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# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL



Vol. 115

January-February 2016

No. 1

36 Pages

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*— from the editor*

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

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Permit #064220

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

Visit the  
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[unityofthebrethren.org](http://unityofthebrethren.org)

## 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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# Moving Forward

- by Kent Laza, Synodical Board President

What a quick turn of events. This past July I was attending the Unity Convention in Nelsonville and having a conversation over lunch with David Guthrie, who currently serves as Chairman, Moravian Southern Provincial Elders Conference. Our conversation centered around how the Moravians choose their president, where I learned that there is no nominating committee that contacts and presents a slate of candidates before their Synod (i.e. their convention). Instead, nominees are taken from the floor and votes are taken repeatedly until someone wins a majority. David said that there is no prior warning and the candidates must make an immediate choice about whether they are willing to uproot their lives and move to Winston-Salem. When it happened to him, he understood it to be God's calling to take on the new role.

Less than 15 minutes later, my old friend James Marek informed me that we no longer had a nominee for President and elections were scheduled for the afternoon session about 2 hours later (I had previously agreed to place my name in the hat for 1st Vice President, but was not interested in anything other than that). Without him saying the words, I understood that James was inquiring if I would consider taking the position. I was later approached by several others once word got out about the vacancy. David Guthrie's words about God's calling were ringing through my head. After some soul searching and discussions with Tami, I agreed to run,

and was elected President.

Those who know me have heard me talk of my favorite Bible Parable, which is the Parable of the Talents. I have tried to pattern my life around that teaching and will endeavor to be faithful with the talents that God has given me. It has been eight years since I last served in this position, and for those who are counting, this will be my fourth term as president of the Synodical Committee. Just as with the previous three, it is humbling to realize that the denomination that I grew up in and known all my life wants me to serve in this leadership role. I wish to thank those of you who had faith enough to elect me to this office once again, and commit to giving my best effort as we move forward together.

One of the things I like to do with these *Brethren Journal* articles is to present news of things going on around our denomination. I believe it is still an important means to communicate with the membership as a whole, so that is what you will be seeing from me in the months to come.

## Granger Bell Tower

For those who may not have heard yet, the bell tower at the Granger Brethren Church is in poor condition and in danger of collapsing. The church has stopped ringing the two bells in it, which have served as signals of worship for over a century. Initial estimates of the repair cost was about \$60,000, but that figure could



rise as contractors begin working on this very old structure. The membership does not have the funds to make these repairs and are attempting to raise money through garage sales, donations, any other way they can. If you feel led to contribute to that cause, please contact me or any of the members at Granger for more information.

### Unity History Symposium

As many of you know, the Unity sponsored a symposium on November 14 that centered around Jan Hus and the history of the original Unitas Fratrum. It was our celebration of the 600th anniversary of Jan Hus' martyrdom in 1415. We were privileged to have two renowned experts on the subject, Dr. Thomas Fudge and Dr. Craig Atwood, both of whom currently teach at the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Approximately 150 attendees met at Blinn College to hear these speakers. I was very impressed with the quality of the presentations and came away with a far better understanding of how the events leading up to Jan Hus' death took place. Many of our long-held beliefs about Jan Hus and the early Unity were changed as a result of the symposium. The presentations were videotaped and will be

made available to churches and individuals who may be interested.

Special thanks go to Dr. Dawn-Marie Baletka, Dr. Larry Koslovsky, and James Marek for organizing this event. I know that many others had parts in it, as well, and I thank you all for doing your part.

### Going Forward

One of the things I hope to do during my term as president is to begin holding discussions about the future of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas. Rev. Tommy Tallas talked about this in his beautiful sermon at the old Wesley Church following the convention. Like many others, I see our membership declining and sense uncertainty about what the Unity will look like over the next one or two decades. It is my intent to have frank discussions about our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges ahead of us, and the potential we have for change that will almost certainly be necessary as we move forward. I would like to hear your thoughts on this subject as the process begins, so please contact me if you or your organization has something they would like to share.

May God Bless each of you,  
Kent Laza

### 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.*

## 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

# DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

## Daily Morsels for February 2016

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

1. I will sing Your praise, O Lord. Ps. 138:1
2. Honor one another above yourselves. Rom. 12:10
3. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Ps. 27:14
4. Love your neighbor as yourself. Mt. 19:19
5. The Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Prov. 2:6
6. The Lord God Almighty will be with you. Amos 5:14
7. **Faith comes from hearing the message, and is heard through the word of Christ. Rom. 10:17**
8. How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity. Ps. 133:1
9. May God arise, may His enemies be scattered. Ps. 68:1
10. You are the God who sees me. Gen. 16:13
11. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Mt. 5:7
12. Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Isa. 55:6
13. Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. Ps. 43:5
14. **All mankind will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior and Redeemer, the Mighty one of Jacob. Isa. 49:26**
15. Glory in His name; let the hearts of those who seek Him rejoice. 1 Chron. 16:10
16. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. Rom. 12:6
17. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16
18. "I the Lord do not change." Malachi 3:6
19. Your word is truth, O God. Jn. 17:17
20. Christ gave Himself for our sins to rescue us. Gal. 1:4
21. **What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8**
22. I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you. 3 John 2
23. Jesus said, "Whoever loses his life for Me will find it." Mt. 16:25
24. Cast all your anxiety on God because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7
25. "Return to Me and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:7
26. You will know that the living God is among you. Joshua 3:10
27. Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. Heb. 6:12
28. **The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace. Ps. 29:11**
29. Your (the Lord's) faithfulness continues through all generations. Ps. 119:90

