

THE SENTINEL

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NO ONE KNOWS

Maybe it would have helped if Jesus had simply said, "Read my lips, no one knows when I am coming back except God the Father. Period."

What Jesus said is impossible to know has not even slowed down the number of Christians claiming to have discovered the date. Harold Camping, who confidently predicted May 21 as the date, is only the latest in a long line of date setters. At a very confusing press conference on May 22, he tried to explain that he was right "spiritually"- May 21 did usher in a time of judgment and now Oct. 21 will be the day. Camping had previously predicted 1994 as the year of Jesus' return. He has since suffered a stroke and there have been no new press releases.

Hal Lindsey (author of *The Late Great Planet Earth* in 1970) predicted Jesus would return in 1988. The televangelist Pat Robertson said 1982 would be the year. Do you remember Y2K? Many "prophecy experts" predicted the year 2000 to be the year Jesus would return, linking that with the complete economic meltdown of the world due to a problem with computers. There were literally dozens of books confidently lining up biblical prophecy with this. Of course, the computer problem caused hardly a ripple, Jesus didn't come back, and all these books are in a landfill somewhere. Perhaps the most famous date setter is William Miller, a Baptist pastor, who predicted that Jesus would return between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844. When that period ended, Miller set a new date of April 18, 1844, which also passed without incidence. A follower of Miller, Samuel Snow, did some new calculations and predicted Oct. 22, 1844, as the new date. When that date came and went, the movement splintered with one faction later developing into the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

We may not know when, but the return of Jesus Christ is essential to our hope as Christians. As we have hope for eternal life, we also have hope for our world that things will not always go on as they are, that we can look for a new heaven and a new earth where peace and righteousness dwell. But there is also something very practical about how the New Testament discusses the return of Jesus Christ. Often it links Jesus' return with a call for action, as encouragement for us to get busy now in serving the Lord.

Martin Luther once said, "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." I like that. Even if Jesus is coming back tomorrow, let us go out today and plant our apple trees.

Pastor Rich

The Briarwood Vine

Providing a Natural Setting Where People Experience God's Love
August 2011



Champagne and S'mores Gala/Auction Friday, September 9th

Briarwood Retreat Center requests the pleasure of your company for our annual *Champagne and S'mores Gala*, Friday, September 9, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Paradise Cove at Lake Grapevine, 3029 Midway Road, Southlake, Texas. This fun filled evening will include: dinner, drinks, live auction, silent auction, and music.



Proceeds from the Champagne and S'Mores Gala will go to support our ministry to the thousands of children, youth, young adults, and adults whose lives have been blessed through our summer camp and retreat ministries. Business or formal attire is suggested.

Cost to attend is: \$85 - Single Person, \$150 - Couple, \$750 - Table of 8. RSVP by email to bw@briarwoodretreat.org.

AND — You can ALSO participate by donating items to our live or silent auctions. Do you have a business? Consider donating an item from your business or shop or place of employment. Individuals, youth groups, and congregations can donate gift cards from restaurants or stores or other items. Last year we received items for the silent auctions such as: *Quilts, Wine Basket, Mavericks Jersey*. And we auctioned off items for our live auctions such as: *A Time Share at a Condominium, Cowboys Tickets, and Rangers Tickets*.

What unique item can you donate for our auctions? Remember, the proceeds go to support our summer camp and retreat ministries that benefits thousands of individuals. If you have an item to donate, email us at bw@briarwoodretreat.org or call us at 940-241-2099.

Confirmation Retreat Here We Stand September 16-17

The new confirmation class in your congregation will be beginning very soon. Do you remember in previous years how long it took to move from a bunch of individuals to a cohesive group that works well together? The Briarwood Confirmation Retreat is a great way to move through that process. By bringing your confirmation class to Briarwood September 16 to 17, you can have a great start this year. The confirmation retreat will provide plenty of opportunity for your confirmation class to meet on its own as well as lots of fun time with the whole group. More information, including a brochure and registration form, will soon be available on our web site at www.briarwoodretreat.org.



Leadership Outside the Lines (LOL) Retreat September 20-22 October 14-16

Do you know that definition of insanity? It's doing the same thing over and over again, and expect different results. Well, we've been doing the same thing in many of our congregations over and over again, yet we are surprised when we get the same results - declining morale and membership in our churches.



