

Faith U.C.C.

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

January 2007

**Faith Church Annual Meeting Sunday January 28**

**Pastor: Scott B. Martin**  
**Church Office – 625-6761**  
**Cell Phone – 830-515-2866**  
**Church Website - [www.faihuccnb.org](http://www.faihuccnb.org)**

## **A Word of Thanks!**

All of you who were in attendance for our Christmas Play certainly were treated to a memorable performance! I want to thank all of those who helped create this special event. Tim and Jennifer Marlow managed to help organize everything in their seemingly effortless way. Kim Kramm contributed the wonderful starry night backdrop. Ken Triesch stepped in, as always, and performed all of the musical selections we handed him. Chrissy Gossett and Michelle Perry kept the young ones on their toes (and hands and knees!), letting them know just when it was their time to come forward and shine! And that brings me to the actors. What a company of actors we had! Pastor Scott was an excellent shepherd narrator, as he helped to set the stage for the Nativity Story.

Many thanks to the more than twenty participants who, without hesitation, came forward to play a part. I believe that the contributions of our adult actors certainly left a lasting impression on our young ones. With the success of this year's play, you can be assured that we will have a repeat performance! If you were unable to attend, I encourage you to log on to our church website, [faithuccnb.org](http://faithuccnb.org), to enjoy the photos that Nicolle Clark submitted.

I would also take this opportunity to thank Faith Church for acknowledging the church school teachers this year with a gift. I know I speak for all of us, that spending time with your children, and also with the adults of the church family in Christian education is a gift that we feel is important for us to give. Thank you for your continuing affirmation!

Yours in faith,  
Kathy Leber

## **Christmas Letter From Back Bay Mission Where do you find hope?**

“What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:3b-5

Her despair and frustration spilled out in a painful display of raw emotion. She was a single mother of two who had lost everything to Hurricane Katrina. She'd been living in a FEMA trailer since then, working two jobs and saving every penny with hopes of rebuilding her home in East Biloxi. But on the day I encountered this woman, at a recent public meeting, she had learned that new regulations might prevent her from rebuilding at all! The tender bit of hope she'd dared to hold onto unraveled before my eyes, as she wept openly, pleading for understanding. It was gut-wrenching to watch it: one more casualty of Katrina, one more life still so tenuous.

Fifteen months after Hurricane Katrina, such real life stories of pain and desperation are still all too common. Hope is still a very fragile thing. As Back Bay Mission tends to our clients' urgent needs, rebuilds broken neighborhoods, and advocates for a future that will provide a full, fair, and dignified circumstance for all, the vulnerability of every individual and every community here is overwhelming. It is written on the faces of those who have the most to overcome but the least resources to do so, woven through every planning process laden with uncertainty and indecision.

### **“Where do you find Hope?”**

I've often been asked this question over the last several months. In this season when hope was born, I offer these humble but heart-felt answers....

### **Christmas Letter From Back Bay Continued....**

- Hope shines when our housing rehabilitation and recovery efforts enable a family to return to their home for the first time since Hurricane Katrina
- Hope revives with every reminder that we are not alone but surrounded by many who pray for us, support us, and instill in us their confidence
- Hope sings every time another volunteer or group arrives to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty with us, assuring us again that our plight has not been forgotten
- Hope rekindles with every hurt we soothe, every tear we dry, every need we meet
- Hope grows with each tiny step toward recovery of our own organization: repairs progressing, construction plans unfolding, a staff working unceasingly to extend compassion and justice; and
- Hope perseveres because in all this God is our constant companion ... conquering the impossible, creating new life from overwhelming loss, carrying our burdens.

Hope springs eternal! Please consider making a gift to Back Bay Mission today. Stand with us to nurture God's unquenchable hope among those for whom it is so very fragile.

May the love of God and peace of Christ be with you this Christmas and always,

Shari Prestemon  
Executive Director

(Note, we will be taking up a special offering for Back Bay during Lent.)

