

May 2009

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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The UCC Statement of Faith begins: “We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify” and appropriately the very first deed of God that we testify to is **“You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before us the ways of life and death.”**

This message is one of both hope and warning and it seems particularly appropriate to consider, having just passed Earth Day. Planet Earth is warming and most scientists believe that human beings are the major contributing factor.

At the recent blessing of the animals service I spoke about how our evangelical forbearers who worked for the abolition of slavery also worked to establish the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. There is nothing new in connecting our faith to ecological issues. Frankly it is more important today than ever before that we do so. We must mobilize all possible human institutions to combat the increase in greenhouse gasses.

Here are some key FACTS from a recent National Geographic:

- 11 of the 12 warmest years on record have occurred since 1995
- Prior to the industrial revolution CO2 was 280 parts per million in

- the atmosphere, today it is 380 and rising fast
- CO<sub>2</sub> molecules stay in the atmosphere as long as 200 years, so even if CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were eliminated today temperatures would continue to rise
- At current levels of emissions it is estimated that CO<sub>2</sub> will rise to 525 parts per million by 2100
- Scientists, through examining polar ice cores know that over the last 400,000 years CO<sub>2</sub> has never been higher than it is today, in fact it was never higher than 300 parts per million
- Global temperatures are rising and they are rising even faster at high elevations and at the north pole
- Glaciers are melting at an alarming rate

Individually we can not save the earth but individuals can make a difference and collectively we can make a great difference. God called the worlds into being and has set before us the ways of life and death. The choice is ours. May we choose wisely not only for our own sake but for the sake of God’s Creation and future generations!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Scott

**South Central Conference  
Annual Meeting  
June 5-7  
Houston-Tillotson University**

The theme for this year's Annual Meeting is **"Go Global!"** We will welcome and host five of our national staff from the Global Ministries office.

We will meet on the campus Of Huston-Tillotson University. Within our Congregational history, the American Missionary Association founded Tillotson College in 1881. It was one of nine predominantly African-American colleges founded by the AMA in the effort to make a college education available to African Americans in the South after the slaves were freed.

One option for lodging will include staying in a suite-style dormitory. Fellowship opportunities are enhanced anytime a number of people stay in close proximity to one another.

The general plenary sessions will combine the necessary business of the conference interspersed throughout with "Go Global! Mission Moments" presented by the national staff by those ministries within our own conference. Calle Rogers-Witte will give our Keynote Address and two of the national staff will provide the sermons during the Friday night and Sunday morning worship celebrations.



Registration forms are available online on the conference office website or at the church office.

**Mail Carriers Annual Food  
Drive for SOS  
May 9<sup>th</sup>**

As you know, Faith UCC participates, in the SOS Food Bank. We staff it once a month on the third Friday of each month. We also gather food and contribute financially. Here are some recent statistics:

- 409 families were helped in June 2008 but in January 2009 578 families were helped!
- In June 2008 there were 33 new applicants. This increased to 72 in December 2008!
- In June 2008 17,339 pounds of food was distributed. In December 2008 this increased to 27,449 pounds!

**Helping the SOS during the mail carrier's food drive couldn't be simpler. Simply place your food items by your mailbox for pick up by your mail carrier on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Spread the news. Get your neighbors to participate. Let them know you have personal knowledge of the SOS Food Bank because your church participates in this local mission effort.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the Elbel Family. Edna Elbel, a long time resident at Eden Home, passed away on April 8, 2009.**

## Easter Cards and Messages

A card was received from George and Mary Dare for their Faith Church Family, which read, "May you all bask in God's glory and sprout happiness for the rest of this year."  
Love George & Mary Dare

We likewise wish them all the best in 2009. Their address is:  
George & Mary Dare  
3301 Enridge Dr.  
Louisville, KY 40220

A card was received from Ken & Harriet Jahncke:  
"To all our Dear Faith Church Friends, wishing you a lovely Easter and a beautiful spring. With Love from Harriet & Ken Jahncke

We likewise wish them all the best in 2009. Their address is:  
Ken & Harriet Jahncke  
5577 Home Dr. Apt 210  
West Bend, WI 53095-7621

## Don's Corner

"Jesus...said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your affliction.'" Luke 13:12 (NIV)

When I began to visit Eden, a nursing home near where I live in Texas, I adjusted immediately to the frets and foibles of the residents. Many were handicapped or confused, and that led to frustration on their part. But the frustrations of long-term care and rehab were exactly what we volunteers were there to help relieve.

