

July 2018  
Faith UCC  
970 N. Loop 337  
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter  
Church Phone 625-6761  
[www.faithuccnb.org](http://www.faithuccnb.org)  
Rev. Scott B. Martin, Pastor  
Cell Phone 830-515-2866  
Rev. Ray Bizer, Pastor Emeritus  
Pastoral Assistant, Janet Sherman L.M.

# Pastor's Page

I will be on vacation July 2-12. Like many people on vacation I will be spending a great deal of time outdoors enjoying God's amazing creation. There will be walks on the beach, a boat trip to Key West, kayak trips, etc. What about a church that meets outside?

When I come back on July 12 I will not be in church at Faith UCC on the 15th even though I'll be back. Janet Sherman will be leading the service. I'm going to take advantage of that to go visit a very special church in the area. I'll be attending the 9 a.m. service at New Life Lutheran Church in Dripping Springs. They don't meet in a building and they don't want a building. Instead they meet under three oak trees on top of a hill on 12 acres of land. They use a cattle trough for an altar. They do have a tent in case of rain or cold weather. The founding pastor, Rev. Carmen Retzlaff writes, **"We decided we needed to be in mission with the land, not just on it."**

On their 12 acres they have a bird blind to observe birds, a prayer labyrinth, walking trails, a community garden, and an outdoor classroom. You will find members tending the land and clearing invasive cedar every week. Members also help with highway clean up and volunteer at the local humane society. They see this land as a blessing and a way to draw close to God not only for their own members but to others who live in this rapidly growing town near Austin. Here is a link if you want to explore further. <https://www.newlifedrippingsprings.org/creation> I would encourage you to try one of their services some time.



While they are different than most churches they are not unique. They belong to what is known as the Wild Church movement. There are churches all over the United States that also worship outside. Check out this website <https://www.wildchurchnetwork.com/> On the website it says...." **In this age of mass extinctions, we feel burdened by the love of Christ to invite people into direct relationship with some of the most vulnerable victims of our destructive culture: our land, our waters, the creatures with whom we share our homes."**

I see this as a part of what I hope we all explore next year when I take a sabbatical. The theme of for next year will be "Theology of Place: Pilgrimage Near and Far." I look forward to worshipping with this community of faith and sharing what I learn when I come back.

## Pastor Scott on Vacation July 2-12

Pastor Scott will be on vacation in Florida July 2-12. In case of emergency while I am on vacation please contact Janet Sherman.



On Sunday July 8th Rev. Peter Bauer will lead the service. Rev. Peter E. Bauer is a **United Church of Christ minister**, ordained for over 35 years. He is a member of the South Central Conference, The United Church of Christ. Peter is also a **Licensed Clinical Social Worker ( LCSW ) and Licensed Marriage And Family Therapist (LMFT), Board Approved Supervisor for both LCSW, LMFT, and he is a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC).** Peter works for the **Department of Veterans Affairs**, Frank Tejada Outpatient Clinic, serving in the **OIF/OEF/OND Program**.

He also teaches as an **Adjunct Professor** in the **Department Of Social Work** at

**University of Texas, San Antonio, TX.** Peter's interests include Spirituality and Mental Health. He has had extensive experience working with Active Duty service members, Veterans and their families, as well as with a wide range of spiritually-based organizations.

Pastor Janet Sherman, L.M. will lead the service on July 15th. Before coming to Faith UCC Janet was the pastor of Trinity, a former UCC church in Niederwald. Janet is currently the moderator of the Heart of Texas Association and has been very active in the South Central Conference for many years.



## July Birthdays



July 21 Shirley Manning

July 4 Chrissy Gossett

July 9 Kai Perry-Clark

July 10 Karen Kramm

July 13 Adam Gossett

July 20 Mary Jean Owen

July 13 Will Gossett

July 23 Robynne Martinez

**If your birthday is not on here please let Pastor Scott know so we can add you to the list.**

## May Financial Report

General Checking	\$7,890.70
General Fund Savings	\$5,804.69
Building Fund	\$3,726.07
Memorial Fund	\$4,473.99
Gilbert Fund Trust	\$3,709.41



*Thank  
you*



Pastor Scott & Congregation,

We want to thank everyone for your love, support and prayers during this time. We're also grateful for everything all of you have done to help Michael, Eddie and Jessica during the last two years.

