

## **Torture is a Moral Issue**

Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved—policy-makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished values. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable.

Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed?

Let America abolish torture now—without exceptions.

On June 13, *The New York Times* published the statement “Torture is a Moral Statement” with the signatures of twenty-seven religious leaders from across the United States. Those who signed included former President Jimmy Carter, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, Sojourners Director Jim Wallis, retired military chaplain Major General Rev. Kermit Johnson, and a number of seminary presidents, university professors, and the leaders of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith communities.

One of the signatories, Professor David P. Gushee of Union University in Tennessee, who wrote an article against torture earlier this year for *Christianity Today*, was quoted in the *Washington Post* saying, “I’m worried that we still don’t truly know what is going on in all our detention centers around the world.”

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture posted an expanded version of the Torture is a Moral Issue text on its website and invited all who supported it to sign it. The expanded statement includes the following statement:

The President’s signing statement, which he issued when he signed the McCain Amendment into law, implies that the President does not believe he is bound by the amendment in his role as commander in chief. The possibility remains open that inhumane methods of interrogation will continue. Furthermore, in a troubling development, for the first time in our nation’s history, legislation has now been signed into law that effectively permits evidence obtained by torture to be used in a court of law. The military tribunals that are trying some terrorist suspects are now expressly permitted to consider information obtained under coercive interrogation techniques, including degrading and inhumane techniques and torture.

By June 20, the number of people who had signed the document had reached 5, 900. Rev. Dr. John Thomas, President of the United Church of Christ, was one of those who signed it.

As the members of a church participating in the local Torture is Wrong campaign, I encourage you to read the Torture is a Moral Issue document, and if your conscience or faith move you, to sign it. You can find it at the National Religious Campaign Against Torture website: [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org)

Our prayer, hope, and work...for a new heaven and a new earth.

Tom

### **Board of Christian Education Report**

The Spring Fiesta was held after church on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>, and was a great success. Everyone had a good time, and a special thanks is due to Jen Howicz for organizing the games and to John Goff and Christian Outreach for doing the barbecue. Several hundred dollars were raised for the Hala fund, which is used for the young Palestinian girl we are sponsoring.

The Board met after church on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Childcare services are in place through the month of June, but after that the Board is going to have to make new arrangements. During the summer, the Board will also be working on safety policies for the Sunday School program.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The regular Sunday School program will commence in the fall with a back-to-school breakfast on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Board of Christian Education has many opportunities for members of the congregation to participate in this interesting and very important activity of the church. There are two openings on the Board for persons who would like to help plan the policies and activities of the CE program. There are always opportunities for teachers, and the fall semester will be starting in a couple of months. We do rotate teachers so that they will not have to miss the Sunday sermon too often. If you would like to take part in the teaching services, yet are not too sure about what to do, we can team you up with more experienced teachers to give you a gentle introduction! Also, we need to establish a cadre of church women and men who can serve as a second person to back up the child care worker in the nursery during church (this is part of the safety policies we are developing).

If you are interested in any of these activities, or just have some questions about them, please see Liz Nash, Nancy Edison, or Doyal Pinkard. We will be happy to talk with you.

### **Teachers Still Needed This Summer**

As the *Visitor* goes to press, we still need THREE "Sunday School Lite" teachers, one (or more) each for July 9 and August 6 & 13. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know our wonderful group of kids, and they will know you better, too. You can do it! For Summer Sundays, you can teach something familiar and interesting to you that would appeal to elementary school kids (kindergarten through 5th grade) or you can use material that we already have to put together a lesson. Just let Liz Nash know if you need ideas. And sign up on the table in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!

### **Chairs of our Boards**

Trustees:

Reuel Nash

Deacons: Betty Bodman  
Christian Education: Nancy Edison & Doyal Pinkard  
Christian Outreach: John Goff

### **FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

Looking at the summer ahead from the perspective of mid-June, here are the things that, hopefully, have been going on while you all have been having a restful, re-invigorating summer.

The Welcomers met at the beginning of the summer and reorganized their efforts to make our visitors feel less like new outsiders and more like welcome participants in our service and church life. The deacons greatly appreciate the wonderful work our "official" Welcomers do to bring new members into our congregation. We also appreciate how much thought the our entire congregation puts into making our church an open and inviting community.

The workshop with Carla Cheatham to help people identify what special gifts they may bring to our community is scheduled for a Saturday at the end of July.

