

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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*The Woo Family will be returning to China soon.
(See story inside this issue.)*

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What You Know . . . by Jim Pokorny

Just Wait . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Spring Synodical Committee Meeting Minutes

... and so much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Life's Rhythm and Our Spiritual Lives...

Practicing the Presence of The I Am in Our Daily Lives Part 3 – Vigils

**Larry Koslovsky,
Unity Pastor to Pastors
Pastor of
Crosby & Pasadena
Brethren Churches**

Vespers, 6 p.m. Compline, 9 p.m.
Vigils, Midnight to 6 a.m.

Vigils marks the time between going to sleep after Compline and rising for the day, generally speaking from midnight to 6 a.m. Vigils is a watch in the night. Parents watch through the night with a sick child; loved ones keep watch with another who is dying. Christ asks His disciples to keep watch as He prays in Gethsemane and asks all His followers to watch for His Second Coming.

Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn.

Mark 13:35

But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Luke 12:39-40

I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who

was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:8

Tying the I AM sayings to the daily office, we are aware that Jesus is coming again. We know not when, but are instructed to be ready at any hour. *The Parable of the Ten Virgins* underscores the need to be watchful and ready for the Bridegroom (Matthew 25.1-13).

Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25.13

The Psalmist views the watches through the night as an opportunity to praise and meditate on the Lord.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises You with joyful lips when I think of You on my bed, and meditate on You in the watches of the night; for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.

Psalms 63.5-7

At midnight I rise to praise You, because of Your righteous ordinances.

Psalms 119.62

I remember Your Name in the night, O Lord, and dwell upon Your law.

Psalms 119.5

Meditation throughout Scripture is not an esoteric, spiritualized, self-indulging exercise, but rather focuses on the Lord – the glory and wonder of God.

On the glorious splendor of Your



majesty, and on Your wondrous works,
I will meditate.

Psalm 145:5

In a similar vein, the Psalmist prays
for acceptable meditation.

*Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be acceptable
to You, O LORD, my rock and my
redeemer.*

Psalm 19:14

Sounds, noises and creaks of the
night can grab our attention. Fright-
ened, we may lie awake, wondering
what lurks in the dark. Another aspect
of the Lord upon which to meditate:

*even the darkness is not dark to
You; the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to You.*

Psalm 139:12

Darkness and length of night can
seem like an eternity. This feeling can
remind us of the eternal presence of
God who has no beginning or end and
time does not bear on the eternal Lord
like it does on us.

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the
first and the last, the beginning and
the end.*

Revelation 22:13

In the dark of night, we sleep and
are at rest, oblivious to what is going
on around us. In the course of deep
sleep, we dream, and dream work is
associated with rapid eye movement
(REM). While night is for physical
rest, the opportunity exists for Spirit
work – God touching, directing, mov-
ing, and working in and through us.

Dreams and visions in the night
are common place in the Scripture.
Jacob awakens from the dream of a
ladder (ziggurat) that reaches to heaven,
awakening to exclaim, *Surely God
was in this place and I did not know
it.* Joseph, son of Isaac, has numer-
ous dreams that foretell the future of
his position over his brothers. The
wise men receive a warning through a
dream not to return to Bethlehem,
after worshipping the Christ Child. By
direction through dreams, Joseph takes
Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt
and returns from Egypt guided in the
same way. Paul's call to Macedonia
comes as a vision in the night.

Whether awake or asleep, it can be
a time of prayer – God speaking to us
through dreams, and our response.
Awake in the course of night, we can
be attentive to the person and pres-
ence of the Lord through meditation
and conversation.

It may seem like an odd time to
pray, but there are times when we
wake up in the middle of the night
unable to go back to sleep. Instead of
counting sheep, a more positive, pro-
ductive and spiritual opportunity lies
before us – a time to keep watch, a
time to meditate, a time to praise.

Jesus never asks us to do any-
thing He did not do. He often rose
early in the morning, while it was still
dark, to seek out His Father. Follow-
ing His example, in the deep quiet of
night we, too, may pray.

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
for spiritual resources, events, videos, &
more! Friend us on Facebook!
– Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

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
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.
– Position Open

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.
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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 and 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
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– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.,
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– Pastor Tim Chaplin

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– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

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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,
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– Visiting Ministers

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I am the Alpha and Omega
 Vigils
 Midnight-Dawn

I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Revelation 1:8; 22:13

Therefore, keep awake— for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else He may find you asleep when He comes suddenly.

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Mark 13:32-37

Midnight Hymn
 Tune: Doxology
 Bishop Thomas Ken (1674)

- 1 My God, I now from sleep awake;
 The sole possession of me take;
 From midnight terrors me secure,
 And guard my heart from thoughts impure.
- 2 Blest angels, while we silent lie,
 Your hallelujahs sing on high;
 Your joyful hymn the Ever-blest,
 Before the throne, and never rest.
- 3 I with your choir celestial join,
 In offering up a hymn divine;
 With you in heaven I hope to dwell,

And bid the night and world farewell.

- 4 O may I always ready stand,
 With my lamp burning in my hand;
 May I in sight of heaven rejoice,
 Whene'er I hear the Bridegroom's voice.

- 5 Blest Jesus, thou, on heaven intent
 Whole nights hast in devotion spent;
 But I, frail creature, soon am tired,
 And all my zeal is soon expired.

