

# NEWSLETTER 1985

## The Visitor



### SERMON TOPICS

### Ice Cream Social



We have usually had our Ice Cream Socials in August, but we (the Deacons) decided that it would be good to try such an affair early in the fall so we could all get better acquainted and also enjoy home made ice cream. Usually we have several freezers of cream and others

bring cookies and/or toppings. Plan now to be with us on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Fran and Ramble Briggs, 7604 Rustling Cove (1 block north of Greystone off Mesa, turn on Rustling Dr. and then to the cul-de-sac of Rustling Cove on the north side). Let Fran know at 345-9247 that you are coming. If you need transportation, let the minister know at 453-1800 or 472-2370.



The main thing to remember this month is that worship services will start at 11:00 a.m. from now through May. Since we will be observing Labor Day, and some of you may not be around, we will delay communion until the first Sunday in October. We certainly can use the staples of food to take to the food pantries. The

scriptures for September 1 are: Joshua 24:14-18; Eph. 5:21-33; and John 6:60-69. The Joshua account of the challenge of which god to worship is worth reading. We wonder how many of our women readers would like the Ephesians lesson in their wedding. It is used by some. The text for the sermon will be: "The Spirit Along Gives Life" from John 6:63.

September 8 will actually commence out church year with the return of the choir and church school starting at 9:50a.m. Scriptures are: Deut. 4:1-8; James 1:19-25; and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. The sermon theme comes from Mark 7:21-23 "The Evil That Defile". When we see the injustice in many countries, we are tempted to think of evil in the social fabric, and it is certainly there, but Jesus speaks of evil from within. Was Niebuhr wrong in Moral Man Immoral Society? Truth can reside in both, but we may sometimes ignore the tigers raging inside of ourselves.

Sept. 15 is just half way through the month, and you might note that it is a five Sunday month. Jesus taught and spoke about "The Signs of the Kingdom." It is always a problem to know if an action or movement is of God. Mark 7:31-37 provides some insight for us. Read Isa. 35:4-7 and James 2:1-5 to

September 22 is American Indian Ministry Sunday, and we have one of the highlights of the year when Dr. John Q. Taylor King will be our speaker. He is the president of Huston-Tillotson College and an associate member of this church. We hope to have a sermon theme to put in the newspaper before he speaks.

We like to honor our church school teachers on Sept. 29, which starts Christian Education Week. The sermon topic comes from James 3:17, "The Wisdom from Above." Scriptures are: Jer. 11:18-20; James 3:12 to 4:3; and Mark 9:30-37. While we believe in the dialogue approach which means that we learn from children even as they learn from us, we can recognize that some of our heritage is a gift from God which comes from a higher source.



### FRIDAY FORUM SEPTEMBER 13

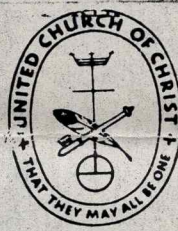
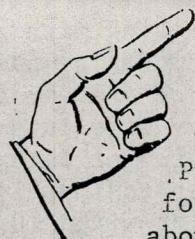
You are invited to the parsonage on Friday, the 13th, but we hope that it will be a lucky and enjoyable time for you. If you want to swim in the above-ground pool, come at 6:30 p.m. The Towerys will share their slides of New England and Niagra Falls with you. Undoubtedly you will hear about the excitement of going down a mountainside without brakes. The program will commence about 8 p.m. Let us know at 453-1800 if you

will be coming. Dr. Groves is available to show his outstanding pictures on October 13. We hope to show them at church. We are trying for Friday, Oct. 25th as some of you may want to go to the symphony on the 13th, but you could go on the 19th. We will try to have Dr. Grove's pictures in the Fellowship Room in order to invite others as his pictures are so outstanding. He has been to the Galapagos Islands and other places since you have seen his pictures.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. John Q. Taylor King is our featured guest speaker for September and will be with us on Sunday, September 22. Dr. King has been President of Huston-Tillotson College for several years. A long article about him was in the American Statesman on Sunday, August 11. He received

undergraduate degrees from Fisk in Nashville and Huston-Tillotson, a master's degree from De Paul in Chicago and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the Univ. of Texas in Austin in 1951. He started at Huston-Tillotson as a math instructor in 1947 and became the President in 1965. He retired as a Major General in the Army Reserve last year. Dr. King is a speaker you won't want to miss! Invite your friends!



"Church Growth"



We were fortunate to have Judy Lengel share her knowledge about church growth with us. Next month I hope to have the time to listen to the remarks that were made at the workshop on Aug. 18 and have a report for you. We could react to it like one person who read the various views about the church's future and agreed with all of them. We could decide to relocate now,

but it will likely be some time before any action is taken. People's Community Clinic needs to be around for at least three years. They have two years to try to raise one million dollars with two other groups. It would then require another year to construct the building on city property. We should be knowledgeable about what we want to do by that time. Let us strive to see if we can grow in numbers in these coming years.