We have a number of terrific fall events to look forward to:

In September the Deacons are planning a special service to honor our members who have given a lifetime of service to the church.

Also this fall we plan on resuming the effort to create a picture directory of members and friends. You may remember that Reuel Nash took digital photographs of at least some of us about two years ago. We can use those photos, or, if you prefer an up-dated photo, we will re-take your mug shot.

Last, but not least, the Deacons will hold a (used) book, CD, DVD, video sale this fall. The proceeds will go into the fund we maintain to send some expression of sympathy to church members who have lost a loved one. We appreciate the donations you have (will) made and hope you can find some treasures at the sale this fall.

### **OUTREACH ALERT**

#### **400 Voices Project**

It's a little early to be thinking about "back to school", but the Outreach Board is planning on conducting another "back to school" drive for school supplies. This effort benefits the Trepca School in Kosova as part of the 400 Voices project, a sister city program set up by Kosova native and Austin resident Dita Dauti. Last year's drive was a tremendous success, filling up 12 backpacks worth of supplies. The Sunday School children worked to fill up the back packs, and Ms. Dauti came and talked with the children about the Trepca School and the children of Kosova. This year we are planning of having Ms. Dauti make a slide presentation to the entire congregation regarding her most recent trip to deliver school supplies to the Trepca School.

#### **T-Shirts Still Available**

Although we sold 80% of our new Congregational Church of Austin T-shirts (with all sales benefiting Back Bay Mission), we still have all sizes available. Ask John Goff if you would like to purchase a shirt, or look for them when we also sell Free Trade coffee and chocolate.

### **PERSONALS** **by Pat Oakes**

**Jake Burlinson** is spending five intense weeks in Ft. Lewis, Washington with 5000 other Army ROTC cadets undergoing "Warrior Forge." He'll be put into various leadership positions (many of which simulate combat) to test his intelligence, ingenuity, common sense, and stamina. The cadets will be staying in Vietnam-era barracks, but will be training to fight in the desert--not the jungles of Vietnam.

**Eric Deisler** and his cousin Thomas Deisler enjoyed a three week stint at Camp Champions on Lake LBJ in June. It was Eric's first time for overnight camp. Ava Deisler is taking driver's education at McCallum this summer. She will be a junior in the fall. Incoming freshman Olivia Deisler is excited about being accepted into McCallum's fine arts program. She will be focusing on voice and choir.

Our sympathy and condolences go out to the family of **D.J. Murphy**, Dennis Murphy's father, who died on Wednesday, May 31. D.J. had celebrated his 90th birthday with family on May 1. He had been in ill health for some time and had been under hospice care in the Murphys' home for several months. Dennis and his sister Merita helped with the service which was held in Gainesville, TX, where the Murphy family lived for many years and where Dennis and Merita grew up. All of the grandchildren also had parts in the service. Sarah Murphy Sennour read a passage from D.J.'s autobiography, I NEVER SANG FOR MY FATHER.

Former member **Eunice Paul** reports the Paul family is having many celebrations in August: Joshua and Martina Tapley's wedding blessing will be in their church there on August 5th with fourteen of her Austrian family coming for the occasion. A party for 120 people that evening, organized and catered by Lydia (Eunice and Bob Paul's daughter, wife of Dean Tapley who was our summer pastor here many years ago and now is the minister of the same church in Leatherhead where the late Bob Paul was minister in the 1940s--whew!): Jessica's baptism on Sunday will be followed by lunch for 60 people (in the manse garden, they hope) with Dean at the barbecue. Joshua and Martina were married in a civil ceremony last year in Austria and their daughter Jessica is Eunice's great-grandchild and Dean and Lydia's first grandchild. The following Friday they proceed to Oxford for the weekend for Nathaniel and Zoë's wedding in Mansfield College Chapel on August 12th. There is irony in a good deal of all this: Mansfield is where Eunice first met Bob - he was president of the Congregational Society, which met in the chaplain's house there, and she was a humble first-year student. Many years later their younger son Martin spent his junior year there and, later still, it was their grandson Nathaniel's undergraduate college. In early June, while Joshua, Martina, and Jessica were visiting

Leatherhead from Austria, Lydia realized that five generations of the family have slept in the church manse. The house was built for Bob and Eunice in 1947 when he was the minister there, Eunice's parents stayed with them, Lydia was born there, Nathaniel and Joshua moved there when Dean came to be the minister nearly two years ago and, in early June, fifth generation Jessica has stayed there. All this in a house which does not even belong to the family.

