

February 2019

Faith UCC

970 N. Loop 337

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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Rev. Scott B. Martin, Pastor



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Rev. Ray Bizer, Pastor Emeritus

Pastoral Assistant, Janet Sherman L.M.

Our Theology of Place Emphasis for February is the geology of this area. Psalm 19:1 declares, ***"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims [God's] handiwork."*** As part of our exploration of the geology of this area we will take a guided tour of the Canyon Lake Gorge which was formed in 2002 over a three day period when the spillway overflowed due to a massive flood. It exposed the limestone bedrock. Fossils and Dinosaur footprints formed 110 million years ago can be observed in the rock. Today springs feed ponds and streams.

New Braunfels is located on the largest spring in Texas, the Comal! The springs along the Balcones Escarpment have attracted people for thousands of years, including the first German settlers in the mid 1800's. Archeologists have uncovered evidence at the Headwaters of the Comal that Native Americans as far back as 8,000 years ago camped at these springs! Further investigation may push the date of human habitation at the Comal Springs even further back!

Just to put this in perspective. Estimates place Abraham and Sarah about 2,000 BCE, or about 4,000 years ago. The pyramids of ancient Egypt go back to about 2500 BCE. Stonehenge is estimated to go back to 3,000 BCE., or about 5,000 years ago. Water is necessary for life. The Comal springs have been attracting people both ancient and modern to this area for millennia!

Our program after the potluck on Sunday, February 24th will be on the Edwards Aquifer. Athena Hessong writes, **"Unbeknownst to many in the Texas Hill Country, the ground beneath their feet holds the life of the area. The Edwards Aquifer literally is the life blood of the Hill Country. In fact, this area would not have grown to what it is today without the aquifer. Cities like San Antonio [and New Braunfels] have long depended on the Edwards Aquifer for water, making it an integral part of the environment and geology of the region. But, it could be in trouble, and water supplies might be at risk in the future."**

What might the rocks and the geology be saying to us today?

Canyon Lake Gorge Tour on Saturday, February 23rd at 2 p.m.

Faith Church will have a private, guided tour of the Canyon Lake Gorge at 2 p.m. on Saturday,



February 23rd. If you would like to go please sign up on the kiosk. The maximum number that can go is 23 and we already have 13 signed up! Be aware that this is a 3 hour tour over a mile of rocky ground. You must be 7 or above to go. The cost is \$10.

We will meet at the church parking lot at 1 p.m. and leave the parking lot at 1:15 p.m. Please wear appropriate footwear: sneakers or hiking boots. Note shoes will likely get

muddy. Bring a bottle of water with you and snacks if you want. A small backpack for these is advisable or large pockets, so your hands can be free. Wearing sunscreen and a hat is a good idea. If rain is likely the trip will be canceled. No fossil collecting or pets are allowed.

4th Sunday Potluck on February 24th After Church



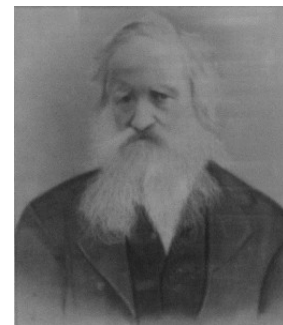
This will be the first of our Theology of Place monthly potlucks and programs. To kick things off Ms. Sarah Valdez from the Edwards Aquifer Authority will be here to present a program on the aquifer. Sarah Valdez is the EAA's Education Coordinator. I. Sarah has been an educator for more than 20 years with experience in classrooms, nature centers and museums. She has a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies from Southwest Texas State University and a Master of Education from Texas State University.

Looking Ahead to March

On Saturday, March 23 we will have a guided tour of the Lindheimer Home. at 11 a.m. There is a suggested donation of \$1.50 for the tour. Ferdinand Lindheimer is known as "The Father of Texas Botany". He moved to New Braunfels in 1845. He is recognized internationally for his work and 41 trees and plants bear his name. More on this later.



On Sunday, March 24 Deedy Wright from the New Braunfels Native Plant Society will present a program on Native Plants, their importance and how to cultivate them.



Save the dates!

SOS Food Bank Board Notes

In the year 2018, SOS gave food to 3,964 families (9,884 individuals) totaling 243,525 lbs. Nice! And, we finished the year in the black, vs. in the red in 2017, mainly due to stopping the Arlen's food coupons. One of the things we'll be doing this year (since we haven't been able to get it donated from SA Food Bank) is purchasing hamburger meat. Many clients ask for it, and we haven't been able to provide it for them.