One of the striking things that Mrs. Lengel reported was that a Gallup poll indicated that many Americans with Christian beliefs were unchurched and looking for a group that would dialogue about faith and be accepting of doubts. The Congregational Church of Austin is outstanding in that respect. We have some good programs and are open to others, but our big problem is our hesitancy to suggest to others that this church is an excellent fellowship to be a part of. We need to change the way we think of ourselves from a "small, friendly church" to a "friendly, growing church". New people will bring new ways and new ideas which could make us uncomfortable, but we need some growing pains.

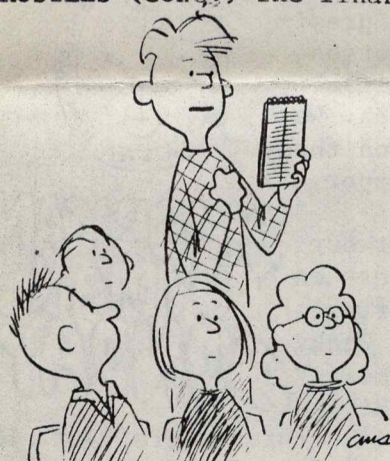
Some interest was found in having an "intern" year seminarian with us for a year or 9 months to develop approaches to young adults and students for us. David Bartholomew has indicated that he might be interested.

The Board of Deacons will be meeting on the second Sunday of September and hope to get some ways of outreach developed. We need to get our ushers organized, and we would benefit from having a friendly greeter to obtain names and information each Sunday. We will suggest using name tags for both members and visitors. We might even try get acquainted games during our fellowship hour. What suggestions do you have? This church has a lot to offer, and we need to share that information.

TRUSTEES (cont.) The finances of the congregation

continue to be good. The bank balance was \$3,837.09, and some August offerings were not in that total. Replacement of one of the compressors for an air conditioner had been paid at a cost of \$1,200. The church also a savings account for contingencies that has \$5,273.69 in it.

Again our thanks to Linda Norelli for invaluable assistance in typing this letter



"The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.' Isn't that wonderful? That sort of gets me right here!"

23rd STREET--Here we go again in dealing with access to our street. The church participated in a hearing by the Renaissance Market Commission where they were proposing to close 23rd St. from the alley to Guadalupe St. Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and to permit use of the north side for venting. The Commission did not notify University Presbyterian Church or the merchants from 23rd to 24th St.. At two later meetings with church members in attendance, the Commission ignored the hearings and only discussed how to get the street closed. At the most recent meeting on Aug. 19 they voted to have the ordinance to close the street all week except on Sunday. They hope that being open for the church on Sunday will enable them to have it closed the rest of the time.

The meeting of SUN was well attended by church members. The president of SUN, Mike McHone, had indicated to the pastor that 23rd St. would not be on the agenda of the Aug. meeting, but it was. We were well represented, and no vote was taken. Vic Appel will represent the church on a committee to seek a colution.

The Trustees with some others voted to talk to a lawyer and may institute a law suit against the city. David Ross, Vic Appel, and John Towery are scheduled for Citizen's Input to the City Council on Thursday, Sept. 5, at 1 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\* TRUSTEES--The Board met on Sunday, Aug. 25 instead of waiting until Labor Day week-end. Vic Appel, Leo Wagner, David Ross, and John Towery were authorized to meet with the lawyer to proceed with a law suit if deemed advisable.

The Saxon 30 copier has not performed satisfactorily, and the pastor is checking other copiers for a better and more dependable copier.

Tex-Pak lost our QUME printer, and we are trying to obtain a settlement of \$1000 from them in order to purchase another printer for our computer.

David Ashton is working on drawings for air conditioning the church and the Fellowship Room of the church. Tom Johnson indicated that he thought that two 20,000 BTU window conditioners would be adequate for the Fellowship Room.

The Trustees were concerned about window units in the stained glass windows but recognized that it would make the Fellowship Room more useful. We will have separate units for the worship area and the Fellowship Room so they can operate separately.

The class that did an evaluation exercise on the church arrived at an evaluation of \$780,000. They thought that the best use of the building would be for a first class restaurant. We hope to arrange a meeting with a class member and the Board this month or next.

The window on the north side of the educational wing was broken with entry made into the building. They were unable to get into the pastor's office. A bid of approximately \$290 for a gate by the parking lot with a lock using the key for the educational wing was authorized.

We hope to do some clean-up evenings and perhaps on Sat., Sept. 7 to be ready to start the fall activities of church school, choir, refreshments, etc. on Sept. 8.