The May 21st **Spring Festival** was a great success. The combined barbecue and games after church raised over \$500 for the Child Sponsorship fund and the Palestinian child we help support. Many thanks to Tom VandeStadt for being the prime pie toss target, John Goff for being the great griller, the Sunday School kids who came up with terrific ideas for games, the folks who brought baked goods for the cake walk, and especially Jen Howicz who coordinated the whole effort. That same Sunday, attractive and very functional new music folders for the choir were dedicated during the church service in memory of **Weldon Scheel**. In attendance for the service was Weldon's widow Marie. She and Florence Castle, long-time friends, sat together during the service and especially enjoyed hearing Nodie Murphy's children's sermon about the wonderful music Weldon brought to so many for so long.

**Frances Alford** enjoyed a wonderful trip to Amsterdam. Her niece Marcy Weeks went with Frances for an art history tour for the Golden Age of Rembrandt. In conjunction with Rembrandt's 400th birthday, Holland has exhibits and celebrations all year for Rembrandt. They were there eleven days. In addition to Rembrandt exhibits, they viewed and studied Van Gogh, Vermeer, and other Dutch Masters. Day trips to Leiden, Rotterdam, Delft, and Den Haag were interesting too.

**George Carruthers** and **Marilyn Gaddis** flew to Tucson at the end of May to visit relatives and to attend the Strategic Air Command's 2006 Reunion in Tucson. Unfortunately, they found that George's oldest sister, who lives in Wickenburg, is in failing health as she approaches her 90th birthday. She can no longer take care of herself and is being moved to a constant care lodge at the retirement ranch where she has been living. There were about 175 "old warriors" attending the Reunion, including several of George's close flying buddies. Tours included the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, a wonderful 21 acres with over 300 animal species and 1200 kinds of plants (a "must see" if you're in the area), the old planes "Boneyard" and the Pima Air and Space Museum. The temperature hovered around 104 both days making water bottles and shade a necessity! The Banquet speaker, The Honorable Thomas C. Reed, former Secretary of the Air Force, gave a most interesting insider's view of the Cold War!

For the first time ever the **Appel family** is having a family reunion. It is to be held here in Austin on the weekend of June 30th through July 2nd. Vic is co-chair of the event along with a cousin from Mexico City. They are planning activities around the city and at Vic's home. It is a chance to show his beautiful new waterfall and expanded veranda to his relatives. Most important, it will be giving his far-flung family a chance to meet one another-- for the first time in a number of cases. They hope to plan for future reunions in coming years. Vic is

expecting 25-30 folks. Activities include a County Line catered meal, a picnic at Zilker Park, and lots of visiting and catching up.

**Mel and Pat Oakes** had a wonderful time at the first ever Oakes-Dose family reunion held in Vicksburg, MS, over the Memorial Day weekend. Over the past year Mel has found and reconnected with many relatives whom he convinced to e-mail him scans of family pictures that they had. Mel spent many, many hours putting together a Power Point presentation using these old family pictures which had only been seen by a few family members. Sixty-seven folks showed up for the gathering session held at Mel's brother Donald's church. The two oldest attendees were in their 90s and two infants were less than 6 months old. Sarah and Mardie Oakes were able to come for the weekend. Beth was unable to come as she and the Maia Quartet were in New York City participating in a workshop with the Juilliard String Quartet. Mardie had to go home on Sunday, but Pat, Mel, and Sarah found it quite moving to tour the National Civil War Park there on Monday, Memorial Day, especially the cemetery where all of the graves were decorated with American flags.

Congratulations to **Mardie Oakes** who is the recipient of a 2 year grant from the Echoing Green Foundation. She was among 12 winners selected from more than 900 applicants. The two year \$30,000/year grant was awarded to her project which involves building and retrofitting housing for mentally and physically challenged folks in the Bay Area who have been institutionalized until now. California is closing down its residential institutions and housing must be developed, especially for those who are most difficult to place. She and the other recipients will be honored at a meeting in Washington, D.C. in late June.

