

October 2009

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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I have been reading a fascinating new book by Harvey Cox, a writer I first ran across when I was in college. The name of the book is "*The Future of Faith.*" As an observer of religion around the world for over 40 years Dr. Cox sees three trends at the start of the 21st century.

1. The surprising resurgence of religion in both public and private life. It is surprising because many among the intelligentsia had written off religion, assuming it would fade away as people became more educated. For good or ill this has not happened, just the reverse.

2. This brings us to his second point, "fundamentalism is dying." Some might attribute the rise of religion to the rise of fundamentalism, but he believes the two are NOT the same. In fact he writes, "**Fundamentalisms, with their insistence on obligatory belief systems, their nostalgia for a mythical uncorrupted past, their claims to an exclusive grasp of truth, and - sometimes - their propensity for violence, are turning out to be rearguard attempts to stem a more sweeping tidal change.**"

3. This brings us to his third and most important point, we are entering into the "age of the Spirit." In this time the view of religion is changing from a system of set beliefs around a God who is somewhere "out there" and a goal to get to heaven, to a

"rediscovery of the sacred *IN* the immanent, the spiritual *WITHIN* the secular." In this age people are more interested in the experiential than the doctrinal.

Today there are more than 400 megachurches with 10,000 members or more! These are churches like Willow Creek near Chicago or Rick Warren's church in California. These are not fundamentalist churches. They are honeycombed with small groups that provide an intimate sense of community and opportunities for study, prayer, and action. Sociologist Robert Wuthnow says it is in these small groups that they "**feel closer to God, better able to pray ... and more confident that they are acting according to spiritual principles that emphasize love, forgiveness, humility and self-acceptance.**"

What can we learn from this for our life together as Faith UCC? One of the things it says to me is that we need to develop small groups that can gather together either at the church or in people's homes for study, prayer, and or action. Meeting one hour for worship does not build a church, no matter how good that worship might be. People need and want something more, community and opportunities to put their faith into action. If they find this they will feel closer not only to neighbor but also to God.

TAHSA Establishes the Elmo Fischer Visionary Leadership Award

At the annual meeting recently the Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging honored Elmo Fisher by establishing the Elmo Fisher Visionary Leadership Award. TAHSA, in which Eden Home is a member, represents more than 250 non-profit residential and non-residential agencies in Texas which serve the special needs of elderly people. The award recognizes Elmo's pioneering work during the 1960's and 1970's, as the first full time executive of the Association, as such he made significant contributions to the creation of standards and regulations pertaining to the operation of nursing homes in Texas. He also played a prominent role in establishing programs in junior colleges throughout Texas for training nursing home personnel.



In announcing the action the current president of TAHSA said, "I want you to know how much your work in building TAHSA over the years has meant to our members and to the field of aging services nationally. It took your vision as the first full time executive director of our association to create not only a sustainable organization but one that has thrived for decades. We thought it appropriate to bestow this honor on your behalf at our fiftieth anniversary celebration."

In years to come this award to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the field of geriatrics and whose contributions have enhanced significantly the quality of care available to our elderly citizens.

Don's Corner

"Set up road signs, put up guideposts..." Jeremiah 31:21 (NIV)

It has been a least 60 years since we last met, but you'll remember me. When your brother George and I were 6 and you were 12, I was the only kid on Bradley Street wearing glasses. You were always pitching a tennis ball against your front steps in endless imaginary baseball games. The real games you organized for us small fry included everybody, even uncoordinated me. The manhole cover in front of my house was home plate.

But I liked your races best. George always won the run around the block, because that's where you chased him to toughen him up. Running the length of our street, my cousin, another Jack, won. When it came to short sidewalk dashes, however, no one could beat me. That discovery carried me on into high school track and the only athletic achievements of my life.

I also remember your coming back to Ohio during World War II missing most of one shoulder. It was back to your front steps and imaginary baseball. You pitched many "games" before you talked to us much. You threw left-handed, then right, and finally developed a sort of submarine delivery on the afflicted side. It was your comeback pitch.

I just wanted to thank you, Jack, for showing me how to run and how to grow up. How about those Cleveland Indians?

Prayer: Remind me Lord, to acknowledge the many people who have made impacts on my life. Amen.

Don Green.

Thank You from the Eden Home

Dear Valued Friends, once again you have demonstrated your commitment to Eden Home with a gift of #125 to the annual fund! This important unrestricted support allows us the flexibility to seize opportunities that directly benefit our beloved residents, while maintaining a solid financial base to weather times of economic challenge.