SOS is planning to build a portable building like the temporary one we had last year, to accommodate food drives, etc.



For churches that donate food (including us), they asked that we try to donate nutritious food, esp. carrots, mixed vegetables, regular spaghetti, regular mac & cheese, etc. Please try not to donate cake mixes, pie mixes as they expire and go rancid quickly and are far less nutritious.

Whole turkeys and hams are still free to large families (4-5 people); they do not count towards the 3 lbs. per person limit, but **MUST** be counted in the total weight given to the families. We need to account for every pound that comes in (freebie or not)

We already do this, but each church should clean up, sweep, stock shelves, etc. during idle times. We are very good about this.

For those taking applications please do not put the begin or end date in the computer app. that will be done when they are certified. When entering returning families, always check the end date of their application! Some are not doing this. **ALWAYS** save the information before leaving their information. It was strongly suggested to ask if anyone else in the family has gotten food this month. I guess some are double-dipping?

We must **ALWAYS** get a client signature, preferably both on paperwork and the tablet. Very important.

Hope this is useful information,
Mike Ziegler
Your friendly SOS Board member

February Birthdays

2-5 Sandy Ludwig

2-25 Dennis Wendel

If your birthday is not on her let Pasto Scott know
we can get it on there for next year.



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Slumber Falls Work Camp Saturday, February 9

This past year, groups have led retreats, campers enjoyed the summer programming, and visitors continually commented on the beauty of Slumber Falls Camp. One of my first remarks after thanking them for their kind words is to tell them that this is a ministry that love has built. Each year volunteers give of their time, energies, and skills to shape the facilities and programs offered here. Without volunteers, this camp would not be what it is today.

In the past two years, we have collated comments from groups, researched other facilities, and formulated a strategic plan on keeping Slumber Falls Camp in good working order with amenities to enhance our groups' programming. Work Camp is one of the events that has the most impact in the year, and it sets the stage for what our guests will experience.



This year, we have a long list of potential projects ranging from dead tree removal, bunk bed construction, camp store updating and inventorying, painting projects, tree trimming and flower bed construction and maintenance, observatory maintenance, cleaning and building updates to highlight just a few. If you or your church has noticed a project that you would like to take on, we would love to chat with you to talk logistics. If you are skilled in a particular area, let's talk about possible projects!

The cost for this event is only \$15 to help cover some of the food expenses. Registration is open online or you may click on the registration link below.

Please join us for this special event that means so much to us and we hope to all of you!

Here is a link for online registration <https://slumberfalls.org/event-items/sfc-work-camp/> or contact pastor Scott or the camp directly.

Bunco & Potluck on Friday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for Valentine's Bunco and Italian Food Potluck on Friday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Keeping with the Italian food theme, please sign up to bring a main dish, salad, bread, or dessert. Also, remember to bring \$5 per person for prizes.



New Council Members & Representatives

New members of the church council are: Bob Manning; Sam Ward & Mike Ziegler. Current members who remain on the council are: Jason Chapel; Carol Sisco-Martinez; & Valerie Oates.

Ralph and Sandy Ludwig will be our representatives to the Heart of Texas Association and the South Central Conference.

Heart of Texas Association News

Our **Heart of Texas Association Spring Meeting** is going to bring an opportunity to spend time on the beach for those who come and stay overnight, along with a new way to meet for those who cannot physically be present. Our host, who has extended a gracious and enthusiastic invitation, will be **St. Paul UCC**, 5525 Lipes Blvd., in **Corpus Christi** on **Saturday, May 4th, at 11 am**. As usual, our meeting will include lunch. We hope many of you will plan to come to be with our very welcoming brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul, and will also plan to spend some time enjoying Corpus Christi.



This particular spring meeting will be a first for us in that we are planning to have a way to attend by video conference, recognizing that the distance will keep some from coming. Our Association Constitution and By Laws were composed very intentionally as we formed to allow for this kind of attendance, knowing that we would be dealing with significant distances for our meetings. We anticipate having an **Ecclesiastical Council at our Spring Meeting**. It will be important as we review our candidate for ministry to ensure that we have a quorum for our vote on approval for ordination, where a quorum is attendance from majority of our churches. We anticipate setting up a video conference on an online, easy to use platform like Zoom, as well as having a way for those who will be attending online to have a “test run” login sometime before the meeting. (I know from experience that we need to get our online attendees to try it beforehand to ensure that sound and video work for everyone.) As we get this set up, we will be sending out more information about the what, where, when, and how to do a trial login and how to join the meeting on May 4th.

