

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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Fall 2022 Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment
(See story inside this issue)

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In Christ's Love: Carolyn Groseclose

...AND MORE!!

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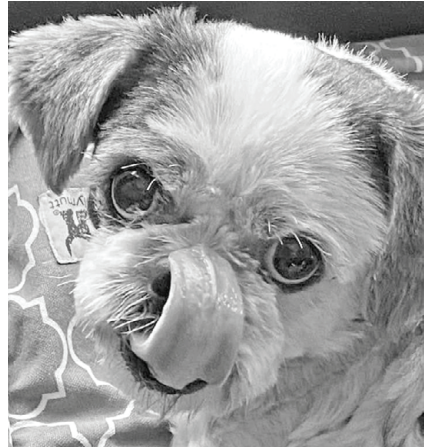
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The Comeback Kid!

By Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

They say you cannot teach an old dog new tricks, but I beg to differ! I've seen too many people experience changed lives. I've seen too many people open their hearts to God and never look back. I've seen too many people make a difference in the world when others have sworn time and again that society is decaying, and things will never change. "Same old same old," they say. "It is what it is," they say. I know firsthand that God doesn't work that way. He brings to life that which is lifeless! He opens the most bitter of hearts! He turns ashes into beauty!

My 16-year-old Shih Tzu, Jack, has been near the door of death several times. He has a hard time hearing. He has hip dysplasia, poor vision,



several teeth gone, and more. However, if you saw little Jack trotting along on one of his cool morning walks, with almost a smile on his face, with his ears flapping away, you would never guess what he has been through. I've prayed over him in the waiting area of veterinarian offices, asking the Lord Jesus



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to heal him more times than I can count. This happy little canine has become a “come-back kid.” I know that one day the Lord will call him to rest in peace, but for now, Jack inspires me to persevere with joy. **For us, persevering with joy runs much deeper because we know the One who is our Maker.**

God is calling you to remember who He is, to remember who you are in His eyes, and to believe that even though you may feel “very dried up,” like your “hope is lost,” or like you “are cut off completely” from Him, from His goodness, you are not!

Take a moment to call upon your imagination and visualize what a prophet from the Holy Bible, Ezekiel, experienced as he was commanded to share with God’s people, who were utterly depressed.

Their complaint to God as they felt so overwhelmed was: ***“Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”***

Take a moment and picture Ezekiel’s role, God’s power, and the “comeback” God outlines for them, to draw them out of their depression illustrated with a metaphor of a valley of very dry lifeless bones.

From the Holy Bible, the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 37:

“1 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and **they were very dry.** 3 He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord God, you know.’ 4 Then

→

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he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' 7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that

they may live.' 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 11 Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. **They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'** 12 Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 **I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'"**

→

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What “comeback” is God working out for you right now?

Have you taken the time to pray to Him, asking Him to help you see His vision for your life, for *what next steps He has planned for you to take?*

Think of little Jack, my Shih Tzu... God is taking care of him. God is also taking care of the way things should go in your life. Just keep your eyes on Him. Pray to Him. Your bones are not as dried up as you think they are. Your hope is not lost. You are not cut off by even an inch. God so loved the world that He sent

His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that as you believe in Him, you will not perish, but will have eternal life!

You are God’s “comeback kid”! So, start trotting along with a smile on your face and believe His PROMISE TO YOU:

“I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.” (Ezekiel 37:14)

*Right With You,
Another One of Jesus’
“Comeback Kids,”
Sister Vanessa Mitchell*

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Hus: Imprisoned and Tried

By Jim Pokorny

Despite promises from the King and assurances from the Pope, Hus was now a prisoner. The enemies of Hus began to rejoice. But Chlum quickly rushed to the Pope, whose residence was in the palace, and reminded the Pontiff of his assurances. John XXIII simply shifted the blame to “his brethren” referring to the Cardinals.