- 6 Shine on me, Lord, new life impart,
 Fresh ardours kindle in my heart:
 One ray of thy all-quickenning light
 Dispels the sloth and clouds of night.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises You with joyful lips when I think of You on my bed, and meditate on You in the watches of the night; for You have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

Psalm 63:5-7

You, O Lord, are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, the first and the last... But you are also before the beginning and after the end, before the first and after last. You simply are... and so beyond me... in every way.

In this hour of the night as I meditate on You, I praise you for Your unfathomable greatness and being.



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

Even the dark of night is not dark to You. It is in the dark of night that You come in human form, Emmanuel, God with us, as the Light of the world. It is in the darkness of death and the tomb that you conquer sin, death, and the grave.

So I fear not as I abide in Your unending presence, praising and finding peace in You. Amen.

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BYF Representative:

Erin Brinkley (2015), Ocker Brethren Church; erinbrinkley@yahoo.com

Synodical Committee Liason:

Rev. Mark Sebek, Bryan/College Station Brethren Church; cell 254-931-2000, papasebek@gmx.com

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Junek (Unity at large); 254-714-2622, ljunek@hotmail.com

MISSIONARIES

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

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

Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Kayla Marek, 901 Hidden Valley Dr. #9302, Round Rock, TX 78665; kmarek2012@gmail.com

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

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

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

(979) 255-8266; rschlechte@hotmail.com; schlechte86@msn.com

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

Unity of the Brethren 2016 Summer Camping Program Information Form

Encounter Camp (ages 7&8)

June 9-11 (Thurs 2 p.m. to Sat 3 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$200; By 5/1, \$250; By 5/15, \$275

Alpha Camp (ages 9&10)

June 12-16 (Sun 3 p.m. to Thurs 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$300; By 5/1, \$350; By 5/15, \$375

Pioneer Conference (ages 11&12)

June 19-24 (Sun 3 p.m. to Fri 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$300; By 5/1, \$350; By 5/15, \$375

Discovery Conference (ages 13-15)

June 26-July 1 (Sun 3 p.m. to Fri 2 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

By 4/15, \$300; By 5/1, \$350; By 5/15, \$375

Hus School (ages 16 & above)

July 3-15 (Sun 4 p.m. to Fri 3 p.m.)

Deadline/Registration Fee

April 15

Fee: \$500-\$600 based on the date your application is received

Questions or Comments?

Contact Kayla Marek, Camp Programmer
(512) 944-2619 or kmarek2012@gmail.com



VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

MUCHA, FLORENCE (ZABCIK), age 94, of Temple and a former member of the Ocker Brethren Church, died April 8, 2016. Services were held on April 11 at the Hewett-Arney

Funeral Chapel in Temple with burial following at the Ocker Brethren Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Ray Mucha of Temple, and her daughter, Valeria Miller of Belton, the pianist and choir director of the Temple Brethren Church. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for June 2016

- by Dorothy E. Kocian

1. They cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distress. Ps. 107:28
2. Jesus' prayer: "Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me, and to see My glory!" Jn. 17:24
3. There is one body and one Spirit; one faith, one baptism; one God and one Father of all. Eph. 4:4-6
4. Speaking the truth I love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ. Eph. 4:15
5. **So whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31**
6. Dear friends, I urge you to abstain from evil desires, which war against your soul. 1 Pet. 2:11
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Mt. 5:9
8. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Rom. 1:16 (NIV)
9. We know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Gal. 2:16
10. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. Ps. 33:21
11. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Ps. 97:11
12. **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phil. 4:6**
13. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Rom. 12:12
14. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Rom. 12:12
15. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise His holy name. Ps. 97:12
16. The peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7
17. The Lord said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Joshua 1:5
18. Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life. Rom. 6:13
19. **Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. 2:1**
20. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Tim. 2:1
21. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. Eccl. 12:1
22. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than a double-edged sword, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb. 4:12
23. The grace of the Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 1:14
24. "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." Mt. 16:24
25. You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. Ps. 18:28
26. **I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done. Ps. 9:1**
27. Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men. Ps. 107:5
28. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Ps. 73:26
29. The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, full of mercy, impartial, and sincere. James 3:17
30. The Lord said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor. 12:9

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

The Hummingbird

Dear Friends,

Texas has just come through some historical rainfall. We probably all know someone who was affected by the terrible floods in the Houston area. Thankfully things can be replaced and more people did not perish. As Christians it is our obligation to pray for those who were affected and to reach out to them as we are able. If you are reading this, and you were one of those who were affected by flood waters, it is my prayer that God has provided and will continue to provide the help that you need as you recover over the next months to come.

A few weeks ago Ben and I noticed that there was a single hummingbird perched on a double hook pole just outside our kitchen window. A hummingbird feeder and a flower pot hang on each side. That beautiful bird remained in the same place day after

day only to fly down to the feeder to eat and then right back to his "spot."

And then, one of those ferocious storms came through Caldwell. The day after, I went outside to assess the damage. The hummingbird's perch was leaning almost to the ground. As I positioned it and was in the process of re-hanging the hummingbird feeder, I happened to look straight ahead. It was there that I found that, that tiny hummingbird was flying less than a foot away from my face. At least one person has said to me "oh, they do that." Well, if they do or not, it has never happened to me before and it startled me. I felt as though he was challenging me to immediately "cease and desist" my hummingbird feeder activity.

