

July 2011

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

Faith UCC
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Since I will be on vacation I looked up the word “vacation” in the dictionary. I thought It would be based on the idea of vacating “to leave”; but I learned the word actually comes from the Latin *vacatio-onis*, which means “freedom from duty.” Learn something new every day!

Sounds a bit like the military doesn't it, going on leave, or taking a leave of absence from work or school. Even Jesus was not on “duty” all the time. He often took time to pray alone, or escape the crowds, and set aside his normal “duties” of teaching, preaching and healing.

You can take a vacation by simply setting aside your duties and sitting in the back yard and reading a book or laying in a hammock. You can take a trip out of state or even out of the country. You can even trade old duties for new duties. Vacations can last only a few days or they can last for several months. The goal is to be free of one's normal duties so that one can pick them up again with renewed vigor when one is back from vacation.

May all of you have a blessed vacation this summer, no matter what form it takes.



P.S. On Sunday June 26th we will be welcoming Luke Leverett as our new guitarist and his friend Chris Compton on percussion as artists in residence. Let's have a good turn out! They will both be a marvelous addition to our church worship experience. You will find their bio's later in this newsletter.

I encourage all of you to check out Luke's website <http://www.lukeleverett.com/> Check out what Luke likes about Faith UCC and what he found on our website that attracted his attention. Remember

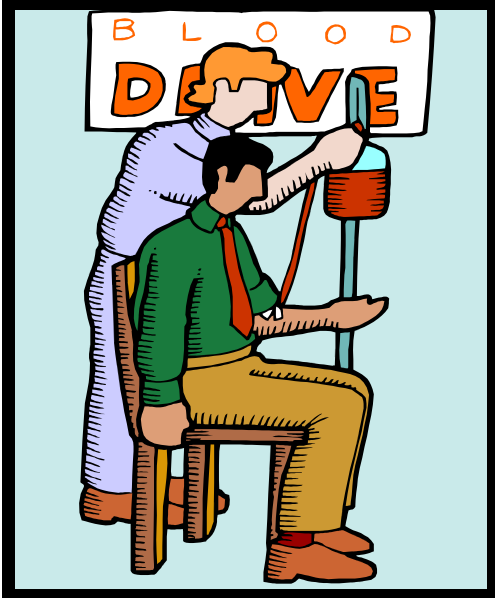
Donna in her last newsletter article also shared similar thoughts.

God has given Faith UCC a very special mission in this community. There are people out there looking for a church like Faith. We need to get the word out there that we are here! All of us know relatives, friends, and neighbors we can invite to be part of the Faith experience and mission! New Braunfels has thousands of new residents moving here every year who will be looking for a church home. Let's get the word out! Luke writes, **“Maybe I'm not the only wanderer out there. I know tons of people who have been marginalized by churches purported to be Christian. Many of these people give up on religion altogether, perceiving the hypocrisy and close-mindedness that run rampant in many if not all churches. I get it, I do. However, for someone in need of a new start, Faith UCC might be worth a look.**

Calling At Least 10 Arms!

Everybody roll up your sleeves! Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 10th. Faith Church will be sponsoring our first blood drive. The South Texas Blood Bank will bring a mobile unit to our parking lot to make donating easy. We must have at least 10 donors to sign up in order for the Blood Bank to be able to bring their unit. If you can donate please call the church office to sign up or let Steve & Nancy Foster know. They will be

coordinating this drive. More information will be made available after we get it from the Blood Bank personnel.



Only 15 minutes of your time can help 3 sick or injured people in need. The single unit of blood that you donate will be separated into (1) packed red blood cells, (2) plasma and (3) platelets for use in our local area. Most people are eligible to donate, even with a chronic disease such as diabetes. If you have had your tattoo for more than one year – you can donate blood. If you have mad-cow disease – the blood bank will probably say no thanks. If you have a concern about a health issue and want to speak confidentially to someone at the Blood Bank you can call (210) 731-555; dial 0 and ask for Q.A.

Some people are hesitant to donate. **Will it hurt?** On a pain scale of 1 to 10 the little prick is only a ½ and it is over quick. **What happens to me when I am short of blood afterward?** You will quickly make more blood to replace what is removed and you are walking around with 5 quarts of blood in your body anyway. So – please sign-up and help our Faith Church blood drive be successful. We need 15 people to donate. Peace Lutheran Church is also doing a blood drive on the same day. (We can not let the Lutherans have a more successful blood drive – can we?)

