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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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36 Pages

Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

— from the editor

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

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Annie and Rev. Albert Lee Michalik

1925-2016

(more about the Michaliks inside this issue.)

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

67th Biennial Convention Minutes

Truly, Madly, Deeply. Amen. . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

The Church with the Red Doors

Hus Encampment Capital Building Campaign

. . . and a whole lot more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Annie and Rev. Albert Lee Michalik 1925-2016

Followers of Jesus Christ, Annie and Albert Michalik, both passed into His glorious presence in late 2016. Annie died October 26 and Albert died 26 days later on November 21.

Albert was born to Anton & Emily (Jansa) Michalik in Taylor on March 2, 1925. He was baptized and confirmed in the Taylor and Wall Brethren Churches, respectively. Annie was born to Edwin & Albina (Simcik) Maly in Taylor on July 22, 1925. She was baptized, confirmed, and taught Sunday School classes at the Taylor Brethren Church, of which she was a life-time member. Albert was a 1942 graduate of San Angelo High, and later graduated from The University of Texas in 1950. Shortly thereafter he entered Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, earning a Masters of Divinity degree in 1953. Annie was a 1944 graduate of Taylor High School, and found vocational passion through the successful completion of Brackenridge Nursing School in 1954, becoming a registered nurse. After dating for what seemed an eternity, the two realized God had meant for them to marry, and they did so on a hot summer day, July 31, 1960, at the Taylor Brethren Church.

The couple then embarked on a life-long journey of serving Jesus

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Christ together through pastorates in Ocker, West, Crosby, Pasadena, Nelsonville, Fayetteville, Industry, Wesley, Temple, Caldwell, New Tabor, Dime Box, College Station, and Granger. “Brother Albert” loved the people he served during his 50+ years of active ministry, presiding over multitudes of baptisms, marriages, confirmations, revivals, vacation Bible schools, retreats, summer camps, and Unity events. He encouraged many to follow God’s call into active ministry positions. He enjoyed fishing for catfish at church members’ ponds, and he struck fear into every fallen leaf, rouge weed, rebellious crepe myrtle branch, and fire ant mound as he stepped into the back yard.

Everyone knows that behind every good pastor is a spouse that shares the same level of love for the Lord. Annie felt God’s pleasure in serving the church through leading the Christian Sisters, supporting Mission work, teaching youth and young adult Sunday School classes, volunteering as Hus School Encampment nurse, and singing in the choir. There was not a Sunday School room that Annie didn’t want to give a fresh coat of paint nor a young adult class that

she didn’t want to lead. Annie was proud of her Czech heritage, traveling to the homeland three times, speaking the language throughout her years and singing on the Taylor Czech Choir debut CD. Many church fund-raisers felt the onslaught of hand-crafted sock monkeys, which Annie enjoyed making.

The two loved singing duets – especially at Christmas time. Their favorite was “*My jdeme za tebou*”, which translates to “We will follow You”. And that’s exactly what they did. Through everything they encountered along their earthly sojourn – the Sundays where Albert preached 4 sermons, the sandwiches Annie made for people stopping by the parsonage at midnight even though she had to be at the nurses’ station early the next morning, the upset parishioner demanding a resignation on the front porch, the smiles of the children blessed during Vacation Bible School, the encouraging words and prayers at the right moment for someone in need, the harmonies produced in the Christmas Cantatas – Albert and Annie, by loving God and loving people, hit the center of the mark. What a wonderful legacy they’ve left for all of us.

TAYLOR BROTHERS 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

Truly, Madly, Deeply. Amen.

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Let's be honest.

We all need a deeper relationship
with Jesus Christ.

If this concept strikes some fear of
the unknown in your heart,

If this concept seems something
elementary to your thinking,

If this concept appears as a
suggestion for someone else,

Resist your current cognitive hike.

Draw back to the premise at hand.

**You need a deeper relationship with
Jesus Christ.**

We all do, desperately.

And the need never wanes, but rather
intensifies ironically as you draw
closer to the Invisible One who is
Visible in our lives and throughout
this earth.

The skies speak His praise and His
faithfulness.

He forgives without ulterior motive.

Love is where He stands.

In His Presence is where you belong.

He is Jesus.

He is the King and Priest over all
things

He is Jesus.

Our flesh cries out for His Presence
in our thinking.

He is Jesus

Our flesh cries out for His Presence
in our relationships

We need Him.

Here is a picture of this love that
Christ is calling us to live: first with
Him and then with others. The Apostle
Paul, filled with God the Holy Spirit
explains this kind of deep relationship
to the Christians in Philippi long ago:

*Yet whatever gains I had, these I
have come to regard as loss because*

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.

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

Thoughts about giving...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the sharing of His sufferings by becoming like Him in His death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:7-14, NRSV)

Ask yourself...

1. What priorities or tasks in my life am I willing to place second to the pursuit of a deeper relationship with Jesus?

2. How has Christ matured my thinking and my role with others as I have suffered through particular struggles?

3. Am I willing to forget my past? How about the past of those I love?

4. In what manner could I step forth today somewhat differently than usual to live within the Call that Jesus has placed on my life?

A prayer:

My Christ,
I love You.
Truly, madly, deeply...
Search within me and fill me with all
Your fullness
Launch in my soul a new day of living
and loving all in Your way and in
Your power.
Selfless with others.
Kind to myself.
Clinging to Your truth for vision and
strength amid struggles.
My Christ,
I love you.
Truly,
Madly,
Deeply.
Amen.
Amen.
Amen.

