**September 2016 Glimpses of Faith Newsletter**

**Faith UCC Church Phone 625-6761**

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 **Cell Phone 830-515-2866**

 **Rev. Ray Bizer, Pastor Emeritus**

 **Licensed Minister, Janet Sherman ==================================================================**

 How do you measure the impact of a church? Last month I highlighted how this church has contributed over $120,000 to the UCC and related missions since 1996, according to UCC Year Book records. Certainly that is one way to measure our impact. I also mentioned that we had contributed to and participated in over 30 different mission projects since 2005 and we can list them all by name. That is another way to measure our impact; but the impact of Faith Church is far greater than this when you take into account all the lives that our church members touch in the course of their Christian walk in daily life.

 Throughout the month of July we asked church members each Sunday to fill out a bulletin insert with the following information: how many they served and what they did. Each week 15-20 of you filled out that insert. These were gathered up for the whole month. Each Sunday we got 15-20 responses from the 65 in attendance, so the numbers we gathered were incomplete but they were none-the-less impressive. **After adding them all up we determined that Faith UCC members touched the lives of 5,569 people in July.** Multiply this times 12 **(66,828)** and we catch a glimpse of how many Faith Church served in the last year. Multiply this times the 50 years that Faith Church has existed **(3,341,400)** and you get a mind boggling number! This is only a small portion of the lives we probably have touched, since not everyone filled out the form each week and even those who did likely didn't put down all the lives they touched. They may not even be aware of all the lives they have touched. Certainly church membership has changed through the years. Still, this gives us some idea of our impact.

 It was impressive to see what the church members were doing. There were lots of prayers going out each week for family, friends, neighbors and the world. One member volunteers each week at the Dell Hospital for Children in Austin. Another member created and works with art at the Karnes City Detention Center. Many members were helping neighbors with grocery trips, simple jobs around their houses, visiting the sick, etc. Others were helping with Bible studies, visits, etc. at Eden Hill Retirement Communities. Others were putting water out for kittens, donating blood, etc. The list goes on and on!

. Exploring "how many" were served was a very positive and eye-opening experience here at Faith Church. We learned that even a small church can have a profound impact on the community and world. Dorhauer concludes, **"The Church is the Church when lives are changed. It is the Church when it inspires people to use their time, talent, and resources to serve the common good. It is the Church when it helps people love themselves, their God, and their neighbor. Developing new habits around measuring these successes could very well be what the Church is called to think about."**  (Beyond Resistance, p. 106)

**SALAD LUNCHEON AT FRIEDENS UCC**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - 11:30 am - 2:00 pm**

 Our sister congregation, Friedens UCC, will host our Fall Women's Salad Luncheon at their church on Thursday, September 8th, from 11:30 until 2 . We are invited to enjoy a time of fellowship, a delicious salad luncheon, and a program filled with new information from Helen Boursier about the ministry at Karnes City Immigrant Family Detention Center. All the women of Faith are invited and welcome.

 Please plan to bring a favorite salad to enjoy with our friends at Friedens UCC congregation. They are looking forward to our time together!

 There will be an opportunity to help with donations to the ministry with women and children at the Karnes City center. You may want to bring a designated offering in the form of cash or one or more of the items Helen and her helpers use in the art ministry: large size beads for bracelets, 2 oz. bottles of acrylic paints in assorted colors, washi tape, watercolor trays, Elmer's Glue Sticks, water color brushes. Gift cards to Michael's or Hobby Lobby are also appreciated. Stuffed animals for the children are most helpful as they provide BINGO gifts for the moms to give their children. A basket for any of these items will be available at the luncheon.

 Please let Karen Dietz know if you need a ride or directions to Friedens UCC. The church has a helpful website: Friedens UCC/Seguin which includes a map. The church is located off Barbarosa Road at 2555 Friedens Church Road. You will know when you arrive since it is the only church on that road . Evelyn Kramm and Janet Sherman can give you helpful directions as well. Let's arrive with an enthusiastic group from our Faith UCC.

**WE DID IT! THANK YOU FAITH CHURCH**

We did it! Our congregation met the August 50th Anniversary challenge to collect 50 "extra" items for the SOS Food Bank. Those items weighed just under 40 pounds of things not included in the food allotments for individuals and families but are so appreciated since the cost of "extras" is often prohibitive on challenged food budgets.

