

Fayetteville Brethren Church News

March, 2007

God is our refuge and strength!

Pastor: Rev. Milton Maly Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM

Phone: 979-872-8762 Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Organist: Elizabeth Ripple

Website address: FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

1022 Kramr Rd. at Ross Prairie Church Rd.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 11

Fayetteville, TX 78940

Upcoming Events:

Mar. 4 & 18 (Sun.)	Faith Sharing, 7:00 PM
Mar. 9 & 23 (Fri.)	Praise & Prayer, 7:00 PM
Mar. 11 (Sun)	Daylight Savings Time Begins; Elder's Meeting after church
Mar. 24 (Sat.)	Christian Sister's Raffle, Bake Sale and Garage sale Friday and Saturday
Mar. 25 (Sun.)	Potluck and Christian Sisters' meeting after worship
Mar. 7,14,21,28(Wed.)	Lenten services at Industry Brethren Church – 7:00 PM
April 8 (Sun.)	Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00 AM with breakfast and Egg Hunt
May 27 (Sun.)	8:00 AM Sunday Worship
June 24 (Sun.)	9th Annual Church Celebration
June 27 (Wed.)	Pictures will be taken for a new Church directory (more details soon)

Pastor's Corner:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139: 23-24)

As we all know, there are special dates and seasons set apart for the observance of special events in the life of our Lord and Savior. We know them as Christian Holidays: Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Advent, and Christmas.

Observance of special religious events is not a uniquely Christian thing. For example, Jesus seemed to be quite faithful in observing the Passover, the time when the death angel passed over Egypt and convinced the pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery.

We also know that various Christian groups carry out their observances in different ways. The beginning of the season of Lent is preceded with the Mardi Gras celebrations in the U.S., and with similar events called "Carnaval" in Latin America. In each country that observes this season, the celebrations reflect the local culture. For example, in Panama, "Carnaval" has an African flavor because of the heritage of many of the citizens there.

I've often asked myself "Why do we have special days and seasons to emphasize what we should be observing all of the time.... not just in one particular season?" That is, shouldn't we be celebrating God's Forgiveness and Grace every moment of every day, and likewise the coming of Jesus, His Son, into the world just as frequently?

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Well, we are human beings with short memories. And it is good to join in a remembrance of some special event in Jesus' life, whether it's His birth or His resurrection, to effectively remind ourselves and others of just how much God did to tell us who is and how much He loves us.

Of course, commercialism has not only crept into all of these Christian celebrations, it has pretty well drowned out a wonderful message that proclaims: "God has done for us something that doesn't involve exchange of even one copper penny!. His Grace cannot be bought...at any cost....it is free to those who accept it.

The task for us during the season of Lent is to look within....who we are, what our motives are, how we think; how we live. And then, to...with prayer and penitence... ask for forgiveness and seek a deeper relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Maly

Prayer Concerns:

Brenda Hammond (daughter of Pauline and David Ott)
The family of Tonie Coufal at Industry Brethren Church
Jerry Dove (for a quick recovery)
Estelle Vasut (mother of Ed Vasut)
Rose Lundeen – daughter of Doris and Laddie Ripple
Noel Thomas
Ed and Edna Krivacka and their son Mark and family (neighbor to Edith Rek)
The family of Brittany Dawn Pieper of Willow Springs
The Thiessens (our missionary family in Mexico) and
Jill Miller as protests disrupts life in Oaxaca City.
For our military personnel serving in Iraq and other places
Ginger Marshall's sister and brother-in-law
For rain
Tamara and Cynthia – Crystal Thomas' sisters
Elroy Geisler (brother to Doris Cervenka)
Betty Favor (sister to Lee Roy Cervenka)
Joe Hayek and Evelyn Koehl
Millie and Charles Schiller – Industry Brethren Church
Charisse Richarz (Rev. Maly's fellow Spanish instructor at Blinn).
Mr. Wise (husband of J.B. Branan's cousin)
Matthew Boer and family (friends of the Malys)
The persecuted church
Delores Coufal – Industry Brethren Church
Anita Coufal - Industry Brethren Church
Leland Moeckel -- Industry Brethren Church
Dottie – friend of Nancy Vasut
Safe travels for those on the road.
Barbara Roesler
Doug McCoy

