

# THE VISITOR

July/August 2019

**The Congregational Church of Austin**    **United Church of Christ**

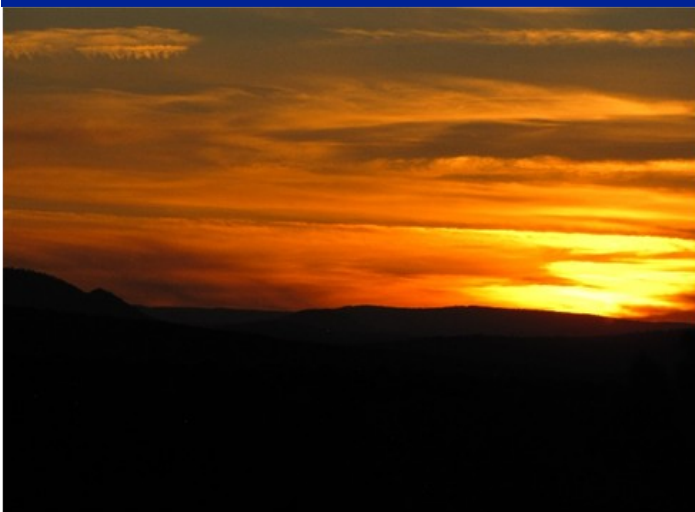
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**Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt**



*the setting sun  
changing colors  
and me*

I was cycling on the shoulder of Parmer Lane a few weeks ago, heading northwest on the section between McNeil and Anderson Mill, where they've been doing roadwork all summer. Cars and trucks were passing me several feet to my left at speeds of 55 to 65 miles per hour, so I was paying close attention to my surroundings and the ever-changing traffic patterns.

I swerved to the right when a pick-up truck, pulling a trailer with ladders and scaffolding boards, crossed into the shoulder and passed me too closely. The truck got to the end of the work zone just ahead of me and hit an abrupt bump, and when the trailer hit the bump, its tires jumped off the pavement and one of the large boards flew off, chest high, right at me. Luckily, the trailer was far enough in front of me that the board fell onto the shoulder 20 feet before me, and I had time to take evasive action.

But immediately after swerving around it, the thought struck me—what if I were 20 feet further up the road and the board hit me in the chest? Then I cleared the thought from my mind and began paying close attention again.

But later, the thought returned. If the board had hit me in the chest, I would've wiped out badly on Parmer Lane. I would've been seriously injured, maybe killed. How things can change, or end, in the blink of an eye. What a difference a few feet further up or back can make, a few seconds here or there.

I find it's good to be reminded every now and then, and in dramatic fashion, of the highly contingent nature of life. It's good for me to get a wake-up call: holy cow, my life could've ended right then!

For me, this brings to mind the Buddhist han verse:

*May I respectfully remind you: Great is the matter of life and death.*

*All is impermanent, quickly passing. Wake up!*

*Don't waste this life.*

And this advice from the author of Ephesians: *Be careful then how you live.*

And **Abraham Joshua Heschel's** observation: *Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy.*

I'm grateful for experiences that bring these words to mind and deepen my appreciation not only for being alive, but for knowing I'm alive.

Several days after my Parmer Lane wake-up call, I drove to New Mexico, with heightened attentiveness and deepened appreciation.

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I camped out on the Rio Grande gorge, where I enjoyed silence, stillness, and solitude. I hiked Wheeler Peak and the surrounding peaks, and had big white clouds below my feet one day. I read a book of haiku, and loved this one by Yatsuka Ishihara the best:

*drawing light  
from another world—  
The Milky Way*

I even wrote haiku after watching several sunsets over the gorge that touched my heart and blew my mind. You read it at the top, and yes, it uses an open format instead of the traditional 5-7-5 format.

Then I drove to Colorado where **Pam Tucker** and I had a wonderful adventure. With the concentration of a Zen master and the precision of a chemical engineer, **Pam** propelled her jeep like a bucking bronco up the roughest jeep trail in Colorado—the infamous Lake Como jeep trail. When she got the jeep as far as it could take us, we hiked the rest of the way to Lake Como, then climbed to the summit of Blanca Peak, with its dramatic views of steep drop-offs, alpine lakes, and green valleys.

