

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PD
TAYLOR, TX
PERIODICAL

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



Vol. 116

June 2017

No. 5

36 Pages

Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

— from the editor

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

If you wish to become a special FRIEND OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL, please send your donation to the Business Manager (address inside front cover). These donations are tax deductible.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Brethren Journal, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.



Caroline Woo

September 5, 1971-May 17, 2017

(See story inside.)

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

67th Biennial Convention Invitation

The Real Power of Prayer . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Full Circle . . . by Jim Pokorny

Mindfulness . . . by Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

West BC Pavilion Dedication

... and so, so much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

EDITOR –

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

BUSINESS MANAGER –

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

BUSINESS COMMITTEE –

President: Rev. Mike Groseclose
Treasurer: Dorothy Milberger, 312 N. Lantana
Cr., Sealy, TX 77474; mildw@sbcglobal.net;
979-885-7129 (h), 979-472-5091 (c)
Secretary: Stacy Hooker

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS –

Daily Morsels: Dorothy Kocian,
107 S. Barbara, Waco, TX 76705-1317.
Sunday School Helper: Angie Hairrell,
11482 FM 2155, Somerville, TX 77879;
Hairrell@gmail.com
Jim Pokorny, jwppsa@yahoo.com;
blog: otherbrotherjim.blogspot.com

RATE – \$15.00 per year via hard copy and/
or email; \$7.50 after June 1st
(All subscriptions expire December 31st)
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS, AND GIFT
SUBSCRIPTIONS, Hard Copy & E-Mail, write
The Brethren Journal Business Manager (see
addresses above).

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES – Include ad-
dress label from your most recent issue and
write to: *The Brethren Journal Business*
Manager, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836,
or email manager.brethrenjournal@gmail.com.

FOR ADVERTISING –

Rates (per column inch per year)
Commercial coverage – \$50.00
Religious coverage – \$50.00

Write:
The Brethren Journal Business Manager

FOR ARTICLE AND REPORT

SUBMISSION – DEADLINE is the first day
of the month preceding publication.

Write: *The Brethren Journal* Editor, 3635 CR
225, Caldwell, TX 77836, or email:
editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com.
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. POST-
MASTER: Send address changes to *The Breth-*
ren Journal, Attn: Business Manager, 705
Woodson Dr., Caldwell, TX 77836.

Visit the Unity of the Brethren Website: unityofthebrethren.org

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Chairman:

David Miller (2015), Wall Brethren
Church; cell 325-245-5616,
dm103157@wcc.net

Unity Representatives:

Arnold Cuba (2015), Taylor Brethren
Church; cell 512-247-8019, or work
512-352-3646, arcuba188@yahoo.com

John Brinkley (2011), Ocker Brethren
Church; cell 254-721-3196, home 254-
742-2771, wphalia@yahoo.com

Reesa Ueckert (2015); phone 979-472-
0559, reesa@hrueckert.com

Board of Christian Education:

Tammy Laza, Bryan/College Station
Brethren Church; home 979-690-7068,
or cell 979-777-6044,
tami.laza@verizon.net

Christian Sisters Representative:

Paula Wagner (2015), Taylor Brethren
Church; home 512-996-8846, or cell
512-632-6644,
paulak1121@sbcglobal.net

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 Juneke (Unity
at large); 254-714-2622,
ljuneck@hotmail.com

MISSIONARIES

Robert & Anne Thiessen
Michael & Caroline Woo
Phil & Eunice Raiford
Pastor Pavel & Stana Kozak
Carolyn Groseclose

**ADERHOLD
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**
“Thoughtful Service –
A Payne Family Tradition”
West, Texas
254/826-5321

DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS

FULL TIME PASTORS

Rev. Linda Von Chandler, 13108 North Ridge
Circle, Leander, TX 78641. (512) 836-2712

Pastor Tim Chaplin, 1326 Starlight Dr., Temple
TX 76502. (254) 778-5954;
tchaplin@hotmail.com

Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez, 3913 Brinkman Drive,
Port Arthur, TX 77642. (409) 293-2065

Rev. Michael Groseclose, 352 Nelsonville
Church Rd., Bellville, TX 77418.
(979) 865-3026

Rev. Jim Heckman, 9849 PR 1015, Rockdale,
TX 76567. (979) 739-1393, leave message. If
no answer, try 2nd number, (979) 200-0513;
jimheckman46@gmail.com

Rev. James D. Hejl, 309 Cherrywood Circle,
Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-6890

Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood, Waco, TX
76712. (254) 776-5886

Rev. David Johnson, 902 Timberlane, Caldwell,
TX 77836. (979) 567-1838(h),
(979) 220-3822(c);
pastordjbama@gmail.com

Pastor Lisa Johnson, (281) 220-0280.

Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 4311 Fir Valley Drive,
Kingwood, TX 77345. lwkoslo@aol.com
(281) 328-2442 (off), (713) 594-4518 (c)

Rev. John Kueker, P.O. Box 325, Buckholts, TX
76518. (254) 605-0434

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 409 E. Upshaw, Temple,
TX 76501. dkaym@hotmail.com

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

Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54, Snook, TX
77878, (979) 272-1624;
josephjpasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Kay Polasek, 705 Woodson Dr., Caldwell,
TX 77836. (979) 220-1289;
revkaypolasek@yahoo.com

Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437, Rogers, TX
76569. (254) 931-2000;
papasebek@gmx.com

Rev. Thomas Tallas, 3829 Sandstone, San
Angelo, TX 76904. (325) 949-7543;
rev.tjt@gmail.com (h), rev.tjt@zipnet.us (ch)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill,
jerryleeterrill@comcast.net

Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie Bishop Place,
Cedar Park, TX 78613. (512) 992-5824;
zabcikville@ymail.com

SUPPLY OR INACTIVE PASTORS

Rev. Charles Amos, 845 Airville Road, Temple,
TX 76501. (254) 742-2629

Rev. Whitney Amos, 845 Airville Road, Temple,
TX 76501. (254) 742-2629

Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern Crossing
Dr., Temple, TX 76502. (254) 791-0420;
joe.emerson_ma@yahoo.com

Rev. James Henry (retired), 1726 15th Ave.
N., Lake Worth, FL 33460. (561) 533-3893

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

Rev. Robert W. Janek, 261 Edinburg, San
Angelo, TX 76901. (325) 942-8515

Rev. Lawrence Juneke, 3316 Lyle, Waco, TX
76708. (254) 714-2622

Rev. Eugene Kotrla, 4406 Antelope Trail,
Temple, TX 76504. (254) 774-7484

Dr. Mark L. Labaj, 3410 Meadow Creek Lane,
Temple, TX 76504. (254) 774-8179;
mark.labaj@utexas.edu

Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail, Temple, TX
76502. (254) 778-1860

Rev. Bill Rinderknecht, P.O. Box 228,
Dennison, OH 44621-0228. (281) 433-7704
(cell); WilliamR90@aol.com

Rev. Nello Strickland, 1006 Top Hill Drive,
Brenham, TX 77833. (979) 836-2609

Rev. Tony Taylor, P.O. Box 1680, Hilltop Lakes,
TX 77871. (936) 855-2563

Rev. Ron Winsman, ronwinsman@hotmail.com

UNDER CALL OF THE UNITY

Military Chaplaincy

CH (Maj) Daniel Husak, 1627 Lakeview
Street, DeRidder, LA 70634.
daniel.husak@aggienetwork.com