What did bother me initially were the frequent arrivals of ambulances at the front door. Almost every day one or Eden Home had a health crisis, and more of the 150 elderly residents of felt sorry for them, even depressed. I began thinking, "Someone is dying" every time I saw an ambulance.

Then one day I encountered a woman bundled up and strapped to a gurney in the hallway. "Probably on her way to a hospital, the poor lady," I thought. But she smiled, so I greeted her, and her response was instant.

"I'm going home!" she said brightly, joy and pride unmistakable in her voice. She just had to tell me, a stranger.

Now, whenever I am tempted to assume the worst, I just remember that excited, jubilant woman. No longer am I depressed when I see an ambulance.

Surely someone is going home.

Prayer: Father, keep me from negative thoughts and help me to assume the best in all that we do. Amen.

Don Green

**A thank you was received from the SC Conference office thanking Faith UCC for contributing \$3,375 to OCWM in 2008. OCWM supports the work of the conference and national church, in the U.S. and around the world.**

**Ascension Day Service  
At Cross UCC  
May 21<sup>st</sup>  
11 a.m.**

We have been invited to join our sisters and brothers at Cross UCC for an Ascension Day Service on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m. A light lunch will be served following the service as we fellowship with one another.

If you want a ride, let the pastor know. He will be leaving the Faith Church parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

**Esperanza Fundraising  
Luncheon  
Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>  
After Church**

Border violence and the damaged global economy are having a major impact on volunteers for all border ministry programs. This means that much work will not be done and financial contributions will be way down in ministries all up and down the Mexican/U.S. border.



This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> year that Pastor Scott has gone on a youth mission trip from the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference UCC to Tijuana, Mexico. Each year those on this trip help local residents build decent housing through Esperanza International.

Pastor Scott is hosting a fundraising luncheon after church on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Cooper's BBQ brisket will be served with all the trimmings. A freewill offering will be received. **ALL proceeds will go to support the work of Esperanza International.** NONE of the money will be used to pay for Pastor Scott's trip. (He pays his own way.) Pastor Scott is also donating all of the food, so that all proceeds will go to Esperanza. Come out for a delicious lunch and help a very worthwhile organization.



**Confirmation Sunday  
Pentecost Sunday May 21**

On Pentecost Sunday four youth: Cody, James, Kayce, and Larissa, will be confirmed and those who have not been baptized will be baptized. Don't miss this very special service. Come out and support our youth! They have been working hard over the last several months attending weekly confirmation classes and all four have been making important contributions to the life of Faith Church in a variety of ways: choir; acolyting; running our AV equipment; etc.



## Mother's Day Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>



On Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> we will have a special worship service honoring mothers.

## Special Speaker on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>

A number of national staff from our United Church of Christ office in Cleveland, Ohio will be at the SC Conference annual meeting in Austin June 5-7<sup>th</sup>. One of them will be preaching here on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>.

We do not know which one it will be, but one of them will be here, so let's give them a big welcome and have a good attendance. It is not often that we are blessed to have someone from national staff in our midst!

We are hoping to have potluck on this Sunday to extend our time with them and learn more about Global Ministries. This will be dependent on airline schedules, etc. More on this later. This potluck will replace the normal second Sunday potluck in June.

## Kiva Update

Instead of focusing on recent loans I thought I would give an over all update. Here are some very interesting facts:

- We have made a total of 23 loans so far!
- 8 loans have been totally repaid! This amounts to \$625. All but \$38 of this has been reloaned!
- None of the loans have defaulted, in spite of the global economic downturn!
- \$2,350 has been loaned out and \$1,236 has been repaid.
- 70% of our loans have been to women and 30% to men
- we have made loans to 13 different countries – among them: Iraq; Afghanistan; Kenya; Mexico; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Peru etc.
- The four largest areas of business we have loaned to are: food 34.8%; retail 21.7%; clothing 13%; and agriculture 8.7%
- Kiva made 23, 346 loans this past week!
- \$1,314,000 was lent out this week!
- Kiva makes a loan every 15 seconds!

