

October 2007

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

Faith UCC  
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New Braunfels, TX 78130

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Rev. Scott B. Martin



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This month Faith UCC will begin an 8 week outreach ad campaign in the local newspaper. Once a week we will run a large 4" by 8" ad highlighting who we are as a United Church of Christ church. We owe a debt of thanks to Elmo Fischer for making this possible.

Located as we are in south Texas we are often confused with the Church of Christ. Not a month goes by that we don't have visitors who come to us because they think we are Church of Christ. Anyone who sees these ads will know immediately that we are not.

The ads will certainly make it clear who we are NOT, but more importantly they will make it clear who we ARE. The ads are based on a series of UCC historical "Firsts" and what those firsts have to say about who we are today.

We have a proud history in the United Church of Christ. Let's embrace it and not be shy about sharing these stories with the world. Let's also make it clear that we are not about to rest on our laurels. The UCC and its predecessors have been on the cutting edge of faith and practice from the very beginning. Because we believe God is still speaking and that there is more light and truth to break forth from God's holy Word the UCC seeks to remain on the

cutting edge of God's vision for humanity and the world.

Obviously, it is our hope that the ads will generate not only name recognition but also a flow of visitors throughout October and November, leading up to Advent and Christmas. Here are some ways you can help with this outreach program:

- Make an extra effort to attend church regularly. The more people we have here from a variety of ages and backgrounds the more likely our visitors can find someone to connect with.
- Be welcoming! Treat them as you would a dinner guest in your house, after all this is your church.
- Help with the coffee and hospitality after church. Let's make sure we have every Sunday covered. Stick around for this time of sharing.
- Invite people to church, friends, neighbors, relatives, newcomers to town!
- **Demonstrate the loving, caring, nurturing community that you already are, a community seeking to grow in faith, hope and love!**

## Elmo Fischer on the United Church of Christ

*Elmo Fischer wrote this for the March 1999 United Church News.*

..... I want the community [New Braunfels] to be informed of the proud history of the United Church of Christ and of its unique contributions to the development of our nation and of Protestant Christianity in the United States. I want to remind people that the forebears of one of our partner fellowships were the Pilgrims who first settled this nation. Our forefathers and mothers of another partner fellowship left Germany in the mid-nineteenth century to escape Prussian militarism and stifling economic conditions in search of freedom of thought and religion and of economic opportunity.



I want to remind people that our United Church of Christ ancestors were the first to speak out against black slavery before, during and after the Civil War and contributed liberally of their means and their energies to provide educational opportunities and economic assistance to freed slaves. I want people to know of the United Church of Christ's concern for the education of the masses which found expression in the establishment of many academies, colleges, and universities, among them two of the most highly regarded centers of learning in the world, Harvard and Yale Universities.

I want others to know that members of the United Church of Christ have been concerned, throughout its history for persons having special needs, the abused, the deprived, and the unfortunates of our society. The United Church of Christ is an acknowledged leader in the establishment of hospitals, nursing and retirement homes, child care institutions and services, and many other health and social agencies. It has been in the forefront of a movement in the United States which has created a culture in which volunteerism and helping others in need has become a national virtue.

**We in the United Church of Christ have often been accused of being revolutionaries out of sync with the theological, social, and political wisdom of our times. If this is true, and I often wish it were more so, then I make no apology for it nor should we as a church feel a need to do so. After all, the Lord of our church was himself a revolutionary, constantly challenging the dogma and practices of the leaders and the society of his time.** In his world, such words as “feed my sheep,” “love your enemies,” and “love your neighbor as yourself” must have sounded frighteningly revolutionary to his contemporaries just as they are still regarded as revolutionary by many in our own world.

I am proposing that a modest sum of money be allocated to enable our Church Council to institute a program of information and education in our community, which will present Faith Church and the United Church of Christ in a more positive and accurate light.

## **Neighbors In Need Offering Received on October 7<sup>th</sup>**

NIN is a special offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

The most powerful thing about NIN is that our gifts are pooled. As a result, our individual and congregational gifts have a far greater effect. Coordinated giving allows the UCC to offer support to millions of people and to address the whole range of social issues and concerns, including those that matter most to people in our UCC congregations.



**Mission Trip**

## **Pastor Out of Town October 15-27<sup>th</sup>**

I will be joining our sisters and brothers from Bethany UCC on their mission trip to New Orleans 15-19<sup>th</sup>. We will be engaging in home hurricane home repairs and will be staying at our sister church, Little Farms UCC. We will be working under the direction of Rev. Allan Coe, who was formerly the pastor at Cross UCC in Seguin. He is now the head of our UCC disaster recovery team in New Orleans.

After the work trip I will continue down to Florida to visit my mother.

## **Thrift Sale**



## **Faith Church Garage Sale Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> Faith Church will hold a garage sale. Karen Kramm had graciously agreed to again organize this effort. We not only need items for the sale but also LOTS of hands on help marking items and on the day of the sale!