**Resist your current cognitive hike.
Draw back to the premise at hand.
You need a deeper relationship with
Jesus Christ.
We all do, desperately.**

In Jesus' Hands,
Right With You,
Sister Vanessa Mitchell

Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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Since 1914"*

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

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865-3121	885-3535	478-6311

Thank You for Your Help - from Deanna Hairrell

Howdy Fellow Brethren,

My name is Deanna Hairrell, and I am a member of the Snook Brethren Church. This summer I traveled across the ocean to the Czech Republic to help spread God's kingdom. I traveled with a group from First Baptist Church of Forney to Plzen, Czech Republic, where we helped lead an English Camp.

This camp is a sort of day camp where we help kids and adults improve their English while learning about God. We sang songs, played games, and shared Bible stories. The group I was with was ages 11-13, and we had 46 Czech kids!

This experience was so amazing because I was able to be immersed into another culture and God opened my eyes to how different but alike we all are. These kids struggled with the

same things as us, but so many do not believe God is there to help them out.

I am so thankful to God for allowing me to have this experience. It has truly opened up a new piece of my heart. I want to thank everyone that helped me get there and have this experience, whether it was prayer or monetary donation. Both are so greatly appreciated.

If any congregations would like me to come and further share my experiences. I would be glad to! Just let Angie Hairrell know and she will tell me. Thank you, and God bless.

(Editor's note: Angie Hairrell, Unity Secretary (and Deanna's mother), can be reached at email address hairrell@gmail.com.)



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Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor
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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

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- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Granger #1: Angie Malicoat, PO Box 362, Granger, TX 76530, 512-859-2837</p> <p>Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916</p> <p>West #4: Dorothy Kocian, 107 South Barbara Street, Waco, TX 76705, 254-799-5331, dekocian@yahoo.com</p> <p>Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 979-378-4167, sandrainaustin@yahoo.com</p> <p>Dime Box #6: Marvin Chlappek, PO Box 1163, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-272-9102, mjcarc@airplexus.com</p> <p>Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, Box 115, Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, bfsinc@tconline.net</p> <p>Ocker #8: Eugene Haisler, 19081 Cyclone Branch Road, Burlington, TX 76519, 254-985-2316</p> <p>New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1701 St Hwy 21 E, Caldwell, TX 77836, conniesurovik76@gmail.com</p> <p>Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095</p> <p>Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-984-2283, jjskrabanek@aol.com</p> <p>Sealy #17: Esther Breeden, 2728 Osborn Appt #1002, Bryan, TX 77803, 979-779-3835</p> <p>Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053 Learning Oak Lane, Brenham, TX 77833, 979-836-5196,</p> | <p>koehns72@yahoo.com</p> <p>Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120</p> <p>Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-344-1386, michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum, 3620 Ave O, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 713-826-7993, dparthum@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Drive, Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480, dorothy.hinson@hotmail.com</p> <p>Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884</p> <p>Caldwell #27: Brenda Schroeder, 4193 FM 696, Caldwell, TX 77836, bschroeder@caldwellisd.net</p> <p>Crosby #28: Gisela Gaeke, PO Box 599, Crosby, TX 77532, 281-426-5506</p> <p>**Austin #32: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com</p> <p>Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501</p> <p>B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com</p> |
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**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

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

husband Leroy of San Antonio, and Elizabeth Zetak of Temple; as well as many cherished nieces, nephews, and friends. Services were held at Taylor Brethren Church.

PECHAL, CLARENCE DENNIS, age 81, died on Saturday, February 4, 2017. He was born September 5, 1935, in Oscar to Joe Pechal and Rosie Vitek Pechal. He was a member of Seaton Brethren Church. He is survived by one son, Steve Pechal and wife Patricia of Temple; one daughter, Linda Machicek and husband Andy of Temple; two grandsons, Joshua Andrew and Matthew Stephen Machicek; two sisters, Vallie Zavodny and her husband Leon, and Lorene Kotrla; brother-in-law Robert Dudley; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife LaVerne in 2016. Funeral services were held on February 7, 2017, at Seaton Brethren Church with burial at Seaton Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

RUMFIELD, JAMES WALTER, age 68 of Rogers died Monday, May 1, 2017. He was born on December 21, 1948, in Hollywood, CA, to Walter James and Helen Rumfield. He was a member of Seaton Brethren Church. He is survived by his wife Carolyn, his daughter Amy Jo Libhart, and his two grandsons, Levi and Toker Libhart. A memorial service was held on May 4, 2017, at Seaton Brethren Church. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

SHENKIR, VIRGINIA LEE MACEK, age 84, died on January 10, 2017. She was born on April 14, 1932. She was a member of Seaton Brethren Church. Services were held at Scanio-Harper Talasek Funeral Home, Temple. Burial was at Seaton Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

URUBEK, DOROTHY N. (ZABCIK) KOVAR, age 93, of Temple, died on June 21, 2017, at an assisted living center in Temple. She was a member of the Ocker Brethren Church and the Christian Sisters. Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, Martin C. and Lydia Schiller Zabcik; a son, Curtis R. Kovar; and husbands, Raymond F. Kovar and Jerry Urubek. She is survived by daughters Karen Bethke and husband Emil of Rogers, and Gayle Farrow and husband Jon of Temple. She is also survived by four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on June 24 in the chapel of Scanio-Harper Funeral Home in Temple with burial following at the Ocker Brethren Church Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Larry Zabcik

HUS ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman: Mark Olsen (2009), 1316 Howard St., Taylor, TX 75674; (512) 630-5153; olsenemcee@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Todd Corporon (2016), 210 Phillips St., Hutto, TX 78634; (512) 922-9292; toddcorporon@yahoo.com

