

August 2011

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

Faith UCC
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A person comes up to you and asks what church you go to. Being South Texas, when you tell them Faith United Church of Christ, they tell you that they have never heard of the United Church of Christ. “What do you believe?” they ask. Where do you begin to tell them about who we are?

When I was at General Synod this short, pithy outline was offered as a way of describing the UCC.

1. We are a church that believes in **“continuing testament.”** That is a way of saying that we believe God is still speaking to the world today. God speaks through the ancient words of Scripture. The Holy Spirit can speak a new word through these ancient words. God also speaks in and through many other people and things.
2. We are a church of **“Extravagant Welcome”**. You know line, “no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” It doesn’t matter what your race or age is, what your nationality or gender is, what your sexual orientation or economic status is, no matter who your are you are welcome.
3. In the UCC we are **“changing lives.”** The two previous points shape a very special. Community of faith that transforms lives. God’s grace and mercy move in very special ways in the UCC. Our mission and outreach offer both physical and spiritual healing and aid.

All three of these things were on constant display throughout General Synod: in the worship services; in the fellowship, in the resolution process; in the hands on mission projects and special offerings; in the march on a local supermarket in support of Florida farm workers; in the inspiring speeches; in the exhibit hall I where many UCC institutions told of their work; etc.

Other churches and denominations might be able to make similar claims but truly in the UCC we embody continuing testament; extravagant welcome and change lives in unique and awe inspiring ways. When someone asks you about who we are shape your response around these three characteristics.

Let’s get the word out there about who we are. There are many people looking for just our kind of church! Maybe they’ve had a bad experience in other churches or maybe they come from no church background whatsoever but they are longing for transformation and the touch of God’s Spirit.

Mail Bag

Evelyn Krueger and her family would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during her recent “amazing” episode. We also would like to thank Frank Dietz for all his compassionate words and visits, and also to everyone who so quickly stepped in as needed that morning. We are very blessed to have such a loving church family.

Love Evelyn Krueger and Family

Dear Faith UCC,

Thanks so much to everyone for the \$100 check! We will be using it on our honeymoon to Croatia this month. We will send pictures as soon as we get back. Hope all is well and God bless.

Sincerely, Donna & Andrew Irwin 9415 1st View St. Apt #1 Norfolk, VA 23503

Dear Faith UCC,

I am the new president of the South Central Conference. I am so excited about our ministry together during the next two years. I am grateful for your ministry to the conference.

Please email or call me if you ever have any questions or concerns. May God’s compassionate wisdom be with us in the South Central Conference.

Blessings, Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown-Daniel



Dear Friends,

Wow! You have done it again. For the fourth year in a row, delegates to the Annual Meeting carried with them the love and compassion of their congregations in the form of Church World Service school kits and hygiene kits for Back Bay Mission. It is my special privilege to report that the 84 school kits Faith UCC contributed have been safely received at the CWS warehouse in Little Rock.

CWS will use these school kits where most needed. Recently, we have been making a variety of shipments to assist those impacted by storms and flooding. For a child in a disaster evacuation center, a simple school kit is a precious gift. Drawing pictures or writing a story is a way for some children to overcome their grief as they face losing their homes. School kits can be part of the healing process.

Thank you for the wonderful gift your congregation has given as part of the South Central Conference Mission Kit Project. Please out gratitude to those responsible for such as outpouring of love and care at Faith UCC.

Sincerely, Howard Hartman, Regional Director, TX/LA Office CWS

Recent Kiva Micro-lending Loans



We recently loaned Sra. Flora \$100 of the \$450 loan she received from FRAC. This loan will be paid off over the next 5 months.

Sra. Flora has a grocery business where she sells candy, soft drinks, snack foods, bread, and yogurt. Basically she sells a little bit of everything and has already been in business a little more than 20 years. She says that it is always difficult for her to wake up to keep her business running because she generates few sales. During the week she sells very little, but her sales get better on the weekends. Among the other problems that she must deal with are

the infrequent visits from her suppliers because the highway is not passable and is located some distance away from her community.

We also recently loaned \$100 of the \$1,075 loan the Genesis group received through ADIM. This loan will be paid off over a 9 month period.

