

**October 2011**

**Glimpses of Faith Newsletter**

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

**Church Phone 625-6761  
www.faithuccnb.org  
Rev. Scott B. Martin  
Cell Phone 515-2866**



The political season leading up to the 2012 election is already heating up. The usual questions about the role of religion in politics is already coming up, as it always does in American elections. We have separation of church and state written into our political system but is it really possible to separate a political candidate's religious beliefs from their political stance? It probably depends on the candidate. Is a candidate's religious belief fair game for questioning by journalists and the electorate? If you want a short answer my answer is "Yes."

Obviously any candidate is free to practice any religion they want to in this country, or no religion whatsoever. This is as it should be, but a political candidate's religious beliefs can be and should be explored and even challenged, to the extent that they influence their political beliefs. The public, hopefully, is not holding an election on whether or not to support a candidate's religious beliefs but they are holding an election on whether or not they support a candidates political beliefs and what they will do if elected.

It is not hard to come up with a list of political issues that also are hot button cultural and religious issues: abortion/freedom of choice; LGBT issues such as gays in the military, marriage, etc; teaching evolution in the schools and supposed alternative creationist views; birth control programs; sex education in the schools; financial support for public schools and whether charter schools, religious schools, private schools should have vouchers; the role of government in providing health care, welfare, and regulations; the role of science; chaplains in the military and public prayers; prayer in schools; U.S. support for Israel; etc. etc.

A candidate's views on these issues can be explored without bringing their religious views into it. In general I would say this is probably the best way to go most of the time; but there is probably a time and place for questioning how their religious views impact their political views on these and other issues. This is especially true if they seek vicarious or overt endorsement of church leaders, religious leaders, religious organizations or schools or use religious language in their speeches.

Exploring how a candidate's religious views influence their political vision for how we the broader body politic will live together in community is a legitimate area to explore.

## Thank You From Neighbors In Need

Dear Friends at Faith UCC,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$320 to Neighbors In Need in 2010! Two-thirds of your NIN offering goes to support Justice and Witness Ministries and one-third to support the Council of American Indian Ministry.

It has been another remarkable, yet challenging year in the United Church of Christ as we strive for justice and peace for all God's people. No matter where they are, members throughout the church demonstrate that they are people of compassion and commitment. Local churches, conferences, associations and the national setting work daily to address injustice in their communities, regions, the nation, and in the world.



We are encouraged by our relationships with conferences and partners of faith communities. These efforts have proven that we can make a difference when we work together. For example, a powerful coalition of faith and non-religious communities has formed to address the serious crisis relating to global poverty and climate change.

We are thrilled to report that we will reach our goal of training 300 justice leaders in our Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED) curriculum by the end of 2011. We continue to take justice ministry closer to the people from our offices at Franklinton Center, North Carolina, Centro Romero in Southern California, Capital Hill in Washington D.C. and the UCC's National Offices in Cleveland. In partnership with the Pacific Northwest Conference, we celebrate the opening of the UCC Center for Environmental Justice at Pilgrim Firs Conference Center in Washington State on September 24, 2011. The Council for American Indian Ministries continues to support pastors and key programs crucial to the life of the United Church of Christ.

**This year's NIN offering will officially be received on Sunday October 2. Envelopes are in the pews and on the literature table in the narthex.** NIN is one of the 5 for 5 offerings received by the United Church of Christ nationwide. NIN supports the work of CAIM (Council for American Indian Ministries) and Justice and Witness Ministries.

**One of the goals of the UCC nationwide Mission 1 Campaign to address hunger issues is for people to donate to Neighbors In Need online. The nationwide goal for online donations is \$111,111. Go to [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) to make your donations between 1-11-11 and 11-11-11. Fill out a pledge card and drop in the offering plate so our church can track what our members gave during the Mission 1 Campaign to NIN online. Pledge forms available on literature table in the narthex.**

## **Faith UCC to Participate in UCC Mission 1 Campaign to Fight Hunger**

**Imagine ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food related injustice. This is Mission 1.**

Mission 1 is an opportunity to make real Jesus' prayer for his disciples: "That they may all be one." It is also an opportunity to live out our faith – in unity – by offering the worship that God most desires from us: loosening the bonds of injustice and sharing our bread with the hungry. The staggering facts compel us to act with compassion and to be voices for justice. 925 million people still suffer from chronic hunger worldwide, nearly 90 million higher than in 2000. In the United States alone, 50.2 million people (up from 35.5 million in 2006), including 17.2 million children, are food insecure. They don't have the money or assistance to provide for themselves and their families. We can be God's instruments of change.

For the first 11 days of November (11.1.11 – 11.11.11), UCC congregations, colleges, seminaries, and health and human service agencies, will join together in a collective campaign to collect more than 1 million food items for local food banks, raise \$111,111 online for NIN, and write some 11,111 letters to Congress (in support of Bread for the World's Offering of Letters) asking that the U.S. foreign assistance be reformed to more effectively serve the world's poorest people.

