

November 2011

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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

Church Phone 625-6761

Rev. Scott B. Martin
Cell Phone 515-2866



Sunday, October 30th is Reformation Sunday. It commemorates Martin Luther mailing his 95 theses to the Archbishop of Mainz, that among other things protested the sale of indulgences to pay for the building of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City He is also said to have nailed them to the door of the cathedral for the public to read. Theses number 86 contained these words **"Why does the pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build the basilica of St. Peter with the money of poor believers rather than with his own money?"**¹

Luther hoped to reform the Catholic Church but in the end he started his own denomination, the Lutheran Church. This opened the door for other Protestant denominations as well. This social and religious movement was aided greatly by the invention of the printing press and a sympathetic German prince.

What is less known is that the Protestant Reformation did not arise out of a vacuum, it simply had reached critical mass to succeed when Luther came along. The Church has undergone continual reformation since it first began. Paul opened the doors of the church to gentiles, removing the Jewish legal barriers that the church began with.

The various Catholic religious orders often arose as an attempt to reform or recover the original vision of the church which revolved around community, service, and humility. The Franciscan order is a perfect example of this.

Luther famously translated the Bible into German so the common person could read the Bible for themselves and be shaped by Scripture without priestly interpretation. But long before Luther, John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English in 1382. His followers were known as the Lollards and they sought to reform the church based on biblical principles. Wycliffe is called the Morning Star of the Reformation.

John Huss was another Catholic priest (1369-1415) who called for ecclesiastical reform, a new way of looking at communion, etc. He was condemned as a heretic. The Catholic Church mounted 5 crusades against his followers in Czech lands. A century later, long before Luther, 90% of the people of these lands were non-catholics.

The church is constantly undergoing reformation. These reforms can take centuries to take root and are often accompanied by great resistance by entrenched interests both in and out of the church.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters for Mission 1



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD is one of the most effective efforts that is church based, along with CROP/ChurchWorldService, Habitat for Humanity and a few others. In most unlikely political seasons, Bread for the World has managed to focus public policy on the hungry, the desperate, the uprooted and their nutritional essentials to manage day by day. One of the persuasive outreach dimensions to keeping Congress (yes, troublesome Congress!) and the White House focused is the "gathering of letters" and their delivery.

We of Faith UCC will share in the letter writing. I'll be at a table in the narthex the first two Sundays of November with letter writing information for contacting our Congressional Representatives and President Obama. Sample wordings and essential building block tools will be available and we'll even stamp and mail your letter!

I'm hoping OUR CHILDREN can assist with a big poster-size letter with their names and handprints: Bread not Bombs Foods not Firearms for a kinder, gentler, safer world.

The letters do not have to be lengthy, just personal, genuine and informed.

See you around for our 11/1/11 to 11/11/11 efforts at Mission local, national and global!

frank dietz



World Community Day November 18th

Church Women United of Comal County will celebrate World Community Day on November 18th at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Church. Holy Family is located at 245 Hildago Street here in New Braunfels. Please contact Karen Dietz if you would like a ride to the event.

Congratulations to Tim & Jennifer Marlow

Gage Jenson Marlow was born at 6:55 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26th. He weighed 9 pounds six ounces.



Our Second Blood Drive a Success!

Our thanks to all who signed up to donate blood. Thirteen people signed up and 10 were able to donate! Susan Holt from the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center wrote in an email, **“Your church has had a total of 22 donors for 2011. Each unit collected has the capability of saving 3 lives; therefore Faith United has saved 66 lives with only 2 blood drives. BRAVO!”**



Our next scheduled blood drive will be held at the South Central Conference Annual Meeting here in New Braunfels on June 1st at the civic center.

A special thanks to Nancy and Steve Foster for once again organizing the blood drive!



Thanksgiving Potluck Sunday November 20th

We are moving the Second Sunday Potluck to Sunday, November 20th because the 13th is CROP Walk Sunday and the 20th is closer to Thanksgiving. We will also decorate the church for Christmas. Advent begins on Sunday November 27th.

The Anderson Family is providing a turkey, dressing and gravy for the potluck. This will be the main course. There is a signup sheet on the kiosk for side dishes and desserts. Please sign up so we can avoid having 10 cranberry dishes!

Don't forget to change your clocks on Saturday, November 5 before going to bed!



Four New Kiva Loans, All in U.S.!