That itty bitty hummingbird was ready to "take me on." He hovered, looked me straight in the eye, and





CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

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

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

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

www.lifeatcbc.org

Come as you are . . .

Friend us on Facebook!

when I moved, flew away only to dive back at me. I admire that tiny bird. He was ready to give his life to protect what was his.

Jesus loves us so much that He was ready to give up His life to protect you and me from eternity in Hell. He protects us from what Satan means for evil and turns it into good. When I was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer for which my first oncologist said "you won't survive more than 1, maybe 2 rounds of chemo, I thought that Satan had me. But, my Lord Jesus looked the devil straight in the eye, said cease and desist, you cannot have my child, and here I am, almost 9 years later, 4 years more than the minimum span of re-occurrence predicted.

One day I will go home, but it will not be on Satan's terms. I do not know why I was spared, because so

many are not. What I do know is that Jesus has my back and He has yours.

One day, Satan will be allowed to make his final effort to take what is not his, God's children. Jesus will dive back at him and take His own to their eternal home, Heaven. Isn't that comforting? For me, just to know that I have a Savior who was willing to give up everything He owned to protect me is awe inspiring. He gave up His home, He gave up Heaven, but more than that, He gave up His life... for me... and you. That brings much comfort to my soul. And each time I think that the enemy has me in his grip, it makes me smile to know that Jesus has my back. Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.

Blessings,
Pastor Kay

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM

Elder Board President

David Sebek

3910 Red Ranger Rd.
Temple, TX 76501
(254) 985-2578

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

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

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

23383 Milam Road
Burlington, TX 76519
(254) 869-2845

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. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

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Diane Heckman, Manager

Fayetteville Brethren Church

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Prairie Church Road;
P.O. Box 11
Fayetteville, TX 78940

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Worship 10:45 a.m.

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

www.FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

Dorothy Hinson
President

7331 Misty Morning Lane
Humble, TX 77346
(281) 620-0480

John David Skrivanek
Secretary

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

June 13, 2016 – Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament for Missions at Legendary Oaks Golf Course, 43279 Urban Rd., Hempstead, TX, (979) 826-4001. Registration: 8:00 a.m., Tee-Off: 9:00 a.m. Golfer's fees includes 18 holes of golf, bucket of range balls, cart, drinks, catered BBQ meal, and chance to win prizes. Guests not wishing to golf may come for a \$15 fee to cover BBQ meal. Holes may be sponsored for \$100. All proceeds go to the Unity of the Brethren Mission Fund. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of supplies, such as a box of balls for \$25. For more information, call Bro. Mike or Trish Groseclose at (979) 865-3026, or email umhbpg@yahoo.com.

June 19, 2016 – Ocker Brethren Church Annual Father's Day BBQ Fundraiser at the church. BBQ with all the trimmings, \$10. Quilt Raffle and Silent Auction, also. For more information, please contact Stacie Sebek at (254) 718-5608.

SAVE THE DATES...

July 9, 2016 – 64th Biennial Convention of the Mutual Aid Society – Snook Brethren Church. Contact: Rev. Joseph Polasek or Natalie Outlaw, NatalieOutlaw@yahoo.com.

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

August 14, 2016 – 5th-year anniversary celebration of Cade Lake Community Church. Free-will donation lunch at 1:00 and services at 2:00.

GRANGER BRETHREN CHURCH

1903 *Where it all began*

306 WEST BROADWAY STREET, GRANGER, TX
76530

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Worship Services 10:15 a.m.

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



What You Know

- by Jim Pokorny

When I was a boy there was a phrase I heard my father and uncles use more than a few times: "It's not what you know – it's who you know that counts."

As a boy, that phrase did not mean very much to me. It was when I became a man and entered the business world that I understood what they meant by this.

Back in the 1980's I worked in quality control. The company I worked for shipped some faulty components to a large corporation in Dallas. They were quite upset with us, and even threatened to terminate their contract. Our management made the decision to send someone there with two objectives in mind. The first was to have this individual personally inspect every component in the shipment and return with the faulty ones. The second was to smooth things over as much as possible and perhaps salvage the contract.

To cite another adage, I drew the short straw that day.

The reception I received in Dallas was not exactly warm. Upon my ar-

rival at their facility I was given a visitor's badge and assigned an escort. Based on the demeanor of my escort, I concluded she had likely drawn the short straw as well.

As we made our way to their inspection area, we traveled down a rather long corridor with offices on each side. The doors were all closed and each had both the name and title of its occupant. The further down the hall we traveled, the less impressive the titles became.

When we reached the final door at the end of the corridor, I read a title which I will never forget: Secondary Assistant to the Deputy Administrator.

Let's break this down. The person in this office was not the Administrator. He was not the Deputy Administrator. He was not the Assistant to the Deputy Administrator. He was, in fact, the Secondary Assistant to the Deputy Administrator.

At that moment, I thought I understood what my father and uncles meant when they said, "It's not what you know – it's who you know that counts." ➔

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Buddy Michna
512-365-1621

Secretary
Mary Kokes
M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

While there might be a grain of truth in that statement when it comes to the world of business, there happens to be a tremendous amount of truth in it where our journeys of faith are concerned. When it comes to matters of faith, the importance of who we know far outweighs what we know.

