

# THE BRETHREN



# JOURNAL



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## ***Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL***

*— from the editor*

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

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***Gage Kinnibrugh, Brady Neal, Maggie and Darcy Maloney***

*(More about Maggie and Darcy inside this issue.)*

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

*Train a Dog, Save a Warrior . . .* by Darcy Maloney  
*The Fear of the Unknown . . .* by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell  
*The Board of Education . . .* by Jim Pokorny  
*Hurricane Help Teams Forming Now*

**... and much, much more!**

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## Attention, all Unity Congregations... Unity Financial Secretary Transition Completed

The transition to the new Unity  
Financial Secretary, Rev. Joe Emerson,  
has been completed and all contribu-  
tions to the *Unity of the Brethren*  
should be sent to him beginning in  
November. His mailing address is **Rev.  
Joe Emerson, PO Box 1295, Belton,  
TX 76513.**

This includes all contributions that  
were sent to Liz Ripple during the  
past two years. Please continue to  
include a 'Funds Distribution Memo'  
(FDM) with all mailings, and also a  
Ministers' Retirement and Income Pro-  
tection Program coupon (if applicable)  
when sending to those funds. An  
updated FDM can be found on the  
Unity website (go to Calendar, Forms).

I have enjoyed being the Unity  
Financial Secretary during the past  
two years. Thank you for making my  
job easy, and especially thank you for  
your generous contributions to the  
many funds that support Unity pro-  
grams and ministries.

In Christ, Liz Ripple

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# The Fear of the Unknown

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

We are living in a virtually perpetual state of fear... and we might not even be aware of it.

Who knows when a storm or earthquake will hit next?

Other disasters and tragedies strike, too.

Perhaps the greatest fear one can hold is the fear of the unknown.

How will my finances turn out for retirement?

How will I buy groceries this week?

How will my spouse or other loved one respond to my concerns when I voice them?

What diagnosis will the doctor give me?

Will my child be okay?

Will my business make it?

**Fear grips us in a chokehold and can snuff out the resurrection power of Jesus that lives within us if we let it.**

Turn off the news for a moment.

Put down the phone.

Take a break from whatever you are doing.

**Make the time to sit with Jesus and receive the encouragement He has for you:**

*"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)*

*"Jesus said to His disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?'" (Luke 12:22-26)*



## Fayetteville Brethren Church

**Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am**

**Pastor – Rev. Joe Emerson  
P.O. Box 1295  
Belton, TX 76513  
(254) 931-1653**

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



*"But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'"* (Mark 6:50)

*"Do not fear, only believe."* (Mark 5:36)

Jesus is telling us to take a stand against our fears...with Him.

Will you go to substitutes to take your mind off things like food, work, and other activities? Or will you face your fears like a stubborn mule, refusing to be shaken up by them?

Peace is meant to be a way of life for those who have a deep friendship with Jesus.

Will you ask Jesus to strengthen your friendship with Him?

Worry is not meant to be a way of life for those who trust Jesus, who trust that He is present and the Advocate for us at all times.

Will you ask Jesus to teach your mind and your heart to trust Him?

The antidote to a life that is marked by fearfulness of the unknown is believing with all of your being that Jesus is your salvation, not just eternally, but in this life now.

Will you ask Jesus to help you turn off the fear of the unknown and turn ON the faith in Him, in His Loving Faithful Presence?

Jesus is the One and Only who will stand with you and FOR YOU, through thick and thin.

Look to Jesus, your certain hope, now.

In Jesus' Hands,  
Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

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Worship at 11:00 AM.  
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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](http://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  
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– Rev. Kay Polasek

Fayetteville – Sunday School at 9:30 AM,  
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– Rev. Joe Emerson

Good Shepherd Moravian – worship at  
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– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – Bible Study every Sunday at  
9:00 AM with worship service following  
at 10:15 AM.  
– Rev. Larry Zabcik

Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;  
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.  
– Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Industry – worship at 9:00 AM every Sunday  
with Sunday School for all ages following.  
– Rev. Joe Emerson

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

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Worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday,  
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Wednesdays: 5:30 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM  
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– 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.  
– Rev. 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

## 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.

## Train a Dog, Save a Warrior

- by Darcy Maloney



Over the last few weeks I've been using my dog, Maggie, as my service dog. Much thanks to a great organization called "Train a Dog, Save a Warrior"... TADSAW. They offer training at no cost to veterans who have verification from a doctor of a bona fide reason to use a service dog.

My path to this point is much to blame to Ruth Dusek. Several years ago I mentioned in Sunday school that my back was hurting. Ruth asked, "Have you prayed about it?" My answer was fairly dismissal as I felt I had asked God for help.

