

May 2017

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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For Earth Day this year I ordered "The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder" by William Brown. I have not gotten very far in it yet but it is excellent. The Seven Pillars comes from the seven different descriptions or ways of "creation" in the Bible. The two most familiar are Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-3:24 but there are also the following Scriptures: Job 38-41; Psalm 104; Proverbs 8:22-31; Ecclesiastes 1:2-11 and 12:1-7; and Isaiah 40-55 excerpts. I would encourage you to dig out your Bibles and look at these 7 biblical presentations on creation.

Right now I've been reading about Brown's take on "The Fall" and human beings as being a "plague animal" for the rest of life on this planet. (p. 106-107) Genesis envisions a time when human beings lived in the Garden, a peaceful paradise. Humans coexisted with snakes lions ate straw and paradise was untouched by violence. Genesis speaks of a "Fall when human sinfulness enters the scene and the idyll of the Garden, nature is ruined and paradise is lost. Science tells a different story. Brown writes, "There is no evidence whatsoever, and all evidence to the contrary, for nature to have 'fallen' from an original harmonious perfection. Instead, the evolution of life has from the very beginning operated under death, predation, extinction, and competition while, at the same time giving rise to diversity, complexity, beauty, and the self-consciousness to perceive it all."

Human beings have played an increasingly outsize role in this process to the point that Brown calls us "plague mammals". Since humans first arrived on the North American continent 70% of the large mammals have been pushed to extinction. Scientist E.O Wilson estimates that the species extinction rate is 100 times greater than the rate at which new species are being born! If this rate doesn't change 50% of the species on earth could be extinct by the end of this century. Talk about dismal stewardship of creation. If we have been put here to "tend and till the garden" we are not doing a very good job of it!

Brown writes of the ancient tale from **Genesis "...the urge to snatch divinity and transgress limits**, beginning with plucking fruit from the forbidden tree, can be read to highlight irreversible damage to creation wrought by human hands. As a consequence of humanity's rise to power, countless species have suffered their own 'fall' into extinction. **And as a 'plague mammal,' humanity continues to be, as it always has been, plagued by sin, which according to the Yahwist is most evident in the human will to power to the point of violence and in the failure to take responsibility to 'serve and preserve' the garden."**

Let us hope and pray that the sins of present generation will not be passed down to the seventh generation. Pastor Scott

## Change can be good! Nursery to be Moved....

With thoughtful consideration, your church council has decided to make some changes. To bring our children closer to us during worship services, with Pastor Scott's blessing, we have decided to move Pastor Scott's office to where the current nursery is now and move the nursery into the Pastor Scott's current office. This will allow Pastor Scott to have a larger office in addition to accommodating a meeting space. The church office will remain in its current location.

On **Sunday, May 21** we will have a pot luck and nursery shower to furnish our nursery with new toys and furniture. The wish list includes a glider rocking chair, toys appropriate for infant through 5 years old, small packages of various size diapers and an area rug. A pack and play has already been donated.

The planned move will be on **Saturday, May 27 at 9:00 AM**. We will need as many people as possible to help move furniture, books and clean so please see the signup sheet in the Narthex to sign up. Even an hour of your time would be valuable.

## FAITH CHURCH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FAITH BUILD (formerly Apostles') is Saturday, June 3, 2017

Habitat homes are built with donated funds, labor and materials. Our hands are needed to partner with Marcilena Hernandez to build her family's dream home. We will work alongside of the homeowners-to-be. **The work day is from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm and the build site is 155 West End Ave in New Braunfels. No experience, tools, or construction skills are required.** There are tasks that everyone can do.

To volunteer, there is a signup sheet in the Church narthex. Volunteers must be at least 18. After you sign up Bob Manning will email additional information including waiver form and safety video. Thank you for your support for this grateful family living in our community.



