

Fayetteville Brethren Church News

December, 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:

Dec. 2 & 16 (Sun)	Faith Sharing – 6 PM
Dec. 14 & 28 (Fri)	Praise & Prayer – 6 PM
Dec. 2 (Sun.)	Chili lunch (chili made by Margaret M.) and Greening of the church
Dec. 8 (Sat.)	Progressive Dinner – Heavy appetizers and desserts
Dec. 23 (Sun.)	Christmas Service; Holy Communion
Dec. 24 (Mon.)	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 PM
Jan. 20 (Sun.)	Annual Congregational Meeting after worship service, election of Elders

Pastor's Corner:

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Christmas time is an excellent time to share the love of God in Jesus Christ. It's a time when giving is emphasized, it's a time of joyous celebrations and decorations, it's a time when all people...even non-believers...are immersed in the activities that have to do with Jesus' birth.

In my pulpit thoughts on the last Sunday of November, I shared my hope that we would focus our lives on the Christmas Peace (which is also publicized in Christmas songs, like in "Silent Night": "*Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*") I gave some specific suggestions as to how we can make that particular focus:

>Be the one who shares Christ, and what he means to you, with someone who is not an active church member. Do so in a sensitive, loving way. And, if you feel it would be appropriate, invite that person to some of our church's activities.

>Take on a project of charity to someone, or some family. Many people are struggling with financial difficulties these days, and even if it is their own doing, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't show concern for them. That doesn't necessarily mean a gift of money, or groceries...in fact, quick giving can easily encourage them to become dependent. However, the simple expression of concern by way of a visit, or conversation...is a very powerful witness to them of Christian love.

>Reconcile your relationship with someone with whom you have perhaps had a conflict in the past...that person whom you generally avoid and/or remember some wrong he or she did to you. Reconciliation can be a powerful witness...and, I believe that when it happens in the name of Christ, Jesus smiles.

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>Minister, be a friend, to someone who has lost a loved one recently. Remember, Christmas can be a very sad time for such a person: family gatherings of the past are remembered in powerful ways during this season of the year.

All of these are ways that we, as God's people on this earth, can be witnesses of Christmas Peace to others. When we are able to do that, we will really feel it, and mean it, when we sing "Joy to the World...the Lord is come!" And, even more, others with whom we have shared that peace will sing with us.

My family and I say "Thank you!" to all who have been remembering us in your prayers throughout the year. I know it's happening, and I thank God for our friendship....which wouldn't exist if it weren't for the gift of His Son on that first Christmas Day. Our wishes to all for a Merry Christmas!

Rev. Maly

Prayer Concerns:

Ray and Sandra Stepan and family on the loss of Ray's Mom, Joyce Stepan

Mary Dorsett Gladys McCoy

Barbara Roesler Leara Henneke

Pauline Ott For our travelers

Bill Edwards Mamie Fritsch

Pastor Kay Polasek

Lois Gettler – (Noel Thomas' mother)

Brenda Hammond (daughter of Pauline and David Ott)

Estelle Vasut (mother of Ed Vasut)

Charles and Millie Schiller, Anita Coufal, Delores Coufal, Elenora Coufal and Edgar Dudensing of the Industry Brethren Church

Ed and Edna Krivacka and the family of Mark Krivacka

The Thiessens (our missionary family in Mexico)

Jill Miller

Tim and Jennifer Hall

Angie Shipman

For our military personnel serving in Iraq and other places

Marjorie Kunetka, Jerry Kunetka and Larry Eon of Industry Brethren Church

For our military personnel serving in Iraq and other places

Ginger Marshall's brother Sonny

Tamara and Cynthia – Crystal Thomas' sisters

Mrs. Waldine Oncken – daughter of Henry and Sabina Elsik

Elroy Geisler (brother to Doris Cervenka)

Betty Favor (sister to Lee Roy Cervenka)

Joe Hayek and Evelyn Koehl

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Prayer Concerns continued.....

Rev. Mack McIver

Matthew Boeer and family (friends of the Malys)

The persecuted church

Gregory Maly (serving in the Air Force overseas)

John Ragsdale and his sons

For individuals who are overcoming alcoholism and maintaining sobriety

December Birthdays

8 – Jerry Marshall

9 – Nancy Dorsett

9 – Nancy Vasut

16- LeeRoy Cervenka

Flowers, Communion Set-up:

For December – Ginger and Jerry Marshall -- thank you!

Holy Communion will be observed on Sunday, December 23rd.