We are well on our way to meeting the September challenge of 50 more "extras" to take to SOS on the third Friday of the month. Remember that these donations can add so much to a family's ability to provide enjoyable mealtimes that they could otherwise not afford:

popcorn, coffee, creamer, teas, pickles, mustard,

catsup, seasonings, salad dressings, jello and pudding mixes,

 cake and pancake mixes, syrup, mayo,

personal care items, dish soap, jams and jellies.

Thank you to each of you who are helping us help our neighbors by placing these "extra" surprises in the distributed food bags.

**Labor Sunday, September 4, 2016
Let's Work for Workplace Injustice**

![https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/pages/17949/attachments/original/1470407251/tomato_picker_7_irfan.jpg?1470407251](data:None;base64...)![https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/pages/17949/attachments/original/1470407264/Asian_garment_workers.jpg?1470407264](data:None;base64...)We know that God’s will is for each of us to live a life of wholeness. God’s abundance is to be shared so all people live in the fullness of life. This means workers must be paid a living wage and be treated with dignity. All workers. No exceptions.

But many workers face abusive conditions that are destructive of their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. And as consumers, all of us are caught in this web of exploitation. Most of our clothes are produced by people working in sweatshops where very low pay, very long hours, sexual harassment, and, often, unsafe conditions are the norm. Our fruits and vegetables are harvested by farm workers who are among the most abused workers in the United States. Small farmers in tropical countries who grow coffee beans are caught in an unjust multinational market that pays them too little and too often drives them off their land.

As consumers we participate in this abusive system. But as people of faith, we are called to make it better. There are ways we can help our neighbors.

We can buy (and our congregations can sell) fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and other products through the [UCC Fair Trade Project](http://www.ucc.org/fair-trade-project) with [Equal Exchange](http://equalexchange.coop/).

We can support farm workers in the United States by boycotting fast-food giant Wendy’s. The boycott was called by the [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](http://www.ciw-online.org/), a group of tomato pickers in Immokalee, FL, who seek to improve their pay and working conditions. Over the last 15 years, all the major fast-food companies – except Wendy’s – have joined the [Fair Food Program](http://www.fairfoodprogram.org/) that is improving the lives of farm workers. So the CIW [called for a boycott](http://www.boycott-wendys.org/) of Wendy's that will continue until the firm joins the FFP. The UCC Board of Directors has [endorsed this boycott](http://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_joins_call_for_wendys_boycott_in_support_of_farmworker_justice_05132016). Don’t eat at Wendy’s. More [info and ways to support](http://www.ucc.org/boycott_wendys) these farm workers.

We can support workers in the [Fight for 15](http://fightfor15.org/), a nation-wide effort by fast food and retail workers to raise their pay to $15 an hour and form unions. Let’s participate in their marches and rallies. Other groups of workers are also organizing to improve their jobs and their lives. [Let us stand with our neighbors](http://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_stand-with-workers) as they seek fairer, more just workplaces.

We can work to raise the minimum wage in our cities, states, and nation so that, eventually, all wages are [living wages](http://www.ucc.org/living_wage). We can defeat the proposed trade agreement, the [Trans-Pacific Partnership](http://www.ucc.org/tpp_oct_5_2015). We can support legislative efforts to [reverse the trend toward greater income inequality](http://www.ucc.org/justice_economic-justice_inequality1).

We can also join together in the [UCC Economic Justice Movement](http://www.ucc.org/ejm). Receive emails every two to three months with an action opportunity. Holding a Labor Sunday service focused on economic and workplace justice is one way to participate.

The people who produce the things we use—many of whom labor under harmful conditions – need our support. Let us stand with those on the margins and together with God, create a world that more closely matches God’s vision for us.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION -
THE MUSIC OF FAITH (September 18th)**
(in all the ways that phrase can be meant)

This month we will use various means to celebrate the Music of Faith UCC - for the past 50 years; a little history about Christian worship music in general;  sing the songs you love and miss;  look at the ways music has been used, presented and interpreted;  how music in this church and others has changed in the last 50 years .....