## Family Promise Bed Race Update

We had a rainy cold day for our race but a good crowd turned out, including lots of folks from Faith UCC. Our thanks to our racing team: Camdyn Martinez; Grace, Ava & Kai Perry; and Will Gossett. The team name was Micah 6 and our racers were dressed like Old Testament prophets, complete with beards! No doubt they are all future prophets to be! A special thanks to Joe Ward for constructing and updating the bed and transporting it back and forth from the church. Thanks to all of you who donated to the Family Promise Bed Race. **Faith UCC and its team raised \$755! This is Family Promise's largest fundraiser of the year. We will be hosting Family Promise families this coming June 18-July 1.**

## Heart of Texas Association News

**On Sunday, March 28th, we had a joyful celebration of Trent Williams' installation at Friends Congregational UCC in College Station.** Trent was called there last fall as Associate Pastor, and began his ministry at the church this past October 16th. He has returned to his Texas roots from serving churches and community ministries in the Philadelphia area. Trent grew up in Waco, went to seminary at Brite Divinity School, and did his field education placement at Friends a number of years ago. Many friends attended and were part of the service. We hope and pray that Trent's ministry at Friends is one that bears much fruit in service and in discipleship.

**Now is the time to make plans to attend the South Central Conference Annual Meeting in Dallas at Cathedral of Hope UCC on Friday, June 9th through Saturday, June 10th.** Early registration, with discounted fees, as well as discounted hotel registration, is available on or before May 19th. To register, go to <https://sccucc.org/annual-meeting/>. We will be voting on matters of real consequence to the future of the South Central Conference. **A new proposed Constitution and By Laws**, revising our current version after many years, will be on the agenda. Each church should have received a copy of this document, but I can forward a copy by email if you send me a request ([lizknash@gmail.com](mailto:lizknash@gmail.com)). **We will also be voting on the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Don Longbottom, our current Designated Conference Minister, to be what we call the settled Conference Minister**, meaning the he would be our called Conference Minister. Don is sharing about this process and about his vision at our Association Meetings, and it has been in our Conference e-newsletter.

Here is a brief description of the process. Don was called last June as our Designated Conference Minister. In designated ministry, a pastor is called to a ministry for a specific term of time, during which both parties can decide to call the minister to the settled position. This differs from interim ministry in that interim ministers are not candidates for the settled position. This spring, our Conference Board of Directors voted to recommend that Don be called as our Conference Minister, and Don has accepted, pending the vote by the Conference at our Annual Meeting to call him. I hope that many of you will come to know Don, his ministry, and his vision for this Conference through his church visits, through time with him at Association meetings, and at the South Central Conference Annual Meeting. Our engaged participation in Annual Meeting is important this year for these votes and, as always, to build the community and ministry among our churches. In addition, Boundary Training for our ministers will be available on Friday, June 9th (renewing) and Sunday, June 11th (first time), with registration for this training also available at the Annual Meeting registration link above.



Our prayers and encouragement go to Bethany Congregational UCC in San Antonio as they are beginning their work on the search process. Also, **our prayers in this time of farewell go to St. John's UCC Burton and Glen Schoeneberg as they prepare for Glen's retirement at the end of May from a long and vibrant ministry there.** May God bless these churches and our friends Glen and Dottie in this time of change and new beginnings.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash, Association Minister

## Art as Spiritual Listening Continues 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays

Art as Spiritual Listening was a blessing during Lent that is going to continue to meet monthly in the “artist studio” format. [The group will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, beginning May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the art studio of Helen Boursier.](#)

The art sessions include experimenting with art techniques and materials, including photo/image transfer and a wide range of mixed media. As before, *no art experience necessary*. BYO art journal and your favorite art supplies to mix in with Helen’s diverse variety.



To RSVP contact Helen at 830-730-3202 or [helenb@boursier.us](mailto:helenb@boursier.us). The address is 2603 Country Ledge Dr. (located off Hunter Road, four miles north of FM 306 or one mile south of Watson Lane) in the Country Hills North development.

### Immigrant Art Ministry

Thank you for your prayers, presence, and coloring books for the Immigrant Art ministry which now takes place at the Greyhound bus station in downtown San Antonio. The children (and moms) have loved having a coloring book and crayons to take with them on the long bus ride(s) before them. With the children happily coloring it has been easier for me to facilitate making bracelets and earrings with the moms and older girls—and they absolutely love the jewelry. As the kids are coloring and the moms are making bracelets, I gradually make a pair of earrings for each of the moms and girls—they design them and I turn the wires to put the earrings together. Of course, it is much more than “just” coloring books and jewelry—it is a ministry of presence as we answer questions, explain what to expect during their journey, loan our cell phones so they can call a family member, and generally offer encouragement and hope. We also let the families know that many people and churches prayer for their safety as we welcome them to the United States.

