

**April 2008**

**Glimpses of Faith Newsletter**

**Faith UCC  
970 N. Loop 337  
New Braunfels, TX 78130**

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### **The Jeremiah Wright Controversy**

Unless you've been living in a cave these last few weeks you are no doubt aware of the controversy surrounding retired UCC pastor Dr. Jeremiah Wright. We have all seen those 30 second video clips from two of his sermons over his almost 40 plus years as a pastor.

I found myself disagreeing with the timing and tone of his sermon the Sunday after the events of 9-11. I do believe he is right about the necessity for this country to examine its foreign policy decisions and determine their impact on our becoming a terrorist target and the global spread of terrorism. Let's face it our support of the Shah of Iran and giving arms to the mujahadin in Afghanistan when the Soviets were there are undoubtedly contributing factors, not to mention our nearly unqualified support of Israel and the invasion of Iraq.

I do find it ludicrous to think that the U.S. government is somehow using the AID's epidemic to destroy African Americans in this country. Then again I am a middle class white man and that makes a difference on such matters. As

such I can not fully understand the pain and suffering that African Americans went through prior to the Civil Rights movement and to some extent experience even today.

His most controversial remarks, the ones that got the most airplay, were his "God damn... America." Now it is easy to have a knee jerk patriotic reaction to this and become immediately angry about it. Maybe something like this happens in the African American community over even unintended slights by whites. It's something to ponder.

I am quite confident that he was not suggesting that God damn everything about America, all the good that exists in this country. I am confident about this because did you know that Jeremiah Wright served in the United States Marines? Did you know he served as a cardiopulmonary technician on a team that performed the surgeries on President Lyndon Johnson at the National Naval Medical Center? Did you know he has been bestowed with three presidential commendations? I didn't know this. Certainly the national media didn't choose to lift these facts up about Jeremiah Wright.

The sermon in which the most controversial remarks appeared was in part about the fact that nearly one in four black males ages 35-44 have been in prison at some point in their lives, a rate far higher than that for Hispanics or whites of the same age. This percentage is a scandal to this great country. One might well say that it is even a damnable state of affairs, which we don't seem to be doing nearly enough to eradicate.

Some other facts that were overlooked by the national media from Dr. Wright's pastorate are as follows:

- Trinity UCC grew from 86 members to 8,000 members in Wrights 36 years as pastor
- Trinity UCC has sent 42 people to seminary and were ordained under his mentorship
- While pastor Trinity UCC has given \$1,000,000 in scholarships to high school students for college
- Trinity supports seminary and ministry opportunities for blacks in Brazil, the Caribbean and throughout Africa.
- Dr. Wright has 4 earned degrees from Howard University and the University of Chicago Divinity School. He has nine honorary degrees and in March was honored by Brite Divinity School in Dallas/Fort Worth.

These are just a few highlights from Dr. Wright's long and fruitful pastorate at Trinity UCC. Check out their website for all the programs and missions the church supports. I can truthfully say that most ministers would be lucky to accomplish a tenth of what Dr. Wright

has accomplished for God and for humanity. I count myself among them. I am proud to claim Dr. Jeremiah Wright as a UCC colleague in ministry.

Pastor Scott



Dear Pastor Martin, Frank & Karen Dietz, and Congregation,

Words cannot express how thankful we are to you all for allowing us to use your fellowship hall in the past and continuing to allow us to use your sanctuary for our meetings. I feel that our Savior has led us forward in our endeavor to preserve what is unique to our area, to protect our quality of life and to encourage responsible growth. He has given us resources to use to the benefit of all people and to His glory.

God bless You,  
Ron & Joyce Evans  
Citizens Alliance for Smart Expansion

#### **April is Child Abuse Awareness Month**

**Last year over 700 cases of child abuse and neglect were investigated in Comal County, and there are more than 80 children currently in foster care. The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. Children are our future and communities must look out for their welfare. Protect children. Comal County Child Welfare Board**

**Cross UCC to Host  
Ascension Day Service  
Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.**

The Women of Cross UCC, Friedens UCC and Redeemer UCC worship annually on a rotation basis on Ascension Day.



This year, Redeemer UCC's Women Fellowship and Evening Circle would like to extend an invitation to other churches in our area to join us for Ascension Day Worship, Thursday, May 1 at 2 p.m. Following the worship service we will have a time for fellowship and refreshments.

Blessings to all,  
The Women's Fellowship  
and Evening Circle  
of Redeemer UCC  
Zuehl Community



*Women of the Church*

**Circle of Faith to Meet  
April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.**

Faith Church women are welcome to join the Circle of Faith for a sack luncheon, worship, fellowship and program on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Faith Church member Don Green. Mr. Green is one of our newer members and brings to our faith community a wealth of experiences and gifts. We look forward to learning more about his life journey! A short business meeting will follow our lunch. Tickets for the Spring Luncheon will be available at the meeting.

**Church Women --Comal County  
Spring Luncheon  
Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
New Braunfels Presbyterian**

All are invited to attend the annual CWCC Spring Luncheon to be held this year at New Braunfels Presbyterian Church, in the Activity Center, at 12 Noon. The church is located near Landa Park, parking off Wood Street.

