

ANO B NATAL



***Faith U.C.C. Charter Members***  
***September 24, 1967***

Mr. W.C. Ammann  
Mrs. W.C. Ammann  
Brian William Amman  
Juanita Gail Ammann  
Eric Keith Ammann  
Mr. William Harold Brown  
Mrs. William Harold Brown  
William Joseph Brown  
Mark Harold Brown  
Stephen Harry Brown  
Lt. Col. John Caldwell  
Mrs. John Caldwell  
James P. Caldwell  
John W. Caldwell  
Mrs. John Dippel  
Mrs. Tom Dillon  
Paula Ellis  
Arleen Ellis  
Paula Ellis  
Mr. Jerome Faust  
Mrs. Jerome Faust  
Mr. Elmo Fischer  
Mrs. Elmo Fischer  
Elizabeth Fischer  
Martha Fischer  
Carl Fischer  
Mr. Robert Hamel  
Mrs. Robert Hamel  
James Hamel  
Mr. Harry Heidemann  
Mrs. Harry Heidemann  
Pastor Richard F. Kuretsch  
Mrs. Carl Kurz

Mr. Bernie Linnartz  
Mrs. Bernie Linartz  
Bert Linnartz  
Mr. W.E. Marsh, Jr.  
Mrs. W.E Marsh, Jr.  
Susan Marsh  
Mr. Elgin Schaefer  
Mrs. Elgin Schaefer  
Michael Merritt Schaefer  
Loren Marie Schaefer  
Pastor Robert L. Schock  
James W. Schock  
Mr. Raymond Soechting  
Mrs. Raymond Soechting  
Mr. Clarence Timmermann  
Mrs. Clarence Timmermann  
Mr. Dennis Wegner  
Mrs. Dennis Wegner  
Robin Ann Wegner  
Dr. Elmer Whitcomb  
Mr. Reginald Wuest  
Mr. Wilton Warnecke  
Mrs. Wilton Warnecke  
Kelvin West

**Pastors of Faith U.C.C.**

Rev. Robert Schock (1966-1969)  
Rev. L.F. Modschiedler (1969)  
Rev. Paul Mohr (1970-1972)  
Rev. Michael Smith (1972-1978)  
Rev. Ray Bizer (1978-1985)  
Rev. Dorothy Lairmore (1986-1987)  
Rev. Leroy Zillmann (1988-2004)  
Rev. Scott B. Martin (2005-present)

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**Sunday December 3, 2006**

**Scripture:** *Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.* (Acts 2:46-47)

**Memories of Fatih:**

Memories? Oh, I have memories of Faith Church! I joined this congregation when they were able to build this building (Baese Hall) for themselves. I think I was part of the original furnishings. I remember the first metal folding chairs which were replaced by the red upholstered ones years later. I remember that Erna Druebert's husband built the altar/communion table and that Elrine Fischer had the pulpit and lectern built to match the baptismal font with the memorials for her husband. I remember that Gladys Baese helped to organize the kitchen. And she insisted on order for years, trying to avoid chaos by labeling all the drawers and doors. The Baeses did so much for the Church, I'm glad that Baese Hall is named for them.

I have enjoyed lots of wonderful fellowship around me. It was great when Ruby Behrendt would make big pots of soup for the weekly Lenten luncheons. She also presided over the kitchen for those monthly pot-luck meals. I really enjoy the tastes and smells when this congregation decides to eat together! I always feel the sadness and concern when we serve receptions for the families after funerals. I love it when the children have Sunday School around me. I don't like the feel of glue and glitter, but I do love the feel of colored sugar and sprinkles when it's cookie baking time! And the youth make great pizzas, too! I've heard jokes, community news, politics, and, yes, a little gossip! But very seldom have I heard anger and dissention – frustration and confusion, maybe – but not hurtful words.