MINISTERIAL STUDENTS

Ben Kruse – krusedadb@yahoo.com (CCC of
Rosenberg)

DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Carolyn Groseclose
NDO
P.O. Box 630260
Choma, Zambia
e-mail: carolyngroseclose@yahoo.com

Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak
Norska 42
77900 Olomouc
Czech Republic
e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

Phil & Eunice Raiford
(parents' address in U.S.)
230 SW Sandy Way
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986
pbrmissions@gmail.com

Rob and Anne Thiessen
25 E. Camino Nacional
Tlalixtac de Cabrera
Oaxaca, MEXICO 68627
(011) 52-1-951-145-8947
e-mail: rvthiessen@gmail.com

Michael and Caroline Woo
462 Lockland Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
e-mail: mcswoo@psmail.net
To access their pictures, go to
<http://gallery.mac.com/woofamily>

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jon Farrow;
jfarrow@hot.rr.com; (254) 933-1673;
(254) 718-1938
Dr. Ron Dusek; (979) 567-3732;
rdusekdds@aol.com
Connie Janac; cjanac@st-joseph.org;
(979) 587-0363
Dorothy Kocian; dekocian@yahoo.com;
(254) 713-2761
Adviser: Dr. Larry Koslovsky;
lwkoslo@aol.com; (281) 328-2442
Synodical Committee Liaison: Kent Laza

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Martha Dove, chair; Walhall71@gmail.com
Ben Kruse (2010-2017);
krusedadb@yahoo.com
Alton Ubanovsky (2011-2017);
gjeanu08@gmail.com
Dorothy Hinson (2009-2017);
dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com
Tillman Clark (2017); foxfire890@aol.com
Beverly Mikeska (2015-2017);
bevmikeska@gmail.com
Marvin Chlapek (2015-2017);
mjcarc@airplexus.com

SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

President: Kent Laza, (979) 690-7608;
kent.laza@verizon.net
1st Vice President: Rev. Mark Sebek, (254) 931-2000;
papasebek@gmx.com
2nd Vice President: Rev. Michael Groseclose,
979-865-3026, umhbpg@yahoo.com
3rd Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Angela Hairrell, 11482 FM 2155,
Somerville, TX 77879; (979) 219-1582;
Hairrell@gmail.com
Treasurer: Harvey Treybig, 2504 Timberline Dr.,
Austin, TX 78746; (512) 923-5315;
htreybig@austin.rr.com
Financial Secretary: Liz Ripple, 311 W State Hwy
71, Fayetteville, TX 78940; (979) 378-2239;
lizripple@hotmail.com
Ministerial Alternate: Vacant
Pastor to Pastors: Dr. Larry Koslovsky;
lwkoslo@aol.com
Non-Voting Lay Alternate:
Wiley Marx (Ocker), wmarx@jcgllc.com
Lay Members:
Austin – Eric Haynes;
newhope4nextgeneration@live.com
BCS – Valerie Sebek
BCS – Kent Laza (President)
Buckholts – Charlene Vogelsang;
cakv@hotmail.com
Caldwell – Ron Dusek; rdusekdds@aol.com
Crosby – Debbie Clark, foxfire890@aol.com
Dime Box – Roberta Brinkman;
superblues123@gmail.com
Fayetteville – Sandra Stepan;
sandrainaustin@yahoo.com
Fayetteville – Liz Ripple (Financial Sec.)
Good Shepherd – Alfredo Wilson
Granger – Edwina Jezisek, momawina@yahoo.com
Houston – Dorothy Hinson;
Dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com
Industry – Joan Coufal; joanie9695@gmail.com
Industry – Harvey Treybig (treasurer)
Nelsonville – Jenell Zettel, (979) 203-8390
New Tabor – Robert Schlechte;
rschlechte@hotmail.com
Ocker – Taylor Brinkley; taylorbrinkley@yahoo.com
Pasadena – Linda Planka; mslinda47@yahoo.com
Rosenberg – Genevieve Elliott-Bowman;
gm_elliott@yahoo.com
Seaton – Leonard Mikeska; mikeskains@hotmail.rr.com
Snook – Angie Hairrell (Secretary)
Snook – Yvonne Kovar; ykovar@cvm.tamu.edu
Taylor – Sidney Srnensky;
sid@brushcreekfarms.com
Temple – Kellie Chaplin; kelliechap74@gmail.com
Wall – Robret Berrie; robret.berrie@gmail.com
Wesley – Mark Surovik
West – Roy Janek; grandpajanek@att.net
Westheimer – Leroy Parthum;
betty_parthum@yahoo.com

67th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren An Invitation by the Temple Brethren Church Congregation

To the Synodical Committee, Delegates, Pastors, Members and Friends of the Unity of the Brethren:

The Board of Elders, Pastor, and all of Temple Brethren Church invite you to join us for the 67th **Biennial** Convention of the Unity of the Brethren on July 6-8, 2017, at Temple Brethren Church

The convention will begin Friday, July 7, with registration and a complimentary continental breakfast at 8:00AM. Convention Activities will begin at 9:00AM.

The Convention theme is “Possibilities” with scripture from Matthew 19:26: *Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

Housing accommodations have been saved at the following Temple hotels. Please reserve rooms by the deadlines for Convention Pricing under the Unity of the Brethren Convention. If you bring a Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate from your Church, you can avoid the State tax.

Hampton Inn

3816 South General Bruce Drive
254-770-5400
1 King or 2 Queen beds
Code: UNI, Rate: \$89, until June 22

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

2609 South 39th St., 254-773-5500
ADA rooms available
Rate: \$89, until June 26

Residence Inn by Marriott

4301S General Bruce Drive
254-773-8400 or 1-800-331-3131
King studio suite w/sofa bed
Rate: \$91, until June 15

Candlewood Suites

(newly renovated)
1850 Scott Blvd
254-624-4375
Pet friendly. Smoking rooms available.
Rate: \$80, until June 15

The meals which will be provided are:

Thursday Complimentary Dinner for Pastors, Missionaries, Executive Committee, and their spouses.

Friday Complimentary Continental Breakfast. Friday Lunch meal ticket \$10.00. Friday Dinner meal ticket \$10.00.

Saturday Complimentary Continental Breakfast. Saturday Lunch meal ticket \$10.00.

We pray for your safe travels, that God will lead and bless the discussions, and that the movement of the Holy Spirit will be evident in the decisions made. May we agree to follow our motto: “In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty, and in All Things, Love”.

Bro. Tim Chaplin, Pastor

Gayle Farrow, President,

Board of Elders

All of the Congregation
of Temple Brethren Church

Living, learning, loving, and launching out.

The Real Power of Prayer

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

We face so many challenges in life.
So many struggles
So many unknowns
So many moments of pain
And yet I believe that we can all hear
Jesus telling us to "Pray!"
If only we would allow the Holy Spirit
to increase our faith
If only we would ask for the eyes of
our hearts to be enlightened
If only we would keep the channel of
communication with the Savior,
King, and Prince of Peace, open
Just open
Like a faucet that trickles constantly
Incapable seemingly of repair
This is the one flow of water that we
do not want to cut off...
The Water of Life

We can read and believe in the
Holy Words of the Bible about all that
prayer does, about the power that it
holds.