The Génesis group is made up of Mrs Juana del Rosario, age 49, Mr. José Armando, age 48, and Mr. Juan Manuel, age 30. They are merchants of cuts of fabric which they sell in street markets.



The group coordinator is Mrs. Juana, who started selling cuts of fabric in street markets in 1987. Her dream is to have a textile store, and she will invest this loan in the purchase of fabrics for her business.



We loaned \$75 of this group's \$4,100 loan. This Communal Bank is called "Fuerza de Mujer" (Strength of Woman) and consists of 19 entrepreneurs who engage in different business activities such as selling secondhand clothing, selling new clothes, and selling undergarments and perfumes. All of them are from the city of San Javier.

In the photograph, Celinda is crouching and positioned closer to the right side. She has short hair and is wearing a burgundy jacket with a black sleeveless vest over it. Celinda has two businesses. The first one involves managing a store in her home where she sells groceries, sausages, dairy products, toiletries, and bazaar items. Her work schedule every weekday is from 9am to 11pm. On the weekends, she sells secondhand clothing in the mornings and new clothes at a Persian fair near her home. She has managed these businesses for nine years. With this loan, Celinda will restock her store with more clothes, groceries, dairy products, and frozen sausages.

We have now made 94 loans totaling \$7,975 in the last 4 years!

August Birthdays!!!

8-1 Joshua Coble

8-2 8-2 Donna Myer

830-352-□ Karen Dietz

8-25 Grace Perry-Clark

830-352-□ Cappy Felger-Adams

8-30 Nancy Foster & Kenneth Triesch



Baby Food Project for the SOS Food Bank

I announced on Sunday, July 24 the food bank was in need of baby food items. This will include cereals and baby food. The San Antonio Food Bank, where the bulk of the food is ordered from, does not have baby food or baby items. This creates a problem for the shelves designated for baby food, diapers and cereals. Our church can make a huge difference with this project and help so many parents with babies who are unable to consume the adult food given out each month.



The food bank made a motion to have the churches purchase baby food and it be kept on hand for clients needing baby food passed unanimously. A limited supply of baby food/cereal and a small quantity of a basic type of baby formula is kept on hand for client's emergency needs. The board members also suggested that a request for baby food and cereals be put in their church bulletins for the SOSFB.

This is a good project for our church to be involved with and beneficial to those who have a need for this type of service. The month of June served 468 families, 1,222 people were served and the emergency issues were 99.

If you have any questions about this project you may call or email me.

830-352-6555 or Geminibo2@yahoo.com

Thank you so much for the support you can give to this project.

Sheila Angerer

August 2011 Worship Assistant Schedule

August 7

Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte: Larissa Hunley Council Rep: Jan Hunley
Greeter: Dorothy Rest Communion: Nancy Foster Hospitality: Jennifer Marlow
Ushers: Steve & Nancy Foster; Jan Hunley; Robert Deninno AV: Sheila Angerer

August 14

Liturgist: Donna Myer Acolyte: Quinn Perry Council Rep: Nicolle Clark
Greeter: Lucile Marberger Hospitality: Mikki Ward AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Nicolle Clark; Mikki & Joe Ward

August 21

Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte: Brady Storms Council Rep: Sheila Angerer
Greeter: Tracey Ferich Hospitality: Kathy Leber AV: Tim Marlow
Ushers: Sheila Angerer; Kathy & Richard Leber

August 28

Liturgist: Wendy Reinke Acolyte: Devin Perry Council Rep: Karen Kramm
Greeter: Donna Myer Hospitality: Nicolle Clark AV: Mikki Ward
Ushers: Karen Kramm; David Myer; Joe Ward

Notice: If you cannot serve on the designated date/dates shown, please try to 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 or added to the Worship Assistant List, please contact Joseph Ward at 830-305-0214.





August Calendar

- August 3 Church Council 6:30 p.m.
August 7 Adult SS at 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
August 9 STA Ex Com Committee at Faith UCC
7 p.m.
August 14 Adult SS at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Potluck after church

August 16 Church and Ministry Committee meets at Bethany UCC in San Antonio 7 p.m.

