

-February 2010

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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

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As we prepare to add an additional alternative worship service I've been reading an *Emerging Worship: Creative Gatherings for New Generations* by Dan Kimbal.

He points out that there is no ONE kind of emerging worship service in churches. Each community needs to develop its own "style" of service. It needs to emerge from the grass roots if you will. He does say that he has observed the following general characteristics in emerging worship services:

- Emerging worship moves away from a spectator type of gathering to a participatory style.
- There is an organic design to the worship gathering, which allows for the Spirit to move. There may be silence, or people may move around to worship stations, or do journaling, pray, paint, etc.
- A sacred space is created for the worship gathering which is often very visual. Emerging churches often use lots of candles in a room with subdued lighting. Light is an ancient symbol for Christ as the light of the world. Many emerging churches try to produce a living-room like feel even if 500 people are present, using couches and chairs. Generally people speak from the middle.
- A multi-sensory approach to the worship is employed, using seeing,

hearing, tasting, smell, touch and experiencing. The focus is on Jesus and not on the band, or a leader. The services will be eclectic, using music from many genres. Art can play a large role. There may be sermons but not always and the preacher sees themselves as a fellow journeyer, not someone with all the answers.

- Emerging churches often allow and encourage freedom of movement. People may move around to various "stations" for participatory experiences while meditative music, old or new, plays in the background.
- In emerging worship there is a different focal point. The focus is not on one or two people leading from an elevated stage. Hopefully the group will not be dependent on one "leader" but will nurture leadership from all worshippers.
- In emerging churches there is often a revival of liturgy, ancient disciplines, Christian seasons and Jewish roots.
- In emerging churches there is an emphasis on prayer throughout the service.
- Communion is often a central part of emerging worship and is very often offered weekly.
- Jesus is the centerpiece of emerging worship. Practicing the presence of Jesus and nurturing kingdom living is the central goal.



PFLAG -- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Third Thursday at 7 PM in Seguin. Call for more information. 830-491-1055, 830-832-7669 or 830-



For the last several years our church has participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring on Souper Bowl Sunday, which is on February 7th this year. You are invited to bring can goods and or a financial contribution, all of which will go to the local SOS Food Bank.

By the way, we are always looking for additional volunteers to staff the Food Bank on the third Friday of each month. That is our day to staff the Food Bank.

New church directories are available in the narthex. Please take one and check your information to make sure we have it in there correctly.

February Birthdays!!!

- 2-2 Sandy Ludwig
- 2.-5 Karen Campa
- 2-13 Louise Dworaczyk
- 2-25 Michelle Gilbreth
- 2-26 Merle Kosler

Slumber Falls Work Camp February 26-28th

Work Camp is a great time to come back to camp and donate some time and energy to helping improve the camp. This weekend is completely free of charge.

Please note that youth are welcome to attend if they are accompanied by an adult.

The list of 2010 projects is still being developed.

- Cleaning, organizing, re-stocking Kum Bah Yah
- Cutting up fallen trees, moving and stacking wood
- Repairs to the Kelsey Playground
- Installing outside lights at the Kelsey worship area
- Cleaning and mulching flower beds
- Cleaning and setting up pool area
- Spreading pea gravel on paths
- Clean up and organize Shady Nook maintenance shed
- Install new doors and window closures on the Woelke Kitchen
- More projects to follow



Ash Wednesday Worship February 17 7 p.m.

We will begin our Lenten Season with an Ash Wednesday service which will include the imposition of ashes. Don't miss this very special service.

Lenten Devotional

Don't forget to pick up a copy of Faith Church's 2010 Lenten Devotional. Our thanks to Sheila Angerer for putting this together for us! Copies are available in the narthex. The theme is "**Hand in Hand Through the Lenten Season.**"

Questions of Faith Soup & Lenten Study

Join us after beginning February 21st for a four part Lenten Study, which will be preceded by a simple meal.

Basic questions of belief and meaning come to us again and again in our lives. If you are searching, striving to grow in faith and to relate belief to life, you will find this series helpful and stimulating. Each session will include a 20-30 minute DVD presentation by various contemporary Protestant, Jewish and Roman Catholic participants. Their backgrounds range from priests to psychotherapists, Old Testament scholars to evangelists, and

preachers to sociologists. Following the DVD presentation there will be general discussion on the topic and all those present can put their two cents in or reflect on what was presented.

Here are the topics:

2-21 What Is the Nature of Human Nature?

2-28 Whose World Is It?

3-7 What's the Holy Spirit

3-14 Why Hope?

