

March 2009

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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This week the confirmation class was studying “worship”. The word “worship” comes from two Old English words “*weorth-scipe*”, which means “worthy-ship”. At first glance this seems a rather strange designation for worship. I’m not sure exactly what they had in mind but here are some thoughts:



Since ancient times the community of faith has often been thought of as a ship. In part it refers back to Noah and the ark becoming a vehicle for “salvation”, vehicle for life in a sea of sin and death. On old sailing ships the mast was in the shape of a cross. This too lent itself to making a sailing ship the symbol for the Church. The symbol for the World Council of Churches is a ship.

Jesus chose a lot of fishermen to be his disciples and he found some of them right by their boats and they were to become “fishers of humanity”. This being the case one might say the church is the fishing boat for these “fishers of men and women”.

On a sailing ship of any size you need a crew. The crew has to stay busy with a whole range of tasks. Someone has to stay at the wheel and or the rudder, to keep the ship on course.

British ships in the Royal Navy are always designation HMS. Depending if they have a king or queen, this means “His/Her Majesty’s Ship.”

What does all this have to do with worship? Could it be that worship is central to the faith community:

- Remaining vital and alive?
- Embracing the path to abundant life amidst a sea of sin and death
- Remembering we have good news to share outside the church, to truly be fishers for God’s kingdom
- Being good crew members
- Remembering whose ship we are sailing on

This Lenten season let us focus on worship, our “worthy ship.”

## School Kit Project 2009

The South Central Conference is once again collecting school kits for Church World Service and money to ship them to needy school children. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. The suggested donation is \$2 per kit.

Merle Kosler has graciously volunteered to make the cloth bags to put the school supplies in. What we need now are school supplies and donations to cover the shipping.

The kits and donations will be gathered together at the Conference Annual meeting in Austin this June.

The following items go in the kits:

- One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10-1/2" ruled paper, for a total of 200-210 sheets of ruled paper. (Please do not provide loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 16" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles

Our goal at Faith Church is to assemble 20-25 bags. The estimated cost of one complete bag of supplies is \$13.



## Slumber Falls Work Camp March 13-15<sup>th</sup>

This camp is a work weekend open to anyone who wants to volunteer their time and energy to making improvements to the camp. In return for your volunteering, there is no charge for food or lodging.

It is also possible for those of us living in New Braunfels to go back and forth from our own houses or to go for just part of a day. You can register online or contact the church office if you are interested.

The work camp is a very good way to help with this vital South Central Conference mission which is right here in our midst. Soon the busy summer camp season will be starting and campers will be coming from all over the state.

For further info check with Rev. Charles Stark at 625-2212 camp or 660-7239 (cell)

## **South Texas Association Spring Meeting March 15<sup>th</sup>**

This is a reminder of our upcoming STA "Spring Gathering" that will be Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 p.m. The host church is Cross UCC in Seguin.

**For this year's program we are inviting the choirs (of all ages), praise bands, bell choirs, keyboard individuals and other musical groups from each church in the South Texas Association to perform.** The desire would be that each group would perform a couple numbers. Then if possible all the groups could come together for one or two pieces.

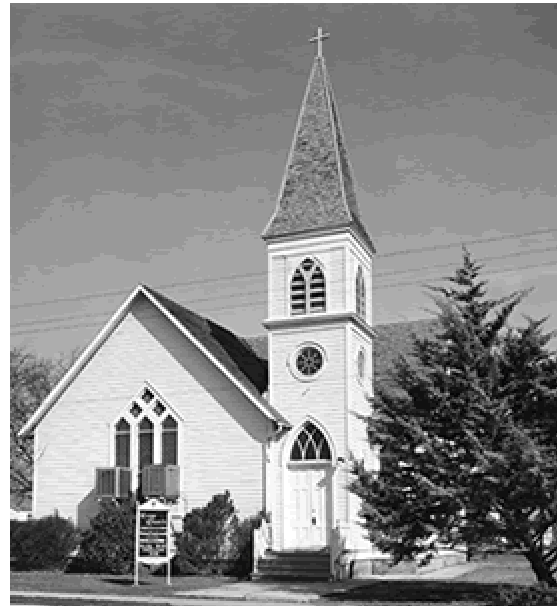
All churches need to let Rev. Jerry Metzger know if their singing group is coming by February 26<sup>th</sup>. We need to let Cross UCC know by March 9<sup>th</sup> how many are coming so they know how much food to prepare.

