You do a lot of things well. I can try to help people notice when you do something good.

Lastly, **RESOLVE**. Resolving means to let the person know that you won't be able to trust the person if they keep attacking you with their words.

- When you yelled at me, there were a lot of people standing around and it made me feel terrible. Can you bring it up in private next time or just say it without yelling?

## Apply the Proverb:

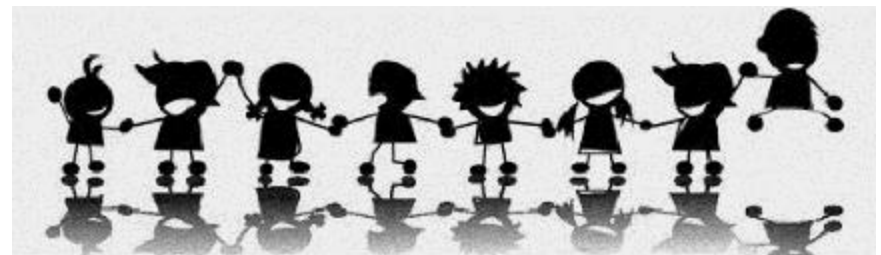
Role-play with children to the scenarios below. Have them practice using soft answers.

- You're a big liar. You're always accusing me of stuff I didn't do!
- I can't stand you always bossing me around! You're not coming to my house again!
- You used to be nice, but now you're just plain mean! I don't like you anymore.
- We always have to do what you want to do. Why do you always have to get your way?
- You think you're hot because your family is rich! Guess, what? Nobody cares!
- You're turning into the weirdest person in the class. Why can't you just be like everybody else?
- You think you're so perfect! You're just a teacher's pet, and that's why you never get in trouble!

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

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

<https://www.pinterest.com/ahairrell/ss-helper-proverbs-for-children/>



## 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

## Proverbs 15:1

*A SOFT ANSWER TURNS AWAY WRATH, BUT A HARSH WORD STIRS UP ANGER.*

### Understand the Proverb:

1. Read the proverb aloud.
2. Ask: What is wrath? What happens if you respond to an angry person with kindness?

### Practice the Proverb:

1. Acknowledge that it can be tricky to deal with angry people and this system can help.
2. Children practice responding in kindness using Acknowledge, Repeat, Solve, Resolve.
3. Model responding with Kindness.

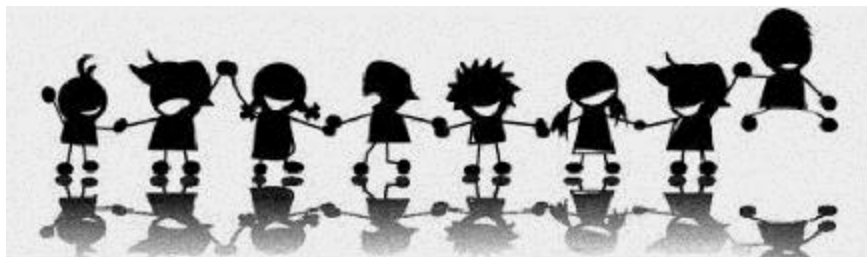
*A friend runs up to you and yells: Why do you always have to do everything better than me! I'm sick of you always showing off.*

The first reaction is to yell back and defend yourself, but that is not the soft answer of Proverbs 15:1.

First, **ACKNOWLEDGE**. You can say

- I'm sorry you feel that way...
- You sound really hurt...
- I can see you are really upset.

Next, **REPEAT**. Try to repeat what the person said.



tinue building the church, especially with some new initiatives and resources.

Michael had rotator cuff surgery on his left shoulder in late September and is now undergoing physical therapy twice a week. Caroline continues to have one or two medical appointments a week. We see the next few months as a time of healing and enjoying the holidays. Therefore we have purposely lightened our speaking schedule.

God continues to be faithful, and we hope to head back overseas in June 2016.



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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Ann Sebesta, Board Member  
Rev. Michael Groseclose,  
Synodical Liaison

November 14, 2015

Dear friends,

Yesterday I had my last chemo. Praise God! All together 16 over 6 months. Thanks for praying for us. You have pulled us through. I still would like prayer for strength to come back, numbness to go, other pains and things to go, and strength to keep going with radiation probably starting in 3 weeks. And of course cancer to DIE!

On another note, my father has been in the hospital for over a week now. He fell 4 weeks ago and must have hit his head. This caused a slow bleed, and last week he was dizzy and couldn't walk. We took him to the hospital, where they drilled holes in his head to relieve the pressure.

He is now in rehab connected with the hospital. He is learning to walk again, but a big concern is his coughing, liquid in lungs, and aspiration. His food needs to stop going into his lungs, which can cause pneumonia.

