

August 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

Pastoral Assistant, Janet Sherman L.M.

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My sabbatical will start in less than two weeks. I would like to thank the church for making this sabbatical possible! I would like to thank all the ministers, retired and active, who will be providing pulpit supply during my absence. I would also like to thank Janet Sherman who will be coordinating Sunday worship and pastoral care, doing the bulletins & power points and putting together the monthly newsletter, etc. This is a case where it definitely takes a village!

I trust everyone has enjoyed the Theology of Place Journey we have been on as a church, which will continue in my absence as well. The pilgrimage continues for us all, pilgrimage "Near and Far". Here is an outline of my sabbatical plans:

August 12 - September 12 Scotland: Week One hike the St. Cuthbert Pilgrimage Trail from Melrose to Lindisfarne; Week Two will take me to Mull Monastery For All Celtic Saints and a weeklong exploration of Celtic Christianity; Week Three takes me to the Orkney Islands where some of my ancestors came from; and Week Four I'll be in Pitlochry, Scotland for a theater festival and touring the Southern Highlands.

September 12-20? Back in New Braunfels catching up on mail, etc

September 20? - October 28 Bradenton, Florida - reading/relaxing/reflecting on Scotland and work on power points for November & December potluck programs at Faith UCC.

October 26 - 31? Travel back to NB, catch up

November 1-10? Trip to Tucson

Sabbatical ends Tuesday, November 12.

The word pilgrim comes from the Latin *peligrinus*, which means wayfarer or traveler. It may also trace its roots to an older Latin phrase *per argum*, "through the field". Phil Cousineau reflects on these saying, "This ancient image suggests a curious soul who walks beyond known boundaries, crosses fields, touching the earth with a destination in mind and a purpose in heart." (The Art of Pilgrimage p.13-4)

A final thought comes from Sir Walter Raleigh:

Give me my Scallop shell of quiet
My staff of Faith to walke upon,
My Script of Joy, Immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation:
My gown of Glory, hopes true gage,
And thus Ile take my pilgrimage.



Pulpit Supply Schedule for Sabbatical

I would like to thank all the ministers who are taking one or two Sunday's during my sabbatical. You all are making this sabbatical possible by your generous willingness to lead worship. Here is the three month schedule:

August 18 - Janet Sherman L.M.

August 25 - Rev. Peter Bauer (potluck after church)

September 1 - Rev. Peter Bauer

September 8 - Revs. Ralph & Sandy Ludwig

September 15 - Revs. Ralph & Sandy Ludwig

September 22 Rev. Ron Krueger (potluck after church)

September 29 - Rev. Frank Dietz

October 6 - Rev. Sabrina Jennings

October 13 - Rev. Jeremy Albers

October 20 - Rev. Gerry Metzger

October 27 - Rev. Gerry Metzger (potluck after church)

November 3 - Rudi Harst & Rev. Frank Dietz

November 10 - Rev. Don Longbottom South Central Conference Minister



August Birthdays!!!

8-1 Joshua Coble 8-2 Jan Ziegler

8-7 Donna Myer

8-14 Karen Dietz 8-19 David Lamensky

8-19 Reed Hoke

8-25 Grace Perry-Clark 8-25 Peter Bauer

8-30 Kenneth Triesch

If your birthday is not on her let Janet Sherman know so we can add your name to the list for next year.



My Reflections On the 32ND General Synod - Rev. Peter E. Bauer

This was my first visit to General Synod as a clergy delegate. I had attended the synod in 2011 when it was held in Tampa, FL when I was awarded the Joyce And Bob Dell Award for excellence in Mental Health Ministries.

My impression is that The United Church of Christ is at a crossroads. Our membership is continuing to decline. According to CARD, United Church of Christ, we were at 880,000 plus in membership in 2017, 2018 we dropped to 853,000 plus and now for 2019 we will be listed at 823,000 plus members. Our decline continues to be precipitous.