When I thought further, I realized that beyond a simple "oh Lord" lamentation, I had not really \*asked\* for help. So, I asked God to 1) help me deal with the pain and 2) help me find a doctor who could help. Shortly after that, I found some great docs in San Antonio who have helped me manage my pain. Then, while shopping in Hobby Lobby, I saw my first Great Dane (also a black and white Dane)

service dog. I immediately asked the handler what his disability was. I asked in the same tone that you would ask someone what magic acts they can do.

Mistake number one. When you ask someone why they have a service dog, you have just asked about their medical history. In this man's case, he had PTSD. So, announcing publicly very likely brought bad memories to mind.

I don't mind telling why I need Maggie, but it's not as easy as saying that she helps with my pain. But that is what she does mostly right now. In addition to my back problems, I have a collagen disorder called Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Collagen is the connective tissues in the body. Collagen is in blood, bones, muscle, and even in your eyes. People with EDS have a myriad of issues, but just imagine lots of micro-tears in your muscles and joints. After many years



of subluxated joints, the pain comes to roost. I will learn to teach Maggie how to pick up things for me and she will learn how to support me. I don't have much need of these two tasks right now, but as I age, I may need such help. Learning how to teach Maggie will help me teach my next Dane after Maggie is retired.

After hearing that TADSAW requires a doctor's support, I got the courage to ask my rheumatologist what he thought about service dogs. He was very supportive, telling me that he would write whatever supporting paperwork I needed. A month or so later I had to see my family care doc about an unrelated issue at Goodfellow. His comment was more straight to the point. "If it reduces your need for pharmaceuticals, then I'm 100% in support." After I mentioned the second doc's comment to my friend Elliott Daniel, she said "How many doctors will you have to ask before you believe you can use a service dog?"

With the man at Hobby Lobby, I felt very comfortable around Great Danes and began petting the dog. He didn't mind and he seemed to enjoy talking to another veteran... I men-

tioned that I had been in the military, so maybe he felt a kinship.

Mistake number two. Don't automatically assume you can pet a service dog. Some dogs are performing service that you can't see. They may be paying attention to the handler to detect an oncoming seizure or a diabetic emergency. It's amazing what our dogs can do. We've come a long way since the first references to service dogs in the mid-16th Century! Guide dogs for blind people came into use more frequently after the First World War for veterans blinded during service.

Nowadays we have dogs who help veterans with PTSD by going into a room and turning on lights and checking the room for "bad guys." These PTSD service dogs help calm a veteran during nightmares. Some dogs help deaf people. We have dogs that learn to protect a person's head if they have a seizure... they get their body under the person's head so they don't bash it on the ground. We have dogs that can detect when a diabetic's sugar level has dropped to an emergency level. And many studies have proven that dogs can detect and reduce a person's pain level.

## 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](http://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](http://www.huscamp.org), or
- Donate online at [www.huscamp.org](http://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!

## 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.

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Board President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>James D. Hejl</i>	<i>Buddy Michna</i>	<i>Mary Kokes</i>
<i>512-365-6890</i>	<i>512-365-1621</i>	<i>M-Th 8 a.m.-noon</i>



### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Peggy Hejl – Taylor, (512) 365-6890, [peggyhejl@gmail.com](mailto:peggyhejl@gmail.com)  
Debbie Clark – (2014) Crosby  
Angie Hairrell – (2016) Snook  
Angie Labaj (2016)  
Sandra Merz (2016) Nelsonville  
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth  
Coordinator, Ocker  
Synodical Liaison – Rev. Whitney Amos,  
3rd Vice-President; [chatney@aol.com](mailto:chatney@aol.com)

### 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

### Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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Since 1914"*

- Service all Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans
- Share Plan Concept with Pre-Arranged Funerals
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865-3121      885-3535      478-6311

### 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

### BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

#### Chairman:

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

#### Unity Representatives:

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

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

Reesa Ueckert (2015); phone 979-472-  
0559, [reesa@hrueckert.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paulak1121@sbcglobal.net)

#### BYF Representative:

Erin Brinkley (2015), Ocker Brethren  
Church; [erinbrinkley@yahoo.com](mailto:erinbrinkley@yahoo.com)

#### Synodical Committee Liason:

Rev. Mark Sebek, Bryan/College  
Station Brethren Church; cell 254-  
931-2000, [papasebek@gmx.com](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

#### ADVISORY MEMBERS

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Juneck (Unity  
at large); 254-714-2622,  
[ljuneck@hotmail.com](mailto:ljuneck@hotmail.com)

#### MISSIONARIES

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

There's some sort of chemical that is often increased just prior to a muscle spasm. Sometimes Maggie comes up to me and I think she's just wanting attention. When I think about it, it's often just prior to a good muscle spasm!

