

**SCC Annual Meeting
Mission Project
You can help!**

As part of our wider mission we are encouraging churches to assemble Church World Service School Kits, which will be distributed to school children in impoverished areas of the world.

School Kit Contents:

1-pair of blunt scissors
3-70 count spiral notebooks 1-30 cm.
ruler (12 inches)
1-hand held pencil sharpener 1-large
eraser

6-new pencils with erasers on top

1- box 24 count crayons



School Kit Bag

Place all items inside the sewn cloth bag
(1/2 yard material needed)
Cut two pieces of fabric (13" x17").
Place the two pieces together, right sides

together and sew a 1/2 down one side, across the bottom and up the other side, leaving the top open. Turn the bag so the seam is on the inside. Turn under 1/2" on the top edge and press and turn under 2" at the top edge to form a hem and stitch. For handles: Cut two pieces of fabric 4" x 22" Fold in half one of pieces with the right sides together. Stitch with a 1/2 seam allowance and turn inside out. Fold wrong sides together; topstitch close to edge. Press. Repeat for second handle. Turn under raw edges and stitch to the top of the bag. Finished bag will be approximately 12" x 14" Put all school items in the bag.

NOTE: For those who don't want to sew bags, we will have some bags already sewn. But if you have lots of kit contents, please call Barbara Forcher in advance of the meeting so we can have an adequate amount of bags.

For more information contact Project Coordinator: Barbara Forcher, a member of St. John UCC-Robinson, TX: 254.662.6151 We need to collect \$2.00 for each bag contributed (CWS shipping costs). If you are writing a check for this shipment, make it payable to the South Central Conference.

There will be a collection room at the Annual Meeting to turn in completed bags and school kit items. Bags will be shipped in shipping cartons provided by Church World Service. In order to know how many bags we will need, please call Barbara Forcher with an estimate of bags from your church.

Pastor Scott to Represent UCC On Panel Discussion

The Interfaith Network – Comal Area is pleased to offer the second in a planned series of seminars offered to our local community in a spirit of respect and deepened understanding of faith traditions that may be different from our own.

We invite you to share this opportunity with your congregation and support our effort in promoting peace through understanding and respect.



On Thursday, May 8th, at 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 572 W. San Antonio Street, the Interfaith Network

will sponsor the second event in a planned series to the community. Our program will include a panel discussion of the various faith traditions represented in the Interfaith Network – Comal Area: Baha'i Faith; Faith; United Church of Christ; First Church of Christ, Scientist; First United Methodist Church; Unitarian Universalist Society; **and** Unity Church of Practical Christianity.

The event, “**Celebrating Religious Differences**”, will present the philosophies and approaches to spirituality of the diverse local faith traditions in our community. The talk is offered free of charge to the community and there will be time for questions and discussion as part of the presentation.

At no other time in recent memory is the imperative to understand those who think and worship differently from ourselves more important. The Interfaith Network – Comal Area was formed in 2006 of local congregations that embrace a respect for all faith traditions practiced in our community and beyond.

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Blessings,

Rev. Karen Tudor
Senior Minister, Unity Church of Practical Christianity
Founding Member, Interfaith Network – Comal Area

Awakening the Dreamer Changing the Dream Symposium 12:45 – 5 p.m. Saturday May 17th

Where on earth are we going?
And what can we do about it? These are two questions that are at the heart of this symposium on developing an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on Earth.

If you are ready to explore what this vision means for you, and the opportunity to create an inspiring future, we invited you to attend.

The cost is \$25 (scholarships available) and the symposium will be held at the new Unitarian Universalist Church, 135 Alves Lane, New Braunfels. For further info contact Judy Godinez at 624-1511 or email at jrg@satx.rr.com (presented in partnership with The Pachamama Alliance)

**Rev. Peter Olson
To Teach Adult Sunday School
Class June 1st –29th**

The theme for this session is:
“Christian Attitudes Towards...: a Bible
Study for the Discerning Adult”.

Christians come in all sizes, shapes
and colors. We work from a single
perspective (a commitment to the
teachings of Jesus as presented in the
Bible) but these teachings take on
different perspectives as we each face
the relationships and issues that impact
our lives.

Christians are people with string
motivations and sometimes entrenched
attitudes colored by their perspectives of
the teachings of Jesus. This study (five
consecutive weeks) will explore these
attitudes toward such relationships and
issues as power, principles, altruism,
discipleship, generosity, acceptance,
human rights, resentments, and social
conscience.

We will utilize the “Dialogue”
principles as the primary teaching tool.
The focus of the study is always upon
“What difference do the teachings of
Jesus make” Session will begin at 9:15
a.m. sharp each Sunday morning
beginning June 1st through June 29th.
We need a minimum of 8 people for the
class to go forward.