## **Rev. Mike Miller To Preach Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Rev. Mike Miller will preach at Faith UCC on Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>. He is the campus minister at Texas State University. This ecumenical ministry is supported by the: United Methodist; Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ and the UCC.

Rev. Miller is a Presbyterian and formerly taught at Austin Theological Seminary; University of Texas and Permian & Odessa College. He also was formerly the campus minister at Texas A & M.

Faith UCC has ties to TSU campus ministry not only through the conference but also through Jennifer Marlow, who is the office manager there. Pastor Scott Martin also recently joined the board of directors there.

## Book Review by Our Conference Minister:

The book is entitled: ***I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*** by the Rev. Paul Nixon. He begins with a premise that over half of our mainline churches will not exist by mid-century and only those churches that take a serious look at its ministry and life and begin to reform, reshape, renew and re-invent its ministry will be alive.

The author writes:

"...my premise is this: that God intends every servant to be a servant of life. God has called all leaders, lay and clergy together, to lead healthy spiritual movements. **Any church can blossom and grow anywhere if it will become healthy enough spiritually and pay attention to the needs, experiences and sensibilities of those it seeks to serve.**"

He says the commitment to refuse to lead a dying church entails six critical choices:

1. Choosing life over death
2. Choosing community over isolation
3. Choosing fun over drudgery
4. Choosing bold over mild
5. Choosing frontier over fortress
6. Choosing now over later

Paul Nixon encourages churches to look at themselves and begin a process of claiming their ministry and mission. He says that churches which are inward-directed, building-focused, organizationally-structured, self-concerned (often in survival mode), tradition-bound, unopened to change, closed in their sense of

community will struggle to be the church. He isn't making saying this in a critical way but simply stating what is. Those things may have been effective in the past, but are not effective in the present. ....

Instead he says churches that are outward-directed, open to change, open and inviting in their sense of community, has a direct sense of its purpose or mission, receptive to new ideas, new spirit, new people, sees its ministry not for itself but for others have the greatest chance of survival and even thriving.

I recommend this book as important reading for every Pastor and congregation in our Conference. It's not a book of easy answers but difficult questions and a book that may facilitate conversation about what a church should be doing in its ministry, outreach and mission.

**In Paul Nixon's mind the only way to not be a dying church is to be open to change, transition and transformation. Churches can't be doing what they've always done and be able to survive in the coming century.**

One of the book reviewers on the back cover writes these words about this book: Every church in the 21st century needs to think of itself as a "new church start." Nixon helps any pastor ask why someone would wake up on Sunday morning and say "I think I'll go to church today."

.... I highly recommend this book to all who refuse to lead a dying church.  
Rev. Doug Anders

## SOS Food Bank Update

Faith Church members serve each month at the Food Bank which we did on September 21<sup>st</sup> when we provided food for some 28 clients representing 70 persons, providing over 1,000 pounds of food. It was by far the largest group of people we have served in our once-a-month time of service. And while we were serving we also received 160 pounds of food and a check for \$100. In addition some of the Handy Andy crew brought many cases of food to help stock our shelves for the next volunteers. It was a busy three hours and our staff was tired at the end of the afternoon. The needs of the community continue. Thanks for your help.

Those from Faith who served in September were: Emma Denino, Ken Triesch, Merle Kosler, Pastor Scott Martin, Lois and Courtney Swander and Emma Lou and Ray Bizer. Our thanks to these volunteers and members and friends of Faith Church for your support.

Raymond W. Bizer



Dear Faith Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the "Hooray For You" book for Adam. It is such a special keepsake with all of your good wishes inside. We are so happy to be a part of such a loving congregation.  
Love Chrissy, Jim, Will and Adam Gossett



Our congratulations to Michaely Gilbreth and Bubba Ward who were married Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>!

### Potluck and Program After Church October 14<sup>th</sup>

Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy some great food and fellowship. Because we are having a potluck on the 14<sup>th</sup> there will be no coffee time after church. We will adjourn to Baese Hall immediately following church for the potluck.

As you know Pastor Scott participates in a mission trip every year to Tijuana, Mexico, building houses with Esperanza International. He has been doing this for 12 years now. Pastor Scott will show slides of this work and describe the impact it has both on the lives of the families whose houses are worked on and on the mission trip participants.

Tiffany Gilbreth has expressed an interest in attending the 2008 Esperanza Mission Trip. We will join with the UCC folks from the Kansas Oklahoma Conference. If there are any other youth or adults who are interested in going, let Pastor Scott know. The estimated cost of the trip at this time is \$750, which includes transportation, meals and housing. We will be doing some fundraising to help pay for the trip.