Please pray:

That his swallowing can be strengthened and all food and liquid would go into his stomach in Jesus Name.

Please pray against pneumonia in the Name of Jesus.

Please pray he can learn to move, stand, walk, etc., quickly, that his muscles will be strengthened.

Pray for my mother, too.

So far their spirits are good. Please pray for continued peace, joy, and hope, as hospitals seem to suck that out of you.

Thanks so much,

Michael, Caroline & the kids

## Home Mission Board Information

Members of the Home Mission Board would like to start visiting with our congregations to get acquainted with each church. We want to share any project that you are doing for outreach with other Brethren churches. Are these things that the Home Mission Board can do for you?

We will be working with our Christian brothers and sisters at Cade Lake. The synodical board approved the \$67,000 budget for 2016 on October 24, 2015. This covers Rev. Heckman's salary and expenses, Cade Lake operating expenses, and In God's Hands food pantry. The Home Mission Board is working on several projects to meet this goal. The boards will be meeting again on November 21st to begin keeping churches in contact with each other and on projects to help reach our budget for Home Missions.

### CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

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[bfsinc@tconline.net](mailto:bfsinc@tconline.net)

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**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)



### Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

As we begin a new year, we will begin a new journey in Sunday School Lessons! This year we will explore lessons to teach the children in our lives Proverbs. Each month we will explore one or two proverbs and include activities to illustrate the lesson being taught.

Our culture wants us to only look on the outside. Ask any pre-teen or teen, and they will be very conscious of how they look on the outside. They are concerned with how they look, the clothes they wear... everything external. The lessons on important Proverbs will help children "dress up on the inside"!

Proverbs are wise sayings. The Book of Proverbs is also known as the Book of Wisdom. Many of the Proverbs were written by King David's son, King Solomon, around 1000 BC.

King Solomon is known as one of the wisest kings in all history. One reason is that he built the temple of God. Another is that he used the wise sayings in Proverbs to help other people become wise.

Even though King Solomon wrote these Proverbs with his own children in mind, they still apply to us today! Proverbs can help us when something bad happens, when we don't get our way... anytime!



## CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street  
(979) 567-7203

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

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

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

*Come as you are...*

*Friend us on Facebook!*



## 65th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Jerry and Dorothy Vitek



Jerry and Dorothy Vitek were honored with a family celebration at Cotton Patch Cafe in Temple, Texas, on November 7, 2015, for their 65th wedding anniversary.

The luncheon was hosted by their children, Ron and Kathy Vitek of Temple, Texas, and Jan and John Cornelius of Morgan's Point Resort, Texas.

Dorothy M. Haisler and Jerry A. Vitek were married on November 4, 1950, by Rev. F. J. Kostohryz at Seaton Brethren Church. They are life-long

members of the Unity of the Brethren and are currently attending Temple Brethren church.

They have lived in Belton, Texas, for 65 years. Jerry retired from civil service at Ft. Hood after 24 years as a supply budget analyst and auditor. He previously worked for Bowles Grain Co. for 21 years.

Dorothy is a retired teacher who worked in Belton ISD for 27 years. She taught 1st grade at Southwest Elementary, and 4th grade at Leon Heights Elementary.

## 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

## Industry & Fayetteville Brethren Churches “Honor Our Veterans” Service

The Industry and Fayetteville Brethren Churches held their sixth annual “Honor Our Veterans” service at the Industry Fireman’s Hall on Sunday, November 8, 2015. The site of the service was changed from the Industry Brethren Church to the Industry Fireman’s Hall due to a water pipe break and water leak in the church.

The hall was decorated with a large religious military banner hung from the ceiling in front of the stage. The podium had a wooden U.S.A. flag in front of it. Vases with large US flags were sitting on either side of the podium. On one side of the stage was a large tripod with a U.S. flag drape that held large wide red ribbon streamers that had each honored veteran’s name on white labels. A ribbon that had the U.S. flag replicated made into a large bow was on the top of this. On the other side in front of the stage was a large grapevine round wreath with red, blue, and white flowers on it

(one for each deceased veteran) and had 5 flags on the top for the 5 military branches. A white dove was in the center above the flowers. In the center of the wreath was a brown wooden cross. On the bottom was a wide red ribbon that had “Thanks Vets” on it with white doves to each side and stars above it. The tables holding the memento U.S. small flags that were given to each honored person had a large arrangement of red, white, and blue flowers and flags in it. A table held the triangles that held small candles that each deceased veteran had lit in his/her honor. Tables had red, white, and blue bunting and large flag bows decorating the front of them. Flags lined the path to the front of the doors at the entry of the building. Additional red, white and blue decorations were throughout the hall with patriotic arrangements on all the tables. The honored veterans had



*General Weber (far right) with the Veterans*

their biographies displayed in plastic sheets for people to read. The 3 volumes of "Czechs in Uniform" were displayed also, with several other noted articles and things of interest (helmets, white phosphorus flare, etc.).

