

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL

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Needed: FRIENDS OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

— from the editor

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

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The Brethren Journal, 1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station, TX 77845.



*Snow Covers the Outdoor Chapel at the Hus School Encampment
(See inside this issue for an update about the Main Building Renovations.)*

Photo Credit: David Dusek

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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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Visit the
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Seaton Brethren Church Lunch Fundraiser Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church, 12561
State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton), is
having a Pulled Pork Lunch Fundraiser
on Saturday, March 27, 2021, from 11
a.m. to 3 p.m. This is DRIVE THRU
ONLY.

Plates are \$10 and consist of pulled
pork on a bun, pinto beans, coleslaw,
dessert, and a drink. Proceeds from
the fundraiser will go to the projects
and activities of the church. For more
information, contact Helen Haisler at
(254) 718-5356 or email
helenh1212@outlook.com.

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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The Holy Mountain

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

In my young adult years I used to spend a couple of weeks each summer in the Northeast Georgia Mountains visiting my mother and father in their simple mountain home. It was a holy place, a holy mountain, you might say. Mom and I fixed our gaze upon Mountains Chimney and Tray at every sunrise and sunset, sitting on the porch in a pair of Amish rocking chairs, with Bibles, journals, highlighters, and pens in hand. At sunrise, in particular, we would take long deep breaths, inviting the Holy Spirit to bless us each with the mind of Jesus and the heart of Jesus. We prayed. I sipped butterscotch toffee-flavored coffee. Mom sipped herbal tea. We would take even longer and deeper breaths as we read our Bibles silently – and at times to one another – feeling the Lord God answering our prayer – to bless us each with the mind of Jesus and with the heart of Jesus. Some days Mom – always leading by example – would pray on her knees on a gardening knee pad leaning against the porch railing that overlooked the mountains that the

Lord had created. In our hearts, however, we knew that where we sat and knelt was the greater of the mountains. That beautiful wood porch with hummingbird feeders and sparse rustic décor, was our “holy mountain.” This was where the Holy Spirit renewed us with the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to face life’s trials with increasing Christlikeness. This porch was where God performed significant healing of each of our hearts, our minds, and our entire physical bodies. This porch was the “holy mountain” where a mother and daughter shared loving glances, hugs, and tears of joy and release.

What place has God given you that serves as a “holy mountain”?

I’ve always had a “holy mountain” spot in my home, in the early mornings, at my desk or dining table, with soothing music to uplift my soul towards my Savior and His Holy Word in my hands and my laptop as my journal. These days, since my momma is now face-to-face with her Lord Jesus, my “holy mountain” has ex-



SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878

Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM

Bible Study – Each Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 AM

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panded geographically. The Lord Almighty draws me into His Holy Mountain wherever I am – whether in a crowded airport, before dawn in my kitchen, sitting on my patio feeling the rustling of the wind. The King of Life graciously meets me and establishes His Holy Mountain where I receive His healing, His wisdom, His love, His joy, His peace, and so much more. He dries up my tears. He glances at me and speaks words of love to me, as my Heavenly Father.

Have you stopped to wait for God to set up His Holy Mountain for you, wherever you may be?

The Holy Mountain of the Lord God is a place that transcends time and space for us in the here and now as His people. It is a holy place where we meet with our Lord. We also look at the Holy Mountain as that future time when Christ returns to rule the earth – when Christ Himself will literally be the Light of the world. In the time of the prophet Isaiah, the Holy Mountain is the expected future return of the Messiah, of Christ. In the latter portions of the prophet Isaiah's Book in the Holy Bible he is writing to encourage God's people who are living in a post-exilic time, after

Babylonian captivity around 515 B.C. A major challenge for the Israelites – as for us today – was to refrain from idolatry. They had lived in nations that worshiped other gods during periods of exile, and now they were seeking to stay true to their faith after so much suffering, now finally seemingly free. The Lord God was calling them – as He does us – to worship Him with all of their hearts, all of their minds, and all of their souls.

The Lord God's promise of help and healing on the Holy Mountain, the Holy Bible, the Book of Isaiah, chapter 57, verses 13-19:

When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you!

*The wind will carry them off,
a breath will take them away.*

*But whoever takes refuge in Me
shall possess the land
and inherit My holy mountain.*

It shall be said,

"Build up, build up, prepare the way,

remove every obstruction from my people's way."