**Congratulations to
Kelcey Kramm!**

**Kelcey graduates from Texas State
University on May 9th with a degree
in Child Development.**

**Church School Year End
Celebration**

How quickly the church school year
has flown! We have so enjoyed sharing
many Sundays with all of our children.
Sometimes we gathered up to twelve
children together to explore our Biblical
roots, through story, song, crafts, and, of
course, snacks! We will be finishing our
lessons on Pentecost Sunday, May 11.
The following week, **May 17, we will
meet one last time before our summer
break for a super send off.** We look
forward to having all of our children join
us. We thank all of you for the joy you
bring in affirming each and every one of
our children. It is so evident that they
know the genuine welcome and
acceptance from our community here at
Faith. Thank you, thank you!



2008 South Central Conference
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

**SCC Conference
Annual Meeting**

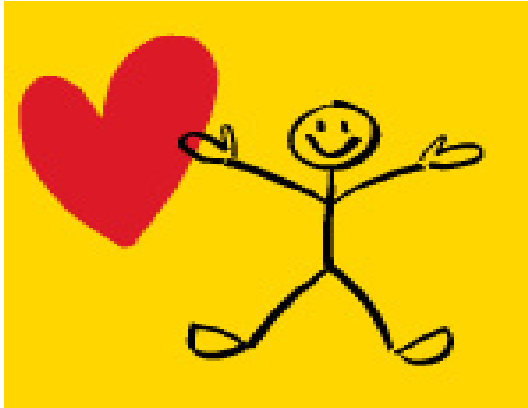
JUNE 6, 7 & 8, 2008
Meeting Venue: Cathedral of Hope
UCC
5910 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas
Texas
Toll Free: 1-800-501-HOPE

Reservation Deadline:

MAY 6, 2008

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH
OFFERING To be received on
Pentecost Sunday-May 11**

The more than 8,500 new UCC members in 40 states have joined the UCC and existing congregations have witnessed re-energized membership.



This offering is divided equally between the national UCC and the South Central Conference. Our Conference portion of the offering is used by the New Church Development Committee to help empower new church starts. A large percent of the national portion of this offering will be used for the first time this year for the Still Speaking Ministry. Through Still Speaking the national church will continue to share the *"God Is Still Speaking"*, *"Comma"* and *"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"* message with others.

Last year, churches in the Conference contributed \$6,531.11.

Let this Pentecost offering grow (in total received) so the UCC can continue to grow in numbers and spirit.

**CIRCLE OF FAITH
MEETS MAY 8**

All are invited to join the members of the Circle of Faith for their May 8 meeting in Baese Hall at 11:00 a.m. We will have as our guest Charles Stark who leads the Outdoor Ministry at Slumber Falls for our South Central Conference. He will bring us up to date about the 50th Anniversary activities and plans as our congregations celebrate this milestone. You will want to learn more about the many opportunities planned for this summer and throughout the year.

Bring a sack lunch and enjoy worship, programs, and delightful fellowship. We look forward to seeing you Thursday, May 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Melanoma Monday May 5

**McKenna Health Link
801 West San Antonio Street
5 – 7 p.m.**

**Free skin cancer screening from a
local dermatologist:**

**Dr. W.C. Anderson, III
Dr. Mark Garcia
Dr. Vicente Quintero
Dr. John Tieman**

**First come, first served.
To expedite screenings, please wear a
swimsuit under your garments.**

**Call 830-606-9500
For further information.**

May Worship Leaders

Ushers:

- 5-4 David & Sally Pena;
Steve & Nancy Foster
- 5-11 Courtney & Lois Swander
Don Green; Jan Hunley
- 5-18 Norma Gilbert; Dorothy Rest;
Bennie Harst; Richard Hitz
- 5-25 Joe & Mikki Ward;
Julia Allison; Curt Leonhardt

Council Reps:

- 5-4 Michele Gilbreth
5-11 Sheri Haynes
5-18 Tim Marlow
5-25 Bonnie Stark

Communion Assistants

Steve and Nancy Foster

Liturgist:

- 5-4 Julia Allison
5-11 Mikki Ward
5-18 Karen Kramm
5-25 Bonnie Stark

Acolytes:

- 5-4 Cody Allen
5-11 Joe Ward
5-18 Larisa Hunley
5-25 Richard Leber

Greeter:

- 5-4 Evelyne Krueger
5-11 Don Green
5-18 Dorothy Rest
5-25 Bonnie Stark

If you can not serve please try to find a substitute. If this is not possible, please call the church office. (625-6761)

Church March Financial Report

General Fund 2/29/08 \$892.21

Income & Deposits March \$7,277.23
Disbursements March \$6,703.45

Balance as of 3/31/08 \$1,465.99

Building Fund 2/29/08 \$3,175.23

Income & Deposits March \$1,352.50
Reg Pymt + 172.64 Prin. \$1,172.73

Balance as of 3/31/08 \$3,355.00

Memorial Fund 2/29/08 \$1,864.00

Income & Deposits March 10.00
Disbursements March 0.00

Balance as of 3/31-08 \$1,874.00

Savings Acct. 2/31/08 \$7,776.75

Deposits March 0.00
Disbursements March 0.00

Balance as of 3/31/08 \$7,776.75

Loan Balance on Bld. \$40,542.06

Respectfully Submitted:
Terri Armstrong
Financial Secretary

Our thanks to Sol Fuss and Ginny Daniel for volunteering to clean the church carpets! We would also like to thank the following business for loaning their carpet cleaning machine and donating the cleaning fluid:

