

**August 2008**

**Glimpses of Faith Newsletter**

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

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## **Faith Church: Where Do We Go From Here?**

Faith Church has been here for over 40 years now. It has survived ups and downs throughout its 40 plus years. Through faith, planning, and commitment Faith Church moved from temporary housing, to what is now Baese Hall to a beautiful sanctuary. All through this time Faith Church has offered a moderate to progressive approach to the Christian faith in a community weighted towards the more conservative version of Christianity. Given this, we have a very important role to play within the Christian spectrum in this community, a role few other churches can fill.

All of us are aware of the need to reach out and attract fellow travelers on the Faith Church journey. This will strengthen Faith Church as a religious institution but more importantly it will strengthen our part in God's kingdom work in this community and beyond. The focus needs to be on the later, not the former. Much of our anxiety about the future of Faith Church is focused on our institutional survival. I believe our views would be radically changed if we shift our focus to "What can God do

through Faith Church and through us as individual Christians?" This shift moves us from worrying about "members" and "finances" to a much healthier "How can we carry out our Christian mission?"

This is precisely the question we will be exploring on August 9<sup>th</sup>. We realize that taking most of this Saturday is a serious commitment in this day and age but such a question cannot be answered in one hour meeting. Indeed, much

exploration of this question will need to take place long after the "vision quest" on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

I suspect to answer this question we may all have to move out of our "comfort zone." Abraham answered God's call to head for the promised land, simply trusting that God would reveal it to him when he got there. Jesus called several of the disciples to leave their fishing nets and become "fishers of men." What does God want us to do next year, five years from now, ten years from now?

One thing is for sure it will be an adventure! We have the assurance that we will have fellow travelers on the journey and that God will be with us.

## Don's Corner

*"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season."*  
*II Timothy 4:2 (NIV)*

It was my turn to provide devotions for our camping club that chilly Sunday morning in northern Ohio, and it was no big deal. We'd sit around our campfire warming our hands around after-breakfast coffee, 10 or 15 old friends, and soon Ernie, our president, would pray. Then I'd read a Bible passage, ask a couple of questions about it, and we'd be off and running. After each one contributed his or her two cents worth, I'd pronounce the benediction.

That's how it always went, but not today. Somehow word got around that whole campground that we were having a "church service". Other campers started arriving, and soon a decision was made to adjourn to a sunny hillside carrying lawn chairs.

"What're we going to tell these people?" I asked Ernie, pointing to a line heading for the hillside carrying lawn chairs.

"What do you mean 'we'?" he chided. "I'll open up with a prayer, and then you're on your own."

The hillside was packed with maybe 60 impromptu parishioners, but it looked like 100 to me. This was no discussion group, and I had never preached to anyone, let alone strangers. The time for prayer definitely had come, and when Ernie said "Amen" I was still bowed, thumbing frantically through my Bible School quarterly for inspiration.

I don't remember much about what I said, but I know what I did. I asked the Bible questions I had planned, then answered each in turn by trying to imagine how various members of our original group might answer. We sang a couple of familiar hymns a cappella, heavy on the soprano. Then came the benediction, and it was over.

People actually complimented me on the service. "The Lord works in mysterious ways," I responded.

Prayer: Lord, help me to be ever prepared in my heart to speak or act in your holy name.

Don Green



## Church Potluck and Program Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>

We will have an all church potluck after church on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>. Following the potluck there will be a program on the Church of South India presented by S. Persia Reena Kumari. Reena is a SALT worker at Slumber Falls Camp this summer and is from Vellore, India, where she works at an orphanage, The Village Farm, started by UCC missionary Pauline King almost 40 years ago.



August 1 Joshua Coble  
August 2 Joel Coble  
August 14 Karen Dietz  
August 17 Frances Henning  
August 25 Grace Perry-Clark  
August 30 Nancy Foster  
August 30 Kenneth Triesch

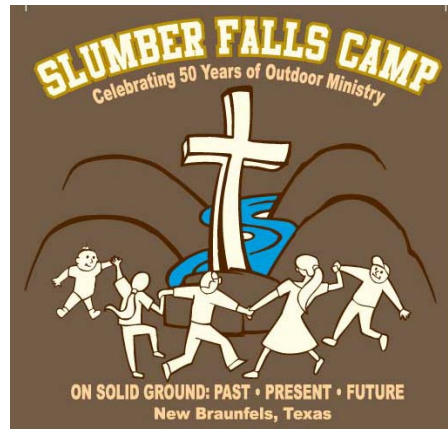
September 3 Dorothy Rest  
September 5 Eloise Gregg  
September 6 Kimberly Kramm  
September 7 Steve Foster

(If you are not listed, let us know so we can add your birthday to the list.)



