

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 Focus

Our corporate worship time 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 April.

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.

Making Changes



RON COX

Most of you know that Susan and I are making a career change in our lives. I am leaving a job that I have had for the last fifteen years and moving on to the next phase. Susan and I have had many conversations with many people about this major step in our lives. To be consciously going from a steady paycheck (as I have had for the past 30 years) to an environment depending on pay from consulting contracts for us is a remarkable feat. (In fact some might say we were not conscious at all, but unconscious!)

So what gives us strength to do the things we do? Put simply in one word – Faith! How can we step out and make changes without faith that the end result will be fine? How can we step out and make changes without faith that God will provide? Simply put, again, we can't! Only God knows what is in store for our lives, and only God can see into the future. We have to trust God that He will do what he says. Paul says we put our faith in things not seen.

Our congregation of Christians in Friendswood has seen some changes in the recent past. We have a new building and yet we have seen a decline in attendance. Some say we are retreating - going backward. Others say we are being refined to prepare us for the glorious future of this church. I like the last statement, and in fact I believe that is evidenced by the new members that are arriving weekly to our group, and the tremendous increase in the level of activity I see every week. Truth is, though, we really don't know what the answer is. The greater and more relevant truth is that God does know. Faith that God will provide is the cornerstone of Christianity all over this planet. So what do we know? We know that we have a wonderful ministry of women who do magnificent things for the elderly, the lonely, and the needy of our community. We also know we have a great group of deacons who are working hard in the service to others in our congregation and in this community. We have a fine and active group of young people who are discipling others on a regular basis – not just playing together, but praying together and teaching others.

So, yes we are going through changes. Susan and I, the Church of Christ in Friendswood, and our community, are all undergoing changes. Some changes we make consciously, some are made beyond our control. But no matter what may come, God knows our needs and He does provide. For that we give thanks.

FUSION Student Ministries



JEFF KOVITZ

It's been a year already?! Time does fly! Well, I think that this is a great time to review what are youth ministry is about and what they are doing. Some of it may sound repetitive, but I think that it is important and worth saying again – especially for our new members who may not be familiar with our youth program and as a reminder to our longstanding ones as well. So let's review.

What is *FUSION*? The word *FUSION* as used by our Youth Ministry is actually an acronym that stands for *F*orm, *U*plift, *S*erve, *I*nform, *O*wn and *N*urture. Why does *FUSION* exist? *FUSION* exists to *F*orm mentoring relationships with adults and peers, *U*plift God in prayer, *S*erve others, *I*nform the lost of Jesus' love, to *O*wn my faith and to *N*urture loving relationships with God and others. This really describes what our Youth Ministry is all about, bringing Junior High and High School teenagers from various backgrounds together to worship, encourage, pray, teach, mentor and disciple others for the purpose of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ.

While we are primarily not worried about the numbers (it's all about relationships), we would like to see our youth program grow in size. There are many activities used by *FUSION* to further God's kingdom and create growth. Some of these have changed since last year and some have stayed the same. Activities include **Mosaic Coffee House** (previously 316), Uplift, Retreats, Work Camp, Cell Teams, Summer Camp, etc. While I would like to describe them all to you, there is just not enough space or time to do each the justice they deserve. As I did last year, I would like to focus on only one, **Mosaic Coffee House**.

What is **Mosaic Coffee House**? This is an exciting weekly event, held most Sunday's from 5:30-7:30 PM at the building, where *FUSION* students can introduce their spiritually lost friends to other *FUSION* students and to the very entry levels of Jesus and His saving grace. **Mosaic Coffee House's** aim is not simply to draw in students, but to ultimately reach whole families. *FUSION* students are encouraged each week to talk to their friends at school, work or wherever they might see them during the week and invite them to **Mosaic Coffee House**.

How does **Mosaic Coffee House** work? The event starts with – what else – but specialty coffee drinks (Latte's and Frappacino's), soft drinks and snacks baked especially for this event by members of our church! This is a time where the kids can order a drink, grab a snack and then spend time fellowshiping, playing games, etc., with their friends and meet newcomers, welcoming them into the fold. This all happens in our specially decorated youth room that is transformed with all the ambiance of a real coffee house that includes small coffee tables, music and dim lighting. After about an hour or so, we then gather together for a time of worship, prayer and reflection. Last, but certainly not least, Justin gathers contact information about each student, describes *FUSION* Student Ministries and invites them to other weekly *FUSION* activities like INFUSE, Cell Teams, etc.

