

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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— from the editor

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

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*Robert & Anne
Thiessen are
enjoying the
colours of Autumn*

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Seaton Christian Sisters Bake Sale Invitation

When God Interrupts . . . by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

400-Year-Old Masks . . . by Jim Pokorny

All Things are Created by God: A Honily . . . by Dr. Jerry Terrill

. . . and much more!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Seaton Brethren Christian Sisters Annual Bake Sale Fundraiser.

Seaton Brethren Church Christian
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When God Interrupts

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Interrupting someone who is talking is considered improper.

Some social groups, however, consider cutting each other's sentences off a sport. At least my siblings and I practiced this conversational Jenga growing up. These days we often do not even realize that we are interrupting one another. We almost complete one another's sentences. There is a rhythm to our communication, a degree of synchronicity that comes with years of sharing life together – regardless of living in different parts of the country. To know someone so well yields a vibrant relationship marked by joy, compassion, love, and loyalty. What if God intends for us to know Him in this way? While we are equals with our peers in our humanity, there is an entirely distinct paradigm in our relationship with God. God is our Creator, our Guarantor of eternal life in Heaven, our Counselor, our Director, our Master, our source of strength and of every virtue one might imagine necessary in the present life.

God is calling on you to think, feel, speak, and move according to His rhythm – the Rhythm of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Early on in the biblical narrative God ordained a great deliverance for His people from the land of Egypt. Their slavery was not permanent, but it felt unyielding to the Hebrew nation. Moses, a man who eventually learned to surrender to God's "interruptions," was going about his day when God interrupted him, and he listened – after some doubt:

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. (The Holy Bible, the Book of Exodus 3:1-2, NRSV)

A blazing bush that is not consumed? Have you ever heard some-



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one say, "I wish God would give me a sign!" Spiritual clarity is not "sign-based" – although God does send us clear signs at times. Spiritual clarity comes more often than not as a result of sharing life together with God, the Author of all life. The more you are in sync with God's voice – so used to speaking with Him that you readily recognize when He is directing you – the more effortless it becomes to follow Him. God the Son, Jesus Christ, lives in this synchronicity – to a degree we will never know, since we Christ. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – three-in-One – this is God. We exist by and for God's hand. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Colossae shedding light on this pattern of relationship within God Himself and then between God and us:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His

beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before Him – provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every

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creature under heaven. (The Holy Bible, The Letter to the Colossians 1:11-23)

How is your relationship with God at present?

Do you see a “blazing bush that does not burn up” in your day today, a divine interruption from God?

What might He be calling you to do differently?

What is your part in God’s great plan for this world?

God is calling on you to think, feel, speak and move according to His rhythm – the Rhythm of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Allow God to interrupt your day – the very day of which He is the Author.

Allow God to interrupt your train of thought – since His thoughts are deeper and holier than your thoughts.

Allow God to interrupt your actions – knowing that He alone is omniscient.

Allow God to interrupt your emotions – allowing Him to redeem your heart for His purposes.

Let go of all ownership over your life’s plan.

Welcome God’s interruption.

Ask God to interrupt.

Surrender yourself to the One who can always be trusted.

Grow in personal communion with God to the point where His interruptions are rarely needed.

Be in sync with God’s will,
With His love,
With His heartbeat,
With His voice.

Recognize Him.

Be keenly aware of how He has always been right at your side, waiting for you, loving you, fighting for you.

Perpetually pour your heart out to Him asking for forgiveness of your sins.

Allow God to interrupt your sin patterns...envy, pride, greed, lust, rage,...

Allow God to interrupt.

In Jesus’s Hands,
Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

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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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400-Year-Old Masks

- by Jim Pokorny

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, my Sunday school students requested an encore study of *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart* by John Amos Comenius (1592-1670). I was absolutely delighted to accommodate the request as my personal admiration for Comenius continues to grow. I have read this allegory inspired by the book of Ecclesiastes several times since we first studied it as a class. Comenius wrote *Labyrinth* while in hiding. It was during this period that his wife of four years and his two sons died of plague. In *Labyrinth* Comenius described both his early despair and his consolation.