Having said not to pet a dog, one of the number one criteria of TADSAW is that a dog must be calm and accepting around people and other dogs. So, I don't mind if you pet Maggie. She enjoys the social atmosphere of church just as I do.

With our church family, I certainly don't mind Maggie getting some attention. Please just don't ask her for kisses... she isn't a "kissy" dog. Just like you don't want your children to be required to kiss someone they don't want to kiss, I need to protect Maggie from attention she might not

really want. This is also a great opportunity to teach our youngest kids to always ask before they pet any dog in public. We can't take it for granted that all dogs are calm around children.

On the opposite end of "not touching the dog" are those who flatten themselves against the wall as we pass by. There is no need to do this unless you are afraid of dogs; that is my assumption if I see you do this and I'll do my best to keep Maggie away from you! Just as you and I brush shoulders as we pass one another, Maggie should learn not to react to brushing shoulders with you.

Maggie and I are both learning how to handle each other in public. We really love our church family and appreciate all you do to help accommodate us in our service dog journey!



### Membership Benefits

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

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**(800) 727-7578**  
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# The Board of Education

- by Jim Pokorny

We have seen them in movies, on television and in works of art – those quaint one-room schoolhouses from 19th and early 20th Century America and the teachers who taught in them. They remind us of a time long ago when the Three R's were taught – Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. As children born in the 1920's, my parents attended such schools. Dad never spoke much about his school days. Mom, on the other hand, shared a few of her memories with me from this portion of her life.

Mom's family moved several times. When they settled near Taylor, it was decided that three of the children would attend the one-room schoolhouse located in Circleville, which lies just north of Taylor. My mother, Martha, her sister, Lillie, and her brother, Willie, walked to the schoolhouse from the family farm. The older children stayed home to help with the work.

This trio of children grew more nervous as each step of their walk brought them ever closer to the structure. They had no idea what awaited them there. They spoke very little in the way of English. As they stepped through the doorway into this strange and new environment, this little band of reluctant adventurers clung very tightly to each other. They felt the eyes of their new classmates carefully looking them over. They also felt the eyes of the schoolteacher as she made her initial assessment. Her thoughts were probably along the lines of: "Heavens, three more! I will

likely have to teach them English before I am able to teach them anything else."

Like her contemporaries, this one teacher was responsible for teaching several grades in several subjects at the same time. To be successful, a strict code of discipline had to be enforced. To assist her in this enterprise, this teacher had at her disposal a heavy wooden yardstick. Although designed to be a measuring device for some burly carpenter, it happened to serve other purposes equally well. Having been a boy myself, I suspect it was they who dared to test the teacher's patience more than the girls did. More than a few certainly found themselves at the business end of this contraption. No doubt devices like this added new meaning to the term "board of education."

Another reason this teacher, and others like her, may have been stricter with the boys was because she instinctively knew she was likely to have less time with them. Although she taught grades one through six, many of the boys would leave school sooner because their help would be needed on the farm. This was simply a reality of that era.

When I was still a boy, past students of this old schoolhouse began organizing reunions. Mom, Dad, and I then made the annual pilgrimage to Circleville to attend these reunions. They were held in the same building which had since been converted into the local VFW Hall. I would spend a fair amount of my time playing with

# DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

## Daily Morsels for November 2017

Dorothy E. Kocian  
with Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon

*All Scripture from the New International Version*

1. I will give thanks to the LORD because of His righteousness. Ps. 7:17a
2. LORD my God, I will give You thanks forever. Ps. 30:12b
3. I will give You thanks in the great assembly. Ps. 35:18a
4. We give thanks for Your name is near; men tell of Your wonderful deeds. Ps. 75:1b
5. **My heart leaps for joy, and I will give thanks to Him with song. Ps. 28:7b**
6. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever. Ps. 118:1
7. I will give You thanks, for You answered me; You have become my salvation. Ps. 118:21
8. Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever. Ps. 136:26
9. Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Ps. 103:1
10. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Ps. 103:2
11. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 100:1
12. **Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Ps. 100:2**
13. Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Ps. 100:3
14. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Ps. 100:4a
15. Give thanks to Him and praise His name. Ps. 100:4b
16. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever. Ps. 100:5a
17. His faithfulness continues through all generations. Ps. 100:5b
18. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! II Cor. 9:15
19. **Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thess. 5:18**
20. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phil. 4:6
21. I thank my God every time I remember you. Phil. 1:3
22. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? I Thess. 3:9
23. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Col. 3:15
24. Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:57
25. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Heb. 12:28
26. **You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being. Rev. 4:11**
27. So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. I Cor. 10:31
28. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him. Col. 2:6
29. {Live} rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Col. 2:7
30. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. Ps. 3:5



## SAVE THE DATES . . .

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

**January 26-28, 2018 – Ladies' Campference** at the Hus Encampment. Presented by the Life of Love Ministries and New Tabor Brethren Church. Registration \$50. Find registration information at: [www.TheLifeofLove.org](http://www.TheLifeofLove.org) or [www.NewTaborChurch.com](http://www.NewTaborChurch.com). For more information, contact Rhonda Johnson at [RhondaJohnson@Lifeoflove.co](mailto:RhondaJohnson@Lifeoflove.co). More information to come next month!