At-Large: Phil Michalik, 15918 Brook Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77059; pmichalik1@peoplepc.com

Christian Sisters' Union Executive Committee Reps:

Paula Wagner (Chr.Sis. 2015), 10506 Mourning Dove Dr., Austin, TX 78750; (512) 632-6644; paulak1121@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Beseda (Chr.Sis. 2016), 2515 Lazybrook Dr., Houston, TX 77008; (281) 546-7941; carolyn.beseda@att.net

Board of Christian Education Rep: Tami Laza, 4913 FM 166, Caldwell, TX 77836; tami.laza@verizon.net

**Brethren Youth Fellowship Leadership
Team Rep:** Jordan Eilers

Friends of the Hus Encampment Rep: Todd Snelgrove; rtsnelgrove@gmail.com

The Encampment is governed by a Board of Trustees of 8 members.

Terms: 2 years, may be re-elected/re-appointed for a maximum of 4 terms or 8 years (Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, Article XIV, Sec C, Par.4).

Non-Voting Appointments:

Programming Director: Amy Snelgrove agsnelgrove@hotmail.com

Unity Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Chervenska; jennchervenska@farm-market.net; (254) 983-1002

Facilities Manager: Jim (TxNFish@aol.com) & Dawn (DMBaletka@gmail.com) Baletka; (979) 693-2710; 3501 Kanati Cove, College Station, TX 77845.

Caretakers: Robert (rschlechte@hotmail.com) & Cathleen (schlechte86@msn.com) Schlechte; (979) 324-5560 or (979) 255-8266.

Synodical Committee Oversight: Rev. Larry Zabcik.

Hus Encampment Address: 3635 County Rd. 225, Caldwell, TX 77836; (979) 272-8176.

Report of the 67th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren

- by Angie Hairrell, Unity Secretary

The 67th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren was held July 6-8, 2017, at the Temple Brethren Church. Thursday evening began with a dinner for pastors, their spouses, the Executive Committee, and missionaries hosted by the Temple Brethren Church. This was followed by the Pastor's Meeting. At this meeting, Rev. James Hejl was elected Pastor to the Pastors.

Friday's attendance was 152. The Convention opened with a worship service led by Rev. Tim Chaplin, including Holy Communion. This was followed by a session providing updates from the Board of Christian Education and an overview of the Revised Catechism. This was followed by two break-out sessions. One was a review of the camping program, then a panel of three young adult members discussed their activity in the church, their ideas for the church, and why they believe many of their friends do not remain in the Brethren Church. The other session provided an overview of the work of the foreign missionaries supported by the Unity. Two more break-out sessions were

held in the afternoon. One was a discussion of the use and options for technology in the church. The other was an update on the work of the Home Missions. During the second general session, delegates grouped by region and held discussions for ways the congregations could work together and support each other. The Hus Encampment Master Plan and Capital Improvement Program was the focus of the third general session. The day concluded with an evening worship and memorial service to honor Rev. Gordon Hejl, Rev. Milton Maly, and Rev. Albert Michalik.

Saturday's attendance was 145. Rev. Brad Herridge, Interim Pastor of Ocker Brethren Church, provided a devotional entitled *Wasteland*. The Convention business session was called to order at 8:30 a.m. with prayer.

President Kent Laza presented the Directives from 66th Convention:

1. The development of a Hus Encampment Master Plan. The presentation by the Hus Encampment Board of Trustees and the Building Committee was presented yesterday.



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

2. The revision of the Catechism. This was presented on Friday by Revs. Koslovsky and Hejl.

3. The hiring of an Administrative Assistant to serve the Unity. Liz Ripple has been hired in this position and already working in that role.

The following motions were presented:

1. Elimination of the Board of Grants and Bequests: Passed.

Motion: In the biennium that follows this Convention, the Executive Committee, the Synodical Committee, and the Board of Grants and Bequests shall take appropriate measures to transfer management and oversight of the funds currently managed by the Board of Grants and Bequests to the Synodical Committee. The Executive Committee of the Synodical Committee shall have all management and oversight responsibilities for the funds, and have the authority to accept or disburse funds as they deem appropriate in general compliance with the existing policies and purpose of the Board of Grants and Bequests. A report of any new income or disbursements shall be made to the Synodical Committee at

the first meeting following such activity. Upon completion of this transfer, the Executive Committee shall draft proposed Constitution and By-Laws changes to eliminate the Board of Grants and Bequests for consideration at the 68th Convention of the Unity of the Brethren.

2. Adoption of the Unity of the Brethren Catechism revisions: Passed.

Motion: The revisions to the Unity of the Brethren Catechism prepared and presented to this Convention by Pastor's Koslovsky and Hejl are conditionally approved as the official version for use by the denomination. Final approval authority is granted to the Synodical Committee following a thorough review by clergy members of the denomination and any editing that is deemed appropriate. A written statement from the Pastor to Pastors and a copy of the approved Catechism shall be presented to the Synodical Committee at its first meeting following the Catechism's approval. The Synodical Committee is directed to publish the revised Catechism in appropriate formats for distribution to the Unity churches.

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	Board of Elders President	Youth Directors
Rev. Joseph Polasek	Justin Lewis	Randall & Jonna See
P.O. Box 54	P.O. Box 222	P.O. Box 345
Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878	Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624	(979) 220-4732	(979) 272-8179

VITAL STATISTICS

NEW MEMBERS

JAHNS, KELLI ANDEL, transferred to Seaton Brethren Church on May 15, 2016, from St. Joseph Catholic Church.