### **Two Mission Opportunities for the Spring Association meeting:**

- **There will be a special offering to help support the Galveston Island hurricane relief work**
- **You are invited to bring t-shirts that will be sent to orphanages sponsored by the Lutheran Relief Program. These t-shirts can be gently used with appropriate sayings and logos.**

(You do not have to be present to help with these. Bring your offering or T-shirts to church and we will take them to Cross UCC for you.)

The only piece of business for this meeting will be a discussion and vote on raising the STA dues from \$2 to \$4 per member.



Cross UCC sanctuary used from 1913-1956

### **Cross UCC Seguin Celebrates Its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

We rejoice with Cross UCC as they prepare to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Through strong clergy and lay leadership Cross has been a significant and positive voice in the ministry of the South Texas Association, South Central Conference and the National Church. The banquet will be Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and anniversary worship will be Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 10:15.

## From the Eden Home

On behalf of the Eden residents, staff, Board of Directors and Executive Director, Laurence Dahl, we wish to thank you for your gift.

This contribution helps assure the continuation of our ministry as we have been "*Touching the hearts and souls of Seniors since 1910*". Eden Home is providing care and services to our seniors through housing, nursing care, assisted living, rehabilitation, spiritual nurturing and other support services.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and continued support of the Eden Home ministry.

Than you for caring!

Sincerely,  
Betty Doeppenschmidt  
Associate Director of Development

## Slumber Falls Camp

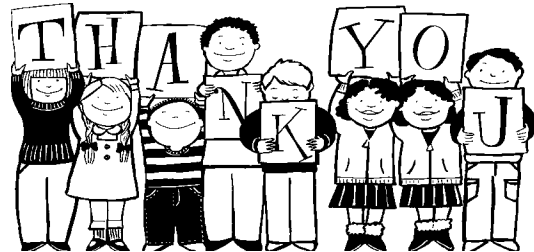
We extend a very special thank you for your December contribution of \$75 .... We are certainly blessed by friends like you who keep us in mind. ....

Together with God's grace and your willing partnership, we will continue the ministry of Slumber Falls Camp.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Charles Stark

## Salvation Army

We send a **BIG THANK YOU** to each and every volunteer bell ringer from Faith UCC! Your participation was vital to the success of the 2008 Red Kettle campaign in New Braunfels. Many shoppers gave and gave generously because of your presence, your greetings, and your warm smiles. **We are most grateful!** Total contributions of \$65,009 were collected in the month between Thanksgiving and Christmas.



The Salvation Army Service Center in New Braunfels helps to meet numerous short-term family financial needs in the local community with Red Kettle funds, for example, assistance with food, clothing, utilities, prescriptions, and overnight lodging. We also carry out projects such as providing start-of-school supplies, distributing shoes for kids, sponsoring the Angel Tree at Christmas, taking low income kids to summer camp, and assisting families displaced by flood or hurricane. We pledge to use these contributions to "**do the most good**" here at home! ...

Sincerely,  
Bill Mixon  
2008 Red Kettle Coordinator

## **Confirmation Camp**

Larissa Hunley, Kayce Lewis, James Lewis and Pastor Scott attended Confirmation Camp at Slumber Falls Camp February 6-8<sup>th</sup>. Pastor John Roberts from Friedens UCC led the camp in an exploration of "call". We looked at the calling of Abraham, Samuel, Moses and Jonah through Scripture study, role plays and two movies: "Bruce Almighty" and "Evan Almighty".



Above Larisa Hunley and Kayce Lewis (left) have some fun with two new friends and the photographer!

## **World Day of Prayer March 6<sup>th</sup> at Noon First Methodist**

You are invited to join the Church Women of Comal County, including our own Faith Circle, at First UMC, located at 572 San Antonio St on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at noon for the World Day of Prayer. We will be joining this worldwide observance based on worship material developed by Christian women in Papau New Guinea. Besides the main service the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## **Eden Home Champagne Gala March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Since 2003, the annual Champagne Gala has been Eden Home's signature event. Over \$70,000 was raised last year for the Benevolence Fund, which provides charitable assistance to residents. The upcoming gala on March 27<sup>th</sup>, at the New Braunfels Civic Center, promises to be another memorable evening when esteemed community leader S.D. David, Jr. will be honored.