The caveat is that earnest prayer
requires faith as its centerpiece.

And faith blossoms with an acute
awareness of one's humble place be-

fore God Himself.

We are truly His children whom He
loves. What an honor!

And ***a child of God flourishes
when life is faced through the chan-
nel of prayer.***

The Apostle Paul encountered
Jesus directly in the midst of prayer
while begging that the Lord would
remove a "thorn," a struggle, he felt
that he could no longer bare. In the
throes of this despair, of this poten-
tial depression, **Jesus answered Paul's
prayer not by giving him relief from
the hardship, but rather by remind-
ing him of the best way to navigate the
pain:**

Jesus said to Paul:

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for
power is made perfect in weakness."*
(2 Corinthians 12:9, NRSV)

And Paul's response:

*"So, I will boast all the more
gladly of my weaknesses, so that the
power of Christ may dwell in me."*
(2 Corinthians 12:9, NRSV)

It is by God's loving and unde-
served mercy upon you and me that

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
Co-Pastor, Rev. Kay Polasek

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

Dime Box – worship at 9:00 AM every
Sunday.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:30 AM,
worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

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.
– Visiting Ministers

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9:00 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9:00 AM &
Worship at 10:00 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.
Interim Pastor – Brad Herridge

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM
and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– 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
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.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson

Fayetteville Brethren Church

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

**For the schedule of visiting
ministers, please visit the
church website.**

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

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



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

VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS

VITEK, ADELINE S. (ZACH), age 87, died on April 22, 2017, in Georgetown, Texas. Adeline was baptized in the Robstown Brethren Church, confirmed in the Taylor Brethren Church, and was a member of the Granger Brethren Church. She is survived by her son, Robert Vitek and wife, Vickie; daughters Diana Beran and husband Jimmie, and Judith Trevino. She is also survived by four grandchildren. Funeral services were held on April 27 in the chapel of Condra Funeral Home in Taylor. Burial was at the Taylor City Cemetery. Ministers: Rev. James D. Hejl and Rev. Larry Zabcik.

WOO, CAROLINE (LEINBACH), 45, went to be with the Lord in her new home in Winston-Salem on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. She was born on September 5, 1971, to William Leinbach and Rita Castleberry Leinbach in Winston-Salem, NC. She graduated from Wiley Middle, RJ Reynolds HS, and NC State.



She participated in numerous intramural sports, Alpha Delta Pi and Campus Crusade including Summer Project. During college her heart was profoundly warmed for the Lord. She taught English in Beijing, China, for 3 years. While working at Ardmore Moravian Church as pastoral assistant, she met and married Michael Stephen Woo.

In 2003 they left for China with OMF (a mission sending organization) to plant churches among an unreached people. Some of the most memorable moments were seeing God's spirit move and provide in miraculous ways, sharing the gospel, learning 2 foreign languages, living on the border of Burma, serving people, eating exotic foods, homeschooling, and having children. Her most famous delivery was baby Salem born on a sidewalk in front of a Thailand hospital.

Everyone who met Caroline quickly saw her love for Jesus, her passion for kingdom work, and her intensity to help individuals.

She also loved to teach the Bible, lead worship, prayer counsel, and write biblical materials. Her love of life could be seen through her laughter, her funny stories, her willingness to try new things and dance parties with her kids. ABOVE ALL ELSE CAROLINE WAS AND IS A WORSHIPPER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Caroline's life was taken early as she battled with breast cancer metastasized to the brain over the last two years. Caroline was preceded in death by her father Bill Leinbach. Surviving are her loving husband, Michael Woo; four boys, Samuel (14), Ian (12), Zachary (8), Isaac (5), and daughter Salem (3); mother, Rita Leinbach; sister Salem Vest and family, brother Robert Fredrick Leinbach and family; half-brothers Jim Leinbach and family and David Leinbach, half-sister Linda Frambes and family.

A memorial celebration was held on May 24, 2017, at Home Moravian Church. Burial was at God's Acre. Ministers: Pastor Ginny Tobiassen and Pastor Kevin Frack.

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

we live and move and breathe. *In our weakness, when we are emptied of the dominance of ego, the power of the Holy Spirit grips us in our continual flow of prayer with the Holy Christ, and the power of God bursts forth in this life! Prayers are answered!*

In God's way. In God's timing.

Will you step forward in your weaknesses and boldly ask Jesus for the healing and the help that you know someone else needs, even that you need?

The more you accept your weaknesses and struggles as opportunities for the power of Jesus to truly pour through you as you pray over others and by yourself in faith in Jesus, the more the power of Jesus Christ will flow through you. Prayer then becomes about experiencing Jesus more than it does about receiving the answers you seek.

May Christ fill you till overflowing every moment that you pray.

May your prayers never cease, like breathing in and breathing out.

In Jesus' Hands, Right with You,
Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

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

Vice President: Paula Wagner, 10506 Mourning Dove Dr., Austin, TX 78750. (512) 632-6644;
paulak1121@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Anna Wotipka, 652 County Rd. 324, Caldwell, TX 77836. (979) 218-9043;
awotipka58@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: Lydia Faust, P.O. Box 125, Snook, TX 77878. (979) 272-8317;
lydiavajdakfaust@gmail.com

Treasurer: Linda Planka, (632) 335-2248 or (713) 472-3192;
mslindaj47@yahoo.com

Hus Encampment Rep.: Carolyn F. Beseda, 2515 Lazybrook Dr., Houston, TX 77008. (281) 546-7941;
carolyn.beseda@att.net

Unity Mission Board Rep: Paula Wagner, 10506 Mourning Dove Dr., Austin, TX 78750. (512) 632-6644;
paulak1121@sbcglobal.net
Synodical Committee Liaison: Rev. Larry Zabcik, 3rd Vice-President, (512) 992-5824;
zabcikville@gmail.com

TAYLOR BROTHERN 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

Full Circle

- by Jim Pokorny

The month of June has arrived and that means Vacation Bible School is once again upon us. This is something I look forward to every year. While VBS is at heart a program for children, we also provide a class for adults, and I have been preparing for it for many weeks.

This year's adult class will revolve around the video recordings made at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, on November 14, 2015, at symposium entitled *Jan Hus After 600 Years: History and Heritage*. The symposium featured historians Dr. Thomas Fudge and the Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood.

Dr. Fudge is recognized as an expert on Jan Hus and the Rev. Dr. Atwood teaches theology at the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and has written several books. Among them is *The Theology of the Czech Brethren from Hus to Comenius*, which my Sunday school class read in conjunction with *A History of the Moravian Church* by J. E. Hutton. The Rev. Dr. Atwood has also written *Always Reforming: A History of Christianity Since 1300*, which I possess and plan to read in the future.

When my class finished its study of church history, we embarked on a

study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*. This study is undoubtedly the most challenging class I have ever led. While not the easiest of reads, its greatest challenges arise when Bonhoeffer asks us to set aside some of our preconceived and comfortable notions concerning Christianity and exchange them for more difficult realities. Anyone familiar with either Hus or leaders in the Ancient Unity knows how important discipline was to them.