Go online to at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) to see what the ongoing tally is for Mission 1 nationwide!

# Mission: 1

11.1.11 - 11.11.11  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Here are some goals for Faith UCC's participation:**

- From now to 11-11-11 let's collect 11 pounds of food per family for SOS
- Sign up 11 walkers for the CROP Walk November 13<sup>th</sup>
- 11 people donating \$11 each online for NIN between 11-1-11 and 11-11-11 (This is in addition to our normal NIN giving through the offering plate)
- 11 people to write letters to congress for the Bread for the World Offering of letters (Our October Second Sunday Potluck Program will be on this and offer info and an opportunity to do so)

**These are goals so hopefully we will surpass them!**

## August Financial Report

Checking 8-31	\$7,942.48
Savings 8-31	\$2,344.19
Building Fund	\$10,635.97
Memorial Fund	\$5,869.24
Rommel Trust	\$13,056.01
Gilbert Trust	\$9,185.79



(September is when we have our third quarter insurance, pension, health insurance, etc. due)

*Happy Birthday!*

## October Birthdays

10-1	Judy Anderson				
10-3	Cullen Leonhardt	10-5	Sol Fuss		
10-7	Sunny Colbath	10-8	Sally Pena	10-10	Jody Coble
10-10	Donald Gregg	10-12	Samantha Heinemeyer	10-18	Evelyn Krueger
10-22	Scott Martin	10-29	Nathan Leber		

## Community UCC Sausage Lunch October 5<sup>th</sup>

Community UCC in San Antonio is having their annual Sausage Lunch on Wednesday, October 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 for a sausage, German potato salad, green bean, saurkraut, and applesause lunch. You can eat in or take out.

Don't forget dessert at the cake booth! Raffle tickets available.

Call in to-go orders at 210-333-1603.

Community UCC is located at IH 10 and W.W. White Rd (behind Bill Millers BBQ) at 4443 Hunnicut Drive.



## Church Office Closed October 3-8<sup>th</sup>

The church office will be closed October 3-8<sup>th</sup>. The carpet will be torn up and a new stained concrete floor put in the entryway, bathrooms and offices. The church explored several options and decided this was not only the most cost effective option but would also be aesthetically pleasing. Funding for this will come out of the church building fund.

We asked about the acoustics of the new floor, namely whether or not it would increase the sound level, which already is fairly high. We were told it might increase it marginally, but only marginally, since the current carpeting does not have padding under it. Also, it would be no worse than two other options we were considering, vinyl and wood laminate. We hope to mitigate the sound level by placing quilts or banners in the entryway. This is one reason why we asked for the loan of quilts in last month's newsletter.

Pastor Scott will be working out of his home during this time. To contact Pastor Scott call his cell phone number, 515-2866.

To prepare for this we need to move all the furniture, books, bookcases, etc out of these rooms. We need some volunteers to stay behind after the October 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service to help move all of this.

## Blessing of the Animals October 9<sup>th</sup>

We will be holding our annual blessing of the animals service on October 9<sup>th</sup>. You may be thinking "Isn't that later in the year than we have been doing it?" The answer is "Yes." We have been holding the blessing of the animals service on Earth Day Weekend. This year Earth Day weekend fell on the same weekend as Easter! One guess as to which took priority! Hence we will be celebrating "Blessing of the Animals" on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.



This also has the benefit of allowing us to worship in Baese Hall. The company who will be working on the new floor in the entry way and offices warned us that there might be a significant odor from the chemical used. This will linger until things have a chance to air out.

## Second Sunday Potluck on October 9<sup>th</sup>

We will have our Second Sunday Potluck on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Bring a dish to share. Our program that day will be on Bread for the World's "Offering of Letters". There will be a short DVD from Bread for the World. We will also give people an opportunity to write letters to congress. Paper, envelopes, stamps, and sample letters will be available.





## Faith Church Garage Sale

We are already beginning to receive items for this year's garage sale, which will be held on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Items can be placed in the Baese Hall SS room closest to the narthex. If you have large items or large boxes and need help getting them to church please contact the church office and arrangements will be made.

We will need volunteers to help sort and mark items on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. We will also need volunteers to help set up beginning at 7 a.m. on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will need volunteers to staff the sale and help take things down. The sale will begin at 8 a.m. and we are usually done by 2 p.m.