RECENT BAPTISMS

BLOEDORN, KADENCE FAITH, born on May 25, 2016, was baptized at Seaton Brethren Church on Sunday, October 2, 2016. She is the daughter of Justin & Tonya Bloedorn. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska

RECENT WEDDINGS

KELLI DENISE JAHNS and JEB STEWART RAABE were united in marriage on June 4, 2017, at Seaton Brethren Church. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska

AMY JO LIBHART and JEFFREY GLENN REDDING were united in marriage on June 10, 2017, at Seaton Brethren Church. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska

RECENT DEATHS

CULLISON, LAURA MARIE, age 84, died on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. She was born on June 7, 1931, to Freddie I. White and Edna White. She was a member of Seaton Brethren Church and Seaton Christian Sisters. She is survived by a son, Mark Cullison and wife Patricia; two sisters, Lucille Schlueter and Mary Underwood; four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Seaton Brethren Church on May 5, 2017, with burial at North Belton Cemetery, Belton. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska.

DICKEY, JOE MARVIN, age 65 years, died on August 6, 2017, at his residence in Whitney, Texas. He was born May 6, 1952, in Brownwood, Texas; Baptized and confirmed in Episcopal Church, Brownwood, Texas. He was a member of Open Range Cowboy Church. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine Myers Dickey; 2 sons, Cody Dickey and Richard Sampson; 2 daughters, Johanna Temples and Cynthia Kite; 8 grandchildren,

2 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Funeral Services were held on August 9, 2017, at the chapel at Aderhold Funeral Home, West, Texas; to be cremated. Minister: Rev. Lawrence Junek.

KOHUTEK, LOUIS JOHN, age 89, died on Monday, June 26, 2017. He was born on October 3, 1927, to Edwin and Mary Adamek Kohutek. He was a member of Seaton Brethren Church. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; 2 daughters, Karen Beeler and husband Mike of Yukon, Oklahoma, and Donna McEntire and husband Larry of Oscar; four grandsons, Ryan Guidry, Jared Guidry, Travis Guidry, and Russ Guidry and wife Korey; one great-granddaughter, Lainey Mae Guidry, and another great-grandchild on the way. Funeral services were held at Seaton Brethren Church on June 29, 2017. Rev. Denise Mikeska

MICHALIK, REVEREND ALBERT LEE, 91, died on Monday, November 21, 2016. He was born March 2, 1925, to Anton and Emily (Jansa) Michalik in Taylor, Texas. He was baptized and confirmed in the Taylor and Wall Brethren churches, respectively. He was married to Annie Maly July 31, 1960. Albert is survived by his son Philip and his wife Carol of Houston, son Paul and his wife Melinda of Georgetown; grandchildren Nathan and Emily of Georgetown; sisters Esther Chasak, Georgia Simcik, and Noemi Drgac, all of San Angelo; as well as many cherished nieces, nephews, and friends. He is preceded in death by his wife, parents, brothers Ruben, Edmond, and Dan, and sisters Libbie and Angeline. Services were held at the Taylor Brethren Church with burial in the Taylor City Cemetery.

MICHALIK, ANNIE ANGELINE ADELLE (MALY), 91, died on Thursday, October 26, 2016. She was born on July 22, 1925, to Edwin and Albina (Simcik) Maly in Taylor, TX. She was baptized, confirmed, and taught Sunday School classes at the Taylor Brethren Church, of which she was a lifetime member. She married Rev. Albert Michalik on July 31, 1960. Annie is survived by her son Philip and his wife Carol of Houston; son Paul and his wife Melinda of Georgetown; grandchildren Nathan and Emily of Georgetown; sisters Georgia Tyroch of Taylor, Sylvia Sebesta and her



DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for September 2017

Dorothy E. Kocian
with Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon

1. I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of light. John 8:12
2. The Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Ps. 1:6
3. **Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. Ps. 42:11**
4. Have mercy on me, o God, for in You my soul takes refuge. Ps. 57:1
5. If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. I Peter 2:20
6. Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. James 5:8
7. Let the righteous rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in Him. Ps. 64:10
8. My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. Ps. 62:1
9. By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life. Ps. 42:8
10. **O God, my Strength, I watch for You, for You are my place of safety. Ps. 59:9**
11. Teach me Thy way, o Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of my enemies. Ps. 27:11
12. My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. Ps. 121:2
13. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Ps. 23:4
14. God arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. Ps. 18:32
15. He will put His angels in charge of you to guard you in all your ways. Ps. 91:11
16. The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? Ps. 27:1
17. **O Lord, You light my lamp; my God turns my darkness into light. Ps. 18:28**
18. Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, My kingdom prepared for you. Matt. 25:34
19. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:5
20. Lord, You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember Your ways. Isaiah 64:5
21. God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. I Corinthians 10:13
22. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matt. 5:16
23. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will take me to glory. Ps. 73:24
24. **O My people, hear My teaching; listen to the words of My mouth. Ps. 78:1**
25. Preach the word; be prepared; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. II Timothy 4:2
26. God's servant must gently instruct those who oppose Him. II Timothy 2:25
27. Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. Luke 1:68
28. Let all who take refuge in You rejoice, let them sing joyful praises forever. Ps. 5:11
29. Set an example for the believers; in speech, in faith, in love, and in purity. I Timothy 4:12
30. We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done. Ps. 78:4

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

3. Review of the Minister's Retirement Program: Passed.

Motion: The Executive Committee shall appoint a committee to review the existing guidelines for payments to and disbursements from the Minister's Retirement Fund. Recommendations should be made regarding how funding requirements for churches are determined and what disbursements are made to each eligible Unity pastor. The recommendations of this committee shall be reported to the Synodical Committee by the Fall 2018 meeting and considered for implementation by the Synodical Committee as soon as practical after that report is received.

