

September 2009

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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 Church and Health Care

Since the earliest days of Christianity health care has been one of the prime mission areas for churches. The very first hospitals were mostly started by and run by churches. This is still true in many large cities, including San Antonio and New Braunfels. The Methodists, Baptists, and Catholic churches run some of the area's largest hospitals. Many missionaries overseas, past and present, work in the area of health care.

All of this is not the least bit surprising since the churches take their lead on this matter from Jesus himself. The majority Jesus' miracles were medical in nature: healing the lame, the blind, the lepers and the "possessed." No wonder churches continue to see health care as priority.

The big question for some is what is the church's role regarding health care and the government. The pastor of a large Baptist Church in West Palm Beach makes the claim ***"If liberal Christians ... would spend more time mobilizing the church to do what it is called to do and give generously and encourage others to there would be no need for health care reform for the needy."***

He may have a point and let hasten to say that he backs up his point with church run medical programs in his

church for the poor and homeless. He is putting his and the church's time, effort and money where his mouth is, so kudos to him for this!

Brian McClaren gave a very good response to this. Here is what he wrote in his blog:

"I applaud you for supporting your church in caring for the needs of the poor. Please keep up that good work! That sounds like a tremendous program – thanks be to God! Here again we agree: the church should be involved in helping poor people who are sick. I wonder if you would also agree with this:

If a poor person is hungry, we must help him get food. If he is naked, we must help him get clothes. If he is unemployed, we must help him get a job. If he is oppressed and treated unjustly, we must help him get better laws for his protection.

So when I write and speak as I do about matters of justice, I am trying to do exactly what you recommend: to mobilize the church to do what it is called to do. That includes giving – but it also includes voting and using the power of citizenship. ... Health care reform, as I see it, is about seeking better laws for the common good of all our neighbors."

September Birthdays

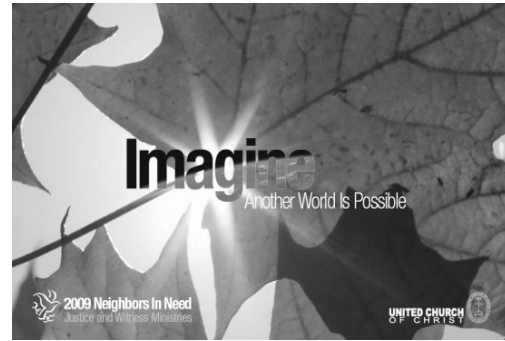
9-3 Dorothy Rest
9-5 Eloise Gregg
9-6 Kimberly Kramm
9-7 Steve Foster
9-9 Irene Bartels
9-9 Norma Remmler
9-9 Jerry Jaroszewski
9-12 Sherri Heinemeyer
9-12 Emily Deninno
9-13 Joe Ward
9-15 Brady Storms
9-15 Jim Ruley
9-24 Mikki Ward
9-27 Quinn Pery-Clark
9-28 Emma Lou Bizer
9-28 Frank Dietz
9-29 Mary Dare



If you have a birthday this month and it is not on the list, please let the pastor know so we can get it on there for next year.

Neighbors In Need Offering Sunday October 4th

The NIN offering, which we will receive on October 4th, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through the UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness



Ministries office offers resources, news, updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (an network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors In Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebearers of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Please give generously by using the offering envelopes at church or you can contribute by going online at any time at www.ucc.org/nin

**South Texas Association
Women's Fellowship
Gathering
September 10**

Cross United Church of Sequin will host this fall's gathering of the South Texas Association Women's Fellowship. The meeting will be on Thursday, September 10, beginning with registration and coffee in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. Opening worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. This year the offering during worship will go to the 2010 project, Back Bay Mission. Gifts have been gathered for this year's project, Eden Home in New Braunfels.



Circle of Faith News

Faith UCC contributed \$275 toward this year's mission project which will be part of a larger gift to be presented during the meeting to a representative from Eden Home. The members of our Circle of Faith thank all who generously responded to an appeal for participation at our worship service on August 9th.

All who attend the Women's Fellowship event are encouraged to bring Bingo prizes for the Eden Home residents such as tissues, small toiletries, candy bars, etc. We will meet at Faith Church at 9 a.m. to car pool to Cross Church. There will be a catered luncheon for \$7 and reservations are needed by August 7th. PLEASE CALL KAREN DIETZ BY SEPTEMBER 6 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND (626-6833 OR 515-8237)

Remember that this event is not only for the women of our Association but for all who would like to attend and learn more about the ministry of Eden Home, worship together, and enjoy a day of Christian fellowship.