It's time to change how we are doing things. Our leaders need to be trained to be leaders of the 21st century. This new Leadership Retreat - "LOL - Leadership Outside the Lines" - will introduce you to a new way of being a leader. More information can be found at our web site - www.briarwoodretreat.org.

We believe that God's purpose for Briarwood is to provide a natural setting where people experience God's love.
Thank you for your partnership in the camping and retreat ministry of the synod.

News Briefing

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at www.ntnl.org

August 2011

Celebrating our Ministry together
in the NT-NL Mission Area



THE JUBILEE CENTRE, FREETOWN

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone

The Lutheran church in Sierra Leone is growing at an amazing rate. The enthusiasm of the laity, the dedication of the clergy, and the stirring of the Holy Spirit makes for an unstoppable combination. The expanding reach of the ELCSL is evident in the growing number of congregations, lay evangelists, elementary schools, medical services and training programs. People from all around the capital city of Freetown can literally "look to the hills" to see that there is help and compassion – for it is on the hillside in Freetown that the ELCSL's Jubilee Centre is being constructed as a place of personal, spiritual and community care and outreach. It's their church home.

This fall leaders from across the NT-NL Mission Area will be visiting with congregations and members to tell the story of the *DiscipleLife Alive!* initiative. This initiative holds within it the hope and promise of renewal and revitalization within our mission area as it expands our capacity for mission in northern Texas and Louisiana and fans the flames of expansion in the ELCSL. Already we have gifts and pledges of three-quarters of a million dollars toward the \$3 million goal. One-half of the proceeds (\$1.5 million) will be used to create the DiscipleLife Center for Mission at Briarwood as a leadership training center (featured in the May *News Briefings*). One-third of the proceeds (\$1 million) will be managed by the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund to sustain programming for Leadership Formation in the NT-NL (featured in the July *News Briefings*). And a tithe (one-tenth) of the proceeds (\$300,000) will be used to complete the Jubilee Centre in Sierra Leone as a similar Center for Mission for the ELCSL (our companion church). Our videos tell the story of *DiscipleLife Alive!* Go to www.NTNLvideos.org



Congregational Leadership Academy 2012

Plenty of congregational leaders find themselves wishing that someone would help them understand what they are to do in their leadership role, especially if conflict surfaces. The NT-NL's Congregational Leadership Academy (part of our *Alive! Series*), can help in a couple of ways – (1) learning about congregations as dynamic systems, the management of conflict, and the positive benefits of a mission vision; and (2) gathering with other leadership teams to support and learn from each other. The academy will be offered during Lent, 2012.

Congregations are invited to send a team of 3 to 5 key leaders (including the pastor) to the three sessions of the Academy; each session is a Friday-Saturday. The Academy will be hosted by Zion Lutheran Church in McGregor. Learn more about the Academy at <http://www.ntnl.org/index.php/leaders/leadership-academy-2012>.

FYI (Go to www.NTNL.org)

August Emphasis: Briarwood & Parish Lay Mission Academy

- ❖ **DiscipleLife Alive! Training Celebrations** are scheduled for this fall in multiple places around our mission area to inspire and train congregational leaders in ways to promote DLA! in the congregation. The schedule of Training Celebrations is published at <http://www.ntnl.org/index.php/disciplelife-alive/dla-training-celebrations>.
- ❖ **LOL: Leadership Outside the Lines:** Leadership is something that can be taught, learned and practiced. You can improve your understanding of the skills and concepts of leadership at this "LOL" training event, Sept. 20-21 and Oct. 14-16 at Briarwood. Learn more at <http://www.briarwoodretreat.org/LOL.htm>.
- ❖ **Campus Ministry Referral:** Let the Campus Ministry program at the college where your daughter or son is headed know about your loved one. Just go to <http://lcmastin.org/newsstudentinfo> and fill out the online referral form.
- ❖ **The ELCA Youth Gathering** is returning to New Orleans in 2012 as "Citizens with the Saints". Learn more about this gigantic youth event at www.elca.org/gathering.
- ❖ A "**Glocal Mission Gathering**" takes place in San Antonio on Sept. 23-24. Learn more at www.elca.org/glocal.

The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area of the ELCA – *DiscipleLife: Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus*
To receive News Briefing electronically, sign up at www.ntnl.org or call 214.637.6865.

ORGAN PROJECT UNDER WAY

Our pipe organ has arrived!

Measuring many yards long and weighing several thousand pounds, the Klais Organ was crated and loaded in St. Paul, Minn., on July 14 for the journey to Dallas, and early on July 18, Central Lutheran volunteers and friends gathered to move the pipes from the truck into the warehouse in Garland.