We have made four new Kiva loans, bringing our total number of loans to 107, totaling \$9,125! Only two loans out of the first 103 loans were made to individuals living in the United States. Because of the current economic climate all four of the most recent loans were made to people in the United States, each in the amount of \$100. The advantage of this is that it helps people very close to home. The disadvantage is that the loans are for a much longer time frame than those overseas, 14-38 months. This means that this money will not be available for loaning out again for a longer period time.



Sandra Pierre-Kazi is using her loan to establish a tour company in New Orleans, Worldwide Concepts Vacations. Sandra loves the city and even after evacuating due to hurricane Katrina and living in Kentucky for a year, she was determined to return. "There is no place like New Orleans; I can only do what I do successfully in New Orleans," states Sandra. Sandra is using the loan to print advertising brochures and purchase a 15-25 passenger bus to use for the tours.

A year and a half ago Catherine was out of work and facing financial problems. She started a daycare center. Catherine has been spending more money each month to enlarge her daycare space which allowed her to qualify for the license for 16 children. Her husband is acting as her assistant and will help her with the larger group of children. Catherine is using this loan to buy additional chairs, tables, mats, paint supplies and other materials needed for the larger daycare center.

Dyanne started her own housecleaning business two years ago after working for others in the cleaning business and making little money. Dyanne works for herself which means fewer hours and more money than in the past. This loan will help her buy supplies and expand her business.



In 2008 Ellen was one of many laid off from the company she worked for at the time. She has always loved animals. She did some research and found that there was a need for dogs that could be trained to detect bedbugs and mold, so she found a dog and started a new business. She has contracts with Orkin and some private contracts. Since her dog Trace needs frequent breaks and is able to only work 4 hours a day, Ellen has decided to add a second dog. She found Mason in a local dog pound. Had Ellen not taken him he would have been euthanized later that day. Both Trace and Mason are vital and happy members of Ellen's family. The loan will help her to provide training for Mason.

Garage Sale a Success!

Our thanks to everyone that donated items for the garage sale and to everyone who staffed it! We made \$530! A special thanks to Karen Kramm for organizing it!

Meet Our New Christian Ed Director Amberly Kelly

Hello Everyone,

It is so exciting to me to be a part of the Faith UCC Staff. Having the opportunity to serve your church community, as a Christian Education Director is not only a wonderful opportunity, but also an answer to my prayers.

God brought me in to this world with a grand entrance. I was born with Transposition of the Great Arteries and required open-heart surgery at six weeks of age. After complications during the surgery my parents were told that I would not pull through, and they returned to find that the complications had disappeared. God's plan for me has not always been the easiest road, but He has certainly been visible in everything that has come in to my life.

I attended public school until tenth grade. It was then that I asked my parents if I could be home schooled. No one in my family had ever been home schooled, but I felt that it was what was best for me. It turned out to be the perfect thing for me. I spent time on my studies, but I also spent time learning about God and becoming closer to him.

After graduation I felt that God was calling me to serve Him by serving others. I began my training to become a Catechist and a Youth Minister, both of which I now hold certifications for. I have worked as a Youth Minister assistant, a childcare staff member for a church, and presently work with another congregation presenting Bible study classes to young children; while there parents hold their own Bible study.



I have worked as a receptionist for a contracting company, and co-founded a babysitting service with one of my sisters. My family consists of my two parents, six children, two of which are in heaven, and my grandparents who live with us.

My professional goal and my spiritual goal are one in the same: to serve God. My hope is to soon begin working towards a degree in Theology. I think it is important to live and learn God's work, so as to better understand the academic part of my goal.

I have always felt that God has called me to do his work, and to be a servant in his vineyard. Faith United Church of Christ is one more way that I can serve Him.

~ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength .
Philippians 4:13



Pastor Scott on Vacation November 14-23

I will be on vacation November 14-23. Actually you could say I will be taking a “staycation” since I’m not leaving town, except for a possible day trip or two. I will be doing some work around the house, so if there is an emergency feel free to give me a call.

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nash will be filling the pulpit on Sunday November 20th. Rev. Nash lives in Austin and is the Brazos Association Minister. She co-leads the SCC mission trip to El Salvador every year.

MISSION 1 BEGINS 11-1-11!

