

THE VISITOR

September 2020

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

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Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt



The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC, is an active member of Central Texas Interfaith (CTI). Central Texas Interfaith (formerly Austin Interfaith) is a nonpartisan political organization, multi-ethnic and multi-issue, which seeks to train leaders to use the political process to address public issues that affect the well-being of families and communities. The organization is comprised of a diverse coalition of fifty-plus member institutions, including religious congregations, schools, and unions. Thus, CTI is broad-based and ecumenical. CTI institutions come together to work on behalf of families and communities across lines of race/ethnicity and socioeconomic class that traditionally divide constituencies, employing community organizing methods as a social change strategy.

CTI is an Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) affiliated organization. The IAF is a national network of community organizing training and support created by the late Saul Alinsky. Alinsky is the founder of modern-day community organizing in the United States and internationally. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received training and support in Alinsky-style community organizing from Alinsky.

CTI has been an effective actor in Austin on behalf the values and interests of families for decades since the organization's founding in the early 1980s. East Austin member congregations, including Ebenezer Baptist, Holy Cross Catholic, Mount Olive Baptist and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic, were founding members of Central Texas Interfaith and continue the collaboration to this day. Austin's award-winning job training program, known as Capital Idea, is perhaps the best example (of many) of the accomplishments of CTI. Capital Idea is a CTI-created initiative, and CTI actively supports the organization on an ongoing basis.

CTI institutions pay membership dues to sustain the work of the organization. The CTI dues structure for institutions is a yearly financial contribution of 1% of institutions' operating budget, ranging from a minimum of \$2,000 dollars for small institutions to a maximum of \$20,000 dollars for large institutions. Membership gives the institutions a claim on staff's time and energy. Typically, IAF-affiliated organizations, like CTI, are staffed with highly trained professional community organizers (usually one or two per organization) who have a significant track record of success in many communities. The organizers work closely with member institutions to identify and develop leaders from within the ranks of the institutions. "Training the trainer" through careful mentoring is the model for growing leadership and thus developing capacity within the member institutions.

1. LIVING WAGES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure employees receive a **living wage** for all work funded by our tax dollars
- Secure continued funding for **successful job-training programs** (like Capital IDEA)
- Protect **worker safety** policies
- Only support increases to the homestead exemption if it does not harm programs for the most vulnerable

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2. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Include **affordable housing** as an integral part of the land development code, especially to **ensure racial and economic equity**
- Preserve existing affordable housing and ensure bond investment for low-income families
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to **end homelessness** in Central Texas
- Regulate **payday lending** and provide affordable alternatives

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Implement effective **community policing strategies**
- Work for **criminal justice and court reform policies**, especially to address **systemic racial and ethnic disparities**
- Enact **common sense gun safety measures** to protect the safety of our communities

4. SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Implement policies which **promote sustainability** in Central Texas through significant investments in infrastructure, public transportation, parks, lighting, and renewable energy.
- Develop programs to prevent and reduce the impacts of climate change

5. IMMIGRATION REFORM

- Overturn SB4; pass **comprehensive immigration reform** that would resolve DACA, provide a pathway to citizenship others, and provide for family reunification
- Pass legislation to allow undocumented immigrants to **obtain a valid Texas driver's license**

6. ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- Expand accessibility and funding for **Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, elder care, disability, and mental health services in Texas**; reduce the cost of prescription drugs and treatments

7. QUALITY EDUCATION

- Increase **public school funding** and ensure a safe and supportive school environment
- Support **neighborhood schools** and promote restorative discipline

Please be sure to join us on Zoom on Sunday, September 13, from 12:30 to 1:45 pm, for a special presentation and discussion on how **CTI is addressing racial injustice and inequity** in law enforcement, housing, workforce and employment, and education. During the presentation, you will hear from CTI leaders active on the following task forces: Criminal Justice Reform and Community Policing, Affordable Housing and Homelessness, Workforce Development, and the Partnership with Huston-Tillotson University.

