

February 2011

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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

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Karl Menniger wrote a book back in 1973 entitled, “Whatever Became of Sin?” He felt it necessary to write such a book because in his experience as a psychiatrist he had come to the conclusion that in the modern world people beginning to lose the concept of “sin.” Even some churches, he said, are dropping the concept of sin. Talking about sin is left to those who still practice “old time religion.” Certainly some churches can become abusive in their talk about sin. It can be used to manipulate. It can be used to produce nothing but shame and it can ignore all that is good and beautiful in the world. Given all this why does Dr. Menninger want us to reinforce our sense of “sin”? He says, **“If the concept of personal responsibility and answerability for ourselves AND for others were to return to common acceptance, hope would return to the world with it.”**

Jesus went about preaching, **“Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.”** Jesus never shied away from the reality of sin. He saw it all around him. In the end he would be killed because of it. He recognized the power of sin and the great harm it can inflict on individuals and society. Yet Jesus never shamed anyone who recognized their sin. His treatment of the woman caught in adultery is a prime example. In fact one of the few things that angered him was when religious people thought themselves to be “without sin” and thought too highly of themselves.

Jesus took sin seriously because it separated people from each other and God. In his view sin inflicted wounds on the Kingdom of God and the blessings God wanted to shower on all people. For Jesus recognizing one’s sin made new life possible, recognizing one’s sins made possible to draw a bit closer kingdom living and kingdom blessing.

I will begin a sermon series based on the famous or in some people’s view infamous “Seven Deadly Sins.” The fourth century monk Evagrius Ponticus had a list of eight sins that he warned his fellow monks about. In the sixth century Pope Gregory I revised this list to the better known “Seven Deadly sins. It has been used as a theme for many famous works of art and literature then and now. In Dante’s *“Purgatorio”* the pilgrim ascends seven levels of Mt. Purgatory, with each level corresponding to one of the seven deadly sins. Chaucer, in his *Canterbury Tales*, in the Parson’s Tale deals with the seven deadly sins. The seven deadly sins have appeared in music and paintings throughout the centuries. More recently they have been used in movies, anime and video games! Here’s a bit of trivia, Sherwood Schwartz, who wrote *Gilligan’s Island*, says each of the characters represents one of the seven deadly sins: Professor – pride; Skipper – Anger; Gilligan – sloth; etc. You fill in the rest. The seven deadly sins are: pride, envy, sloth, greed, lust, wrath, and gluttony.

February 2011 Worship Assistants Schedule

February 6

Liturgist: Julia Allison
Acolyte: Quinn Perry
Council Rep: Nicolle Clark
Greeter: Steve Foster
Hospitality: Cathy Leger
Communion: Nancy Foster
AV: Charles Stark
Ushers: Nicolle Clark; Steve & Nancy Foster; Rick Leber

February 13

Liturgist: Jennifer Marlow
Acolyte: Larissa Hunley
Council Rep: Jan Hunley
Greeter: Dorothy Rest
Hospitality: Sheila Angerer
AV: Mikki Ward
Ushers: Jan Hunley; Al Hennig; Bennie Harst

February 20

Liturgist: Frank Dietz
Acolyte: Will Gossett
Council Rep: Don Green
Hospitality: Chrissy Gossett
AV: Tim Marlow
Ushers: Don Green; Robert Deninno; Joe Ward

February 27

Liturgist: Michelle Perry
Acolyte: Kai Perry
Council Rep: Sheila Angerer
Greeter: Nicolle Clark
Hospitality: Wendy Reinke
AV: _____
Ushers: Sheila Angerer; Nicolle Clark; David Myer



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 from all or part of the Worship Assistant List, please contact Joseph Ward at 830-305-0214.



Thank you's were received from:

- Eden Hills Communities
- Back Bay Mission
- Slumber Falls Camp

for donations from Faith UCC.

Slumber Falls Workcamp February 25-27

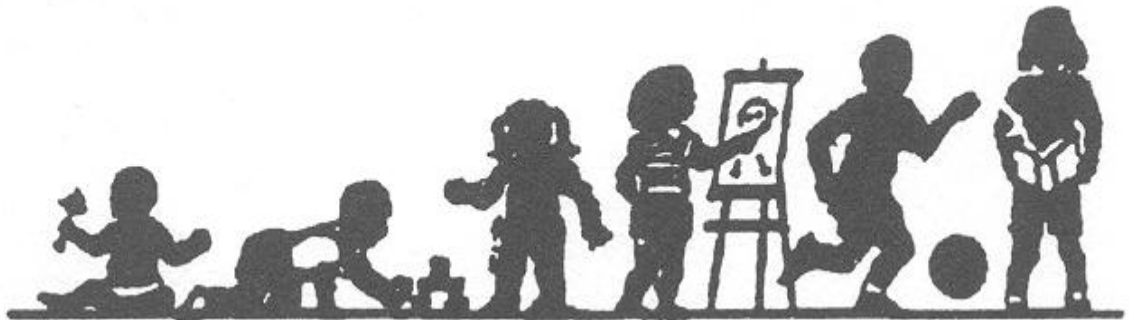
Slumber Falls needs your help! Please come join us for our annual Work Camp weekend. There is a long list of projects that needs to be finished. Here is partial list of proposed projects:

- gravel on playground
- paint swimming pool
- clean flood debris
- repair river fence
- paint bunk beds
- etc

There are jobs for all skill levels! You can register at the camp website. For those staying at the camp the following rates include two nights and four meals:

- \$20 per person
- \$30 per couple
- \$40 per family

If you are coming for the day only, there will be a reduced fee. Call the camp 625-2212 for more info.





