

Church news

Union Hill Baptist

by Mickey Bigbie

Welcome to 2008 with its new opportunities, new challenges and new goals. We, at Union Hill, know that some of you have already been faced with steep hills to climb, sadness, even doubt. Our prayer is that you will depend on the love, grace and comfort of our Lord Jesus Christ to get you through the tough times.

On the first Sunday of the new year, Brother Bill's message was about priorities. As he went through the list, many of us felt an undeniable cringe of guilt, a thoughtful reflection over some less than appropriate choices made and a powerful desire to examine and realign our own priorities. As usual, the message was very apropos, pertinent to the challenges and decisions we will all surely face at some time during the coming year. As we face the New Year, we join you out there in an endeavor to renew our faith and dedication to our Lord during every waking minute.

I know that many of you spent the holidays baking all

kinds of goodies. Me too. On Christmas eve, as my friend and I stood in the beautiful kitchen of a very special young lady, preparing goodies for folks we had yet to meet, hoping that they'd come out "perfect", it dawned on me that life is much like baking. If you mix the right ingredients in the proper portions, life will turn out good and the main ingredient is always plentiful and always available to you. Otherwise ... well, you get the picture, don't you?

Eleven years ago last Sunday, we moved into our new sanctuary. The time has come for a refreshing renovation, therefore the morning and evening services Sunday were held in the gym. If all goes as planned, work may be finished a week early so that we can have this Sunday services in the shiny newly "redone" sanctuary. If not, it's back to the gym, but look at the bright side; metal folding chairs are conducive to standing and singing loudly and then sitting up straight and paying attention! Seriously, assuming that renovation is completed by Sunday, Brother Bill has scheduled an evening baptismal service. If you are a candidate for baptism, you need to meet with him this week.

The women's retreat scheduled to be held January 11th and 12th at the Timberline Camp has unfortunately been postponed, but not to fret, it will be rescheduled and we'll let you know the new date for the anxiously awaited retreat.

We are still in need of volunteers for our Children's Church. If you are available to help out in this area, please get in touch with the church office. For those of us who have been fortunate enough to have served in this capacity, it is truly a blessing. Little ones are energetic and eager to learn.

The group, Palmetto State Quartet will be headlining an eagerly awaited gospel show in Athens on January 19th. Tickets are \$12 each and there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Get on board, it's going to be a great show and you'll really enjoy it.

That's all for this time. None of us know what the new year holds. It may be a deliriously happy one, it may be a scary one and it may have lots of hills and valleys, but with the Lord guiding us daily, we can handle it. Why take a chance on doing it alone? Want help? Come listen to the Word of God. Instructions are easy. See you on the hill.

St. Boniface Catholic

by Sue Beams

Jesus Christ is Lord! Every head shall bow and every knee shall bend in praise. On the feast of the Epiphany, Fr. Eduardo asked us to ponder on the Christmas scene, to meditate on the happenings of the past weeks. He spoke of the Astrologers, the Wise Men who were so filled with love and rejoicing and were so affected by the Christ child.

In the next several weeks we will have the opportunity to ponder and meditate on that joy. Be drawn into the mystery of our faith -- whoever believes in Him shall not die, but have eternal life! In His last commandment before He ascended into heaven, Jesus Christ told the disciples to go to all the world and spread the good news. The Church is in existence to make Him known, loved, and served!

The identity of the Catholic Church is based on that. To be Catholic is to be a missionary. The beauty of the Christian faith is this: In Christ Jesus, the love of God is poured out on all. Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, black or white, the blind and the sighted ... no matter your station or situation in life, this is the Good News. For 2000 years this message has been preached. It will continue to be preached until the end of time!

Fr. Eduardo concluded his stay with us by thanking the parishioners for their warmth and kindness. He spoke of his work with the Seminarians and permanent Deacons as well as the young women preparing under his guidance. He asked us to pray for all those who listen to the Word and are filled with Jesus and called to serve and answer that call.

The second collection was for the Seminarians in the diocese.

Fr. Jesse will return to us to celebrate the Eucharist next weekend. We are praying for

his safe return.

The Altar Society will meet on Jan. 14, 2008 for the first meeting of the New Year! Nita Peterson will facilitate. All ladies of St. Boniface are invited to attend. We will begin discussions on the upcoming 10th Anniversary celebration.