As you know, the United Church of Christ and its forbearers founded Eden Home. Currently Rev. Ralph Ludwig is the chaplain at Eden Home. Curt and Denise Leonhardt and Drs. Jim and Chrissy Gossett are among the gold sponsors of this year's gala. Faith Church has several members on the Eden Board of Directors. Elmo Fischer and Ken Triesch are former Eden Home Administrators, so as you see Faith Church has strong ties to the Eden Home. Currenty Faith Church has almost 20 members in residence on the Eden Campus! Given all this it is clear that Faith Church has strong ties to the Eden Home. Let us honor those ties by supporting the gala.

Individual tickets are \$65 each. A table for 8 can be reserved for \$600 and a table for 10 for \$750. Tickets can be purchased from Eden board members or you can reserve a ticket and pick it up at the door the night of the event by contacting the Eden Home. You can also go online to purchase tickets [www.edenhome.net](http://www.edenhome.net)

## Lenten Heifer Project

Last year the Sunday School began taking up a special offering for Heifer Project International. This organization gives farm animals and training to poor people around the world so that they can feed their families and earn a decent living. In turn these families promise to give the first calf, litter, etc. to another poor family, and so forth and so on. In this way not only are individual families helped but whole villages and districts can be transformed.



The Sunday School has collected almost \$100 so far! Throughout Lent we are encouraging the rest of the church to help with this project. A goat can be purchased for just \$120. Let's see if we can purchase a small "herd"! Thanks to the Sunday School we almost have our first goat paid for!

The gift of a dairy goat represents a lasting, meaningful way for you to help a little boy or girl on the other side of the world.

Goats can thrive in extreme climates and on poor, dry land by eating grass and leaves. The gift of a dairy

goat can supply a family with up to several quarts of nutritious milk a day - a ton of milk a year. Extra milk can be sold or used to make cheese, butter or yogurt. Families learn to use goat manure to fertilize gardens.

Goats often have two or three kids a year making it easy for Heifer recipients to pass on the gift of a goat to another family in need. This great investment allows our partners to lift themselves out of poverty by starting small dairies that earn money for food, health care and education.

If you would like to help with this project special Lenten Offering canisters are available at the church. Make this part of your Lenten discipline. Here are some suggestions:

- Keep it handy at home empty your spare change into it at **the end of each day.**
- Make a commitment to put in 50 cents or a dollar, \$2, etc. a day
- Give up buying sodas, coffee, candy, etc. and put the money you save in the offering
- Put 25 or 50 cents a day for every serving of meat you ate that day
- Commit to reading through the four gospels during Lent and every day you miss put in \$5!
- Come up with your own creative idea and follow through.

We will gather the Lenten Offerings Easter Sunday, so bring them with you then.



## LENTEN CALENDAR

3-1 **First Sunday of Lent** –Worship  
10:30 a.m. “**Greatness in Humility**” John 1:1-5, 14 & Phil. 2:5-11

Soup & Study after church  
“**The Way Out**” Exodus 2:23; 3:7-10

3-8 **Second Sunday of Lent**  
Worship 10:30 a.m. “**Overcoming Temptations**” Hebrews 2:18; Matthew 4:1-11

Soup & Study after church  
“**The Decalogue**” (10 Commandments)  
Exodus 20

3-15 **Third Sunday of Lent**  
Worship 10:30 “**Making Friends**”  
Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 6:12-16;  
Matthew 28:19-20; John 15:13-16

Soup & Study after church  
“**Countering Caesar**” Luke 2;  
Luke 3; John 19:14-16

3-22 **Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
Worship 10:30 a.m. “**Prayer That Does What It Is Supposed to Do**” Mark 6:30-46

Soup & Study after church  
“**An Act of Imagination**” Psalm 73

3-29 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
Worship 10:30 “**Going Through Suffering**” Peter 2:23-25;  
Matthew 27:11-66; Mark 15; Luke 22:1-23:56; John 18 & 19

Soup & Study “**On not doing God any favors**” Psalm 50; Deuteronomy 6



## HOLY WEEK

4-5 **Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday**  
Worship 10:30 Distribution of Palm crosses, the choir sings a **cantata**, and meditative action of nailing a nail in the cross

4-9 **Maundy Thursday Seder Meal** in Baese Hall at 6:30 p.m. A complete Seder Meal will be served. Please sign up on the RSVP sheet, so we know how many to prepare for. A freewill donation will be collected to cover the expense of the meal.