While **Mosaic Coffee House** is still fairly new to the teens and their friends this type of event has been shown to be very successful in the past. As *FUSION* students continue to invite more of their friends, more teens from the community will attend, many of which may not have a church home. The current challenge amongst our teens and church body is to get the word out about this event and provide feedback on how we can continue to make it better. An additional challenge to the church body is to support **Mosaic Coffee House** with contributions, baked goods, and manpower so we can use it as one of the many avenues that can draw people through the door. We also need your help making their parents feel welcome, accepted, loved and plugging them into other aspects of the church body. Who knows what Sunday night at the church building might turn into? Might just be the best family fellowship evening of the week. Justin and I both hope that you will be part of it! Blessings on you and your families this month!

Ministry Focus

April 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2-4 P.M. 2 SABA KHONSARI BRIDAL SHOWER <hr/> 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. FUSION MOSAIC COFFEE HOUSE	3	4 6-8 P.M. WOMEN'S FAIR AND SALAD SUPPER	5	6	7 5:30 P.M. FCS AUCTION	8 7:45 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. MEN'S SHOULDER TO SHOULDER BREAKFAST
9 12 P.M. FUSION LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER <hr/> 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. FUSION MOSAIC COFFEE HOUSE	10	11	12	13	14 OFFICE CLOSED FOR EASTER	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY - BLOSSOMING OF THE CROSS	17	18	19	20	21	22 7:00 - 9:00 A.M. FW COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL <hr/> 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. FUSION CAR WASH
23 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. FUSION COFFEE HOUSE <hr/> 6:00 PM INTERNATIONAL DINNER 30	24	25	26	27	28	29
M E A L S · O N · W H E E L S						

- 1 - Jenny Martin, Jerry Burns
- 3 - William Keenan
- 4 - Jared Veatch, Rhonda Warren,
Scott Mitchell
- 5 - Lorena Counterman
- 7 - April Meadows, James
McCullum, Martha McDonald
- 8 - Laura Freeman

- 10 - Esther Speck, Matthew Berger
- 11 - Betty Thompson, David O'Brien
- 15 - Pam Biggs
- 17 - Toby Taft, John Hart, Jr.
- 18 - Carol Jones
- 19 - Megan Taliaferro
- 21 - Carl Kovitz, Jake Watson,
Lindsay Kirklin

- 23 - Beverly Dement, Doris Kovitz
- 25 - Spencer Vowell
- 26 - Ted Debner, Derek Hollingsworth
- 27 - Leslie Smith
- 29 - Mike Wooley
- 30 - Pat Boggs, Brian Main, Jennifer
Hanson



Announcements



Ladies are invited to a *bridal shower* for Saba Khonsari on Sunday, April 2nd, from 2-4 P.M. in the church fellowship hall. Saba is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Pottery Barn.

Women's Ministry Fair and Salad Supper – Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 4th, from 6-8 P.M. at the church building.

Friendswood Christian School Dinner and Auction – April 7th at 5:30 P.M. We need help with desserts. Contact the school office for more info.

Individual ticket prices: Adults – \$10.00 Child's ticket (12 years and under) – \$5.00

Table Sponsorships: Table for 6 – \$100.00 Table for 8 – \$125.00

Come see Lorena or Janet or stop by the office for tickets.

Men's Shoulder to Shoulder Service Project Saturday, April 8. 7:45 - 9:00 AM Breakfast. Service projects 9:00 AM - 12 noon. Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the workroom. See Bruce Berger.

FCS Auction rescheduled to April 7, 2006 at 5:30. We are still accepting donations for the auction. Please contact the school office for more information.

Friendswood Community Prayer Breakfast will be held April 22, 7:30 A.M. at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. Reserve a spot by calling ed Hoskins at 281.482.7239.

Elementary Camp – It's time to mark your calendars again for Summer Elementary Camp. Camp will be held June 5th-8th at Camp Mohawk (yeah!) in Alvin. Informational flyers coming soon.

Happy 90th Birthday to Ted Debner – Let's celebrate with a card shower, games, food and fun. Saturday, April 22 at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Only bring finger foods (this will be your supper), a birthday card, and if you can bring card tables and table games.

Communion Preparers

Albert & Peggy McCullum

Greeters

Bryan & Melissa Watson

Contribution Counters

Esther Scott & Linda Harris

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tombs. They found the stone rolled away from the tombs, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



www.ccel.org is the homepage for the Christian Classics Ethereal Library. It's worth checking out just for that name, don't you think? This a dizzying array of information, ranging from writings of the early church fathers, an encyclopedia of Christianity, a classics library and reference materials. They say there is a lifetime of reading on their site, and I can believe it. It may not be everybody's cup of tea, but take a look at it and see what you think. There is a wealth of things to see there.



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
IN FRIENDSWOOD

2051 WEST PARKWOOD
FRIENDSWOOD, TX 77546
WWW.FWDCOFC.ORG