The pandemic temporarily halted in-person worship services. This resulted in a cessation of Sunday school classes as well. Although worship services have recommenced with limited attendance, Sunday school classes have not yet resumed. I still arrive for worship early to assist where I can, but I also take a personal moment to visit my vacant classroom longing for

the day it will be in use once again. Although recent duties have confined me to the Narthex during worship, this has been a blessing. On one Sunday I overheard one of our elders greeting a group of worshippers as they arrived. As all were required to wear masks, one of the arrivals stated that "we all look like bank robbers now." Although I was busy, I could not help but laugh. I also could not help but remember that Comenius utilized masks as a literary device twice in his allegory.

The first time was in Chapter 7 – *The Pilgrim Examines the Marketplace of the World...*

Then I looked at them more closely, and I saw first of all that each one walking among others in the crowd wore a mask on his face. When he went away, however, was alone or among his equals, he removed it. But when he had to rejoin the crowd, he put it on again. I asked what this meant. "This, my dear son," the guide answered, "is human prudence. For each one does not reveal to everyone

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– Rev. Michael Groseclose

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TX 77836) – A Home Mission Project
since 10/22/11 – Sunday School at 11
AM; Fellowship Lunch at Noon;
Worship at 1 PM.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9 AM &
Worship at 10 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 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. 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 –
Sunday: Adult Bible Study and Sunday
School for children at 9 AM; worship at
10:30 AM.
Wednesday: 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 – Kids’ 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.
Sunday School 9 AM every Sunday with
free breakfast every 5th Sunday at 8:30
AM.; Friends Fellowship (seniors) 4th
Tuesday (except Nov. & Dec.) at 2 PM.
– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Cross Church on Birdcreek –
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 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 AM every Sunday.
Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

West – Sunday School at 9 AM and
worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Interim Pastor – Rev. Gerald Davis

Westheimer Community – Worship at
10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson

who he really is. Alone one can be as
one is, but among others it is fitting to
conform and give a semblance of
propriety in one’s affairs.” Then I
desired to examine their appearance
more thoroughly to see what they
looked like without this artificial
covering.

And watching them carefully, I
saw all were deformed – not only their
faces, but also their bodies. Most of
them were pimply, scabby or leprosy;
and besides, one had a pig’s lips,
others dogs teeth, ox horns, ass ears,
lizard eyes, a fox tail, or wolf claws, I
saw some with an outstretched
peacock’s neck, others with a bris-
tling lapwing crest, still others, horses
hooves, and so forth. For the most
part they resembled monkeys. I was
horrified and said, “But it is as if I see
monsters!”

“What monsters are you talking
about, you busybody,” said the inter-
preter, threatening me with his fist. “If
you would only look properly through
your glasses, you would see that
they are human.” Some of those go-
ing by overheard me calling them
monsters. They stopped, growled,
and threatened me.

When I realized that it was useless
to argue, I kept silent, thinking to
myself, “If they wish to consider
themselves human, let them be; but I
see what I see.”

The second time was in Chapter
33 – *Solomon Reveals the Vanities
and Deceptions of the World...*

Having turned to the counselors
of the supposed Queen, Solomon
ripped off their masks and said, “I see
that in place of Justice, Injustice reigns,
and instead of Holiness, Abomina-
tion. Your Watchfulness is Suspi-

cion; your Prudence is Cunning; your
Affability is Flattery; your Truth is
mere Appearance; your Zeal is Fury;
your Bravery is Audacity; your Love
is Lust; your Diligence is Slavery;
your Sagacity is Presumption; your
Piety is Hypocrisy. Ought you, then,
to rule in place of Almighty God?”

