

November 2008

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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

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I've been doing a lot of reading on the subject of worship. One of the books I've been reading is Dr. Robert Webber's book *Planning Blended Worship*. He observes that for the first 1,500 years of the church's existence the people simply absorbed what it meant to be Christian from their family, friends and neighbors. They were immersed in the stories of the Bible by hearing them told in church and home and by such things as stain glass windows.

Webber says this all changed radically with the introduction of printing presses in the 1500's. Protestants stripped their sanctuaries of much of the visual imagery they had. The Christian year with all of its saint's days was denounced, pilgrimages, street festivals, and feast days became abhorrent. The spoken word took their place. Teaching was emphasized. Catechism became the primary form of communicating the faith. Emphasis on learning through reading became the norm.

Print is now being supplanted by audiovisual. We are moving back to the more participatory and experiential mode with a modern audiovisual twist. Weber continues saying,

“Faith is no longer nourished exclusively by doctrine and intellectual speculation, but by imaginative immersion in participatory Christian communities. This affective form of communication works best in the experience of a community held together by the mysteries of its stories, events, and symbols. Faith comes through sharing, through the celebration of those events that provide meaning to the community. This new, experiential method holds priority over doctrines and formulas of faith that explain and provide reasons for the faith. It does not contradict or nullify the faith of the Church; it simply communicates it in a more personal manner.”

This is a major challenge to many my age and older who grew up with the older style. This older style can still work for some but the wider culture is rapidly moving away from this style. To reach people for Christ we may well have to “move with the times”. Through the centuries the church has been able to take the best of the past and use the best that modern culture has to offer to transmit the good news of the gospel.

Pastor Scott

SOS Food Bank Update

Feeding the hungry is a major concern of many, for all of us hunger for food to sustain us. Throughout the world and throughout history it has become an important issue. Feeding the hungry where we are and when it occurs comes to our minds. In our community, SOS-Food Bank is the means whereby we provide help to over 400 families each month and in time of crisis we serve many more. When IKE visited the Gulf Coast many in Eastern Texas sought refuge from the storm and many came to the New Braunfels community for temporary living accommodations and food.

Faith Church provided assistance as usual on the third Friday of month in September. The following were present to help provide 14 families from the local community needing food: Emma Dennino, Ken Triesch, Lois & Courtney Swander, Merle Kosler, Scott Martin, Emma Lou & Ray Bizer helped provide and receive food for some 14 evacuee families. This has been going on since the hurricane visited East Texas. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and for Faith Church support.

About 100 pounds of food were taken to the food bank, including a special gift from the Women's Fellowship who provided some 36 personal care kits for the needy. There has been a continuing outpouring of assistance from the community and from Faith Church. Thank you! Emma Deninno now represents Faith Church on the SOS Board.

Ray Bizer



Crop Walk November 16th

The annual Crop Walk will be Sunday afternoon November 16th. We need walkers and sponsors! You can pick up your pledge envelop in the church office.

This year's walk will be hosted By Eden Home. Registration and kick off will be at 2 p.m. in the Eden Home chapel. The walk will leave at 2:30 and will cover approximately 2.3 miles.

25% of the proceeds will stay right here in New Braunfels, going to the SOS Food Bank. The remaining 75% will go to Church World Service to help with disaster and relief efforts worldwide.

New Church Members

We welcome Leslie Woods and Susan Schlameus as our most recent members at Faith UCC.

Their address is: 350 New York Ave.
New Braunfels, Tx 78130

Welcome!!!!

Women's Fellowship News

The women of Faith Church are invited to gather in Baese Hall on Thursday, November 20th beginning at 11:00 a.m. **(Please note, this is a change from the usual week!)** Please bring a sack lunch and join us for worship, study and fellowship. For more information, please call Karen Dietz at 626-6833.



We have made three new Kiva loans averaging \$200 each. Malvina Campos Dumos lives in Tarma, Peru. She started cooking and selling food five months ago after the market price for bananas dropped and she lost her farm. Malvina is 56 and has been a widow for 5 years. She lives with her grandchildren.



The total loan from Kiva is \$275, which she will buy ingredients and supplies for cooking.

The second loan was made to Sonia Teran Ochoa, who lives in La Paz, Bolivia. This is her tenth loan and it is in the amount of \$1,200. Sonia was widowed two years ago, and since that then it is she who has been responsible for the costs of upkeep and education for her two young children. Happily, she can count on support from her family. She has a neighborhood store that is her livelihood.