## Slumber Falls Reunion and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration August 15-17<sup>th</sup>

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Slumber Falls Camp will take place August 15-17<sup>th</sup>. The camp hopes to have as many as 300 people show up for the celebration. Early registration is a must. A number of special events are planned:



- Rafting on the Guadalupe River Saturday 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. \$25 (leaves from the camp)
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at the McKenna Events Center 6 p.m. Saturday
- Dancing in Gruene Hall after the banquet \$20

(Childcare for the banquet and dancing at Gruene Hall will be available at Faith UCC)

For a more complete schedule of events look at the brochure on the kiosk in the church narthex and on the information table.

## June Financial Report

### General Fund Balance 5/31 \$2,246.48

Income & Deposits	June	8,022.36
Disbursements	June	5,393.27

**Balance 6/30/08 \$4,875.27**

### Building Fund Balance 5/31 \$2,692.41

Income & Deposits	June	1,096.50
Disbursements		1,000.09

**Balance 6/30/08 \$2,788.82**

### Memorial Fund Balance 5/31 1,924.00

Income in June	00.00
Disbursements in June	00.00

**Balance 6/30/08 \$1,924.00**

### Savings Acct. Balance 5/31 7,791.71

Income	00.00
Disbursements	00.00

**Balance 6/30/08 \$7,791.71**

### Loan Balance (Sanctuary) \$37,277.65

Respectfully submitted:

Terri Armstrong  
Financial Secretary



Please consider additional contributions on a monthly basis so that we can meet our monthly note on the sanctuary.

## Youth From South Central Conference Attend National Youth Event

Two buses of youth from South Central Conference attended the National Youth Event at the University of Knoxville in Tennessee. The South Central Conference Board of Directors approved giving \$2,000 to help cover the costs of the buses. This is your OCWM dollars are work!



Three thousand youth from all across the country will be attending the National Youth Event July 24-28<sup>th</sup>! It will be a life transforming experience for them. We are grateful to the clergy, youth leaders and adults who have accompanied the youth on this trip and to all who helped make this all possible.

Rev. Stephen Sterner, of Local Church Ministries reminds us "This week, over 3000 youth, young adults, and leaders are gathered for National Youth Event in Knoxville, Tenn. This is an exciting opportunity for education, fellowship, worship, and transformation for all who attend. It is an experience that can help shape future leaders for the church and the world. We invite prayers for the participants as they travel to and from Knoxville as well as during the four days of the National Youth Event."

## August Worship Assistants

### Ushers:

- 8-3 David & Sally Pena;  
Richard & Kathy Leber  
8-10 Sheri Haynes; Norma Gilbert  
Bennie Harst; Richard Hitz  
8-17 Betty & Sherry Heinemeyer  
Bruce Ridgley;  
8-24 Don Green; Jennifer Marlow  
Robert & Emily Deninno  
8-31 Darlene Stephens; Albert Hennig  
Judy Anderson; Jan Hunley

### Liturgist:

- 8-3 Tim Marlow  
8-10 Jim Gossett  
8-17 Julia Allison  
8-24 Curt Leonhardt  
8-31 Bonnie Stark

### Council Rep:

- 8-3 Sheri Haynes  
8-10 Tim Marlow  
8-17 Michele Gilbreth  
8-24 Nicole Perry-Clark  
8-31 Bonnie Stark

### Acolytes:

- 8-3 Cody Allen  
8-10 Bennie Harst  
8-17 Brady Storms  
8-24 Don Green  
8-31 Larissa Hunley

### Communion Assistants

- 8-3 Richard & Kathy Leber

### Greeters:

- 8-3 Dorothy Rest  
8-10 Bennie Harst  
8-17 Betty Heinemeyer  
8-24 Emily Deninno  
8-31 Jan Hunley

If you cannot serve on the date/dates shown, please try to find a substitute. If that is not possible, call the church office as soon as possible (625-6761).



## A Second Kiva Loan is Paid OFF!

Patricia Ruiz Casino has paid off her loan on time. Patricia started her business after going through a difficult divorce. She writes, "I needed money and at the same time I needed to distract myself in something I really enjoyed and that is how I decided to begin in the business of crafts, and that worked very well for me." She now not only has a strong customer base but also teaches others how to make crafts and start their own businesses. Patricia's business is located in Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Faith Church joined with 34 other's to make the \$925 loan to Patricia Casino. Now that the loan has been paid back we will be making another loan with this money. This is the beauty of the Kiva micro lending program. The money is recycled to help more people. If you would like to expand our efforts in this area write a check to the church and in the info line write "Kiva".

## Church Considering Offer From Mr. Ice to Lease Space

The Church Council is considering an offer from Mr. Ice to lease a small piece of land next to our Common Street entrance. They would place an ice vending machine there. All utilities, insurance, maintenance, etc. would be taken care of by the company. Several other sites are being considered in New Braunfels and there is at least one machine in San Marcos.