In fact, who we know is so important that we consider this to be an essential.

As a result, what we know is considered a non-essential.

At this point it must be stressed that the word “non-essential” must never be confused with the word “unimportant”. These two words are not equally interchangeable, yet there is an almost overwhelming human tendency to do just that.

Speaking from the point of view of someone who currently teaches an adult Sunday School class on the history of the church, I have come to appreciate the value of this particular “what” more and more.

The more I learn about our history, the more I appreciate why I feel the Unity is where I belong. This feeling is reinforced whenever I encounter connections to our history that on first inspection seem to have no connection whatsoever.

For example, I have felt led to do a future study on a work by Dietrich Bonhoeffer for a long time. Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who was executed by the Nazi regime shortly before Germany’s surrender in World War II. From his body of works I was particularly drawn to *The Cost of Discipleship*. I began reading it in preparation for that future study.

In this book Bonhoeffer stated

something quite profound, “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

I was struck by the sheer magnitude of that statement and it stuck with me.

As my class concluded its study of *The Theology of the Czech Brethren from Hus to Comenius* by Craig D. Atwood, I understood why Bonhoeffer’s statement had such an impact on me. To quote Atwood: “We can hear the echo of the teaching of the Brethren in Bonhoeffer’s words.”

As we continued our study of *A History of the Moravian Church* by J. E. Hutton, we learned of the revival under Count Zinzendorf. The first step in the building of Herrnhut took place in 1722. Herrnhut was on the estate of the Count and its goal was simple. This was to be a place where Protestants could live in peace. The Count issued his “Injunctions and Prohibitions,” which were rules by which the inhabitants were to abide.

The Count was not very familiar with the old Bohemian Brethren or their discipline. One day he traveled to nearby Zittau, which had a reference library. There he found a Latin copy of the ancient Brethren’s “Account of Discipline.” Reading it, he discovered authentic information on the old Brethren. He discovered that they were not the disturbers of the peace that some made them out to be. In fact, they upheld the same faith he held so dear in his own heart.

The Count also read the lamenta-

Demonstration of the Proverb for Teens:

Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower

Resources

1 pack of spaghetti per team

1 pack of large marshmallows per team

Measuring tape

Preparation

One of the best things about this game is that there isn’t really any preparation that needs to be done! All you need to do is split the youth into teams and give each team a pack of spaghetti and a pack of marshmallows.

If you only have a small youth group, you could always have the young people do this activity individually. It’s a great team-building activity, though, so we’d suggest having them all work together rather than separately.

Rules

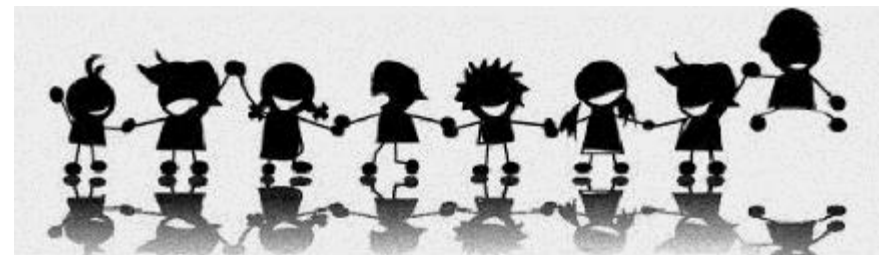
Teams have to build the tallest tower that they can using only the marshmallows and spaghetti. The tower has to be free-standing, so the young people aren’t allowed to support it once it’s completed.

Set a time limit that they have to finish their tower by. Warn them when they’re about 1 minute from the end so that they can ensure that their tower is free-standing.

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 18:10

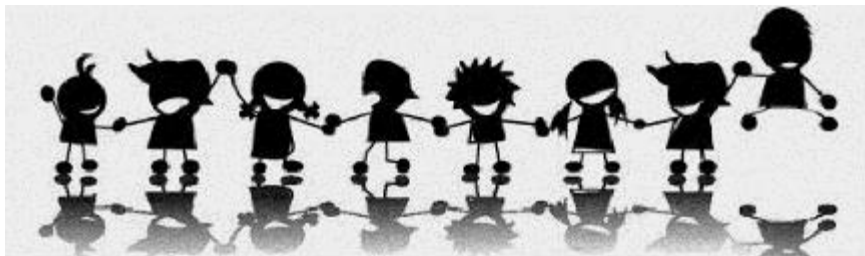
**The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
the righteous runs into it and is safe.**

Understand the Proverb:

1. Read the proverb aloud.
2. It's difficult for children to understand hardships in life. Even when our children are teenagers, life gets very confusing when it's less than perfect. Do you recall the overwhelming sentiment that swept across the nation on 9/11? Why would God allow something like this?
3. The truth is that God does not always provide answers for why we experience hardships. That does not mean, however, that God does not provide help. Even in the midst of our confusion and lack of understanding, God provides a refuge for us in times of trouble.
4. Not every difficulty will hit your children when you are around. They need to know where to run when life gets hard on their own. They need to learn, like you do, that God is always present and always available for the righteous. And, in the midst of confusion, we sometimes need something more than understanding; we sometimes need safety. We need a safe place to be confused, hurt, or broken. In reply, God says, "Come to me."