Our final loan was made to the Garden of Hope Group in Mombasa, Kenya. The group has 16 active members each will receive a loan of \$250 to improve their business. This group is affiliated with Coast General Hospital in Mombasa. Among their goals are: 1. Give moral and psychological support to members; 2. Improve the welfare of the members; 3. Advocacy/speaking on issues affecting people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs); and 4. Advocating for economic empowerment for PLWAs.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Hello! My name is **Feliz!** I am a very happy whole note and I want to invite you to come sing in the Children's Choirs of Faith United Church of Christ!

- Ms. Leslie Woods will be leading children's choir.
- Age requirement: 2 ½ and up (as the choir grows we may divide into two choirs and split according to age)
- We need a name for the choir!
- We will have celebration performances at least four times a year!
- First Performance (New term I would like to use is "Offering of Song") Date: Sunday, November 17th during worship.

STARTING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29th AT 6:00 P.M. in the SANCTURARY.



Faith Church to Participate in Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign on Saturday Dec. 20th

Once again as the Christmas season approaches, Faith Church is being given the privilege of volunteering to "ring the bells" to help collect funds for the salvation army. This year we will ring the bells on Saturday, December 20 to receive money destined to relieve people's needs and bring good cheer to them.

There will be five locations for us to ring bells and invite people to share with those less fortunate.

Sign up early to get your choice of location and hours (2 hour shifts). We hope that many of you will take advantage of this unique way to share the meaning of Christmas. Volunteers may work alone or with a friend.

Locations and hours available will be posted on the kiosk soon.

Lois Swader

Besides staffing the Red Kettles, Faith Church will also be the distribution site for the Cheer Campaign groceries. Food will be arriving and boxed up December 11th and 12th and distributed on Saturday December 13th. Look for more details in the December newsletter for volunteer opportunities.

NOVEMBER

Ushers

- 11-2 Sheri Haynes; Don Green;
Steve & Nancy Foster
11-9 Courtney & Lois Swander
Joe & Mikki Ward
11-16 Sonny & Betty Heinemeyer
Sherry Heinemeyer;
Bruce Ridgley
11-23 Norma Gilbert; Sol Fuss;
JoAnn Brown; Jim Gossett
11-30 Robert & Emma Deninno
Julie Allison; Richard Hitz

Liturgist

- 11-2 Mikki Ward
11-9 Kathy Leber
11-16 Karen Kramm
11-23 Nicole Perry-Clark
11-30 Curt Leonhardt

Council Rep

- 11-2 Nicole Perry-Clark
11-9 Joe Ward
11-16 Sheri Haynes
11-23 Tim Marlow
11-30 Nicole Perry-Clark

Greeters

- 11-2 Bennie Harst
11-9 Courtney Swander
11-16 Betty Heinemeyer
11-23 Sol Fuss
11-30 Richard Hitz

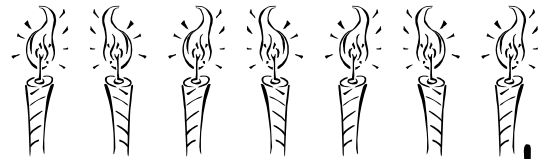
Communion Assistants 11-2

Steve & Nancy Foster

Acolytes

- 11-2 Kayle Lewis
11-9 Cody Allen
11-16 Brady Storms
11-23 Larissa Hunley
11-30 James Lewis

Notice: If you cannot serve on the designated day, please try to find a substitute or trade with someone else. If this is not possible contact the church office.



Happy Birthday!

- 11-2 Courtney Swander
11-4 Ray Bizer
11-4 Betty Triesch
11-5 Denise Leonhardt
11-6 Marion Ammon
11-12 Ava Perry-Clark
11-18 Darcy Peterson
11-19 Barbara Jaroszewski
11-22 Hunter Leber
11-22 Steve Anderson

12-1 Cody Allen

If we do not have your birthday listed please contact the church office so we can get you on the birthday list for next year.

New Address:

Jim & Chrissy Gossett
19 Horseshoe Trail
New Braunfels, TX 78132

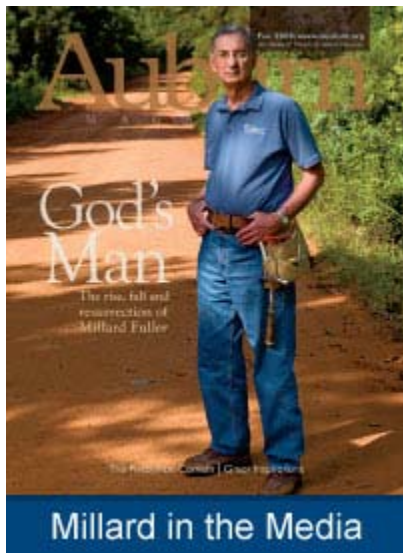
**The Pastor Will Be Away
Nov. 3-18th**

Pastor Scott will be joining the Bethany UCC mission trip to New Orleans Nov. 3-8th to do hurricane repair from Hurricane Katrina. Yes, three years later there is still much work to be done.