I have loved the worship services in this building (Baese Hall). I was both glad and sorry when the new sanctuary was built. It left me a little lonely. But I'm still kept quite busy. People still meet and eat here. It has been an honor to be a part of this congregation. May God continue to bless you many more years. Keep the good food coming – I'm ready!

**Prayer:** *Mealtime has come, the Board is spread, thanks be to God, who gives us bread. Praise God for bread. Amen.*

Happy anniversary, Faith U.C.C.  
Your Kitchen Table  
**Emma Lou Bizer**

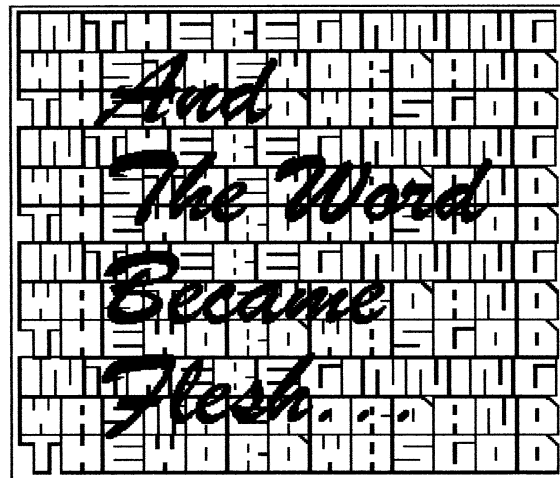
**Monday December 4, 2006**

**Scripture:**

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he love us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. (I John 4:7-12)*

**Memories of Faith:**

When we visited Faith the first time is what I remember most about Faith U.C.C. Everybody made us feel so at home. We still had services in what is now Baese Hall and the fellowship after church was unbelievable. On our way home after church, Kermit and I both knew, we wanted to make that our church home and family. That fellowship is still the same now.



And during Kermit's illness, all the concerns, visits and prayers meant so much to us. I am so thankful that God had led us to Faith Church.

**Prayer:**

*Dear God, thank you for the loving and faithful church family you have led me to, in your name I pray. Amen.*

*Evelyn Krueger*

**Tuesday December 5, 2006**

**Scripture:**

***I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together. (Psalm 121:1-3)***

***After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; . . . 'Look your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' Then he went down with them to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart." (Luke 2:46-51)***

**Memories of Faith:**

My favorite memory of Faith UCC: I believe my favorite memory of my church would be Tiffany's year of Confirmation. Tiffany was the only youth of age to participate in confirmation ... so the pastor thought that it would be a good idea if I could participate with her. She and I would meet Pastor Lee once a week in the evenings after school and work for a couple of hours of study and reflection. It took about a year to complete and we looked forward to this time. Through this enriching experience, Tiffany and I bonded in a very spiritual way that will last us for the rest of our lives. I really enjoyed the opportunity to share this special time with her and our church.

**Prayer:**

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.' For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. (Psalm 121:6-9)***

Michele Gilbreth

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*Merry Christmas*

Wednesday December 6, 2006

**Scripture:** *Now after they left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up and took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'* (Matthew 2:13-15)

#### **Memories of Faith:**

I remember the Faith Extravaganza's we would have once a month for children and youth. These were held on Saturday mornings for 4-5 hours. Word went out throughout the neighborhood that parents could drop their children off for a morning of Bible study, games, trips, and fun. Church members contacted anyone they knew who had children. Some canvassed the neighborhood letting families know about Faith Extravaganza. Children and youth would invite their friends to come and join them. At one point the program grew to about 20-25 kids! All this from a church, which at the time had few if any children!

Among the special activities that the children did was to practice and perform plays. The plays would deal with something they could relate to. Sometimes these plays would be performed during the Sunday worship. I especially remember the Christmas plays that we use to do. They always added to the joy of the season.

Lunch would be served at the conclusion of the Saturday morning activities. Church members would sometimes bring food in for the children, or it would be prepared on site. Sometimes the children themselves would prepare their own meals, with supervision from the adults.