The service started with the congregation singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" while the flags were being carried in by August Voelkel and Billie Sisa of the Shelby American Legion. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the A&M Singing Cadets sang "Joyful, Joyful".

General Joseph Weber, the honored guest and veteran of 36 years of service in the Marines, was introduced by Liz Treybig. She pinned the first "THANKS" lapel flower on him and Marian Branam gave him a memento U.S. flag and copy of Governor Abbott's Proclamation and Certificate of Appreciation from the Robertson family.



*Liz Treybig pinning the first "Thanks" lapel flower on General Joseph Weber,*

Certificate of Appreciation from the Duck Dynasty Robertson family.

Liz Treybig of the Industry Brethren Church and Liz Ripple of the Fayetteville Brethren Church called the names of the honored veterans and the names of the representatives, who came forward to light candles in the memory of deceased veterans.

Dignitaries that were recognized were Mayer Mabel Mayer, Industry Mayor; Retta Slavik Chandler, TCHCC, President & Chairperson of the Board (TX Czech Heritage Museum); Grace Holtkamp, Chairperson Austin County Historical Commission; James Marek, Past Unity of the Brethren President;



*General Weber with some of the Veterans*

## Caldwell Brethren Welcomes New Members

Caldwell Brethren Church welcomed new members to their congregation recently.

In October 2015, the Caldwell Brethren Church Family shared in the unbelievable JOY of baptizing Mr. Dash Owen Walker, with his parents, Daniel and Marcie, dedicating him wholeheartedly to Jesus!"

They also rejoiced as they welcomed their newest church members: The Martin Family! Can't wait to see all the awesome things God will do through them! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the great gift of their presence.



*Rev. Vanessa Mitchell performing baptism over Dash.*



*The Martin Family with Rev. Vanessa Mitchell.*



*Marcie, Daniel, and Dash Walker celebrating Dash's baptism.*

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## Caldwell Brethren Church “Trunk or Treat”

The Caldwell Brethren Church Family had a blast at the October 2015 Trunk-or-Treat Outreach! Pastor Vanessa was dressed as a “fruit of the Spirit.” We rejoiced as we handed out treats to all the families that came by from the community. Many visited with us for a while!



and Liz Ripple, Unity of the Brethren Financial Secretary. Harvey Treybig, Unity of the Brethren Treasurer, was also present.

Ministers honored were Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr. (deceased), Rev. Laurence Junek, Rev. Nello Strickland, Rev. Milton Maly, Rev. Gordon Hejl, and Rev. Daniel Marek (deceased). In addition, other veterans honored were: Robert Anderson, Adolph Assmann (deceased), Roy Dean Duve (deceased), Bennie Boelsche (deceased), Raymond Bayer, Leroy Keaton, J.B. Branam, Clarence Coufal (deceased), Thomas Coufal (deceased), Chris William Coufal, Daniel Coufal (deceased), Leonard Coufal (deceased), Jesse Coufal, Joe Coufal, Sr., Dr. James Hrachovy, Barnell Coufal, Daniel T. Schmidt (deceased), Calvin Coufal, Sidney Welsch, Benjamin Krenek (deceased), Jerry Kunetka (deceased), Alvin Henry Coufal, Gus Kautz, Jr., Billie Sisa, Alvin Chaloupka (deceased), Bert Dodd (deceased), Emil J. Fick, Jr. (deceased), Walter Rasch (deceased),

Bob Martin, Larry Kainer, Bennie Dockal (deceased), Rudolph Schmid (deceased), Sanford Schmid, Henry J. Schovajsa (deceased), Robert Jacobson (deceased), John T. Henslee, Jr. (deceased), Anton Henneke (deceased), Gilbert Henneke (deceased), John A. Jecmenek (deceased), John Hlinsky (deceased), John Holan (deceased), Louis A. Weselka (deceased), Frank Jecmenek (deceased), Bill Dove (deceased), Raymond Roesler (deceased), Joseph John Krenek (deceased), Gus Hruska (deceased), Jan Hruska (deceased), Laddie Ripple, Elroy Issleib, Claren Kotrla, Eddie Krause, Alfred Krause, Gary Gross, Willie Shupak (deceased), Gregory Maly, Jean Maly, Ben Polasek, Leland H. Miller, Emmett Roy Coufal (deceased), Milan Petrusek (deceased), C.M. McAlexander, Jerry Alexander, John Ripple, Jr. (deceased), William Vasicek, August Voelkel, Theodore Wehring (deceased), Bennie Poncik (deceased), Johnnie Poncik (deceased), Darwin