The heart of Bonhoeffer's classic can be found beating in one paragraph. It is the very same paragraph cited by Atwood in *The Theology of the Czech Brethren from Hus to Comenius* which states that "We can hear an echo of the Brethren's teaching in Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*: 'Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.'"

To fully appreciate Bonhoeffer's classic, one must better understand

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for June 2017

Dorothy E. Kocian
with Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon

1. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and perfecter of our faith. Heb. 12:2
2. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Heb. 11:1
3. Stand firm in the faith; be men of courage, be strong. I Cor. 16:13
4. **May the righteous be glad and rejoice before God. Ps. 68:3**
5. Give, and it shall be given unto you. Lk. 6:38
6. We live by faith, not by sight. II Cor. 5:7
7. Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. I Pet. 5:7
8. Freely you have received, freely give. Mt. 10:8
9. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isa. 9:2
10. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Ps. 37:4
11. **God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. James 4:6**
12. Your sins have separated you from your God. Isa. 59:2
13. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. Rom. 6:23
14. The fruit of the Spirit is love. Gal. 5:22a
15. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Mt. 20:26
16. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:57
17. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23
18. **"This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." Mt. 3:17**
19. "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." Jn. 20:21
20. Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. I Jn. 2:6
21. Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. Rom. 12:1
22. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. Ezek. 18:20
23. His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. Isa. 28:26
24. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving. Col. 3:24
25. **The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. Lk. 19:10**
26. Death has been swallowed up in victory. I Cor. 15:54
27. "This is My body which was given for you." Lk. 22:19b
28. At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Rom. 5:8
29. Yet to all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. Jn. 1:12
30. Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up. I Pet. 5:6

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

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD (2015-2017)

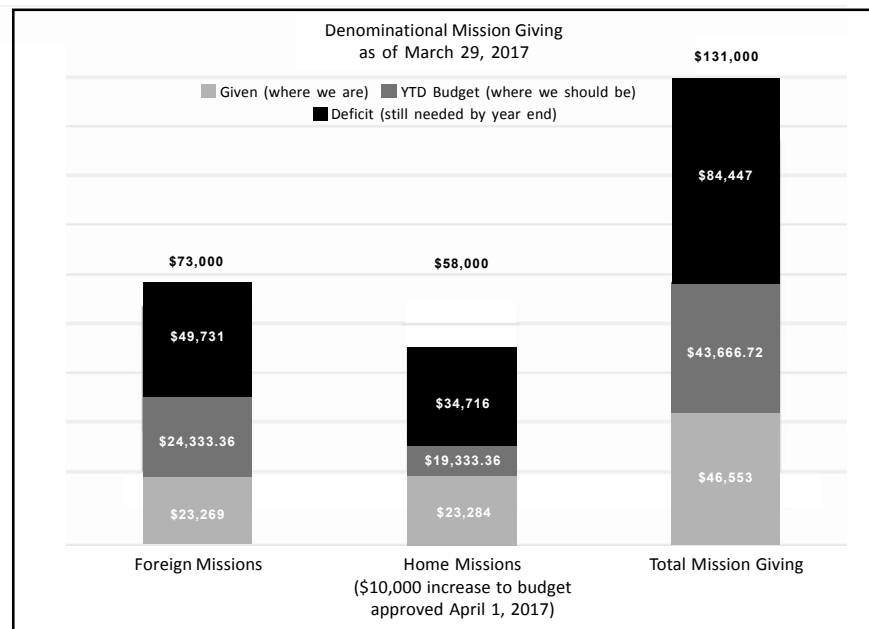
Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky (Pastor to the Pastors); Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill;
Rev. Michael Groseclose;
Rev. Jimmy Hejl

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

5220 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(832) 449-3358

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

This is the Mission Giving Chart through April 30, 2017. The Home Missions budget has been increased (per the April 1 meeting) by \$10,000 and is now \$58,000. In the chart, the light gray box indicates what has been received and the black box what is still needed by the end of the year. The middle shows where we should be through 4 months. This chart is also posted on the Unity website – see Missions, click on *Mission Giving Update*.



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.

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.
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------

his life. This means understanding his death as well. Like Hus, Bonhoeffer willingly died for his faith.

No one would have expected the young Bonhoeffer to become a radical. He was part of an aristocratic family. His mother was daughter of the preacher at the court of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and his father was a prominent neurologist and professor of psychiatry at the University of Berlin.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in 1906. He was one of eight children, including his twin sister. These children grew up in a religious home. They were encouraged by their parents to explore both great literature and the fine arts. In fact, Bonhoeffer's skill at the piano led some in his family to believe he was destined for a career in music. God had other plans, and at the age of 14 Bonhoeffer stated his intention of becoming a minister and theologian. Ironically, this news did not please his entire family.

Bonhoeffer graduated from the University of Berlin in 1927 at the age of 21. He then spent several months in Spain as an assistant pastor to a German congregation. He returned to Germany to write his dissertation which would grant him the right to a univer-

sity appointment. He then spent a year in America, at New York's Union Theological Seminary, before returning to the post of lecturer at the University of Berlin.

It was during these years that Hitler rose to power. Hitler became chancellor of Germany in January 1933, and its president a year and a half later. His anti-Semitic rhetoric and actions grew. Some opposition to Hitler came about, which included the likes of theologian Karl Barth, pastor Martin Niemoller, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Along with other pastors and theologians, they organized the Confessing Church, which announced publicly in its Barmen Declaration of 1934 its primary allegiance to Jesus Christ: "We repudiate the false teaching that the church can and must recognize yet other happenings and powers, personalities and truths as divine revelation alongside this one Word of God." This echoes the sentiment of the Ancient Unity that stressed a return to the original church – that of Jesus.

It was during this turbulent period that Bonhoeffer wrote *The Cost of*



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

Discipleship (1937). It is a call for faithful and total obedience to Christ. It also rebuked any church that offered cheap grace to the masses rather than the costly grace offered through the suffering Christ.

Unfortunately, the German people became despondent following their defeat in World War I. Germany's humiliation coupled with the economic depression that followed were just the catalysts needed for a greater disaster still to come. To the German people, Hitler appeared to be just the sort of charismatic leader that would lead them out of their present state.

Sadly, even some German pastors and theologians were taken in by Hitler's rhetoric. Pastor Hermann Gruner stated: "The time is fulfilled for the German people of Hitler. It is because of Hitler that Christ, God the helper and redeemer, has become effective among us... Hitler is the way of the Spirit and the will of God for the German people to enter the Church of Christ." Another pastor put it still more bluntly: "Christ has come to us through Adolph Hitler."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was an exception. After much soul searching, he not only refuted such notions, he

concluded that the only solution was to remove Hitler from power... even if this meant killing him.

Bonhoeffer was concerned that Hitler desired to be Germany's spiritual leader as well as its political leader. He took exception to the oath of allegiance to Hitler that was forced upon the people. He also took exception to Nazi symbols of power overshadowing Christ in churches. Bonhoeffer thus began teaching pastors in an underground seminary in Finkenwalde. When the seminary was discovered and closed, the Confessing Church became reluctant to speak out against Hitler. Moral opposition to Hitler grew increasingly ineffective as well.

