

May 2011

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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Ascension Day, the day Jesus ascends to heaven after his resurrection, will be celebrated on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. We have just come through Easter and if you thought the resurrection was hard to understand things don't get any easier with Jesus' ascension! One thing is for sure Jesus is not the only one said to have ascended to heaven in either the Old Testament or in the apocryphal writings of the intertestamental period leading up to the time of Jesus.

Two Old Testament figures are said to have ascended. If you have the time look up the following references about Enoch in Genesis 5:24 and Elijah in II Kings 2:1-12. During the period between the Old and New Testaments apocalyptic writings became common and in them there was an increasing number of ascensions:

- Levi (Levi 2-5)
- Baruch (II Baruch 13:3) "3 Because you have been astonished at what has befallen Zion, you shall therefore be assuredly preserved to the consummation of the times, that you may be for a testimony."
- Ezra ( IV Ezra 14:9) "... for you shall be taken up from among humankind, and henceforth you shall live with my Son and with those who are like you, until the times are ended."
- Moses (Assumption of Moses) "For from my death [assumption] until His advent there shall be 250 times [= year-weeks = 1750 years]." In the interval Moses job is to pray God will intervene for the Jewish people.

This last example is particularly interesting since the Old Testament says Moses died before entering the Promised Land. At the same time though you can see the ideas at work in the Assumption of Moses at work in the Gospels themselves during the Transfiguration accounts. Read Mark 9, in which Jesus and two disciples climb a high mountain and watch Jesus meet with Elijah and Moses.

One of the purposes behind Ascension is for the person to enter a heavenly office, as we saw with Moses. Philippians 2:9 speaks to this "**Therefore God highly exalted him (Jesus) and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**" This office is also tied to the Second Coming, or the Parousia. We saw this in the case of the Old Testament figures and we also see it with Jesus. "**This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**" (Acts 1:11)

# UCC COALITION FOR LGBT CONCERNS



## **Coalition elects new executive director; faces financial crisis**

The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns on April 2 elected veteran UCC communicator Andrew G. Lang as its next executive director. Lang has taken office when the Coalition is facing its most serious financial crisis in its 39-year history. In a statement released April 6 to the Coalition's membership, Lang said that "a serious gap between income and expenses has become an immediate threat to the Coalition's programs and operations."

Lang said that a financial review next week will help the Coalition's board of directors make decisions on steps to meet the crisis. For the immediate future, however, "the Coalition will proceed with its plans to renew the ONA movement, focus on the prevention of LGBT youth suicide, and build community among our membership through the effective use of social media" and "will strengthen our partnership with the Institute for Welcoming Resources to organize ONA churches in states where LGBT rights—especially the right to marry—are under attack."

Despite the crisis, the Coalition is moving ahead on plans for its National Gathering June 27-30 in Tampa, Florida. The event will take place on schedule. [Read the full statement on the Coalition website at [ucccoalition.org](http://ucccoalition.org).]

"The Coalition's membership elected Andy based on his professional qualifications and his enthusiasm for the cause of LGBT inclusion in church and society," said the Rev. Barbara M. Rathbun, the Coalition's moderator. "As our interim director, he has already had an impact on the quality of our membership communications and our bold initiative to renew and grow the ONA movement. We're confident in his ability, together with the Board, to lead the Coalition through this crisis—no matter what the outcome may be." Lang, 57, is a native of Connecticut and studied ecumenical theology at Georgetown University. He worked for 20 years in Washington, D.C., as a press secretary and public-relations specialist for members of Congress and progressive non-profit organizations. He was a member of the UCC's national staff from 1993 through 2004 and again from 2006 to 2010. He founded the church's web ministry in 1995 and led its web team until 2004. "The Coalition's current financial predicament has been long in the making," Lang said. "We hoped that significant cuts in spending for the years 2010 and 2011 would give us the breathing space we needed to fully restore the Coalition's finances and strengthen our relationship with our 3,500 members. But the same economic crisis that has hammered other non-profits has taken a toll on the Coalition, too. We will know soon what steps are needed to respond to this crisis and protect the Coalition's core commitments—especially our growing community of Open and Affirming churches." The Coalition expects to welcome ONA congregation #1,000 by the end of this year. Funded and managed by the Coalition, the ONA program is the largest and fastest growing LGBT welcoming church movement in the world. Lang said that the board will carefully follow the Coalition's by-laws if the crisis requires any re-structuring of its ministries. **For future information on the Coalition's financial situation, and to learn more about its ministries, subscribe to RIPPLES—a free weekly email newsletter—and join the Coalition's Facebook page at [facebook.com/ucccoalition.org](http://facebook.com/ucccoalition.org).**