As we approach our centennial year, we are mindful that your contributions have helped sustain Eden Home's position at the forefront of comprehensive and compassionate resident-centered care. We embrace our past and look forward to an exciting future and many more years of service to this community.

Thank you again for your generous support of our mission and ministry to each member of the Eden Home Family.

Sincerely,
Laurence Dahl
Executive Director

Thank You's from Slumber Falls Camp

We have received several thank you's from Slumber Falls Camp for several contributions in the \$25-50 range.

Dear Faith UCC, we extend a very special thank you for your contribution(s) that we received.... We are certainly blessed with 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
Director of Outdoor Ministry



James Lewis's Confirmation Statement

We believe in you O God, Eternal Spirit, God our Savior Jesus Christ. And our God and to your deeds we testify. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, you sent Jesus, your Son to create and build the church that brings together people of different ages, tongues, and races. You help bind us together, everyone in the church plays an important role and together we are like a family. Everyone helps one another and everyone loves one another just as You love everyone.

People in church can trust each other as they trust God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. God brings us all together, not as individuals but as one child of God. I think the church is not a building we go to every Sunday, but a symbol. A symbol of God's love for his children and a symbol of Jesus' love for us and his love for God His Father. Well I'm glad to be a child of God through the Holy Spirit because that means I am not just one person, no, that means that I am a part of something bigger than me, bigger than all of us, I am a part of God's creation and Love.

Blessing and Honor, Glory and Power, be unto you. Amen.

August Financial Summary

General Fund Balance 7/31/09 (\$1,106.62)

Income & deposits 22,016.68
Disbursements 19,945.53

Balance 8/31/09 \$964.53

Building Fund Balance 7/31/09 \$1,689.65

Income 901.50
Disbursements 1,000.09

Balance 8/31/09 \$1,591.06

Memorial Fund Balance 7/31/09 \$2,774.00

Income 480.00
Disbursements 0.00

Balance 8/31/09 \$3,254.00

Saving Account Balance 7/31/09 \$9,873.12

Deposits 3,320.00
Interest 0.00
Transfer to Checking 8/14/09 8,200.00

Balance 8/31/09 \$4,993.12

Loan Balance Approximately \$26,933.48

Respectfully submitted:
Terri Armstrong
Financial Secretary

Please consider additional contributions on a monthly basis so that we can meet our monthly note payments.

(Note, the savings and general balance sections show unusual activity because of the large outlays we made for the new AV system and the replacement of one of the sanctuary's large AC units. We were able to pay for these through special contributions, savings and by cashing in a money market account.)

South Texas Association Meeting in Lockhart Saturday Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come out for some good ole fashioned Lockhart BBQ and Christian fellowship at the South Texas Association meeting Oct. 10th at St. Paul UCC. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and worship at 10 a.m. The address is 792 S. Main. Lunch is \$6 and registration is \$5, for a total of \$11. Call 512-376-3737 and talk to Caroline, **before Sept. 26th**, to register. An offering will be received to give to CUE Seminary Support. Every one is welcome! If you need a ride contact the pastor. He will be leaving right after the men's breakfast that morning.

Our Next Church Potluck Will Be Sunday October 25th To Welcome Eden Student

October 23-25 three people from Eden Seminary will be visiting our South Texas Association. John Allen will be at our church. John is a senior at Eden Seminary. He attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio back in the 1980's, but most recently lived in Colorado. He currently serves as a chaplain at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis as well as serving St. John's UCC Casco and St. Johns UCC in Mantel, Missouri. He has busy year ahead of him as he prepares to graduate next year and he will also be getting married.

John along with the others will visit Slumber Falls and the Eden Home. John will preach in our church Sunday October 25th. We will have a potluck and program after church.

Let's have a good turn out for church and at the potluck to welcome one of our UCC seminary students and make him feel at home.

Thanks To All Who Helped Fund the Bobcat Supper for Texas State Students!

Sixty-four students attended the Bobcat Supper at UCM-Wesley on Wednesday September 16th. We raised \$160 to supper the supper and the work of UCM-Wesley. Students and guests enjoyed some lively music and singing during the worship service which was held before the meal. The music was accompanied by electric keyboard, guitar and drums. Rev. Mike Miller gave an excellent meditation on "Miracles." Brisket, baked potato and a salad was served after the worship. Our thanks to all of you who helped make this possible.



Remember to Wear Your Name Tag at Church!

Many of us have gotten away from wearing our name tags on Sunday morning. Please remember to wear your name tag. This is very helpful to our newer members and visitors. Also, we can't very well ask visitors to wear name tags if we don't wear them ourselves! If you stay for the coffee and conversation please keep your name tag on till you are ready to leave. This is the time when they are the most helpful to new members and visitors.