4. Establishment of a Fundraising Program for Improvements at the Hus School Encampment: Passed.

Motion: The Hus School Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Synodical Committee, shall initiate a fundraising program to pay for planned improvements at the Hus School Encampment. Funds raised through this effort shall be used for administrative, planning, and construction costs associated with the improvements presented to this Convention or for other

related improvements that are deemed necessary by the Hus School Board of Trustees. Reports shall be made to the Synodical Committee on the fundraising activities and on progress related to the implementation of these improvements.

5. Restructuring of the membership appointments of three standing Boards: Passed.

Motion: The By-Laws of the Unity of the Brethren shall be amended as follows:

Board of Christian Education

- Article XIII.B.8 (delete)
- Article XIII.B.9 (delete)
- Article XIII.C.2 (changed to read) One member shall be the Youth Coordinator.

Hus School Board of Trustees

- Article XIV.C.2 (changed to read) The treasurer and six (6) other members shall be appointed by the Synodical Committee from the membership of the Unity of the Brethren, recognizing interest as well as demographic and geographic distribution.
- Article XIV.C.3 (delete and renumber subsequent para-



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

graphs or references)

- Appendix A–Article III.B (changed to read) Membership on the Board of Trustees is as follows: A Chairperson elected by the Convention, a Treasurer and six (6) other members appointed by the Synodical Committee.

Board of Foreign Missions

- Article XV.A.1.b (changed to read) Six (6) other members shall be appointed by the Synodical Committee from the membership of the Unity of the Brethren, recognizing interest as well as demographic and geographic distribution.
- Article XV.A.1.c. (delete and renumber subsequent paragraphs or references)

6. Provide grants to local churches to help fund upgrades for technology that is needed to improve their worship experience: Passed.

Motion: The Synodical Committee shall develop guidelines and implement a matching grant program to assist local churches who are seeking to enhance their worship experience through the use of technology (i.e. A/

V equipment, computer systems, Wi-Fi equipment, Internet, etc.). This grant program shall be funded through the Church Extension Fund and shall terminate 3 years from the time it is established.

7. Motion to authorize Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky and Rev. Jimmy Hejl to prepare the companion to the revised Catechism. **Passed.**

Officer Election Results

- **President:** Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky
- **1st Vice President:** Rev. Mark Sebek
- **2nd Vice President:** Kayla Marek
- **3rd Vice President:** Rev. Whitney Amos
- **Secretary:** Angie Hairrell
- **Treasurer:** Lynette Urbanovsky
- **Financial Secretary:** Rev. Joe Emerson
- **Ministerial Alternate:** Rev. Tim Chaplin
- **Lay Alternate:** Wiley Marx

Other Positions

Board of Christian Education Chair: Peggy Hejl

Home Missions Board Chair: Martha Dove

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

SAVE THE DATES . . .

December 16, 2017 – “Hey! Day” for College Students and Young Adults. More details to come.

January 6-7, 2018 – BYF Winter Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Registration deadline December 15, 2017.

February 24, 2018 – State Children’s Rally at Hus Encampment.

For more information about the Hus School Encampment, go to:
www.huscamp.org

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

September 16-17, 2017 – BYF Fall Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Registration deadline September 1. For information contact Jennifer Chervenka at (254) 983-1002 or jennchervenka@farm-market.net.

October 13-15, 2017 – Primetimers' Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Details and registration forms are in congregations and on Unity website. Registration is \$30 for Saturday or \$45 for the weekend. See invitation story in this issue for more info, or call Kimberly Marx at (254) 931-rtr7 for details.

October 21 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment. 8:00 a.m. – Kolaches & coffee; 9:00 a.m. – Meeting begins; Old business; Installation of new officers for 2017-2019; 2017 Referendum results announced. Everyone welcome to attend. Lunch served at noon. Agenda will be available soon. For more information contact Kent Laza, President, kent.laza@verizon.net.

November 4, 2017 – Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters Bake Sale and Quilt Show, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church, 12451 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton Community). Open to the public with free admission. See invitation story in this issue for more info.

Brethren Book Store

P.O. Box 321
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 200-0513
Diane Heckman, Manager

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

Foreign Missions Board Chair: David Miller

Hus Board of Trustees Chair: Kent Laza

Pastoral Relations Committee: Anna Woptika and Trish Groseclose; Dr. Dusek (Chair)

Brethren Journal: Cathleen Schlechte (Editor) and Ben Polasek (Business Manager)

Ministerial Credentialing Board: Rev. Jimmy Hejl (Pastor to Pastors), Rev. Sebek, Rev. W. Amos, Rev. Emerson

Board of Grants and Bequests: The members will remain the same during the transition period with one vacancy left unfilled.

Other Business

1. **A Motion** was made to accept Wall's offer to host the next convention. **Passed.**

2. **A Motion** was made to give the offerings collected to Temple Brethren Church to cover the Convention Expenses. **Passed.**

President Kent Laza closed with prayer.

The 67th Convention ended with the joyous celebration and Ordination Service for Rev. Tim Chaplin (10:30-12:00). Attendance at the Ordination Service was 201.