Church News:

- 1) **Lunch in December:** There will be a chili fellowship lunch on December 2. And please make plans to attend our Progressive Dinner on December 8 - sign up sheet in the foyer. A fellowship lunch is planned for January on the 27th – Homemade Chicken Noodle soup will be served.
- 2) **Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School on Romans:** is being led by Scott Marshall. Please come and grow in faith as we study God's word.
- 3) **Progressive Christmas Dinner:** The date for our 4th annual Progressive Christmas Dinner is December 8. At the home of Pauline & David Ott from 5:00 to 6:30 we will have heavy appetizers and Hors D'oeuvre; then from 7:00 to 8:30 we will be at Barbara & David Arambula's home to have desserts. Rides and car-pooling will be available – see Ginger Marshall. Please put this date on your calendar as you will not want to miss the fun and food!
- 4) **Church Directories Are In!** Please pick up your new church directory from Liz Ripple. Each family will receive one directory free; extra ones are available for \$5.00.
- 5) **Sunday School for young people:** Martha Dove is leading this class each Sunday morning. Please bring your children, grandchildren and neighbors to this class to learn about the Lord!
- 6) **Faith Sharing: Sunday, December 2nd and 16th at 6:00 PM at church.** Please come and be encouraged as members give testimony to Jesus' presence in their lives. Please contact Jerry Marshall if you have questions.

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- 7) **Men's Prayer Breakfast:** Meets each Monday at 6:45 AM at the church. Please contact Jerry Marshall or Ed Vasut if you have questions.

- 8) **Prayer and Praise Service: Friday, December 14th and 28th at 6:00 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. Please contact Martha or Jerry Dove if you have questions.

- 9) **Ministry to our Military:** Martha and Jerry Dove and Pauline Ott send items collected from members and friends of Fayetteville Brethren Church, and cards to military service people serving in Iraq and a few other places. In November, one of our soldiers returned home from Iraq for a short visit with his family and brought a gift back to the congregation, an American Flag flown over in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I cannot express the honor it was to receive this flag and certificate. Our soldier that gave us this honor is Brian Vidrine. It makes one think, "he really thought of us during his time in Iraq?". All the more reason we need to support our military service and their families.

- 10) **Commemorative Church Plate** – \$25 donation - 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, Texas 78940

- 11) **The Christian Sisters' Society:** The Christian Sister's met on Nov 18 with 9 members present. During roll call, each member said what they were thankful for. The Sisters' will be selling raffle tickets to help raise funds for various projects, missions and charity work. The drawing will be held on March 29, 2008. Raina reported that we can keep up with Jill Miller and other missionaries through links on the church website. The Third Annual Church Ladies' Retreat is February 8 & 9 at Camp Tejas (near Giddings). If you plan on attending, please see Crystal Thomas for a registration form. The cost this year is \$82.00 for one night, two meals & motel room accommodations. Rev Linda Chandler will be the guest speaker. Blaise McKinzie was accepted as a new member and elected as Secretary of the Society for 2008-09. A booth will be set up on Dec 1 at Country Christmas in Fayetteville to sell raffle tickets, cookbooks and commemorative plates. It was agreed to serve complimentary hot chocolate, hot tea and cookies. It was reported that 25 boxes were sent for Operation Christmas Child. There are still 4 lap quilts to finish and anyone is welcome to help with the quilting on Thursdays from 9 AM to 2 PM. A box is set up in the foyer to collect food donations for needy families. There will not be a meeting in December; the next meeting will be Jan 27 after the fellowship lunch. Plans are being made to get Chicken Noodle soup from the Ellinger C of C. If you would like to join the Christian Sisters' Society, please contact Blaise McKinzie or Liz Ripple. **Dues are \$20 and are payable now for 2008.** You do not have to be a member of the church to join.

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- 12) **Board of Elders' Report:** The new church sign should be installed this month. Jane's Joy of Fayetteville has installed new plantings around the new fellowship hall. Donations are always accepted to help fund these and future building projects. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to "Fayetteville Brethren Building Fund." Subscriptions to the Brethren Journal for 2008 for all active family units in our church have been approved.
- 13) **Church Website:** Please visit our church website – FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org – whenever you surf the web. Raina & Rick Longobardi are doing a great job keeping it updated. The website can help keep you informed of what is happening at our church. The church newsletter is posted monthly and there are also pictures of events held at our church. A link to keep up with Jill Miller, a missionary we help support, is also listed on the site. Thank you to Raina & Rick for volunteering their time to this project.
- 14) **Labels for Education:** Please save the pink "labels from education" from Campbell's soup, Swanson's broth and other related products, while you are doing your holiday cooking and baking. These labels are currently being sent to Bethesda Lutheran Home. The residents there develop motor skills by trimming the labels, which are then exchanged for educational equipment
- 15) **Memorials received** – Memorials were made to the Building Fund last month in memory of Anna, Arque and Ello Elsik and Joyce Stepan and to the General Fund in memory of Eddie Vasut. If you would like to make a memorial for a friend or a loved one you may do so at any time. Please note it on your check.
- 16) **Church Sesquicentennial Cookbook:** \$20.00 donation of which all proceeds go to the building fund. If you would like to have one shipped to you, please send \$20.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling to FBC, P.O. Box 11, Fayetteville Texas 78940.
- 17) **January Newsletter deadline:** Articles are due **no later than December 28th**, please.

Closing Thoughts:

A Christmas Prayer

Lord, grant us Your light
that we might
give joy to those who
need you

Grant us Your peace
that we might impart
Your grace and truth
to those in doubt.

Grant us Your love
that we might guide the world
to the Father's heart.