For thus says the high and lofty one

who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin – Bible Study at 10 AM
Worship at 11 AM.
– Rev. Linda Chandler

Bryan-College Station – worship at 9 AM
every Sunday.
– Rev. Mark Sebek

Buckholts – Worship at 9 AM every
Sunday except the 5th Sunday.
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.
– Rev. John Kueker

Caldwell – Come as you are! **Sundays** –
explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages);
KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; &
worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd
Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family
Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out
lifeatcbc.org for spiritual resources,
events, videos, & more! Friend us on
Facebook!
– Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Crosby – 9 AM: Worship
10 AM: Faith Adventure
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Dime Box – Worship at 9 AM every
Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

Fayetteville – Parking lot services 2nd and
4th Saturdays at 10:00 AM.
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

Good Shepherd Moravian – Worship at
11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.
– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – Worship service Sundays,
10 AM. Bible Study Wednesdays,
5:30 PM.
– Visiting Ministers

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

Industry – Parking lot service 2nd, 3rd,
and 4th Saturdays at 3 PM. Stay in
your vehicle
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

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

New Beginnings (PO Box 163, Caldwell,
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

Vesetn – 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.
– Visiting Ministers

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

Fayetteville Brethren Church

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

For the schedule of visiting
ministers, please visit the
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FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

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



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VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

SODEK, SCOTT, age 55, died Wednesday, November 27, 2019, at his residence. He was born October 6, 1964, to Clarence and Kitty Sodek. He was preceded in death by his mother. Survivors include his father; 2 sons, Andrew Sodek and Jackson Sodek; 1 daughter, Jacy Kelch; 2 grandchildren, and 1 brother, Steve Sodek. Services were held on Friday, December 6, 2019, at Seaton Brethren Church with burial at Seaton Cemetery. Minister: Rev. Denise Mikeska

VASEK, JODIE ANTON, age 87, and member of Cross Church on Birdcreek in Temple and SPJST No. 84 in Dallas, Texas, died Monday, February 3, 2020, at Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Irving, Texas. Jodie was born on December 28, 1932, to Joe and Albina Vasek. He served in the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Germany as part of the reconstruction of Europe post WWII. Survivors include wife, Jeanette Andel Vasek; 2 daughters, Susan Josch (Bob) and Melissa Fulton (Rick); 1 son, Paul Vasek (Tracey); stepchildren, Dawna Mischian (John), Marsha Greeley (Michael); 7 grandchildren; 6 step-grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters, Dorothy Lloyd and Marguerite Vanderford. Memorial services were held Saturday, February 15, 2020, at Cross Church on Birdcreek.

BALCAR, FRANK, age 94, and member of Dime Box Brethren Church, SPJST #13, and VFW #4458, died Saturday, February 22, 2020, in College Station, Texas. Frank was born February 1, 1926, to Frank and Mary

Teresa (Pecena) Balcar in Dime Box, Texas. He was instrumental in the building of the Dime Box Brethren Church in 1955. He was also the caretaker of the Dime Box Hranice Cemetery. Frank was a WWII Veteran. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, Doris (Zimmerman) Balcar; 2 daughters, Jean Pokorney (Milbert) and Shilry Elliott (Ron); 4 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren. Services were held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at the Dime Box Brethren Church with internment at Hranice Cemetery. Minister: Pastor Rhonda Johnson

COUFAL, DORIS JEAN, age 87, and member of Ocker Brethren Church, died Saturday, February 29, 2020, at a Temple hospital. She was born October 29, 1932, to Edmund and Albina Petter Urbanovsky. Survivors include 4 sons, Calvin Coufal, Randy Coufal, Michael Coufal, and Charles Coufal; 3 daughters, Susan Burton, Lyndia Robinson, and Karen Coufal; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren. Private family services were held.

AYALA, BETTY S. BALES CATHEY, age 78, and member of Ocker Brethren Church, died Monday, March 9, 2020, at her home in Rogers, Texas. She was born February 26, 1942, to Darnell and Juanita Bales, the oldest of 13 children. Survivors include her husband of 35 years, Richard L. Ayala; 6 sons, Donnie Cathey, Randy Cathey, Rick Cathey, Rick Ayala, Stephen Ayala, and Matthew Ayala; 2 daughters, Denise Dobins and Stephanie Soto; 26 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; 6 sisters and 4 brothers. Funeral services were held Friday, March 13, at Ocker Brethren Church.