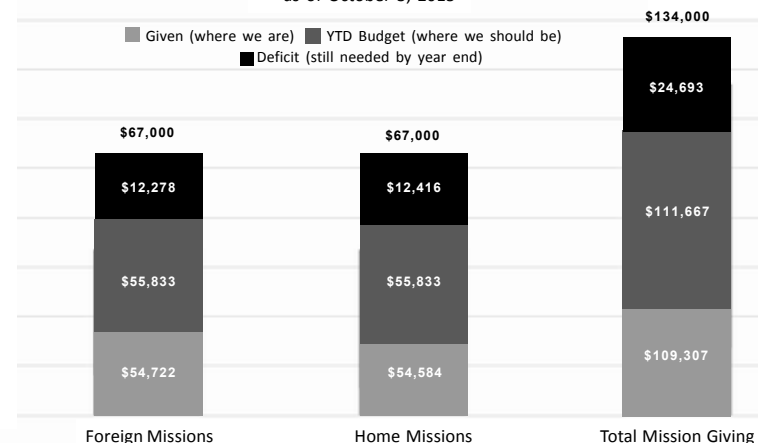
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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574  
512-352-6423

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

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>James D. Hejl</i>	<i>Kevin Page</i>	<i>Mary Kokes</i>
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## Thoughts about giving...

**Remembering the Unity of the Brethren or any of its ministries is a fitting testimony of your belief. Your gift in a will can be a legacy that continues to affect the Christian values, mission, and ministry that is important to you.**

*You can give without restrictions and let us use the funds for the most pressing needs or you can specify how, when, or where you want the funds used.*

*You can require that we hold the principle as an endowment and use only the earnings each year.*

*You can give in memory or in the honor of someone.*

*Your gift can be contingent. The funds go to someone if they survive you and if not, then to the Unity.*

*You can tell us now that you have named the Unity in your will and allow us to express our gratitude...or you can let it be known later.*

**There are many other ways to give. Contact any Board of Grants and Bequests member about what you can give and how you can give.**

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## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

### Daily Morsels for January 2016

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

1. He sent me to heal the broken hearted. Lk. 4:18
2. Behold the Lamb of God. Jn. 1:36
3. **"This is My Beloved Son." Mt. 3:17**
4. "Make straight the way of the Lord." Jn. 1:23
5. "I am with you always to the end of the age." Mt. 28:20
6. "Come, I will make you fishers of men." Mk 1:17
7. They forsook all and followed Him. Lk. 5:11
8. "Go, teaching them all I have commanded you." Mt. 28:20
9. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Col. 3:13
10. **The Lord has comforted His people. Isa. 52:9**
11. The people living in darkness have seen great light. Matt. 4:16
12. The power of the Lord was present to heal. Lk. 5:7
13. "Lord, You can make me clean." Lk. 5:12
14. "Your sins are forgiven." Lk. 5:20
15. "You have been made well. Sin no more." Jn. 5:14
16. Faith without works is dead. James 2:20
17. **Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Ps. 96:9**
18. His love is perfected in us. 1 Jn. 4:12
19. Be forgiving as God forgave you. Eph. 4:32
20. Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness. Ps. 7:8
21. Repent, and believe the gospel. Mk. 1:15
22. Your Father knows your need. Lk. 12:30
23. Love brotherhood. Fear God. 1 Pet. 2:17
24. **Your faith has healed you. Go in peace. Mk. 5:34**
25. The Lord is your keeper. Ps. 121:5
26. "Turn to Me and be saved, for I am God." Isa. 45:22
27. Fear not. Only believe. Lk. 8:50
28. The Lord's coming is near. James 5:8
29. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 1:3
30. The Lord pities them that fear Him. Ps. 103:13
31. **The kingdom of God is within you. Lk. 17:2**

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

#### The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

5220 Reading Road  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
(281) 342-3060

Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM  
Prayer Service and Bible Study

Youth Minister: Position open



## VITAL STATISTICS

### MEMBERS RECEIVED

MARTIN, BREE, received into the Caldwell Brethren Church by profession of faith on November 1, 2015. Minister: Rev. Vanessa Mitchell.



