

May 2019
Faith UCC
970 N. Loop 337
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter
Church Phone 625-6761
www.faithuccnb.org
Rev. Scott B. Martin, Pastor



Cell Phone 830-515-2866
Rev. Ray Bizer, Pastor Emeritus
Pastoral Assistant, Janet Sherman L.M.

+++++

As we move past Easter our Theology of Place Journey will be taking us into the history of this area. Starting in May we will be exploring the Native American, German and Hispanic heritage in this area. See more on this later in this newsletter.

Heritage and history is a VERY important part of the Biblical story, especially in the Hebrew Scriptures. It shapes who the Jewish people were and are. It is the foundation for their ethics as well as their identity. One of the key words in the Hebrew Scriptures is "remember". The Jewish people are called to remember their history with each other and God so that they can avoid past mistakes, celebrate God's past saving acts, and look forward to the future with hope.

The lead in line to Deuteronomy's listing of the Ten Commandments is, **"Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out with an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to"** (Deut 5:15) Psalm 105:5 says, **"Remember the wonderful works [God] has done, [God's] miracles, and the judgments [God] uttered, O offspring of [God's] servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones."**

One of the things I'm really looking forward to on my trip to Scotland later this year is the opportunity to visit the Orkney Islands where one of my main ancestors came from. He joined the Hudson Bay Company as a young teenager on July 5, 1797 and worked for them in the untamed wilderness of Ontario, Canada until the spring of 1818. His name was George Budge, which he later changed to George Burgess. He became the progenitor of my mother's side of the family in Canada. In doing some family research I learned he even had contact with Lewis and Clark in 1804-5 as they wintered in the Mandan/Hidatsa Territory on the upper Missouri River on their way west, in what is now North Dakota. This is a picture of what is left of his tombstone. He died on August 28, 1847.



His family came from the Island of South Ronaldsay. I am looking forward to walking where he may have walked and experience the land he came from, where some of my ancestors came from. His dna is part of my dna and though I've never been there the soil of Orkney has helped shaped me in ways I probably can never dream of. I am sure that having visited Orkney this bond will only grow stronger.



Saturday, May 25th at 10 a.m.

Our Theology of Place exploration continues with a visit to the Sophienberg Museum on Saturday, May 25th. at 10 a.m. Immerse yourself in the life of a German colonist, the hardships suffered and the freedoms gained, arriving with Prince Carl to establish what would grow to be the fourth largest city in Texas just five years later. Emphasis is on the founding German immigrants and their contributions i.e. language, science, education, industrialization, but also includes the contributions and traditions of other cultures present in this area. We tell the REAL stories of the people, events and traditions that have made New Braunfels & Comal County the wonderful place it is, interpreted through authentic artifacts and documents from the collection.

The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for students 13-18 and \$2 for children 6-12. It is free for members and children under 6. There is a signup sheet on the kiosk, so we have some idea of how many are planning on going. You do not need to pay in advance. The museum is located at 401 E. Coll Street. If you want to check out the museum website here it is <https://sophienburg.com/museum/>



Afterwards those who wish are invited to join the pastor at the Downtown Social for lunch. It is located at 386 W. San Antonio (right downtown). Here is a link to follow to learn about this restaurant and menu <https://www.downtownsocialnb.com/>

Volunteers Need at SOS on Saturday, May 11th

The Mail Carriers Food Drive will be May 11. One of the postal workers will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers all day. We need lots of volunteers (youth?) that day to unpack and organize the bags that come in from the postal workers. Adults are also welcome. :-) The cookout and unpacking **starts at noon.**

May Birthdays!

5-4 Sheri Haynes

5-4 Charles Stark

5-11 Kelvin Kramm

5-12 Nicolle Perry-Clark

5-13 Kathleen Hoffmann

5-17 Tim Marlow

5-23 Kathy Leber

5-24 Sheila Angerer

5-24 Jena Wendel

5-27 Lee Zillmann



4th Sunday Potluck Moved to May 19 Because of Memorial Weekend

Our 4th Sunday potluck will be moved to Sunday, May 19th because of Memorial Day weekend. Our Theology of Place journey is moving into an exploration of history in this area.