*I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with those who are contrite
and humble in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble,
and to revive the heart of the
contrite.*

*For I will not continually accuse,
nor will I always be angry;
for then the spirits would grow
faint before me,
even the souls that I have made.
Because of their wicked covetous-
ness I was angry;
I struck them, I hid and was angry;
but they kept turning back to
their own ways.*

*I have seen their ways, but I will
heal them;
I will lead them and repay them
with comfort,
creating for their mourners the
fruit of the lips.*

*Peace, peace, to the far and the
near, says the Lord;
and I will heal them.*

What place has God given you
that serves as a "holy mountain"?

Have you stopped to wait for God
to set up His Holy Mountain for you,
wherever you may be?

Praying for you, on His Holy Mountain.

In Jesus's Hands,
Right with You,
Sister Vanessa Mitchell

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TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

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Knesek Family Funeral Chapels



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Always Reforming

- by Jim Pokorny

I always feel blessed when experiences in life come full circle. I recently read *Always Reforming: A History of Christianity Since 1300* (Mercer University Press, 2001). Its author, the Rev. Dr. Craig D. Atwood, was one of two keynote speakers at the symposium entitled *Jan Hus After 600 Years: History and Heritage* that took place on Saturday, November 14, 2015, at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas.

The other keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas Fudge, who is considered an authority on Jan Hus. During his Question-and-Answer session, Dr. Fudge was asked the question: What might Hus have to say to us today? According to Dr. Fudge, Hus would be surprised by the number of denominations today that each claim to follow Christ. During his presentation, Dr. Fudge presented a slide entitled "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church..." with a diagram depicting some 60 unique denominations to illustrate the point. As part of my research, I consulted *Handbook of Denominations in the United States* (Abingdon, 1994). It identified more

than 200 different denominations within the United States.

In *Always Reforming*, Atwood attempts to shed some light down the long corridor of church history to give the reader insight into the origins of the various denominations. During the Protestant Reformation, a Latin phrase emerged: "Ecclesia semper reformanda" which translates "The Church is always reforming". Atwood incorporated this concept into the title of his book. *Always Reforming* is a chronological history told in 5 parts. Atwood begins with the Renaissance era and Reform (1300-1500) leading into the Protestant Reformation. He then delves into the "Religion of the Heart in an Age of Reason" before concluding with the 19th and 20th centuries.

The dictionary defines reform as making changes in an institution seeking to improve it. We may perhaps believe that this definition applies to Christianity as well, but we must first ask ourselves this question: How could we, as mere human beings, hope to improve upon a faith in the

27. "Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life." Jn. 12:25
28. **They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel!"** Jn. 12:13
29. This is the Gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through It. Ps. 118:20
30. The Stone that the builders rejected has become the chief Cornerstone. Ps. 118:22
31. Now My soul is troubled. And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Jn. 12:27

Unity Archivist

Clint Machann

c-machann@tamu.edu

979-696-1360 or 979-845-4898

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17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569
Web Address: www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org
Church Email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Dr. Brad Herridge

(254) 716-2578

brad.herridge@gmail.com

Youth Director
Jennifer Chervenka
(254) 983-1002

Cemetery
Sharon Marek
(254) 482-0498

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

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for March 2021

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible Revised Standard Revision*.

Sundays in bold.

1. He did not hide His face from me, but heard when I cried to Him. Ps. 22:34b
2. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations. Ps. 22:38
3. Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised. Rom. 4:21
4. Abraham's faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ... (Likewise) it will be reckoned to us who believe in Him Who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Rom. 4:22,24
5. Jesus was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. Rom. 4:25
6. (T)hose who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. Mk. 8:35
7. **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**
8. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. Ps. 19:1
9. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. Ps. 19:9
10. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Ps. 19:14
11. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18
12. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 1 Cor. 1:25
13. Jesus said..., "Stop making My Father's house a marketplace!" Jn. 2:16b
14. **O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever. Ps. 107:1**
15. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. Ex. 21:7
16. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." Ex. 21:8
17. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. Jn. 3:14-15
18. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Jn. 3:16
19. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph. 2:8-9
20. For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. Eph. 2:10
21. **Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Ps. 51:1**
22. Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment. Ps. 51:4
23. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Ps. 51:6
24. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Ps. 51:7
25. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Ps. 51:10
26. Having been made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Heb. 5:9-10