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

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:

Foreign Mission 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

Hus Encampment Capital Building Campaign

The Needs

Since its founding in 1914, the Hus Memorial School/Hus Encampment has sought to teach and encourage young people to become Christian leaders. Since that time, the programs have grown to include 6 different summer camp experiences for youth ages 7 - 19, and a variety of other Christian programs for people of all ages.

Due to continued growth and demand for our summer youth camp programs, and a desire to make the Hus Encampment more accessible for groups of all ages, our current facilities are in need of renovation or replacement to accommodate the needs of our mission. The Hus Planning/Building Committee has determined that the most pressing needs are:

Main Building/Kitchen Renovation
New Dorm/Housing Construction
Outdoor Gym/Pavilion Construction
Parking & Walkway Construction

The Solution

Through Prayerful consideration, the Hus Planning/Building Committee recommends the launch of a \$4,000,000 Capital Building Campaign for the Hus Encampment. Through a UNITED effort of support from our Unity Congregations, Friends of the Hus Encampment, Hus Camp Alumni, and fellow Christians like yourself, it is our belief that the Lord will bless our efforts and continue to bless the Hus Encampment and its programs for generations to come! Through Christ, all things are possible...won't you join in the dream by making a pledge today!

The Plans

If you would like to see the details of each of the renovation/construction plans presented at the Unity Convention in Temple, please visit the camp website on the internet at: www.huscamp.org

The Way

If you would like to join in the dream by making a pledge, here are some ways you can do so:

- Fill out the form in this issue and send to the address at the bottom of the form – or –
- Download form to mail from the camp website at www.huscamp.org – or –
- Donate online at www.huscamp.org

If you are not able to make a monetary gift, please keep the Hus Encampment, the Hus Planning/Building Committee and this campaign in your prayers.

We appreciate you and your support!

A Heart for Jesus

Prepare: Attach the following to each Tootsie Roll Pop.

1. *Before taking off wrapper, read Jeremiah 23:24.*
2. *Take off wrapper, then read Romans 3:23.*
3. *Lick away the candy, but before eating the center read 1 John 1:9.*
4. *Finish the chewy center, then read Galatians 2:20.*

Discuss:

Who loves Tootsie Roll Pops! What do you like about them? I like that there is delicious candy on the outside, and even more delicious chewy Tootsie Roll in the center. This candy reminds me about how a person can have a relationship with Jesus.

First, the center of this candy is soft, like a person's heart. The Bible talks about having a hard heart. How does a heart become hard? Well, it is sin. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The hard candy reminds me of sin that covers the heart. Each time someone sins, another layer of hard stuff surrounds the heart. Then, to make it worse, people refuse to admit they are sinners. Instead, they cover their sin with pride, denial, even doing things that make them look good. That is like the wrapper covering this candy.

When a person removes the wrapper of denial and pride (remove wrapper), the Holy Spirit can complete His work. He can lick past all the hard stuff covering your heart (take a few licks) and give you the gift of life that comes from knowing Jesus as Savior. Your heart then belongs to Jesus, and that is a wonderful ending.

Are you ready for some homework? I want each of you to take your Tootsie Roll Pop home and eat it. However, as you do I want you to follow the instructions on the small slip of paper that is attached. That part is very important.

Check out the blog and for more ideas and links!

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



Pharaoh Gives In

Read or Retell: Exodus 11:1-8, 12:29-32

Discuss:

1. What did God say would happen after this plague?
2. What was going to happen to all of the Egyptian families?
3. At what time was this plague going to take place?
4. What did the Israelites take from the Egyptian people?
5. Why do you think Pharaoh let the people go after this 5. plague when he didn't after the first nine plagues?
6. Is having a fear of the Lord a good thing or a bad thing? 6. Why?

Sing: The Plague Song (to the tune This Old Man)

First God sent, Plague number one , Turned the Nile into blood. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"	Then God sent, Plague number six , Boils and sores to make you sick. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"
Then God sent, Plague number two , Jumping frogs all over you. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"	Then God sent, Plague number seven , Hail and lightning down from heaven. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"
Then God sent, Plague number three , Swarms of gnats from head to knee. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"	Then God sent, Plague number eight , Locusts came and they sure ate. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"
Then God sent, Plague number four , Filthy flies, need we say more? All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh "Let them Go!"	Then God sent, Plague number nine , Total darkness all the time. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"
Then God sent, Plague number five , All the livestock up and died. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, They told Pharaoh, "Let them Go!"	Then God sent, Plague number ten , Pharaoh's son died so he gave in. All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low, Finally Pharaoh let them go.

Hus Encampment Capital Building Campaign

Pledge Form:

Please accept this joy-filled pledge.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

3-Year Pledge: ☐ \$100,000 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$25,000 ☐ \$15,000

☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$7,500 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,500

☐ Other _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ ☐ Check # _____ ☐ Cash

(Please make checks payable to: "Hus Encampment Building Fund")

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Credit Card # _____

Exp. _____ Security # _____

Remaining Amount: _____ to be paid over the next

☐ 12 months ☐ 18 months ☐ 24 months ☐ 36 months

Monthly Payment Amount: \$ _____

☐ Please charge my credit card monthly ☐ Please bill me monthly

☐ Please use electronic funds transfer from my bank acct. monthly:

Bank Name _____

Routing # _____ Account # _____

☐ The Hus Encampment may list my name and pledge amount in written materials when giving thanks to donors.

Signature: _____

Mail donation to:

Todd Corporon, Hus Board Treasurer
210 Phillips Street
Hutto, Texas 78634

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.