## **Thank You Note From CUE Seminary Support**

### **Thank you for your support of Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries!**

Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries provide a vital ministry in the UCC by training and equipping leaders for ministry with individuals, congregations, and in the wider world. Each seminary strengthens the life of the church by enlivening critical reflection on faith, and supporting bold Christian discipleship. Each school is a vibrant, caring, and challenging place in which to pursue theological education.

Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries strengthen our churches by providing lay theological education programs and continuing education for the leaders in our churches. The seminaries bring greater vitality to our churches – in worship, in Christian education for all ages, and in providing meaningful justice and outreach ministries.

Thank you for supporting theological education as a vital part of your ministry. (Faith UCC contributed \$120 to CUE in 2010)

With gratitude,  
Kiely Todd Roska  
Development Coordinator

### **Thank You From the UCC LGBT Coalition**

Dear Friends, Thank you for your \$100 gift to the Coalition. We are pleased to call you “friends”. Blessings of the Season. Peace in 2011  
The UCC Coalition – Rev. Marguerite Vaukel



### **Thanks to All Who Helped with the Taize Service!**

Thanks to everyone who made the Taize' services through Lent what we considered to be a success. And a special thanks to Larissa Hunley who not only provided child care, she provided a lite supper for those in her care. This was her idea and very much appreciated. Thank you Larissa for sharing your childcare abilities.

**Sheila & Wendy**

### **Thank You Notes From Back Bay Mission & Eden Hill**

A thank you note was received from both Back Bay Mission and Eden Hill for our monthly contribution to them.

## What I'm Listening To

I'm listening to You! When I first came to this church I had never even heard of this denomination before; I had to look the church up online to understand what its principles and ideas were in regards to the Christian faith. Since that day, I feel like I have spiritually grown so much from this church, its followers and its modern day beliefs.

As you may already know, I will be leaving Texas and moving to Norfolk, Virginia mid June after my wedding on the 11<sup>th</sup> of that month and my last Sunday at Faith UCC will be May 29<sup>th</sup>. I have had the pleasure of playing worship music for Faith UCC for the past year now and I am very sad to be leaving everyone. I have greatly enjoyed everyone's positive feedback to me and my music. It has been a blessing playing for the congregation and getting to know the congregation thru all of our struggles and joys in our community of faith.

I ask you for your continued prayers as I enter into a new chapter of my life. I will be moving to a new part of the country for the first time in my life, experiencing military life for the first time, looking for a new job and being married...for the first time, haha. I also hope to find a new UCC church in Norfolk. Andrew (my fiancé) and I have both come to love this denomination and its members. We feel at home in this church and we feel that we can truly be ourselves amongst a congregation that is constantly listening to a God that is still speaking!



If you would like to attend our wedding in San Antonio on June, 11th don't be shy! Just let me know and I will get you an invitation. I would love to see everyone there!

Thank you everyone for following me on this journey, for listening to me, for being there for me and giving me the opportunity to play. I will miss everyone but I hope to stay in touch.

God bless,  
Donna Nall



### **Congratulations to Abigail (Foster) Capestany**

Abigail Foster Capestany, daughter of Steve and Nancy Foster, graduates from the University of Alaska on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She has earned a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, going to school part-time while serving in the United States Coast Guard. Abigail and her husband, Eric will be moving to Lake Charles, Louisiana in July.

Steve and Nancy Foster will be traveling to Alaska for the gradation. We wish Abigail and Eric well in their new life in Lake Charles.