At 9 PM, Hus was transferred to the cathedral where he would remain for a week under close guard. On December 6, 1414, he was moved to a Dominican monastery by the lake. Although the monastery offered a tremendous view, Hus was not encouraged by the sight. On these grounds stood a drafty tower next to an open sewer. Hus was imprisoned there, and his physical health began to rapidly deteriorate. Physicians warned the Pope that Hus was nearing the point of death. On January 8, 1415, Hus was transferred to a cell that offered improved sanitary condi-

tions. Treated less harshly, he was allowed to read, write, and receive visitors. Here he remained for several weeks.

Meanwhile, the Council appointed a panel of three to investigate the charges brought against Hus. They began to badger him with questions and sworn witnesses. Although still physically weak, his request for an advocate was refused. As he was already deemed a heretic, Hus was denied protection of the law. At this, Hus declared that Christ would be his advocate.

During this same period, the friends of Hus were not idle. They continued to lobby for his freedom. John von Chlum badgered the Pope, wrote the King, and attempted to rouse the citizenry of Constance. King Sigismund eventually dispatched a letter to the Cardinals demanding the release of Hus. When the King arrived on Christmas Eve, he learned that the Cardinals had not yielded. Instead, they freed Si-



To communicate with the HUS Encampment...

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**This must be done well in advance.*

gismund from his promise on the grounds that Hus was a heretic and that the King had not consulted with them prior to his promise. This was shaky ground. Had the King left Constance, the Council would likely have broken up. They successfully pressured the King who formally withdrew his protest. He conceded that the Cardinals should be free to act in all matters concerning faith. Thus, the King effectively sacrificed Hus to the Council.

But Hus was no longer foremost on their minds. Their combined attentions turned to the schism. The matter of three popes took center stage. In a unified move, the Church officially brought charges against John XXIII. Heeding the proverbial writing on the wall, he fled Constance along with those loyal to him. At this point, King Sigismund squandered yet another opportunity to assist Hus and perhaps even rescue his own reputation. Instead, he bowed to additional pressure exerted by the Cardinals. Sigismund sanctioned the move to make the Bishop of Constance the official keeper of Hus.

During the night of Palm Sunday, March 22, Hus was taken in chains to Gottlieben, a towered castle nearly 200 feet tall. Upon arrival he was taken to the top of the Western tower still in his chains. In a small cell, his feet were chained to

a block. At night, his right arm was secured to the wall. Hus languished in these conditions for more than two months. His friends bribed his jailers in attempts to relieve his sufferings. Meeting with representatives of the Cardinals, they demanded that Hus be set free. They offered bail up to any amount and requested he receive a public trial. Ironically, such a trial was set for June 5. Hus was returned to Constance and a Franciscan Monastery instead.

A newly appointed commission began the trial of Hus at the time appointed. The moment Hus tried to speak in his defense he was shouted down. Liberties were taken with the writings of Hus. Hus tried in vain to explain that these were mere misrepresentations. He was shouted down even more. Once silent, his persecutors exclaimed that his silence only served to prove his guilt.

Two more hearings took place on June 7 and June 8. The King was present at both, and better order prevailed until the proceedings turned savagely upon Hus. Hus wrote to his friends in Bohemia: "They press upon me, threats and deceitful words, to induce me to recant." The explanations offered by Hus, although Biblical, were summarily dismissed. Accusations regarding his doctrinal teachings were blatantly false. His guilt was a foregone conclusion; the hearings were a formality. Hus now faced two options: recant or be burned alive.

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2022 Christian Sisters' Convention

Minutes Theme: "In Times Like These"

Scripture: Matthew 24: 10-14

The 50th Christian Sisters Convention was held on April 30, 2022, at the Hus Encampment hosted by the Christian Sisters Executive Committee. Registration began 8:30 with a Continental breakfast served with delicious Kolaches (made by Ms. Lydia Faust), fruit, coffee, juice and milk.

The Convention began at 9:30 with a Welcome Address given by President Paula Wagner. The service was led by Reverend Michael Groseclose. Communion was observed during the worship service. The special music, "It's No Secret (What God Can Do)," was performed by Soloist/Pianist, Ms. Carolyn F. Beseda.