**Submitted by Dr. Joy Penticuff
Moderator of Congregational Church of Austin, UCC
Member of Central Texas Interfaith Strategy Team**

October Visitor Deadline September 25, 2020

Church Leadership

Deacons Chair	Faye Dierksen
Outreach Team	Whit Bodman
Moderator	Joy Penticuff
Treasurer	Gail Christeson
Financial Secretary	Dennis Murphy
Christian Education Coordinators	Jaime Hadley
Youth Sunday School	Amy Kent Rivera
Clerk	Reuel Nash
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Webmaster	Mel Oakes
Member-At-Large	Bill Beardall

Heart of Texas Association News
September
by Liz Nash

Our Heart of Texas Association Fall Meeting is still on for Saturday, October 10, 2020. We had planned to hold it at Hope United in Georgetown in celebration of its 10th anniversary, but as all of us know, the COVID situation has sent all of us in directions we could not have imagined several months ago. Many of our churches are not meeting in person yet, including Hope United. Hope is also in transition, as it is in the interim and pastoral search process. The plan now for our Fall Meeting is to meet via Zoom. Our Association Board will be planning that gathering over the next month, and we will send each of our churches and ministers information and a link to the meeting as soon as that planning happens. I think we can all look forward to the opportunity to share our churches' experiences, commitments, and journeys together as we gather -- always an uplifting and vitally important part of our meetings. Perhaps even more important than ever in this time will be your stories of how our churches are continuing to minister and how we are each dealing with the challenge that the COVID pandemic is presenting. We will look forward to the time when we can meet in person once again but are grateful, in the meantime, that we have the opportunity to gather easily from home online.

I am also grateful for the many ways I am aware of that our churches and pastors are adapting their ministries and even growing them in new ways over this time. Some of our churches are meeting outdoors (seated outside or by driving up and staying in cars); some are meeting in person but spread out to keep each other safer; and some, particularly those in areas with high COVID case numbers, are meeting online in various ways. Many have found that the process of learning to meet online has led to new and very creative worship formats. Some have also found that our online platforms have brought distant members and friends to worship with us as well as allowing very broad participation in discussion and study since people do not have to drive. Our pastors have met via Zoom several times to continue our "Jam and Bread" gatherings, the last time being to say farewell to **Ron Trimmer** as he prepared to move to Lake Ozark, Missouri. Ministers who otherwise would have had to drive a long distance have been able to

gather easily with colleagues. The youth of United Christian and others who joined them were able to have a virtual mission trip this summer after the multi-church mission trip they have been part of was cancelled. A host of people have worked hard to make all of this happen. I thank God for all of you.

On Sunday, September 17th, **Lee Zillman**, pastor of Redeemer UCC in Marion (in the Zuehl community) will retire. **Lee** has served Redeemer for the past 11 years, and in ministry and in Christian ministry for forty three years. I hope to give news of the celebration in a future newsletter. At this time, I ask for prayers of thanksgiving and support for **Lee** and **Sharon**, and prayers for the ongoing service in ministry of the whole Redeemer community as they embark on this interim time.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

Personals
by Pat Oakes

Over the August 15 weekend, **John Goff** drove daughter **Megan Goff** to Chicago to move her into her student apartment before her Junior year at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Unfortunately, coming from a "high-COVID" state, she was required to quarantine for 14 days before she could start classes, and Dad likewise had to stick to his Airbnb apartment and not do anything fun (not that there was much open anyway) before driving back. Two days driving there, one day to move, and two days back. Dad discovered the joys of Revisionist History podcasts, and binged an entire season during the drive. The move-in required renting a U-Haul van (done contactless via the Web, which worked very well), loading up **Megan's** voluminous stuff stored in the U-Haul storage facility, and then moving into her apartment. It was a lot of work in warm, humid weather; **John's** cloth mask got so sweaty it was like water-boarding (**Megan's** version of a Dad joke). They were allowed only one hour to accomplish the move-in in order to spread out the contact between the others doing the same thing. Fortunately, it all went according to plan. Here's a photo of **Megan** before unpacking all her belongings



8/16/20 Megan Goff getting moved into her apartment near the Art Institute of Chicago where she will be a junior

Barbara Burnham says, "I have had a busy summer at home, rarely going out. Occasionally **Robin** brings **Samantha** and **Rebecca** by for a socially distanced, masked meeting on my porch. But we all miss the hugs! For most of June and July, I

once again participated in judging the North American **Jane Austen** essay contest. These are student entries, in high school, college, and graduate divisions. This year's topic was **Austen's** Juvenilia, focusing on "Lady **Susan**" (the film version named "Love and Friendship"). In the spring and early summer, I made about 100 face masks for APD Victim Services and a few for my family and for Seton. After putting away the fabric and elastic, I turned again to making fleece blankets for Project **Linus**. We are not able to meet, but we had a "blanket drop" of completed blankets recently, and I turned in 17 that I had been working on. I also took home a bag of blankets that had been donated that need work--you might call it 'blanket rescue.' Now I am working on those as well as some new ones after a great sale at the fabric store. Being anxious about the election, I took on the task of writing 400 postcards to voters in Arizona and South Austin (different organizations). I have also continued with some Meetup groups, one on cleaning up, which resulted in my going through many boxes from storage, donating most of it, and then at last ordering a small dining table and chairs for my little dining area. Another Meetup group discusses articles from the New Yorker magazine every Monday. As I write, I am going through the process of gel injections in my knees over a three-week period. Here's keeping fingers crossed for less painful walking! More than anything right now, I'm just taking things a day at a time."