Bonhoeffer felt a different strategy was now required. Up to this point he had been a pacifist. He had tried to oppose the Nazi regime via peaceful means. Bonhoeffer enlisted in the German secret service to act as a double agent. Traveling to church conferences across Europe, he was supposed to be collecting information about those places. Instead, he focused on helping Jews escape their Nazi oppressors. Bonhoeffer also became a part of a plot to overthrow, and later to assassinate, Hitler.

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

Save the Dates . . .

July 6-8, 2017 – 67th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren at Temple Brethren Church. Contact Kent Laza for information (kent.laza@verizon.net).

July 22-23 – Brethren Youth Convention and Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment.

October 13-15, 2017 – Primetimers' Retreat at the Hus Encampment. More info to come soon!

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.

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

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

June 5, 2017 – The Rev. Beseda Memorial Golf Tournament

at the Brenham Country Club 4107 TX-105, Brenham; 979-836-1733. 8 AM registration and tee off at 9 AM.

June 14, 2017 – Flag Day

June 18, 2017 – Ocker Brethren Church Father's Day

Fundraiser at the Star Hall, Seaton, TX. 11:00 AM - ?? \$10
BBQ Dinner of Brisket, Sausage, & Dessert (and all the trimmings).
Dine-in or drive-thru. Quilt Raffle and Silent Auction.

Camp Dates

ENCOUNTER

3-day/2-night beginner camp
for ages 7-8 years old

Camp Cost: \$250

Camp Days: Thursday to Sunday

Camp Dates: June 8-10, 2017

ALPHA

5-day/4-night camp for
ages 9-10 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Days: Sunday to Thursday

Camp Dates: June 11-15, 2017

PIONEER

6-day/5-night camp for ages
11-13 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Days: Sunday to Friday

Camp Dates: June 18-23, 2017

DISCOVERY

6-day/5-night camp for ages
14-15 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Days: Sunday to Friday

Camp Dates: June 25-30, 2017

CHALLENGER

6-day/5-night camp for ages
16-19 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Days: Sunday to Friday

Camp Dates: July 9-14, 2017

**For more information about
the 2017 camping season
or to register, go to:
www.huscamp.org**

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321

Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 200-0513

Diane Heckman, Manager

Bonhoeffer travelled to America to become a guest lecturer. At this point it would have been easy for Bonhoeffer to simply stay out of Germany. His American friends suggested this at every opportunity. Yet all the while God was drawing Bonhoeffer back to Germany. Within months of his arrival, he wrote theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, "I have made a mistake in coming to America. I must live through this difficult period in our national history with the Christian people of Germany. I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Bonhoeffer returned. Upon his arrival, he was informed by the Gestapo that he would not be allowed to preach, teach, or speak publicly. He was also ordered to report to the Gestapo on a weekly basis.

Continuing his work with the German secret service, Bonhoeffer became aware of various plots on Hitler's life. His resistance efforts in rescuing Jews was eventually discovered. In April 1943 Bonhoeffer was arrested and taken to Tegel prison.

Bonhoeffer spent two years in

prison. He corresponded with family and friends, pastored fellow prisoners, and reflected on the meaning of "Jesus Christ for today." As time went by, he began outlining a new theology, writing what some have called "enigmatic lines". Prison allowed Bonhoeffer time for deep reflection. This reflection included the nature of Christian action in history.

"God lets Himself be pushed out of the world on to the cross," he wrote. "He is weak and powerless in the world, and that is precisely the way, the only way, in which He is with us and helps us. [The Bible] ... makes quite clear that Christ helps us, not by virtue of His omnipotence, but by virtue of His weakness and suffering. ... The Bible directs man to God's powerlessness and suffering; only the suffering God can help."

Bonhoeffer also wrote, "To be a Christian does not mean to be religious in a particular way, to make something of oneself (a sinner, a penitent, or a saint) on the basis of some method or other, but to be a man – not a type of man, but the man that Christ creates in us. It is not the religious act that makes the Christian,



BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

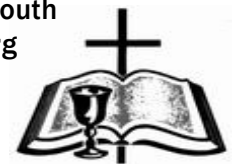
www.unityofthebrethren.org

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

but participation in the sufferings of God in the secular life.”

Bonhoeffer was charged with high treason and convicted. He was transferred from Tegel to Buchenwald and finally to the extermination camp at Flossenbürg. On April 9, 1945, just one month before Germany surrendered, he was hanged with six other resisters.

Years later, a camp doctor who witnessed Bonhoeffer’s hanging described the event: “The prisoners ... were taken from their cells, and the verdicts of court martial read out to them. Through the half-open door in one room of the huts, I saw Pastor Bonhoeffer, before taking off his prison garb, kneeling on the floor praying fervently to his God. I was most deeply moved by the way this lovable man prayed, so devout and so certain that God heard his prayer. At the place of execution, he again said a prayer and then climbed the steps to the gallows, brave and composed.

His death ensued in a few seconds. In the almost 50 years that I have worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God.”

Bonhoeffer’s prison correspondence was edited and published as *Letters and Papers from Prison*. His *Cost of Discipleship*, as well as *Life Together* based on his teaching at the underground seminary about Christian community, remain classics.

Both Bonhoeffer and Hus died for their faith and both did so without wavering.

This brings me back to today and the video to be shown at VBS.

Dr. Fudge was the first to speak, and spoke about the relevance of Jan Hus after 600 years.

Like Atwood did in his book, Fudge also cited Bonhoeffer’s *The Cost of Discipleship* in speaking on the relevance of Hus when he stated that when Christ bids a man or a woman to come, He bids him or her to come die.

If you stand up for God, you will never be alone

When was the last time you were really, really scared? Did you feel like God was with you at that time – or did you not really think about it? Explain. In verses 19-23, why might it have been tough for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to know that God was with them? What words would you use to describe how they might have been feeling? Look at verses 24-25. When have you experienced God’s presence in the middle of a situation where you felt completely alone? What was that like? **God honored Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s willingness to die rather than worship another god. Sometimes when we make a stand for God in a way that honors those around us, it can have an impact on people and move them closer to God.**

If you stand up for God, you will bless others

Look at verses 28-29. What does King Nebuchadnezzar’s response reveal about God’s ability to change people’s thoughts and attitudes? How might the king’s decree have influenced the way people thought about the one true God? Have you ever experienced a time when someone noticed your conviction about your beliefs, and it made them think about God? If so, tell us about it. If you’ve not experienced this, what might you feel about God if he helped others to know him because of something you did? **Taking a stand for God takes courage and conviction – and there’s no guarantee that it will be easy. But we need to remember we are never alone and God will provide what we need.**

Here is a fun youtube video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeZWdYq8_oA

Check out the blog and for more ideas and links!

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



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: lifecatcbc@gmail.com

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

www.lifecatcbc.org Come as you are ... Friend us on Facebook!

The Three Musketeers



Read or tell the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from Daniel 3:1-30. For young children, you can use the Veggie Tale video.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had earned King Nebuchadnezzar's favor and had been appointed to high positions. The king knew of their faith in God, yet it didn't influence his heart. He was a prideful man and wanted his way no matter what. When the king built his statue and demanded everyone worship it, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were faced with the ultimate challenge to their faith. Let's see what we can learn from them.

If you stand up for God, your faith will be challenged.