The 1st Session was called to order at 11:00 by President Paula Wagner with a Prayer. Greetings were given by:

Lillie Chafin- Greetings from Ms. Joyce Baletka wishing us a wonderful convention and wishing she could be in

attendance.

Reverend Vanessa Mitchell - Dr. Larry Koslovsky and The Synodical Committee send greetings and wishing us a very productive Convention. He and The Synodical Committee have been praying for this Convention.

Roseanne Groseclose - Carolyn Groseclose sends her greetings to the Convention. She will be home in August for 5-6 months. She will be happy to give a presentation to anyone wishing to hear about her mission work.

Reverend Joseph Polasek - Greetings on behalf of the Mutual Aid Society. Prayers for a fruitful Convention. The Mutual Aid Society will be giving out 4 scholarships to deserving youth. We ask for your continued support to The Mutual Aid Society. The Mutual Aid Society Convention will be held on July 16, 2022, at The Snook Brethren



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Rita Tyson - Greeting from Dorothy Hinson wishing she could attend this convention and wishing everyone a Happy Mother's day.

Shara Davis from the West Christian Sisters - Sends regrets that they will not have a delegate at this Convention due to a death of one of their sisters whose funeral is today.

Roll call was given by Secretary Anna Wotipka. There were 17 Delegates seated. The Convention Committee assignments were read by Anna Wotipka, Secretary. Vice President Beseda reported that Westheimer Christian Sisters Society Delegate, Neidin Allen, could not be present at convention, due to illness in here family. Secretary Wotipka reported that due to a death in the West Congregation their Local Society will not be represented. Martha Huffman (Caldwell) made a motion to wave the minutes of the 49th Convention and accept them as presented in the Convention Packet. A second was made by Lillie Chafin (New Tabor).

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Motion Passed

Reports of Officers were enclosed in the Delegates Packets. Susan Skrabanek (New Tabor) made a motion to accept the reports as given. A second was given by Linda Flens (Taylor).

Motion Passed

A Slate of Officers and a Slate of names for the Nominating Committee were presented at this time. A Motion was presented by the Chair of the Nominating Committee Ann Sebesta (Snook) to be brought to the Convention body during the Second Session of the Convention. **The Motion States:**

The Nominating Committee moves that for this convention only, elect positions 1, 2, & 3 for a 2-year term and positions 4 & 5 for a 4-year term. Subsequent elections would be in line with Article VII of the By-Laws. In order to have continuity for incoming members, Position 2 member is offered for this convention election. We propose that Rita Tyson be able to serve for another 2-year term.

Rationale:

Article VII of the By-Laws state that Nominating Committee members serve 4 years and positions 1, 2 & 3 are elected at one convention, with positions 4 & 5 to be elected at the following convention.

As no convention was held in 2020, this sequence did not happen. To bring the election of the nominating committee members in line with the By-Laws, this motion is presented by the Nominating Committee.

Reports were presented in the Delegates Packets. Several Delegates gave updates on other things that were happening with their Christian Sisters Locals. Many outstanding ideas were presented. Kent Laza (President of the Hus Encampment Board of Trustees) gave a



presentation on the happenings to the update the camp by the Hus Board.

*Registration for all the 2022 Hus Camps is now open. The camp dates were presented.

*We were invited to walk around the campus and look at the improvements that have been made.

*Credit was given to the Facilities Manager, Alan Haisler, for keeping the camp looking nice and working properly.

*Thanks was given to the Members of the Hus Board for their "A Team" work. Reverend Joseph Polasek commended the Board Of Trustees for an excellent job.

There were no Correspondence to be read or Unfinished Business. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 by Paula Wagner and a blessing for the meal was given by Reverend Vanessa Mitchell.

Lunch was from 12:00 to 2:00 (with Committees to meet during this time). A delicious meal consisting of: King Ranch Casserole, Rice, Beans, Salad and Cake was served.