I certainly don't hope that you've had a close call that could've changed, or ended, everything for you. But I do hope that sometime over the summer you've experienced some profound moments when you've felt particularly awake, attentive, and appreciative, moments when someone or something touched your heart or blew your mind, moments when life's contingent nature sent a shiver down your spine and you realized that just to be is a blessing.

**Tom**

## **ANOTHER CHANCE TO FILL OUT THE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SURVEY**

The Building Community Task Force (otherwise known as “Task Force 1”) is planning to roll out our “Activity Directory” on September 8. The Activity Directory is based on the survey many (over 40!) of us filled out near the start of the year, and will provide groupings of folks by common interest in various activities in order to facilitate group interactions outside of Sunday services. Before doing so, we wanted to give everyone one last chance to fill out the survey so that they can be included (if they wish) in the directory. We continue to have paper copies at usher's station (which you can give to Faye Dierksen or John Goff) or, better yet, you can fill it out on line at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RFC7PMQ>

## **September Visitor Deadline August 26, 2019**

### **Church Leadership**

Deacons Chair	Barbara Burnham
Outreach Team	Whit Bodman
Moderator	John Goff
Treasurer	Gail Christeson
Financial Secretary	Dennis Murphy
Christian Education Coordinators	Bethany Leach
Youth Sunday School	Amy Kent Rivera
Clerk	Jaime Hadley
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Webmaster	Mel Oakes
Member-At-Large	Bill Beardall

## Heart of Texas Association News

July

by Liz Nash

**T**wo beloved and respected friends in Christ have passed away recently in the Heart of Texas Association. As I write, many of us are grieving the loss of **Jan Trimmer** on June 14th, and we mourn the loss of **Rev. Ray Bizer** on May 15th. The lives of both **Jan** and **Ray** will have been celebrated in services in June -- at Hope United and at Friedens Washington for **Jan** and at Faith UCC New Braunfels for **Ray**.

**Jan**, whose husband **Ron** is the pastor of Hope United in Georgetown and the former pastor of Friedens Church of Washington, served the church faithfully in many ways, both at Hope and Friedens. She grew up both in Houston and in Washington, and was confirmed and married to **Ron** at Friedens. She and **Ron** adopted their sons **Ben** and **Aaron** while they were still in Washington, and moved with them to Georgetown with a commitment of faith to start Hope United. **Jan** was a dedicated elementary school teacher for many years in Navasota and Georgetown, retiring this past spring as her long and courageous battle with cancer was coming to an end. With her family, we invite those who wish to give a memorial to **Jan's** life to send it to Hope United.

**Ray** was the Pastor Emeritus of Faith UCC New Braunfels and the Director Emeritus of Slumber Falls Camp, serving in ministry for 74 years with his wife, **Emma Lou** (who passed away in 2017) as a faithful and creative partner. In that work, he touched lives in countless ways. Many of us have stayed in the Bizer Retreat Center at Slumber Falls, one of the fruits of **Ray's** ministry there. With his family, we invite those who wish to give a memorial to **Ray's** life to send it to Faith UCC, Eden Hill Communities, Slumber Falls Camp, or the charity of your choice.

The ordination of **CJ Wood** at St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi on Sunday afternoon, June 9th, was a truly joyous event in the life of the Association. **CJ**, who has served in ministry for several years as a pastoral associate, missionary to India, and hospital chaplain, came to us as she completed a long journey to ordination. Many friends from different parts of that journey joined in the celebration as she made the commitments of ordination and was consecrated into the ordained ministry of Jesus Christ. Congratulations, **CJ**!

We also rejoice with the reception by our Committee on Ministry during its June meeting of **Billie Watts** in the Privilege of Call process and **Kerry Kirtley** as a Member in Discernment, as well as the licensing of **Eric Dehmer** as the pastor and teacher of Friedens Church of Washington. All three come to us from the United Methodist Church. **Billie** and **Kerry** are both graduates of Perkins Divinity School, are members of Bethany Congregational in San Antonio, live in Boerne, and are working to start a church in Boerne. Many of us already know Eric as a colleague, and we welcome him to licensed ministry among us.