February Birthdays

2-2 Sandy Ludwig

2-5....Karen Campa

2-13....Louise Dworaczyk

2-25... Michelle Gilbreth

2-27....Merle Kosler

Pastor Out of Town February 17-25th

Pastor Scott will be attending the Back Bay Mission Board of Directors meeting in Biloxi February 17-19th. He will be on vacation February 20-25th.

Beth Gleason, who is a second year seminary student at Austin Presbyterian Seminary, will preach on Sunday, February 20th. Beth is a member of The Congregational UCC church in Austin and originally came from Portland, Maine. Beth is currently on a mission trip to El Salvador. Beth is one of 22 "in care students" in seminary or recently graduated, here in the South Central Conference!

Sunday, February 27th is Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday in the UCC. Let's give Beth a big WELCOME!

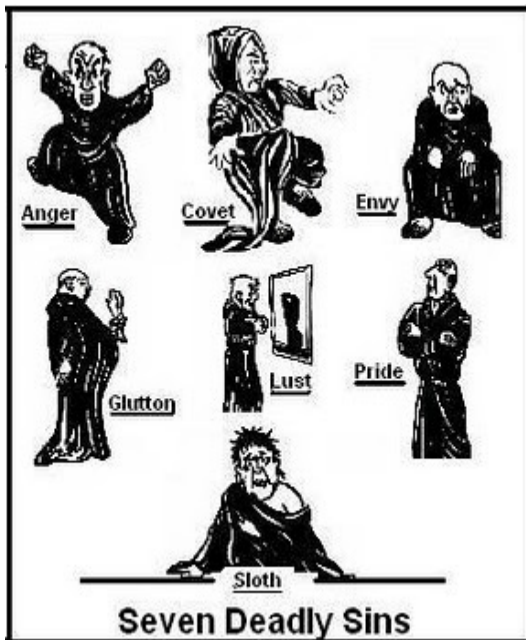


Taize Services During Lent

On the Wednesdays in Lent we will be holding a Taize service-- a time and place which allows us a break from our busy lives....a time to simply listen to the voice of God speaking deep into our hearts. Instead of coming together to talk to God, we gather to listen. Instead of talking about Scripture, the Scripture is read and left to speak for itself in the silence.

We believe that "God is still speaking". Join us to hear His voice in our hearts.

Look for further info on this as we draw closer to Lent, which begins Wednesday, March 9th.



Choose Life!

Dealing With the Seven Deadly Sins

Sermon Series

- 2-13 Sin: Life & Death
- 2-27 Dealing With Pride
- 3-6 Dealing with Envy
- 3-13 Dealing With Anger
- 3-20 Dealing With Gluttony
- 3-27 Dealing With Lust
- 4-3 Dealing With Greed
- 4-10 Dealing With Sloth

Two New Kiva Loans!

We have made two new Kiva loans of \$75 each.

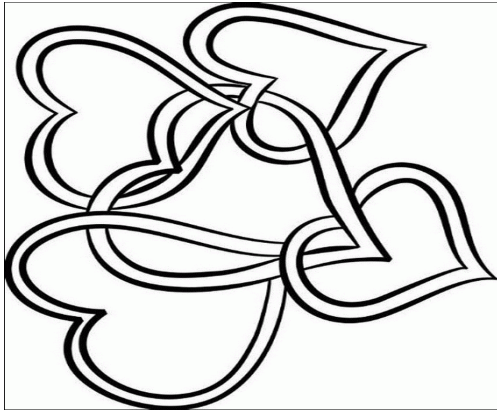
Shakira Umhuza is a merchant and has been a client of ACB since 2010. She is married and has completed three years of secondary schooling. Her three children are 5 to 11 years old, and all of them attend school.

Shakira is going use her loan to buy 7 lengths of *moins-riches* damask cloth, 10 lengths of *non-moins riches* damask cloth, 10 shirts, a dozen outfits for women, and 10 pairs of men's shoes and to pay for transport. Her strategy for growing her business is to increase her capital, to sell the goods that people want, by special order, and to increase credit in demand.

She would like to become a major merchant in the Rubavu district and to improve her family in all aspects

Sairambi Toirova lives in the town of Qurgan-Tube. She is 52 years old. Married, with two children. Her husband is an entrepreneur. Sairambi has a college degree; she is an educator. She has worked in her profession for over 20 years. At present she is a retailer, mostly selling fiction books and exercise books at the marketplace. She has been in this line of business for over seven years. She is taking out a loan in order to increase her sales volume

We currently have \$1,400 in loans outstanding. We have loaned out \$6,025 so far! We have made 66 loans to date, the majority of which have been fully repaid!



