

January 2019

Faith UCC

970 N. Loop 337

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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Pastoral Assistant, Janet Sherman L.M.

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It's hard to believe it is almost 2019! I'm not much for making resolutions but this year I'm hoping to lose 10 pounds minimum and maybe 15- 20 if I get really serious about it. This will mean doing a better job watching what I eat and exercising more. I'm hoping to start using the gym at the tennis club, which I've not done in the past.

I am definitely not a gym rat. There are two times in my life when I pulled it off for 6-10 months. Once I joined an exercise group at a gym and did it with other people. This really helped. If I didn't show up I felt I was somehow letting them down or that the next time I went people would hold me accountable. The class was pretty early in the morning too, 7 a.m., and I'm not a morning person; but I managed to make it all the way to the end of the class without hardly missing a day! It helps to have group goals and group accountability and a sense of we are all in this together.

A church is a community of people with common goals, who hold each other accountable and who have a sense of being in it together. Paul had much to say about the church being a community, One Body, in which everyone is important, in which everyone has a role to play, and in which we can learn from each other. Ephesians 4:16 states **"...from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."**

The other time I managed to exercise I did it on my own. I went to a gym 3 times a week. I did it as they say "religiously". Actually started seeing some good results. I was able to lift more weight and stay on the treadmill longer after a month or so. I did this for 6-8 months or so, then I went on vacation. The two weeks I was gone I got out of my routine. There is something to be said for regular ritual. Ritual helps keep us on track and moving in the right direction.

The same can be said for church. Yes, we can miss once in awhile without any serious affects but the regular ritual keeps us moving in the right direction. One of the Ten Commandments reminds us to **"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy."**

Another thing I learned when I went to the gym regularly was that small things can have big consequences. I would get on the treadmill for 20 minutes or so and burn 220 calories and feel pretty good, until I looked at a 12 oz can of Coke and found it contained 140 calories! If I drank it would take 16 or so minutes of running on a treadmill to burn off those calories!



## Faith UCC Annual Meeting Sunday, January 27th

Our Faith UCC Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 27th after the church service. We will receive year end reports, vote on the 2019 budget and on nominees. We will be looking for nominees from the floor for Association rep and Conference Annual Meeting Rep. The Heart of Texas Association meets twice a year in the spring and fall and the conference meets May 31-June 1 in New Orleans this year.

### Thank You From Back Bay Mission

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to Friends of the Mission makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better.



Most importantly, your gift is making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for your partnership with us through your generous gift. We - and those we serve - are ever grateful.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Alice Graham, Ph.D., Executive Director



### Merry Christmas From the Conference Office

As 2018 comes to an end and we look forward to 2019, we wish you all grace and peace in the coming year. We appreciate you and all you do in support of the Conference. May God bless you and keep you and your families this Christmas and always.

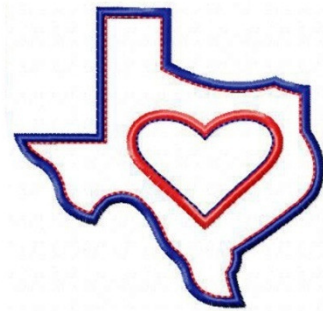
### Thanks from Pastor Scott

I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their Christmas cards, goodies, invitations, gifts, and well wishes over the Christmas Season! A special thanks to the congregation for the card and Amazon gift card!

*Thanks*

## Heart of Texas Association News

On December 11th, I attended the United Methodist annual charge conference of Rolling Hills Community Church of Lago Vista, as I have several times over the years. Rolling Hills is one of three -- to the best knowledge of those present at the charge conference -- churches in the US that are fully affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the United Methodist Church, the charge conference is comprised of all members of the church council, meets with the District Superintendent (the local wider church minister), and, among other tasks, reviews and evaluates of its ministry. In the case of Rolling Hills, I have experienced this gathering as time of honest reflection on each area of mission and ministry -- something that the United Methodist Church requires yearly.