The Second Session of the Convention began at 2:00 with a prayer by President Paula Wagner.

A beautiful Memorial Service was presented. As the names of each deceased sister was called by Vice President Beseda a bell chimed by Secretary Wotipka. Delegates from each local lit a candle for each deceased sister from their Local Society. If a local was not represented Reverend Mitchell was asked to light a candle for the sisters from those societies. Sadly, we have had 63 Sisters pass away from 2018-2022. The Memorial Service concluded by the singing of the hymn, "I Know Whom I Have Believed," by Ms. Lynette Urbanovsky-Shimek.

A motion was made by Becky Ruzicka (Taylor) that instead of reading the minutes from the morning session they

are to be sent to the delegates via email or postal service. Motion was seconded by Debbie Clark (Crosby).

Motion Passed

New Business:

Debbie Clark (Crosby) asked about the bonding issue that was passed at the last convention. Paula Wagner, President stated that no one has been bonded at this time. Paige Hearn, Treasurer stated that as she was trying to get bonded the pandemic hit and no one would return her calls after she tried contacting them. It was stated that the New Officers (President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer would be bonded.

Reports of Convention Committees:

A motion was made by Shirley Powell (Wall) to accept all committee reports at one time. Motions was seconded by Dorothy Milberger (Nelsonville).

Motion Passed

Auditing Committee:

The books were all audited before the Convention and the Audit Committee accepts the audit. Budget Committee: A budget was given for the Administrative Board of \$ 1750.00 per year.

The Auditing and the Budget Committees counted the monies received through the worship service offering which totaled \$399.00.

****Note: This offering will be split with 1/2 going to The Hus Encampment and 1/2 will be deposited in the Union Account.**

The free will donations for the lunch meal was \$417.00.

****Note:** Additional monies were received for the lunch free will offering in the amount of

\$102.00 which was counted by Paige Hearn (Treasurer) and Anna Wotipka (Secretary) **This brought the total offering for lunch to \$519.00 which will be deposited in the Union Account.**



Motions Committee wished to accept all Committee Reports at this time. Seconded by Sandra Stepan (Fayetteville).

Motion Passed

The Nominating Committee submitted the following Slate of Officers and the Slate of the Nominating Committee Members:

2022-2024 Officers:

President: Carolyn Filipp Beseda (Westheimer) Vice President: Anna Wotipka (Caldwell) Secretary: Ann Sebesta (Snook)

Financial Secretary: Dorothy Milberger (Nelsonville) Treasurer: Paige Hearn (Taylor)

Nominating Committee:

(2022-2024) Place 1: Alice Kocurek (Rosenberg)

(2022-2024) Place 2: Rita Tyson (Houston)

(2022-2024) Place 3: Connie Janac (Snook)

(2022-2026) Place 4: Barbara Jancik (Caldwell)

(2022-2026) Place 5: Debbie Clark

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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2nd Vice-President

(Crosby)

A motion was made by Susan Skrabanek (New Tabor) for nominations to cease and accept the Slate of Officers and the Slate for The Nominating Committee Members submitted by the Nominating Committee. Motion Seconded by Lillie Chafin (New Tabor).

Motion Passed

Publicity Committee:

The Convention was attended by: 5 Officers, 17 Delegates, 9 Alternate Delegates, 3 Pastors and 5 guest. For a total of 30 in attendance.

Resolutions Committee:

We regret the tragic loss of Bro. Jim Heckman and Diane Heckman.

We regret that Joyce Baletka was unable to attend.

We regret Dorothy Hinson was unable to attend.

We regret the deaths of our faithful Christian Sisters.

We regret that Temple and Vsetin have left the Christian Sisters Union.

We rejoice in the inspiring message brought by Reverend Michael Groseclose.

We rejoice that the Christian Sisters Union could meet again after 4 years.

We rejoice in the beautiful music by Ms. Carolyn Filipp Beseda and Ms. Lynette Urbanovsky- Shimek.

New Tabor extended an invitation to Host the 2024 Convention (Place and Date to be announced).