The **Cleaver-Bartholomew family** is enjoying life in Ohio (David Bartholomew served the church during the Towery years.). Audrey and Lydia have made the move to Canton quite well. They love their new school, but are eager for summer to begin. In March, Lydia tied for first place in her very first ice skating competition. Spurred on by her success and her love of skating she is scheduled to compete in another competition in July. (Ice skating competitions in July? Sounds crazy doesn't it?) Audrey is very excited these days as she was recently accepted into the Canton Ballet Company as an apprentice - a very big deal in Canton. Last month Dena began work (finally!) as the part-time Associate Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. St. Paul's is a large (2,200 member) historic church in Akron. Unfortunately, she has about a 40 minute drive one way to work, but they figure that is not too bad considering other metropolitan areas. David continues to deal with various crises in the Eastern Ohio Association, pay visits on the 95 churches in the conference, and learn about being the Association Minister. Thankfully, the learning curve is beginning to level off. He is also heavily involved with a group which is developing a new organizational structure for the Ohio Conference. The sad news is that they had to put their dog, Chester, to sleep at the end of March. He was nearly 15 and his health was failing rapidly. He was not happy, nor comfortable. Now the family takes solace in knowing that he is in dog heaven romping around playfully and happily. David and Dena send their best to all who remember them.

The Maia Quartet, including **Beth Oakes**, violist, will be in Austin the second week of July working with the Austin Chamber Music Festival. Beth is bringing Emily and Ethan with her for entertainment for Pat and Mel who are eagerly awaiting their arrival. The quartet will be in performance on Saturday evening, July 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover. The program will include Beethoven's String Quartet in F major, Opus 18, No.1, Dmitri Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 6, Opus 101, and Greig's String Quartet in G minor, Opus 27. Tickets are \$25.00. Series tickets run less per concert. For more information about the Austin Chamber Music Festival, tickets, and series options, call the office at 454-0026, or go to the Web site at [austinchambermusic.org](http://austinchambermusic.org).

If **Clark and Cathy Hubbs** seemed slightly bleary-eyed the first Sunday in June, it was because of what happened the Saturday before. Clark announced that he was going to do some water chemistry monitoring at San Marcos Springs. When Cathy came back from the grocery about midday, he was already back home. He had tripped over some wires, fallen backward and landed on his head on the concrete! He picked up his gear, drove all the way back by himself, and was sitting at the computer, playing his favorite computer game and bleeding generously from his head down his neck while he assured me he was all right, but when Cathy checked by phone with Matt Blackstock, (bless Matt!), he was in their living room fifteen minutes later! He counseled that a visit to the emergency room and a few stitches would assure a more rapid recovery. So that's why Clark had stitches in the top of his head that Sunday. They both had wonderful Sunday afternoon naps!

**Bill Phillips** is a movie star! Actually, he is part of a new documentary film which was shown at Messiah Lutheran Church on June 18. Bill was one of those interviewed and is shown in the film, along with some photos of his parents and siblings. It is the first film made about military children that features therapists and the overview of such personalities as General Norman Schwarzkopf and Kris Kristofferson, both military brats. The new documentary film about growing up in a military family, "Brats, Our Journey Home," is six-year work of passion by independent film-maker Donna Musil. It features narration and songs by Air Force brat Kris Kristofferson, rare archival footage, photographs, and home movies from post-war Japan and Germany. In the film, American military "brats" of all ethnicities share intimate memories about their interesting childhoods - growing up on military bases around the world, then struggling to fit into an America with which they have little in common, but for which they sacrificed their youth.

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Linda Berard & Diane Borrero  
209 Pleasant Valley Dr  
Georgetown, TX 78626-7559  
512-864-0463  
[agapicsolidarity@yahoo.com](mailto:agapicsolidarity@yahoo.com)

diane@fridakahlo.us

Daniel Brunner Jeffery  
9000 Montbatten Cir  
Austin, TX 78730-3022  
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dbjeffery@hotmail.com

#### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John R. Gage
- 2 Enid Ross
- 4 Kay Lewis
- 5 Ellen Ryan
- 7 David Pinkard
- 8 Julia Adams  
Sarah Murphy Sennour
- 9 Betty Phillips
- 11 Katelyn Lemley
- 15 Jonathan Ashton
- 17 Andy Ross
- 19 Joseph P. McMillan, Jr.
- 23 Gary Barrett  
Chester Rosson
- 24 Brenda Tingle
- 26 Eric Deisler
- 28 Doyal Pinkard  
Andrea Putz
- 31 Lillie Kate Webb

#### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Sharon Brown
- 6 Steven Hawes Domingue
- 10 Debbie Catherine Sennour
- 11 David Ross  
Marty Gooding
- 13 Sarah Ashton
- 21 Loretta A. Lewis
- 22 Cecile L. Ervin
- 24 Mike Ross
- 26 Travis Moore

### **CENTENNIAL PROJECT MOVES FORWARD**

At a special meeting on May 7, the congregation made the momentous decision to embark on the Centennial Project in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1906 completion of the church's first new building.