Our program following the potluck will be presented by Lauren Strack who is the Assistant Manager at Headwaters of the Comal. She will be talking about the Native Americans who were in this area and the recent archeological finds at

Headwaters of the Comal. It is estimated that some of them could go back at least 8,000 years! The arrowhead above was found at the site and is known as a Pedernales Point. They also have found evidence of hearths, middens, spear points, and bones of animals they ate like: bison, deer, rabbits, turtles and birds. The springs have attracted human activity for at least the last 8,000 years and maybe more! We are just the most recent humans to live in this area.



Congratulations to Jakob Beauchamp!

Jakob graduates June 10th from the ETA Program at Theodore Roosevelt High School in San Antonio. He will be graduating Summa Cum Laude! The picture is at the Summa Cum Laude ceremony at which he honored his biology teacher Ms. McKinney. He will be attending UT Dallas as part of their Biomedical Engineering Program. We wish Jakob all the best as he begins the next phase of his educational journey!



South Central Conference Annual Meeting

The theme is theme of the meeting May 31-June 1 is "Resurrection Insurrection" and it will be held in New Orleans. and will be Rev. Ron Bufford, pastor of the Congregational Church of Sunnyvale, California will be the main speaker. Pastor Scott and our delegates Revs. Ralph and Sandy Ludwig will be attending.



.Our Prayers Are With the Wendel Family

Sharon Wendel passed away after a brief illness and hospitalization on Saturday, April 20th. We shall miss Sharon's smiling, quiet, grace filled presence in our church. The following is a link to her obituary, which is printed below. There is link on the obit site for a video montage.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/universal-city-tx/sharon-wendel-8261157>



With profound sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Sharon Ann Wendel, our loving and devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and faithful friend to all whose lives she touched, on April 20, 2019.

Born in San Antonio, TX, she was in her 67th year of life and 47th year of joyous marriage to Dennis Lee who she met at Sam Houston High School.

She is the adored daughter of Adeline Biesenbach, beloved mother of Jena and Kevin and his wife Michele, and proud grandma of Sebastian and Adelle.

Predeceased by her father Franklin Biesenbach and brother Dennis. Sharon lived a life as a wonderful mother, homemaker and worker in the banking and retail sector. She loved to cook for her family, kept an immaculate house, had the green thumb everyone wished they had, and most of all enjoyed her days spent with her grandchildren.

Her smile and compassion will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts. May she be remembered as she remembered others.

Update From Rev. Wil & Hulen Brown

Greetings to each of you on this beautiful day the Lord has made. This missive is to inform you that I have accepted an Interim Minister's position at the Miami Shores Community Church in Miami Shores, FL that will begin on the 5th of May.

Please continue in prayer for Hulen and me as we follow the Spirit's leading in this call.....

I thank God for each of you.

Wil



Heart of Texas Association News

For those of you reading this article at the start of May, here's a reminder that our **Association Spring Meeting is on Saturday, May 4th, at St. Paul UCC, 5525 Lipes Blvd. in Corpus Christi**, beginning at 11 am. On the agenda is the **Ecclesiastical Council of CJ Wood**: her ordination paper has been sent to our churches and ministers, and we encourage all who attend to read it beforehand. These Councils are always enriching faith discussions! We urge those who cannot make it to Corpus Christi **to attend by Zoom internet link**, which will be set up for the 11-12:30 (voting) part of the meeting, as we need to have a quorum for that time and we value your presence. Those who still need an email copy of CJ's ordination paper or plan to attend by Zoom should contact me right away (at lizknash@gmail.com). **We will only be sending the Zoom link to those who request it and have learned how to use it.** We will set up a "trial run" (takes only a few minutes) for anyone who needs to learn to use Zoom to allow you to find out how to get the Zoom link to work.