Thank you for being part of this important ministry—Helen Boursier.

### May Birthdays

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



If your birthday is not on the list please let the pastor know so it can be included on next year's list.

## April 2017 Treasurer's Report

| Assets                 | As of Mar. 31, 2017 |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund           | \$10,341.56         |                     |
| Building Fund          | \$4,132.91          |                     |
|                        |                     |                     |
| Income & Expenses      | As of Mar. 31, 2017 | As of Mar. 31, 2016 |
| Total Income           | \$30,717.71         | \$32,759.71         |
| General Fund Offerings | \$29,472.60         | \$31,365/75         |
| Total Expenses         | \$37,813.63         | \$37,524.50         |
| Net Income             | (\$7,095.92)        | (\$4,764.79)        |

The 2017 Budget called for an increase of 6% in offerings, with three percent coming from new members and the other three percent from current members. Currently, the budget is behind on the goal of a six percent increase and is actually **down by six percent compared to this time last year**. This is just a friendly reminder about the request for our members to increase their offerings to help cover the employee raises and other additions that were approved as part of the 2017 budget.

At the April Council meeting, the Council approved the creation of a Pastor's Discretionary Fund as a liability account on Faith UCC's balance sheet. Pastor Scott reported an increase in the number of individuals coming into the church looking for assistance and often giving to these individuals out of his own pocket. **This Discretionary Fund would be used to assist these individuals**. If you would like to give towards the discretionary fund, please put on the memo of your check.

**Lastly, the Council is looking to move on two rather large expenditures for church facilities, including sealing and striping of the parking lot and improvements to the HVAC. The Council respectfully requests you consider giving to the Building Fund to assist in covering these expenditures.**

**As always, the Council appreciates the congregation's support of Faith's mission.**

Sincerely, Kyle Kramm

Faith UCC Treasurer

### Pastor Scott and Wil Brown to Attend Back Bay Mission Board Meeting

Pastor Scott and Rev. Wil Brown will be attending the May Back Bay Mission Board of Directors meeting May 4-6. This will be Pastor Scott's last meeting after serving on the board for the last eight years. Rev. Wil Brown is currently secretary for the board and as you know he and Hulen have been long term volunteers at Back Bay the last several years. Faith UCC has long supported Back Bay Mission in its yearly budget.

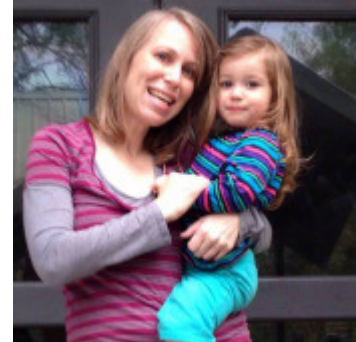
## Pastor Scott to be On Vacation May 7-17

After the Back Bay Mission board meeting is over Pastor Scott will be heading to Florida for vacation. He will be gone May 7-17th. During this time no one will be in the office. In case of emergency please contact Janet Sherman.

Janet Sherman will conduct the May 7th worship service.

Rev. Nikki Stahl will lead the May 14th service. Rev. Stahl is the Associate Pastor at United Christian Church in Austin and its onsite social worker.

Nikki is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ and is a licensed social worker. Her passion is congregational care/counseling and she is involved with various caring ministries. Currently she is working on her LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) designation. She enjoys facilitating adult/youth small discussion groups. Nikki spends most of her spare time, along with her husband (Ian), caring for her three daughters (Marian, Emmalee and Cora)



## Slumber Falls Camp

School will soon be getting out. Summer Camp at Slumber Falls is about to begin! The newly refurbished pool is full of water and ready to go, with its brand new water slide! Don't forget that Faith UCC will provide a 50% scholarship to any child or youth from Faith Church. The camp also has scholarship money available. SIGN UP NOW!

There are camp brochures on the literature table with all the dates and info you need.



It won't be ready for this summer but a brand new cabin which is ADA accessible will soon be under construction. It will have a prime location, right by the stairs to the river and overlooking the river.