Don't forget to bring you non-perishable food items for the needy in our community. The collection box is in the community room.

Church decorations will be taken down on Friday morning at 9:30 am. We could use some help, so if you are able, come join us.

Congratulations and best wishes to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. We pray for the many that are ill in our parish; may they continue to regain their health.

Please remember in prayer our departed brothers and sisters, may they rest in peace. We pray, too for the men and women in the armed services who are protecting and defending our freedom. May God bless your week!

Chandler F.U.M.C.

by Linda G. Keeling

Sermon: Jan. 13th: "Can I believe it? Myths about Christianity - #1"

Scripture: II Peter 1:2-21
"If your faith were only the size of a mustard seed," Jesus answered, "it would be large enough to uproot that mulberry tree over there and send it hurtling into the sea! Your command would bring immediate results!" Luke 17:6

We often talk about the power of prayer but infrequently about the power of faith. How does one acquire the degree of faith as Jesus spoke? Each day brings an opportunity to grow in faith. Have you experienced long periods without attending Church? Are you active in a Sunday school class or Bible study? If faith does not grow, unbelief, like weeds in a garden, will take hold. If we do not value our faith, we diminish it. Whenever we wish to know anything we go to the expert in that field. If we want our faith to grow, we nurture it by prayer, study and worship. Imagine what it would be like if our faith were strong enough to move a tree? What miraculous

things Christians could accomplish!

Didn't you love the acronym JOY (Jesus 1st, Others 2nd, and Yourself 3rd) that Pastor Russ shared in his sermon last Sunday? What a message to live by in just one word. This was demonstrated in the report that the UM Army participants gave the congregation about their trip over the holidays to work in a family homeless shelter. The joy that showed in their faces when they told of their accomplishments illustrated how great it is to serve others in Christian love.

Remember this Sunday and Monday, Jan. 13-14, will be the "Reviving Our Faith" revival. The program will be from 6 to 7:30 pm each night. Come and join in the wonderful message and music of Rope and Candice Myers. Ask your neighbors to join you in this wonderful experience. Plant a mustard seed and watch your faith blossom.

The Financial Seminar to be taught by Dr. Herb Marlow, will be held the following two Sundays, Jan. 20th and 27th, from 6 to 7:30 pm. The seminar is practical, possible and easy to understand. "It covers all aspects of individual and family finances from how to balance your checkbook, to how to save in spite of yourself." Sounds like an idea

we can all benefit from, to begin the New Year without financial worry. All ages are welcome. Even the young can benefit from learning how to manage their finances, or yours.

The 10 am Bible Study, led by Martha Copeland will start January 21st. This session will be "Invitation to John," by Robert D. Kysar. The Study is open to everyone, so contact Martha or call the church office if you are interested. This is a wonderful opportunity for Bible study with you friends and church family.

Happy Anniversary to: Danny and Dawn Crossley and Preston and Wanda Gamble.

Happy Birthday to: Rob Burch, Sarah Stokke, Chris Cochran, Preston Gamble, Dan Townsend, Helen Reese, James Griffin, Rosie Bussman, David Travis, Russell Goodwin and Judy Pope.

Thought for the Week: "What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead." (Hebrews 11:1). "You can never please God without faith, without depending on him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that there is a God." (Hebrews 11:6).

Martin Springs Baptist

by Jonnie Hopson

Greetings from "The Little Church with the Big Smile!" Hope your new start for 2008 was a great one!

Bro. Russell's message for Sunday was from Acts 4:31-33, "What if and Why Not?"

We had 53 in church. Plan on getting in church Sunday. If not us, then somewhere. It is an important part of life.

Our sincere sympathies to

the family of Betsi Wyatt. May the Lord give you strength and courage in the coming days. God bless you.

The Rev. and Mrs. Larry Koehn, missionaries from Santiago, Chile came to speak to our church Sunday evening. They have been in the mission field for thirty-plus years. His slide show was very interesting. We had a small reception for them.

The youth are already making plans for summer camp! They are planning a trip back to Oklahoma in July.

Remember to keep all sick and bereaved families in your prayers. Also our mili-

tary; they seek our constant prayers.