## **Women's Circle News**

The Women's Circle will meet Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. Ms. Pat Fox, from St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, will speak on "Women's Work in the Catholic Church." Come out and enjoy the fellowship and the program. (Bring a sack lunch.)

## **Thanks from the Pastor**

Thanks to all of you for all the Christmas cards, good wishes and the "envelope". It has been put to good use preparing the house to move into. The electricians and plumbers also thank you! It is an honor and a privilege to serve this church. Faith UCC is a very special church family. Wishing you all the best in the New Year!

## **Faith Church Reaches Food Drive Goal!**

Our goal for the Christmas food was 400 pounds. In the end we collected 428 pounds for the SOS Food Bank. This is enough food to feed about 10 families! There were also a number of cash donations that will be used to purchase food. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the Behrendt family upon the death of Edmund Behrendt. For many years he and his wife worked at Slumber Falls**



**Faith UCC welcomed three new members on December 31st: Sheri McCrory, David Pena and Sally Crooks.**

## **Thank you from Eden Home**

On behalf of the residents, families, staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors, we would like to extend a heart-felt *Thank You* for your past year's commitment to Eden Home. Your support of Eden Home allows us to make a greater difference in the daily lives of the residents who we serve.

As we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our move to New Braunfels and near the celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are ever mindful that one of the significant reasons for our continued successful ministry is the support of our faithful donors throughout these many years, you have walked along side of us, encouraging us and supporting us with your gifts of time, talents and resources. We look forward to walking down new and exciting paths together.

Just as donors of many years past helped to create a sure footing for today, your current support helps to insure a bright future for this organization. Thank you for your continued support and for being a *Diamond Associate*.

Laurence Dahl,  
Executive Director/CEO

## **Thanks From the Community Service Center**

On behalf of the New Braunfels Community Service Center, I would like to Thank Faith UCC so much for your most generous gifts and contributions for the Holiday Express. It was a success, we were able to help approximately 700 needy children in our community area.

Michele Gilbreth

## Children's Sunday School Time to Change

We hope this letter finds all of you well rested after a joyous Christmas season. We are anxious to have the children return to church school! The Christians Education Committee at Faith Church is taking this opportunity to share with you our decision to initiate a new time for our young people's church school. **Beginning Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, Youth Sunday School will meet during Worship, immediately following the Children's Sermon.**

We feel that by holding our church school during the worship service, we will be giving more children an opportunity to join us. Children will continue to share in the opening worship experience through the passing of the peace and the Children's Sermon. After this, we will all meet together to enjoy a time of multi-aged learning, based on our current *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum. It is our intent to have age appropriate material for all the children who attend. We would really like to use this time as an opportunity for not only fellowship, but also as a time for meaningful Christian education. There may be opportunities on some Sundays for the children to return during worship, if we feel the children would benefit or for special Sundays such as Children's Sabbath.

Right now, Chrissy Gossett and Kathy Leber will be sharing teaching responsibilities with the hope that in the future, we will have more people who would like to join us. **If we could count on just a few more teachers, no one would need to miss too many worship services. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please speak to one of us.**

We envision this group to include those children up to Middle School. We ask that the Senior High Youth please contact Jennifer and Tim Marlow (6292941) to arrange for meeting times and activities in the New Year. **Our Adult class and Confirmation will continue to meet at 9:15 a.m. prior to worship.**

Please let us know how you feel about this change. We ask for your prayers as we continue to view the Christian Education of our young people as our highest priority. It is our intention to continue this new time and approach until this Sunday School session ends in May. At that time we will evaluate what we have accomplished.

Yours in faith,

The Christian Education Committee

**Faith UCC to Attend Martin Luther King  
Celebration at Texas Lutheran  
Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>**



All those interested in attending the Martin Luther King Celebration at Texas Lutheran on Sunday evening January 14<sup>th</sup> are asked to meet in the church parking lot no later than 6:30 p.m. The event begins at 7 p.m. If you didn't go last year you missed a fantastic event. The music, dance, readings were fantastic and the message inspiring! Let us celebrate the life and

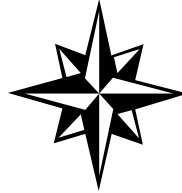
message of this modern day saint and prophet!