## Heart of Texas Association spring meeting a huge success

[Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way with hosting the Heart of Texas Association spring meeting on Sunday, April 23rd.](#) It is a really big job, and it went off without a hitch!

Thank you again so very much!! Janet Sherman, LM  
Your pastoral assistant  
Moderator, Heart of Texas Association



## May Worship Assistant List

**5-7** Liturgist: Donna Myer Acolyte: Joe Ward Council Rep: Mikki Ward

Greeter: Don Green Hospitality: Kathy Leber AV: Jakob Beauchamp

Ushers: Joe & Mikki Ward; Richard & Kathy Leber Communion: Mikki Ward

Church School: Michelle Perry & Nicolle Clark Nursery: Larissa Hunley

**5-14** Liturgist: Jason Chapel Acolyte: Adam Gossett Council Rep: Kyle Kramm

Greeter: Joe Ward Hospitality: Mikki Ward AV: Joe Ward

Ushers: Kyle Kramm; Don Green; Will Gossett; Mikki Ward

Church School: TBA Nursery: Larissa Hunley

**5-21** Liturgist: Bob Manning Acolyte: Fischer Marlow Council Rep: Wil Brown

Greeter: Hulen Brown Hospitality: Shirley Manning AV: Tim Marlow

Ushers: Wil & Hulen Brown; Bob & Shirley Manning

Church School: TBA Nursery: Larissa Hunley

**5-28** Liturgist: Kathy Leber Acolyte: Kai Perry Council Rep: Dan Geisler

Greeter: Rick Leber Hospitality: Vicky Geisler AV: Quinn Perry

Ushers: Dan & Vicky Geisler; Rick & Kathy Leber

Church School: Nursery: Larissa Hunley

**6-4** Liturgist: Ralph Ludwig Acolyte: Joe Ward Council Rep: Kim Beauchamp

Greeter: Mikki Ward Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl AV: Jakob Beauchamp

Ushers: Kim, Elly, Sofia Beachamp; Mikki Ward Communion: Eddie & Carol Martinez

Church School: TBA Nursery: Larissa Hunley

**6-11** Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte: Willow Leverett Council Rep: Joseph Guerrero

Greeter: Sheila Angerer Hospitality: Jennifer Marlow AV: Cassidy Martinez

Ushers: Joseph Guerrero; Tim & Jennifer Marlow; Fischer Marlow

Church School: TBA Nursery: Larissa Hunley

**If you cannot serve on the date(s) shown, please try to find a sub. If that is not possible, please leave a message at the church (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 the church office.**

## May Calendar

- 5-1 Choir Practice 7 p.m.
- 5-2 New Braunfels Community Chorus Board meeting in sanctuary
- 5-4-6 Pastor Scott & Rev. Wil Brown at Back Bay Mission board meeting in Biloxi
- 5-6 Faith Church is a poll station for an election
- 5-8 **Choir Practice at 7 p.m.**
- 5-7-17 **Pastor Scott is on vacation in Florida**
- 5-7 Janet Sherman leads worship & Confirmation Noon to 2 p.m.
- 5-9 Clergy Jam & Bread at St. John's UCC in Burton 10 a.m.
- 5-9 **Church Council 7 p.m.**
- 5-13 Little League Car Wash in church parking lot 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 5-14 Rev Nikki Stahl leads worship - Confirmation Noon - 2 p.m.
- 5-15 Choir Practice at 7 p.m.
- 5-19 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m. Volunteers needed
- 5-21 **Worship at 10:30 & Potluck & Nursery Shower after Church**
- 5-22 Choir Practice at 7 p.m.
- 5-27 Church Workday to move pastor's office and nursery
- 5-28 Worship at 10:30 & Confirmation Noon to 2 p.m.
- June 4th Confirmation Sunday/Pentecost Sunday!!! Wear Red..... (youth confirmed)**

### Thanks to Everyone Who Helped Make the Women's Health Fair Possible!

A special thanks to Beth Bizer for organizing the health fair. We had a great turn out of vendors and speakers and visitors. Emma Lou Bizer had a table to dispense wisdom for a 25 cent donation, a bargain anyway you look at it! We look forward to future women's health fairs! It was a great way to break in our freshly sealed and painted parking lot!