person and teachings of Jesus Christ? The answer, of course, is that we could not, and history bears that out. Taking a long and honest look at Christianity through the centuries, Atwood reminds the reader that it has been subject to both change and division. Granted, some reforms were attempts to correct errors and abuses within the institutional church to better realign it with its original purpose. Other reforms, however, were contentious and led to persecution, warfare, bloodshed, and grief.

Down through the centuries, the institutional church has become more divided and the number of denominations has grown; each reform attempting to meet the challenges of its day. Finding itself in a continually changing political and world view order, the church frequently found itself with two options. On one hand, it could adapt itself to the ever-changing landscape in which it found itself. On the other hand, it could simply remain static and become a relic of a bygone age. Even in the modern world of today, we see headlines about churches making sometimes radical changes to accommodate changes in society. It is therefore not surprising that we now have over 200 denominations in the United States and thousands worldwide with more on the way.

But there is reason for hope. In his book Atwood reminds us that every church at one time or another has

been deemed as heretical by another. The church has faced many severe challenges during the last 7 centuries. But it has not merely survived, it has thrived amidst continuing changes in society and even the violent conflicts of war. It has even survived those who have attempted to manipulate believers to enhance their own power or personal wealth.

Atwood concludes his book with these words: "...there have always been those Christians who have courageously brought a message of hope to a troubled world. At the end of the second millennium, in the midst of continual change and reformation, Christianity continues to produce apostles, prophets, and martyrs ministering to a broken world."

I hope to lead a small group study of *Always Reforming* at some point in the future. Like its author, its purpose will not be to cast blame for mistakes made in the past or elevate one denomination over another. Rather, I intend it to be a study that better answers the question: How did we get to where we are today? History reminds us where we have been. We must then ask ourselves: How do we best proceed from here?

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

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Hope: A Homily

- by Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Mary Ann Evans (1819-1880) writing as George Eliot stated: "The important work of moving the world forward does not wait to be done by perfect men." This was certainly true of men such as King David as seen in the parable of the ewe lamb told by Nathan to David in 2 Samuel 12:1-14. We live in an imperfect world, but God used David to serve Him and create a united Israel.

Peter Fisher writes in his book, *Finding Eden: Finding Hope in an Imperfect World*. "The reality of imperfection is something we all live with: but how do we live with it? In our dreams and fantasies we like to imagine perfect people, places, or communities while in our cynical or despairing moments we see ourselves and our society as hopelessly flawed. The Christian gospel takes a third path: it is about imperfection and glory – it is about how God offers us realistic hope. In Jesus, God responds truthfully and generously to what we and our world are really like, to make of us something glorious."

Hope is one of the necessary in-

gredients in life. The Bible is a book of hope. Our God is the author and creator of hope. In giving us hope, God gives us "the nerve of life" to go on despite the circumstances that we find ourselves in. The light of hope will enable you to find your way. The light of hope will shine on the road you travel. You are never alone; God provides direction and light.

Isaiah 9: 2 informs us: *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."*

W. H. Auden (1907 – 1973) *As I Walked Out One Evening*:

(God's) 'Love has no ending...
I'll love you, dear, I'll love you
'Till China and Africa meet,
And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street,
I'll love you till the ocean
Is folded and hung up to dry
And the seven stars go squawking
Like geese about the sky..."

Our God is the author of hope. During this Pandemic, we read in

2021 Summer Camp Dates

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Ages 7-9 years old

Camp Cost: \$250

Camp Date: **July 5-7**

PIONEER

Ages 12-13 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 18-23**

CHALLENGER

Ages 16-19 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **Not Held in 2021**

ALPHA

Ages 10-11 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 25-29**

DISCOVERY

Ages 14-15 years old

Camp Cost: \$350

Camp Date: **July 11-16**

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Ages 16-Adult

Cost \$550

Date: **June 20-July 2**

For more information about the Hus School Encampment go to:

www.huscamp.org

Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number, and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH

2439 County Road 225 Caldwell, TX 77836

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 262, Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 272-3008

Website: newtaborchurch.com Facebook: New Tabor Church

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

New Tabor Brethren is here for you. We're not only a church. We're a fellowship of believers coming together to declare the glory of the Lord.

