

June 2011

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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Memorial Day has just come and gone, the day we remember those who gave their life serving in the armed forces. We do well to remember the horrendous cost paid by the individuals and their families by those who died serving their country in this way. What we often fail to consider is the tremendous price often paid by those who served in the military in wartime who survived.

The following stats were quoted in a recent Religion & Ethics News Hour interview:

- The Rand Corporation recently found that over 300,000 veterans are suffering from some form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- An estimated 20% of active duty troops and 40% of Guards and National Guardsmen and reservists are coming back with PTSD
- The U.S. Justice Department estimates that around 250,000 veterans of our various wars dating back to Viet Nam are serving time in prison
- The New York Times found 121 cases in which Iraq and Afghanistan veterans committed murder after their return from war. Unlike most criminals they had no prior criminal record.
- A 2005 study found that Veterans are twice as likely to commit suicide as those who have not served in the military
- 25% of America's homeless are veterans even though veterans only make up 8% of the population.

Given the horrible things many veterans have seen and sometimes participated in, it is no wonder that they develop psychological and spiritual problems. Billy Zimmerman was a sergeant major in the first Gulf War. He offers the following reflection, "Without a doubt, because you see no spirituality in war. Combat does not, for lack of a better, expose you to the opportunity to serve the Lord." Unlike the old saying about "there are no atheists in foxholes" Zimmerman lost his faith while serving his country because of the carnage going on. He also ended up losing his wife and home.

The Defense Department recognizes the problem and has instituted the Yellow Ribbon Program to help returning veterans readjust to civilian life and heal the non-physical wounds of war. Churches too are beginning to offer special programs for returning vets to help bring healing. Lucky Severson concludes, "**For too many veterans, coming home doesn't end with kisses and hugs. Now there is an increasing awareness and some say urgent need, for America and Americans to step up and share the pain of our returning veterans and help them reclaim their lives.**"

Congratulations to Nathan Leber!



Nathan graduated Summa Cum Laude from Texas State University on May 13. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography-Water Resource Management with a minor in Political Science. He will be attending Texas State as a graduate student in the fall.

Thank You Note From Slumber Falls Camp

We extend a very special thank you for your contribution of \$50 that we received on April 6, 2011. We are certainly blessed by friends like you who keep us in mind. Together with God's grace and your willing partnership, we will continue the ministry of Slumber Falls Camp.

Sincerely,
Charles L. Stark
Director of Outdoor Ministry



June Birthdays

June 2 Don Green
June 6 John Stark
June 10 Jim Gossett
June 12 Kyle Kramm & Hays Marlow
June 16 JoAnn Brown

Faith UCC Makes 4 New Micro-Lending Loans

Thanks to recent contributions by you we were able to add \$197.58 to our Kiva Micro-Lending Fund. With recent contributions and loan repayments we were able to make 4 new loans, 3 at \$100 and one at \$75..



1. The name of this group is "El Mirador", meaning "The Lookout". It is located in the community of San Pedro Apatlaco, Ayala in the state of Morelos, Mexico. The following are members of the group: Cristina will purchase bread, a tricycle, and bags with her loan. Rubicela will purchase a cart from where to sell her tacos. Rocio will purchase soap, seeds, dried chili, soft drinks, eggs, and sugar. Juana will purchase bottles and fragrances to make cleaning supplies. Ariana will purchase pork rinds, ice, sugar, and vegetables to start her business.

2. The name of this group is "Rio Grande Las Gaviotas". It is called this because the majority of the members are women who are like seagulls for being free in their businesses and for being ready to face any obstacle that comes their way. They are always trying to fly as high as they can to meet their objectives. They belong to the community of Rio Grande, meaning "standing stone". The following are the members of the group:

Susana: shoe sales
Rosa: poultry sales
Esbeide and Gloria: catering
Francisca and Gonzala: clothing sales
Marina: sale of spare parts for bicycles
Virginia: sale of blankets by catalogue
Candida: silver jewelry sales
Susana: sale of tamales and tortillas
Sebastian: brick sales
Tolentino: seafood sales



3. This group is named "Las Reynas de Jamiltepec", meaning "The Queens of Jamiltepec". It is named as such because the members of this group are known to be very hard workers and they consider themselves to be the queens of their businesses. It is made up of 11 women who carry out different business activities, which are the following:

Teresa: tortillas sales
Yadira, Antonia, Ines, and Alberta: clothing sales
Ana, Maria, and Antonia: catering
Reynalda: shoe and clothing sales
Maria: perfume sales
Honorina: grocery store



4. The final loan was made to a 27 year old man in Iraq to purchase an automatic oven for his bakery. He inherited this work from his father and had five years experience. We loaned \$75 of his \$2,400 loan. He has 14 months to repay this loan.