The Church with the Red Doors

- by Rev. Larry Zabcik, Pastor
Granger Brethren Church



A number of years ago I attended an evangelism workshop which ended with the presenter telling us that if we had received nothing else from the workshop, that we should go back to our home churches and paint something red, something that would be noticed. That statement stayed with me. The church that I attended at that time had nothing to be painted red that would have made any positive difference. All was brick, glass, and metal on the outside.

Earlier this year I approached the Board of Elders here at Granger Brethren with several ideas for “changing things up” to both the interior and exterior of the facility. One of those ideas was to paint the doors of the church that faced south onto Broadway Street red, a vivid red color as chosen by our pianist and well-known area artist, Suzanne Huser.

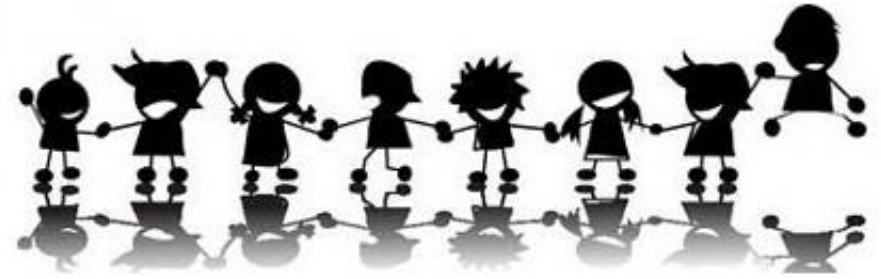
Little did anyone realize at the time that a church with red doors holds great historical significance, as was discovered by another of our church members, Sandy Strmiska.

Sandy stated, “My immediate thought was the sacrificial blood of Christ and all who enter may be saved if they choose to do so, and I was right, but it goes a little deeper than that.” Here is what else she discovered:

- Painting the doors red started in the Middle Ages, and the northern, southern, western, and eastern doors were painted red for the blood of Christ and the sign of the cross; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- The red doors supposedly shut out any evil from the outside and designated it as holy ground and a place of refuge.

- The use of red doors on churches goes back centuries, and there are



Sunday School Helper

Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?” . . .

Jeremiah 23:24

Regardless of what we have done or how much we have sinned, the Holy Spirit can still reach us. He is still there to love us and forgive us of our sins. This month’s lesson uses Tootsie Roll Pops to illustrate this encouraging message.



Robert separately in another town along a different road until the dry season returns. Ruth is discipling her sister-in-law, Petra (whom we've mentioned, both are Mixtecs). Petra pastors in El Fortin, but she is too far away to travel to the coaching groups. Ruth will be the coach, taking her training materials once a month.

This Friday we return to the area and will spend a long day (9 a.m. until 10 p.m.!) going to each of three leaders' areas to mentor them about their role as mentors to the others. We are convinced our efforts will be multiplied through these men to many over the next years.

Then Alex, the head of *Sin Fronteras*, the Mexican mission agency which we help and who organized the pastor's meetings, spoke up about someone who hadn't come to the carport, Gabino. He's a pastor from the most isolated village of all, 6 or 7 hours away from Oaxaca City or Tlaxiaco. Gabino makes the effort to come in to the pastor's meeting every two months, but he can't make it to any of the three coaching groups because they are just too far away. Alex said we *had* to do something for him anyway. He represents a group of a dozen or so Mixtec pastors who would be involved in this pastoral training program if they could. What to do? We brainstormed a bit. It will fall on Robert to get another coaching group started in his area, and Alex and Marcos (one of the three group leaders) offered to help out with visits as well. I want very much to go,

though at this post-baby, post-cancer stage of life, I am not as able to handle 10-hour bus rides anymore. Robert's first visit there will be in late August.

Pray with us for this group of pastors starting out on a new adventure of training, raising up new leaders, and church planting.

Thank you,
Anne and Robert

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several meanings connected with red doors, and some of them depend on the type of church it is.

- Red is used as a reminder of the Passover and a sign that the Holy Spirit is there.

- Church doors began to be painted red as a way of remembering the martyrs and their ultimate sacrifice that they had made for their faith.

- The red doors of churches also symbolize sanctuary, refuge, and safety from physical and spiritual evil/danger. Those in need would not be captured or harmed inside the holy walls of the church, which offered physical and spiritual protection. Not even a soldier could come after an enemy who had gone through the red doors on a church, because anyone who would dare to desecrate such a holy place would be doomed.

- Some believe that the doors of the Wittenberg Cathedral, where Martin

Luther posted his 95 theses, were red. Red doors on Protestant churches indicate their roots in the Reformation.

- Today many Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and some Roman Catholic churches proclaim with their red doors that their churches are a haven for emotional and spiritual healing, and are a place of refuge and safety, forgiveness and reconciliation. The red doors now show that the warmth, light, and presence of the Holy Spirit is there for everyone who enters.

As I initially told the Board of Elders in seeking permission for the red doors, to me at least, red is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the Day of Pentecost. The worst that could happen would be that we would become known as the "Church with the Red Doors." As it turned out, the significance is so much greater. Thanks be to God.



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Prime Timers' Retreat Invitation

The Prime Timers Committee invites all Unity members and friends to the 23rd Annual Prime Timers' Retreat at the Hus School Encampment in Caldwell, TX. on Friday, October 13, 2017, through Sunday, October 15, 2017. Details and registrations have been sent to each congregation and should be available for download on the Unity website.