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Prayer Concerns continued:

Gregory Maly (serving in the Air Force overseas)

John Ragsdale and his sons

For individuals who are overcoming alcoholism and maintaining sobriety

March Birthdays

1 – Doris Ripple 8 – Mike Kelly 10 – Julia Thomas 11 – Louise Walker

13 – David Ott 25 – Leara Henneke

Flowers, Communion Set-up, Church Cleaning:

For March: - Barbara Arambula - Thank you!!

Church News:

- 1) **Lunch in March:** A potluck lunch will be held on the 4th Sundays March 25th and April 22. Jill Miller will be visiting with us soon (March or April). When the date is set for her visit, we will have it announced in church and we will also Serve a lunch when she visits with us.
- 2) **Congregational Church meeting** – The Annual Congregational Meeting was held during the worship on Sunday, January 21st. The meeting was called to order by President Joe Ripple. The minutes from the previous Congregational Meeting and the 2006 Financial Statement were presented. Both items were approved by the congregation. The following were elected to serve on the Board of Elders for 2007: Joe Ripple, Gary Dorsett, Liz Ripple, Nancy Dorsett, Edward Vasut, Scott Marshall, Crystal Thomas, Jerry Dove and Ginger Marshall. Other items discussed or approved were: Ministers and cemetery caretaker salaries, interior work in the church sanctuary, plexi-glass on the bell tower louvers, parking lot for new fellowship hall and a new church directory.
- 3) **Sunday Morning Adult Study on Hebrews** is being led by Mike and Elaine Kelly. Please come and grow in faith as we study God's world.
- 4) **Faith Sharing:** Sunday, March 4th and 18th at 7:00 PM at church. Please come and be encouraged as members give testimony to Jesus' presence in their lives.
- 5) **Men's Prayer Breakfast:** Meets each Monday at 6:45 AM at the church. Please contact Jim Walker, Jerry Marshall or Ed Vasut if you have questions.
- 6) **Prayer and Praise Service:** Friday, March 9th and 23rd at 7:00 PM at church. Please come ready to sing your favorite songs as we sing praises to our wonderful Lord! We have time of singing each person's favorite hymn followed by a brief time of prayer.

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- 7) **The Christian Sisters' Society Fundraiser** - March 23 & 24: On Friday, March 23, the Christian Sisters' will have a rummage sale from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Items may be Brought to the church now. Please – if you bring clothes, make sure that they are clean. And, also, if you can, please have your items tagged ready for sale. On Saturday, March 24, the rummage sale will continue starting at 8:00 AM. A bake sale with hot dogs and sandwiches will start at 9:00 AM. Raffle tickets are being sold (contact any member) and the drawing will be held on Saturday at 12:30. 20 prizes will be awarded and the top prize is a hand-quilted quilt. The quilt was made and donated by Margaret Michalsky and quilted by the Christian Sisters'.
- 8) **Board of Elders Report:** The construction of the fellowship hall is almost complete. The cabinets have been installed and all the walls are painted or stained. Work has been done in the old kitchen to help turn it into the new children's Sunday School room. New tables and chairs have been ordered. The first function in the new hall is planned for March 23 and 24 -- the Christian Sisters' fundraiser with a rummage sale, bake sale, hot dogs and a raffle drawing. Donations are still being accepted to fund the fellowship hall project. If you would like to make a donation towards this effort, please make your check payable to "Fayetteville Brethren Building Fund."
- 9) **Lists of Suggested Items for Military Personnel Overseas:**

Here is a list of items being collected for our military personnel serving in Iraq and other places. Pauline Ott is in charge of this project and reports that the recipients are highly appreciative of what is sent and often share the items with their group.

