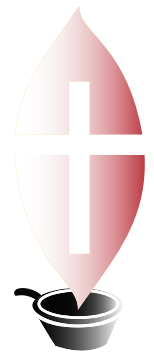


# the Lamp

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



## Strategies for Growth



### Book of the Month

The Lamp makes some humble reading suggestions ...



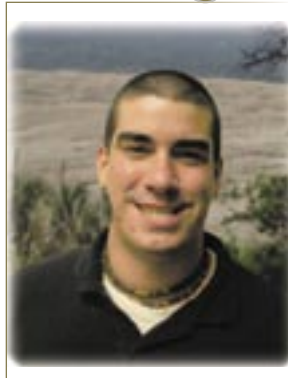
### Ministry Highlights

Elementary Education 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 May.



Justin Bruner

In February, as part of my seminary training, I took a class called Contemporary Culture and Evangelism (which was wonderful) during which I was assigned to do an evangelistic case study of the Friendswood Church of Christ. In my study, I identified five strategies to consider for growth:

(1) **A unified message** of discipleship, hospitality and evangelism from staff, elders, deacons, classes, and the pulpit. Taking intentional time with each adult class, so that every one is being taught the same thing – how to be a disciple and how to make disciples.

(2) **Small Group Leader Training.** Identify and equip small group leaders to facilitate a weekly small group and multiply themselves into the lives of a next generation of small group leaders. Once a small group reaches a peak membership, the group should multiply, so that intimacy and community can be retained. Small groups are the easiest entry point into a congregation because of their non-threatening, relational nature. We must take steps that they may be utilized in that way.

(3) **Ministry Leader Training.** Equip Ministry leaders to mentor others and facilitate ministry teams. This expands the amount of ministry that is being done by multiplying ministers, and removes the temptation of becoming a pastor(paid staff)-centered church. Recruit members to join specific areas of ministry. Part of discipleship is watching people, seeing where their gifts lay, and engaging those gifted people. It is important to remember that people like to be invited and wanted.

(4) **The usage of ministry teams.** Each team will be led by the deacon or ministry leader, who is equipped to mentor their team members. Ministry team members take direction from their Ministry leader and use their gifts and skill sets in the area of ministry they have chosen.

(5) **The institution of hospitality teams.** Families who, as part of a team intentionally focus on the visitors that are coming to the church throughout the week and invite them to begin a relationship with them by taking them out for a meal (and paying) where they can engage in conversation and the beginnings of community building. A second level of hospitality teams will be families who invite families in the community (neighbors, co-workers, etc.) into their homes during the week for meals and relationship building. The goal is to ultimately draw the entire congregation into the work of a hospitality ministry. Hospitality draws our target community into a belonging relationship into which the Gospel can be spoken.

It is my desire that these five strategies be used as thought provokers and conversation starters. While the reality of reaching target families in our community may not look exactly this way, I pray that this is a tool to move toward drawing many sons and daughters into the Kingdom of God. (P.S. I received an "A" on my paper).

### MINISTERS

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.

WEDNESDAY  
BIBLE CLASSES 7:00 P.M.  
THURSDAY  
LADIES CLASS 10:00 A.M.

*This summer is going to be HOT!*

## **Get FIRED Up @ Elementary Camp**

This year's Elementary Camp will be *better than ever!* We hope you will want to be a part of it.

Elementary Camp is designed for kids who have finished 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through those who have finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

It is a time for curious kids to have fun with others their age, learn more about God, themselves, and this year's theme: "***Fruit of the Spirit***".

Camp will be in Alvin at **Camp Mohawk, June 18 – 21** (Monday – Thursday).

**Think of it:** overnighting with friends, swimming, crafts, Bible lessons, games, skits, singing, a cool new Camp T-shirt, canteen, and nightly devotionals. **Doesn't that sound like fun?**

The cost for this 4-day, 3-nite Church Camp is just **\$80** (*if paid before May 27*). Afterwards, the price is **\$85 per child**.

There are opportunities for all ages to participate:

**Campers:** finished 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Counselors:** 7<sup>th</sup> graders +

**Chefs:** All members are invited

**Nightly Devos:** *YOU are invited* to participate in the nightly devotionals at the Camp (located within 25 minutes of the Church building). Devotionals normally begin about 7:00pm.

While much of Camp is self-funded, *donations of food and/or scholarships are very helpful.* Please watch for future notices in our Church bulletin or the Church web site ([www.fwdcofc.org](http://www.fwdcofc.org)). If writing a check, please mark the check for "Elementary Camp".

### **Important Dates:**

#### **June 18-21:**

Elementary Camp!  
(finished 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)

#### **July 8 - 14**

Youth Mission Trip  
Eureka Springs

#### **July 29 – August 1:**

VBS

#### **August – Friday Nights**

Family Movie Nights

Registration forms can be found on the Church web site or picked up from the Church office.

*How long has it been since you last went to summer camp?* Come, be a part of it. You'll be blessed!

