



# NEWSLETTER

# 1986

## The Visitor

JANUARY 19th

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Trustees has placed our Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 19th, at 2:30p.m. We will have no refreshment time on that Sunday in order to eat and get back for the meeting. The pastor will be out of town from Jan. 11 until Jan. 15th helping Union Congregational Church of Green River, Wyo., celebrate their 100th anniversary on the 14th. He was the minister there from 1956 to 1959 when he came to Austin. That factor means that it would be very helpful for chairpersons to have reports ready to be copied as soon as possible.

No decisive vote on the future of the church will be held, but a update will be given. We will be voting on the 1986 Budget, funding for an intern year to explore student and young adult possibilities in our area. The plans developed by David Ashton for air conditioning the worship area and the Fellowship Room of the church will be presented and voted on. The Board of Trustees will be meeting on Jan. 12th and will make recommendations on all of the above proposals from a fiscal standpoint. Officers, etc., for the coming year will be elected. We may have a report from our lawyer on our lawsuit against the City of Austin.

We hope that as many members as possible will be with us to discuss matters of importance prayerfully.

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**PLEDGE TOTALS**

Last year we had thirty-three pledges in hand at the time of the Annual Meeting, but we already have 39 pledges in before the end of the year. Actual totals to date are:

General-\$39,810, OCWM-\$7,185, and New Church Starts-\$2,380. Pledges that were made last year but not in yet would bring the general total up to \$42,920. We need \$50,185 to easily meet our proposed budget for 1986 which features higher ministerial pay and the installation of air conditioning, and joining Interfaith Sponsoring Committee. Our final totals for 1985, including those not in until later were: \$39,878 for General, \$7,188 for OCWM, and \$1869 for New Church Starts. Our pledges are a new high for this church, but it would be helpful to have others to assure us that we can afford to meet the new challenges.

We also had a special gift to reduce our debt and a special pledge for Back Bay Mission beyond the amount in our budget for General.

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 An excellent response was made by the Austin public to the appeal by the Capital Area Food Bank for donations of canned goods. The warehouse is full. Jean Cassel spent two days helping to sort the donations.



### SERMON TOPICS



Because of the close proximity to Christmas when we had communion, we will not have the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of January, the 5th. We do hope that you will remember to bring food for the Faith Food Pantries. The extra push of Christmas sometimes means that people do not give in the first part of the new year. As

you read Jer. 31:7-14, you come across the phrase "To Flowing Streams" which have even more of an impact to people living in a desert area as the Israelites did. This section could have been the work of a later writer for it has so much hope that Jeremiah does not have, but we can read Eph. 1:3-6, 15-18, and John 1:1-8 and discover ways that the yearning of Jeremiah or another writer is fulfilled.

Epiphany, or the visit of the wisemen, is on Monday, Jan. 6. Some give gifts on this day, which is the twelfth day of Christmas. Sermons on both the 5th and 12th may have a bit to say about the occasion. Read Matt. 2:1-12.



The pastor will be in Green River, Wyo., on Jan. 12 to join in a three day celebration with his former parish of their 100th anniversary on Jan. 14th. If you know Wyoming January winters, you know that it was a real act of faith to start a church on that date. The Rev. Sarah Bentley has graciously agreed to lead the worship and to preach on the 12th. She indicated that she would use the lectionary of Isa. 61:1-4, Acts 8:14-17, and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. She may have a few words about her hopes for Congregational Church of Austin. Her topic is "A Showing of Faith."

The Rev. Dwight Bailey is Chaplain of Huston-Tillotson College and works with United Campus Ministry of Austin with the minority students at the University of Texas. He has already achieved a remarkable amount of participation of the young people at Huston-Tillotson. He was scheduled to preach on Dec. 15 but we postponed his presentation because Roger Paine was in Austin at that time and



desired the opportunity to preach. We do not know if Dwight will use the lectionary of not for January 19. It is Isa. 62:1-5, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, John 2:1-11. We

will be having the Annual Meeting of the



### "An Inventory"

Local businesses have sales on toward the end of the month of December and then hold an inventory of goods that they have on hand. They have to pay taxes on what they have so they try to reduce inventory. Fortunately we as a church and as individuals do not have to undertake that chore. We do need to examine how we have spent our time, energy, and resources to determine if they have been used to best advantage.

Think about the way your time was used for work or study. Did you do your best? Did your recreational interests provide you with physical, mental, and spiritual health? Did you allot time for Bible reading? Do you have a regular prayer time? Do you effectively use a meditation time to relax and receive new energy? (Our church owns tapes which could prove helpful to you.)