August 18 Texas State Campus Ministry BOD 5 p.m.

PFLAG Seguin 7 p.m.

August 19 SOS 1-4 pm.

August 20 Conference Annual Meeting Planning Committee at Bethany UCC 10 a.m.

August 21 Adult SS. At 9:30 am. Worship 10:30 a.m.

August 28 Adult SS at 9:30 am. Worship 10:30 a.m.

August 31 Taize Service at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Joys and Concerns

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Wilton Warnecke who passed away recently.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sandy Ludwig and Bonnie Stark who are recovering at home after recent hospitalizations.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joshua Reinke who is facing possible surgery and chemotherapy.

We are happy to report that Sol Fuss has returned home after an extended time of rehabilitation. Our thoughts and prayers are for his continued recovery.

We celebrate with the Gossett Family the birth of Lila Gossett on July 1st!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lois Swander in the Eden Hill Rehabilitation Unit, who is continuing to recover from a recent fall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy Rest and Elmo Fischer who recently transitioned from independent living to assisted living at Eden Hill.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Vivian Nowatny, who continues to recover at home.

**Thanks to All Who
Made the Blood Drive Possible!**



Faith Church had its first ever blood drive on July 10th. Our thanks to Nancy and Steve Foster for organizing our effort. The goal was 10 pints. We had enough donors to reach 12 pints!!! Our thanks to everyone who signed up to donate. Each pint of blood can be used by up to three people. That means we may have helped up to 36 people!

The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center was so pleased with our effort that they have offered us 10-23-11 for our next blood drive. Let's do it!

New Sermon Series Based on the Rob Bell's Book

**“Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell,
and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived”**

Greg Boyd, senior pastor of Woodland Hills Church says of Rob Bell's book, “Love Wins is a bold, prophetic, and poetic masterpiece. I don't know any writer who expresses the inexpressible love of God so powerfully and as beautifully as Rob Bell! Many will disagree with some of Rob's perspectives, but no one who seriously engages this book will put it down unchanged. A 'must read' book! “Love Wins” has made the New York Times Best Seller list. It has also raised the ire of many in the evangelical community who are calling Bell a heretic, unorthodox, and worry about the souls that will be lost who follow Bell's teachings. My own thoughts tend to the Boyd's reaction rather than the later. I urge you to get a copy of the book and read it for yourself.

August 14 “Salvation”

August 21 “Here Is the New There”

August 28 “Hell”

September 4 “Does God Get What God Wants?”

September 11 “Dying to Live”

September 18 “There Are Rocks Everywhere”

September 25 “The Good News Is Better Than That”

Fill the Vibe!

I will be driving to Back Bay Mission for the September 28-October 1 board of directors meeting in my Pontiac Vibe. I've sent out a challenge to the South Texas Association to **Fill the Vibe** with hygiene kits for Back Bay Mission. These are handed out to homeless people at the new Micah Center. The Micah Center is open three days a week and serves an average of 32 guests each day. In addition to showers and laundry service, it offers haircuts; a permanent address and telephone number where guests can be contacted by family or prospective employers; access to a computer for job searches, as well as other agencies, such as Social Security and the Mississippi WIN Job Center. Its intended to be a one-stop-shop for many service opportunities that might otherwise be denied homeless people.

We will be collecting the following items:

- hand towel (approximately 16" by 28")
- washcloth
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- bar of soap (bathsize in a wrapper)
- plastic soap container
- deodorant (solid or roll-on)
- one disposable razor



Philip moved to the Coast from Georgia in 1997 after his wife died of cancer a year earlier. He had family in Alabama and moved here to be closer to them. From 1998-2004 he was a construction worker and rented one of the company's houses in Hurley, but when he lost that job, he lost the house. When he tried to get work at one of the casinos, he was told hiring had been "on hold" for two years. Another try for a job on a clean-up crew also came up empty. "I'll do anything," he says, "Yard work, whatever...." You can help people like Phillip with these kits.

Second Sunday Potluck

We will have our August Second Sunday Potluck after church on August 14th. At this point in time I do not have program lined up. I'm working on a very special speaker. Bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship. Stay tuned for further info on the program.