**February 17, 2018 – Seaton Brethren Sausage Supper Fundraiser.**  
(See invitation in this issue.)

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

**For more information about the Hus School Encampment, go to:**  
**[www.huscamp.org](http://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](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com). Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.*



### CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street  
(979) 567-7203

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

Church email: [lifecatbc@gmail.com](mailto:lifecatbc@gmail.com)

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

[www.lifecatbc.org](http://www.lifecatbc.org)    Come as you are . . .    Friend us on Facebook!



the children and grandchildren of those who attended the old school. I would also spend time listening to the stories of those who attended the old schoolhouse. The boys that were now aging men were more than happy to share their tales of strictness, discipline, and the legendary yardstick. This merely confirmed my earlier suspicions.

One year, as the occasion drew near, Mom informed me that her teacher was expected to make an appearance at the reunion. When we arrived for the reunion, this was the main topic of conversation. The teacher had not yet made her appearance, but each of her students eagerly anticipated her arrival.

My mind, young as it was, had already painted a picture of the scene that was about to unfold. Someone who had been keeping lookout at a window suddenly announced, "She's here!" All eyes turned to the door, and the reality that unfolded was unlike anything I had imagined. The door was held open and an elderly woman seated in a wheelchair was rolled in. I wondered who this person might be. The next thing I knew everyone stood up and a round of applause issued from the small crowd. "That must be her," I concluded. In time, the applause died down and each of her students with families in tow lined up to speak with her. As the line moved along my apprehensions grew, having heard the stories.

When Mom's turn came, she introduced Dad and me. As this woman studied me I imagined her wondering where her yardstick might be found. She said very little. Time had undoubtedly taken its toll on her mind

as well as on her body. Mom and Dad returned to our table, but I decided to stay nearby, and I am glad I did. I watched and listened as student after student visited with her. Some asked if she remembered them; others, if she remembered them getting into mischief. Practically everyone, just like Mom, left her with: "I love you."

To the best of my memory, that was the only reunion the teacher ever attended, but I learned a great deal that afternoon. As I reflected on it years later, I concluded that along with the Three R's, she also managed to teach a fourth... Respect. Despite memories and stories of strictness, yardsticks, and other things sufficient to provide imaginative children with nightmares, one thing came into clear focus for one small boy that day. Qualities I admired in my parents, their siblings, and their friends were nurtured when they were young by adults who cared; adults like this teacher.

On November 14, 2015, I attended the history symposium on the relevance of Jan Hus that was held in Brenham, Texas. One of the speakers at the symposium was the Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood. One of the things he stated during his presentation reverberated within me and stuck. Atwood stated that discipline is that which made punishment unnecessary. Reflection on that statement was the inspiration for this piece.

In closing, I simply must share one more of Mom's memories of her teacher. It was a memory Mom recalled fondly and often throughout her lifetime. Shortly after their days in school began, this same teacher recognized



the natural ability Mom and her sister had in singing in harmony (those who know me will willingly confirm that I failed to inherit this trait). Knowing of a talent show in the county seat of Georgetown, she wanted my grandparents to enter Mom and her sister Lillie in it. This would require the children to travel to Georgetown and have something nice to wear for the competition.

This cost of two new dresses seemed like more than the family could absorb with so many mouths to feed, but this teacher went above and beyond the call of duty. She informed my grandparents that if they would be willing to purchase the material, she would find someone willing to make dresses for the pair. She would also arrange for transportation to and from the event.

Somehow my grandparents managed to come up with enough money to buy the material. From this, someone made two sailor dresses for Mom and her sister. When they returned from the contest in Georgetown, a ribbon came home with them.

This was a memory Mom treasured and I am so glad she found opportunities to share it with me and others throughout the course of her lifetime. After all, memories should be more about love and less about yardsticks.