As a church we can be resentful of the time and energy spent in trying to keep 23rd St. open at all times. Our law-suit may accomplish that or it could provide funds for a new church location. We could continue operations on a mission basis in the present building, rent it on a commercial basis, or sell it. What we really need to know is if we want to minister to young adults living in our neighborhood. An intern year by a seminarian could help us know the answer to the mission here.

When you read our Annual Reports you will be amazed at how much we have spent on our physical plant. We still have a decision to make on air conditioning, but we have accomplished a great deal this past year.

SERMONS (cont)--The church calendar informs me that Jan. 26th is Ecumenical Sunday and Covenant Sunday, but we are not certain of just what that means. 1 Cor. 12:27 is saying to us that "You Are Christ's Body" indicated the basis for a covenant community, and it witnesses to a wider fellowship than just UCC churches. Read Neh. 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor. 12:12-30 and Luke 4:14-21. The pastor will be preaching the sermon on that date.

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"Day Dawn of the Heart"

is not enough that the Christ was born  
Beneath the star that shone,  
and earth was set that holy morn  
Within a golden zone.  
must be born within the heart  
Before he finds his throne,  
and brings the day of love and good,  
the reign of Christlike brotherhood.

-Mary T. Lathrop  
31 Christ in Poetry, ed. Thomas Curtis  
Clark and Hazel Davis Clark

Dec. 5th the City Council voted an ordinance close 23rd St. from the alley to Guadalupe

"Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God, . . . lest, when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, . . . Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth. . . ." (Deut. 8:11-18)

St. six days a week. All six member present voted in favor of the ordinance. John Trevino was not present. We do not have a copy of the ordinance as yet.

THE CONFERENCE FUTURING TASK FORCE will be meeting in Austin Jan. 24-25. They are asking us to help them know the following:  
1. How church members perceive SCC at this point in time.  
2. To spent time thinking about SCC in light of some historical background information and documents which describe the Conference.  
3. To review the goals, priorities, and program emphases that SCC has been following for the past five years.  
4. To consider how SC Conference might be in light of what they've read and discussed.

We could have a group meet at church school time or have sessions at a home.  
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THE MEXICAN ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE TO AID VICTIMS has targeted the rural areas for relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction assistance to earthquake vistims. These areas were chosen as other sources have given them a low priority. Church World Service has pledged \$500,000 for this effort. You can assist by sending funds to "Mexico Emergency", Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Eldhart, Indiana, 46515. One hundred percent of contributions will be used for that purpose. We suspect that Church World Service will also respond to the volcano vistims in Colombia. Call Howard Hartman at 478-7491 for information.  
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AUSTIN INTERFAITH SPONSORING COMMITTEE Staff person, Mr. Ken Fujimoto, met with representatives of Deacons and Trustees after church on Dec. 15 to explain the work of the committee. It would cost out church \$500 per year to be a member of the group. Later some concern was expressed about how representatives from the local church have input and how issues are selected. The program includes black Baptist churches, and Roman Catholic churches in black and Hispanic areas. Present issues are affordable housing, medical care, and safe neighborhoods. The group has arranged meetings with the chief of police and the mayor.  
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Has simple living simply vanished? Whatever happened to "simple living"? A decade ago Christians, in the name of their doctrines of creation and stewardship, now and then advocated some restraint in the use of resources. As I read the editorials and listen to the preachments, it seems to me that many have joined the squander-and-flaunt-it culture. There are still some Mennonites out there urging believers to note that there is a better way ("...where your treasure is.."), and some groups like those who promote the Other Side magazine in evangelicalism are still holdouts. But concern for environment now shows up chiefly--or only?--when one's community is endangered (e.g., near toxic dumps) and seldom as an element in stewardship of the earth. Or am I missing something or someone?"  
-Martin E. Marth

Context, January 1, 1986  
Thanks to Linda Norelli for typing most of this newsletter.



# CALENDAR



**YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT** will be held Jan. 3-5 at Slumber Falls Camp starting about 9p.m. Friday night and wrapping up just before noon on Sunday. The agenda is: 1. Evangelism: The Rev. Glen Schoeneberg of Burton will be leading the program on Evangelism. He will focus both on creating some excitement for evangelism and on equipping us with tools that will enhance our own personal styles of evangelism; 2. Business Meeting: The 1986 Young Adult Tash Force will be selected. Last year the procedure was modified so that we choose people for five at-large positions (1-year terms). "Crossroads '86" will also be discussed.

Cost is \$35. Call Harvey Isleib at (512)-625-2212 and give your name, address, and phone number.