Demonstration of the Proverb (Children):

Using Legos, build a tower. Show students how you can make the tower more stable by making a larger base or overlapping the seams of the Legos. Talk about how in Bible times cities had walls with towers that helped to protect them. Discuss how God protects us each day.



tions of Comenius addressed to the Church of England when Comenius felt the Church was condemned to die outside her native lands.

To quote Hutton, "And even this was not the strangest part of the story. As the Count devoured the ancient treatise, he noticed that the rules laid down therein were almost the same as the rules which he had just drawn up for the refugees at Herrnhut. He returned to Herrnhut, reported his find and read the good people extracts from the book. The sensation was profound. If this was like new milk to the Count, it was like old wine to the Brethren; and again the fire of their fathers burned in their veins."

In two recent articles I shared my summary of *The Last Will and Testament of the Dying Mother, the Unity of the Brethren* by John Amos Comenius.

In that treatise, Comenius made three references to Jan Hus.

The first reference was in Chapter 15: "To me the faithful friend of the bridegroom was sent. Master John Hus, whose testimony I accepted more gladly because he sealed it with his martyrdom."

The second was in Chapter 19: "Love for the pure truth of God, which the Lord started to show us before other nations through the ministry of Master Hus, the ministry he together with his helper and other faithful Czechs sealed by his blood."

The third occurred in the last sentence of that chapter, which stated: "In total, all my inheritance, as ashes after the fire, I bequest to you, my beloved country, so that you can make lye from it for the cleansing of your children, in the same manner as the Lord did for me in the beginnings



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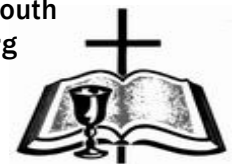
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BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South
www.unityofthebrethren.org

Rev. Mark Sebek

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



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

when he raised us and our children from the ashes of Hus.”

Hus, of course, knew that the truth was of God and it had to be treated as such.

Hus once said, “Seek the truth. Listen to the truth. Teach the truth. Love the truth. Abide by the truth. And defend the truth unto death.”

Hus died in defense of the truth, being burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.

When it comes to our faith, who we know is essential. We must have a relationship with God that is made possible by Christ and the Holy Spirit. Without this, what we know could make us scholars at best.

Once we have this essential relationship, what we know then takes on a special significance.

Perhaps the word “history” could better be written as “His story”. History from the Church as we know it today, back to Bonhoeffer, back to

Count Zinzendorf, back to Comenius, and back to Jan Hus is “His story”. We are merely the latest chapter in a story that He continues to write; a story that has its foundation in truth.

The first Brethren Church building erected in Texas still stands in Wesley. It was built in 1866.

A sign hangs above the doors of that church that reads...

“Já jsem ta cesta i pravda i •ivot – slova Je•íše Krista”

This translates...

“I am the way and the truth and the life – words of Jesus Christ”

Whether we have been members of the Unity of the Brethren all of our lives or not, we are all a part of something far greater than ourselves. We have been blessed with a rich history and a remarkable heritage. The very moment someone joins the Unity, he or she immediately has an equal share in those blessings. What will be our contribution to “His story”?

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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 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong
tower; the righteous runs into it and is
safe.

Hard times are called hard times for a reason! They are difficult and not a lot of fun. We are guaranteed to have hardships at some points of our lives. Sometimes they are personal, such as the loss of a loved one or illness. At times they are national, like a natural disaster or act of terror. Even as adults, we ask, “Why?” So it is understandable that children and teens will struggle with these difficult situations. Providing them with tools, the Word of God, to handle these difficulties will help them to come through these trials not broken, but stronger and closer to their God.

Thoughts about giving...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leroy Parthum, Chair – Westheimer – 713-826-7993;
betty_parthum@yahoo.com

Roger Runnels – Cy-Fair – 281-469-4302, rogerhr@swbell.net

Ron Tyson – Houston – 281-373-4376 (home),
rdtyson1@hotmail.com

Alan Tomasek – 512-859-2197, amtomasek@thegateway.net

Eugene Haisler – Ocker – 254-985-2316, dmheeh@msn.com

Harvey Treybig – Industry – Unity Treasurer and Synodical
Committee Liaison, 512-327-2504; htreybig@austin.rr.com

Just Wait

- by Rev. Vanessa L. Mitchell

Just wait, God says.
Just listen for My voice, and wait.
You know that I love you.
You know that I know all things.
I see all things.
Just wait, God says.
Just wait.
I have loved you with an everlasting love.
I have taught you my ways that you should follow them.
I have given my only Son for you.
Just wait, God says.
Just wait.

Waiting on a package?
Waiting for a paycheck to clear?
Waiting for a phone call?
Waiting for lab results?
What is your mind waiting for this day?

Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He approached His disciples who were afraid after His crucifixion, death, and resurrection from the dead. They feared the unknown. They feared the uncertainties that lay ahead as they were the forerunners at Jesus'

feet of this beautiful revolutionary movement of salvation for all of humanity who would respond... of this beautiful revolutionary movement of coming to *actually know God*, Jesus, their Savior and Master.

Do you know God?

Have you learned to wait *with* Him?
Have you learned how to trust in Him?

Acts 1:3-9 (NRSV), depicts what this waiting on and knowing and trusting in God is all about:

After his suffering, Jesus presented himself alive to the disciples by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," He said, "is what you have heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."