On the day of the blood drive you will need to:

- 1. Eat a good breakfast**
- 2. Skip the caffeine until after you donate**
- 3. Drink plenty of fluids**
- 4. BRING YOUR PHOTO ID WITH YOU!**

The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the church narthex. Or call Nancy & Steve Foster at 609-2234. You will be signing up for a specific time slot – so there is not waiting.

Thank You's

Dear Friends, Thank you for your gift of \$50 to the LGBT Coalition. Surely the day is coming when all God's children will be honored.

God Bless You, Peace in 2011, Rev. Mqarguerite Vaelkel, The UCC Coalition

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Eden Hill Communities, staff, board of directors and Executive Director, Laurence Dahl, thank you for your gift. Gifts such as yours assure the continuation of our ministry as we have been "Touching the hearts and souls of Seniors since 1910." Eden Hill Communities is providing care and services to our seniors through housing, nursing care, rehabilitation, spiritual nurturing and other supportive services.



Once again, thank you for your generosity and continued support of the Eden Hill Communities ministry.

Sincerely, Betty Doepenschmidt, Associate Director of Development

(we received two thank you notes from Eden Hill for our contributions of \$133.38 and \$290.42.)

Thank you for being part of a mission movement that is responding to human need both here in our country and worldwide. Your mission kits make a difference. We can only imagine the reaction of each person who receives a kit and knows that someone out there is expressing care, compassion and love for them. Thank you for your support of the 2011 Conference Annual Meeting Mission Kit Project.

In the Spirit of Christ, Douglas Anders, South Central Conference Minister

(Faith UCC contributed 84 school kits out of the 860 collected, almost 10% of the total. We also contributed \$279 of the \$2,400 collected for shipping costs, again, more than 10% of the total. We contributed 32 hygiene kits of the 499 collected at the annual meeting. These will go to Back Bay Mission.)

July Birthdays

July 3 Meta Heinemeyer July 4 Chrissy Gossett

July 9 Kai Perry-Clark

July 10 Karen Kramm July 13 Adam Gossett

July 13 Will Gossett

July 18 Cindi Richter July 26 Abigail Capestany

(If your name is not here please let us know so we can list it next year.)





July Calendar

June 27-July 6th Pastor on Vacation (UCC General Synod July 1-5)

July 3 Rev. Carla Cheatham preaches at the 10:30 a.m. service

July 10 Adult S.S. 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. **Second Sunday Potluck after church**

July 13 Church Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

July 15 SOS 1-4 p.m.

July 17 Adult S.S. 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.

July 21 PFLAG 7 p.m. in Sequin (for more info contact Carol Gates)

July 21 Inter Faith Panel Discussion

July 24 Adult S.S. 9:30 pm. Worship 10:30 a.m.

July 27 Taize Service 6:30 p.m.

July 31 Adult S.S. 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Scott on Vacation June 27-July 6th

Pastor Scott will be on vacation in Florida June 27-July 6th. While there he will attend the national meeting of the United Church of Christ in Tampa, Florida July 1-5 as a visitor. Currently 19 people from the South Central Conference have registered to attend. This meeting is currently held every other year, although one of the resolutions that will be voted on is to make this a once every three or four years meeting. Rev. Frank Dietz will cover any emergencies that might arise while Pastor Scott is gone. **Rev. Carla Cheatham will preach on Sunday, July 3.**

SOS to Distribute Diapers, etc.

SOS(Spirit of Sharing), Inc. known for its Food Bank program for 24 years has added the "Parent & Child" program to its ministries. This program provides diapers, wipes and washes to those parents who have chosen life through the ecumenical Gabriel Project. Should you desire to support this ministry with donations of the above, or financially, SOS graciously accepts them 1-4 pm, Monday through Friday or my mail to SOS, Inc., Parent & Child program, 248 Merriweather Street, P.O. Box 311032, New Braunfels, TX 78131. This program is a service to the entire county of Comal. The SOS Food Bank, which is a separate entity serves those qualifying citizens in New Braunfels only.

Meet Luke Leverett

Greetings! I'm excited to be entering into this congregation. I'm so happy to be starting here at Faith UCC because I took a long journey to get here! I'm a New Braunfels native, age 27. First Confession: I was home schooled. I was a nerd, in that special home-schooled kind of way.