### RECENT DEATHS

PILKINGTON, BETTY JEAN, age 86, died October 7, 2015. She was born in Brazito, MO, and a member of the Community Christian Church of Rosenberg.

### 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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Natalie Outlaw, Gen. Secretary  
Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer  
Dorothy Hinson, Jr. Dept. Secretary  
Ann Sebesta, Board Member  
Rev. Michael Groseclose,  
Synodical Liaison

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Anna Wotipka – Treasurer,  
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#### Pastoral Advisors:

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Bro. Mark Sebek,  
[papasebek@gmx.com](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

### MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2015-2017)

Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky  
(Pastor to the Pastors)  
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill  
Rev. Michael Groseclose  
Rev. Jimmy Hejl

## A Simple Exercise for the New Year!

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Texas Winter! Seems like an oxymoron after the long hot summer months! Yet here we are once more by God's precious grace, the start of a new year, January 2016! Wearing socks instead of flip flops. Dressing with layers so that we can brave the cold mornings and evenings and yet be comfortable in the slightly cool afternoons. New Year's resolutions swirl around in our minds. Time and again, the only resolution that seems to make heavenly sense is this:

**Persist in seeking God's cleansing and the disintegration of power of the strongholds in your life, of those idols that rule your day after day.**

***The more consistently we are walking in Christ's power and not our own, the more we can accomplish to His glory!***

So what idols do you need to de-throne this year? They usually fall into two categories:

- 1) yourself, and
- 2) pleasing others

How do we lead a life that makes room for no one else on the throne of our minds and our hearts except God?

Since getting into better physical shape and eating more healthy foods seems to be one of the top New Year's resolutions, here is a worthwhile *New Year's exercise to achieve our spiritual goal* of total surrender to God:

**First**, in the morning, just sit.

Every morning, before the day creeps out from under you.

Sit and listen to what God is saying to you.

Ask Him.

Wait.

This may take a few minutes. It might take much more.

Ask the Lord to help you listen to what He is speaking to you.

**Second**, in the evening, just lay down.

Every evening, before sleep over-shadows you.

Lay down and listen to what God is saying to you.

Put your cell phone down.

Ask Him.

Wait.



## Fayetteville Brethren Church

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



**1022 Kramr Rd at Ross  
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P.O. Box 11  
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*Come join us!*  
**Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 10:45 a.m.**

**Pastor: Rev. Kay Polasek**  
**Home: 979-567-1999 Cell: 979-220-1289**  
**Email: [revkaypolasek@yahoo.com](mailto:revkaypolasek@yahoo.com)**

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

This may take a few minutes. It might take much more.

Ask the Lord to help you listen to what He is speaking to you.

Make this one of your chief New Year's resolutions, if not the top one:

**Persist in seeking God's cleansing and the disintegration of power of the strongholds in your life, of those idols that rule you day after day.**

**REMEMBER, The more consistently we are walking in Christ's power and not our own, the more we can accomplish to His glory!**

The prophet Ezekiel spoke of this very resolution to God's people and presented them with God's great promise in Ezekiel, chapter 36, verses 23 through 27a:

*"I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord," says the Lord God, "when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you.*

So what idols do you need to dethrone this year?

Will you ask the Lord to help you?

In Jesus' Inexpressible Joy,  
Vanessa

#### HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

##### Voting Members:

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

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

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

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

**At-Large:** Phil Michalik, 15918 Brook Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77059. [Pmichalik1@peoplepc.com](mailto:Pmichalik1@peoplepc.com)

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

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

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

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

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

#### SAVE THE DATES...

**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

#### IMPORTANT REMINDER...

**ALL Brethren Journal Subscriptions** expire on **December 31st of each year**. Please send your renewal in now if you haven't already! 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.

*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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## Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

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

**February 13, 2016 – Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters Fundraiser:** On the square in Fayetteville at the Old Fire Station from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. – breakfast tacos, bake sale, country store, and raffle. Love donations of \$2 per ticket or \$10 for 6 – 29 prizes. Top prize is a queen size “Diamond Patch” quilt. Tickets are available now. For information about the event, contact Liz Ripple (979) 378-2239 or [lizripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lizripple@hotmail.com), or visit the church website: [FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org](http://FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org)

**February 20, 2016 – Seaton BC Sausage Supper Fundraiser** at Seaton Star Hall, 10842 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton) beginning at 4:00 p.m. until the sausage is gone. Menu consists of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, new potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread, homemade desserts, tea and coffee. Dine in or drive thru plates will be available. There will also be a bake sale featuring kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels, and other baked goods, along with a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the church building improvement fund. The public is invited.