General Synod announced the creation of two new hybrid conferences: the new TA1 Conference comprising the former Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences. Also, there has been a similar configuration that will occur between South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

Clearly, we have a trend emerging here. I would conjecture that we could see further unions and mergers between existing conferences in the future. This will generate questions as to how these mega-conferences can be managed, funded and how communication will occur effectively between conference staff and churches and clergy. I have my reservations regarding whether or not you can manage a new configuration like this by using Skype alone. I am also skeptical as to whether these new conferences will be cost effective.

I also learned that in Southern California Conference, there has been a boom on the sale of church properties. Three church buildings in Pasadena, Altadena and Santa Ana have been sold for a total of 18 Million. The Santa Ana congregation are now worshipping in a recreation room at an assisted living complex. Again, this raises questions regarding what the future of church congregations will look like and what help existing conferences can provide for them.

General Synod also revealed the fight regarding the future of leadership in the denomination. Rev. John Dorhauer was re-elected with 64% percent approval, yet there appears to be a significant resistance to the outcome of this election. Many delegates expressed their desire that the General President of The United Church of Christ should be a woman or a person of color. My impression is that Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, now at Global Ministries, and Rev. Traci Blackmon, Assistant to the General Minister will be prime candidates in the 2024 election for UCC General minister.

I was impressed that General Synod welcomed Professor Matthew Desmond of Princeton University, to present on his ground-breaking research regarding eviction in America and referencing his Eviction Lab project at Princeton www.EvictionLab.com and the need for further affordable housing www.JustShelter.com.

I was also pleased to be a part of the group that worked on the forced world-wide migration resolution. There are great challenges facing humanity now with the current increase in refugees (now estimated at 37,000 new refugees per day). According to Dr. Peter Makari of Global Ministries the United States is paying Jordan 1 billion per year to take care of refugees.

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My Reflections on the 32nd General Synod cont.

The European Union is paying Turkey 1 billion euros each year to take care of refugees. Unfortunately, the World Bank through its policies has created another 3.1 Million refugees.

All of these indicators suggest a turbulent time ahead for The United Church of Christ. I hope that our proceedings and decisions as the Board of Directors for South Central Conference will provide stability, good governance and wise stewardship of our resources as we seek to be advocates for the churches and clergy of our conference.



us know.

UCC Child Sponsorship

This is Dawa Tsering. His name means "moon, month in Tibetan. He was born in 2013 to Dojee and Kancherra Tsering. They are Tibetan and live in Sologhonpo in Nepal. His father is employed as a driver. Dawa enjoys games and watching TV. He has two brothers and two sisters. Dawa's favorite subject in school is learning the Tibetan language.

Faith UCC is sponsoring Dawa through the Sonada Refugee program. Our donation provides Dawa with an education and basic care. We can write letters or send packages to Dawa. If anyone wants to do this let

Habitat Stud-A-Thon Thank You

Dear Faith UCC, Thanks you for your participation in the 2019f Stud-A-Thon fundraising campaign! Your sponsorship of \$200 will do so much more than build a house; it will empower Tina with strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

Our mission of building homes, communities and hope is only accomplished when we have the support of generous community members like you.

Be sure and keep an eye out for an invitation to our Stud Finder Event. This special event will be your chance to see where your stud was installed in the framework of the home as well as meet Tina and her family.

Again, thank you for taking part in this unique opportunity to help Tina build a better life for herself.

Best Wishes, Alan Rubiola, Donor Relations Specialist & Kristin Reynolds, Marketing Coordinator, Comal County Habitat for Humanity

(You will soon have a chance to sign our Faith UCC stud. You can also donate to our Habitat Fund and it will be passed on.)