For further info contact Karen Kramm at 210-658-4248 or [mlwkkramm@yahoo.com](mailto:mlwkkramm@yahoo.com)

## UCC Mission Trip to El Salvador February 4-11, 2012

Work side by side with the Salvadoran people and others from the South Central Conference and other UCC folks beyond our conference on work projects improving the lives of rural poor. Grow your spirit while we work, worship, eat, and play as partners! You will be working in Alergria and stay at a hostel there for 4-5 days. The group will fly in and out of San Salvador from either Houston or Dallas depending on airline costs. Estimated cost is \$300-350 on the ground and whatever the flight costs prove to be. The deadline to reserve a spot is October 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact Liz Nash, Brazos Association Minister for further details 512-799-2782 (cell) or at [lizknash@gmail.com](mailto:lizknash@gmail.com) There is also a more detailed outline of the trip on the kiosk in the narthex.

No specific skill sets necessary... just a willingness to work hard with a wide smile alongside the wonderful people of El Salvador! Don't know how to speak Spanish? That's okay. Know how to speak Spanish? Great! This trip is sponsored by the South Central Conference.





## Blood Drive at Faith UCC on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

We were so successful at the last blood drive that the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center asked if we would do another blood drive on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. People will be able to donate from about 9 a.m. to Noon.

Last time we were able to donate 13 pints as a church. We already know 2-3 people who gave last time will not be able to this time. Let's invite friends, coworkers, and neighbors to come and donate blood. They are of course invited to stay for church but if they want to donate and then go on to their own churches they are welcome to do so.

Let's see if we can beat the 13 pints we donated last time!

Our thanks to Nancy and Steve Foster for agreeing to organize our blood drives. Contact them at 609-2234 or at [nfoster5@satx.rr.com](mailto:nfoster5@satx.rr.com)

## Inter Faith of Comal County Panel Discussion at Faith UCC on the "Nature of Evil"

Faith UCC will once again host an Inter Faith of Comal County panel discussion on "The Nature of Evil" on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. A variety of representatives from various religious communities in New Braunfels will discuss the "nature of evil." There will also be a time for breaking into small groups to continue the discussion. This evening will conclude with a time for refreshments and fellowship.



## Thanks to All Who Helped Make the Hygiene Kits Possible!

Our thanks to all those who donated items or money to the Back Bay Mission Hygiene Kits. We ended up sending 40 from Faith Church! All in all, with the help of a number of sister churches we are sending 263 kits to BBM! We collected \$160 on Sunday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> to fill in the gaps in the bags. This money was used to purchase: 5 hand towels, 21 wash cloths, 15 tubes of toothpaste, 34 soap containers, 34 deodorants, and 35 disposable razors. I would estimate a minimum cost of \$7 per bag. 7 times 263 comes to \$1,851 worth of materials for Back Bay Mission! Special thanks to David and Donna Myer who came by and packed the hygiene kits.

## October Worship Assistants

### October 2

Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt    Acolyte: Quinn Perry    Council Rep: Charles Stark  
Greeter: Evelyn Krueger    Hospitality: Julia Allison    Communion: Sheila Angerer  
Children's Church: Carol Gates    Ushers: Charles Stark; Sheila Angerer; Evelyn  
Krueger; Curt Leonhardt    AV: Mikki Ward

### October 9

Liturgist: Donna Myer    Acolyte: Larissa Hunley    Council Rep: Karen Kramm  
Greeter: Nancy Foster    (No Children's Church – Blessing of the Animals)  
Ushers: Karen Kramm; David Myer; Steve Foster    AV: Jan Hunley

### October 16

Liturgist: Kathy Leber    Acolyte: Will Gossett    Council Rep: Sheila Angerer  
Greeter: Tracey Ferich    Children's Church: Chrissy Gossett    AV: Tim Marlow  
Ushers: Sheila Angerer; Richard & Kathy Leber    Hospitality: Scott Martin

### October 23

Liturgist: Frank Dietz    Acolyte: Emma Storms    Council Rep: Don Green  
Greeter: Donna Myer    Hospitality: Tracey Ferich    AV: Mikki Ward  
Ushers: Don Green; David Myer; Joe Ward    Children's Church: Nicolle Clark

### October 30

Liturgist: Steve Foster    Acolyte: Kai Perry    Council Rep: Nicolle Clark  
Greeter: Lucile Foster    Hospitality: Nancy Foster    Children's Church: Lacey  
Ushers: Nicolle Clark; Nancy & Steve Foster    AV: Joe Ward

**If you cannot serve on the date(s) 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.**

## Special October Dates

October 2    World Wide Communion Sunday  
October 3-9    Church office closed for floor resurfacing.    Need people to help move Oct. 2  
October 8    Men's Breakfast at 8 – 9:15 a.m.    Baese Hall & Association Meeting at  
Bethany UCC    10 a.m. to 2 pm.  
October 9    Blessing of the Animals Service in Baese Hall.    Potluck follows.  
October 16    Bread for the World Sunday  
October 22    Faith Church Garage Sale    (Need items and volunteers!)  
October 23    Faith Church Blood Drive!    Need donors!