

June 2017

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

Faith UCC
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Like many I've been pondering President Trump setting the wheels in motion to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate accord, citing short term economic factors, which many have said would be minimal. It is bad politics, bad economics, and horrendous in terms of dealing with the reality of human caused climate change. This decision and others like his choice of EPA Administrator, etc. are creating road blocks to necessary changes at a time when we need to be taking many positive actions to address climate change before it's too late.

This Sunday we will be confirming three young people who will likely be around till the tail end of the 21st century. Their children and grandchildren will likely live into the early to mid 22nd century. What kind of world are we going to leave them? Dr. James Hansen, former NASA scientist asks, **“What we are threatening to do to young people is irreversible, it’s irreparable harm,”** he said. **“This is something they didn’t cause but will be out of their control. Among the top experts, there’s agreement that this is very urgent, we can’t continue on this path hoping that emissions will go down, we have to take actions.”**

It is totally irresponsible not to act NOW. The IPCC is predicting a 3 foot rise sea levels by the end of the 21st century. James Hansen recently said this was too conservative and predicted up to 8 or 9 feet. Even a 3 foot rise in sea levels would flood major cities like Miami or Shanghai. What if Hansen is even close to right in his predictions? We need a carbon tax. We need to move as rapidly as possible away from fossil fuels to renewables. We need to look at lifestyles and consumption and so much more.

Pope Francis will have a new encyclical coming out on Creation this month. In this season of Pentecost it is worth pondering these words from Pope Francis: **“The gift of the Holy Spirit renews the earth.** The Psalmist says: ‘You send forth your Spirit... and you renew the face of the earth.’ The account of the birth of the Church in the Acts of the Apostles is significantly linked to this Psalm, which is a great hymn of praise to God the Creator,.... The Holy Spirit whom Christ sent from the Father, and the Creator Spirit who gives life to all things, are one and the same. **Respect for creation, then, is a requirement of our faith:** the ‘garden’ in which we live is not entrusted to us to be exploited, but rather to be cultivated and tended with respect”. He went on in a recent Vatican Radio program **“Yet this is possible only if Adam – the man formed from the earth – allows himself in turn to be renewed by the Holy Spirit, only if he allows himself to be re-formed by the Father on the model of Christ, the new Adam,”** the pope added. **“In this way, renewed by the Spirit of God, we will indeed be able to experience the freedom of the sons and daughters, in harmony with all creation. In every creature we will be able to see reflected the glory of the Creator, as another Psalm says: “How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!”**

Old Hymnals Seeking New Homes

Faith Church has a group of Hymnals from years past that are ready to find new homes! They can be found on the small table in the Narthex or entry to our worship area. **Please do feel free to take one or more** of the Hymnals for your use.



Perhaps you have always wished for a copy to add to your collection of music for piano, violin, tuba or other instruments. Perhaps you or a relative are learning to play an instrument and would love practicing with familiar hymns. Perhaps you just enjoy singing old favorites that may not be in our newer worship resources found in our sanctuary.

Then, too, some folks find these gently used pages great for craft projects! Know you are welcome to take as many as you can use or share.

Twin Bedspreads/quilts Needed for Family Promise Hosting

We will soon be setting up for our Family Promise guests who will be joining us for two weeks, beginning June 18. In an effort to make each family feel welcome, we want their "rooms" to feel like home. If you have a twin size bed spread or quilt you might share for those two weeks, please bring it to the church and place it in the secretary's office with your name attached. Thank you very much! We will be sure to return it to you on Sunday, July 2nd.



WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SIGN UP!

MULTIPLE SLOTS OPEN!

Art as Spiritual Listening Continues 2nd 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 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning 9th, 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, *art experience necessary*. BYO art journal and your favorite art supplies to mix in with Helen's diverse variety.



May

no

To RSVP contact Helen at 830-730-3202 or 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.

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

Future homeowner Marcilena Hernandez thanked all of our volunteers for getting up early on a Saturday to work on her future house. Marcilena has already put in over 250 hours of sweat equity on her house. She and her three children are looking forward to moving in in about two months.