Faith UCC will be participating in a nationwide UCC effort to collect more than 1 million food items for local food banks, raise \$111,111,111 **online** for NIN; write some 11,111 letters to congress in support of Bread for the World’s Offering of Letters; and any other creative ways we can explore and educate around hunger issues and help meet the needs of hungry people in a concrete way.

To this end here are Faith UCC’s goals for Mission 1

- Collect 11 pounds of food per family for SOS (if you have not brought your food already let’s all bring it on Sunday, November 6th)
- 11 people to participate in the local CROP Walk on Sunday, November 13th
- 11 people to donate top NIN online between 11-1-11 and 11-11-11.
- 11 people to write letters to congress (Frank Dietz will have a table set up in the Narthex on 11-6 and 11-13 for people to write letters.
- 11 people to fast for one day (Be creative with this. Use it as a way to experience hunger short term and or as a spiritual discipline. Donate the money you save to NIN online or another hunger fighting agency. Use the time saved to educate yourself or others on hunger issues.

On Sunday October 30 commitment slips will be included in the bulletin. Please let us know what you plan on doing for Mission 1 so we can report what we have done as a church to the national church to help meet the national goals! For those not in church on Oct. 30 there will be a sign up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex.



November Worship Assistant Schedule

November 6

Liturgist: Mikki Ward Acolyte: Larissa Hunley Council Rep: Jan Hunley
Greeter: Don Green Hospitality: Mikki Ward Communion: Joe Ward
Children's Church: Tim Marlow AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Jan Hunley; Mikki Ward; Larissa Hunley; Sheila Angerer

November 13

Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte: Kai Perry Council Rep: Charles Stark
Greeter: Kathy Leber Children's Church: Joe Ward Hospitality: Sheila Angerer
Ushers: Charles Stark; Sheila Angerer; Richard Leber AV: Mikki Ward

November 20

Liturgist: Chrissy Gossett Acolyte: Will Gossett Council Rep: Karen Kramm
Greeter: Evelyn Krueger Children's Church: Carol Gates Hospitality: **(potluck)**
Ushers: Karen Kramm; Evelyn Krueger; Donna Myer AV: Tim Marlow

November 27

Liturgist: Nicolle Clark Acolyte: Devin Perry Council Rep: Sheila Angerer
Greeter: Julia Allison Hospitality: Nancy Foster Children's Church: Jim Gossett
Ushers: Sheila Angerer; Nicolle Clark; Steve Foster AV: Charles Stark



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

Salvation Army Dedicates New Building In New Braunfels!

The Salvation Army is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new building at 617 S. Business IH-35 on Wednesday, November 2nd at 11 a.m. Pastor Scott is doing the invocation. Everyone is invited. Come tour the new building and meet our new Salvation Army officer!

November Calendar

11-1 – 11-11 UCC nationwide campaign to combat hunger Mission 1

11-1 All Saints Day (Give thanks for all the saints in your life past and present)



11-2 Salvation Army Building Dedication 11 am. 617 S. Business IH-35

Faith Church Council 6:30 p.m.

11-3 Inter Faith of Comal County meets at First UMC at 4:30 p.m

11-27 **Daylight Savings Time** (set clocks back before bed)

11-6 Communion Sunday Frank Dietz – Offering of Letters for Mission 1 in narthex

11-13 Worship 10:30 a.m. Frank Dietz – Offering of Letters for Mission 1 in narthex
CROP Walk Registration 1:15 at Eden Hill Walk at 2 pm

11-27.....서`í **Pastor Scott on vacation**

11-15 STA Church and Ministry meeting at Bethany UCC at 7 p.m.

11-18 World Community Day at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Church (info – Karen Dietz)

11-20 The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nash preaches at the 10:30 worship service

Thanksgiving Potluck and Decorate the Church after worship

11-24 Happy Thanksgiving Day!

11-27 **First Sunday of Advent** Worship at 10:30 a.m.

December newsletter items due.

11-29 SCC Annual Meeting Planning Committee meets at 7 p.m. in New Braunfels

November Birthdays

11-4 Ray Bizer

11-5 Denise Leonhardt

11-6 Marion Amman

11-12 Ava Perry-Clark

11-19 Barbara Jaroszewski

11-22 Hunter Leber

11-22 Steve Anderson

11-30 Leo Gates

My thanks to everyone for their birthday wishes and to the Anderson family for the wonderful birthday cake that was served during the hospitality time on Oct. 23rd!
Pastor Scott