Those counting birthday candles are Marcus Lewis, Christian Dickerson, Bro. Ike Johnson, Marsha Hoggood, Walter Simmons, Ruth Smiley and Bill Daily. Happy birthday to all.

Bro. and Mrs. David Tidmore were away last week, celebrating their anniversary.

Katie Jennings was in Dallas Saturday celebrating her 17th birthday with a friend, ice skating. Also with her was her mom, Donna Jennings and sister-in-law, Amber Jennings.

Leagueville Baptist

by Church Staff

Happy New Year from Leagueville Baptist Church. We trust that you have had a very Merry Christmas and a good start to 2008.

Bro. Tom introduced the new theme of 2008 for LBC - *The Relationship*. He spoke to us about Religion, Rote and Rut and the importance of having a relationship with Jesus instead of these three.

As always, there are lots of things going on at LBC. "Women Encouraging Women" will be meeting Monday, January 14 at 6pm for Bible Study. We invite all women to attend and know that we will receive a blessing. On Thursday, January 17 at 6:30 pm the "Good Timers" will be gathering at the gym for a night of dominoes. Those attending are asked to bring finger foods.

Congratulations to Michael and Amber Leonard on the birth of their daughter, Charlie Annabelle. She was born on December 28th and weighed six pounds 11 ounces. She is welcomed by her big brother Michael.

The Young Couples Class will be having a hamburger supper at the home of Andy and Michelle Wood. It will begin at 6 pm. Please call Michelle for details.

Our community was saddened this past week with the loss of Betsi Wyatt. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family. We at LBC will be praying for the Wyatt family

during their time of loss.

It seems that this holiday season has not been without loss. We also extend our sympathies to the families of Bro. Bill Bristow, Bro. Joe Wade, Jimmy Ruth Jones, Gerald Hall and Emerson Chapman.

Please pray for these families.

We hope that you have a wonderful week and hope to see you soon. If you do not have a Church home, we invite you to see what God has for you at Leagueville Baptist Church.

Help Us Keep Chandler Beautiful



IT IS A SAD DAY . . . My people and I have lost a very dear and delightful friend this week. Roy Martin, a hard working and faithful Chandlerite who was dedicated to volunteerism in Chandler. He was a permanent fixture at God's Open Hands Food Bank along with his wife Pat. They accomplished amazing things in that place, running it like a "real" grocery store and cleaning up the facility. When they needed to rid themselves of all the cardboard there on Mondays, previously the original boxes were just thrown out in the back for the Keep Chandler Beautiful volunteers to handle on Wednesdays when we were open. Roy stepped forward, knew his way around the cardboard baler (which Brookshires had donated to KCB) and KCB never had to break down another box coming out of the Food Bank. Roy had taken care of this for us.

Roy put up such a fight during his illness period, offering himself for experimental medications in Houston in the hopes others could benefit by the results. How many of us could withstand the rigors of this ordeal. His wife Pat, always at his side, suffered along with him as a caregiver.

Our hearts are heavy, when there are so many people out there who need to step up and lighten the load of keeping an environment running efficiently as Roy has done. Maybe you too will feel a little guilty for not doing your part to make an effort to give up a few hours a month for your community. Think about it. You are needed!

We shall all miss Roy Martin very much.
Kacey



Chandler Brownsboro Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1500, Chandler, TX 75758

Area Award Nominations

for the Annual Chamber Banquet

Nominations may come from any town served by the CBACC that does not already have a Chamber of Commerce.

Nomination for Area Citizen of the Year:

Nomination for Area Association/Organization of the Year:
(These would include benevolence, civic, social or educational)

Nomination for Area Business of the Year:

Nomination for Area Volunteer Fireman of the Year:

Nomination for Area Policeman of the Year:
(This can include reserve officers)

Deadline for entries to be mailed is 1/30/08. Deadline for entries to be dropped off at Chandler City Hall, Brownsboro City Hall, Brownsboro First State Bank, Chamber Office, Citizens State Bank in Brownsboro and Chandler or Murchison Branch of First State Bank of Brownsboro is 2/1/08. Please submit one nomination ballot per person (no duplicates please). Xerox copies will NOT be allowed, original copies must be submitted. Mail entry to the Chamber at PO Box 1500, Chandler, TX 75758.

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