This program proved to be a marvelous outreach to children and families. Several families in the church today first had contact with Faith U.C.C. through the Saturday Extravaganza's. It was a lot of hard work, but it was worth it.

#### **Prayer:**

*O God we give you thanks for caring and sharing and a church that reaches out to others. We give you thanks for children's laughter and for times of learning. We give you thanks for the children who went through the Saturday Extravaganza experiences and who are adults today. Be with us O God as we seek to minister to children and youth today. There are many difficulties that children face today. Help us to be a community of faith that can help children grow up to become followers of you, adults who use their gifts and talents for the betterment of their community and the world. Amen.*

**Kathy Hoffmann**

Thursday December 7, 2006

**Scripture:**

*I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God: I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have rescued.” (Psalm 71:22-23)*

**Memories of Faith:**

One of my fondest memories of Faith Church was the dedication of our new sanctuary – a beautiful building, minus the art windows which would come later and were dedicated as memorials for some of the Saints of Faith Church.



There was the new organ which filled the sanctuary with beautiful sounds. The organ was dedicated later and I was privileged to play the dedicatory recital.

The service included a great sermon and the congregation sang some of the great hymns of the church. The sanctuary was filled with beautiful sounds of great anthems sung by a 20-voice choir, who did themselves proud and added much to the festive occasion.

It was a day I will remember always and I wish I could wave a magic wand and reproduce some of the efforts that made that day so memorable.

**Prayer:**

*O God, you are worthy of praise, we give thanks for hymns, songs of praise, and musical instruments. We give you thanks for all who make such joyful sounds possible: song writers, musicians, and congregants. We are mindful, O God, of Luther's belief, that to sing is like praying twice! As we sing each Sunday may we indeed do so with an attitude of prayer and praise to you. Amen.*

**Kenneth Triesch**

**Friday December 8, 2006**

**Scripture:** *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* (John 13:34-35)

**Memories of Faith:**

I joined Faith UCC in 1986 when Pastor Ray Bizer was our part-time minister. How he was able to juggle all his responsibilities, I never understood. But his services and his sermons were always presented in such a heart-felt way. He and Emma Lou are part of my earliest and best memories.

I remember how we all threw ourselves into decorating for Christmas, even to using live cedar swags and wreaths decorated with red berries and bows, lots of candles, especially in the windows. I remember lots of real potluck dinners/suppers where all the ladies brought their favorite recipes, it was never planned but it always came out that we had meats, vegetables, salads and desserts. Umm Yummy!

The Easter sunrise service at Slumber Falls are special memories. After the service we would have breakfast together, mostly made by Ruby Behrendt, who also made wonderful soups for our Lenten luncheons.

It was great to have our 14-year-old son, Jonathan, become our church organist and learn to play the organ. (He was really a pianist.) He learned quite a lot in the four years, until he graduated.

I remember teaching Sunday School for a couple of years back then. Wilton Warnecke's grandson, Ross, was in one of the classes the year we were invited to come to the Leber's ranch and "play" with the goats. The children, especially Ross, really enjoyed that experience.

But my favorite memories are concerned with all the people I've met and loved over these 28 years. Each one had something to teach me, if I was paying attention. I think of the Elmer Whitcombs, Marie Rose Rimmel, Hilda Woelke, Aunt Elrine Fischer, Olga Heitkamp, (Kathy Hoffmann's sweet mother), Elva Stratemann, Elizabeth Jentsch, Delton and Lola Behrens, Helen Bolton's parents, Carl and Selma Herbel. (She always wore a hat to church – and she had some pretty ones!)

These are only a few of the wonderful people who have left us a long time ago. But I remember them fondly. The people of Faith, living and dead, are my best memories. We have been like a large and supportive family. We were there for each other in illness, death, and crises in the family and crises in the church. Faith Church is my "home away from home."



