

July 2008

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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

830-625-6761
www.faithuccnb.org
Rev. Scott B. Martin
Cell phone 515-2866



No Religious Test For Public Office

The U.S. constitution of 1787 makes no mention of God and its sole reference to religion is found in article six which declares **“no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.”**

It is amazing that the writers of the constitution included this. In their day eleven of the thirteen colonies had religious tests to hold public office! The following states only allowed Protestants to vote and hold office: Rhode Island; New Hampshire; North & South Carolina; Vermont and Georgia. If you were Catholic or Jewish you were out of luck. Maryland and Pennsylvania required its officials to be Protestants who believed in God and the divine inspiration of the Old and New Testaments. Delaware insisted that its officials profess “faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God blessed forevermore.” Several states insisted that officeholders acknowledge that God was a “rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked.”

Not all agreed with the idea of religious tests. New York’s 1777 constitution strictly forbade it. Jefferson’s home state of Virginia also forbade religious tests. James Madison, in Federalist #10 stated that the zealous pursuit of religious opinions, far from leading people to “cooperate for their common good,” causes them to hate each other and disposes them “to vex and oppress each other.”

Not surprisingly the “no religious test” clause stirred great controversy. There was great fear that the government would be taken over by Catholics or worse yet Quakers, with their pacifist and antislavery views! Henry Abbot, a delegate to the North Carolina convention, warned that “the exclusion of religious tests” was “dangerous and impolitic” and that “pagans, deists, and Mahometans might obtain offices among us.”

The wisdom of the original framers in this matter must be supported. This 4th of July let us give thanks for the great wisdom of the framers of the constitution.

Have a great 4th of July!

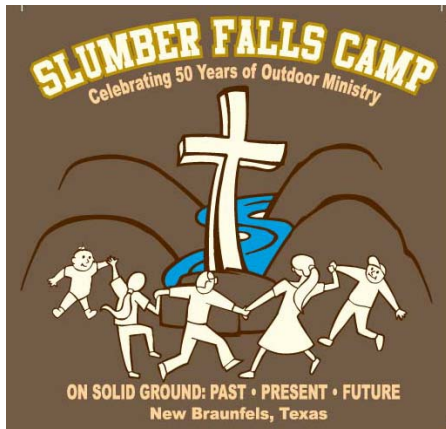
All Camp Reunion and 50th Anniversary Celebration August 15-17th

The 50th anniversary of Slumber Falls Camp will take place August 15-17th. 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)
- 50th 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.



Our thanks to Merle Kosler for sewing 25 school bags and to Emma Lou Bizer for organizing the project!

480 School Kits Collected at the Conference Annual Meeting!



On behalf of Church World Service I want to express our deep appreciat

ion for your generous gift of 24 CWS School Kits. Your participation in the South Central Conference Mission Project, as part of the recently concluded Annual Meeting in Dallas, will make a difference for young people needing basic supplies for their education.

I was personally pleased and gratified to meet many of our SCC friends and colleagues at the Cathedral of Hope. The support and partnership of SCC congregations 0- through this project, CROP Hunger Walks, and Tools and Blanket Sundays – makes a difference to friends and neighbors near and far.

Barbara and Jim Forcher of St. John's Church Robinson, did a wonderful job of coordinating the Conference Mission Project from its start right through to the shipment of 480 School Kits to the CWS warehouse. Thank you so much! We have received word that the kits arrived safely, were wrapped in plastic for added protection, set on pallets, and placed in inventory. Current shipments are pending to Dominican Republic, Liberia, Sierre Leone, and Zimbabwe.

Sincerely,
Howard Hartman
Regional Director CWS

First Kiva Loan Repaid and Loaned out Again!

Our first loan for \$200 to the Jastic 2 Group in Ixtapa, Mexico has been completely paid back. The loan was used for three business': a café, clothing sales and plastic container sales.

This \$200 has now been re-loaned to the Tzolojya Group in Solola, Guatemala. All of the members are Kachikel Maya, Guatemala's largest indigenous group.



One woman, who makes beaded jewelry, won the "best woman owned small business in Guatemala for 2007." She now has five other artisans helping her.

Other group members are using the loan for other business ventures: purchasing American, Guatemalan, or traditional clothing for resale; tortilla shop; purchasing vegetables for resale; making tamales and chuchitos to sell.

One of the women dreams of seeing her business grow to the point where it will generate sufficient income for her to open a retirement account at the bank.

Others are hoping to grow their businesses so that the income will support their children's education and development.



Our Kiva Loan Fund has recently received a \$100 donation. This money has been loaned to Eufemia Gonselz Dominguez. She started her business because her husband's earnings were not enough to meet living expenses. She worked in a "maquiladora" (factory) for a time but they did not pay her a full salary. Unable to meet her three small children's needs she started her clothing sales business.

Her loan to improve this business was \$400 for six months. This means that our \$100 is 25% of this loan. Others making loans to Dominguez are from Scottsdale, AZ; Honolulu, HI; Arlington, VA; San Diego, CA and even Sandnes, Norway!