Don and **Sharon Brown** are sharing their best news that on August 16 the Travis County Democratic Party precinct chairs chose their son **Andy Brown** to be on the ballot for Travis County Judge. You can imagine how pleased they are. If all goes well in November, he will serve essentially as mayor of the county. **Sharon** and **Don** are wishing everyone good health and peace.

Rev. **Beth Gleason** preached her last sermon at Christ Congregational Church in Ft. Morgan, CO, on Aug. 16th and headed for Texas on the 17th. She arrived from Colorado late on the 18th. She starts work full-time as a chaplain on Monday, Aug. 24th. She started orientation the day after her arrival, meeting with her new boss and the chaplain staff. Baptist Health has 6 hospitals in its system and she is at the largest one which is in San Antonio

Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

every day. At this writing she is very busy looking for an affordable apartment in the area and, in the meantime, is staying at Slumber Falls. She is very excited for this opportunity and is happy to be back in “Tejas”—and is looking forward to seeing us in Austin soon. It was a treat to see **Beth** on Zoom on the 23rd for Joys and Concerns and coffee hour.

Jonathan Geer reports. "So, my family had this big trip to Alaska planned for the last week of July and first week of August, but it unfortunately got cancelled because of the coronavirus. The state had a 14 day quarantine and some other rules about traveling that would've made it very difficult and a little risky for all of us. This trip had been in the works for literally a decade, so it was a huge bummer, but

Roberto and I decided we had to take SOME kind of trip. So we headed to Colorado instead and spent the entire trip outdoors, camping and hiking. We stayed in the San Luis National Forest and hiked the nine mile Ice Lake Basin Trail that had 3,000 feet of elevation gain. It was an all day affair that took about nine hours. **Xitlali** had a great time, but by the end she was tired of being in the backpack/carrier and we had to carry her the last mile. We also spent a little time in the Great Dunes National Park which was pretty otherworldly. We also had a stop at Palo Duro Canyon on the way back home, but unfortunately didn't have time to hike around there. It was a wonderful getaway and hopefully the first of many family road trips!"



8/20 Xitlali loves being out in nature with her dads, Roberto and Jonathan



8/20 Intrepid hiker and camper Xitlali with her dad Jonathan

Personals (cont)
by Pat Oakes



8/20 Roberto, Xitlali, and Jonathan at Ice Lake in the San Luis National Forest



8/20 Xitlali ready to take to the road



8/20 Xitlali hiking with her dad Roberto Hernandez—the duck socks make hiking ever so much easier

Personals (cont)
by Pat Oakes



8/20 Xitlali, Roberto, and Jonathan hiking in Great Dunes National Park

Liz Nash wrote from the Berkshires in mid-August, "I actually went to church for the first time since the end of February last Sunday. We are in Mt Washington, Massachusetts, one of the smallest townships in the state. The church here, which is a summer congregation, has been meeting on Zoom. On Sundays when the weather is good, those who want to be together gather outside the church in lawn chairs spread apart and wearing masks to watch on a monitor. **Jamall Galloway**, our summer pastor for the past several years, is now a professor of religion at the University of San Diego, so he leads this year from the west coast. **Reuel** and I have been part of this Zoom service before the Congregational service for the past several weeks from our house here, but I went to be at the church last week to see relatives. I think there were 12 there, including me, with 7 cousins in the group. That's close to the usual proportion of relatives at church when I go in a normal year and larger attendance. This is the church that led us to the UCC, and it is where so many of my relatives have gone with us and before us. Anyway, it was a joy to sit with the group to worship together."

Marilyn Vaché reports that her daughter **Olivia** and her husband **Matt** are doing well and are

happy suburbanites who have just purchased their first home outside of Boston. They are both able to keep working from home, as is **Marilyn**. She says, "I love keeping up with y'all. I'm a semi regular attendee on Zoom, which is great."