Seaton Brethren Church

12561 State Highway 53

Temple, TX 76501

Church Phone: 254-985-2694

seatonbrethrenchurch@yahoo.com

Rev. Denise Mikeska, Pastor –

sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com

Charles Amos Sr., Board of Elders Chair

So when they had come together, they asked Gim, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "**It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**" When He had said this, as they were watching, He was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Wait on God.

Allow Him to pour into you and through you the life-altering power of the Holy Spirit.

Just wait, God says.
Just listen for My voice, and wait.
You know that I love you.
You know that I know all things.
I see all things.
Just wait, God says.
Just wait.

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

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

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State Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka,
jennchervenka@farm-market.net

Youth Members:

Erin Brinkley – Foreign Mission
Board Representative,
erinbrinkley@yahoo.com
Krystal Dusek,
krystal.dusek@gmail.com
Jordan Eilers – Hus Board of
Trustees Representative,
eilers.js@gmail.com
Deanna Hairrell,
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kari.raesz@dps.texas.gov
Tammie Reithmayer,
reithmayer1972@gmail.com
Anna Wotipka – Treasurer,
awotipka58@yahoo.com

Pastoral Advisors:

Bro. Jim Heckman,
jimheckman46@gmail.com
Bro. Mark Sebek,
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

Unity of the Brethren Website Update

- by Liz Ripple

The Unity of the Brethren website remains functional and is a great resource. It is also mobile-friendly and can be used with smartphones.

It is our goal to have current information posted when possible. Committee Chairpersons, Ministers, and others – please check your information and send updates in as necessary. This could include your committee members, email and mailing addresses, phone numbers, pictures, and church announcements. We rely on you for these updates.

The *Calendar* now has 3 years to view – 2014 and 2015 have been archived. A lot of information is posted on the *Calendar* along with the Daily Prayer Calendar (DPC).

We are using the *News* page to get information to you. To get to the *News* page, go to *Calendar* and click on *News*. Recent news items that have been posted include: Mutual Aid Convention announcement and Scholarship forms, Summer camping information, Mission giving charts, and Rev. Henry Beseda, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament registration form. You are invited to take the *Website Survey*, which is also posted on the

News page. This survey will be available until June 30, 2016. The results will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and reported at the next Synodical Committee meeting. Your input is appreciated.

Under *History*, we currently have over 5 years of the *Brethren Journal* archived. More issues are planned to be added soon.

A video was recorded at the History Symposium that was held in November 2015. This video is comprised of 3 DVD's. Each church was given a copy and should be available for viewing. We are looking at possibly posting the video on the Unity website and will take into consideration the best way to do this.

If you have any updates, comments or suggestions – please let Liz Ripple, website administrator, know by email – lizripple@hotmail.com or regular mail: 311 W State Hwy 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940. You can also send updates and church announcements to the Unity secretary, Angie Hairrell at hairrell@gmail.com, who will then forward approved information to the website administrator.

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.*

Home Missions Board Report

- by Martha Dove

The Christian Sisters from Fayetteville and Industry have made baby quilts available for purchase to benefit Foreign and Home Missions. There are two quilts left which can be purchased from Home Mission Board Chair, Martha Dove.

walhalla71@gmail.com



On April 23, 2016, the Synodical Committee approved the purchase of a new freezer for Cade Lake Chapel to replace the old one that was no longer working. Also, approval was given to pay for installation of carpet for the Sunday School room and sanctuary. The carpet was donated, so the cost was for installation only.

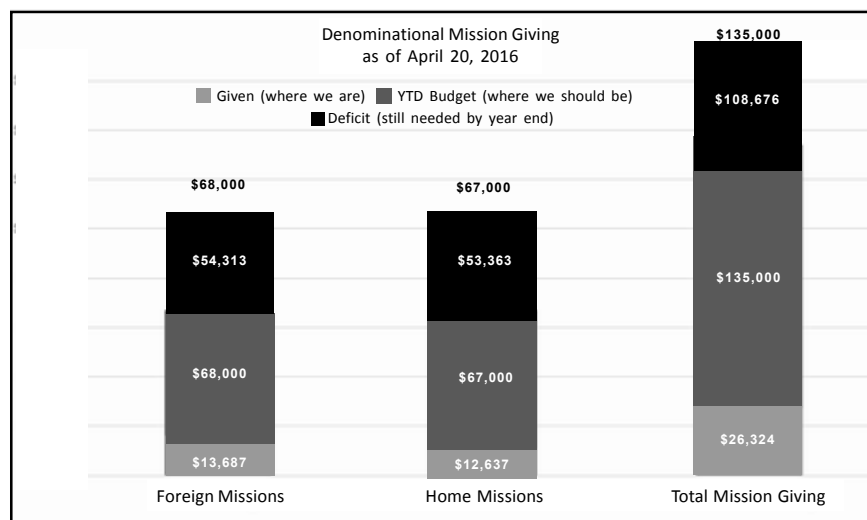
The Home Mission Board is continuing with plans for the five-year anniversary celebration for Cade Lake Community Chapel on Sunday, August 14, 2016. The celebration will take place at the Chapel with a free-will donation lunch at 1:00 and service to follow at 2:00.