Lenten Calendar KIVA Fund Raiser

We have done a Lenten calendar fund-raiser the last several years. Last year we raised money for Heifer Project International. This year we will be raising money for our KIVA Micro-lending Mission Fund. We currently have just over \$1,000 in the fund

In the last two years we have made 39 loans all over the world to help poor people build small businesses to support their families and pursue their dreams! Only one of these loans has defaulted and the rest have been paid on time. The good news is that all the money in this fund is re-loaned as it is paid back and so this is a gift that keeps on giving! As a result even though we about \$1,000 in this fund we have made \$3,700 worth of loans! Let's add to this very worthwhile mission fund!

Pick up a coin bank and Lenten Calendar and make this part of your Lenten experience. The calendar will have a geography theme, in keeping with our micro loans all over the world.



Faith UCC to Add a Second Worship Service!

The Worship Committee has been hard at work developing a new worship experience for Faith Church which will be called **FAITH ALIVE!**

This means that our times for worship will be changing on March 21st !

On Saturday March 13th we will have a “trial run” for the new service at 6 p.m. This is meant to be mostly an “in house” practice run for the new service. It will provide an opportunity for all Faith Church members and friends to try out the new service.

Beginning Sunday March 21st this will be the worship schedule at Faith UCC:

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service with Sunday School for children and youth.

10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Coffee & Conversation for those leaving the 9:30 a.m. service and those arriving for the 10:30 a.m. new Faith Alive service.

11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Faith Alive worship service.

While they may share the same theme, they will be two completely different worship services. There will be different music, different liturgy, different experiences and Pastor Scott will share two different messages. Some may want to attend BOTH services!

Obviously the new service will be a work in progress. We encourage ALL our members to **pray for both services. Our goal at BOTH is to provide an opportunity for people to:**

- **worship and praise God**
- **further their walk with Christ**
- **strengthen the Body of Christ**
- **equip the saints for service in God’s name in the world**
- **invite others to follow Christ**

Obviously this will be a time of “adjustment” for all of us but with God’s help the mission of Faith Church to do God’s work in this time and place will be strengthened.





We Did It! We Paid Off the Mortgage!

As most of you know we found out a few weeks ago that our almost \$24,000 church mortgage was due in full by January 27th. This was a shock but God seems to have been with us. Only a few days before this news came Elmo Fischer expressed the desire that we pay off the mortgage and to help us do so offered to match dollar for dollar, up to \$12,000, all funds raised to pay the mortgage off. The news from the bank forced us to quicken the pace of this generous offer.

The first Sunday we shared all this in church we received over \$7,400!!! The following Sunday we received \$22,125 for a grand total of \$29,525!!!! Thanks to your awesome generosity we paid the mortgage off, paying \$23,725.82. That leaves us with a balance of \$7,856 in the building fund for future building and ground needs. *(This figure includes the \$2,057.79 we had in the building fund before this drive began.)* This will come in handy when events like last year take place when one of our two sanctuary AC units had to be replaced at a cost of \$4,800! The other unit is just as old, so who knows how long it will last. There may be other maintenance and building issues that this fund can address.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14TH AFTER CHURCH FOR A CATERED MEAL AND MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION!

Because this meal is being catered it would be helpful to have a rough idea of how many people are coming. We invite ALL current and past members and friends to come to this great event; especially anyone who had anything to do with building our sanctuary. RSVP by signing up on the kiosk or calling the church office with the names of those who are coming.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Faith UCC is one of more than 1,000 UCC churches nationwide that are 5 for 5 churches. On Sunday March 14th we will officially receive the 2010 One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. In 2008 the UCC received \$3,048,840 for OGHS and another \$924,440 for UCC



special appeals for domestic and international emergencies, for a total of almost \$4,000,000!

This year's theme is

"Feed My Sheep" taken from John 21:15-17. The OGHS offering supports international programs of health, education and agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance. The recent earthquake in Haiti is the kind of international emergencies OGHS addresses, as well as long-term development.

Faith UCC In Conversation to Establish a Community Garden

Many years ago Faith UCC offered ground for a community garden effort. It was located where the current Common Street parking lot is located. It was a good idea then and it is still a good idea.

Transition Local has been meeting for about a year in hopes of establishing an organic, community garden. They are partnering with Roots and Shoots, RavenStar Outdoor Education, the Siempre Sustainable Network in Seguin and the Comal Master Gardeners to get the project going.

Faith Church has offered the use of the land to the north of Baese Hall. The garden would give people hands-on experience and the opportunity to learn where their food comes from and the importance of healthy soil, water and resources. It is our hope that this mission effort will come to full "fruition" (pun intended)!

If you would like learn more about this project come to the Transitions Local meeting at Faith Church on Thursday, February 4th from 6-8 p.m. in the church sanctuary.