**March 5, 2016 – Children’s Rally** at the Hus Encampment. 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Activities will begin at 9 a.m. and closing begins at 3:30 p.m. Registration form and \$20 fee due by February 1. T-shirt, 2 snacks, lunch, and crafts included in fee. Children ages 3 to 3rd grade invited to attend. Volunteers ages 12 and up \$10 fee for shirt and food. Forms available at [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.com) or contact Jennifer Chervenka 254-913-1244; [jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto:jennchervenka@farm-market.net)

### HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

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*Secretary*

P.O. Box 1605  
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(713) 626-0522

## “A Way Out”

- by Rhonda Johnson

***1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”***

As I over-hear my husband’s phone conversations with people from all over the country and he gives them wise counsel, there is a phrase I have heard him repeat over and over, year after year. He tells people, “You won’t be in this situation forever. This has an end date and you will move past where you are right now. You won’t always be miserable as you are right now.”

We need to know this, don’t we? When we find ourselves in a “temptation” we need to know we will not always be upset, confused, hurting, or even grieving. There is an expiration date on our pain or situation.

Saul of Tarsus was a terrorist, in his time. In chapter nine of the book of Acts, Luke tells the story of how Saul went to the priests and obtained written authority to incarcerate anyone he found who was a Christian or in “*The Way*”. On his way to carry out his vengeance against God, Saul had an experience on the road to

Damascus that would change his life, and possibly even ours. As he saw a bright light he fell to the ground and the Lord appeared to him. From that moment, he could no longer see and needed the help of his fellow travelers to get into town to an Inn where he hoped to recover. Saul sat blinded for three days, no doubt repeating in his mind the words The Lord said to him, “Why do you persecute me?” The living Savior of the world took personally Saul’s torture to his victims.

I think this should give us pause the next time we consider saying something less than kind to a fellow believer, much less our pastors and church leaders.

Three days in darkness and total blindness probably seemed a lot longer than 72 hours to Saul at the time. If I were him I would have thought the blindness was permanent, that I would be blind and have to beg for the rest of my days on earth. I would have thought the darkness and new assignment to poverty was punishment for the brutality and harm I had caused Jesus’ beloved friends and saints, but there was another man on the other side of the city with his own assignment in the situation.

While Saul sat in darkness, God



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Diane Heckman, Manager

was working on the way out. Ananias was God's servant; he was seeing a God-given vision during the time of Saul's dark hours; a vision to restore the most feared man by Christians. In this vision God didn't just tell Ananias *what* to do, but He gave him Saul's address and instructed him to go and lay his hands on him and pray for his sight to be restored.

I can completely relate to Ananias as he reminded God in verse 13 of the 9th chapter of Acts of who exactly Saul was. I'm pretty sure I've done things very similar to this, myself. However, God said, "Go!" *"This is My chosen instrument* to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

That would be my luck, just as I finish telling God how awful someone is, I find out they are God's "chosen instrument" to do a great and mighty work for God's Kingdom. So, of course,

Ananias went and laid his hands on the equivalent of our modern day ISIS, Hitler, Sadaam Husein... and Saul's sight was restored.

When you're sitting in darkness, seeking God and waiting for Him to show up in your situation, remember Saul. Saul sat in darkness for what, I'm sure, seemed longer than three days. The time he sat in darkness God was changing his heart, dealing with his unbelief, showing himself to Saul so he could become the great Apostle Paul. God makes us great in our darkness, but all the while He is working to bring us out, just as His word promises in 1 Corinthians chapter 10:13. A way out has already been provided. Trust the Lord, embrace the darkness and let God have His way in your heart while you wait on *your* Ananias.



Rhonda Johnson  
Life of Love Ministries  
www.lifeoflove.com



## + CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street  
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**Sunday School**  
9:30 AM

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

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Wednesday Family Night Gathering:  
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Friend us on Facebook!

### Apply the Proverb:

Proverbs 3:5-8 is better understood by watching what happens to a balloon when you listen through it. Often we get into circumstances that are so surprising or so trying that we cannot imagine that God has a plan in it. We don't know where to go or what to do next. God is always there for us, and He sees and understands everything. He can work these things out for our greater good. We need to be able to hear Him in our hearts. The balloon is a little like faith in God. The more we have, the more we are able to hear what He has to say. A lot of faith will bring us close to God.

### MIKE AND SULLY GET KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL

Watch a movie clip from the movie *Monsters University*!

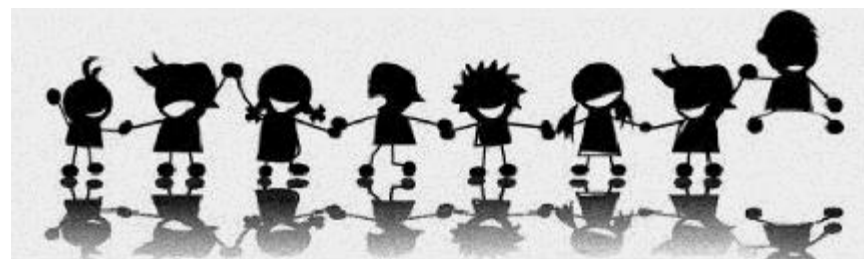
**SAY:** In the video, Mike and Sully are monsters who have just gotten kicked out of Monsters University, the only place they can go to become professional scarers. But I want you to watch what they do, because even though they don't know what's going to happen, and their future seems totally ruined, they trust that it's going to be okay. See if you can figure out what they do.