Many thanks to the folks who pushed, lifted, took photos, celebrated and provided refreshments in the blistering heat: Robert Brown, Bert Hart, Todd Buie, Sam Carusi, Anne Monson, David Hopson, Larry McCain, Judy Nash, Amy Kjolrien, Cheryl Smith, Charles Leonard, Robert Sipe, Aaron-the-truck-driver, Ted Steinke and Mark Johnson.

The organ will remain in storage with the Sipe Organ Company as we begin the task of raising the necessary funds to restore, enhance and install the organ and pipes in our sanctuary.

If you feel called to help make the organ project a reality, please contact committee members Anne Monson, David Hopson, Ted Steinke or Mark Johnson.

THANK YOU, thank you to the prayer chain and to all the members for the prayers. Prayer really helps!

- Miriam Thomas.

Barbara Quill, Miriam's mother, adds: "Miriam's doing well. She'll be finished with treatment at the end of August. I want to thank you also." (Miriam's address: 50 Mauldin Farms Lane, Mauldin, SC 29662. MQThomas4@gmail.com

Sing for Joy!

Thanks to all who have helped lead us in worship this summer! And the most important choir of all, you, the congregation, has been in fine form.

If you have been thinking about singing with our Senior Choir, we hope you'll join us for our Kickoff Fajita

Party at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Aug. 24, at Larry and Diane McCain's home, 7007 Hillgreen Circle.

We have some exciting plans and would love to have you join us. You do not have to be a trained musician or an experienced vocalist or even admit to

watching *American Idol*.

If you enjoy singing, you can learn along with us and experience the joy of joining with others to praise God through music. Try it — you'll like it!

-Larry McCain

In the News:

Congregational

President Ted

Steinke and wife,

Patti, were

featured in a

recent White Rock

Lake Weekly story

about Ted and the

40th Bryan

Adams reunion,

which he

organized.

THE SENTINEL VIA EMAIL

Plans are in the making to send the church's monthly newsletter electronically. If you are now receiving news of funerals and special announcements by email, you will receive the newsletter by

email—**unless** you let us know that you prefer to receive *The Sentinel* by regular mail. Or—if you have email and are not receiving the special news announcements, please give us your email address so that

you may be included.

We will continue to mail to you if you do not have an email listing.

If you have comments or questions, call the church office weekdays 214/327-2222.

If you would like to receive a CD of the Sunday morning worship service, call the office, 214/327-2222.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

“Look Mom, we have bread!” a 4-year-old exclaimed the other day at White Rock Center of Hope’s food pantry.

It’s words like these that volunteers hear almost daily as they send thankful clients home with pantry replacements.

Ted Beechler, executive director, says that a recent study showed that hunger in Dallas

has increased 32%. In fact, the amount of food the Center distributed has grown from 103,000 pounds in ’07 to more than 283,000 pounds in 2010. “We will easily surpass 300,000 pounds for the year,” Ted added.

Here are the latest figures for the past month: 576 families helped; 25,000 pounds of food and almost 6000 cloth-

ing items supplied to clients. Rent and utility help totaled \$8657, and volunteers chalked up 3,257 hours. Sales in the Gift Shop continue to grow so keep dropping off those “treasures.”

Needs: jelly, peanut butter, tomato products, mac ’n cheese; queen-size bedding; children’s shoes; men’s briefs, shoes and jeans.



Your gifts the first Sunday of each month benefit White Rock Center of Hope and the Lutheran Home at Clifton, Texas, Central’s Mission Partners.

GLANCING BACK

Our church’s first worship services were held on Sundays in the YMCA building on Commerce St. at Harwood in downtown Dallas in July of 1922.

In December of that year, the congregation was officially organized with 39 charter members. In January 1923, the congregation was incorporated and property was purchased at Carroll and Victor Streets in old East Dallas for \$6,150. A chapel

was built for \$1400 and later, in ’29, was remodeled to accommodate classrooms.

Membership in early 1953 stood at 196.

Three congregations have been established with the help of this congregation: In 1948, 42 members transferred to form Oak Cliff Lutheran Church, and in ’57, 10 members formed the nucleus of King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 LBW Frwy. In 1964, again a

service of farewell was held with 22 members moving to assist in forming Ascension Lutheran in Garland.