Priscilla Perkins Grew and her husband **Ed Grew** have not been able to see each other in person for months—**Ed** is a Research Professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences, University of Maine-Orono and **Priscilla** is retired and Professor and Director Emerita, University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History. Both of them are well-known in the fields of geodesy, geology, and geophysics. **Priscilla's** dad, the late Dr. **James Perkins**, was a long-time member of the church back in the late '50s and '60's. Dr. **Perkins** taught at Huston-Tillotson for many years. Recently the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, the IUGG Journal, published an interesting article on **Priscilla's** career, profiling her as she became a member of the IUGG finance committee. **Priscilla** starts the article telling how she became a geologist. "I had an unconventional scientific career. Born in the Adirondack Mountains, I was an only child, my mother was a musician and my father was a Congregational minister in

Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

Schroon Lake, New York. He was born in India in 1905 in the missionary family that founded Kodai-kanal International School. He wanted to hear **Albert Schweitzer** speak, so he took us to the lectures and concerts of the International Goethe Bicentennial in Aspen, Colorado in 1949. I begged my parents every year afterward to return to Aspen. In 1959 we came back after my freshman year as a declared Physics major at Bryn Mawr College. On a Maroon Creek horseback ride, I met a geologist who taught me that the slanting layers in the Maroon Bells were uplifted sedimentary rocks, and I suddenly realized you could do geology for “work” and not just enjoy it on vacations!” To read the rest of the article, go to <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/IUGGej2008.pdf>.

Siblings **Caleb** and **Zooley Parkhill** got an early start for school this year. They go to Wayside Charter School and are doing on-line school for the foreseeable future. **Caleb** is in the 7th grade and **Zooley** is in the 3rd grade. They do miss seeing their friends. So far it is going well. **Jason** is working from home and **Kristin** is managing school at home. Grandmother **Debby Kohrt** enjoyed spending some time with the family several weekends ago after they all agreed to quarantine so that they could have some together time. The picture with **Caleb** shows

him with his prized possession. The family are big fans of the Green Bay Packers. A friend of **Debby's** won the helmet worn and signed by **Ray Nittschke** in a raffle and knowing what a big fan **Caleb** was, gave it to him. That is definitely special!!



Summer 2020 Caleb Parkhill with his prize possession, a helmet worn by Green Bay Packers great, Ray Nittschke



Summer 2020 Zooley Parkhill going into 3rd grade

Martin Garrison was called to St. Peter's UCC Church in Coupland in 2014 where he and his wife **Emily** have been ever since. **Martin** was ordained at our church and was “in care” with us for several years prior to his ordination. On Aug. 9th, the Coupland church tried what **Martin** is calling drive-in church! They did some research and found that you can transmit a radio station about 150 feet without having to apply for a permit with the FCC—so they bought a transmitter. Folks drove to the church and parked on the street in front of the church. **Martin** and **Kim**, the musician, stood on the porch of the fellowship hall and everyone tuned their radios to that day's radio station (it's been different stations depending on what's getting the best signal that day) and **Martin** does church on the radio!! The 16th was the second week they've done it and it seems to go well. **Emily** says "Y'all are welcome to come see/

Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

hear it - it's earlier than normal (8:30am) to make sure it's not too hot!" **Emily** is working from home and her company will likely continue with that policy for the rest of the year.



8/16/20 Drive-in church at St. Peter's UCC in Coupland--Martin Garrison (right) and Kim, the musician, on the front steps of the fellowship hall



8/16/20 Drive-in church at St. Peter's UCC in Coupland--parishioners tuning in

Dennis Schneider and his family were members of the church in the late 1980s. After he finished his degree here at UT he and his wife **Kazuko** and their daughter **Takako** moved to **Japan**. **Kazuko** died several years ago and **Takako** now lives in the West coast of the USA with her son. **Dennis** has stayed in Japan and shares that he is mostly staying home and reading cheap and free fiction on his Kindle. Their church service (Tokyo Union Church)

has been streamed since mid-March, and he watches that. The church recently celebrated the first wedding by streaming, and it was lovely. The bride's and groom's parents sent greetings from the US by recorded video, one in English and one in Korean. The ring was dropped and momentarily misplaced, leading to a bit of light comedy. When the bride appeared at the back door to march down the aisle, the groom totally lost his cool--fortunately he had brought a large handkerchief. Dennis was glad he always has a box of tissues beside his computer. The congregation has a couple of social groups of church people and they do Zoom meetings regularly just to talk about whatever comes up, and sometimes the pastor and/or congregation president join. There are now on-site church services at 8:30 on Sundays which limited numbers of people can attend in person, but with no singing. **Dennis** thinks his biggest risk would be the train to get to the church, and to him it's hardly worship without singing, so he will continue to attend the 11:00 streamed service. The neighbors don't complain if he sings along with his computer. A couple of his favorite nearby restaurants have opened with all the proper precautions in place, so he often goes out for lunch (by car). He thinks he is physically and mentally OK at least, although he misses being able to go out more. He chats with his sister and daughter and grandson occasionally on Messenger.