**Video:** MU Trust God (1:31:38-1:34:23). Mike and Sully completely turned their situation around. It would be understandable if they were discouraged. They didn't give up because they trusted that even though it didn't make sense at the time, they could still find a way to become scarers!

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/>



### Proverbs 3:5-8

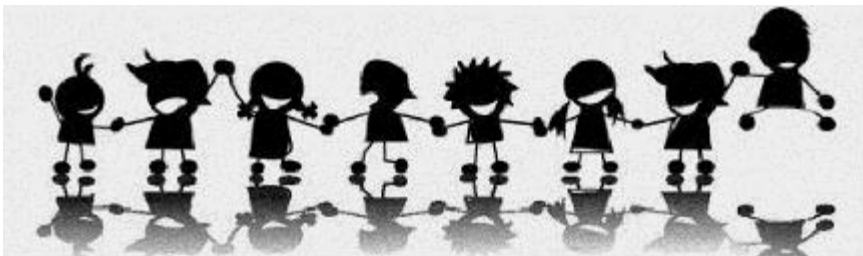
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

#### Understand the Proverb:

1. Read the proverb aloud.
2. Ask: What are we supposed to do? (Look at the verbs.) How do we do those things?

#### Practice the Proverb:

- To submit to the Lord, we need to listen to His guidance. Use the following activity to demonstrate "Amplifying God's Voice".
  - o Blow up a balloon.
  - o Have children take turns doing the following: Put your ear up to the balloon. Tap very gently on the other side. Scratch very gently on the other side. What do you hear?
  - o Have someone press hard on both sides while you listen through the top and tap on the bottom. Does the sound get softer or louder?
  - o EXPLANATION: When air enters the balloon, its molecules are forced closer together. The constricted molecules become a great conductor of sound. The more constricted the molecules become, the greater the conduction of sound occurs. Pressing hard on the sides further compresses the molecules and the sounds become louder.



## Comenius Revisited

- by Jim Pokorny

On Saturday, November 14, 2015, a symposium was held on the campus of Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, entitled "Jan Hus After 600 Years: History and Heritage."

Dr. Thomas Fudge delivered the morning presentation, *The Prophetic Voice of Jan Hus for American Christianity in 2015*.

The Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood had the afternoon presentation, *The Spirituality and Ethics of the Original Unity of the Brethren*.

I learned a great deal, and also had the opportunity to speak with both speakers individually.

I especially enjoyed visiting with Dr. Atwood. It was obvious from his presentation that he held John Amos Comenius in very high regard. If you have read my articles or attended my Sunday school class, you are only too aware that I have a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for Comenius.

I informed Dr. Atwood that my class is studying his book, *The Theology of the Czech Brethren from Hus*

to Comenius. I was delighted to share with him the fact that we are currently studying that portion of his book that discusses Comenius. I was also quite happy to inform him that we had already completed a study of the allegory written by Comenius, *Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart*.

We discussed Comenius at length and are in agreement that Comenius was far more than simply the pious dreamer that some experts would have us believe.

My purpose in this article is to share with you some key points Dr. Atwood delivered on Comenius from his presentation along with some of my own observations. For the sake of both clarity and credit, excerpts from Dr. Atwood's presentation are clearly noted.

*Atwood* – Comenius was the most important theologian in the history of the Unity. He was a bishop, teacher, author, and social reformer. He wrote hundreds of works. He tried to pre-



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Houston, Texas 77082

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
[Westheimercommunitychurch.org](http://Westheimercommunitychurch.org)



serve the witness of the Brethren even as the church was dying of persecution.

Comenius came into the world as Jan Komensky. His teacher gave him the middle name Amos because Comenius loved to learn. From the teacher's perspective, Amos was a play on the French word amour or love. As the years went by, Comenius came to associate the name more with the Old Testament prophet. The more I study Comenius, the more convinced I am of his true genius.

*Atwood* – The Brethren were exiles and pilgrims. Comenius wrote, "I say this to you, my brethren, the remaining sons of my scattered church: love the Lord and serve Him with all your heart, not blushing at His cross, which you have carried thus far and will carry all the way to the end if you are wise. I firmly commend to you the inheritance of Christ: pauperdom and the cross, which will be the way of eternal riches and glory for you, if you have the mind of Christ persevering to the end."

One of the things that emerge from the writings of Comenius is that there are fundamentals where Christianity is concerned. These fundamentals are of

a practical nature. Christianity is not merely a belief system, but rather something that is to be experienced throughout the lifetime of the Christian.