I am confident the pandemic will
one day fade into memory and that
Sunday School will resume. I plan to
restart this encore study from its
beginning since so much time has
elapsed. For now, I remain impressed
at how Comenius utilized masks as a
literary device. Masks not only serve
to disguise the wearer (or quality),
but worn long enough, they also
have the power to alter the wearer’s
perception of self.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NET) – *For
God will evaluate every deed, in-
cluding every secret thing, whether
good or evil.*

FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

Chairman:

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

Unity Representatives:

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

Paula Wagner (2015), Taylor; 512-996-
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Arnold Cuba (2015), Taylor; 512-247-
8019, arcuba188@yahoo.com

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

Alan Haisler (2019), BCS

Daniel Vojtek (2019), BCS

Synodical Committee Liaison (First

Vice-President: Rev. Mike
Groseclose

Advisors:

Rev. Lawrence & Barbara Junek (Unity
at large)

All Things Are Created by God – A Homily

- by Dr. Jerry Terrill

As a youth in 686 A.D., St. Bede the Venerable survived the plague that would take the majority of the inhabitants of Northumbria. Bede entered a monastery to give thanks for surviving the plague. He has become famous for being the “Father of English History” when he wrote the “Ecclesiastical History of the English People.” Bede is famous for publishing “Caedmon’s Hymn” supposedly written by an illiterate cow herder in honor of “God the Creator.” This is the oldest known poem written in Old English.

Caedmon’s Hymn

Now we will honor the heaven-kingdom’s keeper, the measurer’s might, and his mind thoughts, the work of the wonder father, as he wrought,

boundless lord, the beginning of every beauty.

The first poet made, for the souls of soil, heaven for a roof, holy maker.

After that, mankind’s keeper made middle-earth, master almighty, eternal lord, earth, for everyone.

Nehemiah 9:6 informs us:

You alone are the Lord.

You have made the heavens,

The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them.

You give life to all of them

And the heavenly host bows down before You.

Revelation 4:11

Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and

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

Rev. Tim Chaplin
(254) 718-6094
tpch4359@gmail.com

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for November 2020

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified, unless indicated.

Sundays in bold.

1. **I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before Me. Ex. 20:2-3**
2. Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever. 1 Chron. 16:34
3. All the people of Israel...bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD. 2 Chron. 7:3
4. You are the LORD, You alone, ...and the host of heaven worships You. Neh. 9:6
5. I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds. Ps. 9:1
6. I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your name, I will lift up my hands. Ps. 63:4
7. Extol the LORD our God; worship at His footstool. Holy is He! Ps. 99:5
8. **I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD!” Ps. 122:1**
9. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory! Isa. 6:3
10. These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips while their hearts are far from Me, and their worship of Me is a human commandment learned by rote. Isa. 29:13
11. “All flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD. Isa. 66:23
12. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell on my face. Ezek. 1:28
13. Those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” Matt. 14:33
14. In vain do they worship Me, teaching human precepts as doctrines. Mark 7:7
15. **Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him. Matt. 4:10**
16. Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Luke 1:46-47
17. The hour is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. John 4:23
18. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24
19. God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. John 9:31
20. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul.” Acts 13:2
21. I found...an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. Acts 17:23
22. **Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Rom. 12:1**
23. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6
24. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess. 5:16-18
25. How much more will the blood of Christ ...purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! Heb. 9:14
26. Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe. Heb. 12:28
27. A great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language stood before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands... and they worship Him day and night within His temple. Rev. 7:9,15
28. All the angels...fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Rev. 7:11,12
29. **Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. Ps. 46:10**
30. Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before Him, all the earth. Ps. 96:9

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

November 7, 2020 - Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters annual bake sale fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton). Baked goods, jellies, chicken dressing, and raffle tickets for a hand-quilted quilt and gift cards will be available for purchase. To Go soup and sandwich lunch will be available. Money raised will be used for the many projects and ministries the Christian Sisters support. Wearing of masks/face coverings and social distancing is recommended. Contact Helen at (254) 718-5356 or Lanette at (254) 931-1576 for any questions.

SAVE THE DATES:

Summer 2021 – Class of 1968 Hus School Reunion at the Hus Encampment. For information, contact Arnold Cuba at 512-247-8019.

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.

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

HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH

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

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

Dorothy Hinson
President
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Humble, TX 77346
(281) 620-0480

Donna Verwold
Secretary
325 Sunnyside St.
Houston, TX 77076
(713) 692-0808

power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.