Don Green's Corner

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." Ecclesiastes 7:8 NIV

Eager to explore my new home territory, the great American Southwest,

I had easily negotiated the mile of switchback foot trail to the floor of beautiful Canyon De Chelly. Now in late afternoon I started the steep hike back up the canyon wall – almost straight up, it seemed. In about one-eighth mile I was gasping for breath. At age 43 I had felt in fair physical shape back in Ohio at 1,000 feet above sea level. But here at 7,000 feet in northwestern Arizona the air was thin. Asthmatic, alone, and unacclimated to the altitude, I was in trouble.

I sat on a boulder and surveyed the narrow trail above me. There, zigzagging upward the same as I, was a long line of sheep and goats. Somewhat rested, I soon caught up with the flock. Trying to pass would be pointless.

Ever climbing, I settled into the plodding pace of the sheep, finding amusement in watching the minority goats trying to edge past the sheep or shortcut the turns by climbing straight up. In the end the goats got nowhere in this canyon rush hour.

Presently I realized that I was breathing normally. Nor was I breathless when the sheep and I finally reached the top together. As Grandma might say, "Slow and steady wins the day."

Prayer: Father, thank you for teaching me, even through the lowliest of your creatures, how to survive in this bustling world.

February Worship Assistants

February 7

Liturgist: Julia Allison
Acolyte: Devyn Perry
Council Rep: Nicolle Clark
Greeter: Dorothy Rest
Hospitality: Emma Deninno
Communion: Nancy Foster
Ushers: Kathy & Richard Leber;
Nicolle Clark; Steve Foster

February 14

Liturgist: Jim Gossett
Acolyte: Will Gossett
Council Rep: Karen Kramm
Greeter: Tim Marlow
Hospitality: Chrissy Gossett
Ushers: Karen Kramm; Tim Marlow;
Joe Ward

February 21

Liturgist: Charles Stark
Acolyte: Quinn Perry
Council Rep: Don Green
Greeter: Evelyn Krueger
Hospitality: Nicolle Clark
Ushers: Don Green; Nicolle Clark;
Evelyn Krueger

February 28

Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt
Acolyte: Brady Storms
Council Rep: Joe Ward
Greeter: Judy Anderson
Hospitality: Mikki Ward
Ushers: Joe Ward;
Denise Leonhardt; Mikki Ward

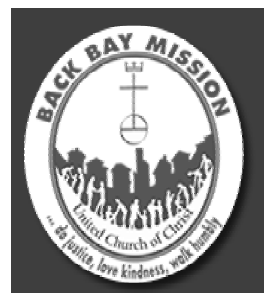
Notice:

If you cannot serve on the designated date/dates shown, please try and find a substitute. If that is not possible, please call Joseph Ward (830-305-0214) or leave a message at the church office (830-625-6761) as soon as possible.

If you would like to be removed from all or part of the Worship Assistant List, please contact Joseph Ward at 830-305-0214.

Pastor Scott Will Be Out of Town February 1-6th

Pastor Scott will be on vacation in Florida February 1-4th. On February 5 & 6th he will be attending the Back Bay Mission board meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi.



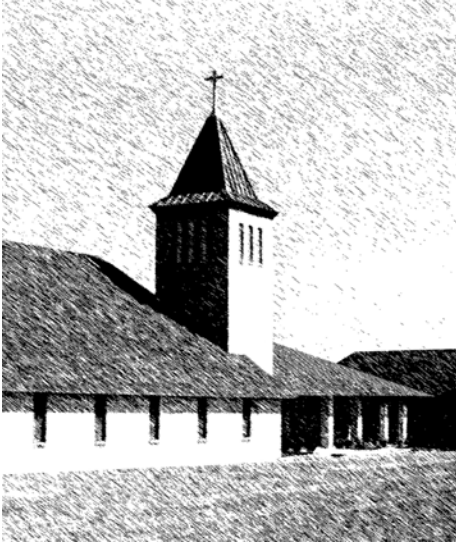
Norma Gilbert's new address

**307 E. McLennan Ave
Mart, Texas 76664**

Phone 254-876-2091

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February Calendar

2-1 to 2-6 pastor is out of town

2-3 Transition Local meeting at
Faith UCC 6-8 p.m.

2-4 Lectionary Study 9-10:30

2-7 Adult SS with Peter Olsen 9:15
Worship & Communion 10:30

2-10 Church Council 6:30 p.m.

2-11 Lectionary Study 9-10:30 a.m.
Worship Committee 6:30 p.m.

2-12 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.

2-14 Worship 10:30 a.m.
11:30 Catered Lunch &
burning of the mortgage

2-17 Ash Wednesday service 7 pm

2-18 Lectionary Study 9-10:30 am

2-19 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m

2-21 Worship 10:30 a.m.
Soup & Lenten Study 11:30

2-25 Lectionary Study 9-10:30 a.m
Worship Committee 6:30 p.m.

2-26-28 Slumber Falls Work Camp
2-28 Worship 10:30 a.m.
Lenten Study & Soup 11:30