*Atwood* – Comenius wrote *Unum Necessarium* (*The One Thing Necessary*) in 1668 for the exiled son of Frederick V. In it, he returns to the theme of *Labyrinth of the World*. He compares us to Sisyphus from Greek mythology. The more we seek happiness, the less happy we are.

According to Homer, Sisyphus was the wisest of all mortals. Condemned by the gods, his punishment was to endlessly roll a large rock to the top of a mountain. Each time he neared the summit, the weight of the rock caused it to roll back to the bottom. There, Sisyphus would reclaim his burden and repeat the cycle endlessly. Apparently the ancient Greeks were of the opinion that there could be no worse punishment than labor that was both futile and hopeless.

*Atwood* – In *Unum Necessarium*, Comenius wrote, "Christ especially explains and applies His rule (about keeping everywhere the one thing necessary), as in commending everywhere the THREAD OF SIMPLICITY against everything multiple or too



### Proverbs 3:5-8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

This month we focus on four verses from Proverbs that can help us and the children in our lives begin the year with a renewed focus on God.

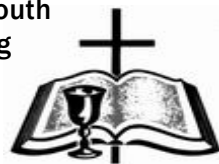
These verses encourage us to do many things. Look at the verbs: **trust, lean, submit, fear, shun**. But also look at the reward: straight paths and health and nourishment! What a way to spend 2016!

## BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

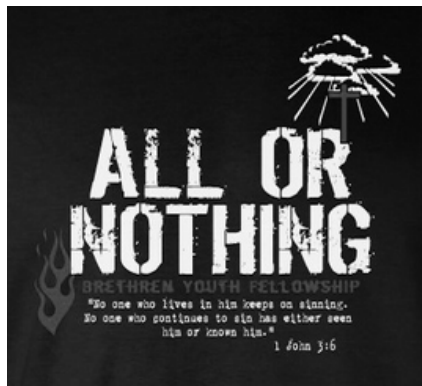
2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South  
[www.unityofthebrethren.org](http://www.unityofthebrethren.org)

Rev. Mark Sebek

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



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



## 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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great, for extricating oneself from all labyrinths." Additionally: "What can one do to lighten oneself from the useless exhaustion of labors? He urged us to get rid of our excess bother for earthly things, and to rest in the paternal care of God for us."

In *Labyrinth of the World*, Christ tells the pilgrim (who is in fact Comenius), "Why should you care for an abundance of riches? Why should you desire this? Life requires little, and it is my business to provide for each one who serves me. Therefore endeavor to collect inner riches, piety and illumination, and I will give you everything else. Be sure of this: heaven as well as earth will be yours by hereditary right. These riches will neither oppress nor burden you, but give you unspeakable joy."

*Atwood* – A Christian means a disciple and imitator of Christ, that is, one who believes what Christ taught, does what He commanded, and hopes for what He promised. Therefore he alone is truly a Christian who really believes the teaching of Christ, really does what He commands, really has faith in His promises. If we want to speak more sublimely, it can be said: "A Christian is a man like Christ,

and through that likeness is able to be deified."

Atwood – The keys to spirituality...

I. Do not burden yourself with anything beyond that which is necessary; be satisfied with the few things that benefit you; praise God.

II. If conveniences are lacking, be satisfied with only necessities.

III. And if they are taken away, strive to save yourself.

IV. If you are not able to save yourself, abandon yourself, only taking care that you do not lose God. For he who has God is able to lack all other things, for he will forever possess his highest good and eternal life with God, and in God.

Comenius was a man only too familiar with loss – the Thirty Years War, the deaths of his wife and two children, the destruction of his home, the burning of his library and manuscripts, and the persecution and demise of the early Unity. During this darkest period of his life Comenius wrote *Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart*, which remains as beautiful and relevant today as when Comenius wrote it almost four centuries ago.



## Temple Brethren Church

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

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

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

In that allegory Comenius wrote of the loss of his family: "Suddenly a terrible storm struck unexpectedly, with lightning, thunder, and frightful hail. Everyone around me scattered, except for those who were joined to me. Though I also ran into a corner with them, the arrows of Death struck my three companions."

*Atwood* – We are to reject the religion of Cain, which "is jealous of the grace of God to man, and establishes sects and starts persecution because of disagreement in religion, and causes bloodshed, and seeks earth instead of heaven."

*Atwood* – We should embrace the religion of Abel, which includes "humble faith, active charity, and hope directed towards heaven and eternity."

Christ speaks to the pilgrim in *Labyrinth of the World* concerning this as well: "You have seen in the world how people perform religious ceremonies and stir up disputes over them. Let your religion be to serve Me in quietness and to be free from bondage to ceremonies, for I do not require them of you. When you serve me as I teach you, in spirit and in truth, then quarrel no longer with anyone in these matters, even if they

call you a hypocrite, a heretic, or anything else. Rather cling quietly to Me, and continue in My service."