The poet William Blake in the poem “Auguries of Innocence” (1803) writes:
To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour

Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him.

The Pandemic as experienced by St. Bede and the poem by William Blake reminds us of the truth in scrip-

ture that all things are created by God. We can look at a grain of sand and experience the world that God has created. The book “The Adventures of Pinocchio” by Carlo Collido, made famous by the Disney movie, informs us that there are consequences in life. This is why Governor Abbott asks each of us to wear masks for personal safety and to keep others safe.

Psalms 139: 17-18:

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered!
I can’t even count them;
they outnumber the grains of sand!
And when I wake up,
you are still with me!

Praying for each of you!

God Bless.



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Fall Youth Fellowship Hus School Encampment September 12, 2020

Twenty-two youth from several congregations gathered at the Hus Camp on a beautiful Saturday for the Fall Youth Rally. There was, of course, volleyball throughout the day, but we also painted, did wood burning, and had Bible study. We ended the day with a cookout, and Mr. Dillon Barbisch grilled us up some delicious burgers.

The youth are excited for the camp renovation that will begin in October, and really enjoyed this last opportunity to fellowship together before construction begins.



To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

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

Kent Laza
4913 FM 166
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 220-1957
Kent.laza@verizon.net

**This must be done well in advance.*

PLAY: Stolen Toys Game

Place 10-20 small items on the table.

Have everyone close their eyes while you 'steal' one item from the table. When they open their eyes have them try to guess what is missing. Put the item back and play a few rounds so that everyone has a chance to take something.

This is a fun game, but in real life how do you feel whenever someone takes something from you? It makes me sad whenever someone takes something from me. God wants you to be happy with what you have. He does not want you to take things that don't belong to you.

MAKE: God Forgives

The good news is that whenever we do make mistakes God is willing to forgive us. If you make a mistake, then you need to ask God to forgive you. God forgave David and He will forgive you, too!

1. Cut a large heart out of construction paper for each child.
2. Write "God Forgives" on the heart and let them color it then add a few colorful band aids to the picture.
3. Talk about how God can make everything better again no matter what mistakes they make.



FORGIVEN

BIBLE LESSON

David the Forgiven

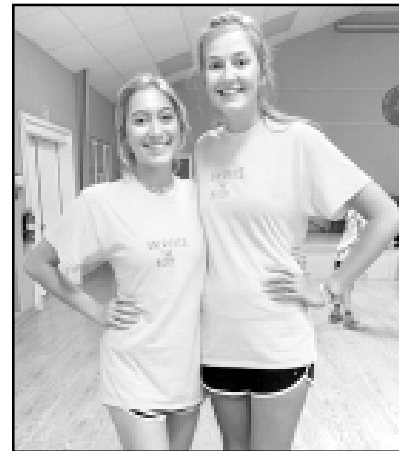
Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-7

David was a very good king, but he was also not immune to sin. When he wanted something, he tried to get it no matter what. When he saw Bathsheba, he wanted to marry her. He sinned again when he planned events that led to Uriah's death. Regardless, God forgave him. God will always forgive us if we say we are sorry.

TELL THE STORY:

You will need 11 pieces of pretend food: 10 for David and 1 for Uriah.

David was the King of Israel. He was very rich. He had lots of food, land, servants, and gold. (Put 10 pieces of food on one side of the table and 1 on the other.) There was a man who lived in David's kingdom named Uriah. Uriah was not rich, but he had just what he needed. This pile of food belongs to David and this pile belongs to Uriah. Who has the most food? David has the most food because he was the king. David should have been happy with what he had, but he wasn't. He took Uriah's food because he wanted it. David stole from Uriah. (Move the food from Uriah's side to David's.) David should not have stolen from Uriah. David had to ask God to forgive him. God forgave David. God loved David just like he loves you. It was wrong for David to take what belonged to Uriah, but it is good to know that God will always forgive us as long as we ask.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Deborah Schiller – (2019)
Temple, (254) 721-2735;
dschiller1123@gmail.com

Debbie Clark – (2014) Crosby

Deanna Hairrell – (2019) Snook

Jordan Eilers – (2019) Ocker

Open seat

Open seat

Jennifer Chervenka – Youth
Coordinator, Ocker

Synodical Liaison – Rev. Whitney Amos,
3rd Vice-President, chatney@aol.com

HUS CAMP

Main Building Renovation

The Impact of Camp Is Eternal... You Can Help Make It Possible!