Visine (eye drops)	Lip balm (tube)
Beef jerky	Seeds/nuts, trail mix
Hand sanitizer	Crackers, snacks, pretzels, chips
Pens, paper, envelopes	LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT
Candy of any kind (no chocolate)	Gum
Q-Tips, small travel size	Tweezers, nail clippers
Instant drink mixes, Gatorade	Packets of ketchup, sugar, salt, pepper
CD's	Batteries AA, AAA, C, D
Foot Powder	Baby Wipes, hand wipes
Odor eater foot powder	Gel shoe insoles, S/M/L men & women
Band-Aids, sinus medicine	Advil, Tylenol
Mini-Bibles	Tooth Brushes
Tissues	Disposable cameras

Please give donated items to Pauline Ott or place them in the box in the narthex. She would like to send off a package once every 4-6 weeks. If someone wants to contribute toward postage, that would be much appreciated. Please contact Pauline Ott if you have any questions.

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- 10) **The Christian Sisters' Society:** The Christian Sisters' met Sunday, Feb. 25th after the worship service with 6 members present. Items discussed were a questionnaire for the next retreat, selling raffle tickets in front of Fayetteville Bank March 3rd and the fundraiser on March 23rd and 24th. If you would like to buy raffle tickets, please contact any of the members. The drawing will be held March 24, 2007. Julia Thomas also gave a presentation about her opportunity to go to New York this summer to study with the Jeofrey Ballet.
- The Christian Sisters' Union Retreat will be held on April 21 at the Hus Encampment. A continental breakfast will be served from 8:15 AM – 9:00 AM; Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The fee is \$12 per person (includes lunch); activities begin at 9:00 AM; retreat will end at 3:30 PM. Esther Holz of Houston will lead the study sessions; Esther is a deacon at Willow Baptist Church in Houston. Bring a Bible, pen/pencil and paper. The deadline to register is April 7. Those interested in going, please contact Liz Ripple.
- If you would like to join the Christian Sisters' Society, please contact Beverly Mikeska or Liz Ripple. Dues (\$20) for 2007 can be paid now thru April 29. All ladies age 16 and over may become a member. You do not have to be a member of the church to join.
- 11) **Hus School Encampment 50th Anniversary -** On March 9 & 10, the Hus Encampment will have a 50th Anniversary celebration. On Friday, March 9, a Night Vesper Service will be celebrated at 8:30 PM. Then on Saturday, March 10, a Celebration Service will be held at 10:30 AM. There will be a potluck lunch (bring your favorite dish), volleyball tournament for all ages, domino tournament, fishing competition at the pond and a catered evening dinner. If you plan on staying for the evening catered meal, please RSVP to Jim Baletka at 979-777-6688. On March 24, there will be a spring-cleaning workday.
- 12) **Hus Camp -** Registration forms for the Unity of the Brethren 2007 Summer Camping Program are in the foyer. The deadline for camp registration is May 15. There are several camps for our youth: Alpha Camp (ages 9-10); Pioneer Camp (ages 11-12); Discovery Camp (ages 13-14); and Hus School (ages 15 and above). Any child who wants to go to camp may go – you do not have to be a member of the church to attend. If you know of a child that wants to attend, please be informed that the cost is taken care of by our church.
- There will also be a Brethren Youth Fellowship retreat on July 21 and 22 at the Hus Camp. For more information, contact Rev. Maly or Liz Ripple.
- 12) **Commemorative Church Plate:** We now have available commemorative plate with a picture of the church from the 1890's on the front along with a brief history and a list of the pastors who have served. It is a 9" plate with a 24K gold rim. We are selling them for a \$25 donation. They would make excellent gifts or birthday presents and come in individual gift boxes – ready for wrapping. If you would like to purchase one, please contact Liz Ripple. If you would like to have one shipped to you, please send \$25.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling to FBC, PO Box 11, Fayetteville, TX 78940