*Atwood* – In *Panorthosia*, Comenius discusses peacefulness stating, "Anyone choosing to use compulsion only embitters, poisons, and alienates men, and either makes them hypocrites or prepares the way for a fresh and perhaps greater breakaway. Fear is a poor guarantee of friendship."

*Atwood* – Comenius believed that the world is a divine gift. He stated that God has provided us with a world filled with wholesome delights that are to be enjoyed as a way to grow in the knowledge and love of God.

*Atwood* – In another passage from *Panorthosia*, Comenius wrote that God works through us. In it he states, "Christ nevertheless wishes His people to cooperate with Him. For as God does all His work apart from creation through His creatures themselves, the first acting through the second, so Christ does all His work apart from that of Redemption through others."

*Atwood* – "Whenever you encounter one of your neighbors, regard him as yourself in another form (which he is), or indeed as God in another form,

have no idea if he loves me and he definitely can't forgive my sins." Praise Jesus for our loving almighty God, who has saved us and given us eternal life, that we can KNOW His love in a very real way.

Michael and 35 others from OMF will be mobilizing at the triennial Urbana Mission conference. This is where Caroline and Michael discovered OMF 15 years ago. It is the largest mission conference in the world where over 15,000 young people are seeking God's direction into mission service. Last conference in 2012 we helped personally mobilize a couple who is now serving in China.

#### Partnership Development update

As many of you know, OMF is a faith-based organization. It requires

each member to raise their finances through partnership development based on need. We have been faithfully supported over the last 12 years through individuals (such as yourselves), churches and denominational giving.

During this home assignment we need to increase our support by 20%.

Please pray for us that we will raise up new financial partners to help get us back on the field in June 2016. Our need is \$18,000 increase in yearly support.

#### Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

## 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

## OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53

Temple, Texas 76501

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

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

#### Pastor

Rev. Ron Winsman

3112 W. Ave. R, Temple, TX 76504

(254) 742-0827

[ronwinsman@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wphalia@yahoo.com)

#### Cemetery

Sharon Marek

23383 Milam Road

Burlington, TX 76519

(254) 869-2845



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

### From the Thiessen's...

November 28, 2015; Thanksgiving

Dear friends,

We are enjoying the confluence of seasons here in Ontario – Autumn, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Amidst the mostly barren trees and leave-carpeted hills, we are spending this long weekend with Philip, up from Texas, and Cailey (his girlfriend) over from Vermont. She came with four other girls, driving on Wednesday, and returning tomorrow. First time for most of them, so of course, yesterday afternoon and evening were spent at Niagara Falls.

We had a more or less traditional meal on Thursday, and then yesterday morning got a Christmas tree, complete with white lights (from the thrift shop). Anne is still debating whether to leave it with its simple lights or add a bit of colour somehow. I'll know when I get back from Oaxaca on the 10.

Philip and I fly out tomorrow from Toronto in the later afternoon, he returning to university, and me to Oaxaca. I will arrive only Monday morning, and have three full days of visiting before heading out for a week off-road trip with the Baptist missions' pastor that I mentioned in the last letter. Keith and I will take a large loop around down to the Guerrero coast (south side of the Mixtec region), and then up through to the north-east part of the state (the other end of the Mixtec region), then way up into the heart of the region and the heights of the Sierra Madre mountains, before heading back to Oaxaca

along the middle of the country.

We are gearing up for Elai's (RuthE's) wedding on December 22nd. Details are still being refined, but it looks like the ceremony will be at my home church, St. Ann's, on Tuesday at 2 p.m., followed by a dessert reception and program, and then a dance in the evening at Wellandport Hall. They will go off for a few days of honeymoon before coming back for two days to celebrate Christmas with both families, and then continue the holiday on their own in other places.

Anne is doing well, is all done with radiation, and her hair is growing back beautifully. You can see that on her Facebook photos. Thanks for your prayers.

Blessings, Robert and Anne

### From the Woo's...

November 2015

Merry Christmas,

Emmanuel God with us. Isn't it amazing to think the creator of solar systems and eyeballs, and wind and love, became a baby to save us from our own junk. No other religion has that.

When we ask our Buddhist friends, "Who created all these beautiful mountains and people?" They look at us with a sort of look that says, "What a crazy question," and then they say, "I have no idea." We ask, "Did Buddha create people?" They answer again with a crazy look saying, "No, he was just a person." Again we ask, "Does Buddha love you? Can he forgive your sins?" They answer, "I

for he is the image of God, and God will be watching to see how reverently you treat him." – Comenius.

In *Labyrinth*, Christ explains to the pilgrim. "The essence of the entire law is that he should love God above all that can be named and sincerely wish as much good to his neighbor as himself. I have heard the sum of God's law comprised in these two commands highly praised, and I myself have seen and tested that they are worth more than all the innumerable laws, rules, and decrees of the world. Indeed, they are a thousand times more perfect."