Due to your generous support of the Hus Camp and its Facility Improvement Capital Campaign, we have completed Phase A (Renovation of the Kitchen) and are now well on our way to starting **Phase B, Renovation of the Main Building!** This phase will not only renovate the interior and exterior of the building, but will also stabilize the structure, add restrooms and insulation, complete air conditioning, and make the building more accessible for a variety of people, functions, programs, and activities. While we hope to begin renovations soon, we can't do it without your help!

Please prayerfully consider your support of the Hus Camp and its growing ministry by making a donation to the Building Fund.

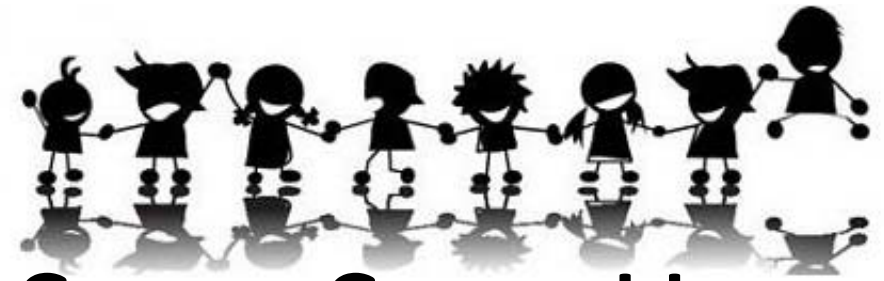
THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE...

- 1) Make an **online donation** via credit card at: huscamp.org
- 2) Make a **recurring donation** using the pledge form at: huscamp.org
- 3) Send a **one-time gift** to: Hus Camp Building Fund
c/o Todd Corporon, Hus Board Treasurer
5350 CR 124
Georgetown, TX 78626



The Hus Camp Board of Trustees

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Sunday School Helper



Bible Characters

David

Bible Reference

2 Samuel 12:1-7

Theme Color

White

David's anger burned white hot when he realized how he had sinned against God. No matter what we've done wrong, we can always turn to God who will forgive us and make us clean again.

Mutual Aid Society Local Secretary Contact Information

Granger #1: Vacant, Mutual Aid Secretary, PO Box 943, Granger, TX 76530

Taylor #3: Marie Ann Ripple, 2302 Heights Blvd, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-365-6916

West #4: Vacant

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 512-468-2396, sandrainaustin@yahoo.com

Dime Box #6: Vacant

Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, PO Box 115, Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, sebestaa2015@outlook.com

Ocker #8: Sandra Dubcak, 3239 FM 437, Rogers, TX 76569-3705, 254-985-2374, sandrad@spjst.com

New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1701 St Hwy 21 E, Caldwell, TX 77836, conniesurovik76@gmail.com

Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095

Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-721-6324, jjskrabanek@gmail.com

Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053 Leaning Oak Lane, Brenham, TX 77833, 979-836-5196, koehns72@yahoo.com

Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120

Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-344-1386, michael-pruett@sbcglobal.net

Westheimer #22: Betty J. Parthum, 3620 Avenue O, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 713-826-7993, dparthum@sbcglobal.net

Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Drive, Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480

Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884

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**Crosby #28: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

**Austin #32: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501

B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

**Position currently filled by Administrative Board members

Matching Technology Grant Program

The Synodical Committee approved an application for a Matching Technology Grant for all Unity churches. Churches may apply for a matching grant up to \$1,000. This is to assist churches who are seeking to enhance their worship experience through the use of technology and A/V equipment.

The deadline to apply for a

grant is December 31, 2020. The application can be found on the Unity website at UnityoftheBrethren.org.

Contact Us – click on Forms. If you need one mailed to you, please contact the Unity Secretary, Angie Hairrell. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Executive Committee.