## Cody Allen to Attend the “Baseball Factory” in Baltimore, MD

Just recently I have been selected to attend the Weekly Pro Training held in Baltimore, MD in June of 2011! There I will “train like a professional player” with Baseball Factory’s pro scouts, players and college coaches. Each day will be just like a professional training and game schedule, consisting of 3 meals a day, housing, and 8 hours each day of accelerated baseball instruction. As you can imagine I am very excited to have this opportunity to elevate my game to a much higher level!

Baseball is a big part of my life and I love it as you know. I really want to go to this Weekly Pro Training because it will help me grow as a person. It will also prepare me for college baseball. A lot of very good players will be there and I can train with them in order to elevate my game to a higher level. This will give me invaluable experience.



I really need your sponsorship to succeed with this opportunity. My financial obligation is to fundraise \$1,999 to cover my expenses such as local transportation, hotel, food, training, coaching, uniform, registration, insurance, personal instruction and miscellaneous cost. You can help me by donating.

Suggested levels include: Base Hit \$25; Double - \$50; Triple - \$100; Home Run - \$200; and Grand Slam - \$300

Any support you can give me will help! Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to Baseball Factory and mail directly to me, (S & J Anderson 1656 Gruene Rd New Braunfels, TX 78130) I will forward them to the Baseball Factory. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely, Cody Allen

## BBQ & Bake Sale After Church May 22<sup>nd</sup> Fundraiser for Cody Allen

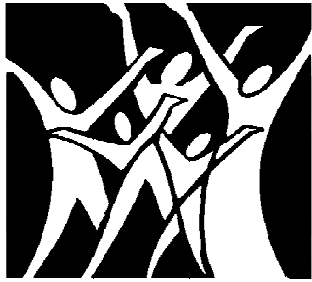
A BBQ and bake sale will be given by Judy and Steve Anderson & Tracey Frerich for to help raise funds for Cody Allen to go to the Under Armour Baseball Factory in Baltimore, Maryland. It will be held Sunday after the worship service in Baese Hall from Noon to 3 p.m.

BBQ Brisket and chicken are available on the main course with potato salad or rice, pinto beans, cole slaw, and iced tea.

Cody is going to participate in an intense baseball camp in Baltimore, MD. He needs help with airline tickets and money for the camp. His mother is traveling with him. His room, board and meals are included with the price of the camp. His mother’s is not. Our family would deeply appreciate any help you could give.

Thank you, Steve, Judy, Tracey and Cod

## May Worship Assistant Schedule



### Worship

May 1 Liturgist: Jim Gossett; Acolyte: Will Gossett;  
Council Rep: Don Green  
Greeter: Dorothy Rest; Hospitality: Chrissy  
Gossett; Communion: Mikki Ward  
Ushers: Mikki Ward; Don Green; Bennie Harst; David Myer  
AV: Tim Marlow

May 8 Liturgist: Curt Lenhardt; Acolyte: Joe Ward;  
Council Rep: Nicolle Clark  
Greeter: Kathy Leber; Hospitality: Julie Allison AV:  
Mikki Ward  
Ushers: Nicolle Clark; Joe Ward; Kathy Leber

May 15 Liturgist: Wendy Reinke; Acolyte: Emma Storms Council Rep: Sheila Angerer  
Greeter: Judy Anderson; Hospitality: Tracey Ferich AV: Charles Stark  
Ushers: Sheila Angerer; Judy Anderson; Tracey Ferich

May 22 Liturgist: Jennifer Marlow; Acolyte: Kai Perry Council Rep: Charles Stark  
Greeter: Lois Swander; Hospitality: Mikki Ward AV: Joe Ward  
Ushers: Charles Stark; Mikki Ward; Jennifer Marlow

May 29 Liturgist: Karen Kramm; Acolyte: Larissa Hunley; Council Rep: Jan Hunley  
Greeter: Lucile Marberger; Hospitality: Sheila Angerer; AV: Sheila Angerer  
Ushers: Jan Hunley; Larissa Hunley; Karen Kramm

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.

## Ascension Day Service at Redeemer UCC June 2, at 2 p.m.

The Women of Faith UCC, Friedens UCC, and Redeemer UCC worship annually on a rotation basis on Ascension Day.