Has anyone ever made fun of you when they found out that you were a follower of Jesus or that you went to church? If so, how did you handle it? Why is it often easier to go along with the crowd than to make a stand for God? Look at verses 4-6. Why was this command so difficult for anyone who truly was following God? How do the astrologers in verses 8-11 remind you of people in your school or in other places? **Long before this event, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had decided that they would honor God in all situations.**

If you stand up for God, you will face temptation

In verse 15, the king gives Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego one final chance to save themselves and serve his "god." Why might his offer have seemed tempting? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond in verses 16-18. Summarize what they said. Think about a movie with an ending you didn't expect – how does this passage remind you of that kind of movie and how things might end?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had no guarantee of how God would come through, but they were faithful.



This line is actually part of a longer passage from Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* which reads: "The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with His death – we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every

time – death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at His call."

In a very personal sense, the month of June sees my individual admirations for men like Bonhoeffer and Hus come almost full circle... almost.

The Cost of Discipleship remains the most challenging class I have ever had to teach, and it has forced me to incorporate new methods. When Atwood spoke on "The Spirituality and Ethics of the Original Unity of the Brethren" on November 14, 2015, he cited John Amos Comenius more than a few times. Comenius, like Hus and Bonhoeffer, is also a man I greatly admire. Known as "the Father of Modern Education," Comenius once stated that when a student fails... the fault does not lie with the student.

The new methods are bearing fruit. Now it is complete. Now I can honestly say that I have come full circle.



Membership Benefits

- Life Insurance
- Annuities
- Family Activities
- Community Involvement
- Youth Activities and Camp
- Scholarships

Insuring & Enriching Lives

**A fraternal benefit society
serving Texans
and their families**

*Call us if you have questions
about naming your church
or a Unity of the Brethren
agency as a beneficiary
in an existing or new
SPJST insurance certificate.*

**SPJST
520 NorthMain Street
Temple, Texas 76501
(800) 727-7578**

Mindfulness

- by Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill



*“Be still and know that I am God”
(Psalms 46:10a)*

The theologian and philosopher Soren Kierkegaard writes in his journal about an experience on the coast of Gilbjerg: “It has always been one of my favorite places. As I stood there one quiet evening as the sea struck up with its deep quiet solemnity, whilst my eye met not a single sail on the vast expanse of water, and the sea set bonds to the heavens, and the heavens to the sea; whilst on the other side the busy noise of life subsided and the birds sang their evening prayer... but I saw everything as a whole and was strengthened to understand things differently” (Kierkegaard 42-43).

What Kierkegaard describes is

known as “mindfulness.” Mindfulness might be summed up as being aware of your thoughts and feelings in the moment and being able to accept them non-judgmentally. Mother Teresa shares, “Each moment is all we need, not more.” Normally this occurs during a time of prayer, meditation on the Word. “Trusting to God I have found peace, calm, and confidence in God” (Kierkegaard 147).

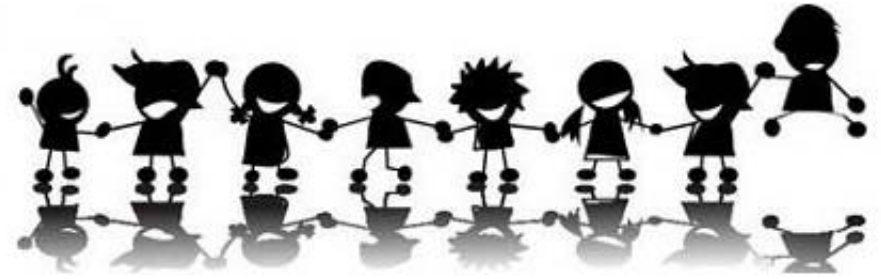
To quote Mother Teresa, “We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass – grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... the

To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

Dawn Marie Baletka
3501 Kanati Cove
College Station, TX 77845
(979) 777-9940 or (979) 693-2710
DMBaletka@gmail.com

**This must be done well in advance.*



Sunday School Helper

*...we will not serve your gods
or worship the image of gold
you have set up.*

Daniel 3:18

Did you know that there were Three Musketeers in the Bible? Remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? These three friends took a stand for God, even in the face of death from the fiery furnace.



Ocker Brethren Church

Father's Day Fundraiser

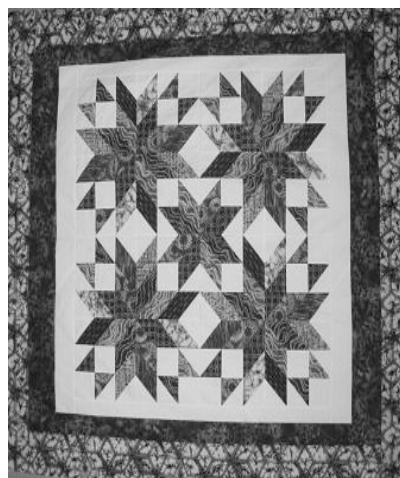
\$10 BBQ Dinner

Brisket, Sausage, & Dessert
(and all the trimmings)

STAR HALL – SEATON, TX

Sunday, June 18, 2017

11:00 AM - ??



Dine In
or
Drive Thru!

QUILT RAFFLE
&
SILENT AUCTION

more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within—words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness” (Something Beautiful for God 48).

However, “The light of dawn does not emerge from a void: it emerges from darkness. Darkness is a precondition for light to appear” (Patocka 95). The poet Aton Wildgans states, “What is to give light must endure burning.”

Mindfulness physically, emotionally, and spiritually provides the insights to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). Paradoxically, this inner transformation through mindfulness occurs by emptying our lives of the external “things” as observed in Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Galatians expands this theme in 2:20: “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” Henning Mankell terms this “Clarity that arises in the spaces in between.”

In *A Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man* by James Joyce, we see the main character, Stephen Dedalus, beginning to achieve inner consciousness or mindfulness: “Life became a divine gift for every moment and sensation of which, were it even the sight of a single leaf hanging on a twig of a tree, his soul should praise and thank the Giver” (Joyce 166).

Mindfulness allows us to become present in the moment, a new creation, experiencing an individuated

state of congruence through a new stream of consciousness narrated and facilitated by a passionate and loving God.

BYF LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016-17

Youth:

Krystal Dusek,
krystal.dusek@gmail.com
Jordan Eilers,
eilers.js@gmail.com
Deanna Hairrell,
d.abcd108@gmail.com
Kelton Hooker,
Keltonhooker@yahoo.com
Grace Jungmann
grace.jungmann99@gmail.com
Taylor Krcha
krcha1998@gmail.com
Reed Olsen,
Rolsen1776@gmail.com
Montgomery Raesz,
mogom16@gmail.com
Madalynn Woelfel,
madwoefel@aol.com

Adult Advisors:

Taylor Brinkley,
taylordbrnkley@yahoo.com
Kari Raesz,
kari.raesz@dps.texas.gov
Tammie Reithmayer,
triethmayer1972@gmail.com
Anna Wotipka
awotipka58@yahoo.com

Pastoral Advisor:

Bro. Mark Sebek,
papasebek@gmx.com

Appointments:

ForeignMission Board Rep.
Erin Brinkley (2nd year of 1st term). erinbrinkley@yahoo.com
Hus Board of Trustees Rep.
Jordan Eilers (2nd year of 1st term). eilers.js@gmail.com

State Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka,
jennchervenka@farm-market.net

New Tabor Brethren Observe Passover Seder Meal

The members of the New Tabor Brethren Church observed Good Friday by participating together in a Passover Seder Meal. Brother David Johnson led the meal with explanations of the symbolism of each of the elements. De Wet Steyn of Glory Hub Church was a guest Pastor sharing in the experience.