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Mail to:
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For credit card donations, go online to huscamp.org and click Donate.

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

From Robert & Anne Thiessen... Missionaries in Mexico

October 2, 2020, 9:26 AM

In Canada we write "colour"

Dear friends,

September is almost done, and we get to experience the beauty of Fall once again. Shimmering and varied colors amaze us at every turn of the road (which is one of the reasons we like drives that aren't on the freeway). The last time was in 2015. We left Ontario for Mexico the first time in 1992, just before the leaves turned. So, since then, in almost 30 years, we've been home in this season only because we were going through a "Cancer Year." Now we're here to enjoy Autumn, but again, it's through something not very positive.

We wrote about quarantining upon arrival in Ontario in late July. This part of the world had been calm amid the world-wide storms, but like many other places is now seeing the "second wave". Mexico continues to report (and everyone acknowledges those numbers as too low) deaths at a slightly higher rate than the USA. Our friends there go on with life (most of them are far too poor to not go out, and don't have the kind of jobs that can be done from home), but they tell us that most movement from town to town remains restricted. So much of what we had engaged in over the last few years would be heavily curtailed even if we were there. The face-to-face kind of mentoring and walking



alongside that we do won't be possible until this passes.

Meantime, we engage with our mission agency about how this affects not only us but the other third of all our colleagues who are "stranded" in North America. We were going to visit the head office in BC, like we do every three years, to meet with leadership and staff and to debrief. Clearly that wasn't going to work. We had to do that through Zoom calls and emails this time. We've also had some meetings with the Ontario people, both staff and missionaries.

One big change to our group (now Multiply, a name change from MBMission) is they have begun to engage First Nations groups in Canada (in the U.S. that is Native Americans, in Mexico, Indigenous). Recently our denomination began to invite the mission agency into interactions with

return to New Day for holidays. We cried when Papa Wes and Mama Lala (Wes & Laurie Wilcox, New Day Directors) returned to the States because Mama Lala had cancer.

Yet, through all these changes, we at New Day can face each one because there is Someone who is right beside us. We know that this Someone will take care of us, will see us safely through these changes. That Someone is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We know that He will not forsake us, that He will guide us when life becomes difficult.

How many times do we need to be reminded that we are not alone? That we do not need to face anything by ourselves?

During the drought (2018-2019), we saw how God provided for us. Because of the generosity of people from the States, New Day was able to purchase supplies and products for our neighbors. They in turn were able

to work at New Day or barter for these supplies in order to feed their families.

We were able to rejoice when God sent the much-needed rain. People were able to till the soil, plant the seeds, watch them sprout and grow, then harvest the crops.

Isaiah tells us, *"But now, this is what the Lord says – He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: Do not fear; for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."* Isaiah 43:1-2.

Yes, changes happen. They can be good, or they can be bad. But, with God right there beside us, we can face them and be better because of them.

Teacher Carolyn

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas

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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

Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com

www.WallBrethrenChurch.com

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
Rev. Ryan Volkman
325-213-0671

Church Office
Secretary
Libby Lane
Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

divorces are making kids suffer. There was a good time for singing and for prayers. Some kids did pray for the first time! Praise God!

Each day there were many activities till the evening. Today the kids are pretty “hyper” so continuous program was very needy. No time to misbehave... :)

Great that all kids could have many super enjoyments, fun and adventures all day long! They could make new friendships and could learn many new things for their future lives!

When I talked with their mothers, they did say that their kids were SO HAPPY and very satisfied, and that next year surely, they want to go again!

Praise God that we are really privileged to minister to the little ones like that! We THANK YOU ALL very HUMBLy for your PRAYERS, for your financial support, for your encouragement, friendship, and for everything, what you do in Christ Jesus for

us! BIG THANK YOU dear Unity of Brethren!

With prayers and love, Yours,

Pavel and Stania

From Carolyn Groseclose... Missionary in Zambia, Africa

September 25, 2020

Greetings from Zambia

Change! Change can be a good thing or change can be a bad thing. Circumstances can change how our lives can be affected.