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898



Spring Synodical Committee Meeting

April 23, 2016 - 9 a.m. – MINUTES

The Spring Synodical Committee Meeting was held Saturday, April 23, 2016, at the Hus School Encampment. There were 43 people in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President Kent Laza and opened with prayer. Secretary and Financial Secretary Reports were approved. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$185,033.84. There was discussion of churches delinquent in paying to the Brethren Fund. The Executive was charged to develop guidelines for Brethren Fund payments and bring recommendations to the Fall Synodical Meeting. Rev. Larry Zabcik was appointed as the 3rd Vice President of the Executive Committee, replacing Rev. Terrill. A final report was given on the Hus Symposium. Reports were given by various Boards (Youth Coordinator, *Brethren Journal*, Grants and Bequests, Foreign Missions). The Home Missions Board announced the 5th Anniversary Celebration for Cade Lake on August 14, 2016. \$1100 was approved for Home Missions to purchase a freezer and carpet installation. The Home Missions Board was also appointed as the oversight committee for the In God's Hands Ministry. Hus Encampment Board of Trustees presented ideas for long-range planning for the camp facilities. Todd Corporon was appointed as Treasurer of the Hus Encampment Board of Trustees. The Catechism Review Committee will have a draft available for the Spring 2017 Synodical Meeting.

\$5000 from contingency was approved to fund a Pastor's Retreat. The Minister's Benefit Committee will

have a meeting with all pastors and Alpha Capital Management on May 13 at 10:30 at Taylor Brethren Church. The Executive Committee was given authority to purchase or lease property for the Hus Encampment. The Executive Committee was also given the authority to fill the Administrative Assistant for the Unity of the Brethren position.

An update was given on the work done on the Granger Brethren Church bell tower. A review of website updates was given. Printed copies of the By-Laws were provided. Additional copies can be downloaded from the website. An update was given on the Unity Questionnaire. The Executive Committee was charged with revising the questionnaire for 2016.

There was discussion on the current status of the Cy-Fair Brethren Church. Christ Covenant is to be removed from the official list of Unity churches.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Hairrell, Secretary,
Unity of the Brethren

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Tami Laza – (2011) Bryan-College Station; Representative to Hus Board of Trustees
Peggy Hejl – (2014) Taylor Brethren
Debbie Clark – (2014) Crosby Brethren
Angie Hairrell – (2016) Snook Brethren
Angie Labaj (2016)
Member to be announced
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth Coordinator, Ocker Brethren
Synodical Liaison – Rev. Larry Zabcik, 3rd Vice-President

Reverend Dr. Jerry L. Terrill Promoted to Professorship



The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill, the bi-vocational pastor at Houston Brethren Church, has been promoted to a Full Professorship of Counseling at the Houston Graduate School of Theology, where he is the Director of the Counseling Program and has taught since 2004. HGST is an independent, evangelical, multicultural and ecumenical seminary, training students from more than 30 denominational traditions. He has been the pastor at Houston Brethren since 2010.

Rev. Terrill grew up on a farm in Kansas. He is a graduate of Calvary Bible College in Kansas. He later attained a Doctor of Sacred Ministry from Howard University in Washing-

ton D.C., and a M.A. in Religious Education and a M.Div. from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1972/1974. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and a Licensed Marriage & Family Professional Counselor. Accordingly, he belongs to the Texas Counseling Association, The American Counseling Association, the American Association for Christian Counselors, and the Viktor Frankl Institute of Logotherapy. From 1980 to 1985 Dr. Terrill provided pulpit supply to the Unity of the Brethren at Rosenberg, Alief, Crosby, Cy-Fair, Pasadena, and Houston.

Dr. Terrill is married to Dr. Louise Bednar Terrill, a faculty member at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. They have two adult children and one grandson. Houston Brethren is proud of Rev. Terrill's accomplishments and his presence in the pulpit each Sunday.

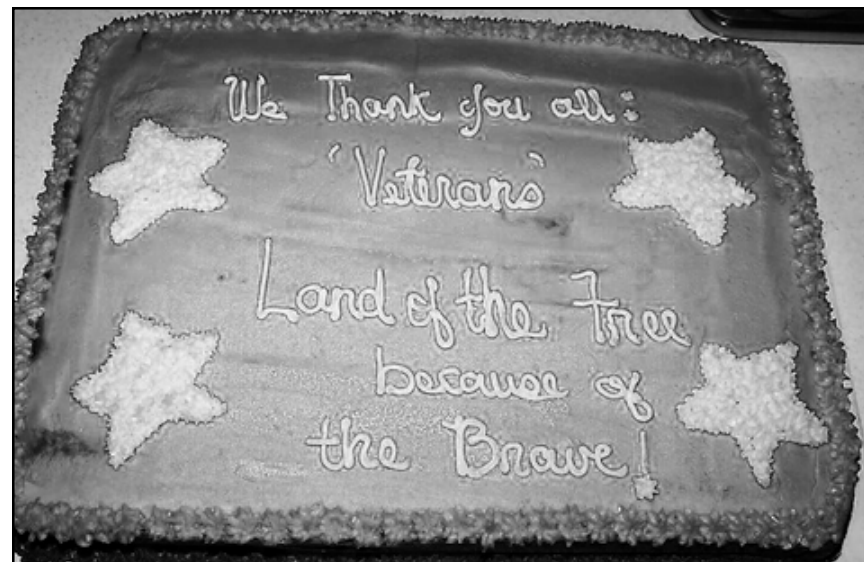
WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas
P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957
Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

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

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

<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>
Josh Holik	Ryan Volkman	Johnie Smith
325-234-8667	325-213-0671	Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



Caldwell Brethren Honors Veterans

The Caldwell Brethren Church Family is thankful to the Lord Jesus for the opportunity to honor our nation's veterans at the VFW on Thursday, May 12, 2016. What an honor to serve a meal and offer our prayers to those who have given themselves to the service of our beautiful America! We humbly send a great thank you to all our veterans! With Jesus' Love, Pastor Vanessa Mitchell and the Caldwell Brethren Church Family. Visit us any time! Check out our events at: www.lifeatcbc.org.