Vacuum Doctor: 15377 FM 306 Canyon Lake – 1-800-349-6982

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

May 2008



Calendar Events

May 8 Lectionary Group 9-10:30 am
Circle of Faith 11 am
Inter Faith Panel First UMC 7 p.m.

May 10 Men's Breakfast 8 am

May 11 Pentecost Sunday 10:30 am

May 16 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m.

May 17 Awakening the Dreamer
12:45-5 p.m. UU sanctuary
135 Alves Lane – NB, TX

May 18 Dinner After Church
Ambassador Bob Krueger will
speak and sign copies of his book.

May 23 Eden Home –
Clergy Dinner 6:30 p.m.

May 25 Worship 10:30 a.m.
Articles due for June newsletter

June 1 Adult SS – Peter Olson – 9:15
Communion Sunday 10:30 a.m.

June 6-8 South Central Conference
Annual Meeting in Dallas

April 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



Irritants and Society

The controversy over Rev. Jeremiah Wright is not going away and doesn't look to go away any time soon. I don't know about you but I've already had some debates or arguments with people about the Wright controversy. I expect to have more.

Given the incredibly fruitful ministry Wright has had I am still happy to claim him as a colleague in ministry. This does not mean, as I wrote in last month's newsletter, that I agree with all of his positions. I have even found myself in some cases agreeing with Wright's points but not liking his timing or tone. No pastor can claim "infallibility" and that is why in the UCC we not only allow but also encourage individual members to thoughtfully and prayerfully make up their own minds about everything!

All of this "sound and fury" over Jeremiah Wright has gotten me thinking about the importance of having a few "irritants" in society. Without irritants society can get in a rut. No society is perfect and the injustices that are present can become ingrained.

Martin Luther King said the long arc of history bends towards justice. If this is true and I believe it is, then often it is the irritants that prod us along and awake us to this truth. The civil rights movement certainly was irritating to many and yet looking back now most would agree society needed prodding in regards to civil rights. This has been true on a host of other issues like: abolition, women's right to vote, ending child labor, etc.

Consider this passage from Luke 18:1-8. Jesus tells a parable about an unjust judge, who had no respect for the people and did not fear God. A widow comes to him for justice. He dismisses her from his presence. Well, she keeps coming back and back and back. She is annoying and irritating; maybe even belligerent. He finally grants her justice saying, "**...this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.**" (Lk 18:5)

Sometimes it takes the irritating presence of some prophetic people to produce the pearl of justice in the land.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Scott

**Ambassador Robert Krueger to
Speak at Faith UCC
Sunday May 18th!**

On Sunday May 18th we will begin our Tents of Hope Campaign for Darfur. The Tent of Hope will be set up and everyone will have a chance to paint or make an outline for their hand on tent as a sign of our prayer for peace and justice in Darfur. This tent will later be set up at Slumber Falls for the summer camping program to give campers a chance to do the same. While we will be focusing on Darfur in the Tents of Hope Campaign, there are many other areas of Africa which also are in deed of prayer, and a search for peace and justice.



We are blessed to have Ambassador Robert Krueger come and speak to us about his years in Burundi, 1994-95 and to autograph his book, *From Bloodshed to Hope*. He served in Burundi during a time of civil unrest between the Hutu's and Tutsi peoples. After his time in Burundi he served as U.S. Ambassador to Botswana from 1996 to 1999. He is uniquely able to speak to us about the situation in various parts of Africa today.

Following the worship service a meal will be provided. A donation will be received to cover costs. Any donations received above and beyond our costs

will go to help the people of Africa. Ambassador Krueger will speak after the noon meal.

We will be recognizing graduates on Sunday, June 1. If we have a student who will be graduating from high school or college, will you please contact the church by May 18 so we can be sure to include them in our service of



- May 2 Richard Hitz
- May 4 Sheri Haynes
Charles Stark
- May 8 Tim Campa
- May 11 Kelvin Kramm
- May 12 Nicolle Perry Clark
Elmo Fischer
- May 13 Kathleen Hoffmann
- May 17 Tim Marlow
- May 23 Kathy Leber
Velma Paterson
- May 27 Lee Zillmann
- May 30 Penny Coble

- June 2 Don Green
- June 10 Jim Gossett
- June 12 Kyle Kramm
- June 13 Heather Stewart
- June 16 JoAnn Brown

(If we have missed your birth date please let the church office know so we can write it down for next year.)