Beth Oakes and **Eugene Buck** were in Aspen, Colorado, with **Emily** and **Ethan** for a much needed break when the derecho roared through Iowa City, just 40 miles from Cedar Rapids. AS soon as they heard about the storm, they immediately called neighbors who checked on their house which was fine, but the older side of town was struggling with power outages and many downed trees. **Emily** is going to take a gap year from **Smith** as only on-line classes will be offered. It has been a real disappointment as she was loving college. She has an unpaid internship at the Iowa Writer's Workshop—working from home and learning lots of new skills. One is getting set for his senior year and will be on-line only for the foreseeable future. He was most disappointed this summer not to be able to attend a fabulous jazz camp in Newport, Rhode Island. He spends a lot of time practicing the saxophone these days.

Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

George Carruthers, FINALLY has a membership in the Caterpillar Club. It's a group of folks who have used a parachute to make an emergency jump from an aircraft. **George** made his jump on July 14, 1943, when he was blown out of a B-17 near Paris, France. His parachute saved him twice that day! First, it protected his chest from flak from the Focke-Wulf 190's guns that shot down the bomber. Second, though badly damaged, it slowed his descent and finally opened just before he crashed to the ground, landing on his back. Unfortunately, the German soldiers had seen the bomber crash and were right there to intercept **George** saying, "For you the war is over!" He spent two years as a POW.



8/22/20 George Carruthers with his membership certificate for the Caterpillar Club

Julia Deisler says hello from her home near Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she moved a little more than a year ago. She is very happy that she made the move. **Julia** is working from home. She certainly is not missing the temperatures in Austin! Daughter **Ava** and her boyfriend moved there at the same time **Julia** did. They are both working at Whole Foods. Her son **Eric** moved there as well at the end of May. So the only one left in Austin is **Olivia**. She's doing well and is going to school to

get her degree in social work while working part time at PetSmart to help pay the bills.

Matt and **Martha Wilding** were part of the church family about 25 years ago. They moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with their young son **Jake** for new jobs after finishing degrees at UT. They recently experienced the terrible derecho which roared through Iowa in early August. They went out-of-town the day before the derecho hit. They were at a lake in southern Iowa on that Monday with all their boys (3) and their families. The storm barely hit down there (**Jake** and **Bill** didn't even have to leave the golf course). They returned on Thursday to a different city. It looked like a hurricane hit and they guess that is what it was like. **Jake** (who was here in 2014 for a wonderful voice recital at Westminster where **Martha's** mom was living—a number of church folks showed up for the occasion—**Cathy Hubbs**, **Fran** and **Rambie Briggs**, **Mel** and **Pat Oakes**, and **Nodie Murphy** among others) works in a bank, and has started a business. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/POVDroneServices> He still sings occasionally, such as at church. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgUBtc424Bs>. Son **Bill** has just graduated from U Iowa. He plans to work as a bartender for a few months, then return to school to get a teaching license and apply to be a teacher. Son **Ben** enters his senior year in high school this year. Both **Matt** and **Martha** are still working. **Martha** is a teacher librarian in town, working on plans for school in a pandemic. **Matt** manages a research group at Collins Aerospace. **Matt** has started a vlog: <http://is.gd/wilding>. He is trying to post a video every month, but thinks he needs to do more to attract subscribers. (Do click on the link—it is lots of fun to watch). A couple of years ago, they moved to a condo in downtown Cedar Rapids. Perhaps because they are on a central grid and near two hospitals, they were only without power for 38 hours. They had to toss most of the contents of their fridge/freezer and they were without internet for days, but otherwise their place is fine. Their view is a different story—there are so many downed trees around them, grand old oaks just toppled. The city is a complete mess. By now, **Jake** and **Bill** should have power at their places. **Jake** and his wife and baby son **Finn** (**Matt** and **Martha** are delighted grandparents!) stayed with his

Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

in-laws. Bill and his girlfriend toughed it out in their apartment and came over to cool off and charge things. **Matt** and **Martha** ask, "Please do pray for our disaster prone city! (There was a terrible flood there in 2008)—and please say hi to our friends there. I haven't seen **Fran** and **Rambie** for many years!"