Members from at least four of our Association churches, including me, have traveled to Brownsville recently on Texas Impact "Courts and Ports" immersion trips. We went to witness and learn about the situation with migrants and asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border. Two of our Association church members, Cecelia Hawkins and Whit Bodman, have been part of the leadership for these trips. Members of Friends Congregational, Hope United, Open Cathedral, and Congregational Church of Austin have been challenged, disturbed, and spiritually enriched by participating. Our trips have included observing in the federal magistrate's court as people are brought in groups for what are mainly deportation proceedings; volunteering at the Humanitarian Respite Center run by Catholic Charities in McAllen for those requesting amnesty who have just been released from detention; walking over the bridge into Matamoros with a volunteer bringing supplies to those waiting to request amnesty on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande; and a discussion with a longtime advocate for border issues and migrants in the area. The deportation proceedings were for people, mainly from Mexico, who had been picked up crossing the Rio Grande, with the largest group being young people in their early 20s, apparently crossing to find work or to join relatives. Our observation both served to ensure that the proceedings follow the law and to see the humanity in what has become an abstract issue for many of us. When we went to the Respite Center, we encountered an almost overwhelming number of families with children and single people being released from detention, there to be helped with bus tickets to join family, with clothes, and with food for the day before traveling on to their destinations the same or next day. These were all people who had been found, in their interviews in detention, to have a well founded fear of violence and persecution in their amnesty claims, about to be released into a long court process to decide whether they can stay in the US. The people waiting without shelter on the Matamoros side are only being allowed into the US in very small numbers each day and week to request amnesty -- some had been waiting there as long as two months, dependent on groups from Brownsville to bring over food, water, and any basic supplies. I believe I speak for all of us who have gone in saying we have been moved tremendously by what we experienced and are searching for ways to respond with compassion. See <https://texasimpact.org/project/courts-ports/> for more information.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister

May/June Worship Assistant List

5/5 Liturgist: TBA Acolyte & Council Rep: Mike Ziegler Greeter: Michelle Perry
AV: Joe Ward Hospitality: Nicolle Clark Communion: Mikki Ward Nursery: TBA
Ushers: Mike Ziegler; Mikki Ward; Nicolle Clark; Michelle Perry Church School: Jan Ziegerl & Julia Allison

5/12 Liturgist: Mikki Ward Acolyte & Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez AV: Joe Ward
Greeter: Eddie Martinez Hospitality: Kathy Leber Nursery: Martinez
Ushers: Carol Sisco-Martinez; Richard & Kathy Leber; Mikki Ward
Church School: Jim & Chrissy Gossett & TBA

5/19 Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte & Council Rep: Jason Chapel Greeter: Joe Ward
Hospitality: Mikki Ward AV: Mikki Ward Nursery: Julia Allison Church School: Year end party
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Joe Ward; Mike Ziegler; Curt Leonhardt

5/26 Liturgist: Sandy Ludwig Acolyte & Council Rep: Sam Ward Greeter: Ralph Ludwig
Hospitality: Shirley Manning AV: Tim Marlow Church School: summer break
Ushers: Sam Ward; Bob & Shirley Manning; Ralph Ludwig Nursery: TBA

6/2 Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte & Council Rep: Valerie Oates Greeter: Karen Kramm
Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl Communion: Kyle Kramm AV: Dave Reed
Ushers: Valerie Oates; Kyle Kramm; Julia Allison; Tex Pantermuehl Nursery: TBA

6/9 Liturgist: Jason Chapel Acolyte & Council Rep: Bob Manning Greeter: Shirley Manning
Hospitality: Jennifer Marlow AV: Joe Ward Nursery: TBA
Ushers: Bob & Shirley Manning; Jason Chapel; 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.

Pastor Scott Will be on Vacation June 2-7

Following the SCC Annual meeting in New Orleans Pastor Scott will be on vacation in Florida June 2-7. Janet Sherman will lead the worship service on Sunday, June 2nd.



Looking ahead to **Pentecost Sunday, June 9th** we will need all hands on deck for a special first annual **"clipping of the church"** ceremony. Google it! More info in the June newsletter!