

**June 2009
Newsletter**

Glimpses of Faith

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

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



The national meeting of the United Church of Christ, **General Synod 27**, will take place **June 27th to the 30th** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Here are the titles of the resolutions being explored and voted on later this month:

- An Economic Justice Covenant.
- Sacred Conversations on Race.
- Options to War against Iran
- A Call for Study of Our Church's Involvement in the Eugenics Movement.
- Affirming The Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth
- On the Roles of Church and Government in Addressing Global Food Crisis.
- Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community.
- A Call to be Global Mission Churches in the United Church of Christ.
- On Responsible Meeting Practice
- Axis of Friendship with Iran
- Calling for the Support of H.R. 676 – Single Payer National Health Care Reform to Advance Health Equity for All and to Eliminate Health Disparities
- Calling on President Barack Obama to Revisit and Re-negotiate a More Humane, Democratic, and Ecologically Sound Version of the North American Free Trade Agreement
- A Justice Town Hall Gathering
- A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons
- On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced
- A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ.
- Earthwise Congregation: On Mediating Climate Change
- In Support of Physician Assistance in Dying

You can go online to the UCC website and read the full resolutions for yourself. If you want a printed copy contact the church office. You are welcome to share your thoughts on these resolutions with our South Central Conference delegates: Dave Barber; Ruth Schemmer; Rick Ashley; Carline Lenhoff; Jerry Carpenter; Will Brown; Florence Burns; Dawson Taylor and Sally Johnson. Phone numbers and email addresses are available in the church office.

Unitarians to Hold a Children's Day Camp June 8-12

This is a special invitation to your child/children to experience a day camp that explores many aspects of nature. The children will learn about rocks, insects, worms, composting, birds and animals through songs, stories, crafts, hands on activities and presenters knowledgeable in these fields.

The camp will be held at the Unitarian Universalist church, located at 135 Alves Lane, from 9 a.m. to noon. Tuition is \$50 for the first child, \$25 for siblings. Scholarships are available. It is for children ages 5 to 11. Early registration is suggested because space is limited.

Please send your registration form (available in the church office) to Diance Pepin, 452 Robin Lane, New Braunfels, TX 78132. Phone 608-9901 or email dkconb@hotmail.com for further information.

Healthy snacks and drinks will be provided. Please dress your child for outdoor play.

Congratulations to John Stark who recently graduated from Texas State University and to Kyle Kramm who graduated from Texas Lutheran University. Blessings upon both as they continue their journey through life!

Larry Marlow Has Fire Annex Named After Him



As most of you know Tim Marlow's father recently passed away. His father was recently honored for contributions and service to the OvillaTexas Fire Department by having the new Fire Annex and Administration Building named after him. Larry Marlow began his service on the local Fire Board in 1995 and became board president in 1998. Fire Chief Donnie Pickard said of Larry Marlow, "...Marlow had a heart for firefighters and became increasingly active in getting them what they needed to perform their job."

June Birthdays

June 2	Don Green
June 6	John Stark
June 10	Jim Gossett
June 12	Kyle Kramm
June 16	Jo Ann Brown
July 3	Meta Heinemeyer
July 4	Chrissy Gossett

Faith Church Sends 30 Bags of School Supplies to SC Conference Meeting

The pastor loaded 30 bags of school supplies in his car to take to the conference annual meeting for their Church World Service School Supply Drive. Each bag will be given to a needy student. Our thanks to Merle Kosler for once again hand sewing ALL the bags! Our thanks to Merle and Ema Lou Bizer for assembling the supplies. Our thanks to all of you who contributed supplies and or money to this project. As I write this some money is still coming it but so far we have raised approximately \$200 for this project. Over \$100 of this will be sent to CWS to help pay for shipping the bags.

Faith Church Raises \$705 for Esperanza!

Faith UCC raised \$705 at the Esperanza fund-raising luncheon on Sunday May 17th. Our thanks to everyone that made this possible. Pastor Scott provided the Cooper's BBQ brisket, wilted salad and rolls; Joe & Mikki Ward provided the potato salad, deserts, and beans, and Sol Fus provided the German Chocolate cake.



A special thanks to the clean up crew!

This money comes at critical time for Esperanza.

75% of their income comes from Volunteer Groups and 60% of this years groups (34) have canceled because of conditions along the border and the flu

outbreak. Each group contributes \$3,000 to Esperanza.



Add to this the bad economic conditions which have led to families in Esperanza homes having trouble making their house payments and Esperanza finds itself with a \$100,000 projected shortfall! So you see our \$705 donation could not have come at a better time.

