
THE HEARTBEAT

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HEART OF TEXAS MISSION CENTER

There has been a lot of activity in the mission center since our last issue, both at the congregational level and together as a group of churches in mission. Here are some of the highlights:

Rick Maupin was the guest minister for our annual Mission Center Conference, which focused on the mission of the church (inviting people to Christ, abolishing poverty and ending suffering, and pursuing peace on earth). We also had an opportunity to hear from Rick about the latest plans for the 2013 USA National Conference, and news from around his field, which includes Mexico and the Caribbean. Rick also preached at the concluding worship service, and Scott Bushman of the McKinney congregation was set apart as a counselor to the mission center financial officer.

One of the new programs the new budget provides for is an Exploration Group, which will start in early 2012. Several young adults and other leaders from around the mission center have been invited to engage in in-depth study of scripture, theology, and church leadership, with teachers who are experts in their fields. The funding for the first year will be provided in part through a block grant provided by the World Church.

A back-to-school youth event was held at Carrier in September with kids who attended several camps at Sionito this year. With Kyla Garcia's help we played Minute to Win It, held campfire, and had time to eat and catch up. A Halloween-themed event was held at Mesquite in October for junior age children whether campers or not.

Starting the end of October, mission center staff have been presenting a DVD entitled "The Role of Scripture in Discovering God's Will," produced by

the USA Team of Apostles to help the church prepare for the upcoming national conference. Keep your eyes open for the presentation date at your congregation!

As we approach the Season of Advent, may we be richly blessed in preparing our hearts for the celebration of the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may we be filled with hope and anticipation for his second advent. *Maranatha!* Come, Lord Jesus (Rev. 22:20).

Reported by Andy Shelton



Since our last report, the Bureson Congregation has celebrated the marriage of Rocio Gayton and Mark Lewis, marveled at the blessing of Evelyn Hubbard, witnessed the ordination of four (4) new priesthood members – Linda Siy, DJ Moss and Debbie Moss to the office of Priest and Diane Hardin to the office of Deacon, and shared in the joys and concerns of the congregation members. Recently, we've welcomed as guest ministry Chris Beck, Steve Newby, Andy Shelton, Ruth and Terry Shelton and Mike Thutchley.

For Family Night in September, the congregation had a heated *Minute to Win It* competition. Donald Moss bested the field with his incredible skill, speed and agility.

In October, the congregation participated in the Bureson Founders Day Celebration with a Fish Toss Booth. A couple hundred Gold Fish found new homes that day. For Family Night, the congregation met at the Hulan Mall for dinner at the Food Court, Moss Anniversary Celebration and a wild mall scavenger hunt. Competing teams texted photos of found items to the opposing teams. Team Postnikoff won top honors.

November brought the Fabulous Stuff Sale at which Fabulous Stuff was sold to Fabulous People for Fabulous Prices (i.e., we dumped a lot of junk on nice neighborhood people and made nearly \$500).

Burleson Congregation is now on facebook. Just search "Burleson Community of Christ" and you can see photos of recent activities and learn of upcoming events.

Reported by Joe Postnikoff



Mesquite participated in Addressing Mesquite Day on October 8. Around 15 church members with more than 700 residents of Mesquite helped clean up yards or paint 70 homes in Mesquite.

The Trunk or Treat held on October 31st was more successful than previous fall events. There were 12 decorated trunks. The winner was a live Scarecrow from Wizard of Oz. Second place was an operation room and 3rd place was Flo from Progressive Insurance. Fliers advertising the upcoming Live Nativity were passed out to 25 families from the neighborhood. Come join us on December 11, 17, 18, 23, or 24 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in order to experience this beautiful Christmas scene.

Mesquite Social Services receives monthly donations from the congregation. Our goal is to take a full box every month of cereal, canned meat, peanut butter and boxed dinners. We are doing a special drive this month to fill as many donation boxes as possible for November to help with the upcoming demand of the Holidays.

The youth raised about \$60.00 at a fundraiser held on Nov. 12th for the campership fund for 2012 camping season at Camp Sionito.

There are plans for a Peace Garden to be installed on the premises. The first phase was the installation of a Peace Pole on site which was dedicated on September 22, National Day of Peace. The congregation decorated concrete blocks that surround the Peace Pole. The goal is to create a place for the community to be able to come and find Peace in the turmoil of today. Invitation to future dedications will be forthcoming.

Reported by Emily Hidalgo



It has been a very busy fall for the Mineral Wells Congregation. October 23rd was spent as Pink Sunday for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A special pink breakfast was enjoyed by all with ribbon pins for each. An offering was taken for Cancer Research. Also another set of heart shaped pink pillows designed for breast cancer surgery recipients, made by Sally Hummer, was taken to Palo Pinto General Hospital.

