

# the Lamp



..as a light shining in a dark place.  
2 Peter 1:19

## In This Issue



### Website of the Month

A recommended website that will enrich your Christian walk.



### Ministry Highlights

Church body life is the focus of this month.



### Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special dates along with listings of special events and birthdays for the month of February.

#### MINISTERS

MIKE MCALISTER, PULPIT  
MIKE ROSS, PASTORAL CARE  
JUSTIN BRUNER, YOUTH & FAMILY

#### ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

##### SUNDAY

BIBLE CLASSES 9:00 A.M.  
WORSHIP 10:15 A.M.  
CARE GROUPS 6:00 P.M.

##### TUESDAY

LADIES BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.

##### WEDNESDAY

BIBLE CLASSES 7:00 P.M.

##### THURSDAY

LADIES CLASS 10:00 A.M.

## Trees and Vines



JUSTIN BRUNER

I grew up in North Idaho, which has no potatoes and a lot of trees. Good friends of mine built a house in the mountains. Building their house meant clear cutting the area of trees. A year after they had built the house (during the spring), I was visiting when we noticed a tree with a 4 foot thick trunk. At the top of the tree, new branch buds were growing! The tree had been cut down for a year, but the top of it didn't know that it was dead yet.

I thought of that tree while reading John 15:

“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the

branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (NRSV, 1989).

A relationship with Jesus is like the trees/vines. The fruit that Jesus speaks of in this text is not simply evangelism; it is the end product of a relationship with Him. If my spiritual life is connected to Christ, the fruit (results) are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

However, if I try to live my life disconnected from the vine, I may produce results in my life for a little while, just like that giant tree continued to grow for a little while, but the growth will not last long. The problem is, I do this far too often. I think that I am the one who should be in control, who has all the answers, who can make things work. I forget to rely on Christ, to utilize His strength and to spend time abiding in Him. I get all worked up and excited when I get a pathetic little bloom. If I only knew.

Abiding in Christ means walking with Jesus at all times, leaning on Him in times of struggle, celebrating with Him in times of joy, and depending on Him for all my needs: physical, spiritual, emotional and relational. This does not mean I live up in a room, shut away from the world, so I can depend only on God – it is through the community of the Church that He meets those needs.

God, let me abide in you, grow in you and produce fruit to Your glory. Amen.

Abiding in Christ means walking with Jesus at all times, leaning on Him in times of struggle, celebrating with Him in times of joy, and depending on Him for all of my needs ...



CHAD ADAIR

# Ministry Focus

*Greetings All!*

One of my favorite bible studies is on the Armor of God. We just wrapped up a great Sunday morning study led by Bruce Berger and have also recently been blessed with several of Mike's messages on the same.

Many of us have studied about the Armor of God before. Generally we think about how each piece of armor symbolizes something different about our Christian walk. From Ephesians 6 we read about: the Sword of the Spirit, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Belt of Truth and the Sandals of Peace.

As they say, a picture is worth a 1000 words and one thing about armor is that it paints a vivid visual picture; we can imagine a warrior-like figure standing tall, decked out in all his splendor ready for battle. Each piece of armor brings something a little different to mind for each of us. One comparison might be that the armor represents the uniform of a soldier. A soldier's life is at much higher risk if his uniform is compromised or incomplete. Therefore, the uniform is one of the most important tools for a soldier's survival. In general, we all know that having the proper tools for a job is very important if we are to expect good results.

Without the proper tools, we put ourselves at risk, we are ineffective. Many times we don't know what to do or how we are going to accomplish our task. So the question is, are we functioning with or without our tools or are we trying to make do with makeshift tools?

What are the proper tools for fulfilling our mission as the body of Christ and as members of Friendswood Church of Christ? The Deacons and Elders are meeting regularly to identify and review the proper tools and initiatives our body needs to achieve our mission of sharing the Lord Jesus Christ with our community, educating each person in the word of God, and equipping families to fulfill God's purposes.

As Christians we should encourage each other to continually work on our armor. "Put on the whole Armor of God!"

Blessings To All,  
Chad Adair  
Deacon – Ministries to the Church Body

2nd  
Annual Kids 4 Kids  
Bake Sale  
February 12th immediately  
following services. Your help  
is needed in donating baked  
goods for the sale!

Church Body life



# February 2•0•0•6

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 6 - 8 P.M. FUSION COFFEE HOUSE
5 ELDER'S COMMUNICATION DURING CLASSTIME  SERVE IMPACT MEAL	6	7	8	9	10	11 10 A.M - 2 P.M. FUSION CAR WASH <hr/> 6 - 8 P.M. FUSION COFFEE HOUSE
12 AREA WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE @ SOUTHEAST CHURCH OF CHRIST 6 - 7:30 PM	13	14	15	16	17	18 6 - 8 P.M. FUSION COFFEE HOUSE
19 Fusion FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON \$5 PER PLATE	20 OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENTS DAY	21	22	23	24 Fusion SOUL LINK	25
26 Fusion SOUL LINK	27 MEALS ON WHEELS	28				



4 - Lisa Walker, Shelly Swift  
5 - Chuck Smith, Laura Baulch  
7 - Sandy Jackson, James Walker,  
Stephanie Walker  
8 - Nancy Thomas, Terry Price,  
Delores Smith

11 - Mark McGinn  
13 - Duda Fulgham  
14 - Jane Gamble  
15 - Kim Clifton, Scott Jackson,  
Shona Koester  
16 - Kelly Debner

24 - Scott Westmoreland  
28 - Claire Hollenbeck,  
John Kirklin (2/29),  
Raquel Uceda



## Upcoming Classes



**A Class for Discipling** will be taught by Shirle Smith in Room 12. This class will last for 4 weeks, beginning Sunday, February 12th. The first 3 weeks will focus on what discipling is, God's part, our part as a discipler and the part of the person being disciplined. The last week will be a practice period. Everyone is welcome.

**Sharing Your Faith** will be taught by Adam and Jamie Reeder as a follow-up to the current Sunday a.m. classes on Evangelism. Sharing Your Faith will begin Sunday, March 12th in Room 12, and will last 6 to 8 weeks. This class will give practical help on natural ways to share Christ with family and friends.

**The Patriarchs** will be the subject of the Beth Moore study led by Nancy Thomas, beginning on Thursday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 14. Come join us as we study "The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Come join us for this exciting study in the book of Genesis. You won't be disappointed! Workbooks will be available. Babysitting will be provided.

### Address Updates

Justin, Amy & Allyson Bruner  
693 Rachel St.  
Alvin, TX 77511  
281.795.1260

John Kirklin  
110 Clearview #711  
Friendswood, TX 77546

Mike & Dana Kingham  
2198 Elmer  
Denham Springs, LA 70726

CHRIST · GROWING IN CHRIST KNOWING CHRIST · GROWING IN CHRIST KNOWING CHRIST · GROWING IN CHRIST  
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# THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FRIENDSWOOD

OUR LIFE IS TO KNOW CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED  
AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION  
WE FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSES THROUGH THE JOY OF ...



- REACHING SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN CHRIST
- KEEPING THE UNITY OF CHRIST
- SERVING OTHERS FOR CHRIST AND
- DISCIPLING TO CHRIST



One of the best Christian thinkers and apologists going is Ravi Zacharias. Ravi Zacharias International Ministries ([www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org)) has as its mission statement "To reach and challenge those who shape the ideas of culture with the credibility of the gospel of Jesus Christ." Full of articles, links and resources to stimulate the Christian life. Highly recommended!



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
IN FRIENDSWOOD

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