We are still accepting contributions for this ministry. Simply designate your check for KIVA on the memo line.

# May 2009

## Worship Assistants

### **Ushers:**

May 3 Richard & Kathy Leber;  
Nicolle & Michelle Perry-Clark  
May 10 Steve & Nancy Foster  
Charles & Bonnie Stark  
May 17 Jennifer & Eric Franklin  
Joe & Mikki Ward  
May 24 Rev. Al Hennig; Bruce Ridgley  
Curt Leonhardt; Susan Schlameus  
May 31 Solomon Fuss; Judy Anderson  
Darlene Stephens; Don Green

### **Liturgist:**

May 3 Nancy Foster  
May 10 Nicolle Perry-Clark  
May 17 Kathy Leber  
May 24 Karen Kramm  
May 31 Julia Allison

### **Acolytes:**

May 3 Kaycee Lewis  
May 10 Larissa Hunley  
May 17 Brady Storms  
May 24 Quinn Perry  
May 31 Cody Allen

### **Council Rep:**

May 3 Jan Hunley  
May 10 Tim Marlow  
May 17 Bonnie Stark  
May 24 Joe Ward  
May 31 Nicolle Clark

### **Greeter:**

May 3 Nicolle Clark  
May 10 Dorothy Rest  
May 17 Tim Marlow  
May 24 Bruce Ridgley  
May 31 Solomon Fuss

### **Hospitality:**

May 3 Michelle Perry-Clark  
May 10 Jennifer Marlow  
May 17 Chrissy Gossett  
May 24 Nicolle Perry-Clark  
May 31 Emma Deninno

### **Sunday School Team:**

May 3 Jennifer & Tim Marlow  
May 10 Jan Hunley & Mikki Ward  
May 17 Jim & Chrissy Gossett  
May 24 Michelle & Nicolle Perry-Clark  
May 31 Jennifer & Tim Marlow

### **Communion Assistants:**

May Richard & Kathy Leber

**If you cannot serve on the designated date/dates shown, please try and 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.**

## What Do Mainline Clergy Believe About the Issues of the Day?

The CVS surveyed senior clergy from the seven largest mainline denominations: United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, American Baptist Churches USA, Presbyterian Church USA, Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The survey found significant differences across the denominations on religious and political measures.

Public Religion Research found the following:

- 48% say they are liberal or progressive in their politics; 34% say they are conservative
- 56% identify themselves as being Democrats and 34% say they are Republican (74% of UCC clergy identify themselves as being liberal or progressive, the highest of all denominations)
- 78% believe the government should do more to solve social problems
- 69% say more environmental protection is needed, even if it costs more or costs jobs
- 65% support recognition of same sex couples; 55% support adoption by same sex couples
- 65% favor strong separation of church and state



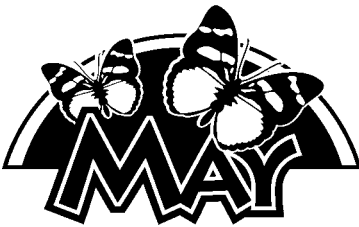
## Ava Perry-Clark Was Baptized on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> at Faith UCC!

Check out the pictures on the church website! Our prayers and blessings on Ava and her whole family as she begins her Christian journey!



**May 2009**

**Faith UCC  
970 N. Loop 337  
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**May 2 Church picnic in Landa Park  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**May 3 Rev. Bill Burns preaches**  
**May 6 Confirmation 5:30 p.m.  
Choir 6:30 p.m**  
**May 7 Lectionary Study 9–10:30 a.m.**  
**May 9 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.**  
**May 10 Mother's Day Worship  
Service**

**May 13 Confirmation 5:30 pm.  
Choir 6:30 p.m.**  
**May 14 Lectionary Study 9a.m.**  
**May 15 SOS 1-4 p.m.**  
**May 17 Esperanza Fundraiser  
Luncheon after church**  
**May 20 Confirmation 5:30 p.m.  
Choir 6:30 p.m.**  
**May 21 Lectionary 9 a.m.**  
**May 24 Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.**  
**May 27 Confirmation 5:30 p.m.  
Choir 6:30 p.m.**  
**May 31 Confirmation Sunday  
Pentecost Sunday!**  
**June 7 National Church speaker!**