Fiesta Lanes is Starting a Church Bowling League

Fiesta Lanes is starting a Church Bowling League. It will last 14 weeks on Friday nights at 6:30 p.m. League play begins on September 6th. There will be a League meeting on August 30th. Cost is \$14 per bowler for 14 weeks. If we have enough interest Faith UCC could have its own team. It only takes 4. If we don't have four you can still play by being on another team. Fiesta Lanes can help you find one. For further information contact Carma Herndon at 830-625-6263 or carmaherndon@fiestabowlinglances.com

Items for Asylum Seekers Backpacks

The "Backpack Project" was conceived in order to fulfill a need for asylum seekers: to provide them with a Survival Kit to use during their initial travel in the USA. When asylum seekers are dropped off at the SA bus station or the airport, they arrive with very little. Very often they carry their whole world in a gym-bag-like carry-on. IWC (Interfaith Welcome Committee in San Antonio) decided to put together a package of items to hand over to them to help them on their journey. While there are items in the package that the entire family can use, we also include small toys, a coloring book with crayons, pens and pencils for the children. If the family has a fairly newborn or a toddler, we also include diapers and wipes. We give one backpack to each family, or two if there are at least 5 members in the family. As one can see from the list of items in each backpack, we try to provide the essential items we think they will need.

We will be gathering the following items at Faith UCC for backpacks. Deadline Aug 25

Supply List

Toiletries-placed in quart size ziplock bag:

- 2 toothbrushes
- 1 travel size toothpaste
- 1 pkg. hand wipes
- 2 packages travel size Kleenex
- 2-3 hair bands or scrunchies

Snacks-placed in gallon size ziplock bag:

- 2 packages fruit snacks
- 2-3 bags trail mix
- 3-4 granola bars
- 2-3 packages animal crackers
- 2-3 packages Cheezits
- 2-3 packages snacks (peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, etc.)
- 1 bottle water and one water bottle

2 pens

1 small note pad Coloring book and crayons

Optional but highly recommended:

Small pocket size English-Spanish dictionary

Small stuffed animal



Heart of Texas Association News

The Heart of Texas Association will be holding its Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 16th, at 11 am at Trinity Church of Austin, with Congregational Church of Austin taking the lead as the host church. We anticipate a **possible Ecclesiastical Council** and a short program to bring us together in the work of the wider church. As is our current way of meeting, we gather in a church from the Austin cluster in the fall, then we will go to a Brazos cluster church this coming spring. I hope many of you will be able to join us for a time of worship, fellowship, lunch, and business.



Many of you know that our **former Conference Minister, Douglas Anders, has been in treatment for cancer for the past several years** at his home in the St. Louis area. Douglas has continued to serve the church and his community in many ways, even during his long period of chemotherapy. His course of treatment recently failed, and he was sent to an experimental treatment protocol through MD Anderson Cancer Center. I am grateful to report that this treatment is working. However, it is the lifeline for Douglas and will last at least two years, requiring travel to Houston every three weeks. I have asked Douglas how we can help. His big request is for our continued prayers, and he continues to be thankful for all we do to lift him up in that way. He has also said that **donated Southwest Airline miles, vouchers, and Rapid Reward points would be most helpful** from those who are able to give. Anyone who would like to donate can contact Stacey Silvey at the South Central Conference office, 830-625-2212 or office@scucc.org.

We rejoice with St. John's UCC, Burton as they welcomed Darrin Holub as their new Senior Minister on July 1st. Of course, Darrin and his wife, Kim, have been part of our Association for many years during Darrin's ministry at Evangelical UCC in Lyons and Friedens, Gay Hill. We also thank Charles Stark for his work in ministry at St. John's during their long interim, and lift up all of these churches as Lyons and Gay Hill begin a time of transition and as St. John's embarks with Darrin on a new era in ministry.

The UCC 2019 Southern Regional Women's Retreat, "Strong Sisters' Stories," will be held on Friday - Sunday, October 18 - 20 at the beautiful Blowing Rock Conference Center, 1818 Goforth Rd., Blowing Rock, North Carolina. These retreats are always a wonderful time to join with our sisters in Christ from many different places. Those who have been to Blowing Rock have brought back great reports! To register, go to <http://www.brccenter.org>.