Once the mission trip finishes, Pastor Scott will be heading down to Florida to visit his mother in Bradenton Nov. 9-19th.

**Rev. Wilmer Brown to Preach
on November 9th And Provide
the Program at the Second
Sunday Potluck**

Rev. Wilmer and Hullen Brown worked with Habitat for Humanity in Uganda for many years. Now Rev. Brown is spearheading the establishment of a Fuller Center for Housing program in San Antonio.



Millard Fuller, who founded Habitat for Humanity, has now founded a new

housing program called the Fuller Center for Housing.

Come out to our second Sunday potluck and hear about this exciting new venture!

**Rev. Peter Olson to Preach on
Sunday November 16th**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Susan and I would like to say thank you to our new church family for welcoming us so lovingly. We look forward to many years of serving God through this congregation and helping Faith UCC show the community just how wonderful life can be in fellowship with Christ. On a personal level, I must say that this congregation's love came at a perfect time in my life. Both of my grandmas went to their highest reward this past year. It was hard to loose my grandmas and I still have moments of grief. But, God is good, all the time and He sent us to this wonderful family full of grandmas and grandpas! Although not a replacement, I believe it's my grandmas' and God's way of saying, "We're thinking of you and we love you." Thank you for being that vessel of God's grace! And for Susan, she enjoys coming and loves the friendliness of our new church family. She also loves that she has Cousin Elmo to keep her in check and make sure she attends more regularly (nudge, nudge). She loves how when we pass the peace, we REALLY pass the peace to everyone!

Blessings,

Susan Schlameus and Leslie Woods

Don's Corner

“However many years a man may live,
let him enjoy them all.”
Ecclesiastes 11:8 (NIV)

According to statistics, I have been living on borrowed time since January 7, 2007. I read somewhere that the average life span in the United States had risen to 77.6 years, and !/7/07 is the date I reached that milestone.

“I suppose it's all downhill from here,” I said when the day came. Should I feel differently? Should I be getting my affairs in order? Nope. I still feel like a child in an aging body. And for years I've been trying to get my affairs in order with mixed results.

So maybe I should just wax philosophical. If I call it “borrowed time”, I'll go crazy waiting for the note to be called in. “Bonus time”, that's it. I'll call it bonus time – the frosting on the cake, the dessert of life, a reward, however ill deserved.

Don't get ahead of me now. We all know Who the Giver of that reward is, so I had better watch how I spend it. Each bonus day is like a traveling trophy that some day will pass on to someone else – a golden trophy for the golden years. At least I'm trying to treat it that way.

So far so good.

Prayer: Thank You, God, for bonus time; I'll treasure every minute. As long as you are in it. Amen.

Don Green

Exploring What It Means to Be An Open and Affirming Church

As you know Faith UCC is exploring becoming an ONA church. Education and discussion is a very important part of this process. We want YOUR input and we all can learn more about it. If you have questions, bring your questions. If you disagree come and share your thoughts. If you simply don't know much about it bring your ignorance. If you have a story to tell, bring your stories. We will also be looking at what the Bible and the UCC have to say on this topic.

On Saturday December 6th from 9-11 a.m. there will be a two hour exploration session which will include a look at what the Bible says and doesn't say about homosexuality and the why's and wherefores of the UCC stance on homosexuality. **For those who cannot attend this session it will be repeated on Sunday December 14th after the second Sunday potluck.**

Open and Affirming Workshop at Slumber Falls Camp January 10th 9-4 p.m.

Registration, including two meals, will be \$25, if you register before Dec. 15 (\$35 after). Rev. Ruth Garwood, Executive Director of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns in Cleveland, will lead the workshop. Registration forms and information are on the kiosk.

Rev. Ruth Garwood will also be preaching at Faith UCC on Sunday January 11th and will lead the program at the Second Sunday potluck.

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November Calendar

- 11-2 Communion
- 11-3 to 11-8 Pastor on Mission
Trip and vacation
- 11-4 Election Day / Faith Church is
a polling station. We provide
coffee ad cookies to voters.
- 11-5 Children's Choir 6 p.m.
- 11-9 Rev Wilmer Brown preaches –
Second Sunday Potluck and
Program on the Fuller Center
for Housing
- 11-12 Children's choir 6 p.m.
- 11-13 ONA Task Force meeting at the
Marlows at 6 p.m.

- 11-16 Rev. Peter Olson preaches
- 11-19 Children's choir 6 p.m.
- 11-20 Women's Fellowship 11 a.m.
- 11-21 SOS Foodbank
- 11-26 Church Council 6:30 p.m.
- 11-27 Happy Thanksgiving!!!