## *Women's Circle News*

The Women's Circle of Faith UCC was delighted to host the annual South Texas Association Women's Fellowship meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

We had 80 women in attendance, as well as Pastor Scott, Ken Triesch, who played for our morning worship service, and Pastor Gerry Metzger. Our guest speakers were Rev Douglas Anders, Conference Minister, and Rev. Shari Presteman, Director of Back Bay Mission.

The key topic for discussion was what to do with the surplus money in our treasury. The women voted to give \$2396.33 to Back Bay Mission, to divide up \$1500.00 between three other projects, and leave \$733.97 in the account for next year.

A wonderful meal was catered and there were plenty of homemade cookies and cakes for dessert and snacking. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship. Officers from Community Evangelical UCC were installed for next year.

**Men's Breakfast  
Saturday Morning  
October 13<sup>th</sup>  
8 a.m to 9 a.m.**

All the men of Faith Church are invited to come out and enjoy a good breakfast and some great fellowship! The Men's Group meets the second Saturday of each month. At the September meeting the Men's Group voted to give \$100 to Back Bay Mission.

## **August Treasurer's Report 2007**

<b>General Fund</b>	Balance	7-31	\$573.32
Income	August		7,669.00
Disbursements	August		6,924.23
	Balance as of 8-31		1,318.09
<b>Building Fund</b>	Balance	7-31	\$2,658.41
Income	August		1,264.00
Disbursement	Reg. Payment		1,000.09
	Balance	8-31	2,922.32
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Balance	7-31	1,164.00
Income			0
Disbursements			0
	Balance	8-31	1,164.00
<b>Savings Account</b>	Balance	7-31	8,042.30
Deposit	Sign rental income		208.33
Interest			0
Transferred to Checking			1,000.00
	Balance	8-31	7,250.63
<b>Loan Balance as of Approx. 8-31</b>			45,223.80

Respectfully submitted  
Terri Armstrong  
Financial Secretary

**Note: During the first week of October the pastor's pension and health insurance payments are due as well as wages.**

**Norma Remmler's address has changed  
Eden Heights Apt. 220  
627 Lakeview Blvd  
New Braunfels, TX 78130**



- 10-1 Kayla Lewis
- 10-3 Cullen Leonhardt
- 10-5 Sol Fuss
- 10-10 Joel Coble
- 10-10 Donald Gregg
- 10-12 Samantha Heinemeyer
- 10-13 Stanley Heinemeyer
- 10-15 Reagan McEachern
- 10-18 Evelyn Krueger
- 10-22 Scott Martin
- 10-22 Cassie Krueger
- 10-23 Leon Peters
- 10-26 Felicia Lombardo
- 10-27 Jennifer Lombardo
- 10-29 Nathan Leber
- 10-29 Mary Dare
- 10-30 Kermit Baese
- 10-31 Tabitha Scott

### News From Sister Churches

Redeemer UCC in Zuehl will host its annual **Fall Fling** on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be food, a silent auction, a raffle and door prizes.

Community UCC in San Antonio will host it's annual **Sausage Dinner** on Wednesday, October 3 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The dinner is \$7. There will also be a quilt raffle. The church is located at 4443 Hunnicutt Dr (one block south of IH-10 at the 100 block of S.W White Rd, behind Bill Miller's B-Q).

### Annual Crop Walk is Coming Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup>!

Faith Church will be joining with other area churches in the annual Crop Walk on November 18<sup>th</sup>. This year's walk will again leave from New Braunfels Presbyterian Church on 373 Howard Street. The walk will wind its way through Landa Park. Registration begins at 2 p.m. and the walk kicks off at 2:30 p.m. Tim Marlow has agreed to be the Walk Treasurer.

We need walkers of all ages. Last year we had walkers on two legs and four! 25% of all the proceeds will stay locally to combat hunger here in New Braunfels. It will be donated to the SOS Food Bank. The remaining 75% will go to Church World Service to combat hunger worldwide.



Pick up a pledge form in the church office and begin fund raising now. You can also set up a pledge site on the Church World Service website and email your friends nationwide, seeking their contributions.

**Mark October 28<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the annual Fall Festival/Halloween Part. Details are still being developed. Look for further info in the church bulletin**

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### **St. John's In Burton Dedicates New Family Live Center**

There was a large crowd for the service and Dedication dinner. The spirit of the gathering was uplifting and joyous. It

was a great service of celebration and thanksgiving. The church has already raised 2/3 of the \$1.8 million dollar cost. The new addition provides so much space for Christian Education, Youth Ministry, office, specialized ministry (like a room for their Quilters), music, in addition to a multi-use hall. The Rev. Glen Schoeneberg creatively used members present to move from the sanctuary into the new Family Life Center by going through their old Education Building. Members transported books, boxes, small furniture, other misc. stuff into new rooms in the new building. So, it was literally and spiritually a "moving" experience. Everyone had a part in the actual moving into the new building. We share the joy of the Conference with the members of St. John UCC-Burton on the dedication of their new building.