Each year this luncheon benefits one of the helping organizations here in Comal County. This year's offering from ticket sales will be given to the ministry of St. Jude's Children Center of Comal County.

Tickets for the luncheon may be purchased any time before April 14<sup>th</sup> from Lois Swander. Each ticket donation is \$7. There will be a speaker from the recipient organization and door prizes will add to the fun. This promises to be a time of information and much fellowship with church folk from our community.

# WINE ON THE RIVER

- TASTE WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD ( 8 DIFFERENT WINE ENVIRONMENTS )
  - SAMPLE HORS D'OEUVRES FROM SOME OF THE LOCAL FINEST RESTAURANTS AND CATERERS'
  - ENJOY THE SILENT AUCTION OF MANY TREASURES
  - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
  - MINGLE WITH FRIENDS
- OVERLOOKING THE BEAUTIFUL COMAL RIVER.

TICKETS:

◆ Advance - \$35.00

Day of Event - \$40.00

**WHEN :**

**04/20/2008**

**2:00 -- 6:00 P.M.**

**To Benefit the New Braunfels  
Community Service Center  
\*\* Helping the Less Fortunate  
People in Comal County \*\***

[www.wor.nb-csc.org](http://www.wor.nb-csc.org)

**HELD AT \*THE WURSTFEST  
GROUNDS\* ON THE COMAL  
RIVER**

**Tickets for the above even can  
be purchased from Michele  
Gilbreth.**



## **Men's Breakfast and Church Workday Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Men's Fellowship will host a breakfast at 8 a.m. on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be having an all-church workday following breakfast. Everyone is invited to help! Come for breakfast and stay to: paint, clean, do yard work, etc. It's time for the church spring-cleaning project!

## **Second Annual Blessing of the Animals Service Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>!**

We had a lot of fun last year, even though we had to move into the fellowship hall for the service. Bring your pet mouse, fish, dog, cat, or iguana for this very special service. We hope to hold this service outside, behind Baese Fellowship Hall, under the oak tree, weather permitting.



## April Birthdays!

### Ushers:

- 4-6 Don Green, JoAnn Brown  
Richard & Kathy Leber  
4-13 Michele Gilbreth, Merle Kosler  
Robert & Emily Deninno  
4-20 Tim & Jennifer Marlow  
Sheri Haynes, Albert Hennig  
4-27 Evelyn Krueger, Karen Kramm  
Sol Fuss, Bruce Rdgley

### Liturgist:

- 4-6 Curt Leonhardt  
4-13 Betty Triesch  
4-20 Jan Hunley  
4-27 Kathy Leber

### Council Rep:

- 4-6 Joe Ward  
4-13 Michele Gilbreth  
4-20 Tim Marlow  
4-27 Nicole Perry-Clark

### Communion Assistants

April 6<sup>th</sup> Richard & Kathy Leber

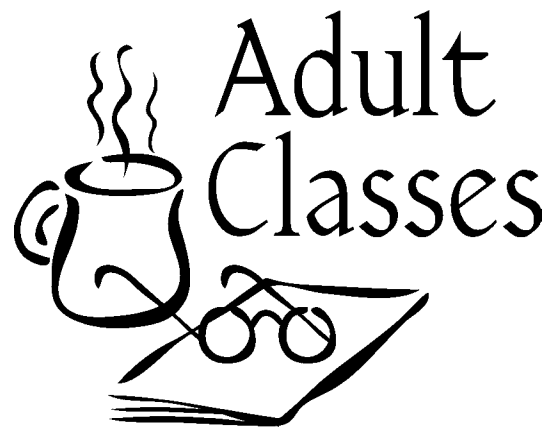
### Acolytes:

- 4-6 Joe Ward  
4-13 Cody Allen  
4-20 Larissa Hunley  
4-27 Bruce Ridgley

### Greeters:

- 4-6 Jo Ann Brown  
4-13 Julia Allison  
4-20 Albert Hennig  
4-27 Sol Fuss

- 4-7 Tim Gilbreth  
4-11 Albert Hennig  
4-19 George Dare  
4-21 Doris Cecil  
4.21 Tylor Leonhardt  
4-23 Michelle Perry-Clark



## Rev. Peter Olson to Teach A Six Week Adult Sunday School Class Beginning Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>

We had such a good response and attendance during the last six week class that Rev. Olson taught that we asked him if he would do it again. Peter has agreed to do so beginning Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> at **9:15 a.m.** Please be on time, since the class ends at 10:15 a.m. to transition to church. Hot coffee will be available. Pick up a cup and head to class.

This class will take us through the end of the Sunday School season.