Strengthen the Church Special Offering

The official day for receiving this special offering is Pentecost Sunday, June 12th. Offering envelopes are in the pews and on the literature table in the entryway. This is one of the five nationwide special offerings taken up in the UCC. What makes this offering a bit different is that the local conference, in our case the South Central Conference retains **one half** of the offering to strengthen churches in this conference.

The South Central Conference has used money from this fund to send 12 pastors from this conference to the national UCC training for New and Renewing Church Pastors. Three of these pastor serve new church starts in the conference.



Strengthen the Church is the UCC’s annual offering to help strengthen the UCC’s unique part of God’s mission in the world. Donations to this offering go to the conference, our national Local Church Ministries, and to the Still Speaking Ministry. These gifts help invigorate congregations, foster new leaders and grow the UCC’s presence as a community of extravagant welcome. Please give generously to this special offering.

Faith Church Financial Report

At the May Church Council meeting it was voted to place the Gilbert Trust Fund and the Rimmel Trust Fund in the United Church Foundation. This was done for two basic reasons: first, we were getting virtually no return on the money market account and two, we not only can get a better return at the United Church Foundation but the money will be managed by a UCC investment program.

Savings Acct	May 31, 2011	\$2,815.43
Building Fund	May 31, 2011	\$10,560.97
Memorial Acct	May 31, 2011	\$5,769.24
Rimmel Trust		\$12,992.58
Gilbert Trust		\$12,345.52

Note: We will be paying the quarterly pastor’s pension and health insurance this month along with our normal expenses.

May 2011 Total Income	\$9,861.83
May 2011 Expenses	\$6,594.53
	<u>\$3,267.30</u>

The current General Fund Checking Acct has \$9,873.18 in it.

Our thanks to all of you for your generosity. Let’s keep it up as we head into the summer months.



Pastor Scott on Vacation June 27-July 6th

Pastor Scott will be in Florida June 27-July 6th. While in Florida he will be a visitor at the United Church of Christ General Synod 28 meeting in Tampa July 1-5. The theme this year is "Imagine What Is Possible."

Here are just a few of the speakers and workshop leaders: Leonard Pitts, UCC member, novelist and journalist; Arn Chorn Pond, who survived the Pol Pot regime and is a human rights activist; Miguel de la Torre, who moved here from Cuba and currently is a professor at Illiff Seminary, specializing in Latino issues; Marcia McFee, author, artist, preacher, and professor; Mohammad Samak, Secretary General for the Lebanese Muslim Christian Committee for Dialog; Anne Forest, professor of theology and Computer science; Shelby Knox who came to national attention for her activism for sex education and gay rights in her Southern Baptist community; Eric Liu, whose new book explores how imagination can be brought to bear on economics, politics, business and the arts; etc.

A number of resolutions will be considered at this General Synod. Here are just a few: encourage the U.S. ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty; encouraging the right of LGBT parents to adopt children; encourage effective Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis through positive investment in Palestine; a common agreement on mutual recognition of baptism; etc

Among the service projects at this synod are: collecting CWS hygiene kits; donating blood; and signing up to be a bone marrow donor. Youth at General Synod will be working at: the human society; Feeding America; Trinity Café; and Metropolitan Ministries.

Having attend General Synod before I know it will be a time for great fellowship, worship, music; and stimulating workshops and presentations. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you when I come back.

Rev. Carla Cheatham will preach and bring her special gifts to Faith UCC on July 3rd.

Taize Services the Last Wednesday of June, July & August

Because so many of you who attended the Taize services during Lent so deeply appreciated them we will offer them once again on the last Wednesday of each month this summer at 6:30 p.m. For those of you who found the quiet meditative service so meaningful it is a chance to continue come to the quiet and listen for the still small voice of God. For those of you who did not get a chance to attend during Lent it is an opportunity to see what you missed. A special thanks to Sheila Angerer, Wendy Reinke and Ken Triesch for making these services possible.





Conference Annual Meeting Mission Kit Update

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make and contribute items to the Church World Service School Kit Project. We sewed and filled 84 school bags!!! This exceeds the 60 we made last year.