Some of this will occur in the worship services (with HUGE thanks to our official musicians and our volunteer musicians in Faith's worship band, Faith's Choir, and others who have a passion for music.)

But in addition to EXPERIENCING music, we will also give you INFORMATION on music in these ways:

   \*\*   "stand alone display" - near the permanent kiosk - that will change weekly
        \*\*   Handouts you can take home and read about the topics of this month.
              \*\*   Giving you answers to questions you never thought to ask -
                      for example - what goes into preparing for the music for each service -- e.g.
                                        "you mean they have to practice??"
                                        "what does it take to have a trombone play a song written for guitar??"
                                         "what about people who are in both band and choir??"

REMEMBER - music is a big part of worship and celebration for most people - so everything we share together this month will (ahem) **"NOTABLE**."

**OH - and do not forget the BIG DAY -- OFFICIAL 50th Anniversary SUNDAY:  September 18th**
when we will have a tribute to music at Faith,
   do a hymn sing (do not forget to nominate the songs you like for congregational singing)
        a potluck after church - for fellowship,  with some superb recorded religious music as background  and
             **AFTER THE POTLUCK  a SPECIAL CONCERT on our organ.**

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**Heart of Texas Association News**

 It is always a joy to invite our Association to an ordination. **The Heart of Texas Association will ordain Beth Gleason to ministry in the United Church of Christ at 5 pm, Sunday, September 11, at Trinity Church of Austin**, 4001 Speedway, with a reception to follow. She came to the Congregational Church of Austin, where she has been a member for several years, from Trinity before this church became a United Methodist / UCC union church, and began her seminary training and journey toward ordination there. We are grateful for the hospitality of Trinity and the friendship between these two churches as they join together to host this ordination. Beth has been called to be the pastor of Christ Congregational UCC in Ft. Morgan, Colorado, with her ministry at that church to begin on October 1. We invite our Association church members to celebrate this holy occasion with us. Beth invites clergy to wear robes and red stoles.

 It is also always a joy to share good, uplifting news -- this time from children and youth across our Association. UCC churches are tied together in covenant, and we have some wonderful examples this summer from our kids.

 As many of you know, Washington County suffered enormous flooding last May. Goodwill Baptist Church, a neighbor church of Friedens Church of Washington, had part of its building lifted from its foundations and was completely flooded. At the recent Friedens Church of Washington Vacation Bible School, the children sent their offering to their neighbors at Goodwill. Responding to a challenge from Pastor Greg Felder, the kids collected over $200. Because of this milestone, Greg stepped up to a local version of the ice bucket challenge, sitting for all of the kids to pour cups of icy water on his head. More money was given, along with donations of goods for Goodwill Baptist to sell in a rummage sale. Thanks be to God for the covenantal generosity of these kids, and for all of our kids reached out in love to others this summer.

 Our great group of youth and adults who went to the **National Youth Event** was such an inspiration in their passion, interest, and spirit. They enthusiastically participated in worship, workshops on a myriad of faith related topics, and community with UCC and Disciples of Christ youth from across the US and other countries. The speakers they heard included (among others) a 16 year old young woman who wrote a widely used app that asks people to stop and rethink potentially bullying social media cyber posts, a young man who has traveled and raised money for many charities for several years with his music, and a 14 year old young woman from Pakistan who leads a campaign, at personal risk, against child marriage. Our youth showed such enthusiasm and dedication to the challenges to live their faith that it was an inspiration to all of the adults with them. Several of our Association youth and adults signed sympathy cards and a rainbow flag that four of us took to the street shrine that has grown in front of the Orlando Pulse nightclub where so many, most just slightly older than our youth, were killed. (See <https://sccucc.org/a-visit-to-pulse/> for an account by Rev. Mary Wilson of the visit to Orlando Pulse).

 **And a reminder: you are all invited to our Fall Association Meeting, Saturday, October 29th, 10 am through lunch, at St. John’s UCC in Burton. We hope you will put it on your calendar.**

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Heart of Texas Association Minister

**Thanks!**

Thank you so much for allowing us to have the 1st New Braunfels Latch On event at Faith UCC. We could not have had this wonderful community event without your generous support. We are very appreciative of your kindness.