Reverend David Johnson (979) 220-3822

pastordjbama@gmail.com

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.*

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

March 27, 2021 – The Seaton Brethren Church, 12561 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton), is having a **Pulled Pork Lunch Fundraiser**, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is **DRIVE THRU ONLY**. Plates are \$10 and consist of pulled pork on a bun, pinto beans, coleslaw, dessert, and a drink. For more information, contact Helen Haisler at (254) 718-5356 or email helenh1212@outlook.com.

****IMPORTANT** March 31, 2021 – The deadline to return the 2020 Unity Questionnaire.** Please send your completed form to Liz Ripple, Administrative Assistant.

Save the Dates . . .

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

July 3-4, 2021 – State BYF Summer Retreat & Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment.

July 13-15, 2021 – Unity Convention at Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas. More information to come soon.

I Peter 1:3-4: *Praise to God for a Living Hope* ³*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* ⁴*and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade.*

Rev. 1:4-8: *Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come, "... I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

The Poet Emily Dickenson (1830-1886) would write:

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the
words,
And never stops at all.

This is a beautiful picture of our Lord Jesus Christ in this Season of COVID. The Rev. Deri Keefer writes... "From the cradle to the cross Jesus brings us hope. Hope to go on, even though we feel that life is scattered. Hope to continue to grow in our faith, even if we fail and fall. Hope to endure, even when life falters. Hope

to believe, even though dreams fade. Give birth to hope that is found in Christ!"

The ancient prayer of Francis of Assisi should be our model.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Oh, divine master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life!

All of this is found in the Savior... Christ the Lord.

May God give you His Hope, His Grace, His Peace!

Dr. T. – Jerry

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.

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325 Sunnyside St.
Houston, TX 77076
Cell: 713-553-5542

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(254) 778-8759

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Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Tim Chaplin

(254) 718-6094

tpch4359@gmail.com

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

**From Robert & Anne Thiessen ...
Missionaries in Mexico**

January 25, 2021

Dim January

Dear friends,

Greetings from Winston-Salem, where I am perched above a downtown street of eclectic shops and restaurants, under a foggy sky that obscures the tops of the tallest neighboring buildings. RuthE and Mikael chose here in the heart of the restored center of the city to make their home for now, but Covid is keeping this from being quite what they expected. There is enough movement to be fun, however, surrounded by the sights, sounds and lights.

We crossed into the USA in late December, just in time to celebrate Christmas with both sets of kids up in the mountains of North Carolina (picture attached). After RuthE's 26th birthday (January 2) we headed to Florida to see Anne's parents for a bit (it had been over a year since seeing them). We helped them with some logistical things, organizing some of the parts of life that get harder the older you get. They are in their late

80s, healthy enough, living in a great community of retired missionaries, well looked after by great staff.

Anne passed the milestone of 60 years a week ago. She got to celebrate with Philip and Cailey over a breakfast party, and with RuthE and Mikael for supper (pictures attached). We've been here with them this week, tying up loose ends here. Tomorrow we drive back to Atlanta, return Philip's car, and fly to Oaxaca on Thursday.

The gray, veiling clouds outside our window suit our outlook as we get ready to go. Perhaps more than any time in the last 20 years we are going into the unknown, without a clear view yet of what is waiting. Mexico is suffering even more from the pandemic that the USA, with far fewer resources to confront the difficulties. Our Sin Frontera missionary friends are also caught in this in-between world, not always able to travel to their adopted villages, skirting outbreaks of the disease. Many towns, including our city of Tlaxiaco, are mostly shut down (we are trusting we can get to our house, though).