8/13/20—The Wilding family--l-r--Jake and his wife Erin, their son Finn with Martha, Ben, Matt, Maddy, and Bill

for a pipeline company and has been dealing with the difficulty of having to lay off workers. Mary has been helping out with granddaughters **Agnes** and **Clara**—the great joys of her life. Having a pool in their backyard has been wonderful this summer and they have enjoyed a number of sleepovers. Their son **Ricky** (who owns his own electrical company) and **Monica's** daughters (**Agnes**, nine—fourth grade, and **Clara**, seven—second grade) started back to school in class in mid-August in Thrall. **Ricky** said they didn't stop talking about school until they went to bed after their first day. They were so excited to see all of their friends. **Monica** is still working for the LCRA and can be either at home or at the office. The extended **Towery** family has missed visiting the northern branch of the family, but they are all staying in touch.

Whit and **Betty Bodman** are delighted to share that new twin grandsons born early on July 11th are now both well over five pounds and are at home thriving with their dad and mom, **Noah**, and his wife, **Erin**—with additional help from **Erin's** parents.

Here is a brief update on the **Towery** family. **John Towery** was our minister from 1959-1989—30 years. He and **Eleanor** had three children, **Ches**, **Sally**, and **Mary**. **Sally** and her husband **Tommy Johnson** live in Massachusetts and **Ches** and **Mary** both live in central Texas with their families. **Sally** and **Tommy** are doing fine in the Boston area. **Tommy** is working from home and **Sally** is helping with childcare for daughter **Tanya**, a nurse and her husband **John Reynolds'** children, **Haley**, nine and **Theo**, six. **Ches** and **Maggie's** daughter **Krystal** is still in Liberty Hill teaching sixth grade English. She has to be at the school, but has no students in her classroom. **Krystal** and her fiancé **Cole** are planning an April wedding. Her cousin **Pam Johnson** will be the maid of honor. **Ches** is playing golf and walking. **Ches** and **Maggie's** son **KC** and his wife **Kendra**, also a teacher, are both working from their home. They have two children--**Benjamin Chesley Towery**, six, and **Elizabeth Ann Towery**, two. **Mary** and **Danny Masters** are both doing fine—**Danny** is still working

History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes

Folks who are new to the church probably take the parking garage diagonally across the street from us for granted. **Mel** and I arrived at the church in 1967 and the church parking lot was the area where Bevo and the food court now stand. The nearby Presbyterian Church owns that land. The lot was not in great shape, but it was paved. When the Renaissance Market was created in the 1970s, the city closed 23rd St. from Guadalupe to San Antonio St. and restricted parking on 23rd St. by the church, making it challenging to find a place to park on Sundays. Parking continued for some time in that lot directly across the street. My earliest picture of Bevo installed in that lot is in 2006, about the time the parking garage was being built. The lot where the parking garage was built was the Co-Op parking lot for many years. Since we have only 4 parking places on the San Antonio side of the church, it was clear that we needed to make space available to the congregation in the new garage. The Trustees made a financial contract with the garage owners that allows us to park for free on Sundays and they have been quite flexible about allowing folks who were at church meetings/events not on Sundays to also park for free. It took about 6 months to build the parking garage. So, when we **finally** get back to church—think about what was there on that corner and what a boon it is to have the parking garage nearby.



4/1976 A view of the Renaissance Market which closed off 23rd St. at the church—church parking was in that lot—the Renaissance Market came into being in the 1970s. I don't remember how long this structure was in place, but by now it is long gone.

History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes, (cont.)



Rally Sunday, Aug. 26, 1990--Michael Adams and Susan Ashton leading songs with the younger children.
Note the old Co-Op parking lot diagonally across the street from the church.



2/6/06 Construction on the parking garage diagonally across from the church

History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes, (cont.)



2/27/08 Construction about to begin on the new parking lot across the street from the church



4/8/06 Parking garage across the street from the church undergoing construction

History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes, (cont.)



5/15/06 Construction on the new parking garage diagonally across the street from the church



7/30/06 Further construction on the parking garage across from the church



7/6/06 New parking garage going in across from the church



8/28/06 Finally—
the completed parking garage across from the church