The tables were set with many of the traditional elements, such as Matzah, the unleavened bread, pierced and striped like Jesus' body, which was eaten by itself or with bitter herbs as a sandwich. Another element was the bitter herbs of parsley that were dipped in saltwater. The parsley is the symbol of life and the saltwater is the symbol of tears, so the dipping of the parsley represents the life of the Hebrews when in Egyptian bondage that was bathed in tears.

Other elements of the meal were:

the roasted egg; the chicken leg substituted for the lamb shank; Charoset which is a mixture of chopped apples, nuts, honey, and grape juice; the bitter herb of horseradish; and the grape juice.

A separate table was laid in the middle of the room especially for the Lord Jesus.

Brother David also demonstrated the blowing of the Shofar, which is an ancient musical horn made from a ram's horn. He also explained the meaning of the prayer shawl, called a Tallit, and the Kippot, which is the small cap worn on the back of the head.

After the meal, the head of each household washed the feet of every member of his own family. This together with the meal made for a very powerful experience.



brain. It cleared my thoughts of dust and cobwebs and put fresh idea flowers on the table. After the two-day consultation on training, and then the five days of rubbing elbows with people ministering in refugee camps and war zones and remote villages and great cities and jungles and restricted access countries, my brain was cramped with ideas. They poured out into my laptop at 2 in the morning when I couldn't sleep because of the time change. I have been implementing some of them this week – a learning curve.

As I write today, I am on a trip to Chiapas (after an 11-hour overnight bus ride), training eight Mexican missionary candidates headed to unreached Mexican Indians and other unreached groups in the world. We are in a Tzotzil village. We use a common latrine, take bucket baths every other day, and eat sparsely. The students fast. Stomachs growl. Instead of meat, we digest the dramas of Acts, acting them out, chapter by chapter, on a floor papered with place names (Cyprus, Malta, Cappadocia, Perga, Pamphylia), to glean missionary principles we can apply in the field.

I am amazed how quickly they saw the need to use simple, reproducible, nonformal training to disciple pastors who could raise up other pastors, who could raise up other pastors, right in their home towns (formal training is impractical for most of the world). We are calling these leaders “men (people) of peace,” “Corneliuses” or “Berean elders,” and I shared stories from my “Collection of Quirky Corneliuses.” I have been in contexts where this model, so preva-

lent in Acts, is not so readily adopted; I have many sad stories of squelched Corneliuses.

Robert right now is also on a trip – to Guerrero. He has three team members with him (Phil, Paco, and Jason), so it is a mutual-discipling journey, his favorite kind (also modeled in Acts.) On his trip, he received word that a fellow missionary, a Mexican named Alfonso also working in Guerrero, in his late fifties, had just died. He had battled diabetes, but things got complicated by undiagnosed tuberculosis and then a severe case of dengue. Robert and the team reached out to Alfonso's wife, Maria, and their three children, who are having to leave their home of 15 years and, with very meager resources, move back to their city without dad. Alfonso was Phil's mentor when Phil first came to apprentice as a missionary in Alfonso's Mixtec town. We owe Alfonso so much. “Lord, reward him richly for his faithfulness! Comfort Maria and the kids!”

How do I move on from this? How do I pass on all this: the ideas, the hope, but too the pain?

This coming week Robert and I are giving another five-day course to another group of Mexican missionary candidates, with the Sin Fronteras group in the west of Oaxaca state. The fact that some of these will one day work among the Mixtecs of Guerrero is a special reward for our effort. After Easter we can stay close to home for a few weeks at least.

Thanks for your prayers and support that helps make all this happen.

Blessings,

Anne

Acts 2:43-44: Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

May 18, 2017

Dear friends and family,

It is with great sadness that Caroline went to be with the Lord yesterday morning, Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

The turn for the worst was Sunday night, when she was not able to swallow any food or water. Her coughing spells brought chills down my back. This led to a nursing evaluation, and continuous nursing care was applied on Monday evening. She was given morphine to ease into the night. She slept well, but did not wake for the entire next day. In the evening she sort of woke up and had a big scoop of coffee ice cream. Later that night the whole family gathered around her to break bread, sing, pray, and share stories about the day.

Around 5:30 a.m. she began coughing with gurgling noises. The nurse gave her some medicine and I asked how much longer. I was able to sit by her bed, hold her hand, read her scriptures and pray. At 7:00 a.m. baby Salem came downstairs and sat with me for the remaining time. Salem said that it was the best day ever. I asked her why, and she said because she loves Jesus. At 7:10 a.m. Caroline breathed her last earthly breath. She journeyed to Heaven in a peaceful way.

People have been surrounding us and supporting us. We will talk with the funeral home tomorrow. We are hoping to have the memorial celebra-

tion either Tuesday or Wednesday next week at Home Moravian Church. We will have it broadcast live via the internet. More information will follow in a few days.

Thank you for all your prayers and messages.

Michael and the kids

Matthew 5:3-6 (HCSB Free): "The poor in spirit are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. 4) Those who mourn are blessed, for they will be comforted. 5) The gentle are blessed, for they will inherit the earth. 6) Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, for they will be filled."

From the Thiessen's in Mexico...

April 11, 2017

Dear friends,

Someone I know once accused missionaries of wasting time and money on trips. There's probably some truth some of the time in that, but I also think moving into new spaces is part of the missionary task, especially today as white missionaries are taking more backseat roles in support of national missionary work.

A few weeks ago Robert and I attended the International Community of Mennonite Brethren gathering in Thailand. The topic was mission, and so missionaries attended, but only made up around a fifth of the couple hundred people from 35 countries. I've never been to anything like this before, and listening to the testimonies of people from around the world was like housekeeping for the



Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



"Neighbors helping Neighbors Since 1914"

- Service all Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
- Share Plan Concept with Pre-Arranged Funerals
- Sponsor Mission Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans

Bellville 865-3121 Sealy 885-3535 Wallis 478-6311

Caldwell Brethren Christian Sisters Salad Supper

Thank you, Holy Jesus, for the great joy at our Christian Sisters Salad Supper Tuesday, May 9th! We were so blessed to have ladies from so many different churches come and share their favorite dinner and dessert salads, and especially for Your wonderful ministry through Mrs. Geri Polasek who made an engaging presentation on the art and ministry of scrapbooking!



discussion and prayer, we have decided to have Caroline come back to our home under hospice care. We do this with faith and a growing sense of peace. Even yesterday our thoughts were that we could not possibly care for Caroline in this condition, but now we know this is the task before us. I know this is a difficult road ahead, but God has provided for our every need up to this point. I can't thank people enough for the help and prayer that has been given, and I know that I am going to have to call on people even more in the coming days, weeks, or months.

I believe that Caroline still has a fighting spirit. I believe in an all-powerful, kind, loving God. I believe that God is the ultimate healer, and I believe that God is good.