**Betty Triesch**



**Saturday December 9, 2006**

**Scripture:** *If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*  
(Philippians 2:1-2)

**Memories of Faith:**

My favorite memory of Faith UCC is one that I share with my wife, Jennifer – our wedding day. We were married at Faith UCC on October 26, 2002. Looking back on that day I realize that it is special for many reasons. Some of which we have only recently come to realize. That day happened to be the last day that all of my grandmother's sisters and last remaining sister-in-law were together. After that, because of illness and now death, they were never together again.

It was also special because the ministers who married us, Rev. Karl Brown, introduced us and was able to watch our relationship grow and change from one of friendship to marriage. Jennifer's cousin Kevin and his wife Rachel were pregnant with their first child, but they hadn't told anybody yet. It was still just their personal joy at our wedding. Now, as I am expecting my first child, I know how special and intimate those first weeks are when just you and your wife hold that secret.

Jennifer's Grandpa, Roland Pantermuehl, blessed our rings during the ceremony. Every time I look at my wedding band, I think of the strength of this man when he held our rings in his large hands and of the loving relationship he held for 60 plus years with his wife, and it reminds me of the strength of my marriage.

The best part of that day was that I was able to share the extent of my love for my wife with everyone in the church. I can still picture exactly how beautiful the church looked that day, how cozy it felt in the sanctuary surrounded by loved ones, and how wonderful it was to be sharing this day in the church Jennifer grew up in. Now that it is my church as well, this day at Faith UCC holds even more meaning for me. The Scripture reading from our wedding was Philippians 2:1-2 and was read by another very important person in our lives, Jennifer's uncle Rick.

**Prayer:** *O God, we give you thanks for all the weddings that have taken place at Faith Church. We remember Jesus' first miracle was a wedding in Cana, in Galilee. Jesus continues to bless loving relationships. Help us to have the mind of Christ in all our dealings with those around us. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.*

**Tim Marlow**

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**Sunday December 10, 2006**

**Scripture:** *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'*  
(Mark 1:9-11)

**Memories of Faith:**

One of my favorite memories is when Hilmar and I and also our daughter Darlene and her husband Gerald Jerry Raderstorf joined the little church. Their son Gerald Alan was baptized by Rev. Ray Bizer, with prayer and a potluck dinner with friends afterwards. This was in 1982. This was when the church was in what is now Baese Hall.

Then they built the larger building we have now. It is very nice. We love it. Rev. Leroy Zillmann was our preacher for a good many years. His wife Sharon was our Sunday School teacher. We always enjoyed the Christmas plays.



Our prayers go to everyone, all the nice people we have in our church.

**Prayer:** *O God, we give you thanks for all those who have been baptized in Faith U.C.C. through the years. We give you thanks for molding us into the Body of Christ. Help us all to remember our baptismal vows each and every day. We give you thanks for sisters and brothers in Christ, who walk with us in our Christian walk. Amen.*

**Norma Remmler**

**Monday December 11, 2006**

**Scripture:** *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (I Corinthians 1:4-9)*

**Memories of Faith:**

It was in January 1979, in the midst of a snow storm that brought 24 inches of snow to the community in which we were living in Missouri when we loaded up a moving van to journey to New Braunfels to take up residence there. In a sense it was Slumber Falls Camp that brought us to Texas. In order for Faith Church to secure a pastor who was a resident of the New Braunfels community it seemed appropriate to relate Faith Church to Slumber Falls Camp in order to minister to both. And that was what brought Emma Lou and the writer to this community.

At Faith Church we were welcomed by a small and dedicated group of people who were the nucleus upon which the future of Faith Church would build. Our first Sunday at Faith Church embarked us on a journey that seemed most appropriate. We found a warm reception and immediately found ourselves immersed in planning for new events. Lent, Good Friday and Easter were soon upon us but also of major concern was planning for the summer program at Slumber Falls Camp. A few volunteers had been recruited but it was necessary over the winter months to finalize leadership, publicity and registration procedures for the camping program of the South Central Conference.

All in all my recollection of Faith Church had to include Slumber Falls Camp. In both instances the early days of our ministry here provided pleasant memories with warm reception and a bright potential for the continuing relationship between Faith Church and Slumber Falls Camp.