God Bless you all! Love, The Heras Family

## Family Promise Guests Arrive Sunday, July 8

Faith Church members will welcome our Family Promise guests on Sunday evening, July 8. Members have responded to the opportunity to host our guests, filling all but two slots for overnight care. A big thank you to Friedens UCC for providing evening meals during the two week schedule. Special thanks, too, to Joe and Mikki Ward for sharing their camper for overnight volunteers!

Thank you to each of you who have welcomed this chance to show kindness and care to families who are on the road to self sufficiency! We expect at least two families with a possibility of up to two more during our hosting weeks. There are a few items still needed:

- child appropriate videos (marked with your name)
- child care and/or fun activities during transition time after dinner, before bedtime. (Let Karen know if you can help with this so we can schedule a time/s.)
- bottled water for use during stay
- juice packs for lunches and snack time



This is our chance to bring a measure of comfort, security, and love to families who find themselves in need of this life-changing program of hospitality, support, and guidance as they are lifted out of homelessness and into safe housing, gainful employment and independence.

## Heart of Texas Association News

**The Heart of Texas Association now has a website** at [hotaucc.org](http://hotaucc.org). Many, many thanks to Charles Stark, who in his spare time as interim at St. John's, Burton, has set this up for us. We hope to connect out churches more effectively, to be able to link to the South Central Conference website, to share news (particularly meeting time and place announcements), to have a way for our Committee on Ministry documents to be easily accessible to those who need them, and to have a place where my newsletter articles (this one included) are accessible. We may find other ways to use the website, too. At this point, Charles would like each of our churches to send a photograph of the church, your service times, and anything else you would want to add (like website, location, etc.) in order to connect us together more fully. You can see what churches have sent in so far on the website. We would appreciate it if each of your churches would send this information as soon as you can to [clstark52@gmail.com](mailto:clstark52@gmail.com).



**Our Association just finished up terrific work in hosting the South Central Conference Annual Meeting at Camp Allen.** Among the Many people were involved in the planning and work, and I will most certainly leave someone out if I tried to thank everyone involved here. Don Longbottom was installed as our Conference Minister; we had wonderful music led during most of the meeting and the banquet by Stephen Schermitzler, the music director of Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix where Don served before coming to our Conference; and there were excellent workshops and discussion led by Tom VandeStadt, Sid Hall, Jo Hudson, Neil Cazares-Thomas, Ron Trimmer, Lynette Ross, Phil Burnett, John Will, Andy DeBraber (of the national UCC), and Joshua Lawrence. Most of these workshops had note takers whose brief reports will be made available soon, most likely in the SCC weekly e-news. I do want to lift up Linda Coats, our fearless leader (who chaired the planning); John Gage, who put together uplifting and excellent worship services; Karl Tewold, who was the MC for the Friday banquet and helped out in other ways; and Stacey Silvey from the SCC office, who did so much to register people and worked constantly throughout the meeting. We had a terrific response, too, from our churches in donating school kits for Church World Service and hygiene kits fo Back Bay Mission. Many thanks to Anne Wehrly for coordinating the effort to collect these, to Joe and Mikki Ward for transporting the school kits to CWS, and to Anne Wehrly, Linda Coats, and Paul Longstreth for transporting the hygiene kits to Back Bay Mission.