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- 13) **Sunday, May 27:** An 8:00 AM worship service will be held on May 27 followed by Sunday School. The Board of Elders approved this change due to the Ellinger Chamber of Commerce festival.
- 14) **Our congregation's 9th Annual Celebration** is three months away, but NOW is the time to plan or make homemade items for the country store and the auction.
- 15) **Church Sesquicentennial Cookbook:** These cookbooks make ideal gifts and contain many special recipes. If you would like to order a cookbook, please let Liz Ripple know how many you would like. We are selling them for a \$20.00 donation of which all proceeds go to the building fund. If you would like to have one mailed to you, send \$20.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling to FBC, P.O. Box 11, Fayetteville, TX 78940
- 16) **Memorials received** – Memorials were made to the building & cemetery funds last month in memory of Anna, Arque and Elo Elsik, Millie Ladewig and Bernice Elsik Miller. If you would like to give a memorial for a friend or a loved one you may do so at any time. Please note it on your check.
- 17) **April Newsletter deadline:** Articles are due **no later than March 25th**, please.

Closing Thoughts:

A Hunger for Holiness

This devotional was written by Jim Burns

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."—1 Peter 1:14-16

Every Christian is called to live a life of holiness. I'm afraid I've been guilty of wanting spectacular results in my Christian life but giving only a mediocre effort. Nobel prizewinner Mother Theresa put it best when she said, "Our progress in holiness depends on God and ourselves, on God's grace and on our will to be holy."

Pray today for a hunger for holiness. Holiness means setting apart or purity. Holiness is the everyday business of every Christian. It evidences itself in the decisions we make and the lifestyle we live, hour by hour, day by day. Andrew Murray said, "The starting point and the goal of our Christian life is obedience." Through obedience to God and His Word your life will become more holy. The goal to live a life of holiness is a lifelong process of sanctification and spiritual maturity.

Some people never strive to become mature believers. The first step of holiness is a willingness to be obedient. The result of holiness is a fuller and deeper life with God. Jesus put it this way. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