We at New Day know changes all the time. We welcome new children to our family. We say goodbye to volunteers who come to help us. It's hard to say goodbye when the oldest children leave to return to boarding school. But how happy we are when they

this cross-cultural group. We look forward to conversations with the three families involved with that kind of ministry here in Ontario. We understand that there are so many unique characteristics in every group that God has brought into being and welcome the interchange of ideas and posin Mexico through WhatsApp and emails, and marvel at how much things have changed from 30 years ago. Our colleagues within Sin Fronteras report both ups and downs. Two of the families live in neighboring Mixtec towns, both with no church presence yet. These towns have been fighting for almost 200 years and more than 500 people have died as they struggle to define their borders. So, one day Daniel, who lives in Yoso, writes: “Last night shots were being fired by the people of Santa Lucia, continually for over an hour, into the center of town. One of our neighbors was killed. We could hear the bullets ricocheting.” A few days later we get a letter from Monica, who lives in Santa Lucia: “The men of our town, on patrol, were ambushed by Yoso men, and several were badly injured.” Both of our friends are working at living a peaceful presence in their adopted villages but see

so few signs of hope yet. Please pray for them.

On a happier note, Luis (he's been with SF for four years, in northern Mexico, among the Tepehuan), was joined this summer by his new wife Lulu, who just finished the training program we were involved with in the spring). They report being finally allowed to establish a home in the village, despite some stiff opposition. Luis' servant heart and humble spirit overcame the few holdouts, and the village elders voted to welcome the newly marrieds. Luis and Lulu have sown goodness in that place. May they reap a rich, colorful harvest.

Thank you for all your prayers and support through these troubled and uncertain times.

We love you,

Robert and Anne



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

Sunday School
9:30 AM

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

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:
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512-365-6890

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From the Kozaks...Missionaries in Czech Republic

September 24, 2020

Ministry Update

Hello, our dear Sisters and Brothers, dear God's Family!

Most of you know that we are faithfully ministering in the Moravian region, and not only there. Our activities are widely spread out from the west part of Europe – from Dresden, Germany, where we do serve to the Czech community who moved over there from Decin to Moravia.

Generally, we minister to people in Dresden, Decin, Olomouc, Prostějov, Luhacovice, and Trinec. It is lots of traveling, but praise to Father God we can see the variety of God's Grace in these different places. We are humbly grateful that we can minister to the people, sharing the Gospel about God's Grace in Christ Jesus and follow the Big Commission concerning the Words of our Lord Jesus.

Today we would like to share something about the Christian children camp which happened several weeks ago.

One Christian church did ask us if we were willing to send "our" kids together with "their" kids to the Christian camp near the Krkonose Mountains. And because we have plenty of kids, we said – YES, of course! Stania was chosen as one of the leaders, so for our kids it was great encouragement and a reason TO GO!

You know, ALL the kids who are attending our Christian children's club (our Mission Station) are from unbelieving families. They never had been anywhere in a church before! In our little church they do learn the stories from the Bible, they do learn about Lord Jesus and, of course, they are learning how to understand the Gospel.

There were about 28 kids all together ready to go, and about half were from our Mission.

The Camp was pretty tough! It was situated at a very abandoned place. NO electricity, NO cell phones, for some the first time pretty far from a mama! They lived in the wooden tents and slept on the wooden beds... Very boy scouting style! Funny was that some adults were complaining about the discomfort BUT all kids were HAPPY and were enjoying the



rich "hyperactive" program!

In the beginning Stania did pray like this: "Lord Jesus, I am here for those kids, to minister to them, they could learn more about you, about your Love to them. Give me please the strength and wisdom to manage all the situations and to be a good and useful Tool in your Hand, to be always ready. Thank you, Lord, Amen."

Each morning we had a devotional where we could talk about a sin,

about a fear, about a trust, about a pain, about addictions, sufferings, disappointment, about God's Grace, forgiveness, faith, salvation...

In the evening Stania could lead a small group of the smallest ones where they could talk about all things which were actual in their lives or in their families. Almost all our kids are from incomplete families, where most of them do live just with a mom. The