**A WARM WELCOME**  
When American Indians in Minneapolis/St. Paul look for a place to worship, they find a warm, welcoming reception at All Nations Indian Church, United Church of Christ. We in the UCC help to support this new congregation through our gifts to **Neighbors in Need.**

# CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept. 1, 9:50 a.m. Church School.  
11:00 a.m. Worship—"The Spirit Alone Gives Life."

Thursday, Sept. 5, 1 p.m., Church members on citizen's input at Austin City Council about the closing of 23rd Street.

Saturday, Sept. 7, 1 p.m., Brazos Association Council meets in Burton.  
7:00p.m.--Ice Cream Social at Briggs.

Sunday, Sept. 8, 9:50 a.m.-Church School.  
11:00a.m.-Worship "The Evil That Defiles."  
Board of Deacons meets after church service.

Friday, Sept. 13, 7:45 p.m. Friday Forum at the Towerys.

Sunday, Sept. 15, 9:50 a.m.-Church School.  
11:00a.m. Worship "The Signs of the Kingdom...".

Thursday, Sept. 19, 7:30p.m. Meditative Prayer at Mary Halliday's home.

Friday, Sept. 20--Pastor at South Central Conference. Board meeting at Slumber Falls Camp. (Saturday, 21st also).

Sunday, Sept. 22, 9:50 a.m.-Church School.  
11:00a.m.-Worship Dr. John Q. Taylor King guest speaker.

Friday, Sept. 27 and Saturday, Sept. 28--Conference Mission Alive at Slumber Falls Church Retreat??

Sunday, Sept. 29, 9:50 a.m. Church School.  
11:00 a.m. Worship- "The Wisdom From Above"

Saturday, Sept. 28 8:30a.m.-4:00p.m. Garage Sale to Benefit KMFA-fm. Come out for bargains! If you have any records (any genre), sheet music, musical books, electronic equipment or musical instruments which you would like to donate to the sale call Linda Norelli, 451-8310 or Eleanor Towery, 453-1800, or take it to the KMFA station at 3001 North Lamar, Suite 100.

PERSONALS (cont)--that Lisa Boisseau may be going back to school if Chip graduated and has a job. Did you also move, Lisa?

Frances Creech has written a biography of her late twin sister who worked her way to a high rack in the WACS and would like others to read it for suggestions.

It was wonderful to have Zona Galle worship with us when Rollin preached. We would be glad to see her other times. She reported that she was alone at the time with Omer doing research work in Washington, D.C. and Karl in attendance at the gifted child program in Durham, N.C.

Shirley Dean was an overnight guest at the parsonage after a visit with son Andrew and wife in San José, Calif. She should be starting work at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin soon.

We had a great letter from Don Hancock reporting that he and the children were off to Germany. The children were spending a month with a family to learn to speak German. Kay would have to wait until this month or Oct. to join them. She is on a committee to select the new president of Vanderbilt.

Linda Norelli took off from schooling the second summer session and had a trip to New Hampshire, enjoying the cool and a visit with her brother and his family.

Eunice and Bob Paul were back and also reported a trip to New Hampshire, even going through White River Junction, Vt. Bob had



We seem to remember that our church has Slumber Falls Camp for a Retreat on Sept. 27, 28, 29. We were requested by the Rev. Ed Mehlhaff to allow the Conference to have a Mission Alive session on that week-end. Our church still needs someone who will go to learn how to inform all of us about the Mission of the United Church of Christ in our Conference, in our nation, and throughout the world.

We can still have a retreat with or without a program. Last time two or three families enjoyed a fun week-end at the Camp. Let us know by Sept. 20 what you would like to do.

CHURCH SCHOOL--We are ready to start on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9:50 a.m. The new addition will be a Pastor's class leading to confirmation for those who may wish to join the church later. Even if they decide not to join the church, they receive an excellent introduction to the Bible, Christian theology, and the history of the Christian church. Any young persons going into grades 6, 7, or 8 should be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

The discussion group was thinking of studying part of the New Testament, we think with Doyal Pinkard, Edgar Polomé, Vic Appel, and others sharing leadership. It could be a great educational experience.

Pat Oakes will teach high schoolers. Marilyn Pickens is both Superintendent and Primary teacher. Eleanor Towery will take pre-schoolers. If we have other interest areas, we can likely find the teachers.



We all miss having our choir lead our worship musically, and we hope to see them back with us on Sunday, Sept. 8. If you like to sign, call our director, Mrs. Marie (Weldon) Sheel at 282-1611.

PERSONALS (cont)--climbed Mt. Washington some years ago, but they didn't drive or climb it this time. Bob will provide the sermon for Bruce Bergthold's ordination in Oct.