It is easy to see why one can hold Comenius in such high regard. The works of Comenius stand the test of time and retain their elegance and truth as much today as when he first put quill to paper.

*Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart* is a treasure of Czech literature. Comenius wrote this epic after the Battle of White Moun-

tain. At this point in time even the Czech language was subject to attack. By the 1700's its use as a literary language had all but ceased.

According to Karel Kucera: "The Czech of Comenius has an extraordinary functional range, and it represents the culmination of efforts to create a formally perfect literary language capable of the widest communication.

On the heels of that statement, I leave you with perhaps my favorite excerpt from *Labyrinth*, where Christ says to the pilgrim: "Son," He said, "I live in two places, in my home in heaven and in the penitent heart on earth. So from this time forward, I want you also to have two dwellings: one here at home, where I promised to dwell with you; the other with me in heaven. I give you these wings (which are the desire for eternal things and prayer) so that you might reach heaven. Whenever you wish, you will be able to raise yourself up to Me so that we may experience delight in one another."

### WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

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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.**

*President*  
*Board of Elders*  
Josh Holik  
325-234-8667

*Pastor/Director of Youth*  
*and Young Family Ministries*  
Ryan Volkman  
325-213-0671

*Church Office*  
*Secretary*  
Johnie Smith  
Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



## Granger Brethren Church Steeple in Need of Repair

the Granger members who provided much of the impetus for such a significant and challenging step.

The Granger Brethren church has played a large role in the Unity's development and basis. The church is unique in its choice of a spandrel: the beautiful star and chalice. Tucked away in the steeple is a document signed by the original local church fathers in Granger who built the steeple. Within the steeple are two historic bells, one for church services and one for funerals. The complete history and photos can be found on our web page, [www.grangerbrethren.org](http://www.grangerbrethren.org).

The Granger Brethren Church will be holding several fund-raising events as well as web page tag offering opportunities for donations. Visit our Face Book page, as well.

We believe the Granger Brethren Church steeple to be worthy of repair/preservation. We would be remiss in not making a strong effort to save the steeple considering the historic significance of the Granger Brethren Church to the denomination. Without its preservation, the hard work of those who came before us with such strength and perseverance may be lost and forgotten.

If you would like to make a donation to the preservation of the Granger Brethren Church steeple, please send it to:

Granger Brethren Church  
P.O. Box 943  
Granger, TX 76530

Thank you.

The historic Granger Brethren Church steeple is in need of repair. Estimates have been submitted and contractors are being considered; however, the cost exceeds the church's funds.

As early as 1892, the desire to build a church in Granger had begun. The members had selected a building committee, pledged \$500, and had gone to work doing all the labor themselves. A church was built and a dedication service was held on September 22, 1901.

Two years later on December 29, 1903, the Granger Brethren Church became the birthplace of the denomination when the Unity of the Brethren, first called the Evangelical Unity of the Czech-Moravian Brethren in North America, was organized. Twenty-two delegates from 11 congregations and preaching stations of the Czech Brethren in Texas gathered to form a unified church body after having been inspired by the writings of the Rev. Adolf Chlumsky, who was publishing the *Brethren Journal*. It was he and

## Community Christian Church Christian Sisters Deliver Baskets

On November 24, 2015, the Christian Sisters of Community Christian Church in Rosenberg delivered appreciation baskets to the Veterans at the SPJST Nursing Home in Needville. They were greeted with thank you smiles.

Each veteran received a laundry basket with a pillow, pillow case, Bible, playing cards, tooth paste, tooth

brush, chapstick, pen, socks, and a knitted cap and lap afghan (crocheted by our sisters). The sisters work on this project collecting items for the baskets.

Christian Sisters is a church organization devoted to helping others, and this was one of their yearly projects.





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# Taylor Brethren Church 2015 Kolache Bake

- by Jim Pokorny

On Saturday, November 21, 2015, members of the Taylor Brethren Church held their annual Kolache bake.

The kitchen was fully staffed with members of all ages. Working together, the dough was mixed, rolled, and put into pans of 15. Once formed into the classic kolache shape, they were filled and baked. Cinnamon rolls were also prepared.

After baking, the goods were transferred to the serving counter, where toppings and glazes were applied. The pans were then transferred to racks in the fellowship hall and allowed to cool prior to wrapping.

Once wrapped, they were laid out on tables and labeled and awaited pickup. Almost 300 pans were prepared.

People in the community look forward to this annual event and ask well in advance when they can place their orders. It's a shame that all they really get to see is the final product.

It takes a lot of hard work to make a good kolache, yet everyone worked with smiles on their faces and the sound of laughter filled the fellowship hall. Perhaps the difference between an ordinary kolache and a really good kolache is the amount of love that goes into it.



## 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

## GRANGER BRETHREN CHURCH

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Pastor, Rev. Larry Zabcik  
(903) 265-2277