Thank you! Tiffany & Tammy, The Nursie

**Church Garage Sale Date Set for November 12th**



Garage sale will be on Saturday, Nov. 12th. Items can be left on the stage in Baese Hall. Please notify Karen Kramm for picking up items that anyone needs assistance with getting to the church. Thanks. 210-213-9268-cell phone.

 Our thanks to Karen for helping to organize our annual garage sale. It's a great time to clear out your "stuff" from your garage, closets, attic, wherever!

**Praise dancer set to bring inspirational talent to Faith Church Sept. 25**

Praise dancer Bethany Jenkins will join us Sunday, Sept. 25, to share her inspirational talent during worship as part of September’s extended celebration of Faith’s 50th anniversary. Ms. Jenkins is co-director and co-chorographer of the praise dance team at her home church, Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in San Antonio.

Emmanuel’s praise dance team graces other churches in their mission outreach work. Bethany, who has been praise dancing since she was a young girl, recently attended a week-long praise dance workshop in Jamaica, New York, where she met other praise dancers and garnered myriad ideas for incorporating into her team’s dances.

In addition to her involvement at Emmanuel, Bethany works with the youth at her mother’s church the last Sunday of every month, teaching them the art of dance as praise at St. James AME Church in Lockhart, where her mother the Reverend Cynthia V. Ladson, is pastor.

**September Birthdays**

1. 9-6 Kimberly Kramm 9-9 Irene Bartels 9-9 Norma Remler
2. 9-9 Jerry Jaroszewski 9-13 Joe Ward 9-15 Brady Storms
3. 9-24 Mikki Ward 9-27 Quinn Perry 9-27 Cappy Felger Adams 9-28 Emma Lou Bizer 9-28 Frank Dietz

If your birthday is not listed please let the pastor know so we can include it next year.

**September Worship Assistant List** (partial)

**9-4** Liturgist: Bob Manning Acolyte: Ava Perry Council Rep: Kyle Kramm

Greeter: Shirley Manning Communion & Hospitality: Mikki Ward Nursery: TBA

Usher: Kyle Kramm; Bob & Shirley Manning; Mikki Ward AV: Joe Ward

**9-11** Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte: Adam Gossett; Council Rep: Dan Geisler

Greeter: Vicky Geisler Hospitality: Mary Jean Owen AV: Charles Stark

Ushers: Dan & Vicky Geisler; Curt Leonhardt; Jim Gossett

Nursery: TBA Children's Church: Eddy & Carol Martinez & Kim Beauchamp

**9-18** Liturgist: Kathy Leber Acolyte: Hays Marlow Council Rep: Kim Beauchamp

Greeter: Elly Beauchamp Hospitality: Shirley Manning AV: Tim Marlow

Ushers: Kim & Elly Beauchamp; Julia Allison; Bob Manning

Nursery: TBA Children's Church: Michelle & Nicole Perry-Clark

**9-25** Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte: Cade Perry Council Rep: Joseph Guerrero

Greeter: Michelle Perry Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl AV: Mikki Ward

Ushers: Joseph Guerrero; Nicole Clark; Michelle Perry; Tex Pantermuehl

Nursery: TBA Children's Church: Joe Ward & Karen Dietz

**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.**

**Allen Hennig Plays the Organ: Psalms & 'Songs of Praise**

**Sunday September 18th at 1 p.m.**

 Allen Hennig was born and raised in Central Texas. His father, the Rev. Albert C. Hennig, served UCC churches throughout the area. He began piano lessons at the age of 9, and was playing for Sunday School and Worship services at age 11. Allen was Music Director at Wimberley Presbyterian Church for 13 years, has accompanied the Wimberley Community Chorus for a variety of their seasonal concerts over the years, and also accompanies periodically at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Wimberley. He lives in Round Rock, Texas, and works at Dell Technologies, Inc. as a contractor in the Reconciliation group of the Software & Peripherals division; and also works part-time at Austin Community College – Northridge Campus Testing Center. He attends Trinity Church in central Austin, a member of both the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ.

**Sunday School & Confirmation Start September 11th**

 We welcome the children and teachers back to Sunday School starting on Sunday, September 11th. It should be another exciting year

 Pastor Scott will also begin a confirmation class on September 11th following the church service. Those finishing the class and who choose to be confirmed will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunda y, June 4, 2017.