Bethany Congregational UCC in San Antonio is once again offering the Tessman scholarship to students pursuing a graduate degree in divinity at a fully accredited seminary or college approved by the United Church of Christ or degree in education at a fully accredited college. To apply, send the following to the selection committee: letter of acceptance from the college or seminary, statement of tuition and courses, undergraduate transcript, statement of intent 500 words or less, and two letters of recommendation (one from a pastor). Send applications to Bethany Congregational Church UCC, Attn. -- Tessman Scholarship Fund, 500 Pilgrim Dr., San Antonio, TX 78213. The deadline to apply for money for fall, 2018 is July 20th. Those who have previously received a Tessman grant need only submit current transcripts and costs by the

application deadline. The provisions of the scholarship require that the recipient complete the degree and work in the degree field within five years.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister

## Habitat Stud-a-Thon

We recently donated enough money to get a Habitat Stud for their Stud-a-Thon to build a brand new Habitat House for Mike, Gabe, Edith and Gabby. It takes over 300 studs to build a home and one of them will be ours! Check out the picture of the stud we painted, signed and donated for from last year's Stud-a-Thon. Hint ours is the red stud! Here is the link to see it <https://www.comalhabitat.org/events/studathon> Thank you letter from Habitat for this year's Stud below....

Thank you for your participation in the 2018 Stud-a-Thon fundraising campaign! Your sponsorship of \$200 will do so much more than build a house; it will empower Mike, Edith and their family (pictured below) with strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

Our mission, "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope," is only accomplished when we have the support of generous community members such as yourselves.

.... Again, we thank you for taking part in this unique opportunity to help Mike and Edith build a better life for their family.



Best Regards, Lucy Gale  
Community Engagement Coordinator

**Kathy Leber is currently painting our stud UCC red and putting our church name on it. Soon we will have it in church for everyone to sign! If you would like to contribute to this effort simply put a check in the Sunday offering and designate it for Habitat.**



hygiene items, diapers, etc. plus a \$300 check! These items went down to the border with Rev. Mary Street Wilson and Stephanie Britten Phillips.

Rev. Helen Boursier and Stephanie Philips joined hundreds of others in protesting in Brownsville outside the courthouse on Thursday, June 28th. This protest was organized by the

## Border Updates

Sunday, June 24th we gathered items and financial donations for Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos. We were able to send six bags full of



ACLU and there were detention hearings going on inside the courthouse at the time.

## July/August Worship Assistant List

**July 1** Liturgist: Karen Dietz    Acolyte & Council Rep: Kyle Kramm  
Greeter: Karen Kramm    Hospitality: Mary Jean Owen    AV: Mikki Ward  
Church School: (No classes)    Nursery:  
Ushers: Kyle Kramm; Karen Kramm; Frank & Karen Dietz  
Communion: Sheila Angerer

**July 8** Liturgist: Jennifer Marlow    Acolyte & Council Rep: Jason Chapel  
Greeter: Mikki Ward    Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl    AV: Joe Ward  
Church School: (No classes)    Nursery:  
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Mikki Ward; Jennifer Marlow; Julia Allison

**July 15** Liturgist: Mikki Ward    Acolyte & Council Rep: Kim Beauchamp  
Greeter: Elly Beauchamp    Hospitality: Mikki Ward    AV: Jakob Beauchamp  
Ushers: Kim & Elly Beauchamp; Joe & Mikki Ward    Church School (summer break)  
Nursery: TBA

**July 22** Liturgist: Donna Myer    Acolyte & Council Rep: Dan Geisler  
Greeter: Joe Ward    Hospitality: Vicky Geisler    AV: Tim Marlow  
Ushers: Dan & Vicky Geisler; Joe & Mikki Ward    Church School (summer break)    Nursery: TBA

**July 29** Liturgist: Joseph Guerrero    Acolyte & Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez  
Greeter: Tim Marlow    Hospitality: Jennifer Marlow    AV: Cassidy Martinez  
Ushers: Carol Sisco-Martinez; Tim & Jennifer Marlow; Joseph Guerrero  
Church School (summer break)    Nursery: TBA

**August 5** Liturgist: Sandy Ludwig    Acolyte & Council Rep: Jason Chapel  
Greeter: Joe Ward    Hospitality: Julia Allison    AV: Quinn Perry  
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Joe & Mikki Ward; Kai Perry;    Church School (summer break)  
Nursery: TBA

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.