Blessings in Christ,  
**Liz Nash**, Association Minister

**Heart of Texas Association News**  
**August**  
**by Liz Nash**

**T**he 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 <https://sccucc.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/nve/>.

Blessings in Christ,  
**Liz Nash**, Association Minister

## Personals by Pat Oakes

**L**iz and Reuel Nash celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a three week trip to Europe. They had several nights in Prague, then a five day cruise on the Elbe River, with stops in Wittenberg, Dresden, Saxon-Switzerland, and a tour of August the Strong's hunting palace. The cruise ended in Berlin where they had several days of touring, including the Holocaust Memorial and Checkpoint Charlie. They ended the trip in Paris, which included a trip to a market and cooking class with a chef. While their friends went to the French Open, they toured the Marmottan Museum and Canal Saint Martin. After they returned to Austin and rested up for a few days, then went to Montreal to meet their granddaughter, "Vivi" **Victoria Claire Garrett Nash Rodgers.**



6/19 New mom Ellie Nash with daughter Vivi



6/16/19 Father's Day in Montreal--new grandfather Guy Rodgers, new father Louis Rodgers with daughter Vivi, and new grandfather Reuel Nash



5/19 Reuel and Liz Nash celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a wonderful trip to Europe

## Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

Folks enjoyed a church picnic on a warm Saturday afternoon, June 15, at Eastwoods Park near where **Whit** and **Betty Bodman** live. Betty was supposed to come in from New Jersey in time for the picnic, but got sick and came on a later flight. She is now back home in Austin after spending 9 months in the northeast caring for their adorable granddaughters.



6/15/19 Judy Ray Allen and her son Brett, Tom VandeStadt, Whit Bodman, Carolyn Thompson, Faye and Andy Dierksen at the church picnic

**Pam Tucker** reports, "My family and I spend time in Colorado in the summers and this summer is no different in that regard. I like to hike mountains in Colorado. **Tom (VandeStadt)** and his family go to New Mexico to the mountains and he likes to hike mountains in NM. **Tom** and I are joining together for a challenging hike up Blanca Peak later this month. We will have more to report after we return. Here is some information on Blanca. Blanca Peak is the fourth highest summit of the Rocky Mountains of North America and the U.S. state of Colorado. The ultra-prominent 14,351-foot peak is the highest summit of the Sierra Blanca Massif, the Sangre de Cristo Range, and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. **Savanna** flew by herself to Scotland on Monday (the 8th of July). After one canceled flight and a scramble to keep her from being stranded in JFK, she was on her way again and met her friend in Edinburgh. They (including her friend's parents) will be traveling through Europe for the next 3 weeks. **Savanna** will fly from Croatia to Minnesota

to compete with her Ultimate team for nationals. **Harrison** is attending Camp Half Blood (through BookPeople) for one week and will be at Anderson High School basketball camp for another week before leaving for Colorado. **Alison (Goodgame-Tucker)** is working on stand-up comedy and is doing very well. She enjoys it and is working hard. Watch for Facebook posts for when and where she will be performing."

Several years ago, choir director **Nodie Murphy** came up with a wonderful idea for the time during the service that is usually filled by the choir's anthem during their summer hiatus—worship gifts—presentations by various individuals or groups. **Mel Oakes** started the summer series on June 9 with a talk about **Ira Hobart Evans**, an early member of the church who was dedicated to the education of African-Americans. (See the History Corner). **Whit Bodman** led us in singing a version of the Lord's Prayer from a Methodist hymnal on the 16th. On the 23rd, a vocal trio comprised of **Lucy Erda**, **Amy Harris**, and **Nodie Murphy** sang a beautiful arrangement of "One Voice." **Carolyn Thompson's** worship gift for June 30 was a meditation on how she sees a vase turned from mesquite wood as a metaphor for life with disability. This wooden vase with holes and cracks may appear useless to some while others see it as a work of art. Just as the craftsman's imagination and diligent work brought out the beauty in this chunk of wood, so, too, can a loving community that is attentive and responsive to our needs reveal the artistic design God has for each of us.