Esperanza did receive some good news, the Mexican Housing Authority is giving them a grant for 32 homes/improvements. The bad news is they may have to lay off staff and with fewer volunteer groups coming, who will do the work? The work must be done by December 2009 to qualify for the grant.

Graciela Lara, one of Esperanza's social workers, summed up the situation on a hopeful note, "**Times are hard but nothing is impossible when we work together.**" Amen to that!

Esperanza is just one of hundreds of charitable groups along the border. I suspect they are all facing a similar situation. If you are a supporter any such group, consider making an extra donation to them. Pastor Scott will be traveling to Tijuana on June 6th for a week. He will be able to give a first hand account when he returns.

Don's Corner

"Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."

II Corinthians 1:11

A New Ager might call it a convergence, but surely events of one evening in March 2002 involved the hand of God.

Married four years, Ruth and I had sold my house and were living in hers while on a waiting list for a retirement condo in another town. Ruth's granddaughter Tanya and husband had considered buying Grandma's house but decided against it.

Family members, including another granddaughter, Julie, and her husband gathered at Grandma's for pizza that night.

"We have some news, Grandma," Tanya announced. "We don't want you to move, but if you do we've decided we want to buy your house after all."

"That's wonderful, honey," Ruth said. "We have news too. Our names just came up on the waiting list, so the house is for sale as of today!"

Julie, who was on the edge of her chair, could contain herself no longer.

"And I'm pregnant!" she blurted.

Tears flowed in a pandemonium of hugs. As we all marveled at the coincidence and gave thanks, I wondered, "What's the record number of prayers answered 'yes' in one minute?"

Prayer: Oh Lord, help me avoid focusing only on the bad news of life. Thank you for the times when everything works out. Amen.

Don Green

Rev. Felix Ortiz to Preach at Faith UCC Sunday June 7

Potluck After Church!!!



Rev. Felix Ortiz is the head of the Global Ministries Latin America/Caribbean desk for the UCC and Disciples of Christ.

A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ for the past 10 years, the Latin America and the Caribbean office currently supports missionaries in Mexico, Haiti, Paraguay, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Chile and soon Colombia and Argentina. By collaborating and partnering with over 75 partner churches and ecumenical organizations in 19 we respond to God's call to mission and Global Ministries' mandate of Critical Presence ... meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the wider mission of the United Church of Christ.

Don't forget we are having a church potluck on Sunday June 7th!

A NEW "UCC COMMUNITY IN CONNECTION" IN GEORGETOWN, TX

By the Rev. Ron Trimmer, Organizing Pastor

I am excited to announce that God is calling me and my family to start a new church in Georgetown, TX. With a vision of extravagant welcome, vibrant worship, faithful service, true community and life-transforming discipleship, I invite your support and prayers and as I step out in faith, following the call of Christ. Like a pregnant woman, the seed of this new community is in its earliest stages of development, being nurtured in the womb of God's providence. I am seeking folks who will serve as midwives, helping to give birth to this new church.



God has brought me and my wife, Jan, to this point of taking a great leap of faith. I give thanks and praise to God, for there have been many people sharing their encouragement, love and support. I am most thankful for the initial funding provided by our Conference, through the Committee for New and Renewing Churches, which makes this "leap of faith" possible.

On Pentecost Sunday-May 31, churches are invited to take up the Strengthen the Church offering, which not only supports the national UCC Stillspeaking Ministry but also the UCC's effort to revitalize existing churches and to start new ones. 50% of all offerings will stay within our Conference to help new church starts, like the one I will be leading in Georgetown, TX. Beginning a congregation from scratch is a daunting task, full of uncertainty, yet all full of the unexpected energy of God's Holy Spirit.

I invite your prayers and support as my family moves to Georgetown and this new UCC Community in Connection begins to form.

Plan ahead for the Regional Youth Event June 10-13th 2010 in New Orleans! It will be held at Dillard University, one of the UCC's historic "black colleges." The theme is "Another Brick in the Wall: Tearing Down Inequality, Building Up Hope." Let's have some youth from Faith UCC go!!!

Oh the Places You'll Go!

Taylor Leonhardt will be spending five weeks in Paris, France with the Clemson International Study Program. After finishing this program Taylor will be a Counselor at the Young Life Camp in Denver, Colorado. Come August, she will graduate from Clemson with a degree in Psychology and a minor in French and go to work for Chick-Fil-A in South Carolina. Congratulations to Taylor!