If you are serving as a greeter or as an usher please encourage people to wear their name tag and if they are a visitor help them find the name tags by the door. Your help in this matter will make us a more "welcoming" church.

The Interfaith Network - Comal Area Panel Discussion, Thursday, November 12th at Faith UCC



How religious perspectives can influence economics will be discussed by the diverse local faith traditions in our community. The various faith traditions represented in the Interfaith Network - Comal Area are: Baha'i Faith; Church of Scientology; Faith United Church of Christ; First Church of Christ, Scientist; First United Methodist Church; Unitarian Universalist Society; and Unity Church of Practical Christianity.

Come join us in celebrating our diversity and our common ground. There will be a time for questions and answers as part of the discussion.



**Hays Patrick Marlow
Will Be Baptized on
Sunday October 18th!**



Sunday October 18th will be a very special day in the life of Faith UCC. We will be welcoming Fischer's little

brother Hayes Patrick Marlow into the Christian Church. Don't miss this special day! Join Tim & Jennifer and the Marlow and Pantermuehl families, as they celebrate this day.



October Birthdays

- 10-1 Judy Anderson
- 10-3 Cullen Leonhardt
- 10-5 Sol Fuss
- 10-7 Sunny Colbath
- 10-8 Sally Pena
- 10-9 Justin Richter
- 10-10 Jody Coble
- 10-10 Donald Gregg
- 10-12 Samantha Heinemeyer
- 10-18 Evelyn Krueger
- 10-22 Scott Martin
- 10-23 Leon Peters
- 10-29 Nathan Leber

**Church Garage Sale
Saturday November 14th**

Karen Kramm has graciously offered to organize our 2009 church garage sale. We have already started receiving items at the church. If you have anything to donate drop it by the church. If you have large items or need help, contact the pastor. This is a good time to get rid of unused or redundant items that are cluttering up your cupboards, garages, and other storage areas.

We will need workers on the Friday night before to sort and mark. This is always a huge JOB, so come on out and help. It's always fun to see what price everyone thinks something should have on it. We also need workers for Saturday.

October Church Calendar

- Oct. 1-3 Pastor at Back Bay Mission
- Oct. 2 Home Health rents Baese Hall 8:30 a.m.
- Oct. 4 World Communion Sunday & NIN Offering
- Oct. 7 Church Council 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 8 Lectionary Study 9-10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 10 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
Association Meeting Lockhart 10 a.m.
- Oct. 15 CASE Mtg 6 p.m.
- Oct. 16 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m.
- Oct. 17 **Church Workday 8 a.m. -?**
- Oct. 18 Hayes Marlow Baptized
- Oct. 20 Worship Task Force 7 p.m.
- Oct. 23-25 Eden Student – John Allen preaches on Sunday Oct. 25

Church Potluck

October 2009

Worship Assistant Schedule

USHERS:

Oct 4 Judy Anderson, JoAnn
Brown,
Robert Deninno, Michelle
Perry

11 Nicolle Clark,
Karen Kramm,
Evelyn Krueger

18 Kathy and Richard Leber,
Curt Leonhardt

25 Mikki and Joe Ward
Al Hennig

LITURGIST:

Oct 4 Julia Allison
11 Steve Foster
18 Nicolle Clark
25 Karen Kramm

ACOLYTE:

Oct 4 Cody Allen
11 Larissa Hunley
18 Kayce Lewis
25 James Lewis

COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE:

Oct 4 Tim Marlow
11 Jan Hunley
18 Joe Ward
25 Nicolle Clark

GREETERS:

Oct 4 Cody Allen
11 Nancy Foster
18 Quinn Perry
25 Dorothy Rest

HOSPITALITY:

Oct 4 Emily Deninno
11 Jan Hunley
18 Sheila Angerer
25 **Potluck Sunday**

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Oct 4 Robert Deninno,
Michelle Perry

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.

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

October 2009

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



**All Church Workday
Saturday October 17th
8 a.m. to ???**

We have a variety of projects both indoors and outdoors that needs to be done. Among these are:

- change AC filters
- replace men's toilet
- grass and landscaping
- if someone has the skills we could use some new molding work in the back hallway
- clean carpet in SS & narthex
- weeding & trimming
- clean out refrigerator
- clean out gutters

No doubt the list will be even longer by the time 10/17 rolls around. If you know of something that needs to be done let us know, or better yet come out and do it! As the saying goes, "many hands make short work!"

**Items for the November
newsletter are due in
the church office by
Wednesday October
21st.**