

## **Fayetteville Brethren Church News**

**February, 2008**

*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:**

<b>Feb. 3 &amp; 17 (Sun)</b>	<b>Faith Sharing – 6 PM</b>
<b>Feb. 8 &amp; 9 (Fri-Sat)</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fayetteville Brethren Christian Sisters Retreat</b>
<b>Feb. 10 (Sun)</b>	<b>Holy Communion at worship</b>
<b>Feb. 10 &amp; 24 (Sun)</b>	<b>Praise &amp; Prayer – 6 PM</b>
<b>Feb. 24 (Sun)</b>	<b>Fellowship Lunch after worship Christian Sisters' meeting after lunch</b>
<b>Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 (Wed)</b>	<b>Lenten Services at Industry Brethren Church - 7:00 PM</b>
<b>Feb. 28 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Elders meeting at the church, 7:00 PM</b>
<b>March 5,12,19 (Wed)</b>	<b>Lenten Services at Industry Brethren Church - 7:00 PM</b>
<b>March 23 (Sun)</b>	<b>Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00 AM Breakfast and Egg Hunt</b>
<b>March 29 (Sat)</b>	<b>Christian Sisters' Raffle, Bake Sale, (&amp; Garage Sale Fri. &amp; Sat)</b>

### **Pastor's Corner:**

*"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf...."*  
(Hebrews 6: 19-20)

As we worshipped on January 20<sup>th</sup>, I shared some thoughts about the joy of anticipating a harvest of the fruits and vegetables we are about to plant this Spring. As I did some soil preparation myself, I could picture the big, juicy tomatoes, squash, spring potatoes, green beans, watermelons, and cantaloupes I will begin planting as soon as the weather warms. The Lord has been good for gardeners so far this year: dry weather for preparing the soil, and now rain to provide the moisture that will make the seeds sprout and the plants grow.

Whether all will result as we plan is always a question for gardeners and farmers. And, as we know from experience (as we did last summer), all the planning and effort doesn't always turn into good fruits and vegetables.....sometimes the rains come at the wrong time, or not at all. So, flowers do not set, or the plants don't mature, and fruit doesn't result. But, such experiences don't ever make a good gardener give up: "throw in the towel", as the expression goes. There's always hope in the next growing season.

The writer of Hebrews mentions that eternal hope that in earlier verses refers to God's Covenant Promise...made to Abraham: "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."(vs. 13) Here, hundreds of years after that promise, after all of the ups and downs that the people of Israel experienced, a New Testament writer refers to that promise that God made.

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During the visit that Benjamin and I made to Honduras, where his father, brother, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins (by the score), and grandparents live, it was good to see people who live in what we would call primitive conditions who, as Christians, live with that important gift of Hope. We really were not sure as to whether Ben's grandmother and grandfather (his late mother's parents) would still be living. This, especially his grandfather had broken his hip about six years ago and had been bedridden since.

The family members there, as well as many others in the village of Wawina, were overjoyed to see Benjamin....as he and I were glad to see them. We went to the small house (two rooms, elevated on posts about four feet off the ground) and where his grandparents live, and there was a lot of hugging, crying, and smiling with joy. (The elderly there are cared for in their homes by family members...apparently, quite well.) At the end of the visit with them, as we were leaving, the grandmother said, in her native language, "It is wonderful to see Benjamin every two or three years, but when I go up there (pointing to heaven), I will be able to see him all of the time!

A reminder to all of us as Christians: we all live in Eternal Hope, no matter how sad or difficult our life can be at times. And, how do we know? We know, because God promised.....a life on earth that is full and meaningful, and life into eternity!

***Rev. Maly***

**Prayer Concerns:**

Burdine Divin

Mary Dorsett

Barbara Roesler

Pauline Ott

Bill Edwards

Pastor Kay Polasek

Rev. Maly and Benjamin's trip to Honduras

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

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

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)

Gladys McCoy

Leara Henneke

For our travelers

Mamie Fritsch

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### **Prayer Concerns continued:**

Betty Favor (sister to Lee Roy Cervenka)

Joe Hayek and Evelyn Koehl

The family of Rev. Mack McIver

The family of Jerry Tyroch (husband of Rev. Maly's sister Georgia)

Matthew Boer 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

### **February Birthdays**

3 - Phillip Thiessen

12 - Mary Dorsett

13 - Leland Miller

13 - Ricky Longobardi

21 - Raina Longobardi

### **Flowers, Communion Set-up:**

For February – Margaret Michalsky & Liz Ripple  
Holy Communion will be observed on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Church News:**