The last Sunday of October, Sharing Sunday, the congregation was asked to present their favorite character or story of the Bible using costumes and props. There were very interesting characters portrayed and even some very scary stories! The Youth, ages 13 – 18, were entertained on Tuesday evening October 18th with an amazing Magic Show by Jack White's son-in-law, Chris. He and family were visiting from California. All were fascinated as to his tricks and enlightened by the story of God's spirit working in our lives. Both Youth Groups enjoyed Fall Parties the week before Halloween. There were games with prizes, candy, fortune telling, scary movies (Scooby Doo and Charlie Brown) and food for all. Special thanks goes to Terry, Mike, Ruth, Vicky, and Paul from the Mission Center that came to help with parties. The Youth had a great time!

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, a special service is being planned for Sunday, November 20th with the traditional meal to follow. We offer our praise and thanksgiving for our blessings!

Reported by Joy Ellis



The Richardson Congregation is participating in the Network of Communities, Inc. Food Drive and Santa Program. Each Sunday we are collecting non-perishable food items, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, diapers, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, toilet tissue and Kleenex for the Network Pantry. We are also collecting new unwrapped toys for ages birth to 18 years for the Santa Program. Network serves the Richardson ISD area and continues to meet the needs of our community and to be a major force of change to those who are facing financial challenges and hardship.

Please join us in worship and praise to the God of our Fathers at our Thanksgiving Vesper Service on Wednesday, November 23 at 6:30 pm. We will have a special collection for the Network Food Party during our service. Please remember to bring your non-perishable food items or a financial contribution. Last year we donated 230 pounds of food and \$85.00.

Richardson will also have a Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24th at 6:30pm to pause and reflect on the gift that God gave to us, the birth of His Son, Jesus, the Christ. Please plan to join us in a simple re-telling of the significant events surrounding the birth of the Messiah.

Reported by Sharon Miller



YOU are invited to be part of great things at Sionito! Major improvements are underway including the remodel of the Main Bathhouse, installation of an all-new playground area, and the extreme Kitchen remodel. In addition to attending camps and retreats, you can volunteer at work parties, make in-kind donations, purchase a brick in the *Old, Old Path* or contribute much needed funds to capital development projects. Click the following link to learn more

<http://www.sionito.org/support.htm>

Don't forget to enter the Tom Grubbs Photo Contest. Each of three winners will receive a free week at a 2012 Sionito summer camp or reunion. The entry deadline of November 20, 2011 is swiftly approaching. Click the following link for details

http://www.sionito.org/forms/2011_Photo_Contest.pdf

Nominate someone for the Lifetime Service Award. The nomination deadline is January 31, 2012. Click the following link for details

<http://www.sionito.org/webbaward.htm>

Upcoming Work Parties:

- December 9 – 11
- January 13 – 15
- February 10 – 12

Sionito will host a Silent Retreat with guest Spiritual Director, Marlene Kruger the weekend of March 30 through April 1, 2012. For more information, check out the Sionito website www.sionito.org

There are employment opportunities at Sionito. Click the following link for employment information and job descriptions

<http://www.sionito.org/employment.htm>

See you @ Sionito!

Reported by Joe Postnikoff



We welcomed Jim Price as the speaker for our service on July 30. He was accompanied by his wife Bobbie. We had dinner at the church following the service.

Cathie and Melvin Rolf participated in "Walk in the Park" in memory of their son "Bud". Their daughter Cheyanne came from Austin to join them. They also had a cool, relaxing vacation in North Dakota in the middle of the heat wave in Texas.

Elaine Satterfield fulfilled a long-held wish to see David Cassidy perform when she went with her friend Georgeann to see his show in Mississippi. Then she and her girl cousins took a long weekend, toured 5 states and visited their 94-year-old aunt.

Saginaw food bank, and handed out fire safety information. We met lots of new neighbors and everyone had a blast!

Reported by Ruth Gaskins

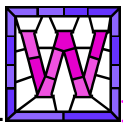
Linda Rose was the speaker for our worship service on August 21 and represented the Mission Center at our business meeting prior to the service. We all enjoyed dinner together at the church following the service.



Rick Maupin was the speaker for our worship service on September 18. He briefed us on the American Conference planned for next year and also told us of some of his experiences in Haiti and Aruba. We again enjoyed sharing a meal at the church following the service. Yes, we take every opportunity we get to have dinner and fellowship together at church!

Ed & Roy Woods attended an engineering function at Oklahoma State University in October. While there, they were able to tour the brand new Stillwater Community of Christ church building, which the group moved into the following Sunday.

Reported by Sandra Woods



WILLOW CREEK

Willow Creek has been working bi-monthly with a group of about 30+ people from Pohnpei. They hold services at one of our members homes in their own language. We have been invited every other Sunday night to come and share God in English to the group. Never have I witnessed so many eager to hear God's message!

Willow Creek had it's first Fall Festival on October 29 on their property. We had games, hot dogs, pumpkin and face painting. Collected cans for the