Karen Dietz



MEN'S GROUPS

**Men's Breakfast
September 12th at 8 a.m.**

The Men's Group will begin their monthly breakfast gatherings Saturday, September 12th, at 8 a.m. Let's have a good gathering, for this our first fall meeting! All the men of the church are invited.



**Southern Regional Meeting
of UCC Women
In Brenham, Texas
October 16-18, 2009**

**Theme: "Choosing the Spiritual
Clothes We Wear"**

**. . . How do you look to God and to
others?**

. . . What shall you wear today?

Scripture: Colossians 3:12

"So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline."

Location: Heartland Country Inn & Christian Retreat Center in beautiful Brenham, Texas. Spectacular views of rolling countryside, family style guest houses with shared baths, open living area space in each building, most have porches or outside spaces.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Jo Hudson Senior Pastor, Cathedral of Hope, Dallas TX Board Member, United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries

Registration: The deadline for registration is September 16, 2009. Registrations received September 17 through September 30, 2009, add a late fee of \$20.00. We cannot accept any registrations after October 1.

To register contact: Carline Lehnhoff, 830-379-4525 or email chlehnhoff1220@sbcglobal.net. After registering, you will receive a confirmation packet. This will include directions, program schedule, information on workshops, the service project, and recreational opportunities.

Cost: \$195.00-210.00 per person depending on choice of accommodations. Price includes 6 meals and registration. Commuter Registration: Meals and registration only \$105.00



Workshops:

- Prayer, Book Discussion
- African American Spirituals
- Social Justice

for Women Working in Sweat Shops,

- Changes in Women's Ministry
- Bible Study
- Spiritual Movement
- Banner Making

Don't miss this opportunity! It is rare for this gathering to be held in the South Central Conference. Sign up now!

**Pastor to Attend His First
Back Bay Mission
Board Meeting Oct 1-3**

I am looking forward to attending my first Back Bay Board meeting. Besides the usual orientation and business, Back Bay will be dedicating its totally rebuilt campus, which was wiped out by Hurricane Katrina three years ago. We will also have a Saturday work day to help rebuild and repair shattered homes in the area. Yes, three years later there is still much work to be done! I look forward to sharing these experiences when I get back.

Faith UCC Sponsors September 16th Bobcat Supper At Texas State University

Faith UCC has a long and continuing connection with the campus ministry program at Texas State University. The South Central Conference has supported this ministry financially for many years; Jennifer Marlow was office manager there until last year; and Pastor Scott is serving on the board. Dr. Miller, the campus chaplain, has preached in this church and we hope to have him and some students come again this fall.

Among the many programs that UCM-Wesley provides is a FREE Wednesday Night supper and program each

week to students. The theme of this year's suppers is "Everyone of you has a Song", based on I Corinthians 14:26.

The meals and program provide a good nutritious meal at no cost and a time for fellowship, in a Christian atmosphere. The approximate cost of these meals is \$125. Faith UCC is sponsoring the meal on Wednesday September 16th. If you would like to help with this mission effort simply designate a check on the memo line with "Bobcat Supper" and place it in the offering.

Don's Corner

*...[O]ffer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--
--this is your spiritual act of worship.* Romans 12:1



After attending morning worship at Faith Church August 23, a singles group of six of us adjourned to the River City restaurant on the McQueeney Road for Sunday dinner. There was a 20-minute-plus wait for a table, and the waiting bench initially was full. But we adjusted -- and waited.

Finally at our table, we ordered, ate, and chatted about many things, though not about Scott's sermon, "Church Work", nor its scripture passage excerpted above. However, unbeknownst to most of us, one of our number had committed a "spiritual act of worship" alluded to in Romans 12.

As we were about to leave after the meal a gentleman approached Dorothy Rest and spoke. (Friends know Dorothy affectionately as a rather typical "little old lady", somewhat bent but far from broken. Also in our group was Elmo Fischer, our senior member, with his familiar walker.)

"Pardon me," the stranger said to Dorothy, "but while we were waiting awhile ago you blessed me ever-so-richly when you offered your seat to him." He gestured to Elmo. "I just had to tell you"

Somewhat taken aback, Dorothy thanked him politely. The rest of us hadn't noticed her earlier offer, and Elmo had declined it and found a seat elsewhere. Now everyone was smiling.