We are returning, despite this uncertainty, knowing that God has called us to walk with our Mexican friends as they reach into indigenous areas



10/March 2021



BRETHREN JOURNAL

MAKE:

Shadow Crosses/Shadow Crosses basket

Materials: 2 paper plates, markers/watercolors, black construction paper, glue, staples



1. Using watercolors, color one paper plate to look like a sky. Make sure the plate is concave (curving inward).
2. Cut the black construction paper into the shape of 3 crosses on a hill (see picture). If making the basket, color the second plate black. Cut it out to show the outline of 3 crosses on a hill. Make sure the plate is convex.
3. Glue the cross outline to the sky paper plate or staple the cross outline paperplate to the sky paper plate. Since one is convex and the other concave, there should be an area in the middle that can serve as a basket.

Peek-a-Boo Cross

Materials: 2 paper plates, construction paper, markers, glue, brad



1. Decorate a construction paper egg shape. Glue to one plate. Cut in half.
2. Decorate the second plate with a cross.
3. Use the brad to create picture shown.



BRETHREN JOURNAL

March 2021/19

EASTER

BIBLE LESSON

Scripture: John 19 & 20

Easter

TELL the story.

This video can help tell the Easter Story.

<https://youtube/bkNTUVv5Ew>

OBJECT LESSON:

Materials: plate, clear drinking glass, penny, votive candle, and colored water

Directions: Set the plate down. **Say:** *It is hard to understand what happened when Jesus died on the cross. Imagine this is you. (Set the penny on the plate.) Say: No matter how hard we try to be good, all of us have done bad things. That is this sin. (Pour the colored water into the plate.) Say: Sin covers us up. We're drowning in it. There's no way out for us on our own. But God sent his son, Jesus. (Place the lit candle onto the plate. The candle needs to be in the water but not covering the penny.) Say: Jesus came to be a light. He lived a perfect life. And then he died on the cross. (Place the drinking glass over the candle. After a few seconds, the light will go out and then the water will soak up inside the glass.) Say: That amazing act of love takes our sin away. If we accept Jesus and ask for his forgiveness, he will forgive us of our sins. They are gone forever. That's what Easter is all about.*



with His love, through thick and thin. The pandemic thing looks like it won't abate any time soon, seems to be hitting everywhere, and we don't want to put off returning any longer. And we go knowing we are supported by your prayers. Thank you.

On a final note, I want to ask for your patience and understanding if we couldn't visit you during these months in Ontario, or along the recent path through the USA. The pandemic restrictions were not always easy to navigate, with many ways of interpreting them. We weren't always in a great space mentally either as we processed aspects of our ministry and general life. Through much prayer



and companionship and medical help, we are now ready to carry on.

We hope to be able to return to at least the USA this summer, and then visit many of you. We may have to go to Ontario to get our vaccinations, so we look forward to seeing all the ones we couldn't earlier.

Many thanks for your faithful support and love throughout.



CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION OFFICERS

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Hus Encampment Main Building Renovation Update

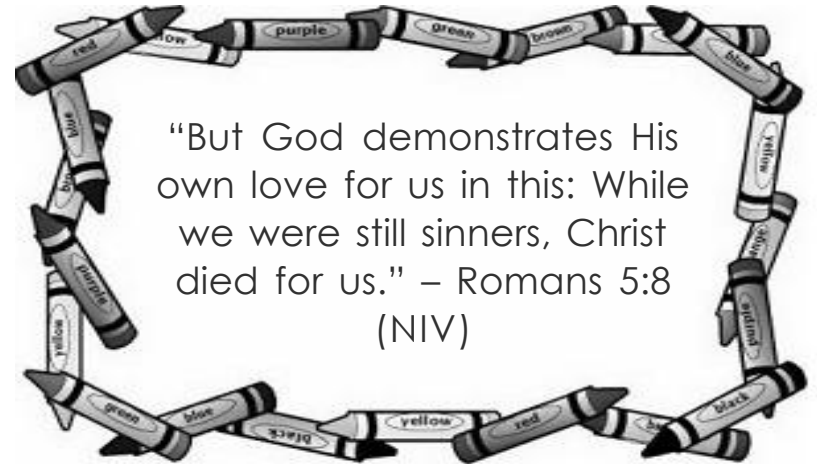
February 6, 2021 - Day 48

Construction on the Main Building is at the halfway point. Walls and ceiling have been insulated. Sheetrock is mostly completed in the hall and Library. Ceiling and beams have their wood coverings. Painting and staining will start soon. Restrooms have been framed and are awaiting insulation. New AC ductwork is in above the Library. Porch is looking great too.