4-10 **Joint Good Friday Service** at Redeemer UCC in Zuehl at 11:30 a.m. We will join Redeemer, Cross and Friedens UCC for this service. A light luncheon will be served afterwards. The offering will go to hurricane relief in the Galveston area.



## EASTER

4-12 **Easter Sunday!!!**  
Early Service at Slumber Falls Camp at 8:30 a.m. (if it rains Baese Hall)

Easter Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.

Main Service 10:30 a.m. “**Seeing For Yourself**” Communion & Butterfly release Luke 24

## March Worship Assistants

### Ushers:

- 3-1 Charles & Bonnie Stark  
Steve & Nancy Foster
- 3-8 Curt & Denise Leonhardt  
Darlene Stephens; Mikki Ward
- 3-15 Jan Hunley; Bruce Ridgley  
Karen Kramm; Evelyn Krueger
- 3-22 Nicolle & Michelle Perry-Clark  
Judy Anderson; Lois Swander
- 3-29 Richard & Kathy Leber  
Susan Schlaumeus; Don Green

### Liturgist:

- 3-1 Mikki Ward
- 3-8 Charles Stark
- 3-15 Tim Marlow
- 3-22 Kathy Leber
- 3-29 Eric Franklin

### Acolytes:

- 3-1 Kayce Lewis
- 3-8 Brady Storms
- 3-15 Larissa Hunley
- 3-22 Quinn Perry
- 3-29 Cody Allen

### Council Reps:

- 3-1 Bonnie Stark
- 3-8 Joe Ward
- 3-15 Don Green
- 3-22 Jan Hunley
- 3-29 Tim Marlow

### Greeters:

- 3-1 Albert Hennig
- 3-8 David Pena
- 3-15 Bonnie Stark
- 3-22 Dorothy Rest
- 3-29 Robert Deninno

### Communion Assistants

- 3-1 Steve & Nancy Foster

**Hospitality:** During March we will be serving coffee only after church in the narthex, because of the Lenten soup luncheons.

- 3-1 Nicholle Perry-Clark
- 3-8
- 3-15 Chrissy Gossett
- 3-22 Jennifer Franklin
- 3-23 Emily Deninno

### Sunday School Team:

- 3-1 Nicolle & Michelle Perry-Clark
- 3-8 Tim & Jennifer Marlow
- 3-15 Jan Hunley & Mikki Ward
- 3-22 Jim & Chrissy Gossett
- 3-29 Nicolle & Michelle Perry-Clark

**If you cannot serve on the designated day, 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 Nicholle Perry-Clark at 627-7177.**

## March Birthdays

- 3-1 Aurora Hall
- 3-2 Sonny Heinemeyer
- 3-3 Betty Heinemeyer
- 3-5 Fisher Roland Marlow
- 3-7 Curt Leonhardt
- 3-8 Lucile Marberger
- 3-9 Julia Pantermuehl
- 3-9 Frances Ruley
- 3-15 Ralph Ludwig
- 3-16 Robert Deninno
- 3-17 Tom Ward
- 3-22 Vivian Nowatny
- 3-28 Norma Gilbert

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### Jan & Larissa Hunley To Participate in Relay for Life



Jan and Larissa will be participating in the Relay for Life to combat

cancer. They are looking for sponsors for this event. If you would like to help see Jan before or after church or give her a call at 620-5499.

### Easter Lilies and Butterflies

As Easter approaches we are looking for people to bring Easter lilies for church. We are also looking for contributions for butterflies. Both of these can be given either in memory of someone or to honor someone. The butterflies will be released after the Easter service on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**There will be no potluck in March due to the Lenten Soup luncheons.**