Reverend Vanessa Mitchell installed the 2022-2024 officers.

Reverend Vanessa Mitchell gave the Prayer and Benediction.

The Convention was closed at 4:00 with singing the Convention Hymn: "In Times Like These."

In Christ's Love...

from the Foreign Missions Fields

From Carolyn Groseclose



OCTOBER 2022

Greetings from Zambia,

From the end of May to the middle of August teams from six different churches visited New Day. The teams were from Arkansas, Texas, Alabama and South Carolina. They came to work and play with the staff and children. Each team had an agenda of what they would be doing at New Day.

The first team arrived during the last week of May. They held a retreat for the staff. While the retreat took place, other members of the team taught in the classrooms. In the afternoons, the teenagers taught dance and ballet to the girls and played soccer with the boys. The retreat was good for everyone. We were able to 'dive' into the Scriptures and share with one another. The kids were given a different perspective of learning with the team members in the classrooms.

The second team arrived two days after the first team left, 10 June. They were at New Day for just five days. Each afternoon while the teachers were in a science workshop, the kids were in a basketball camp.

Team Three arrived on the departure

heels of Team Two. This team brought a retreat for the ladies of New Day. It was good just to be able to have a cup of tea or coffee then study God's Word. While the ladies had their retreat, other members of the team taught in the classrooms and others did maintenance projects on the homes and buildings on the property. The team also led a Vacation Bible School in the afternoons. Children from the villages around New Day were invited to come. Team Three left New Day at the end of June. We had almost a week to regroup and get ready for Team Four. During that week, our teenagers came home for a few days from boarding school.

Team Four arrived at New Day on 10 July and left on 15 July. They had only four days, but it was a packed four days. The team taught in the classrooms, evaluated each child in his/her reading level and rearranged books in the library. Dance and ballet were taught to the girls. Tap dancing was also taught to the younger boys and girls. This team was also able to take a lot of pictures and video many activities. The 'family' pic-



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

From Carolyn Groseclose

ture was taken for 2022. Also, a group from Choma came out to New Day with their drone and was able to shoot video of New Day from the air. The most exciting part of having this team come to New Day was one of the members. Caedmon Tidwell, the oldest child of Blu and Darbi Tidwell, was a member of this team. All the kids were excited about this. They couldn't wait for Cademon to get to New Day. I had mentioned earlier that the teenagers were home from boarding school. These were the kids that Caedmon grew up with. It was truly a blessing seeing them together, even if it was for just a few days.

Team four left and Team Five arrived. Team five was at New Day for two weeks. They taught in the classrooms and lived with the kids while the staff went to a resort just outside of Munze for a retreat. Munze is a large town about two hours from New Day and is on the way to Lusaka. Team Five left at the end of July. Once again, New Day had a 'breather' before Team Six arrived.

This team was different from the other teams. They were Prosthetic Promises

in His Name. They came to make prostheses for people who live I and around New Day area. However, there are some who live several hours away and came to be fitted for a new prosthetic. The team saw 41 patients and made 22 new prostheses. The team did involve the older kids. They helped with translating from Tonga to English.

I was not at New Day when Teams Five and Six came. I was able to return to Texas on 15 July. I was going to return to Texas on 15 July. I was going to return around the 1st of August. However, the cost of and airline ticket made the decision for me to return when I did. I will be returning to New Day around the 1st of March.

Everyone and everything is going well at New Day. The children are growing and thriving. They keep us busy. New Day now has 50 children and teenagers. They range in age from 1 year old to 20 years old. Life is well. God is at work. He continues to bless us every day.

*In His Love,
Teacher Carolyn*

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

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

Church Phone -- (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.; Worship - 10:15 a.m.