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**FAITH EXPLORATION** for youth will be on Jan. 17-19 at Slumber Falls Camp with registration commencing at 7:00 p.m. on the 17th. The cost is \$35, but this gathering is for our high school young people. If you have questions about it, call Mr. T. Jay Tarkington at (713)-473-2709.

Keep these dates in mind too! Feb. 14-15--Brazos Association Youth Rally at Faith UCC in Bryan; March 1-2--Work Camp at Slumber Falls for Brazos Assoc., and Youth Cabinet meeting also meets there; May 23-25--Annual South Central Conference Meeting in New Orleans. It would be good for our church to have a youth delegate.

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**FRIENDS OF THE AUSTIN FREE SOUTH AFRICA COALITION** announces a "Freedom March" on Sat., Jan. 11 from east Austin to the Capital Grounds. Form at Comal and E. Martin Luther King, Jr., at 9:30a.m. Call Akwasi Eveans (474-8315) or Rhonda Williams (451-9646) for information.

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**PERSONALS(cont)**--We heard that the Briggs family took a trip to Florida, and Tommie and Doyal Pinkard visited Doyal's sister in Houston on the 29th.

Beth Oakes, Stephanie Phillips, Dorcas Tomasek, and Paula Briggs were home from college for the holidays. Jon Briggs is back in Austin and will work before entering St. Edwards Univ. Linda Bulkeley is in Ariz. for the holidays.

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**CHURCH MEETING** on Dec. 29th affirmed Judy and Rick Vensas as potential members and Jeff Perigo as an associate member. Nine members were placed on inactive status at their request. Eleven others who did not respond to the letter from the church have been placed on inactive status. Names will be published in our Annual Reports.

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**OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE** has already met and reports that they should have a full slate of nominees for the Annual Meeting of the Church. It will be posted by Sunday, Jan. 5gh. As usual, nominations from the floor are in order if the person nominated has indicated a willingness to serve and is eligible according to our constitution.

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 Jean Cassel and Beth Placek will be working on a plan to seek a group that desires to minister to a retirement home.

The Austin State Hospital needs your old paperback books, especially mysteries. Jean Cassel will take them there for you. They do not need magazines.

Sun., Jan. 5: Church School at 9:50a.m. 11 a.m. Worship. "To Flowing Streams". Board of Deacons meets following the service.

Sun., Jan. 12: 9:50 a.m. Church School. 11 a.m. Worship. The Rev. Sarah Bentley leads worship and preaches on "A Showing of Faith." Board of Trustees will meet following worship.

(The pastor is away from Sat., Jan. 11 to Wed., Jan. 15, in Green River, Wyo.)

Fri., Jan. 17: Discussion of Future of South Central Conference at the parsonage from 7-10 p.m., if church school does not wish to do the task.

Sun., Jan. 19: 9:50 a.m. Church School. 11 a.m. Worship. The Rev. Dwight Bailey will preach. 2:30 p.m.: Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Room of the church.

Sat., Jan. 25, 3:00 p.m. Wedding of Beth Placek and Glenn Williams.

Sun., Jan. 26: 9:50 a.m. Church School. 11 a.m. Worship. "You Are Christ's Body."

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**PERSONALS (cont)**--joining us as an associate member upon returning to Austin from Beloit, Wisc.

Cindy and Tad Anderson flew to Chicago to visit relatives before renting a car to drive to Minn. to see Tad's parents.

We have missed Larissa, Marilyn, and Gary Pickens, who went to Colorado to visit family there.

Cathy and Clark Hubbs journeyed to Gray, Tenn. to be with son John and his family and then on to Overland Park, KS., to see daughter Laura and her family. They will also get to see daughter Ann, but we forget exactly where.

Eunice and Bob Paul are in their new flat in Leatherhead. We hope their two new fold-out couches arrived in time for them to host Lydia and Dean Tapley and sons. Their address is: 11, Beechwood Park, Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, England. They will return to Austin on Jan. 22 and then go back to England in February to stay until late August.

Ches Towery decided that the house that he and ex-wife Lucy owned needed better care. Now the Towery clan is busy during the holidays painting and fixing up the house, located at 1604 Cloverlead in NE Austin. It has two bedrooms, a den or small bedroom, 2 baths, utility, dining area, kitchen, fenced-in yard, stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. Rent is \$525 a month. Contact Eleanor at 453-1800 if interested.

Sara and Dave Ross not only hosted son Mike for two weeks but also two of Sara's sisters and their families.

Midori Hiraizumi brought her brother, who attends N. Carolina State in Raleigh, to church with her. Fiance Oliver Campbell was back after a visit home to New York State.