Responding from the pews that morning, Lois Swander, another of our lunch party, had summed up the lesson in Scott's sermon question by defining church work as "a way of life". Now Dorothy, in her own natural way, had given us all a live demonstration of that definition.

Prayer: Oh God, I know your eye is on the sparrow and you're watching me. Thank you for showing us as Christians that others are watching, too.

FROM UNBINDING THE GOSPEL

From Unbinding the Gospel - Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese:

"There were 179 million Americans in 1960. Twenty six million of them were members of seven mainline denominations in the Mainline Evangelism Project. In 1960, 14.4% of the people in the United States were members of a mainline church. Forty years later in 2000, these mainline churches had only 21 million members. We have lost 20% of our members over 40 years. The picture dims when we learn that in those same forty years the number of Americans grew by 100 million, from 179 million in 1960 to 280 million in 2000. In 1960, mainline church members made up 14.4% of the American population. In 2000, they comprised only 7.4% of the American population. Mainline church membership decreased by almost 50% in the past 40 years."



And

"In 1960, pews filled when a loving, well-run church opened its doors. Today, people who have never attended a church populate our neighborhood and workplaces. The next decade will see millions more. They won't have memories of a Christian grandmother, father or next door neighbor. The thought of going back to church when they are in trouble, will never occur to them, because they have never been inside a church building in the first place. For them, the church is an alien, possibility intimidating place - not a cradle of comfort and hope."

Worship Team Activities

- The Worship Team met on 8/28/09 to discuss activities to find a new **Music Leader**. If you know of anyone that might be interested in the position, please contact Pastor Scott for more information.
- The Worship Team is **renewing membership**. If you are interested in participating please contact Pastor Scott. Even if you don't wish to be a member of the team, we invite you to attend our next meeting on Tuesday Sept. 8, 2009, 7:00 PM at the church to provide comments or to learn about our activities.
- Current Worship Team **Members** are Pastor Scott, Michelle Perry-Clark, Mikki Ward, Leslie Woods, Ken Triesch, Steve and Nancy Foster.

Worship Service Assistance is needed.

We are in need of volunteers to run the audio- visual equipment on Sunday mornings for three weeks in September and periodically on-going. If you are interested, please contact Joe or Mikki Ward. 830-372-4858.

AC/AV Fund Update

A big "**THANK YOU!**" to all of you who have helped with the AC/AV Fund. To date we have collected \$3,200 towards the \$7,200 we spent on the AV system and the \$4,800 we spent to replace the broken AC unit in the sanctuary. If you have not contributed yet, and can, your help we these two efforts would be appreciated.

September 2009

Worship Assistants

USHERS:

Sept 6 Jim Gossett,
Richard & Kathy Leber

13 Curt & Denise Leonhardt
Robert Deninno

20 Jan Hunley
Karen Kramm.
Evelyn Krueger

27 Nicolle & Michelle
Perry-Clark,
Don Green

LITURGIST:

Sept 6 Tim Marlow
13 Nicolle Clark
20 Mikki Ward
27 Kathy Leber

ACOLYTES:

Sept 6 Will Gossett
13 Larissa Hunley
20 Brady Storms
27 Quinn Perry

COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE:

Sept 6 Bonnie Stark
13 Tim Marlow
20 Nicolle Clark
27 Don Green

GREETERS:

Sept 6 Albert Henning
13 Robert Deninno
20 Judy Anderson
27 Sheila Angerer

HOSPITALITY:

Sept 6 **POTLUCK SUNDAY**
13 Emma Deninno
20 Chrissy Gossett
27 Kathy Leber

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sept 6 Richard and Kathy Leber

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.

September 2009

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



September Calendar Dates

- 9-2 Church Council
- 9-3 Lectionary Study 9-10:30 a.m.
- 9-6 Communion
- 9-10 Women's Gathering at Cross
UCC – leave the Faith parking lot at
9 a.m. to carpool there
- 9-14 Christian Ed Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
Children's SS starts.
Second Sunday Potluck
- 9-16 Faith Church sponsors the TSU
Bobcat Dinner
- 9-17 Lectionary Study 9-10:30 a.m.
- 9-18 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m.
- 9-24 Lectionary Study 9-10:30 a.m.

9-27 October newsletter articles due

Community UCC

Sausage Luncheon

Dine In or To-Go

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

\$7 Donation per plate