6/9/19 Tom holding up an historic photo including Ira Hobart Evans while Mel Oakes tells of Evans' many achievements

**Personals (cont)**  
by Pat Oakes



6/23/19 Lucy Erda, Amy Harris, and Nodie Murphy sang "One Voice" for their worship gift on the 23rd.



7/19 Don Miles and Chester Rosson in sunny San Diego



6/30/19 The mesquite vase which Carolyn Thompson used as a metaphor for her meditation on life with a disability

**Chester Rosson** and **Don Miles** enjoyed a 10 day road trip to San Diego and back. They started on Friday, July 5, and returned on the 15th. **Don** was attending the national conference for the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. **Chester** visited museums, zoos and missions.

**Tommie Pinkard** has had a quiet summer and is vacationing vicariously through her children. Her son **David** took his wife **Suzanne** and their daughter **Daphne**, 8, to Ireland where they saw, among many exciting things, the final resting place of **Suzanne's** great-grandfather. When not traveling with her parents, **Daphne** stays busy with Irish dance lessons, the Brooklyn Youth Choir, two piano lessons a week (she is doing very well) and she also plays softball. Then elder son **Chris** took his son **Gabriel**, as a college graduation gift, on a tour in South America along the Amazon. Photos came showing a huge snake, **Gabriel** catching one of the river's bloodthirsty fish, and the sixth generation healer they visited along the way. **Chris** said he felt great after a little "healing." **Gabriel** graduated from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, and spent part of his senior year continuing his computer studies in Budapest, Hungary. After his wonderful trip he is looking for a job with computers. **Tommie**, who turned 90 last fall, is enjoying her cat named **Zoroaster**, the same name of the cat that she and her late husband **Doyal** had when they were first married. She misses us and sends her love.

## Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

The country celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first manned moon landing on Saturday, July 20th. The actual event in 1969 was celebrated by the congregation at the home on Jessie St. in the Zilker neighborhood of **Jean Cassel**, a UT librarian, and her mother **Mary**. The event wasn't to celebrate the moon landing but to honor pastor **John Towery's** ten years at the church. It was an outpouring of love for **John**, and, in fact, he stayed for 30 more years! **Beth Placek** tells the story that **John** and **Eleanor's** young daughter **Mary**, 12 at the time, told her that she had heard her dad say that no one had planned a party and that he thought maybe it was time to leave. **Beth** rallied the troops and lots of folks showed up for the planned ice cream social. **Beth** was there as were **Cathy** and **Clark Hubbs**, **Tommie** and **Doyal Pinkard**, **Pat** and **Mel Oakes**, and **Dave** and **Sara Ross**, plus most of the **Towery** family and others. **Ches Towery** was working at The Raft which was our homeless mission project in the church basement. **Ches** took a break from work and walked to the 7-11 on 19th St. (later MLK Blvd) and saw **Armstrong** take his famous first step. Meanwhile, folks at the party spent the evening running into the house to watch what was transpiring on the black and white TV—**Walter Cronkite** on CBS, of course—and then back out to the back yard to stare at the far-away waxing crescent phase moon. Side note—**Walter Cronkite** attended our church a number of times when he was a UT student.

**Beth Placek** had a wonderful surprise on Saturday, July 13, when she and her husband **Chencho Flores** attended the summer social for Austin Democrats. **Beth** was listening as a speaker was talking about someone special in the group who had done great things for the Democratic party. She was wondering who it was when the speaker paused and asked **Beth** to come up front and accept a beautiful pin in appreciation for all her campaign work and activism over the years. **Beth** was delighted—and speechless!! She is making great progress—her right knee was replaced on June 13 and she can hardly wait to have her left knee done. It has been a long haul for **Beth**, almost a year, but she is looking forward to when she can go home and start dancing again.