I lift up this experience for several reasons. First, I celebrate the ministry of Rolling Hills, a church that does much to reach out and serve as a central part of the life of Lago Vista, growing and changing in its call to serve Christ over the years. Second, I want to lift up the vibrant life of ecumenical ministry that goes on in the Heart of Texas Association. In a denomination that is relatively small in Texas, our Association churches really model in remarkable ways the founding ethos and motto of the of the United Church of Christ from John 17: "That they may all be one."

**Six of our twenty one churches are affiliated with two or more denominations.** Hope United Georgetown and United Christian

Austin are affiliated with both the UCC and the Christian Church(Disciples of Christ). Church of the Savior Cedar Park is affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists, the UCC, and the American Baptist Churches -- USA. Trinity Church of Austin and Faith United Woodsboro are affiliated with the United Methodist Church and the UCC. And, as I noted above, Rolling Hills Lago Vista maintains four denominational affiliations. Our ministers, too, have come from these various denominations, and we are finding that there is more and more interest in our churches and in the UCC from ministers coming from outside the UCC. When we find ways to serve in Christ's ministry together, we strengthen the body of Christ.

**Further, it is my experience that, when our churches can look outside themselves as they maintain strong ties to others, they find new ideas and new perspectives from the experience of different worshipping communities and are able to do ministry in authentic partnership with others.** Ideas flow, resources are shared, churches don't have to figure everything out on their own. It is also my experience that, as churches honestly examine their ministry from time to time, they have a clearer sense of their call and mission going forward.

As we enter a new year, I celebrate the churches among us that maintain faithful ties to multiple denominations, and I celebrate those churches who are UCC "only" while also working in so many open and life-giving partnerships with others -- youth ministries, mission trips, food pantries, senior ministries, social justice work, homeless outreach, and the list goes on. May we continue and grow in following Jesus together.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash,  
Association Minister

## January/February Worship Assistants



1-6 Liturgist: Karen Dietz Acolyte: Carol Sisco-Marintez  
Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez Greeter: Robynne Martinez  
Communion: Kathy Leber Hospitality: Mikki Ward  
Church School: No class Nursery: TBA AV: Joe Ward  
Ushers: Carol Sisco-Martinez; Frank & Karen Dietz;  
Mikki Ward

1-13 Liturgist: Jennifer Marlow Acolyte: Jason Chapel Council Rep: Jason Chapel  
Greeter: Tim Marlow Hospitality: Shirley Manning Church School: TBA AV: David Reed  
Nursery: TBA Ushers: Jason Chapel; Bob & Shirley Manning; Jennifer Marlow

1-20 Liturgist: Youth Acolyte: Youth Council Rep: Kyle Kramm Greeter: Youth  
Hospitality: Ed & Carol Martinez Church School: TBA Nursery: TBA  
Ushers: Youth AV: Youth

1-27 Liturgist: Mel Hutzler Acolyte: Valerie Oates Council Rep: Valerie Oates  
Greeter: Jennifer Marlow Hospitality: Julia Allison Church School: TBA Nursery: TBA  
Ushers: Valerie Oates; Jennifer Marlow; Mel Hutzler; Julia Allison AV: Tim Marlow

2-3 Liturgist: Donna Myer Acolyte: Dan Geisler Council Rep: Dan Geisler  
Greeter: Communion: Sheila Angerer Hospitality: Vicki Geisler Church School: TBA  
Nursery: TBA Ushers: Dan & Vicki Geisler; Richard & Kathy Leber AV: Quinn Perry

2-10 Liturgist: Mikki Ward Acolyte: Kim Beauchamp Council Rep: Kim Beauchamp  
Greeter: Sofia Beauchamp Hospitality: Mary Jean Owen Church School: TBA  
Nursery: TBA Ushers: Kim Beauchamp; Elly Beauchamp; Mikki Ward; Jakob Beauchamp  
AV: Joe Ward

**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.**

### January

1-5 Bill Burns

1-21 Sharon Zillmann

1-22 Bonnie Stark

1-26 Bennie Harst

1-19 Julia Allison

1-21 David Myer

1-26 Darlene Stephens

1-29 Kelcey Kramm







## Our Faith UCC Stud Has Found a Home!

For many years, Edith told Mike she wanted her house.