Valentine Party Saturday, February 12th!

On February 12th, Faith UCC will be hosting a Valentine's Party for the whole family from 6:30-8:30. There will be music, snacks, crafts, and lots of fun! Please invite your friends, neighbors, and your own family. We are expecting to have elementary age children attend with their parents and families, but all are welcome - just like all are welcome at Faith. If you have or know an older child who would like to "chaperone" and/or corral the younger ones, we would love to have them, also. Anyone interested in decorating, baking cookies, or contributing in any way can contact Nicolle Clark or Michelle Perry for more details.

Early Bird Discount Extended to February 4: Women's Retreat 2011

The women of Christ United Church of Cypress, First Congregational Church, and St. John's UCC invite you to join your sisters of the Houston Association and the South Central Conference for a weekend of study, reflection and renewal as well as some fun. Come from Friday, April 8 through Sunday, April 10 and step out of your busy life for a brief time in the quietness of Slumber Falls Camp. We will be reflecting on our lives using a poem by Linda Ellis entitled "**THE DASH**" which looks at our lives during "the dash" that is between the date of your birth to the date of your death. Bring your Bible as we will be looking at scripture to help direct us in how God would have us live.

Beyond that, we will have some meditative time in the quietness of Slumber Falls and the directed use of the labyrinth. There will also be a massage therapist available to help us relax and reflect. Of course there will be plenty of time for renewing friendships and making new ones, for fun and games and even some shopping!

Come and join us and participate in a truly memorable weekend. The Early Bird Registration Fee is \$86.00 if registered and paid by February 4. Registration is available at the following link:

www.slumberfalls.org/events/women_retreat/women_retreat_info.htm



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Second Sunday Potluck February 13th

Bring a covered dish to share and join the fellowship after the worship service on Sunday, February 13th. Our program that day will be provided by Rev. Robert Gibbs from CIMA Hospice. Rev. Gibbs is one of their chaplains. His talk is entitled “**The Grand Finale**”. This is his description of it: The Grand Finale.....



This presentation deals with dying—a topic many want to avoid, that is, until it finally becomes unavoidable; then it takes on the greatest significance for most people. We may not work on our “exit strategy” from this life until we’re forced to do so, but we will discover many important tasks and blessings during those final days, enough to keep us busy and highly motivated—far from the passive resignation many of us expect.

In the presentation we will review the “normal” dying process and try to identify needs to be met, tasks to be accomplished, and hopes to be fulfilled for death to be a “grand finale” instead of a painful defeat. Of course “normal” is very subjective in our multicultural environment, but we will do our best to learn from each other and respect all views.

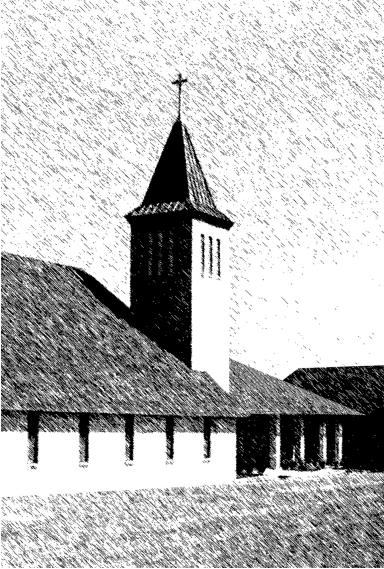
Once people spoke of the “art” of dying. Nowadays most Americans think of it as primarily a physiological or medical process. Of course many think of it as a purely spiritual process; and still others as an entrance into a transcendental place or mode of living, such as described in the near-death experiences you may be familiar with. This presentation will not argue against other views but will offer as a springboard for your consideration the practical, immediate concerns of the majority of the thousands of dying persons that the presenter has met. Of course there are physical, developmental, social, and spiritual elements within that process.

Thank You from SOS Food Bank

Thank you for your generous support of the S.O.S. Food Bank throughout 2010! We were able to give out 306,898 pounds of food in 6,079 separate issues. We could not have done this without your help. May God bless you for your compassion for our hungry neighbors. Thank you and Happy New Year 2011!

Sincerely, Gail Krueger on behalf of the 160 Plus SOS volunteers

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February Calendar

- 2-2 Church Council 6:30 p.m.
- 2-5 9:30 a.m. SS 10:30 a.m. Worship (communion)
- 2-7 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Valentine Dance 6:30-8:30 p.m. Baese Hall
- 2-13 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship POTLUCK
- 2-17-25 (pastor at Back Bay & Vacation)
- 2-17 PFLAG in Sequin 7 p.m.
- 2-18 SOS Food Bank 1-4 pm.
- 2-20 SS 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. (Beth Gleason preaches)
- 2-25-27 Slumber Falls Work Camp
- 2-27 SS 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. (March newsletter items due)