June 2009

Worship Assistants

USHERS: June

- 7 Charles & Bonnie Stark,
Richard & Kathy Leber
- 14 Curt & Denise Leonhardt
Darlene Stephens, Mikki Ward
- 21 Jan Hunley & Bruce Ridgely
Karen Kramm, Evelyn Krueger
- 28 Nicolle & Michelle Perry-Clark,
Susan Schlameus, Don Green

LITURGIST:

- June 7 Mikki Ward
14 Charles Stark
21 Tim Marlow
28 Kathy Leber

ACOLYTES:

- June 7 Kayce Lewis
14 Larissa Hunley
21 Brady Storms
28 Quinn Perry

COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE:

- June 7 Don Green
14 Jan Hunley
21 Tim Marlow
28 Nicolle Clark

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM:

No Sunday School – Summer Break

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

- June 7 Richard and Kathy Leber

GREETERS:

- June 7 Albert Henning
14 Robert Deninno

- 21 Bruce Ridgely
28 Dorothy Rest

HOSPITALITY:

- June 7 **POTLUCK SUNDAY**
14 Nicolle Perry-Clark
21 Chrissy Gossett
28 Jennifer Franklin

Notice:

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

If you would like to be removed from all or part of the Worship Assistant List, please contact Nicolle Perry-Clark at 627-7177.

Did You Know We Have A Church Mortgage?

The current loan balance on our church mortgage is **\$29,387.96**. We pay \$1,000 a month on our mortgage. At this rate of payment we will have the mortgage paid off in three years.

Currently a small number of our long time members are sending in special offerings to pay our monthly payments. If you are one of our newer members you too can contribute to our Building Fund. Please consider making such a donation. Wouldn't it be wonderful to get this paid off EARLY!

Four Youth Confirmed Pentecost Sunday, May 31st

Cody Allen, Larissa Hunley, James and Kayce Lewis were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, after completing their course of study. During the church service they witnessed to their faith by taking a portion of the UCC Statement of Faith and saying what it meant to them. All four have been very diligent in their studies and in their participation in church.

Prior to the confirmation Kayce Lewis and James Lewis were baptized. Each confirmand received a certificate of confirmation; a hand made stole, made by Karen Dietz; a book from Pastor Scott; and a variety of gifts from their families to celebrate the day.

Following the service the confirmation families hosted a lunch in honor of the confirmands in Baese Hall.

This was truly a very special Pentecost Sunday!

New Members To Be Received Sunday June 14th

So far two people have asked to become members of Faith UCC on June 14th. If there is anyone else out there who would like to join Diane Grindle and Sheila Angerer, let the pastor know.

Thanks from Eden Home

Dear Valued Friends,

Please accept our deepest gratitude for your generous gift of \$200 to the annual fund. In many ways, these

unrestricted dollars are the most important, as they allow us to support areas of greatest need and opportunity.

As you know, everyone at Eden Home receives the same loving care and attention without regard to financial circumstances. We offer a unique balance of assistance and independence, striving to meet each residents needs while maintaining the highest level of choice, dignity, privacy and respect in a faith-based environment.

We thank you again for your steadfast support of our mission and ministry to each member of the Eden Home Family!

Sincerely,
Laurence Dahl

Treasurer's Report Summary For April 28-May 26

General Fund Balance 4/28	\$1,046.29
Income/Deposits	\$5,490.81
Disbursements	\$6,787.86
Balance 5/26	(\$250.86)

Building Fund Balance 5/26	\$1,701.82
----------------------------	------------

Memorial Fund Balance 5/26	\$2,124.00
----------------------------	------------

Savings Account Balance	\$9,838.61
-------------------------	------------

Loan Balance	\$29,387.96
--------------	-------------

Respectfully Submitted :
Terri Armstrong
Financial Secretary

Please consider additional contributions on a monthly basis as we head into the summer months so that we can stay current on all our bills and mortgage payments.

June 2009

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



Faith Church Contributes \$862.75 to Heifer Project!

The Sunday School first started saving their offerings for Heifer Project over a year ago. They raised \$85 to put towards a water buffalo, chicks, a pig, bees and rabbits.

Then the church chose Heifer Project as it's special Lenten Offering for 2009. We raised \$775.94 to purchase goats. This offering was received on Easter Sunday. The Andersons even brought one of their goats for us to see, pet and feed! Each Heifer goat costs \$120. We raised enough money to pay for 6 goats!



Each of those six goats will go to a family. That means we are helping six families provide milk and meat and eventually raise money for their children and themselves.

Heifer project impregnates the goats before giving them to a family and the family is required to give the first baby goats to another family, and they to another family and so forth and so on. In this way families are not simply recipients of charity they also are able to experience the blessing of being able to give to someone else. Soon the gift of a single goat ripples throughout a whole community!