The 2020 UCC National Youth Event is coming next summer, July 22-24th, at Purdue University. This dynamic faith gathering for youth and young adults ages 12 -22 (plus chaperones) is the largest gathering in the UCC. It is an unforgettable experience. We have sent large groups from the Heart of Texas Association the past several times, and we hope to send a large group once again. Our Association sets aside money each year to help, and our Association board will be bringing a budget item for a travel subsidy to our Fall Meeting for approval. For more information, go to <http://www.uccpages.org/nye/>.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister

Women of Faith: Mark Your Calendars: Fellowship Luncheon at Friedens UCC

This year the women's fellowship group at Friedens UCC has invited our Faith UCC women to join them at their Fall luncheon on **Thursday, September 12, beginning at 11:30 a.m.** In a gracious change of plans, we have been told **not** to bring a salad this time, but to come as their guests for what is always a delicious time of fellowship. Please let Karen Dietz know if you would like a ride or to carpool from our church parking lot that morning. We will leave Faith at 11:00 a.m.



Message from Janet Sherman L.M.

Bon voyage & safe travels Pastor Scott

Hello, all!

While Pastor Scott is on sabbatical (far), we will continue our monthly potlucks / programs (near). And, life around Faith Church will continue to be exciting.

Beginning Aug. 12, the office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon in the former secretary's office off of the narthex.

If you would like to submit any information for the newsletter, please send to me at jcmonroe52@gmail.com or give any information to me on Sunday mornings at church.



My telephone number is 830-730-2096 if there is anything you need immediate response to. I can get you to whomever you need to speak with if I cannot take care of the issue at hand. I will also be happy to do visitation(s) if you know of someone who would like a visit.

If there is anything else that I need to know about, please do not hesitate to let me know by phone (please leave a voicemail if I'm not available) or email.

August 28.

Deadline for September's issue of Glimpses of Faith will be

We might even have some fun while Pastor Scott's away... you know what they say, while the cat's away...

Worship Assistants

8/4 Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte & Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez
Greeter: Michelle Perry Hospitality: Nicolle Clark AV: Mikki Ward Church School: on break
Ushers: Carol Sisco-Martinez; Nicolle Clark; Michelle Perry; Julia Allison Nursery: TBA
Communion: Kyle Kramm

8/11 Liturgist: Nicolle Clark Acolyte & Council Rep: Jason Chapel Greeter: Bob Manning
Hospitality: Chrissy Gossett AV: Quinn Perry Church School: on break Nursery: TBA
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Will Gossett; Jim Gossett; Adam Gossett

8/18 Liturgist: Karen Dietz Acolyte & Council Rep: Sam Ward Greeter: Joe Ward
Hospitality: Kathy Leber AV: Mikki Ward Church School: on break Nursery: TBA
Ushers: Sam Ward; Joe Ward; Richard & Kathy Leber

8/25 Liturgist: Jason Chapel Acolyte & Council Rep: Valerie Oates Nursery: TBA
AV: Kyle Kramm Greeter: Sheila Angerer Hospitality: Pot Luck
Ushers: Valerie Oates; David Bizer; Sheila Angerer; Jason Chapel Church School: on Break

9/1 Liturgist: Ralph Ludwig Acolyte & Council Rep: Bob Manning Nursery: TBA
AV: Joe Ward Greeter: Shirley Manning Hospitality: Mikki Ward Communion: Kathy Leber
Ushers: Bob Manning; Rick & Kathy Leber; Mikki Ward Church School: Summer Break

9/8 Liturgist: Ralph & Sandy Ludwig Acolyte & Council Rep: Mike Ziegler AV: David Reed
Greeter: Jan Ziegler Hospitality: Shirley Manning Nursery: TBA
Ushers: Mike & Jan Ziegler; Bob & Shirley Manning Church School: TBA Starts Today!

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.

THANK YOU FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS

From the morning a small group gathered to prepare rooms for our Family Promise guests



until the final cleanup Sunday morning, July 28th, volunteers pitched in to provide a safe, welcoming place at Faith Church for two families in the Family Promise program. Overnight volunteers, Friedens members providing meals, Faith members providing HEB gift cards and breakfast or lunch groceries, folks stopping by to visit with moms and their children, Saturday morning breakfast hosts, those who took home laundry, all were essential to the loving care provided. We, too, received much!!

Thank you for sharing in this ministry!!