“Financially, we just couldn’t afford it,” Mike explained. “Down payments and stuff, I thought we were going to be renting for the rest of our lives.”

Renting a home proved difficult for Mike and Edith many times. In one house, things were falling apart and they couldn’t get the landlord to make any repairs. There wasn’t any central air or heat and the doors and windows had leaks. Mike, Edith and their children ended up unexpectedly having to move out of that house and into a small two-bedroom apartment. Their son, Gabriel, has never had a room of his own. (

“When you’re renting, it’s almost like you’re living in a motel. You know you’re there temporarily. It’s somebody else’s place and just doesn’t feel like home sometimes,” Mike said, “I’m beyond grateful that my kids don’t have to go through this. I can give them a home they can stay in.”

During all the chaos, they never lost their faith.

“I waited 20 years for my home. I’m a Christian and I believe in God,” Edith said. “In one of my intercessions the Lord said ‘your house will be built paid in full,’ and I held onto that.”

A friend told them about Habitat for Humanity and they turned in all of the paperwork for the homebuyer application. They realized their dream of homeownership was coming true when they received the news that they qualified for Comal County Habitat for Humanity’s program.

“I hit the floor and I cried. I’ll never forget that day – it’s as if I see it over and over again,” Edith said. “I’m thankful and I’m grateful.”



Having a home that Mike and Edith can call their own is a dream come true. It will mean that Edith can grow a garden in the back yard. Gabby and Gabriel will have their own rooms and Mike will have a safe place for his family to live.

“This past year, I started looking back at all of my hurt and pain and it’s like it’s been erased completely... this broken heart has healed a lot,” Edith said. “Sometimes you open doors and people come and help, and that is the hand of humanity.”

(The above article is an excerpt from a longer article on the local Habitat website. To see the whole article go to <https://www.comalhabitat.org/construction/mikeandedith>

## Our Prayers are with the Bartels Family



Irene Bartels was a long time member of Faith UCC.

Irene Otilie Bartels (Naumann), passed away Saturday, December 8, 2018 in New Braunfels, Texas. Irene was born September 9, 1923 to Julius and Frieda Naumann in Guadalupe County, Texas. She grew up in Seguin, TX and spent her teenage and early adulthood years, cleaning houses, baby sitting and then as a car-hop. It was at the Orange Bowl, a drive-in, in Seguin, that she met the love of her life, Barney. They were married in 1941, residing the majority of their 63-year marriage in the same house in New Braunfels, also where she lived for 71 years of her life.

Affectionately known as “Omie” to her grandchildren, or “Kleine-Omie” to her great-grandchildren, she thoroughly enjoyed baking, quilting, gardening, bowling, teaching Sunday school and was an avid Bingo player. Her love of baking and crafts can be seen by the numerous trophies and ribbons she won throughout her life from entering them in the Comal County Fair. She was especially known for her vast spoon collection (over 500 unique spoons from all over the globe) and her yo-yo quilts, one of which she was still working on through the last month of her life. This excerpt is from the obituary - for the full obituary go to this link <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/new-braunfels-tx/irene-bartels-8082677>

## January Calendar

- 1-6    Worship Service at 10:30 (Communion)**  
**(We could use help taking Christmas decorations down after church)**
- 1-8    Church Council meeting at 7 pm..**
- 1-12   Boy Scouts use Baese Hall 9:30 a.m.**
- 1-13   Worship Service 10:30 a.m.    (Indivisible meets in Baese at 1:30 p.m.)**
- 1-15   Clergy Jam and Bread at St. John's in Burton, Tx**
- 1-18   SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m.   volunteers needed**
- 1-19   Boy Scouts use Baese Hall 9:30 a.m.**
- 1-20   Worship 10:30 a.m.**
- 1-24   Habitat Volunteer Celebration in Baese Hall**
- 1-27   Worship Service 10:30 a.m. followed by Annual Meeting**
- 1-30   February newsletter items due**
- 1-31   Eden Hill Board of Directors meet at 6:15 p.m. at Eden Hill**