In 1960, a chapel and Sunday School unit was constructed at the present site at 1000 Easton Road.

In ’68, the congregation marked the dedication of the new sanctuary and Educational Bldg. Additions of the Youth and Choir rooms and other remodeling took place in 2006.

In the News:
Aven Stewart, son of DeAnn and David, was the subject of a feature in a recent *Advocate* magazine about his artistic abilities.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—JULY HIGHLIGHT

July 25-29, the Fellowship Hall and classrooms resounded with the noise of happy children enjoying the yearly Vacation Bible School with friends –old and new.

Alesia Pearson headed the week-long endeavor, which this year followed the theme of “Shake It Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God’s Recipe!”

Youngsters discovered ingredients for living as followers of God as they joined in craft activities and games.

Thanks to all who took part.

Altar flowers for August are requested by the following:

7-Eugene Straach; Jack and Mary Haynie

21-Mark & Tanya Johnson

28-Bruce & Jean Staffeld; LeRoy and Marlys Wing

SERVICE FOR CELIA MCCAIN

Celia Dene Brooks McCain, 86, mother of Central's Music Director Larry McCain, died July 9. Services were held July 12 at First Baptist Church in Arlington. Pastor Rich assisted at both the funeral and the interment service at Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington. David Lowe of Amarillo, who presented a concert recently at Central, served as organist.

Celia, a native of Bangs, Texas, graduated from Tyler High School. As an adult, she

received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington. She and Durward McCain, who preceded her in death, were married for 61 years.

Celia retired from Arlington ISD after 30 years of service and continued as a substitute teacher for many years. She was a member of First Baptist where she served as a teacher and worked with the library and International Student and Homebound Ministries. She was known

for her interest in the fine arts, her professionalism and her willingness to help and inspire others.

Besides Larry and Diane, she is survived by sisters Ardyce Uzzel of Dunwoody, Georgia, Shirley Harrison of Athens and Dorothy Williams of Spring, and a brother, Bobby Kennedy of Katy.

Larry expressed his appreciation for those members who attended the service and/or visited the McCain home afterward.

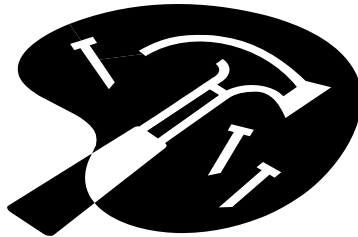


Thank you for all your love and care, expressed in your visits, your calls, your cards and notes, your hugs and your prayers in the passing of our mother, Celia McCain. We have been blessed by and enfolded in God's love through you. Thank you.

Larry & Diane McCain

ADD HABITAT TO YOUR FALL PLANS

Starting Friday, Sept. 9, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Lutheran Men and guests, age 18 and older, will be taking part in another Habitat for Humanity



build project.

If you can help the

team on Fridays in the fall, call Dick Wentzel, 817-913-6709 or email Dickwentzel@sbcglobal.com or contact Mark Johnson, 972-308-1541.

Longtime member Doris Wigley, 85, who has been unable to be active at Central for many years, died July 3 in Dallas. A graveside service was held at Grove Hill Cemetery on July 13.

WORSHIP SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

Have you signed up for serving in August at the morning worship services? Thanks to the following who have done just that:

Altar Guild: Aug. 7-Amy and Rachel Brown. You are needed on Aug. 21.

Greeters: Aug. 21-LeRoy and Marlys Wing and Aug. 28-Vivian Curry. Others?

Communion Assistant: Aug. 21-LeRoy Wing. Can you serve on Aug. 7?

Children's Sermon: Aug. 7-Jennifer Cannatti. Three more Sundays to fill.

Assisting Minister: Aug. 7-Karla Buie. Who will sign for Aug. 21?

Lectors: Aug. 14-Karla Buie; Aug. 21-Marlys Wing

Who will read on the 7th and 28th?

Don Smith, who lines up the ushers, says that youngsters will handle ushering duties in August.

You may sign your name on the sheets by the coffee pot in the Education Bldg.



Have you assisted with communion recently?