Bible Study - Each Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Pastor

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

Board of Elders President

Yvonne Kovar
P.O. Box 66
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 219-0375

Youth Directors

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

DO SOMETHING: WALK THE WALK (JAMES 2:14)

Brethren Youth Fellowship Retreats

The State BYF Leadership Team chose the theme: Do Something- Walk the Walk based mainly on James 2:14 to be the lesson focus for our retreats this year. We need to learn to walk the walk and do something as individuals, learn to love as Jesus loved and live as Jesus lived. We need to learn to walk the walk and do something as the church, come together with hearts ablaze, eyes fixed on Jesus, and turn the world upside down.

We kicked off the year at the September 17-18th retreat with 27 youth and several adults. Our four sessions covered what it means to walk with Jesus. We began with the foundation of our faith, Jesus as the cornerstone, and being built to God's holy temple. Everything we are, and everything we do needs to align with Jesus. Our second lesson was about the discipline it takes to follow Jesus. It requires commitment, action, and time to develop our relationship with God and grow in Him so that we can live for Him.



We also studied what it means to pray and how and when to pray. We need to Praise the holiness of God; Recognize our life is about God's will; Ask for our needs and needs of others; Intentionally let go (of our sin, guilt, anger, control); Strive for goodness; and see that Everything is for God's glory (not ours). In our third session we talked about getting a 'God perspective': My life is about Je-



sus; Jesus is with me; let's go! We need to take Jesus with us, talk to him all day long, and seize every opportunity to learn and grow more in Him. We concluded the weekend evaluating our priorities and the things that prevent us from following God with our whole being. And we were challenged to start making choices to actively seek Jesus and listen to his voice. We were challenged to make choices to be like Jesus, to live like Jesus, and to love like Jesus.

Our November retreat was held on November 5-6. We examined what it means to really walk the walk and not just be a fan of Jesus. We looked at Jesus's trium-

phal entry and the crowd that soon turned on him. We looked at the hypocrisy in the church and with the church leaders. We looked at his closest friends who denied him and ran away to hide after he was arrested. Then we looked at true grace and true mercy throughout the crucifixion story. Jesus knew what was coming; he knew what his closest friends would do, but still he stayed with them; broke bread with them; and continue to teach them. After they denied him and deserted him, he came back to them; he forgave them; he loved them. Even more, he gave his disciples charge to continue his mission and grow the church. We looked at Peter's full restoration and his charge to "Feed My Sheep". Jesus pushes us past our history, past our failures, past our mistakes and pushes us into a desire to live a life that honors him. We were challenged to quit making excuses, get out of our comfort zone, and jump in with a willing heart to follow Jesus and serve Jesus wherever he leads.

The retreats are filled with food, fun, and fellowship. We enjoy crafts, music, sports activities, dominoes, board games, and bingo. In November, we also collected food and supplies for the homeless and made 35 care packages with pop-top soups, chilis, chicken salads, peanut butter, fruits, protein bars, crackers, pon-





chos, and socks. In January, we will be making blankets for shut ins.

If you are a youth ages 12-21, we'd love to have you join us as we continue our journey learning what it means to Do Something- Walk the Walk with Jesus.

Upcoming Retreats:

January 7-8 & March 25-26.

Registration information available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org

or by contacting

Jennifer Chervenka: jennchervenka@gmail.com; 254-913-1244.



CROSS CHURCH ON BIRDCREEK

2202 Birdcreek Drive

Temple, Texas 76502

email: ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org

<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

(254) 778-8759

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Tim Chaplin

(254) 718-6094

tpch4359@gmail.com

Seaton Brethren Church

Annual Sausage Supper Fundraiser Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church annual sausage supper fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 18, 2023, beginning at 3:00 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. 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 and jellies, a silent auction, and a basket raffle. Proceeds benefit the ministry of the church, community, and other projects. The public is invited.

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Sunday School Helper

Psalm 51:7
“Wash me
and I will
be whiter
than
snow!”



Winter and snow are fun! This month's activities will help students see how they are each unique. They will also learn that we all have sin in our life that makes us dirty and separates us from God. God, however, provided a way for us to be made clean again. Through Jesus, we can all be made as white as snow.