**Margit Briggs**, granddaughter of **Fran** and **Rambie Briggs** and **Rollin** and **Betsy Russell**, and **Jordan Samuels** were married on Saturday, June 29th, in Fairview, a community adjacent to Asheville. **Rollin** (years ago the associate conference minister for the South Central Conference—now the newly configured Heart of Texas Association) reports that the property is owned by **Jordan's** parents and is awesome. They were married outdoors on a rock outcropping on Flat Top Mountain, above the beautiful mountain lodge where **Jordan** grew up. **Margit** finished UNC Asheville with a BFA and is now working at the NC State Employees Credit Union: She's a banker! **Jordan** works there, too. He is in IT, working on and updating their data processing. **Margit** is at the Black Mountain branch and handles loans, tax prep, insurance, etc. They own a house in Asheville. **Jordan** is an archeologist and they met at a dig in Italy; he does classical archeology, for which there is not much demand in NC. He went to UNCA and grew up there. His MA is from Florida State. Since **Jordan's** family is Jewish, they had a non-traditional secular wedding and one of his friends did the service.



6/29/19 The Briggs family at the wedding of Margit Briggs to Jordan Samuels--l-r--Serenity Owens (Paula has changed her name), Rambie Briggs, Margit Briggs, siblings Giovanni and Stella Fracasso, Fran Briggs and son Jonathan Briggs (also father of the bride)

Story and photos cont. on next page

**Personals (cont)**  
**by Pat Oakes**

**Margit's** grandfather, the **Rev. Rollin Russell**, said a few words about the covenant tradition in Judeo-Christian heritage. It was lots of fun; **Margit** got carried around on a chair, etc. About 150 guests parked all up and down the mountain roads. All the **Russell** and **Briggs** kids and grandkids were there and stayed extra days, so it was delightful. **Amy's** kids are the same ages as **Serenity's** and they connected. **Rambie** noted that "It was a good wedding and it almost felt like 'going to church' with all the old friends around." The extended families were all in attendance, too.



6/29/19 At their granddaughter's wedding--Ramble and Fran Briggs and Betsy and Rollin Russell with the groom Jordan Samuels and bride Margit Briggs

The family of **Vic Appel**—**Debbie, Robert, Emily, and Sam** had a wonderful birthday celebration with **Vic** on June 28th. They went to the FDR library in Hyde Park, New York. He enjoyed it very much. It was great to have **Cheryl** there to help celebrate his 89th birthday as well! Three days prior, **Emily** graduated with honors on June 25, 2019, from John Jay high school and received several merit awards/scholarships. She will be attending U. Mass. Amherst in the fall in their honors college.



6/28/19 Vic Appel celebrated his 89th birthday at the FDR Presidential Library with daughters Cheryl and Debbie and grandson Sam



June 25, 2019 Vic Appel (front and center) celebrating granddaughter Emily Knowlton's high school graduation with family and friends. From left to right: Noelle S., Bob Knowlton, Emily Knowlton, Debbie Appel Knowlton, Cheryl Appel, Josie S., and Peter S. Behind Vic: Sam Knowlton

## Personals (cont) by Pat Oakes

Many in our congregation knew **The Rev. Dr. David Stephens** through his ministry at the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. Sadly, **David** died of cancer on June 21, 2019, at the age of 85 at his home in Ocean Springs, MS, surrounded by family and friends, including **Fran** and **Rambie Briggs**. In 1972, **David** came to the Back Bay Mission which provided services to youth and low-income families through the UCC and led it for 28 years. Organizations which worked out of the Mission included Coastal Family Health Center, South MS AIDS Task Force, Gulf Coast Women's Center, Loaves and Fishes, and Inter-faith Disaster Task Force. He led the Mission through its recovery from Hurricane Katrina and the move from its historic site brought on by the development of casinos. **David** also served the church at UCC conference and national levels. Years ago there would be wonderful shrimp boils brought to local churches to raise awareness of the importance of the Back Bay Mission to the poor and marginalized people in the Biloxi area. His enthusiasm and joy for what he was doing was passed on to all those he met. He will be missed.