This year, Redeemer UCC Women's Fellowship & Evening Circle would like to extend an invitation to other churches in our area to join us for an Ascension Day Worship Service, Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 2 p.m. Following the worship service we will have a time for fellowship and refreshments.

Blessings to all,  
The Women's Fellowship and Evening Circle of Redeemer  
UCC



# Happy Birthday!

5-2 Richard Hitz	5-4 Sheri Haynes	5-4 Charles Stark
5-11 Kelvin Kramm	5-12 Nicolle Perry-Clark	5-12 Elmo Fischer
5-13 Kathleen Hoffmann	5-17 Tim Marlow	5-23 Kathy Leber
5-24 Sheila Angerer	5-27 Lee Zillmann	5-30 Penny Coble

## **Sausage Lunch at Redeemer UCC May 4, 2011**

Come enjoy great food, fund and fellowship! Wednesday, May 4, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 for sausage, German potato salad, green beans, sauerkraut, and applesauce. You can dine in or get it to-go. You can call in your to-go orders to 210-333-1603. There will also be a raffle.



## **Kiva Update**

We have made four new loans.

Patrick Maisha owns a photo studio. He has been a customer of the microfinance institution ACB since 2009. He is 28 years old, is single, and was born in Rwanda. Patrick studied journalism at the university until level G1. This is his second loan cycle with ACB. He will use the loan to buy two cameras for his studio. His strategy for growth is to buy high-performing and modern equipment in order to improve the quality of his service. His goal is to become self-financing, and also to look for ways how to get married and start his own family.

We were one of 32 people or organizations to make possible an \$850 loan to Partick. He will pay the loan off over a 26 month period of time.

Our remaining three loans were made to a grocery store in Paraguay, pigs to a women's group in the Dominican Republic, and to another women's group of street vendors in Paraguay.

## May Calendar

- May 1 9:30 Sunday School Worship 10:30 a.m. (communion)  
May 4 Church Council 6:30 p.m.  
May 5 Inter Faith of Comal County at the Christian Science Church 4 p.m.  
May 8 9:30 Sunday School Worship 10:30 a.m. (No potluck – Happy Mother's Day!  
May 12-14 Pastor is at the Back Bay Mission Board of Directors meeting in Biloxi, MS  
May 15 9:30 Sunday School Worship 10:30 a.m.  
May 19 PFLAG in Seguin at 7 p.m. (call Carol Gates for details)  
May 20 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m. (volunteers needed)  
May 22 9:30 Sunday School Worship 10:30 a.m. **Fund Raising BBQ Lunch for Cody Allen in Baese Hall from noon to 3 p.m.**  
May 29 9:30 Sunday School Worship 10:30 a.m.  
May 30 Happy Memorial Day!

## June Calendar

- June 2 Ascension Day worship service at Redeemer UCC at 2 p.m. (reception follows)  
June 3-5 South Central Conference Annual Meeting in Houston, TX  
June 5 9:30 Sunday School Worship 10:30 a.m. (communion)  
June 11 Donna Nall gets married! (Best wishes to Donna and Andrew!)

## Tornado & Flooding Response

The southeast has endured horrendous devastation as a result of recent tornados. The upper Midwest is undergoing flooding. The UCC is responding to these disasters in a variety of ways. Here are some ways you can help:

1. The **United Church of Christ** has launched an emergency appeal to the entire church, and it is posted on [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).
2. I have appointed [Angie Wright](#) and **LeNard Brown** to be our coordinators in response to this disaster, and I am working with our colleague in the national offices to get them the credentials they need to have access to the sites of damage.
3. **Gifts are Being Given via Congregations in "Special Offerings."**

If you wish to send contributions through the [Southeast Conference](#) we will also accept checks made out to "Southeast Conference UCC", and note in the memo **"OGHS Alabama Tornado Relief."** You may donate online at the SEC by clicking button to the right.

4. Through **One Great Hour of Sharing** the SEC has already requested a \$2000 grant in aid to each of our churches which have members that have incurred losses in the tornadoes.

**5. Online Donations are Being Made.**

Make a secure online donation to the [OGHS International Disaster Relief Fund](#). Mark the gift being made for **"OGHS Tornado Relief."**



OGHS Alabama Tornado Relief