From HomeWord, 32232 Paseo Adelanto, Suite A, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>THE DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE BY MAIL OR EMAIL FOR A BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER. Daily Prayer Calendar, Editor 100 Calvin Drive Temple, TX 76501 or email the following to subscribe: dailypraval@hot.rr.com</p>	<p>View or download this calendar on the Unity website: unityofthebrethren.org Click on "calendar" and then "DPC". Subscribe at: dailypraval@hot.rr.com</p>	<p>PRAYER FOCUS Pray about God's will for the Unity of the Brethren. Pray about how God desires to use you to accomplish His →</p>	<p>will in your church and the Unity. Pray about what God desires to be accomplished or changed at the Unity Convention July 5-7</p>	<p>1 Father, I clear my mind of all distractions. Awaken my senses that I may see You working in the world around me. Let me see You in the routine things so that I know how and what to pray.</p>	<p>2 Pray for work crew which will be in Ahuas Honduras March 3-16 to build a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) team house to be used to train Misquitia folks to be disciples. Lord, bless all incl. Ray Griggs/family.</p>	<p>3 Praise God that Hondurans are being called to cross cultural mission work. Pray for the YWAM Discipleship Training School in the Mosquitia in Honduras to be held in May. Holy Spirit, fill them!</p>
<p>4 Dear Father, be real to us today as we praise and worship You. We pray Your Holy Spirit will seek out those whose faith is at a low ebb. Nurture us and give us renewal and refreshment. Glory be to Your Holy name.</p>	<p>5 Pray. Father, reveal Your nearness and draw me into greater intimacy with You. When I fear, reveal Your love and give me courage and strength. When I become distracted by the things of the world, awaken me.</p>	<p>6 Lord, I need Your help in removing the junk in my life that hinders me. Let the assurance of Your power and presence make it possible for me to move quickly on the path you desire me to take. I am ready, Lord, send me.</p>	<p>7 Dear God, give me an awareness of what You are doing. I am Your servant and I want to enter into what You are doing. Use me to fulfill Your purposes on earth, in the church and in my life.</p>	<p>8 Pray for Jill Miller in Mexico, missionary with YWAM. Pray for a downpour of God's power and love in her life...direction for her next assignment and life work. Discernment to choose. Ears to hear.</p>	<p>9 50 year celebration of Hus Encampment. Lord, we praise You for this place where many of our youth made commitments to You beginning their life journey of faith. Bless the encampment and anoint all who serve You there.</p>	<p>10 Father, tomorrow I will worship You with a great expectation that You will be there in the middle of our worship; that you will hear our praise; that You will touch us with healing, power and restoration.</p>
<p>11 Lord, You gave me a new heart when I was born again. Your spirit fills every space in my life. When I was undeserving, Your grace filled me. Help us share the overflow with the world.</p>	<p>12 Father, we hunger for Your Spirit to touch us; to move powerfully in our lives. Help us become excited about each day You give us. May our steadfast faith be a beacon of light to others.</p>	<p>13 Thank God for family, relatives and friends. Pray for healing of troubled relationships. Pray for power to love difficult people. Pray that God empowers you to be a peacemaker.</p>	<p>14 Lord, You are everything to me. May I never cease to delight in You. Teach me to watch, pray and believe. I know that You will never forsake me. Keep me on the right path.</p>	<p>15 Father, You know there are a lot of things going on in my life today. You know each of my many needs. Perhaps, the most important thing I can ask You, Thy Will be done in my life.</p>	<p>16 If anyone reading this is weary, pray about taking some time to be refreshed in God's presence. Father, just as Jesus took time to be in Your presence, allow me to do likewise.</p>	<p>17 Lord, prepare us so that we are ready when you open wide the doors of opportunity to do the work of Your Kingdom. Let us not be fearful or perplexed for we know You will be with us.</p>
<p>18 Just knowing that my God is always present with me makes me want to celebrate today. God, we praise You. You remove our burdens. May our worship reach Your Throne as a sweet fragrance of love.</p>	<p>19 Dear God, search our hearts. Where there is self-doubting, release in us a renewed confidence in Your ability to work thru us; give us faith to fully depend on You knowing thru You all things are possible.</p>	<p>20 Dear Father, help me to place myself where You want me to be. Help me to be connected to Your great love and open to Your blessings. I humbly ask for Your blessing and for Your hand to be upon me.</p>	<p>21 Lord, we praise you for sending us the first day of spring. Just as the earth anticipates the blossoms of renewal, we open ourselves to bring about a spring-like renewal in our spiritual life. Spiritual blossoms!</p>	<p>22 The exact time of Christ's return is not known & we could be living in the last days. Pray faithfully for our missionaries in Honduras, Mexico and elsewhere. Pray the Good News goes to every people group.</p>	<p>23 Lord, Your blessings wait for us as water dammed up for release. Lord, let them flow into my life in order that I may generously pour them out on those around me. Let me be a vessel of blessing to Your people.</p>	<p>24 Father, refresh and energize all in our church who will participate in leading praise and worship to God. We thank You for the gift of song and music through which we can express our praise to You.</p>
<p>25 Father, help us put away petty things in our churches; to be communities supporting one another. May our focus be on learning and doing Your will in the world.</p>	<p>26 Pray often for our missionary families who share the Gospel in many lands. Pray for their vision, wisdom, anointing, health and safety. May they bring glory to Your name.</p>	<p>27 Pray. Lord, whatever I face today and this week, help me to remain faithful and calm in my soul. Lord, guide me through all situations, and any trials and temptations.</p>	<p>28 Do I sense anxiety today? Lord, may we cast our cares and anxiety on You and find peace. Help us focus our attention on how You want us to live each day, one day at a time.</p>	<p>29 Father, You are the God of light. There is some darkness in each of our lives. Illumine what is dark in each of us. Keep us focused on the brilliant light that Your Son, Jesus brought us.</p>	<p>30 Lord, help us see through the confusion and chaos that sometimes surrounds us. Over all of the noise of our culture, hear us as we worship You in truth and in Spirit. Faithful servants always.</p>	<p>31 The Unity of the Brethren 62nd Convention will be held at Wall Brethren Church July 5-7 Begin now to pray for the convention and for God to prepare our leaders to know and do His will.</p>