In May, **George Carruthers** and **Marilyn Gaddis** attended their granddaughter, **Allison Carruthers**, Master's Hooding and Graduation from Baylor University. She was awarded a Master of Science in Education-Higher Education and Student Affairs degree. She and her husband, **Marcos Luna Hoyas**, have moved to San Juan, Puerto Rico. She has taken a position at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazon in the Office of International Student Affairs. **Marilyn** and **George** hope to spend Christmas with them and get acquainted with the University and the San Juan area.

The inimitable **Kathleen Strong** has the following report on her summer adventures. "I put an additional shelf in the refrigerator. That's the extent of my summer activities." That certainly is one way to stay cool while getting some work done!

Thanks to **Fran** and **Rambie Briggs** who hosted the annual Poetry on the Lake gathering for the Men's and Women's Book Clubs on Saturday, June 8. Sixteen folks enjoyed a good time with poetry reading (some folks read their own poetry), visiting, admiring the view of Lake Travis, and sharing lunch together.



6/8/19 Poetry lovers from the Men's and Women's Book Clubs gathered at the Brigg's Lake Travis home

**Donna Cravens**, our indefatigable office manager, enjoyed a month's break visiting her 97-year-old father who lives just outside of Louisville in a small community called Shepherdsville, KY. Her dad's home is located four miles outside of the town itself. There is a lovely park near to his home where she walked her dogs daily so it's very close. It's not as big as a state park, just a few hundred acres of extremely beautiful forested trails and grassland. It's called Bernheim Forest. Check it out at <https://bernheim.org>. Welcome back, **Donna**!

**Mel** and **Pat Oakes** and their daughter **Sarah** (who came along to be sure that her parents didn't fall off the ship) had a wonderful cruise to Alaska, embarking from Seattle on **Pat's** birthday, June 28, and returning on July 5. They enjoyed an extra day in Seattle on either side of the trip. They were on a huge ship--Celebrity Solstice--about 2500 passengers and 2500 crew-- but were traveling with 13 close family friends (three generations). Highlights included glimpsing whales and other wildlife, admiring a glacier, enjoying spectacular scenery, exploring the ship, and dining with their friends. Mel has compiled a Web site featuring photos from the trip contributed by the group. If you are interested, go to <https://chi-ode30.websitehostserver.net/~patandme/PatandMelOakesFamilySite/AlaskanCruise.html> and see some of what they saw.

**Personals (cont)**  
**by Pat Oakes**

**Tom VandeStadt** and **Pam Tucker** had a wonderful adventure in late July. **Pam** drove her jeep up the roughest jeep trail in Colorado, and when she got the jeep as far as it could go, they hiked the rest of the way to Lake Como, then climbed to the summit of Blanca Peak. **Tom** also enjoyed spending some relaxing time with **Pam**, **Allison**, **Harrison** and his friend **Will**, **Riley** the dog and **Frank** the cat, at their cabin in Colorado.



## History Corner

*In October 1917, Major Ira Hobart Evans attended the National Council of Congregational Churches in Columbus, Ohio as a delegate from our church. He made a speech urging more support for Negro colleges. He was a member of the National Service Committee. A panorama of the delegates was for years displayed in the church. However, in April of 2019, someone broke into the education wing and tossed many church records and the panorama and frame from the second floor. With the help of **William McCarthy** of the Congregational Church Archive and Library in Boston, MA, copies of portions were scanned from their records and merged again into a panorama. The photo is shown below.*



*Ira Hobart Evans is in the middle of the front row with his light-colored hat in his right hand. Rev. Kunio Kadaira, delegate from California Bay District is the only Japanese delegate. He is about three people to the left of Major Ira Evans and about one row back.*

*For a larger version of the photo check here. [Panorama of National Council of Congregational Churches 1917](#). For the full page on **Ira Hobart Evans**, go to <https://chi-node30.websitehostserver.net/~patandme/CCAHistory/IraHobartEvans.html>*