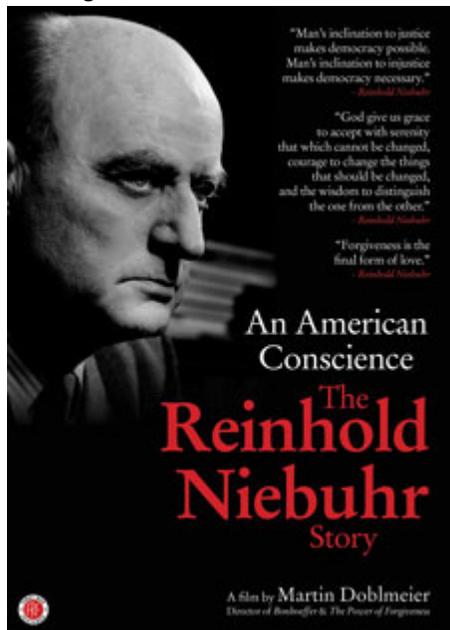
We are collecting money to help with the costs of the house. To donate simply make a check out to Faith Church and designate Habitat on the memo line.

Our thanks to: Bob Manning for coordinating our workday and to all who showed up to help: Eddy & Cassidy Martinez; Bob Manning; Mike Ziegler; Valerie & Cody Oates; Robin Hopkins; Pastor Scott. (I hope I've got everyone!) Afterwards we went to Herbert's for lunch!



Reinhold Niebuhr DVD to Be Shown Friday, June 16 at 7 p.m. In the Faith Fellowship Hall

Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer remains one of the most quoted writings in American literature. Yet Niebuhr's impact was far greater, as presidents and civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. often turned to Niebuhr's writings for guidance and inspiration on the most volatile political and social issues of the 20th century. Niebuhr rose from a small Midwest church pulpit to become the nation's moral voice - American conscience - during some of the most defining moments in American history.



This documentary was recently shown on PBS includes interviews of recent president, civil rights leaders, journalists, and author's on the influence of this great thinker on them.

There will be a brief discussion of the documentary afterwards followed by refreshments.

PS Frieden's Church is having a fish fry beginning at 5 p.m. Consider heading over there for supper and then come back to Faith UCC for the documentary and desert!

Heart of Texas Association News

Faith UCC in New Braunfels welcomed our Association for our spring meeting on Sunday afternoon, April 23rd. We had good attendance from most of our churches, and shared a warm spirit. After an opening worship led by Scott Martin and Ralph Ludwig that lifted up Earth Day, we went on to matters of business and fellowship. This meeting, we spent time hearing from three of our ministers. We welcomed our new Director of Outdoor Minister, Jeremy Albers, for the first time. Jeremy shared his vision and the new initiatives being pursued at the camp, as well as updating us on the ongoing camping program. Designated Conference Minister Don Longbottom talked to us about his priorities for ministry in the South Central Conference as we prepare to vote on calling him to be the settled Conference Minister at the SCC Annual Meeting. Nikki Stahl, who is one of our Association representatives on the Conference Board of Directors, discussed the proposed changes to the Conference Constitution and By Laws. These documents have not been revised and updated for a number of years, and a hard working committee has them ready for a vote at the SCC Annual Meeting.



In our business meeting, we had an important discussion and vote regarding **Association church clusters** and how to locate our spring and fall meetings. Our Association Executive Board has been trying to come up with a way to rotate the hosting of meetings in such a way that we get to each area, that we pay attention to the amount of driving people have to do to attend meetings with the expanded distances since the South Texas and Brazos Associations merged, and that we encourage churches who do not host (perhaps because of distance) to help those who do host. We also have wanted to give the choice about where our meetings are held over to the churches. **The group present voted to have three clusters of churches in the Heart of Texas Association for purposes of hosting meetings,** as well as to encourage these churches to have fellowship and shared activities as they decide to do so. Each cluster would decide which church would host the Association meeting when it is their cluster's turn to do so, and we encourage the other churches in the cluster to then help the host church with meals and logistics. The clusters are South Texas, the Austin area, and the Brazos Valley. We will rotate among these clusters for each meeting. We also decided that every other meeting (which would currently be each fall), the meeting would be held in the Austin area due to its more central location. We, of course, will see how this works over time and adjust as needed and wanted by the churches of the Association. I will be sending out an email to the churches to clarify how this will work and which churches are in which clusters.