#### **BYF LEADERSHIP TEAM 2017-2018**

##### **Youth:**

Allyson Cocker  
[allycocke@yahoo.com](mailto:allycocke@yahoo.com)  
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##### **Adults:**

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Tammie Reithmayer,  
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Anna Wotipka  
[awotipka58@yahoo.com](mailto:awotipka58@yahoo.com)

##### **Pastor:**

Rev. Whitney Amos  
[chatney@aol.com](mailto:chatney@aol.com)

##### **Unity Youth Coordinator:**

Jennifer Chervenka,  
[jennchervenka@farm-market.net](mailto:jennchervenka@farm-market.net)

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

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

## **Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities**

**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.

**November 5, 2017 – “Honor Our Veterans” Service presented by Industry and Fayetteville Brethren Churches** at 9:00 a.m. at Industry Fireman’s Hall, Industry, TX. Contact Liz Treybig at [ltreybig@austin.rr.com](mailto:ltreybig@austin.rr.com); 512-217-2140, or Liz Ripple at [lizripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lizripple@hotmail.com); 979-378-2239, with any questions or veterans to be honored.

**December 1, 2017 – “What Child is This” Cantata Honoring the Birth of Christ** at Caldwell Brethren Church. The performance will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a fellowship meal to follow.

**December 9, 2017 – “What Child is This” Cantata Honoring the Birth of Christ** at Snook Brethren Church. The performance will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a fellowship meal to follow.

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



### **HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH**

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

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

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

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

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

## Westheimer Christian Sisters Officer Installation



**Pictured L to R:** Mrs. Denise L. Lloyd Vice, President; Mrs. Carolyn F. Beseda, President; Ms. Ann Sebesta, Christian Sisters Union President; Mrs. Betty Parthum, Treasurer.

**Not pictured:** Ms. Bessem Mfontem, Secretary.

On Sunday, September 17, 2017, the Westheimer Christian Sisters So-

ciety was re-activated at its meeting with seven ladies present, including one guest. Following a luncheon, Carolyn F. Beseda gave the opening prayer, and a devotional was presented by Christian Sisters' Union President, Ms. Ann Sebesta.

New business was conducted. Goals of this local society were discussed and an altruism project was chosen to implement. Regarding filling the vacant position of Vice-President, Mrs. Jackie Blackmon, a motion was made, seconded, and passed that Ms. Denise Lloyd now assume this position.

President Sebesta installed the new officers as follows: President: Carolyn F. Beseda; Vice-President: Denise L. Lloyd; Treasurer: Betty Parthum. Secretary, Bessem Mfontem was not present due to problems caused by Hurricane Harvey. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Rev. Lisa Johnson.

### Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

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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

## Hurricane Harvey Relief Update

Howdy Mission Board Members/ Unity of the Brethren:

With this September being very active with hurricanes, there are needs in Texas, Florida, and all over the Caribbean. In Texas alone, we know the Houston and surrounding areas down to the coast have been hit hard. Bro. Larry Koslovsky, Bro. Mark Sebek, and I (David Miller), along with Justin Rabbach (director of Moravian Disaster Relief), have surveyed and decided that our focus right now will be on the Port Arthur area. We have identified 10 houses and the Good Shepherd Moravian Church for disaster relief initially. There are many in and around the unity wanting to know how they can help. Watch and share emails. Feel free to contact me any time (leave a message), David 325-245-5616.

Ways to help:

1. Many have asked about monetary help. All donations should be sent through your congregation to the Unity treasurer marked Harvey

relief (they will be put in a dedicated account set up for relief). These funds will initially be used directly for relief first in Port Arthur.

2. Work crews: we are looking for work crews to go to the Port Arthur area. Skill sets; hanging sheet rock and taping and floating sheet rock. Crew size is 3 to 4 with at least one experienced crew worker. A MDR trailer full of tools is already in the Port Arthur area. By the time you read this, supplies will possibly be there also. Interested crews contact David 325-245-5616.

3. Anybody who has a camper trailer to loan to the Unity to house work crews in Port Arthur, contact Kent Laza.

4. Many have asked about sofas, love seats, chairs, pianos; there is a great need, but not until November or December. Let us know so we can take inventory.

Thanks,

David Miller, chairman,  
Unity Mission Board

## BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South

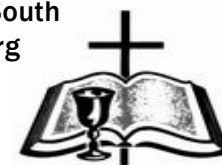
www.unityofthebrethren.org

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

## Teams Forming Now Port Arthur, TX

The Board of World Missions is now ready to start sending volunteers to assist with the rebuilding work following Hurricane Harvey. Our work will be in partnership with the Unity of the Brethren (UOB) Church in Port Arthur, Texas. The Good Shepherd Moravian Church (a UOB Congregation) sustained significant flooding damage, as did numerous members of the congregation. An MDR trailer of tools is on site and ready for use by teams.