We also collected \$279 to give to Church World Service to help with the shipping costs!!! Again, our thanks to all of you for making this possible. A special thanks to Merle Kosler for heading this project up once again.

Faith Church also will be sending 32 homeless hygiene kits to Back Bay Mission. Thanks to all of you that made this mission effort possible. As you know Back Bay Mission is a UCC mission located in Biloxi, Mississippi. Pastor Scott serves on the current board of directors there and was recently elected vice president.

Pastor Scott will be taking these kits to the conference annual meeting in Houston June 2-4th.

Faith Church Children's Sunday School Class Helps the Homeless

The children at Faith Church have undertaken a special mission project to help the homeless in New Braunfels and beyond. You will recall that some months ago we assembled some special gift bags to help homeless folks in our area. The bags contained things like crackers, a water bottle, canned meat, fruit, etc. It also contained a pill bottle with \$3.16 in it. Why \$3.16? Because this is the verse from John's gospel that proclaims, **"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...."** This is printed on a small piece of paper and included in the pill bottle. These bags ran out long ago, so the Sunday School kids have taken this on as an ongoing project.



Please pick up a bag or two in the church entryway and keep them in your car so that the next time you see a person who is homeless around town or out of town you can give it to them. Some of you have already taken some bags to hand out. We currently have 10 left and these will soon be gone.

The children are using all of their Sunday school offerings to support this project. If you would like to help them with this please place a check in the offering and write SS Homeless Project on it.

June Worship Assistant Schedule

June 5

Liturgist: Mikki Ward Acolyte: Kai Perry Council Rep: Nicolle Clark
Greeter: Dorothy Rest Hospitality: Michelle Perry AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Joe Ward; Nicolle Clark; David Myer Communion: Mikki Ward

June 12

Liturgist: Chrissy Gossett Acolyte: Will Gossett Council Rep: Don Green
Greeter: Lucile Marberger Hospitality: (potluck) AV: Mikki Ward
Ushers: Don Green; Rick & Kathy Leber

June 19

Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte: Charles Stark Council Rep: Charles Stark
Greeter: Nancy Foster Hospitality: Sheila Angerer AV: Tim Marlow
Ushers: Steve Foster; Charles Stark; Al Hennig

June 26

Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte: Joe Ward Council Rep: Karen Kramm
Greeter: Evelyn Krueger Hospitality: Mikki Ward AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Sheila Angerer; Karen Kramm; 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 all or part of the Worship Assistant List, please contact Joseph Ward at 830-305-0214.



Second Sunday Potluck June 12th After Church

Our Second Sunday Potluck will be on June 12 following the worship service. We will have a very special program after lunch presented by Habitat of Comal County. This a great opportunity to learn more about this exciting mission effort and what they are doing right here in Comal County. They have some big plans for the future. Come on out for some great food, fellowship and an inspiring program.



Summer Sermon Series: You Pick the Topic!

Have you always had a topic or scripture that you wanted to hear a sermon on and haven't? Here's your chance. On Sunday June 5 Pastor Scott will hand out slips of paper for you to write down sermon topic suggestions.

We did this last year and the congregation came up with some great ideas! If you missed out last time here's your chance.

Prayer Joys & Concerns

Elmo Fischer is in room 515 in the Eden Hill Nursing Home
Sol Fuss is in room 525 in Kirkwood Manor

June Calendar

- June 1 Faith Church Council 6:30 p.m.
- June 2 Ascension Day Service at Redeemer UCC 2 p.m.
- June 3-5 South Central Conference Annual Meeting in Houston
- June 5 Worship: Celebration of the Golden Rule 10:30 a.m.
- June 11 Donna Nall's wedding in San Antonio
- June 12 Worship 10:30 a.m. **Potluck - Habitat for Humanity Program**
- June 16 PFLAG in Sequin 7 p.m. (for info contact Carol Gates)
- June 17 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m.
- June 19 Worship 10:30 a.m. (Father's Day)
- June 25 54th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ
- June 26 Worship 10:30 a.m.
- June 27-July 6th Pastor Scott is on vacation
- July 3 Rev. Carla Cheatham preaches

Adult Sunday School Class

The adult Sunday School class is meeting through the summer at 9:30 a.m. We are discussing "religion in the news". We start with a current event and the discussion can go anywhere from there! Come and join us.