At age 12 I started playing guitar. By the time I was 13 I had found my way into the church band at Dayspring Christian Fellowship. I also attended Dayspring School, which started that same year. My junior high and high school years were a spiritually intense time for me. I took my music and my faith very seriously. I was baking in a



fundamentalist oven, but by age 16, I began to have a lot of angst about myself and my role in the world.

As I started at Texas Lutheran University, that angst fed growing doubts about my faith. I had trouble finding my footing socially, and that made me lonely. During that difficult time, I took comfort in the world of songwriting. I threw myself daily into song. Also, being at a Lutheran school I was exposed to a church tradition unlike my own. I enjoyed the liturgy and lectionary, and the music used was more sophisticated than the rock-pop praise music that dominated my high school years.

The fundamentalist perspective that I was raised with started to give way to a broader view. Unfortunately, by the time senior year came around, my attitude had worsened. A girl broke my heart, and I reacted poorly. I took up smoking cigarettes and drinking. My persona became sarcastic and arrogant. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was wandering in the desert. A year after I got my music degree, I joined a Texas country-rock band and that was my professional life for most of three years. I was also finally dating, but then found myself with a pregnant ex-girlfriend. That situation forced me to look at where I was in life, and it shook me profoundly.

My daughter Willow was born in April 2008. She was wonderful, but I was still unhappy. That year I reached my lowest point, but I also met a girl named Lacy. She pursued me. She saw through my cynicism, saw that I was wounded. She believed in me when I had no faith in God, or myself and showed me the love of Christ in a way that no one else had. I began to see a way to a better life, and started out half-blindly after it. Things started to get better, slowly but steadily.

Lacy, Willow and I have become a family. We have a love that I believe in. That love connects me to God, his world, and my calling. And that calling has brought me here, thankfully. Thank you so much for having me, for being part of the journey. See you in church!

Three New Kiva Loans Totaling \$300

We have made three \$100 loans in the last month from loan repayment money. They are:



Jane is 57 years old. She is married and has five children. She has been in quarry mining for the past 11 years.

She was introduced to KADET LTD by a KADET staff in her place of habitat. She has applied for her third loan, which she intends to use to employ more temporary workers in her quarry. She hopes to use the profit from the proceeds of this loan to expand her mining activity.

She dreams of educating her children to a higher level of education. She is a thorough woman who is determined to achieve her goals.

Edis Jeorgina, Oscar Alexander, and Wilfredo are from Choluteca, Honduras. They formed the "Terminal 3" solidarity group in June 2011. All three applicants sell goods at the Choluteca bus terminal where local vendors congregate. Edis Jeorgina, who is a widow of two years, lives with her children and sells handmade garments. Edis requesting a loan of Lps. 8,000 to buy materials to make clothing. Oscar is single and lives with his elderly parents. Oscar makes furniture for a living and is requesting a loan of Lps. 5,000 with which he will purchase supplies to make furniture. Wilfredo is married and is the father of a one-year-old daughter. Wilfredo and his wife sell homemade food at the bus terminal and are requesting a loan of Lps. 5,000 to invest in their small business.



This group is called "Colibri X" [Hummingbird X] because one of the members has hummingbirds and says that they always fill her house with joy and it spreads to the other members. They are located in the state of Puebla in Mexico. The group is made up of 9 members. Señora Maria is the treasurer of the group. She is 31 years old and has a sixth grade education. She sells lingerie and also works as a domestic employee, cleaning in a private home. She has two children.

She is requesting a loan to invest in wholesale lingerie so she can obtain more discounts and be able increase her earnings. She feels fulfilled and grateful for this opportunity. She also hopes that with this improvement she will be able to continue supporting her children so that they can continue studying. She is a single mother and wants the best future possible for her children.

Meet Chris Compton

Chris Compton is a freelance Percussionist born here in New Braunfels. Chris graduated from Canyon High School in 2004 and received his degree in Percussion Performance from Texas Lutheran University in 2010. TLU is also when he was introduced to Luke in the school jazz band.



the last 5 years, in and around the Texas Music Scene, playing and recording with several local bands.