Work is progressing smoothly with only minor construction issues so far. This is going to be a fabulous place once it's finished. Thanks again for your prayers and support.



Sunday School Helper



Bible Characters
Easter

Bible Reference
John 19 & 20

Easter comes at the beginning of April. So this month will include a set of crafts, using paper plates, that you can use with your Sunday School classes to remind them of the miracle of Easter



Three Ways to Give

Online by credit card, Recurring Monthly Pledge, or One-Time Gift

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Telephone # _____

Email _____

Donation Amount: _____ ☐ Recurring Monthly Pledge

☐ One Time Gift

If recurring monthly pledge, please provide: Bank Routing #

Financial Institution Name:

Account # _____

Signature: _____

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


In memory/honor (circle one) of:

Please provide address for acknowledgment:

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please make checks payable to: "Hus Encampment Building Fund"

Mail to:
Tami Laza, Hus Board Member
4913 FM 166
Caldwell, TX 77836

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



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

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

Sunday School
9:30 AM

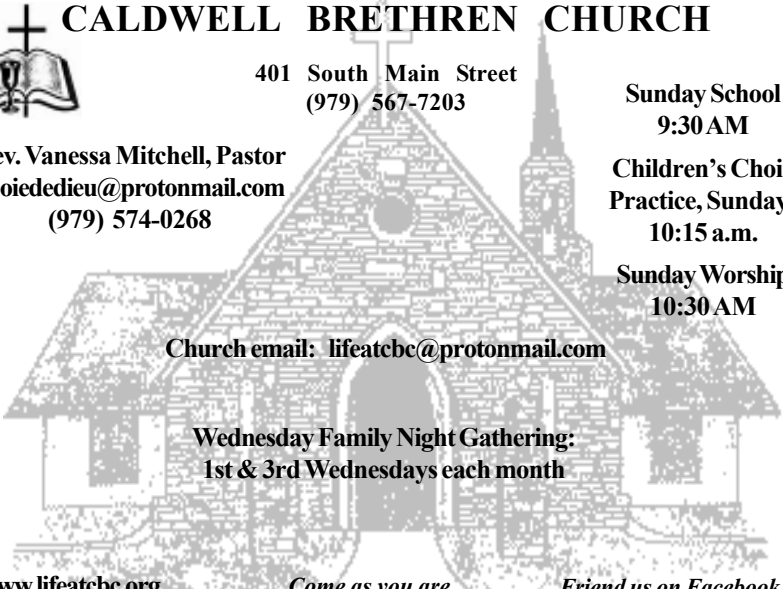
Children's Choir Practice, Sundays
10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc.org

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

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





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- Scholarships
- Vestnik weekly newspaper

SPJST
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Temple, Texas 76501

MUTUAL AID SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mutual Aid Society will award up to \$4,000 in the Spring of 2021. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the number of qualified applications received. Candidates must be high school seniors or undergraduate students who will be attending an accredited university, college, or technical school during the Summer or Fall of 2021. Past recipients may apply again; however, preferential consideration will be given to first-time applicants. Scholarship application and requirements can be found on the Unity website at:

"<http://unityofthebrethren.org/mutual-aid-society>".

Application must be **postmarked by March 31, 2021**, and mailed to:

Mrs. Natalie Outlaw
Gen. Secretary, Mutual Aid Society
7575 Wixon Road
Bryan, TX 77808

In addition, an electronic copy of the essay must be **emailed by March 31, 2021**, to Rev. Joseph Polasek at josephjpolasek@yahoo.com.

Recipients will be announced after May 1, 2021.

If you would like to **donate to the Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund**, please send checks payable to "Mutual Aid Scholarship Fund" to:

Ruth Ann Wuensche
Mutual Aid Society Treasurer
2451 CR 405
Taylor, TX 76574

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

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

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas
Home: 325-949-7543 Cell: 325-656-8558
Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com
Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com
www.WallBrethrenChurch.com

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

<i>President</i>	<i>Pastor/Director of Youth</i>	<i>Church Office</i>
<i>Board of Elders</i>	<i>and Young Family Ministries</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Josh Holik	Rev. Ryan Volkman	Libby Lane
325-234-8667	325-213-0671	Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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 Tami Laza, Hus Board
4913 FM 166
Caldell, TX 77836



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