Cindy and Tad Anderson took two weeks in the Ozarks before the fall school semester. Fran and Rambie Briggs donated a used Frigadaire refrigerator to the church, The old Kenmore refrigerator will be given away.

The pastor performed a wedding ceremony for Trudy and Albert Bussey at First American Lutheran Church in San Marcos on Saturday, Aug. 17th. Reception was at their home near Uhland and the dance hall in Uhland.

Linda Larson needed a couch, table & chairs for loan or low price. She has sung for us twice, is UCC, and is seeking a choir directing job. Call the pastor at 453-1800 or Linda at 479-6530 if you can help!



If the lack of sickness is because you are a member or a friend of the Congregational Church of Austin were guaranteed, we should have many more join us. No one is in the hospital and no one really ill who has been in attendance at our church.

We did have a wedding in Brackenridge Hospital for Tammy Mueller and Ron Joubert on Aug. 5. Ron had cut off a thumb on construction work but had had it put back on. He is from Wisc., and she is from Illinois and had been in the Congregational Church up north.

Fran and Rambie Briggs departed on Thurs., Aug. 22 to take Paula to Grinnell and were heading on to Mich. to enjoy a few days in the cool before returning. Beth Oakes was off on the same day for Oberlin in Ohio, and we imagine that Stephanie Phillips has departed too. Jon Briggs has gone back to Alpine to continue studies, Cathy Camden and Sarah Murphy are locating near the university to go to UT, and we look forward to seeing some other students worship with us. (We did see three or four in August, and we'll provide names and addresses next month.)

As you might imagine, travels are the big item at this time of the year. We were glad to see Takako, Kazuko, and Dennis Schneider at our lake outing with Amy, Betsy, and Rollin Russell. All are doing fine and looking great. We only wish we could see them more often.

John Camden was away for two weeks for a visit to home surroundings in Pa. It was time for his high school class reunion, but he didn't say much about his old friends.

We received a card from Flo Chiles from Lake Superior reporting the necessity of sweaters in the evening and blankets at night. She said something about her first summer of retirement which caught us unawares.

Jean Cassel enjoyed a similar experience in going to Canada and an island in Lake Huron? We guess our church is peopled with unrepentant Yankees, at least in summer.

Marilyn Gaddis wrote from Germany, where she had gone to give two papers on the gifted child. She also enjoyed the milage from her rented diesel vehicle.

Mary Halladay spent about five days with her son Henry in Seattle where he works for Boeing. A highlight of the visit was a trip to see the volcano at Mt. St. Helen's.

Cathy and Clark Hubbs have returned from a business trip to Sweden and Norway. Clark was telling about a dinner of smoked whitefish which was so good that one got stuffed. Ah, the suffering on business trips! Both Ann and Laura have moved, and we'll get you their new addresses next month. (see right)



Crystal Geise, daughter of Nancy and Doran, was christened on Sunday, Aug. 4th in our church. His parents were here from Ames, Iowa. Nancy and Doran live at 2382 Barton Skyway, #254. He is a landscape architect.

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Bee Polomé reported from Colorado that they would bring Marilyn back with them, but Lana would have to come back earlier. They were able to hear both of them perform at Aspen.

We haven't had a chance to visit with Dorothy and Chester Lay about their visit to England, but we trust that they enjoyed it very much and may have gone elsewhere. Beth Placek will again be visiting England including Burnham-on-Crouch to see the Tapleys this month. As usual she will visit some new areas of that country jogging a bit here and there.

Sara and Dave Ross flew to Calgary, Canada, and rented a car to drive to Banff and the ice fields. We think that Dave took some pictures to share with us later on. Anyway we hope so.

Becky and Pat Russell stopped by as they were taking the five young ones back to Indiana after a summer with other parents. Pat keeps very busy, but they both looked great. The kids are growing, of course.

Kathy Strong will be off for a few days to enjoy a visit to the coast with some friends.

Leo Wagner journeyed back to Blaine, Washington, for the wedding of his son. It made a damper on his plans for a trip a bit later.

We kept missing Marilyn Pickens and discovered that she had been up in Colorado visiting Gary's family. (Do you get the feeling that many of our group do not care for summers in Austin?)

Guido Riley is away for a week to visit her family in New Jersey.

We learned that Leslie Ashton has a new assignment at work. It is more important but less travel and longer hours. She would rather do the travel.

Ches Tovery has been selling ads for a publication like the telephone company's silver pages which offers discounts for individuals over 60. He will return to Austin for Labor Day after a month in Amarillo then on to Denton. So far he had enjoyed the experience.

We aren't certain, but we think (see pg.3)



Congregational Church of Austin  
(United Church of Christ)  
408 West 23rd. Street  
Austin, Texas 78705

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Dr. & Mrs. Melvin Oakes  
2507 Briargrove  
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