Worship Assistants

Ushers:

- 7-6 David & Sally Pena;
Michele Gilbreth; Sheri Haynes
7-13 Karen Kramm & Evelyn Krueger
Norma Gilbert; Albert Hennig
7-20 Bennie Harst; Bruce Ridgley
Jo Ann Brown; Kathy Leber
7-27 Courtney & Lois Swander
Joe & Mikki Ward

Liturgists

- 7-6 Bonnie Stark
7-13 Karen Kramm
7-20 Mikki Ward
7-27 Tim Marlow

Council Rep:

- 7-6 Bonnie Stark
7-13 Joe Ward
7-20 Michele Gilbreth
7-27 Nicole Perry-Clark

Greeter

- 7-6 Dorothy Rest
7-13 Evelyn Krueger
7-20 Bennie Harst
7-28 Courtney Swander

Communion Assistants

- 7-6 Michele Gilbreth
Sheri Haynes

Acolyte

- 7-6 Cody Allen
7-13 Joe Ward
7-20 Richard Leber
7-27 Larisa Hunley



- 7-3 Meta Heinemeyer
7-4 Chrissy Gossett
7-9 Kai Perry-Clark
7-10 Karen Kramm
7-13 Adam James Gossett
7-13 Will Gossett
7-18 Cindi Richter
7-22 Ellen Scott
7-24 Russell Erben
7-25 Abigail Foster

Something to Think About

“If you don’t like something, change it.
If you can’t change it, change your
attitude. Don’t complain.”
Maya Angelou

Scientists estimate it takes 21 days to
form a new habit. If so it will take 21
days to get rid of a bad habit and
develop good habits. Start NOW! It can
be done! Your life can change for the
better beginning today!

Program on Germany Karen & Frank Dietz At July 13th Potluck

Karen and Frank Dietz recently returned from a visit to the EUK churches in the Baden-Baden area of Germany. They were part of a delegation from the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference UCC.



In 1981,
Synod
relationship

General
declared a
of full

communion (Kirchengemeinschaft) with the Evangelical* Church of the Union (EKU). The EKU was an historic union of the Lutheran and Reformed traditions in Germany. It was the ancestral church of many German-American pioneers who founded the "Evangelical Synod in the United States"—one of the UCC's antecedent traditions.

In 2003 the EKU joined with other "United" and Reformed churches in Germany to create a larger body: the Union of Evangelical Churches (UEK). The commitments of the 1981 declaration of Kirchengemeinschaft will be transferred by the action of both churches to the new UEK.

Relationships between the U.S. and German churches are broad and deep. A number of UCC congregations partner with Evangelical parishes in Germany, and there are formal exchanges between UCC Conferences and their partner Landeskirchen (regional churches) of the UEK. Youth and clergy exchanges are common. The leadership of the two churches frequently make common

cause on issues of international relations and social justice.

- While "evangelical" in the U.S. is often understood to mean a certain conservative tradition of Christianity, in most other languages the word simply means "Protestant." The first Christians to call themselves "evangelical" were the churches of the Lutheran Reformation in Germany; most Protestant bodies in Germany call themselves "Evangelical," "Evangelical Lutheran" or "Evangelical Reformed." Luther chose the word because it closely identified the Reformation with the Gospel: the Greek word for Gospel is evangelion, so an "evangelical" church can be understood simply as a "Gospel church."

Redeemer UCC Zehl

August 2nd Craft Show

On August 2nd Redeemer UCC will have its annual Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year 27 vendors have registered! Come early for breakfast tacos. Stay for lunch. King Ranch Chicken will be served. All the profits from the Craft Show will go to two mission projects: Back Bay Mission and Redeemer's India Mission.

Mark your calendars now and lets support our sister church and the good work they are doing. Get a carload together and save gas!

Family Village Farm

Kasam, India

If you were lucky enough to be in church on Sunday June 29th you got to hear S. Persia Reena Kumari talk about the Family Village Farm in Kasam, India. The orphanage was started by long time India missionary Dr. Pauline King in 1969. It has grown tremendously over the last 40 years.



Individuals and churches can sponsor children at the Family Village Farm for \$30 a month, through the UCC Child Sponsorship Program. A commitment to sponsoring a child helps to provide housing, clothing, food, education, and basic health care until the child reaches 18.

There are a number of other places where one can sponsor children as well in East Asia and Africa; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and Europe; Africa; and Southern Asia. For more information on this contact the pastor or contact our Global Ministries directly at wcm@ucc.org or phone 216-736-3222.

First Annual Faith UCC

Vision Quest August 9th

For about the last year, the Church Council has been exploring ways to increase the vitality of our worship and our worship numbers. The Church Council began this process by having Bonnie Stark organize a task force called RAVE, and in the last few months we have had speakers like Rev. Rita Wilbur and Rev. John Roberts speak at Council meetings. Using what we have learned from surveys of the congregation and our speakers, the Council feels it is now time to come together as a congregation and develop a vision for our church in the coming year.

On August 9, 2008, a VERY IMPORTANT workshop will be held where the MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH WILL DECIDE what they want our Church to be for ourselves and our community in the coming year.

It cannot be emphasized enough how important it is that every member be part of this process. It is as important to our church to have participation as voting is to our country's political process. The tentative time for this workshop is 9:00 - 4:30, and lunch will be provided. Please, please mark your calendars for August 9th and be with us as we move into the future. If you have any questions about this workshop, you can contact Nicolle Clark at 830-627-7177 or by email at nclark29@yahoo.com.

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

July 2008



Summer Postcard Action

The time to write postcards, or one-page notes, to people who need our help. There are a number of women in Mexico who were assaulted and raped by federal and local police who are looking for justice. Amnesty International has included a phrase in Spanish which may be used, if you wish. There is a man in Belarus who was sent to prison for five and a half years because he belonged to a different political party than those in power. Included is a phrase in Russian which you may use. There is a group of women in Zimbabwe who are human rights defenders who have been beaten and injured by the police. And there are

a group of Chinese women called Tiananmen Mothers whose children were killed or injured during the military crackdown who call on the Chinese authorities to end persecution of victims and their families. For doing this, the group is harassed, detained and discriminated against.

If you have a few minutes of time and money for some 95 cent stamps, you can send encouragement and hope to these beleaguered people. I have made some copies of these pages and have placed them on the table in the narthex. Then you for each one of you who write and send a message of hope.

Betty Triesch