**The pastor's cell phone number is 830-515-2866. Please write this number in your church directory.**

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### April Calendar

- 4-8 Pastor/Parish Relations  
Committee 5:30 p.m.
- 4-9 Lectionary Study Group 9 a.m.
- 4-9 Women's Circle 11 a.m.
- 4-11 Eden Home Gala 6:30 at the NB  
Convention Center
- 4-12 Men's Breakfast / Church  
Workday 8 a.m. to ???
- 4-13 NO POTLUCK THIS SUNDAY
- 4-13 Nic Kapellas' Service 2 p.m.
- 4-17 Lectionary Study Group 9 a.m.
- 4-18 Comal Women's Spring Luncheon  
Noon at NB Presbyterian
- 4-18 SOS 1-4 p.m.
- 4.20 Blessing of the Animal Service at  
regular worship time, 10:30 a.m.
- 4-20 Wine On the River
- 5-1 Garden Club uses Baese Hall
- 5-1 Ascension Service at Redeemer  
UCC at 2 p.m.

### **Kiva Update**

Our very first loan of \$200 to a group of women in Chiapas, Mexico has been paid on time and in full. This money is now available to be used for other loans through the Kiva micro-lending program!

We currently have 8 other loans of varying sizes from \$25 to over \$300. These loans have been made to men and women in the following countries: Iraq; Kenya; Pakistan; Nigeria; Peru; Mexico; and Bolivia. Each of these loans are at various stages in the repayment process. ALL of them are being paid on time!

At the present time Faith UCC has \$1000 in the Kiva program. If you would like to be part of this mission project let us know!

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

Strengthen the Church Offering-  
Pentecost Sunday (May 11-Mother's  
Day)

Strengthen the Church Offering is an  
offering that builds the church's future.

This offering:

...funds development of new churches  
and renews existing congregations

...supports programs for youth and young  
adults, nurtures current and future  
leaders of our church

...this year for the first time, it will assist  
the God Is Still Speaking Ministry and  
its message of UCC inclusivity.



Our Conference retains 50% of this  
offering for New Church Development.  
50% of all strengthen the Church  
Offering gifts stay here and help us to  
develop new UCC churches. The other  
50% is sent to the national UCC. This  
year it is hoped that increased gifts to  
STC will help fund more God Is Still  
Speaking media outreach, sharing with  
others who the UCC is and how  
inclusive our invitation is. If you want  
to see more God Is Still Speaking work,  
give generously.

If you want to see how your offering can  
make a difference then note this. The

Still Speaking Ministry bounced onto the  
scene four years ago to spread the UCC  
message of Christian inclusivity - to  
welcome the spiritually homeless,  
empower the disenfranchised and renew  
the faithful.

Since then, nearly 90 churches  
representing more than 8,500 members  
in 40 states have joined the UCC. This  
offering can make a difference in getting  
out the message of who we are and how  
we welcome others to be a part of our  
great church.

In 2007 27 churches received this special  
UCC offering (total was \$6,531.11).  
Remember even if your church does not  
take a special offering for Strengthen the  
Church, you can give a directed gift for  
STC.

(from South Central Conference)

**To all the Friends of Eleanor  
Kniker...**

The Conference has been informed of  
the death of Eleanor Kniker, wife of the  
Rev. Dr. Charles Kniker. Eleanor died  
on March 19 in Ames, IA, from  
complications from a fall. She was  
diagnosed in 1998 with a benign brain  
tumor and for the past ten years  
underwent numerous surgeries and  
medical procedures.

Her husband, the Rev. Dr. Charles  
Kniker, served as college professor,  
President of Eden Theological Seminary  
in St. Louis, MO and for two years as  
Pastor of Faith UCC-Bryan, TX. The  
Conference does not have an address to  
send condolences cards.



## Slumber Falls Camp Schedule

June 8-14 Roaring Rapids  
ages 15-18

June 8-14 Eco Camp ages 10-12

June 15-21 Streams of Faith I ages 9-11

June 15-21 Rocking on the River  
(Music) for ages 13-16

June 23-26 Days at the River I (Day  
Camp) for ages 7-10

June 29-July 2 Springs Alive for  
ages 7-8

June 29-July 2 Oma & Opa Camp  
(Grandparent/Child)

July 6- 12 Streams of Faith II ages 9-11

July 7-10 Days on the River II (Day  
Camp) ages 7-10

July 13-19 Living Waters ages 13-15

July 13-19 MAD (Music, Art, Drama)  
ages 15-18

July 20-26 Streams of Faith III  
ages 9-11

July 27-August 2 Creeks in Creation  
ages 12-13

September 26-28 Generations Camp  
(Family Camp) All ages

(Ages are as off June 1<sup>st</sup>)

**Camp is a wonderful experience for children, youth and adults. It renews a person body and soul. Faith Church has funds available to make it possible for you or your children to go.**

Contact the pastor for further information on the camp or these camp scholarships. There are also camp brochures on the table in the narthex with dates, times and info.



## NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

### Conference Registration Deadline is April 15

1. Registration deadline is April 15
2. \$25.00 deposit for each NYE attendee
3. Total registration of \$365.00 is due by 6/27. If you pay in full now, the cost is \$345.00.
4. Cost covers accommodations and meals. Transportation is not included. We are exploring bus transportation and will have more info later.
5. For more info:  
[www.sccucc.org/youth](http://www.sccucc.org/youth)
6. Register through Laurie Doyal-Lampman; contact her at rlampman4609@esagelink.com or 830.914.4609 or 324 Triple L Lane, Marion, TX 78124