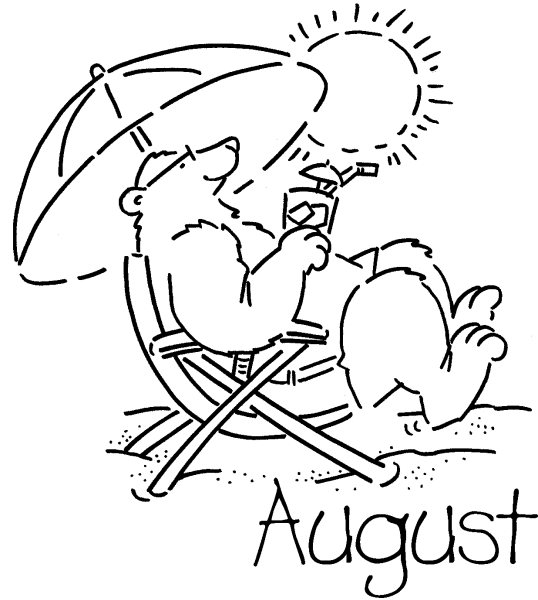
In exchange for leasing this unused piece of land, which is far from the church, we would receive monthly rent and or an initial lump sum payment. We are still in negotiation on this so exact figures cannot be published at this time.

A picture of the vending machine is on the kiosk. You can also go to [icehouseamerica.com/about.html#](http://icehouseamerica.com/about.html#) to see a promo on the vending machine. The council is hoping to settle this in the next week to ten days. The council is asking for any input that members of the congregation might have. If you have any input or questions please speak with any council member or the pastor.

### “What Young People Can Tell Us

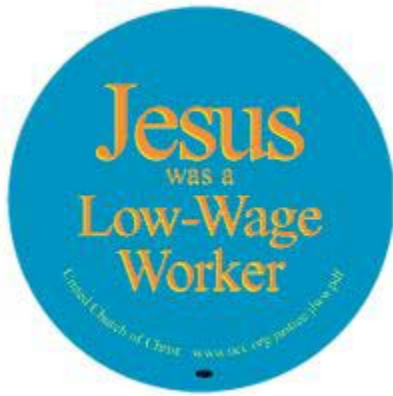
This is a free presentation by  
resenter

uesday, August 1<sup>th</sup> noon to 1 p.m. at



### Church August Calendar

- 8-3 Communion at 10:30 a.m. Sunday service
- 8-8 Set up for Vision Quest at 4:30 pm
- 8-9 Vision Quest 8:30 gathering; 9 a.m. start; concludes 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided
- 8-10 Church service 10:30 a.m. Potluck and program after church
- 8-15 SOS Food Bank 1-4
- 8-15-17 Slumber Falls 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- 8-17 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 8-22 Eden Home Dinner 6:30 p.m. (ministers and spouses)
- 8-23 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 8-27 Church Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 8-31 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



## Labor Day Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup>

Labor Day was established to honor workers and commemorate their contributions and struggles – past and present – to bring justice and dignity to the workplace and to society. The Sunday of Labor Day weekend, Labor Sunday, is an opportunity for congregations to lift up workers and issues of justice in the workplace.

Conditions and events at work absorb our energy, occupy our minds, and impact our psyches when we are both at work and home. Some workers confront particularly unjust situations – unsafe conditions, extremely low pay, racism, sexism, and other abuses. All workers, whatever their position in the hierarchy of jobs, may suffer from indignities, large and small, that cripple their spirit and hinder their journey to greater wholeness. The Church, the body of Christ, is called to seek out and accompany people wherever they are. So the Church must also be in our offices, factories, stores, farms, schools, and all the places where people work.

As Isaiah reminds us, we are called “to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo

the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke” (Isaiah 58:6).

*(The UCC website article on Labor Day)*

On Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate the contributions of workers and lift up their struggles in our Sunday worship service.



# LABOR DAY

## A Prayer for Labor Day

**God of Exodus, you went to your people in Egypt, saw their pain and set them free—free from the bondage of their oppressor. You walked with them to freedom. Walk with all of us who struggle for dignity in the workplace, for a living wage and for fair benefits. Bless all of us as we continue working to bring forth Your vision—a vision of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy. AMEN**

*Adapted from a prayer service prepared by Rev. Nancy L. Anderson, Minnehaha United Church of Christ.*

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### **Ground Zero 9/11 Church to Be Rebuilt**

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church stood next to the World Trade Towers in New York. The church was totally destroyed in the disaster. All that was found were three wax candles; a twisted candelabra, two torn icons and a charred Bible.

The church continues to worship in a church in Brooklyn, while planning to rebuild the church. This is complicated by the ongoing plans for the whole site. None the less they have been assured by

the state that the church will be included in the overall plans.

St. Nicholas is a small congregation but they realize that thousands will visit the church because of 9/11. They are planning on including an interdenominational center that will help visitors reflect on the spiritual side of 9/11 and how such events can be avoided in the future.