**Prayer:**

*We are grateful, Dear God, for the opportunities that unite us in ministry and service. Amen.*

Rev. Raymond W. Bizer



**Tuesday December 12, 2006**

**Scripture:** *Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.* (Acts 2:43-47)

### **Memories of Faith:**

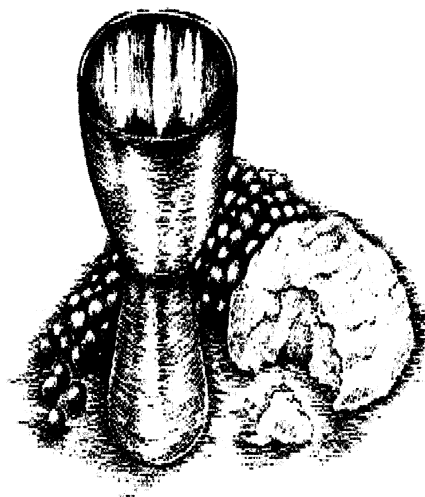
Holy Communion has always been an important part of the life of Faith Church. When I first became pastor of the congregation I noted a special practice of the members at the time of communion. As time went on I began to appreciate more and more the simple practice, that when the members were to receive the communion elements they gathered in a large circle around the communion table.

That practice gave simple support to our being together as the body of Christ as we even assisted one another to come forward. Symbolically it lifted up the centrality of the communion table and the celebration of that special meal.

The fellowship around that table was significant even when it became necessary to have two circles because of the number of communicants. It always symbolized our oneness as the church of Jesus Christ centered around the table. "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all unity may one day be restored and they'll know we are Christians by our love."

**Prayer:** *O God, help us to look to you as the center of life for all of us. Amen.*

**Rev. Raymond W. Bizer**



Wednesday December 13, 2006

**Scripture:**

*There is nothing better for mortals than to eat and drink, and finding enjoyment in their toil. This also, I saw is the hand of God; for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy; but to the sinner he gives the work of gathering and heaping, only to give to the one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a chasing after wind.*  
(Ecclesiastes 2:24-26)

**Memories of Faith:**

In February 1986, I became a member of Faith U.C.C. A very short time after becoming a member, I was asked to be church secretary. I thought this would be a temporary position but it has now been 18 years and I have enjoyed it very much.



My first thought when I started working in the Baese Hall office was "It is so small. I have a closet in my new home that is larger than this!" The furniture, filing cabinet and photocopier filled the room. There was little space to sit or to assemble newsletters, etc.

I will never forget the day we moved into the new sanctuary and office. The new office was so spacious and attractive! It has been a blessing to have had this opportunity to work with pastors and members of Faith Church for all these years.

**Prayer:**

*Father, thank you for giving me the opportunity to work together with my church family and I pray that my work has been worthwhile and that I can enjoy the wonderful memories from it. Amen.*

**Norma Gilbert**

**Thursday December 14, 2006**

**Scripture:** *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.'* (Luke 2:14)

**Memories of Faith:**

I'm grateful to be a member of Faith Church and to celebrate another Christmas with our church family. The Christmas carols bring back joyful memories of past Christmas'. My husband Roland, always looked forward to the Christmas Eve service, as it meant his family would be together. I look forward each year to the singing of "Joy to the World" and then "Silent Night," when the candles were lit throughout the darkened sanctuary.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth its praises bring;  
Let every heart prepare Christ room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven,  
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
The glories of God's righteousness  
and wonders of God's love,  
And wonders of God's love, and wonders,  
wonders of God's love.

**Prayer:**

*O God, how good it is to praise your name in this holy season, to remember Christmas' past and present and Christmas' to come. May we hear your voice in times of stillness and may we see your light in times of darkness. May the "dawn of redeeming grace" fill our lives in this holy season and in the times to come. Amen.*

**Julia Pantermuehl**