**New Addresses**

FN Foster, James D.  
USS Theodore Roosevelt, CVN-71  
RX/M Division  
FPO-AE 09599-2871

South Central Conference  
9022 Long Point Road  
Houston, TX 77055

Rev. Scott B. Martin  
730 McKinley  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
Cell Phone - 830-515-2866  
(my old home phone is no longer valid)



**Prayer Concerns**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kay Holmes and her family. Her brother, Harold D. Pape passed away recently.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Tim Marlow and his family upon the death of his grandmother, Juanita McKlurken.

**Church Annual Meeting To Be Held  
Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Faith UCC will hold its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting on Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>. It will take place immediately following the church service. At this time we will vote on officers and approve a budget, as well as have an opportunity for reports and questions. Please plan on being part of this important meeting.

## **WAYS to Help Slumber Falls Camp February 23-25<sup>th</sup>**

A work camp at the Slumber Falls is planned for the weekend of February 23-25<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully it will be warmer than last years! There will be a number of projects available to meet a variety of skills. Come and help get the camp ready for summer and carrying out the vital ministry and mission which it does year round. Not only will you have a great time of fellowship at the camp, working with sisters and brothers from around the conference, but your food and lodging are **FREE!** Go to the camp website to register [www.slumberfalls.com](http://www.slumberfalls.com)

Rev Peter Olson is planning a **South Texas Mission Awareness** project at the camp Saturday and Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be painting the main house and need about a dozen people. Let's try and get at least 5 from Faith Church! All paint and equipment will be provided, but if you have an extra step ladder you might bring it. All those who can help with this project please let the pastor know.

### **Camp Fund Raising Dinner at Faith UCC Saturday February 24**

Joe and Mikki Ward are spearheading a fundraising dinner in Baese Hall on Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup>. We will need people to help prepare and serve the meals as well as help with set up and clean up. We also need people to not only show up and eat but to help sell tickets to the general public. Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

## **Pastor's Page The Old Making Way for the New**

We are now into the new year 2007. We are all use to the idea that the old year must give way to the new year. We symbolize this by Old Father Time making way for a baby. In Christianity it is the birth of the baby Jesus that heralds the coming of God's new order. Jesus reminds us that it is hard if not impossible to put "new wine in old wine skins."

Churches, like human beings, are eternally caught in the tension between old and new. Churches and religion are bastions of "tradition." One of their inherent purposes is to bolster the "faith of our fathers" and can we stretch the tradition to say "faith of our mothers." The texts we use are thousands of years old, as is our faith, but we in the UCC are also proud to say that "while our faith is 2,000 years old, our thinking is not!" We believe that God is still speaking.

Churches are forever being torn asunder by the tension between old and new, whether it is theological issues like baptism or the approach to the Bible, or whether it is their approach to social issues like the role of women, civil rights or homosexuality.

Some long for the “good ole days” when these were not issues and everybody supposedly “just got along.” Of course there really never were such “good ole days.” The issues were simply different: women’s right to vote, unions, slavery, etc. There is an eternal tension between the old and new and churches like society and individuals must go through this.

Richard Rohr, a Catholic theologian and author, describes a very special role for the church. **“In sacred space the old world is able to fall apart, and the new world is able to be revealed. If we don’t find liminal space in our lives, we start idolizing normalcy. We end up believing it’s the only reality, and our lives shrivel.”** May 2007 be a year when at Faith UCC we continue to be a sacred place in which the old can fall apart and the new world be revealed. Amen.

### **Thanks!**

To the members of Faith Church,

Thank you very much for the Christmas gift certificates. I know we will enjoy the experiences of eating at these restaurants and the dinners they serve.

Ken Triesch,  
Organist