You are “SNOW” Special

GAME: Alike & Unalike

Scripture: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:2

Directions: Give children a direction to group themselves. Examples: Same eye color, Same hair color, number of siblings, favorite color, age, type of shoe, etc. When done, say, “God made us all unique, that means that we are all different. What are some of the things that make us different from one another? Why do you think that God made us all uniquely?” Read Genesis 1:27. God is the Creator of the whole world. He can keep creating more and more things and will never run out of ideas. Human beings are His best creation because He also gave us the ability to think and create new things. We are all created in the image of God but are very different.

OBJECT LESSON: Snow v. Snowstorm

If possible, let students play in real snow or show pictures of individual snowflakes and snow. What do you see? What does the snow feel like? What does it smell like? Say, all of this snow is made up of tiny snowflakes. Look very closely and you will be able to see the tiny flakes. Every snowflake is unique. No two are exactly alike, just like no two people are exactly alike. God made them all unique just like we are unique. But look at what snow can do when all the little flakes stick together. Have you ever built a snowman or had a snowball fight? It takes millions of snowflakes to make those things happen. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27. When all the tiny snowflakes stick together, they make a big snowstorm. When all of God’s children stick together, we make the Church. We can all do different jobs in the church because we are all different. What are some of the different things that people in our church do? Together we can do many things for Jesus.

CRAFT: Snow Portraits

Materials: black construction paper, chalk

Give each child a piece of construction paper and a “snow stick” (chalk). Have them draw a picture of what makes them special and unique.



SONG: Snowflakes, Snowflakes

Sung to Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Snowflakes, snowflakes, dance around. Snowflakes, snowflakes, touch the ground. Snowflakes, snowflakes, in the air. Snowflakes, snowflakes, everywhere. Snowflakes, snowflakes, dance around. Snowflakes, snowflakes, touch the ground.

SNACK: Snowflakes

Materials: Pretzel sticks, marshmallows
Use marshmallows to put pretzels sticks together to create snowflakes.

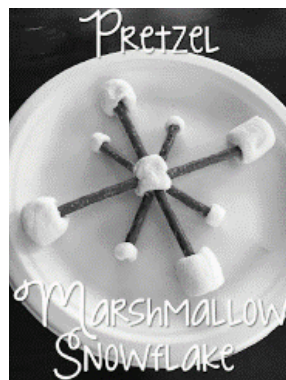
OBJECT LESSON: Whiter Than Snow

Have you ever made a paper snowflake before? They are a lot of fun to make, and they are a great way to decorate your house for winter. There is nothing so beautiful as freshly fallen snow. It is so white and pure. Whenever I see snow, or when I make a paper snowflake I think about Psalm 51:7 where it says "Wash me and I will be whiter than snow!"

Snow is very white, isn't it? Can you imagine anything whiter than snow? God says that when he forgives our sins, we are even whiter than snow! Snow may look very white, but did you know that each snowflake has a dirty secret? When snowflakes form it actually forms around a very tiny piece of dust. The ice crystals grow on this piece of dust, and it becomes a beautiful snowflake. But even though the snowflake is beautiful and white on the outside it is dirty inside. Many people are like that. They look nice and clean and happy on the outside, but inside they are sad and full of sin.

Jesus wants to clean us of that sin. He wants to save us and forgive us. He does not just want to clean us and make us look nice and white like a snowflake though. He wants to clean us on the inside. He wants to take that dirty heart and make it clean.

Jesus wants to make us not AS white as snow, but He wants to make us even WHITER than snow!



Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

January 7-8, 2023 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Deadline to register is December 11. Registration information available at www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org or by contacting Jennifer Chervenka: jennchervenka@gmail.com; 254-913-1244.

Save the Dates ...

February 18, 2023 – Seaton Brethren Church's Annual Sausage Supper Fundraiser at Seaton Star Hall, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton). Starts at 3 p.m. For more information see article in this issue.

March 25-26, 2023 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Deadline to register is March 5.

March 4, 2023 – State Children's Rally at the Hus Encampment. Registration Deadline is February 12.