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

From the Thiessen's May 10, 2016

Dear friends,

We are in the middle of travels, coming and going and switching houses so much that I have to stop for a minute some mornings, waking up, to locate ourselves.

We were in North Carolina for a little over two weeks visiting supporting churches there, and catching up with old friends while making a few new ones. On the way back to Ontario we detoured a couple days to see Mikael and Elai in Wheaton. It is good to see them prosper and grow.

I had been in Guadalajara (mid-northwestern Mexico) for a week just before that, helping another set of MB missionaries prepare a group of ten young adults for cross-cultural experiences and ministry among indigenous peoples (afterwards they went for three weeks to the Guerrero area where we lived in the '90's).

And just a couple weeks before that Anne and I were in Oaxaca for

two weeks, visiting our team and also giving a five-day seminar to a group of Mexicans also preparing for long term ministry among the indigenous.

Tonight we are leaving for Ireland, to belatedly celebrate our 25th anniversary. We will spend two weeks visiting several places around the island and are looking forward to a holiday so different than what we are used to.

After we return, there are a number of final doctor visits for Anne and a fair bit of paperwork for the both of us as we get ready to return to Mexico. Our goal is to be back in Mexico by early July. There will be a number of "going away" events with friends, family, and churches in those few weeks, as well as packing, so I imagine we will be busy.

Anne and I have continued to write during this year, in addition to the other aspects of our work. An article of mine was recently published in the Anabaptist Witness (from the AMB Seminary, IN). You can read it at this link:



WESTHEIMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

15635 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas 77082

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



http://www.anabaptistwitness.org/journal_entry/journeying-with-jesus-towards-the-indivisible-gospel/

Thanks for your ongoing support and love,

Robert and Anne

From the Woo's...

Dear friends and partners,

We are furiously trying to get ready to go back to China. We clearly believe God is calling us back to serve in Asia at least for 3 more years, maybe more. We will be living in Kunming, China, a city of about 7 million people. Our new position will be overseeing about 7 different teams and people groups praying that the Lord will move on these groups so that millions can come to know Him.

To be honest, it is HARD to leave and go back, and yet we know this is what the Lord wants for us. The hardest thing to leave is family and friends, and then all the comforts and food of beautiful Winston-Salem. Many times people say, "You must really like it over there to stay for so long." I don't think we would use the word like, although there are tons of things

2-year-old
Salem Woo



we do like and enjoy. It is a calling and out of obedience we go and sacrifice for Him. What call does the Lord have on your life? What has He made you to do?

Financial clearance means we have reached our pledge support goal! For those who have verbally pledged but haven't sent in your pledge, now is the time. We have a few other needs we hope to budget in, so there is still opportunity to be on our support team.

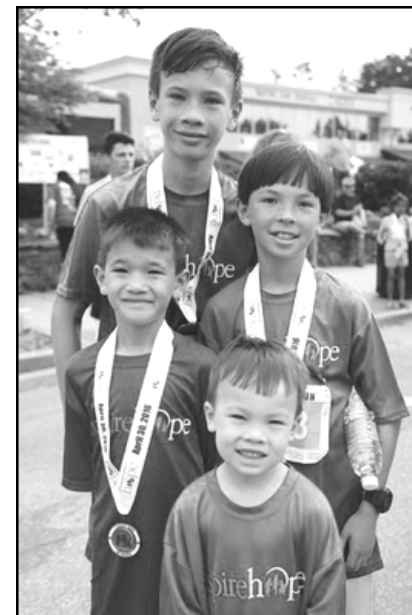
If you have wanted to pledge financially but have never been sure how to do it, then here is the easiest way: Go to <http://omf.org/us/give/people/pledge-your-support/>, or call us for more information at 336-508-8650.

We will homeschool the boys when

we go back. Samuel will also be at a wonderful module school. Caroline will continue to have checkups every 3-6 months. The doctors hope that all my cancer has either been cut out, poisoned out, or burned out. Now we wait and see. If I feel pain then they will scan, but only if I feel something is not right. If something is not right, we will come back home. BUT GOD... Yes, we are praying and asking that I am healed in the Name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for praying the other night when my stomach hurt. I was able to sleep and I know it was because of your prayers. I feel much better now. Please continue to pray for our family, that our kids would love Jesus, for the Shan Dai, and that God would use us among the nations so all the ends of the earth would love Him.

Serving together,

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



Samuel, Ian, Zach, and Isaac Woo
Supporting Inheritance of Hope at
the Legacy Run 5K.

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



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- Home Loans
- Family Activities
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about naming your church
or a Unity of the Brethren
agency as a beneficiary
in an existing or new
SPJST insurance certificate.

SPJST
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Temple, Texas 76501
(800) 727-7578