One other highlight of the meeting was to honor Glen Schoeneberg and Gerry Metzger for their long time of service to their churches, to the wider church, and to the wider communities where they live. Glen retires this month from St. John's in Burton, and Gerry retired from Bethany Congregational in San Antonio last December. Each was presented with a tree to plant to symbolize that the seeds they have planted in Christ's ministry will continue to grow for many years. Our prayers of gratitude and of blessings go with each of them as they start this new time in their lives.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister

June/July Worship Assistant List

6-4 Liturgist: Ralph Ludwig Acolyte: TBA Council Rep: Kim Beauchamp
Greeter: TBA Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl AV: Jakob Beauchamp
Ushers: Kim, Elly, Sofia Beachamp; Mikki Ward Communion: Eddie & Carol Martinez
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

6-18 Liturgist: Sheila Angerer Acolyte: Hayes Marlow Council Rep: Mikki Ward
Greeter: Don Green Hospitality: Mary Jean Owen AV: Tim Marlow
Ushers: Mikki Ward; Richard & Kathy Leber; Sheila Angerer Nursery: Larissa Hunley

6-25 Liturgist: Jason Chapel Acolyte: Adam Gossett Council Rep: Kyle Kramm
Greeter: Mikki Ward Hospitality: Jan Ziegler AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Kyle Kramm; Mike & Jan Ziegler; Jim Gossett Nursery: Larissa Hunley

7-2 Liturgist: Karen Dietz Acolyte: Wil Brown Council Rep: Wil Brown
Greeter: Hulen Brown Hospitality: Karen Dietz AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Wil & Hulen Brown; Mikki Ward; Karen Dietz Nursery: Larissa Hunley

7-9 Liturgist: Jennifer Marlow Acolyte: Fischer Marlow Council Rep: Dan Geisler
Greeter: Louie Heras Hospitality: Vicky Geisler AV: David Reed
Ushers: Dan & Vicky Geisler; 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.

June Birthdays

6-2 Don Green	6-3 David Reed
6-6 John Stark	6-9 Luke Leverett
6-10 Jim Gossett	6-12 Kyle Kramm
6-12 Hays Marlow	6-13 Cade Perry-Clark
6-16 Jo Ann Brown	6-29 Aaron Compton



Thanks from Slumber Falls Camp

We extend a very special thank you for your contribution of \$442 that we received on April 14, 2017 and for \$300 that we received on May 15, 2017 for the Road Fund. We are certainly blessed by Churches like yours who keep us in mind.

Camp is all about exploring faith and developing relationships to the Church. It becomes an interesting fact of life to see our young people taking an active role in the Church after being exposed to camp opportunities that fostered their spiritual journeys. Your contribution helps to keep the camp in a safe and attractive condition for our campers and retreat groups.

Together with God's grace and your willing partnership, we will continue the ministry of Slumber Falls Camp.

Sincerely, Terri Armstrong, Assistant Administrator

Letter From St. Paul UCC in Marlin, Texas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Greetings from historic St. Paul UCC of Marlin, Texas!

German immigrants began arriving in Texas in the 1830's, and by the late 1880's, a growing community had roots in Falls County near Marlin, Texas. After several years of worshipping under the leadership of itinerant pastors, the group established their own church. On October 9, 1894, the Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische St. Paul Gemeinde was founded. One hundred twenty-three years later, we continue to serve this rural community, also well known as St. Paul community.

Our original structure was damaged by lightening, and the current beautiful, historic structure was completed in 1920. Since that time, it has been called the "beacon on the hill," not only for the local community but for thousands of people passing by on Texas Highway 6. Our doors are always open, and each year hundreds of travelers and visitors from around the state, nation, and other countries stop to view the historic site and structure. Its Gothic Revival architecture and the beautiful stained glass windows testify to the resolve of the present congregation to witness to the Gospel, now and for future generations.

Today, we are struggling. We need your help!

Through the years, our 97 year-old Church suffered significant structural decay. The basement foundation has been compromised, and the building now requires extensive repairs and restoration. In July 2016, our members voted to begin fundraising efforts to preserve the historic sanctuary.

We are sharing this with you in hopes that you will join us in saving this church, so that it may continue to witness to the Gospel and Glory of God. Please join us, either individually or as a congregation, by sending contributions to St. Paul UCC Marlin, TX" on GoFundMe.com

For more information, visit us online at Savestpaul@weebly.com or email Savestpaul@mail.com.

Sincerely, Carol Dieterich, Chair, Fundraising Committee