Those who want the full experience can stay in either a dormitory or cabin for the weekend at the camp, while others can come for just the day on Saturday; enjoying worship, Bible study, entertainment, good food, and fellowship. Our ages range from 40 and above.

Come join the fun while also supporting the Hus Encampment. Registration is \$30 for Saturday or \$45 for the weekend.

Call Kimberly Marx at 254-931-5657 for details.

Seaton BC Christian Sisters Bake Sale and Quilt Show Invitation

The Christian Sisters of Seaton Brethren Church are hosting a bake sale and quilt show on Saturday, November 4, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton community).

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

A handmade quilt and gift cards from different businesses will be given away for a love donation of \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. The proceeds from the fund-raiser benefit the many projects the Sisters' support.

The sale is open to the public with free admission.

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.*

From the Thiessen's in Mexico...

Dear friends,

When you have more people in your group than you invited, and you have to send out for more chairs, you begin to think maybe something good is happening. Saturday 20 or so of us were packed in a tight circle under a carport talking about the new pastoral study program that the indigenous pastors of our Oaxacan area have begun. These pastors come from isolated villages, and it's very hard for them to get training, especially anything they can pass on easily to their leadership teams. Men who want to start new groups in neighboring unchurched towns.

This was our first meeting since organizing three co-mentoring groups at the pastor's meeting two months ago. Now we were reporting, evaluating, and adjusting. One group has begun taking the Lord's Supper for the very first time on its own, without waiting for mother church in the capital to authorize it. That pastor told how the booklet he had studied on the Lord's Supper had helped him see

the importance of doing this regularly in his congregation. Mariano (missionary to San Pedro, from previous letters) had studied and relayed teaching on Jesus' command to give generously, and his congregation has begun tithing for the first time. (His Mixtec disciple Pedro was there in the group for the first time as a new pastor!) Another pastor, Pepe, described how his church has commissioned a new leader, Pascual, to open a church in another town. Pascual is eager, chomping at the bit, and Pepe was glad he had something to give him – a set of Bible studies based on Bible stories to share with others. And so it went. In each group the pastors had read, passed on, and applied their studies in their churches and in new Bible study groups or new churches.

Then came the time to evaluate and adjust. Mario couldn't get to his co-mentoring group because the rains have been so severe that the river has flooded and cut off the road. We took time to talk about how we could keep him connected to the rest of the group. He might have to meet with



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

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

July 11, 2017

Dear friends and family,

I write this update with fear and trembling as we press into an unknown future. Yet I believe it is a good and beautiful future.

Many things have happened as we are going through the process called grieving. Words are hard to describe, but much has travelled through my brain as far as, well, everything. We have been continually busy with camps and swim team.

I am coming to the point where I really do want to live my life to the fullest. Which really means – how can I serve Jesus, our living Savior, wherever, whenever, whatever, and with whomever He chooses to place me. The kingdom perspective has captured my heart and I am willing to follow.

With that declaration, here are a few items for which I covet your prayers:

1. I want to begin a dialogue with OMF and what role I might play in mission-related work.

2. Next week, July 17-21, we will attend Camp Carousel, a camp designed for grieving the loss of a loved one. People continually ask about my kids, and hopefully this will be a piece of the healing process.

3. Please pray for several friends who have recently been diagnosed with cancer or similar life-threatening disease.

4. Relaunching of Friday night prayer. I would like to revision Caroline's

Friday night prayer meeting. It would be for people who are broken and yet hungry for experiencing God in community. It would be a journey on rediscovering joy through open sharing in a safe environment with a huge expectation that God wants to heal, reconcile, and free His children. If you are interested in being part of a core group of people for this meeting, please contact me, as I would like to meet this Friday, July 14th, 7:00 p.m., to dream about what is possible. We will have an official relaunch of the Friday night prayer in early September because we will be traveling up to MA for about a month in late July.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for your prayers and generosity. We feel very loved and supported. I can't imagine what it would be like without the body of Christ surrounding us.

Bless you,
Michael and the kids

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE

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

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Seaton Brethren Church: The Power of VBS

June 11th marked the beginning of a very exciting week at Seaton Brethren Church. The cause of the excitement was a really super VBS program. The many people who made the program such a success were rewarded by knowing they reached many youth in the community and made a difference.

The week-long VBS involved over a hundred people including children, youth, leaders, and support staff. Each night we had a meal followed by singing, skits, cinema, imagination station, Bible Stories, and games. Mission collections received will be used for the James Robison's Water For Life ministry.

Early in the planning stage, the committee in charge selected a Group VBS Program entitled, Maker Fun Factory Created by God Built for a Purpose. It was a good choice and worth the cost.

Pastor Denise Mikeska stated that VBS is a great way to reach out to the community sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. For some kids, this is the only Jesus they get. SBC takes the responsibility of where we have been planted seriously. One measure for us of if we are making a difference in our area is the answer to a question...If SBC disappeared tomorrow, would anyone in our community notice?...and I think we can boldly say, "Yes!" All glory and praise to Jesus Christ our Lord.

If you think that your church can't muster the staff and talent to do an all-out VBS in your community, just step out boldly and say, "we are going to do it," and you may be surprised at the talented people that will help you make this a reality. And, of course, pray with the expectation that the Lord will make it a reality.





Caldwell Brethren Christian Sisters Outreach



What a joy Caldwell Brethren's Christian Sisters had in July to reach out to those in need at a local nursing home!



Our prayer:

"Thank you, Holy Jesus, for the gift of helping nursing home residents celebrate their July birthdays! We ask that You continually fill these whom You love so much with Your peace and encouragement. Amen."

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

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