At the moment options for housing are limited due to flooding damage to homes and nearby hotels. The initial plan will have teams staying in RV trailers until the church can be fixed for use as possible team housing, or other arrangements can be made.

Initial work will continue some tear down within flood damaged properties, followed by re-framing or drywall work. The need for assistance is great to help individuals get back into their homes or to help clean up homes where individuals have continued to live despite unsafe conditions.

While further dates will be available moving forward, or formed teams can suggest dates for us to check availability, the BWM is hoping to have a four-week "blitz" to move ahead on some of the damaged properties prior to the holiday season.

The dates currently seeking team members are:

November 5-11

November 12-18

The dates above represent a Sunday-to-Saturday timeframe, with the

hope being team members can arrive on Sunday evening and plan to work Monday-Friday, with a departure after work on Friday or Saturday morning.

Due to a shortage of housing arrangements, teams are currently being limited to 6 members and will be filled based on skills-needed and a "first-come, first-to-serve" basis.

Participants will cover the cost of their own transportation to Port Arthur.

A skilled volunteer should be on site to help guide teams and get them started, but previous experience, or a willingness to learn and work a bit independently, is preferred.

This is a joint project between the Unity and the Moravian Church. The first push before Thanksgiving. Call David Miller at (325-245-5626) and leave a message.

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

3. We may feel like this worm at times, small with not much power. But remember to look at yourself like God looks at you. You are an important part of His kingdom.
4. Read Proverbs 30:24-28 together.  
*Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; hyraxes are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.*

#### Lesson 4: Fishers of Men

1. Read Matthew 4:17-22
2. Worms are attractive to fish. Discuss the following questions:
  - What are some things that are attractive to people?
  - What things does the world go fishing for?
  - What are we to fish for as Christians?
  - Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never goes fishing?
  - Is he a fisherman if he never catches a fish?
  - Is someone a true disciple of Jesus Christ if he never attempts to win a soul for Christ?
3. As a fisherman, do we cast our nets in our backyard, or do we go to a place where fish can be found? Jesus never suggests that the world should come to the church, but commands the church to go into the world to witness. Jesus has given us the example – He goes to the people, He never waits for the people to come to Him. How is telling others about Jesus similar to fishing?
4. Lures are attractive to fish. How can you make the Good News of Jesus attractive to your friends? What can you do this week to be more effective as a fisher of men?

Check out the blog and for more ideas and links!

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



## Here are four easy lessons from the lowly gummy worm!

### Lesson 1: Sweet and Sour

You will need a bag of sweet gummy worms and a bag of sour gummy worms for this lesson.

1. Read Job 20:14, *"Yet his (the godless person) food will turn sour in his stomach."*
2. Show kids life with God. Read Psalm 119:103, *"How sweet are your words to my taste, O Lord."*
3. Explain that when we don't live by God's laws, but by our own, life can feel sour. You have no hope, no faith, and no one to help you. But with God, life is sweet.
4. Taste-test the worms. Which one is sour? Which one is sweet? Which one do you like best? Which kind of life should we want?

### Lesson 2: God Stretches Us

1. This little worm is made of gelatin and sugar. We can pull him a bit and stretch him out; however, if we pull him too hard, we will break him.
2. The Bible says, *"Yet You, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, You are the potter; we are all the work of Your hand."* (Isaiah 64:8)
3. Sometimes potters have to stretch the clay to make it into a new shape. If they didn't, the clay would remain a lump, not useful for anything.
4. Let's see how far we can stretch this worm. (Stretch the worm using your hands.) Wow, that stretched a lot, but I'm not a good potter like God. When God stretches us to make us into something awesome, He won't break us."

### Lesson 3: Small Things Matter

1. Explain: God's kingdom is different from the kingdoms of the earth. He values everything, even if it is small, like this worm.
2. Pretend this candy is a real worm. What does a worm do? Worms wiggle through the dirt, making room for seeds to grow into plants, flowers, trees, and food. Without this little guy, it would be hard to have all the things we love.



## Caldwell Brethren 1st Annual Church Picnic

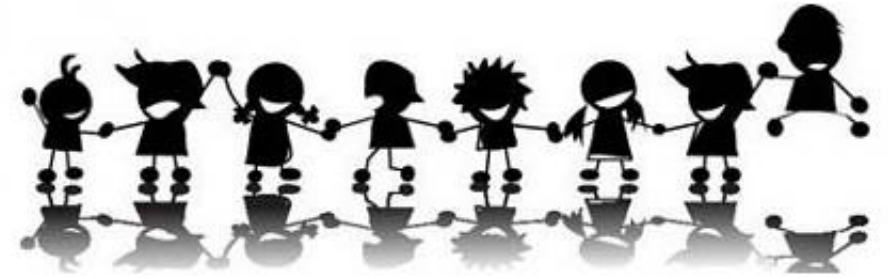


What a beautiful afternoon Sunday, October 8th, as the Caldwell Brethren Church Family shared in our 1st Annual Church Picnic! Thank you, Jesus, for the love we feel for one another and the awesome opportunities You bring to pass that love on to others! We are living out Acts 2:46-47 from the Holy Bible:

*"Day by day, as they spent much time together...they ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number..."* (NRSV)







# Sunday School Helper

*Yet You, LORD, are our Father. We are  
the clay, You are the potter; we are all  
the work of Your hand.*

*Isaiah 64:8*

This month our candy is Gummy Worms! I know my kids have always loved them, especially the sour ones! Even though they look a little strange and you may feel odd eating "worms", there are several powerful Bible lessons we can pull from the yummy, gummy treat.





## Thoughts about giving...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leroy Parthum, Chair – Westheimer – 713-826-7993;  
betty\_parthum@yahoo.com

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

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

Lynette Urbanovsky, 4050 Pendleton Dr., Apt. 628, Bryan, TX  
77802; (979) 450-1820; lurbanovsky@gmail.com

Rev. Joe Emerson – 254-931-1653

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

## Seaton Brethren Sausage Supper Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church annual sausage supper fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 17, 2018, beginning at 4:00 p.m. until the sausage is gone. The menu consists of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, new potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread, homemade desserts, and tea or coffee. Dine in or drive thru plates will be available for \$10.00 each. The **LOCATION** of the supper is at **Seaton Star Hall**, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton). There will be a bake sale consisting of kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels, other baked goods & jellies, a raffle, and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the ministry of the church, community, and other projects. The public is invited.

### CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Unity Mission Board Rep:** Paula Wagner, 10506 Mourning Dove Dr., Austin, TX 78750. (512) 632-6644;  
[paulak1121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulak1121@sbcglobal.net)

**Synodical Committee Liaison:** Rev. Larry Zabcik, 3rd Vice-President, (512) 992-5824;  
[zabcikville@ymail.com](mailto:zabcikville@ymail.com)

## Temple Brethren Church

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

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

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

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### Prayer and Praise

Lord, we pray:

- That the Woo family hears Your voice and is willing to follow.
- That You open the right door at the right time for Michael's work/ministry opportunities.
- May the Woo kids have peace in their hearts and a growing love for their Savior.
- For Caroline's whole family as they continue to move through the processes of grief.
- That OMF continue to be a relevant mission-sending organization with focus to the unreached people group.

• For the workers in the field, for their families, and for the people they are working with.

• That as a group on Friday nights you would answer prayers that would increase our faith and have an impact on the city and world we live in.

• That joy would be not from our circumstances, but from the certainty that Christ brings.

Serving together,

Michael, Samuel, Ian,  
Zach, Isaac, & Salem

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

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas

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

Home: [rev.tjt@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)

Church: [rev.tjt@zipnet.us](mailto:rev.tjt@zipnet.us)

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

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

*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.

But when we returned from the “cancer year” she sensed a change coming. We returned to an empty nest, and to an increased need for life-long learning among the Mexican missionaries we work with. As she stepped into that, she realized that the pull of two foci was too much. At the same time, Ruth, a past student, returned to help out teaching at OCS, and was filling in more and more. This all led Anne to begin to plan for a formal end to her involvement at the school, and today’s class was the final one.

She will help out on the Tuesdays that we are around here, but they won’t be more than one or two a month from now on, it looks like. She is also working on a Masters of Inter-cultural Studies from William Carey in Pasadena, CA. With all the rest, she has lots to do.

As post-animists, we thank you for your prayers.

Robert and Anne

## From the Woo’s ...

September 28, 2017

Dear Friends and family,

Life is a journey. Where would we be without Jesus who gives living water without cost? The hope of Christ is what I hold on to daily as I ask the questions about what the future holds. But life does go on, and as we go through the process of grief I feel a growing hope beyond measure. I can’t thank you enough for everyone who has held my family up in prayer.

People have constantly asked me how the kids are doing. I want to believe they are adjusting to life in

Winston-Salem. Each has a friend or two and we are managing the new school year. I will admit that I am challenged with the need to change parenting tactics to fit each current age. Samuel is a freshman in high school!

People also ask me about work. I often tell people that God has provided for this month, but I am exploring a few different avenues of ministry. In September I have traveled to CO to speak with OMF staff about different roles in mobilization working from NC. I have also put an application in to a local church looking for a mission pastor.