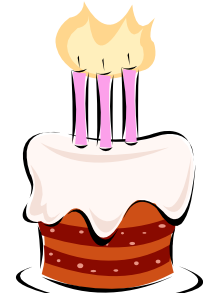
AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to the following:

- 4-Joyce Smith
- 5-Doris Pounds, Mark Buie
- 6-Jeff Pierce
- 7-Katelyn Sefko
- 10-Harry Potcinske,

- Sara Jutton, Sarah Kuchera, Lauren Graham
- 12-Barbara Hunt
- 13-Allison Cannatti
- 15-Mary Whisler, Jacqueline Amacker
- 16-Bee Oldfield, Katherine Koble

- 19-Mario Montejo, Lucy Fisk
- 21-Melanie Futrell
- 26-Claire Melby
- 28-Susan Wrobbel
- 29-Anne Monson, Heath Staffeld
- 31-Bradley Graham



REMEMBERING THAT SPECIAL DAY

Jack and Mary Haynie will celebrate their 63rd anniversary on Aug. 7, and Bee and Charlie Oldfield's 63rd takes place Aug. 18.

It's 56 years for the Greens-Max and Marilyn on Aug. 14.

Bruce and Jean Staffeld recited vows 45 years ago

on Aug. 26. On Aug. 16, three couples were wed: Larry and Nancy Anglin, 42 years ago; Pastor Rich and Doris, 36 years ago; and Mark and Jan Moody, 25 years ago.

Mark and Tanya Johnson will observe their 16th on Aug. 19, and Amanda and

Bobby Galloway will mark their 15th on Aug. 14.

Ten years ago, LeRoy and Marlys Wing exchanged vows.

Mike and Abby Moore will celebrate their 9th on Aug. 6, and Chad and Mar-lana Staffeld, their 7th on Aug. 14.

Secrets of A Happy Marriage from 2 Brides

Bee Oldfield (small town girl) advises: "Marry a country boy. I turned Charlie down the first time he proposed because I was expecting a knight in shining armor on a white horse and Charlie had neither armor or horse."

Mary Haynie: "Lots of forgive-and-forget and saying 'I love you' at least once every day."

BAPTISMS IN PAST AUGUSTS

- 2-Ben Hart
- 6-Sally Gorrell
- 7-Katelyn Bastien
- 10-Dean Galloway
- 11-Eudell Spitzer
- 12-Liam Stewart
- 13-Bruce Staffeld
- 14-Jordan Soose
- 18-Sarah Kuchera
- 23-Karen Spitzer
- 24-Michael Samples, Robert Krause
- 26-Blake Jutton
- 27-Bryce Staffeld
- 28-Kristy Hamlin
- 20-Lucy Fisk
- Also in August: Timm Wikelski



www.centrallutheran.org

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

1000 Easton Road
Dallas, TX 75218

Pastor Rich Pounds
Phone: 214-327-2222
Fax: 214-320-8501
E-mail: centrall@swbell.net

M I S S I O N S T A T E M E N T

**G O D C A L L S U S T O P R O C L A I M T H E
G O S P E L A N D D E M O N S T R A T E
C H R I S T ' S L O V E F O R A L L .**

HERE AND THERE

Polly Allison (sister of the late Olena Rountree) called from her home in Pottsboro in late June. Said she was sorry to learn of Vi Cage's death. Only a few years back, Polly was driving to Dallas and picking up Olena for Dorcas Circle meetings and pot-lucks.

"To all who sent cards, phoned or remembered me in prayer during my recovery, thank you."

- Ed Childs

"The Lord is not ready for me yet so he gave me a Pacemaker to mark my 93rd birthday! With all the uplifting cards and phone calls from

the dear people at Central, and Pastor Rich's visit to lift my spirits, I am now doing well and will be able to attend church soon."

Love, **Ruth Jones.**

Jim and Priscilla Thompson wish to say a final goodbye to Central's congregation.

"Although we moved to Maryland last January, we had not joined a local congregation until July 3. We are now officially members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Rockville, MD. We have many fond memories of our years at Central, and wish the best for you. It sounds like exciting things are happening with the purchase of the pipe organ. If anyone travels to the Wash-

ington, D. C. area, feel free to call us-301-933-2036, or drop in; we have a spare guest bedroom – 12717 Epping Terrace, Silver Spring, MD. We're within walking distance of the Glenmont Metro station. . . As some of you know, Priscilla has had a recurrence of cancer. We would appreciate your prayers as she continues treatment."

"Money won't buy happiness, but it will pay the salary of a large research staff to study the problem."

From Mario Montejo's collection of favorite quotes.

Once again, Swallow Lane neighbors **Janice and Chuck Dean** have made a donation to the church, thanking us for allowing their Blue Heeler to enjoy a field to practice his ball-retrieving.