## **Children's Church Upgrades...**

Each week we now have a visit from an "unreal" family, a time stuffed with a valuable Bible lesson, songs, prayer time, and games.

If you are between the ages of 3 – 8, we hope you will join us! Children's Church takes place during the sermon time each Sunday. It will be hosted through the end of summer by the Harrells & McGinns.

Parents are always welcome to observe or participate.

A schedule of "squatters" (helpers age 9 – 14), has been posted. These older kids sit with your kids and help keep order.

Children's Church is now held in the largest room available: the Teen Room.

**A Good Change... Bryan Watson** will now be the Deacon responsible for Children's Education. **Mickey McDaniel** will now have oversight of Missions. **Betty Watson** has accepted a position as Children's Education coordinator. **Lori Veatch** held this position for nearly a decade.

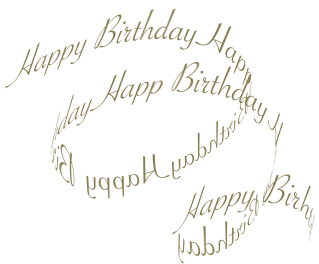
If you want to teach, lead, substitute, host, do crafts, sing, act, handle puppets, decorate, or any of the other way to bless kids, please let **Bryan** or **Betty** know. *We need YOU!*

# *Elementary Education*



# MAY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 NAT'L DAY OF PRAYER STEVENSON PARK 12-1 PM	4	5 10:00 AM AMY BRUNER BABY SHOWER 4:30 PM Fusion FAMILY BARBEQUE
6	7	8	9	10	11 HOMES OF ST. MARK GARAGE SALE 8 AM - 2 PM EACH DAY	12
13	14	15 ASTROS NIGHT OUT 12-1 PM	16	17	18	19 PRAYER BKFAST @ FW COMMUNITY CHURCH 7 AM
20 SERVE LUNCH IMPACT CHURCH OF CHRIST	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



3 - Bob Young  
5 - Omavi Bailey  
6 - Matt Johnson  
7 - Mauricio Main  
8 - Lindsay Watson,  
Shawn Konvicka

13 - Linda Williams  
14 - Buna Vowell  
20 - Dick Scott, Brennan Kelly  
21 - Huberta Mora, Ted Jagen  
22 - Shelby Watson  
23 - Ann Cravens

24 - Elsie Hendrickson  
29 - Rick Foulk  
30 - Cole Kelly  
31 - Jordan Fowler, Cindy Walker

## Announcements

May 3rd / Thursday, 12:00 to 1:00 PM • National Day of Prayer Location: Stevenson Park

Theme: America, Unite in Prayer • II Chronicles 7:14

May 5th / Saturday, Baby Shower Ladies, please plan to attend a baby shower honoring Amy Bruner and baby girl Saturday, May 5th at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Diapers &/or gift cards please. Contact Lindsay Harrell or Courtney McGinn for more details.

May 5th / Saturday, FUSION Family Bar B Q @ 4:30 PM. Join us as we welcome our newest members to the youth group.

Garage Sale Benefiting Homes of St. Mark Friendswood Church of Christ on Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 @ 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. each day. Contact Susan Khonsari (281-482-8431 or cell 713-539-3944) or Peggy McCullum (281-482-7620 or cell 281-793-5857) to arrange to drop off items, to volunteer, and/or for more information.

May 15th / Astros Night out -Join us for Double Play Tuesday

May 19th / Save the date We will offer a training workshop for people interested in teaching or helping with the nursery. Open to ages 12 and up. Contact Nancy Thomas for more details.

May 19th / 7:00 A.M. Prayer Breakfast @ Friendswood Community Church / Speaker: Jerry Ross. Cost is \$5.

Call Ed Hoskins to reserve your spot.

May 20th / We will honor our High School Graduates of 2007 during services.

May 20th / Join us as we serve the meal at Impact Church of Christ

May 21st - 26th / Serve Meals on Wheels

Dear Church Family, Thank you for the beautiful fern and all of the prayers and expressions of concern and love upon my Mother's death.

You are always there. Jane Gamble & Family



Contribution Counters  
Jerry Scott & Debbie Brown

Communion Preparers  
Gary & Lynda Harris

# KNOWING AND GROWING

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH & TRENT O'BRIEN ON THE BIRTH OF  
CONNOR EAGEN O'BRIEN  
APRIL 23RD, 6 LBS AND 19 INCHES LONG

# IN CHRIST

## *Book of the Month • Book of the Month • Book of the Month*

This month's recommendation from the Lamp is The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views, edited by Robert G. Clouse with contributions from George Eldon Ladd, Herman A. Hoyt, Loraine Boettner and Anthony A. Hoekema. Christ is coming again! We know that's true. However, there are differing views within Christianity on how this will play out in history. The Meaning of the Millennium presents the 4 major escatological views (Historic Premillennialism, Dispensational Premillennialism, Postmillennialism and Amillennialism) in an easy to read format that presents the relative strengths and weaknesses of each position. This dates back to the mid 70's originally, but I checked and it is available on Amazon.



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
IN FRIENDSWOOD

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