I believe as the Lord reveals my next steps the vision will become clearer. Soon I desire to communicate a strong vision for the gospel of Christ that challenges people from their comfort zone into works of faith that reach people in the farthest corners of the earth. So much needs to be done and we each play such a unique part in how that is fulfilled.

Finally, people ask how I am doing. I can honestly say that I am learning to love and laugh and rejoice again in a new way.

My hope is you would continue to partner with me and my family in prayer and support as I continue to “figure things out”.



BRETHREN JOURNAL

## You are Invited to Participate in a Cantata Honoring the Birth of Christ! “What Child is This”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Caldwell Brethren Church will be having a Cantata this year honoring the Birth of Christ! We would like to invite you to come and be a part of this time to serve and honor our Lord. If you enjoy singing, please come and join us!

The Cantata is a 27-minute mini-musical called “What Child is This.” A few short narrations are featured throughout that share the story of Christ’s extraordinary life.

The songs are: *Born Is the King (It’s Christmas) (Opener)*, *Joy to the World (Shout for Joy)*, *What Child Is This?*, *All Rise with Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*, *Born Is the King (It’s Christmas) (Closer)*

All are welcome, whether you have experience or not! The simple series arrangement is easy for every voice to learn. Please come and join us for this amazing time of fellowship and service!

If you are interested, please let your church representative or contact 979-450-1820 by text or voice, or email [lurbanovsky@gmail.com](mailto:lurbanovsky@gmail.com). Caldwell Brethren will be ordering books for the participants; the cost of the books is \$6.99 per person. Please let us know if you are interested in participating as soon as possible so that we can order a book for you. We will not turn anyone away, but would like to know if you plan to attend by October 15, 2017.

### Weekly Schedule:

- Fellowship Meal from 6:00pm to 7:00pm – Caldwell Brethren Fellowship Building
- Practice from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Caldwell Brethren Sanctuary



### Brethren Book Store

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

**Performance dates:**

- Our main performance will be at Caldwell Brethren on December 1st at 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary with a fellowship meal following.
- We will have an additional performance at Snook Brethren on December 9th at 6:30 p.m. in their Sanctuary with a fellowship meal following.
- We will have an outreach performance at Copperas Hollow Nursing home December 10th at 1:00 p.m.
- We will have an outreach performance at the CHI St. Joseph Manor Nursing Home, December 17th at 1:00 p.m. in Caldwell, Texas.

**Practice Dates:**

- Thursday, October 19, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 2, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 9, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 16, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 30, 2017, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 7, 2017, at Snook Brethren 6:00-8:00 p.m.



## 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

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

### From the Thiessen's . . .

September 19, 2017

#### **Subject: Wrath of the gods**

Dear friends,

Anne and I were just finishing a late breakfast downtown to "celebrate" her last day of being a "proper" teacher when the latest earthquake hit. We got out of the building, and then commiserated with the many others (hundreds!) that also rushed out. Not even two weeks after the big one off the coast. Not sure yet about damages from today's, but the September 7th one was bad in some parts of our state. We were woken from a deep sleep in the middle of the shaking, with all kinds of crashing noise as things came smashing down on the floor. Some of our furniture fell over, others moved away from the wall, and many items fell down. Thankfully nothing of great worth, and not even damage to the two-story building we live in (we are on the bottom floor - so lots to fall in on us). We were trying to get out of the house, but only made it to one of the intermediate doorways when we had to huddle together as everything roiled around us. This was by far the biggest "temblor" that we have been through.

One of the couples in our church group is from the worst-hit town, Juchitan. They're part of a group of young professionals and students who are reaching out with aid in that area, and we've been directing help that way. It is so hard in these situa-

tions to know who is who, and which cases require the most help. Unfortunately, too many people (both people at the top and the bottom) take advantage of these situations and try to take when they don't really need.

Anne's sister lives just outside of Houston, but was spared any real damage from Harvey. Anne's parents live in central Florida, and other than being without power for a handful of days, they too were not terribly affected by Irma. Then, last Thursday I drove down to the coast of Guerrero to see friends from when we lived there, and went right into Max. I spent a wet afternoon and night, but that was all; and just now a second large earthquake. Good thing we're not animists who fear the wrath of the gods, otherwise we'd be wondering if we've prayed enough lately, or done some other thing to tick God off.

Back to the reason for our celebration today. Anne is finally closing a very important chapter of her "professional" life. We moved to Oaxaca City in 2004 so that the kids could go to a U.S.-type school, and so that Anne could help out with teaching English literature. She had been needing this kind of regularity in her life, and teaching at OCS has provided not only that, but many friends with both staff and students. She has grown in her own grasp of how God speaks through many mediums, and has honed her abilities to analyze and to write even as she encouraged that among the students.