Coming from a musical family, Chris has been active in the education community. His first experience with education was as the Percussion Director at Canyon High School and Middle School during the first 3 years of college. There, his love of music, and percussion in general, really blossomed. However, all the performance opportunities at TLU and abroad started to guide Chris in a different direction. During his junior year, he got the call to start performing, and has been doing so for

Chris' service to his faith began at Peace Lutheran Church with his father's praise band. There he was taught to expand his faith through his gift of music. After playing with Luke in a number of settings, Chris decided to joined him at St. Peter and Paul in Cibolo and later at CBC New Braunfels. In their time together, they have been really pushing the envelope and each other to create and spread God's word through the ring of guitars and the banging of drums. Chris is excited about continuing his service through Faith UCC, and his music.

Second Sunday Potluck July 10th After Church

Along with the blood drive on July 10th we will also have a Second Sunday Potluck. Donate blood and stay for lunch. The last appointment for giving blood is at 12:35 p.m.

Following lunch Pastor Scott will present a program on what he heard and saw at General Synod 28 in Tampa, Florida, July 1-5th. This will include some of the resolutions that were discussed and voted on; worship and workshop experiences, etc.



Congregation Picks Sermon Topics

Several Sundays ago the congregation had a chance to choose this summer's sermon topics. Here's what we've covered so far:

- 6-12 The heart of our UCC passions and inviting others to share. What must we learn? Change? Do? Try?
- 6-19 Debts/Sins/Trespasses? What are the similarities and differences and what might they mean for us? What are some other words or phrases we might use in that line of the Lord's Prayer?
- 6-26 In the Lord's Prayer, does the line 'forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us' mean that God forgives us to the degree that we forgive others?



Upcoming sermons:

- 7-10 A fresh metaphor among us: skin – (used by Yvette Flunder at the SCC Annual Meeting in Houston) (Note: We will explore this but also look at the need and use of new metaphors to talk about God, the Kingdom of God, etc.)
- 7-17 If you were reading our canon (Bible) what would be in and what would be out. Where would fresh and new come from? What would they be?
- 7-24 Who is your favorite female character in the Bible and why?
- 7-31 Speak on the "end times" or about this guy who predicted the end of the world. What's the difference? The book of Daniel was used in the end of the world....
- 8-7 How can some people created in God's image be so filled with hate and evil?

I want to thank everyone who submitted such great sermon topic ideas!!! If you did not get a chance to submit one write it down and give it to me or email it to me and we will see if we can work it in before summer is over.

Thanks from the Covenant Players

What a joy it was for our unit to perform for your church last month! We were so blessed to participate in the Sunday service and were encouraged by the warm and enthusiastic response we received from your congregation to our ministry. We enjoyed our time with you and we hope your congregation was encouraged and challenged by the plays.... Thank you for arranging hospitality with Rev. Stark at Slumber Falls Camp. We had a very nice evening with him.

Yours sincerely in Christ, Pamela J. Cowser, Unit Leader – Open Range Covenant Players

July Worship Assistant List

July 3

Liturgist: Jim Gossett Acolyte: Larissa Hunley Council Rep: Jan Hunley
Greeter: Dorothy Rest Hospitality: Sheila Angerer AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Jan Hunley; Sheila Angerer; Tim Marlow Communion: Jennifer Marlow

July 10

Liturgist: Nancy Foster Acolyte: Don Green Council Rep: Don Green
Greeter: Steve Foster Hospitality: (potluck) AV: Mikki Ward
Ushers: Don Green; Steve Foster; Richard Leber

July 17

Liturgist: Wendy Reinke Acolyte: Emma Storms Council Rep: Nicolle Clark
Greeter: Judy Anderson Hospitality: Tracey Ferich AV: Tim Marlow
Ushers: Nicolle Clark; Richard Leber; Julia Allison

July 24

Liturgist: Mikki Ward Acolyte: Kai Perry Council Rep: Charles Stark
Greeter: Lucile Marberger Hospitality: Chrissy Gossett AV: (New Person)
Ushers: Joe Ward; David Pena; Quinn Perry

July 31

Liturgist: Sheila Angerer Acolyte: Devyn Perry Council Rep: Karen Kramm
Greeter: Evelyn Krueger Hospitality: Mikki Ward AV: Nicolle Clark
Ushers: Karen Kramm; Evelyn Krueger; Mikki 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 from or added to all or part of the Worship Assistant List, please contact Joseph Ward at 830-305-0214.