*Texas A&M Singing Cadets*

Macat, James Schimara, James E. Havemann (deceased), Ernst Coufal (deceased), Robert "Bob" Brightwell (deceased), Willis G. Dove (deceased), Godfrey Dove (deceased), Hugh Dove (deceased), John T. Owens (deceased), Harry Taylor Marshall (deceased), Vernon "Sonny" Neal Billings (deceased), Louis A. Cannon (deceased), Marvin Coufal (deceased), Ben Chovenec (deceased), Jerry Kubala, Eugene Michalsky, Sr., Larry Krebs (deceased), Daniel Surovik, Jerry Krenek (deceased), Newton Peschel, Richard Buttons, Dorothy Buttons, Eugene Buttons (deceased), Donald Koonce, Wilbert Leschper, Charley H. Lesikar (deceased), Henry Lee Franke, James Nathan Hold (deceased), Lee Roy Cervenka (deceased), Warrie Coleman (deceased), Leo Urban (deceased), Otto Leo Urban (deceased), Ladislav Hromadka (deceased), L. W. Wright (deceased), Gary Dorsett, Vernon Yoakum (deceased), Chas M. Juren (deceased), Henry Martinek (deceased), Leslie Singer (deceased), Henry H. Syptak (deceased), William "Bill" Walden (deceased), Alfred Oppermann (deceased), Jerry Dove, Ann Heintschel, Milton Heintschel, John T. Ripple (deceased), Asa Jackson, Dr. Tom Kennedy, Charles

Crawford, James Hejl, Jerry Marshall, Fred J. Ross (deceased), Jan Oldrich Mares (deceased), Robert Froebel, Delvin J. Syptak, Edwin A. Kuehn, Jr., Felix Leonard Nigh (deceased), Oliver Rudloff, Dennis Rudloff, Raymond A. Kretzchmar (deceased), Edward O. Maeckel (deceased), Ernest Edward Maeckel (deceased), Leland Edward Maeckel (deceased), Marvin William Maeckel (deceased), William Otto Maeckel (deceased), Leroy Krenek (deceased), Alvin Krenek (deceased), Mike Krenek (deceased), Harley Hackemack, William Hajek (deceased), Sam Humphries (deceased), Charles Blinky (deceased), Harry Blinky (deceased), John Divin (deceased), Louis Franta (deceased), Jim Herbst (deceased), Benjamin Coufal (deceased), Mickey Fenn (deceased), Lebert Brune, Wayne Fruge, and Leroy Hruska (deceased).

Honored living veterans who were not able to attend will be mailed a certificate of appreciation, a copy of the program, their lapel flower, small memento U.S. flag, a copy of the Ducky Dynasty Robertson Family Certificate of Appreciation, and a copy of Governor Greg Abbott's Proclamation.

Four A&M cadets assisted in the

service. One stood on each side of the candle table and helped with lighting of the candles. Two ushered and were available for those needing assistance in walking, etc. At the end of the service as people filed out of the service area to go eat, each person was given a red poppy to wear.

Terri Ross played the harp with special music that was military and patriotic themed. She also played each military branch's song. A large bell rang to signal the opening of the service. This bell rang one time as each veteran's name was called. Every deceased veteran had someone come forward to light a candle in their honor. Many family members as wives, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, cousins, etc., came to do this. Several of the men who were not physically capable to be there had a stand-in to receive the lapel flower for them. There were five World War II veterans honored. The oldest veteran honored was James Hejl (who will be 102 on November 13, 2015).

Pastor Kay Polasek gave an inspiring message expressing our thanks and gratitude to the military families' sacrifices and all that our military men and women give for us daily. She also noted that many have hardships following service and that we live the life of freedom for these prices that are paid by our service men and women. She stressed that we are always prom-

ised "everlasting life" when our journey is finished here.

Other songs sung by the A&M Singing Cadets were "Mansion of the Lord", "God Bless America", "Texas Our Texas", "God Bless the USA", and the "Benediction Song". Following the "Benediction Song" the four A&M cadets came forward and saluted all the standing soldiers, who in return saluted them.

Sharon Spiess played the keyboard. Maridel Anderson of the New Ulm Enterprise was present to record the story.

A very large buffet of many different foods was served to an attendance of 225 people.

As we thank the military men and women who served our country, the Industry and Fayetteville Brethren Churches also thank everyone who assisted with this service, attended, and contributed to it. In addition, many thanks go to those who helped with setting up the new site for the service when the Industry Brethren Church flooded and different arrangements had to be made on Saturday prior to the event.



*Texas A&M Cadets salute the Veterans*

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