- 1) **Lunch in February and March:** In February, a potluck lunch will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>; no lunch in March – we will have a fellowship breakfast on March 23.
- 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) **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!
- 4) **Faith Sharing:** **Sunday, February 3 and 17<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 5) **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.
- 6) **Prayer and Praise Service:**  
**Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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- 7) **Congregational Meeting** – The Annual Congregational Meeting was held during the worship on Sunday, January 20. The meeting was called to order by President Joe Ripple. The minutes from the previous Congregational Meeting and the 2007 Financial Statement were presented and approved. The following were elected to serve on the Board of Elders for 2008: Joe Ripple – Pres., Gary Dorsett – V.P., Liz Ripple – Sec/Treas/, Nancy Dorsett, Scott Marshall, Jerry Dove, Ginger Marshall, Jeanne Butcher and Ray Stepan. Other items discussed were: Ministers, cemetery caretaker, organist and cleaning lady salaries..

The congregation approved revisions to the Cemetery By-Laws. These By-Laws go into effect January 20, 2008. Some of the main revisions include: Cost of plots – members will now pay \$250.00 for a plot, non-members - \$1,000.00; plots must be paid in full before burial; written permission must be obtained from the Cemetery Manager before improvements are made on lots or gravesites; no breakable containers of any type shall be permitted in the Cemetery for use as flower holders; any flag or other decoration, funeral design, cut flowers or any other item placed on lots or graves may be removed by the Cemetery Manager when the same becomes unsightly or interferes with maintenance; any flowers and / or decorations for funerals shall be removed within 7 days following the service; no curbing will be allowed in Section Three, Rows 2 to the road; size of curbing are: for three graves 13 feet by 10 feet; for two graves 8 feet 6 inches by 10 feet; for one grave 4 feet by 10 feet; all graves not vaulted shall be level to the ground - no mounds are allowed; all graves shall be hand-dug unless permission is granted by the manager to do otherwise. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the By-Laws of the cemetery, please call Liz Ripple. The Board of Elders and the congregation of the Fayetteville Brethren are working very hard to maintain the cemetery of our church. Our hope is to keep the cemetery in good shape for many years to come. This would not be possible without everyone's help and cooperation.

- 8) **Congratulations to Patrick Thomas** – Patrick Thomas, 19, son of Crystal and Noel Thomas, was presented his Eagle Scout Rank award, Boy Scouting's highest honor, by Bill Pyle, La Grange Troop 204 Committee Chairman, on January 7. During the course of Patrick's scouting journey, he earned 23 merit badge awards, a World Conservation Award, C.O.P.E training, was a member of the Order of the Arrow, and participated in a 10 day trek at the prestigious Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. His Eagle Scout service project was designing, implementing and supervising the building of an arbor for our church.
- 9) **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

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- 10) **Military Personnel Supplies:** We have added two more names to our list of military personnel that we support. We appreciate any donation you can make to our men and women in the military. Items that we can use are: Visine eye drops, beef jerky, hand sanitizer, pens, paper, envelopes, candy (any type except chocolate), Q-Tips, instant drink mixes, Gatorade, CDs, foot powder, Odor eaters, Band-Aides, sinus medicine, tissues, lip balm, seeds, trail mix, gum, tweezers, nail clippers, baby wipes, hand wipes, gel shoe insoles, S/M/L men and women, Advil, Tylenol, tooth brushes, disposable cameras, and especially LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

Martha and Jerry Dove and Pauline Ott are still collecting items to send to our servicemen and women overseas. Please put your donations in the box by the narthex.

- 11) **The Christian Sisters' Society:** The Christian Sisters met on Sunday, Jan 27 after the fellowship meal. Election of officers was held. Liz Ripple was elected as President and Nancy Vasut as Vice-President for 2008-2010, and Sandra Stepan was elected as treasurer for 2008-2009. Plans were finalized for the upcoming Women's Retreat to be held Feb 8 & 9 at Camp Tejas. The Christian Sisters' are selling raffle tickets; if you would like to buy some, please contact any of the members. The drawing will be held March 29, 2008. Honorary memberships for ladies of the church was approved. The Christian Sisters Convention will be held in Bryan/College Station on April 26. Sandra Stepan was elected as the delegate and Ginger Marshall as the alternate. The next meeting will be Feb 17. If you would like to join the Christian Sisters' Society, please contact Blaise McKinzie or Liz Ripple. Dues (\$20) for 2008 can be paid now thru Feb 29. All ladies age 16 and over may become a member. You do not have to be a member of the church to join.
- 12) **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
- 13) **Memorials received** – Memorials were made to the Building Fund last month in memory of Anna, Arque and Ello Elsik. 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.
- 14) **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.
- 15) **March Newsletter deadline:** Articles are due **no later than February 25th**, please.