Many of us hosted visits during the holidays. Eleanor Towery and Mary Masters drove to Garland on the 20th to bring back Tanya and Pamela Johnson. Parents, Tom and Sally, joined them on Mon the 23rd. Ches Towery was back for the week to prepare the house. The Everetts also hosted daughter Dot, husband Brian Waldrip, and their daughter Kathy. Rizer's brother Richard, from San Francisco, also joined them for a few days. Chris Pinkard and wife Bette were in from Indiana.



The big news for our January issue is hearing from our former members who have moved away. Herb Pickett, who now lives in LaCanada, Ca. but is still star gazing, was able to get a Christmas letter out thanks to the computer. Nancy is back to work as an aid in the Language Arts Dept. of the local high school. Herb not has 12 in his group at

the Jet Propulsion Lab. In Dec. he received funding for an instrument to measure OH from balloons. In April he gets to go to Australia to measure water in Halley's Comet. All three children are doing great.

From East Lansing, Mi., Mike Chial reports that one son is in college and the other two are growing rapidly. Carolyn is working full-time now. Mike is not obtaining research funding and is taking outside work (mostly forensic stuff, industrial hearing conservation, and auditory criteria for employment), increased writing and speaking engagements (mostly about computer-speech synthesis, software design and evaluation, and advisory and review work for private and federal grant agencies. Megan is 12, doing piano and choir, Douglas is 17, workd, subscribes to Gentlemen's Quarterly, plays the violin, and learns German and tap dancing. Eric is 21, majoring in philosophy and psychology, takes 2nd year Russian and hopes to visit Leningrad this summer.

Janet Little attended school here and was in a co-op living arrangement. She belongs to a Congregational Church in Nashville, Tenn. The church has sponsored an Ethiopian family that is adjusting to new language and culture. Father Fessehai works at Vanderbilt Hospital in temporary services seeking recertification in nursing school and was arrested while learning on a motor-scooter without a license. He also drove Janet's car into a ditch while learning driving. He now has both a car and a motor scooter. Janet attended the national women's gathering at Monteagle, Tenn., in Oct., and twice was at Knobbs Haven Retreat Center operated by the Sisters of Lonetto. She is back in the public school system which will enable her is travel more, perhaps to Austin.

Laurene Melchar worked with our youth in the 60's and is now retired in Lincoln, Neb. She reports a conjusing year. "I had accepted the responsibility as a consultant in five states for the National Lauback programs. About two months later a sister-in-law died suddenly and five weeks later a brother-in-law died suddenly and unexpectedly. I spent three months on the west coast and am now trying to get my own situation organized again."

Pat and Becci Russell stayed at home in Merom, Indiana, enjoying it greatly. They are scheduled for a two week trip through Europe in Jan. and

are quite excited about it. They benefited from one of those overbooked flights and got enough cash to make the trip!

Former member John Everett and wife Barbara obtained \$500 and first class tickets on Dec. 27th on an overbooked flight. They were hoping it would happen again but took off.

Hamp Shuford reported cold weather and snow in North Carolina. He was still ecstatic about Geneva and Calvin's church. He might even decide that Presbyterians can be Christians.

Kazuko and Dennis Schneider had a good visit through the states and are busy back in Tokyo where Dennis continues to teach English at the Univ. of Tokyo. Kazuko is busy with classes in tea ceremony, flower arranging, teaching housewives and children's English classes. She is also cooking the evening meal for 100 kids for the Youth Club each Wed. night at the church. Katrina Takako plays the piano, knits, and makes dolls and doll clothes. She will be attending the American School in Japan next year which is expensive, and the Schneiders are considering moving closer to that. They welcomed a church retreat at Kiyosato, a rural conference center 4 or 5 hours in the mountains from Tokyo.

Christine Caughlan Brisbin wrote from 217 Monroe St., Oswego, Ill, 60543, and reported that she was about to graduate from college and the three children were doing fine. She sent school pics, and they have really grown.

Tom and Ann Whitcomb (he was minister at Trinity Ucc for 11 years) are excited about retiring in March to move to their home: Impulse Acres, Gladden Star Route, Box 204, Salem, MO, 65560. Tom will serve Shannondale Ucc for two weeks while living in a little cottage and enjoying 40 acres of timber, a 3 acre pond, a small house, and 4 out buildings. They will build a larger home.

The Frank Horaks are likely breathing easier after the marriage of son Hank who finally finished his schooling after going after additional training. Elouise still teaches at Tarleton State, and all children are now or soon will be gainfully employed. Hank was Santa Claus at Foley's the past two years.

Judy and Rick Vensas and two children journeyed to Minn. for the holiday season. We are hoping to receive them as new members this coming month.

Jeff Perrigo, a UT student, will also be

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