The Centennial Project's goal is to enable the church better to fulfill its mission by (1) making the church building accessible and inviting to all and (2) protecting the building against long-term deterioration from rainwater damage.

The Congregation empowered the Board of Trustees to solicit funds and to proceed with each of the three stages in the project (proposed by the Centennial Committee in consultation with architects Evan Taniguchi and David Wilson) when it determines that sufficient funds have been raised and pledged. The Congregation also approved a commitment from the Capital Fund of at least \$30,000 to the project's first stage, and at least \$5000 to each of stages two and three.

The first stage will create an accessible restroom, larger kitchen, and more useful nursery on the first floor; provide a safe wheelchair entry; improve the attractiveness and ease of access to the church from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street; and correct rainwater damage and prevent future damage.

The second stage will use signs, fencing, a banner structure, and pressure washing to make the church facility more attractive and inviting to all.

The third stage will provide "vertical access" to the church by installation of an elevator to serve the Towery Wing, and lifts to enable movement from the lower level of the Towery Wing to the Appel room.

Participants in the May 7 meeting expressed the hope that funds for the first stage will be raised in time for it to be completed by December 2006.

In addition to a \$30,000 allocation from the Capital Fund authorized at the May 7 meeting, the Trustees have identified additional cash that brings the total stage one commitment to over \$40,000, and have further authorized the Centennial Committee's fundraising committee (Dennis Murphy, Rambie Briggs, and Tommie Pinkard) to plan and carry out a campaign to raise the remaining funds.

We soon will receive a letter from Dennis, Rambie, and Tommie to describe the plan and to invite cash contributions and pledges. The plan will include a target of September 30 for generating sufficient funds to begin construction of stage one so that the congregation's desire to complete the first stage by December can be realized.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING**

On Friday, June 8 - Sunday, June 11, I attended the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting at the Greenspoint Wyndam Hotel in Houston as the delegate from this church. Also attending were Tom Vandestadt, John Drachenburg, and Lois Drachenburg, with John and Tom being clergy delegates. (Apologies to any church members who were there that I didn't see.) As always at Conference meetings, there was enthusiastic and

**Commented [RWN1]:** If you're going to shorten the document, this can go.

uplifting worship and singing interspersed throughout the conference, with Ron Buford, the Still Speaking campaign leader from the national church, as the main speaker. There were, as well, times to honor significant events such as important ordination anniversaries (John Towery was recognized as an honoree in absentia) and to share about important ministries in the Conference. Perhaps the most moving part of Annual Meeting was the testimony shared by those who had fled Hurricane Katrina and suffered incredible losses. People shared stories of great generosity and outreach by many of our churches. They also shared stories of situations almost defying description that resulted from poorly coordinated government-related rescue and recovery efforts there. Their witness made it clear to all of us that the work to recover from Katrina continues and will need to continue for several years.

We also had workshops on a number of topics. I attended the Disaster Response workshop led by Alan Coe, who is now the Disaster Response Minister in New Orleans. Tom, as a Disaster Response Coordinator in the Conference, assisted Alan. Next week when I travel to Ft. Worth, I also will be getting the content of the Safe Churches workshop to share with our Christian Ed. Committee from the leader of that workshop, Denise Hill, who is a UCC minister in Ft. Worth.