The final pages have not been written. so there is still much room for much prayer. Thank you all for your perseverance and encouragement as we take the next steps together.

Growing in grace, Michael

P.S. – Especially pray for Samuel as he has complained of a stomachache and back pain. I think it is stress because of all this. Hospice has wonderful services, and I am already looking into counseling for our family.

2 Corinthians 4:17: For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

May 10, 2017

Dear friends and family,

It has been less than a week since Caroline returned to our home. It feels like a different world. We need 24-

hour care for Caroline as she is limited to a few activities. She is able to talk and feed herself. We are learning how to transfer her from bed to wheelchair. We have several friends who are willing to help with some PT to improve some of her movements. As I type, I think we all take being able to stand for granted.

There has been an amazing sense of community as friends and family have gathered around us. One special moment was during Salem Woo's 3rd birthday party. Friends gathered and a few were asking Caroline about questions of faith. Given the moment she was able to transition into a teaching mode that resembled the Caroline of old. She truly takes every opportunity to challenge and teach people about their faith. It was beautiful.

I am so thankful for my parents' five-day visit. They were a huge help in this transition. As we think through what the next months may look like, we are again going on a meal plan. If you would like to help out, click on the links below or forward it to someone who might be interested.

Prayer:

1. Each day is up and down. We want to appreciate each moment that we are given together.
2. Caroline's weakness in swallowing has caused a lot of choking.
3. For strength in her body to be able to walk (currently she cannot even sit up by herself).
4. Miraculous healing of all cancer, including the possible cancer on the lining of the brain.
5. For the kids and Michael.

Thanks for being on team, Michael



a speech therapist sort of appeared from nowhere and gave her the test. Caroline was allowed to eat food and thick liquids, another huge prayer request answered.

Sunday, today, Caroline spent the vast majority of the time sleeping. Around 4 o'clock her brother came by and was able to wake her up enough to eat some of her dinner, thank you Jesus.

Right now my assessment of Caroline is she is very weak and generally confused. The most she has been awake is 10 minutes at a time.

We are only take one day at a time and reaching for very small goals. Today I was hoping for full consciousness, more energy, and cohesive conversation. We did not achieve this yet.

The MRI report showed some unusual signs and the neurology team is not in agreement as to what it might be. The three possibilities are a virus, inflammation, or cancer on the lining of the brain, the latter being the worst. They are trying to treat all of this. They will not do a spinal tap because it is too dangerous.

Please continue to pray for all the things listed above plus:

- how our children are coping.
- stamina for Michael and others who are helping, particularly family.
- organization of schedule to have people help with watching Caroline or helping with the kids.

• God's grace to shine through in a mighty way.

• God's healing touch.

This has not been an easy time, but we are encouraged by the thousands of prayers and words from you.

Walking one day at a time,
Michael and Caroline
and family

Psalms 6:4-5 (ESV) Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of Your steadfast love. For in death there is no remembrance of You; in Sheol who will give You praise?

May 5, 2017

Dear friends,

It has been almost a week since I have written an update. So much has happened that it is hard to keep up with.

On Sunday night, we were at the point of being asked to have emergency surgery, but then discovered that would not be helpful. We made a decision to return Caroline to the high-dose steroid that she was on previous to the gamma knife. On Monday, she gained consciousness and was able to eat food and drink thickened liquids. Over the last 5 days there has been small improvements in speech and recognition of people and energy level.

However, in these slight gains we realize that there has been a shift towards comfort care. After much

West Brethren Church Dedicates New Pavilion



Marshall Dujka, Patti James, Rev. Curtis Holland, Sarah & Brad Wines and Brianna & Brayden Wines

West Brethren Church dedicated a new covered pavilion on April 23, 2017. This pavilion was given by the Dujka family in memory of Milan Dujka and in honor of his wife, Agnes Dujka, for their faithful and devoted years of

service to God and His people. The pavilion will be used for worship and fellowship as church members seek to carry out the Great Commission to win the lost and minister to believers in Christ.



KUBENA Funeral Home

507 South Main St.
Hallettsville, Texas 77946
Pre-Arranged Funerals
Low Cost Funeral Insurance
Phone 361-798-3271

GRANGER NATIONAL BANK

Ryze Ceska Banka, Member F.D.I.C.
Granger, Texas
www.grangernationalbank.com

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 Study – Each Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 AM

Pastor

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

Board of Elders President

Justin Lewis
P.O. Box 222
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 220-4732

Youth Directors

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

Rosenberg Christian Sisters Memorial Service & Officer Installation

The Rosenberg Christian Sisters met in February. A Memorial Service was held for members Maxine Dickehut and Lillie Sontag.

Pastor Ben Kruse installed the officers for the next term: President,

Deryl Hunter; Vice President, Alice Kocurek; Secretary, Virginia Macik; Treasurer, Cathy Kuritza; Corresponding Secretary, Lee Brandt.

Easter projects and other business was discussed.

*Cathy Kuritza,
Alice Kocurek,
Mary Jane
Kocurek, and
Betty Ragsdale,
daughter of
Lily Sontag.*



Lee Brandt, Cathy Kuritza, Alice Kocurek, Deryl Hunter, Virginia Macek.

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

From the Woo's in the U.S.A. ...

April 28, 2017

Dear friends and prayer warriors,

Since last Friday Caroline continued to decline in strength. We are very concerned about her mobility and working hard to reduce her steroids. However, yesterday we had a major setback that is still working itself out which requires much prayer.

Caroline passed out in the bathroom, but was sitting on her walker seat. I was with her the whole time. I only managed to get her to the hall as she slid out of the seat unharmed. Two of her friends were able to come and help me, one being her family doctor. We assessed that she had a seizure and she slowly showed consciousness, but only to a small degree. We laid her down to rest in her bed to monitor her situation. After a few hours I consulted with her radiation doctor, who asked me to check to see if she was back to normal. She had not gotten any better, so we went to the emergency department. Upon arrival she had a grande mal seizure. She was given different medicines and admitted into the hospital.

Later that evening, around 11 p.m. one of her pupils would not dilate, so they began running more tests, including an MRI, and sent her to the neurology ICU unit. Around 3 a.m. this morning we had reports that two major concerns were not an issue. She is still under heavy medication, slowly responding to people pricking

and pinching her, and she has a breathing tube down her throat. We hope that she will regain full consciousness today, have no more seizures, and get the breathing tube out. We also pray for wisdom to proceed. We are still waiting on reports and what is next.

Praise the Lord that two friends came and sat with me at the hospital until 4 a.m. God knows what we need when we need it.

Thanks, Michael

April 30, 2017

Dear Friends,

Caroline has moved to the Cancer Center floor in the hospital and is slowly beginning a long road to recover.

On Friday Caroline had her oxygen tube removed and passed her breathing test. She was still very much sleepy and unaware of most things. I was video conferencing with our boss in London, and he prayed a fantastic prayer. The physical therapist came in and Caroline sort of woke up and had a very successful 15 minutes of therapy. That was the highlight of the day.

On Saturday, she was moved from ICU to the cancer floor. She needed to take a swallow test, but didn't get one before she moved rooms. The cancer floor said the test would be on Monday. We were pretty stressed out as to what she could eat. A few friends and family prayed, and when they left