April 1, 2023 – Adult Volleyball Day at the Hus Encampment. A day of fellowship and volleyball for ANYONE over 21. More details soon!

**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.

TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 512-352-6423

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574

Church email: taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Daniel Knippa
512-844-0208

Secretary
Mary Kokes
M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

KLINKOVSKY, DORIS NELL (MAREK), 90, a member of the Ocker Brethren Church died November 10, 2022. She was born January 11, 1932, in east Bell County to Edward J. Marek and Matilda Rose (Wychopen) Marek. She graduated from Rosebud High School in 1949 and married Edward Jerry Klinkovsky on August 21, 1954, at the Ocker Brethren Church. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Edward Russell Klinkovsky; and brother Johnny C. Marek. She is survived by her husband; daughter Karen K. Hutchins and

husband Doug; brother Edward Marek and wife Irene; sister-in-law Betty Marek along with two granddaughters and one grandson. Doris was a caring mother, grandmother, and devoted wife to her beloved Edward for 68 years. She was also a lifetime member of the Ocker Christian Sisters. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, November 15 at the Ocker Brethren Church with burial in the Ocker Cemetery. Scanio-Harper Funeral Home of Temple was in charge of arrangements. Ministers: Rev. Brad Herridge and Rev. Larry Zabcik

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

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

Phone: (254) 985-2240

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) 913-1244

jennchervenka@gmail.com

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

(254) 482-0498

Daily Morsels for December 2022

by Mari-Anne K. Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version

1. You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers. Rom. 13:11

2. The night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Rom. 13:12

3. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Rom. 13:14

4. A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. Isa. 11:1

5. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Isa. 11:2

6. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. Isa. 11:3

7. With righteousness He shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. Isa. 11:4a

8. Righteousness shall be the belt

around His waist and faithfulness the belt around His loins. Isa. 11:5

9. Blessed be His glorious name forever; may His glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen. Ps. 72:19

10. May you together with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 15:6

11. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Lk. 1:47

12. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. Lk. 1:49

13. His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. Lk. 1:50

14. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. Ps. 146:5

15. He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, He Who keeps faith forever. Ps. 146:6

16. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Isa. 35:2b

17. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people. Isa. 35:8a

18. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Ps. 80:19

19. The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. Isa. 7:14

20. An angel of the Lord appeared



The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

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

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Eve 5:30 p.m.
Prayer Service and Bible Study

to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. Mt. 1:20

21. She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Mt. 1:21

22. All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet. Mt. 1:22

23. “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” Lk. 1:23

24. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. Isa. 9:2

25. For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6

26. The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.” Lk. 2:10

27. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord. Lk. 2:11

28. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!” Lk. 2:14

29. The shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. Lk. 2:16

30. They made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed... The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Lk. 2:17-18, 20

31. Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Lk. 2:19

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 (Interim)

Cell: 325-656-8558

Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com

Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com

www.WallBrethrenChurch.net

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

President
Board of Elders
Rick Weise
325-656-2620

Director of Youth
and Young Family Ministries
Brady Collard
254-229-5217

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

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin – Bible Study at 10 AM
Worship at 11 AM.
– Rev. Joe Emerson
“the last service was held on Sunday, July 3, 2022”

Bryan-College Station – Sunday School at 9:15 AM and Worship at 10:30 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.
– Supply Pastors

Fayetteville – Worship at 10:00 AM. on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.
– 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.
– Judy Gotcher - Pulpit Supply

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

Industry – Worship at 5:00 PM on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

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

New Beginnings (1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station, TX 77845) – A Home Mission Project since 10/22/11 – Sunday School at 10:30 AM; Worship at 11:45 AM; Lunch after the service.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9 AM & Worship at 10 AM every Sunday, “Tune Up” on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.
– Rev. David 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 (all ages) at 9:30 AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
Wednesday – Children’s Awana, 5:30 PM.
– 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.
– Rev. Gerald Davis

Westheimer Community – Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Supply Pastors



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