St Paul UCC in Corpus Christi, our host church, is eagerly awaiting the arrival of their new settled (permanent) minister after the past interim year. Rev. Dana Worsham will be arriving in early February, leading worship beginning on February 10th. Dana comes to St. Paul from the Atlanta, Georgia area, where she attended seminary and served a church. She is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister with a background of military service. We look forward to welcoming Dana to the UCC and to the Heart of Texas Association.

Many thanks to Carl Schwartz-King for leading our boundary training for ministers at Bethany Congregational Church in San Antonio on Saturday, January 12th. Carl is the Licensed Minister of Congregational Care at United Christian in Austin. He has been trained by the Faith Trust Institute to lead boundary training in the South Central Conference, and gives his time in this ministry. Boundary training, for those who are unfamiliar with the term, helps ministers understand and reflect together on the maintaining of appropriate boundaries in the areas of handling money, friendships in the church, sexual relationships, ministry to people in churches the minister no longer serves, and other areas of ministry that require maintaining appropriate boundaries. The Heart of Texas Association requires our ministers (except those completely retired from serving churches or other ministries) to complete this training every five years. We do this as a commitment to our members and ministers, seeking to provide ministry that honors our faith as Christians, and we invite all to support our pastors in this commitment.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister

FAMILY PROMISE TREASURER REPLACEMENT

For 5 years, Family Promise has involved many volunteers supporting our guest families discover a new way of life.

Now Family Promise has a special organizational need. The treasurer that has served that position for many years is rotating off the Board. Another **VOLUNTEER TREASURER** is needed to assume those duties.



The treasurer is the custodian of all funds and securities. The duties are: work with the bookkeeper to timely pay all bills and maintain accurate records; assist creating the annual budget; monitor all financial policies; provide financial reports to the board; work with the tax accountant; provide financial documents for grants and donors.

Being a CPA is not necessary but some experience with accounting methods and financial experience with a nonprofit would be helpful.

The time commitment is about 2 hours per week. The treasurer is a member of the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in this volunteer position or know someone in the New Braunfels area who might be please contact Randy Vanstory, Board President, at rvstory@yahoo.com or 830 660 8201; or Bob Manning at: wrsmanning@gmail.com or 210 415 0604. Thank you for your support of Family Promise.

February Calendar

2-3 Worship & Communion at 10:30 a.m. - Souper Bowl of Caring

2-5 Church Council 7 p.m.

2-6-7 Clergy Retreat at Slumber Falls Camp

2-8 Bunco & Potluck 6:30 p.m. in Baese

2-9 Slumber Falls Work Day

2-10 Worship 10:30 am.

2-17 Worship with Installation of Officers

2-19 Clergy Jam & Bread in Burton

2-23 Canyon Lake Gorge Tour (meet at church at 1 p.m. - tour at 2 p.m.)

2-24 Worship 10:30 a.m. & Potluck/Program after church - Edwards Aquifer

2-27 March newsletter articles due





February/March

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

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

2-17 Liturgist: Youth Acolyte & Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez Greeter: Youth Hospitality: Mikki Ward Church School: Jan Ziegler & Kim Beauchamp Nursery: TBA Ushers: Youth AV: Youth

2-24 Liturgist: Kathy Leber Acolyte & Council Rep: Jason Chapel Greeter: Richard Leber Hospitality: Potluck Church School: Joe Ward & Chrissy & Jim Gossett Nursery: TBA Ushers: Jason Chapel; Richard & Kathy Leber; Sheila Angerer AV: Mikki Ward

3-3 Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte & Council Rep: Sam Ward Greeter: Michelle Perry Hospitality: Shirley Manning Church School: Michelle Perry & Nicolle Clark Nursery: TBA Ushers: Sam Ward; Curt Leonhardt; Bob Manning; Julia Allison AV: Quinn Perry

3-10 Liturgist: Mel Hutzler Acolyte & Council Rep: Valerie Oates Greeter: Joe Ward Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl Church School: TBA Nursery: TBA Ushers: Valerie Oates; Mel Hutzler; Joe Ward; Tex Pantermuehl AV: Mikki 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.



Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday February 3rd

Our Faith UCC Youth Group will be collecting money and canned goods for the SOS Food Bank on February 3. We will join with hundreds of church youth groups and other organizations to raise money and food to address hunger needs in the local area. This program began with a prayer at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Colombia, S.C. in 1990. That first year 22 churches raised \$5,700. Already to date in 2019 583 groups, schools, businesses have raised \$4,324,764 and counting! The youth will be standing in the narthex to receive financial donations. Just place your contribution in the soup pot!