Three significant decisions were made during the Annual Meeting business sessions, and one major decision will be made very soon. The latter will be the call of the new Conference Minister to replace our current interim, Bill Royster. Since the search committee (on which Tommie Pinkard serves) is close to finishing the interview process, the committee anticipates presenting a candidate to the Conference this summer if all goes well. A Conference meeting will be called to vote on this candidate, probably in late August or September. The business items of Annual Meeting were all linked in some way to the call of the Conference Minister. First, we voted on a budget – unfortunately, a deficit budget, with a full salary package for the Conference Minister included. A major task for the coming year will be work (in part, a task of the Conference Minister) to urge churches to restore OCWM monies (Our Church's Wider Ministry monies) that help fund the Conference. Several very conservative churches cut their giving recently because of their objections to the action of the most recent General Synod (the national meeting of the United Church of Christ), supporting gay marriage. Although the national UCC has been a leader in opening the church to gay and lesbian persons, several UCC churches are not on board with this view. Second, after some significant revisions to the original proposal, we directed a committee to work with the Conference Board of Directors in drafting a resolution to have churches send voting lay and clergy delegates to General Synod. This proposal would substitute delegates from the churches for the delegates currently selected by each Conference. (Other delegates consist of the members of national UCC boards.) This resolution is to be drafted by the Conference meeting to vote on the new Conference minister, and will be voted on at that time. If it passes, it will be sent on for consideration at the next General Synod. The purpose of this action is to give all churches a chance to have a voice at General Synod, connecting the Synod's actions more closely to

the lives of local churches. The third action of Annual Meeting was to vote to support the recommendation of the Conference Board of Directors to move the Conference office from Austin to Houston. The current office lease ends on December 31, 2006, and there are opportunities to rent space at lesser expense in two Houston churches. The move will put the Conference office closer to a larger number of churches, and it comes at a time when a new Conference Minister can move directly to the new offices.

At the meetings, I had the chance to reconnect with old friends, meet new people, get to know ministers from churches near my hometown of Waco, and share time with other ordained women in the Conference. I appreciate the opportunity to represent our church, and I invite you to talk with me further if you have questions about Annual Meeting.

Liz Nash

*Dear Friends,*

*I want to let all of you know how much I appreciate your kind and thoughtful gifts. My graduation from high school meant a great deal to me and receiving books that mean a lot to you made my graduation all the more special. I can't wait to read all of the new books in my collection! Thank you so much!*

*Love, Ellie Nash*

#### **SUMMER MUSIC SIGN UP**

Nodie Murphy, our music coordinator, has already received several offers of worship gifts to the congregation for the summer months.

Last year we had some liturgical dance, quartet singing, original music (both classical and jazz), specially selected music featuring our trio members, a tapestry presentation, an old-fashioned hymn-sing--a wonderful variety of gifts which enriched our worship experience all summer. We welcome all sorts of offers--dramatic readings, skits, poetry, other arts as well as musical ones. So search your treasure chest, and if you have something you wish to share with the congregation, let Nodie know at church, call her at 255-4602 or e-mail her at [nodie@austin.rr.com](mailto:nodie@austin.rr.com). What's that you're hiding behind your back? Is it something for US?

#### **COFFEE HOUR**

Please sign up in the Fellowship Room to be coffee hour hosts on an upcoming Sunday. The coffee hour time is such a good opportunity to visit old friends and meet visitors. We keep coffee and ginger ale and some punch fixings in the pantry in the kitchen. There are usually paper napkins, and we use coffee mugs and punch cups to avoid wasting natural resources. Your menu can be as simple or complicated as you want. Cookies and/or chips and salsa are just fine! If you have questions, talk to Pat Oakes, Tommie Pinkard, or Lynne Lemley.

### **They Said It Couldn't Be Done**

Have you noticed the flowers blooming along the sidewalk in front of the church? For years the narrow strip of dirt between the sidewalk and the wall lay barren in the belief that nothing could possibly grow there. Well, Nancy Edison thought differently. Just to prove it, she bought and planted oxalis and lo and behold they grew and bloomed. It's a big improvement, and we thank her for her gardening contribution.

### **Food Pantry Operations Director, Micah 6 of Austin**

Micah 6 of Austin, a nonprofit organization, is seeking a Food Pantry Operations Director to provide supervisory management of the Pantry that is open Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. This is part-time employment, 50 to 60 hours per month, in which several hours can be performed at the employee's home. Salary is \$600.00 monthly. The Director should have supervisory and computer skills and the ability to work effectively with volunteers and recipients. For a job description contact Marie Webster at 451-1669 or email [chlocklin@austin.rr.com](mailto:chlocklin@austin.rr.com). Submit resumes to Marie Webster, 4926 Strass Dr., Austin, TX, 78731, or to the email address above. The Micah 6 of Austin website is <http://micah6austin.org/>

**Deadline for September VISITOR — August 17**