

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER, 2016

First United Methodist Church
of Brazoria

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, AT 12 PM!

ny articles received after the deadline will not be included in the newsletter.
Please submit early!

Weekly Announcements

If you have announcements to be included in the bulletin or pastor's announcements, please make sure to submit them by Wednesday at noon of that week to guarantee inclusion for Sunday morning. You can either email to fumcylady@brazoriainet.com, call the office at (979) 798-2220 or drop a copy off during office hours (Monday -Thursday 8AM to 1 PM)

PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

AT HOME.....Debbie Rasco, Dorothy & Roger Kees
Assisted Living/Nursing Facility

Ann De Steiguer.....The Legacy, Bay City, TX

Dan Hutson.....Mount Joseph Senior Village, Concordia, KS

Claude McClendon.....Sweeny House, Sweeny, TX

Kittie Stanger.....Country Village Care, Angleton, TX

Lou Hughes.....Country Village Care, Angleton, TX

If you would like to send a card or letter to any of our homebound members, please call the office (979-798-2220)
or email fmclady@brazoriainet.com

OCTOBER, 2016

Pastor's Message

"[W]e declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).

There's a Greek word that I'd like you to learn: *Koinonia* (pronounced *coin-oh-NEE-yah*). It means "community" or "fellowship" and is the source of our English words "community," "communion," and "communication." It's an important concept. As Christians our lives are supposed to be lived out in community with one another and our triune God. Jesus made this point explicitly,

"[T]ruly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:19-20).

Jesus, Himself, called together a diverse (at times even, divisive) group of disciples. Jesus and His disciples were a community (well, Judas Iscariot, not so much). He calls **us** too. St. Paul found a wonderful way to describe the community of Jesus' followers, the "Body of Christ." To the conflicted and fragmented congregation at Corinth, he wrote,

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

By the way, to Paul, a "member" was a physical part of something such as an arm or leg is to a body. As present-day disciples, we are thus affixed to and interdependent upon one another and Christ Jesus. Literally, we are to be one in Christ. Separation implies amputation. In his book *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote,

"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this ... [w]hether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this ... [w]e belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ."

St. Paul also wrote, *"We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves"* (Romans 14:7). Community, thus, is REAL belonging and implies sacrifice, sharing. If we are one body, then all of its parts/members must do her or his own individual job in cooperation for the whole body (as a unit) to function as it should. Therefore, (to paraphrase the Rolling Stones) "[we] can't always get what [each of us individually] wants." But by God through Christ, "[we] get what we need."

We must be humble and generous enough to allow the community to grow by the Holy Spirit (and ourselves with and within it) rather than to stifle it by our personal, even well-meaning, head-strong-ness. After all, the Church is Christ's body and not ours.

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Pastor's Message
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On October 9th, we'll celebrate World Communion Sunday. It's a Sunday that focuses us on coming together as one body and sharing *koinonia* throughout the world.

Amid the world's strife, war, terror, famine, poverty, oppression and injustice, I believe something's desperately needed. That something is the love and salvific grace of God through Christ Jesus made animate through you and I and others. This community of grace and love begins here and now in historic Brazoria, Texas with you and me. Here's how to start ...

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:3-5).

As we prepare to come to our Lord's Table on World Communion Sunday, let's seek together the mind of Christ within the community of His followers in this His world. *Koinonia* will flourish.

Remember, too, the ubiquitous caution on the toy box, "Some Assembly Required." Let us *assemble*, in unity of heart, mind, soul, and ministry as the Body of Christ to *receive* the Body of Christ and to *share* the Body of Christ with His world, for we "are what we eat."

See you there!
Pastor Don

CHOIR SINGS FOR THE CORRELLS

Following choir practice on Wednesday, September 7th, fifteen members of the choir visited and sang to Donn and Judy Correll. They sang, "Let's Have Some Old-Time Religion" (a favorite of Donn's, and a medley of six songs). They also sang "All the People Said Amen". It was a beautiful time of worship and a blessing for all.

We are sad to say that Donn passed on to be with our Lord on Saturday, September 24th. We will miss him greatly. Judy, our love and prayers go out to you.



Birthdays

- October 1 – Kimberly Bell
- October 9 – Wendy Schaefer
Jaxon Danford
Austin Smith
- October 10 – Dan Hutson
John Danford
- October 14 – Chris Engman
- October 21 – Valerie Wleczyk
Bobbie Kay Brookey
- October 23 – Roger "Doc" Keebs
- October 25 – Cynthia Ericson
- October 27 – Bryce Reed
Betty Trappe
- October 28 – Tim Fitzgerald
Ed Powell
- October 31 – Michael Nichols Jr



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



On Sunday, October 9, 2016, there will be a reception in the fellowship hall in honor of AJ Brown's first birthday. Right after service, there will be a spaghetti luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. All worshippers are invited to attend!



Light the Night



On Monday, October 31, we will be having our traditional "Light the Night" with the children here at the church from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM. We are soliciting candy and bottled water. Please be sure all candy is individually wrapped. We need the treat donations prior to October 31. Youth will need to be at the church at 5:30 PM to help set up. It should be a howling good time!!

Anniversaries

- October 17 – Walter & Betty Trappe

Chancel Flowers



To donate flowers for the altar, please be sure to print the entire name of the donor including first and last name and occasion on the sign up page in the narthex. If no occasion is cited, flowers will be "given to the glory of God".

Youth Group Kickoff
October 2, 2016

On Sunday, October 2, 2016, the youth group will have their fall kickoff at 5 PM in our Fellowship Hall. This is a decisive meeting where plans will be made for the entire program. All youth grade 6 and up should plan to attend.

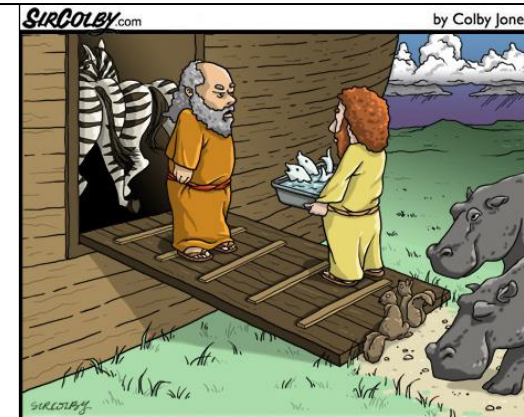
Grocery Receipts

Keep those grocery receipts! Did you know that your grocery receipts from Stewart's Grocery can help support our church? Bring your Stewart's grocery receipts and put them in the box in the narthex. The church office submits them at the end of each month and Stewart's sends us a check for 1% of the total (minus tax)!



Church Discount Program

Take a copy of this Newsletter or a weekly Bulletin to El Chico on Wednesdays or Sundays to receive 10% off your entire purchase!



NICE THOUGHT, JAPHETH BUT PROBABLY NOT NECESSARY