

THE VISITOR

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

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Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt

Rev. John Towery, Pastor Emeritus

Governor **Rick Perry** recently hosted 30,000 Christians in **Houston's Reliant Stadium** to pray for our nation—"a nation in crisis"—and to call our nation back to its proper relationship with God and **Jesus Christ**. The event, called the Response, and co-hosted by the American Family Association, generated a fair amount of controversy.

Many Christians—whom we may for convenience sake label conservative or fundamentalist—supported the event because it resonated with their deeply-held religious beliefs regarding God, Jesus Christ, the correct way to interpret the Bible, and our nation's founding and continued identity as a Christian nation. Other Christians—whom we may for convenience sake label liberal, progressive, or even just mainline—found the event disturbing, even objectionable, because it didn't resonate with their particular beliefs. Of course, atheists and people from other faith traditions objected to the event as well, but my main interest is with Christians who objected to it. The Response prayer event highlighted, yet again, deep divisions that exist within Christianity in the United States today.

Think back about seven years ago, when **President George W. Bush** won his bid for re-election and some commentators trumpeted the view that Christians voting for Christian values re-elected President Bush. Those Christian values were, for the most part, so-called pro-family values that included opposing equal rights for gays and lesbians, and opposing a woman's right to choose an abortion. This sparked a strong reaction from Christians like Jim Wallis of the Sojourners Community, who noted that different groups of Christians in our nation hold different values.

More recently, we've witnessed the waxing and waning controversy over our current President's religious faith and practice. By this I don't mean the folks who continue to claim that **President Obama** is a Muslim, but those who insist that though the President calls himself a Christian, his religious beliefs aren't in fact *Christian* and therefore he's really *not* a Christian.

Recall about a year ago, when President Obama made some remarks about the content of his Christian faith. Almost immediately, the **Fox Television Network** assembled a panel of Christian leaders, whom we may again for the sake of convenience label conservative or fundamentalist, to inform our nation that President Obama's version of Christianity deviated radically from the Christian beliefs held by the vast majority of Americans. And on a radio talk show, I heard one Christian leader tell America that Obama's so-called Christianity was most certainly not authentic *American* Christianity.

Surf the World Wide Web and in just a few minutes you can find a number of Christian web sites that "prove" President Obama isn't a Christian because his beliefs aren't properly Christian. According to these sites, President Obama isn't a Christian because he doesn't believe in the inerrancy of scripture or in literal places called heaven and hell, he doesn't denounce Islam and claim Christ is the exclusive means of salvation, he supports equal rights for gays and lesbians, and so on and so forth.

Of course, all the reasons for denying that President Obama is a Christian can be applied to me as well, and probably many of you. As judged by these more conservative or fundamentalist Christians, I'm not a Christian, the Congregational Church of Austin probably isn't Christian, and a good bit of the United Church of Christ isn't Christian.

In our nation today, there are clearly divergent views as to what the word Christian means. Given this divergence, I think those of us who call ourselves progressive or liberal Christians must do a better job of articulating the content of our Christian faith. I think the stakes are high in our nation right now. Progressive and liberal Christians can't sit back and allow the Fox Television Network, or the American Family Association, or presidential candidate Rick Perry to coronate one type of Christianity as the only legitimate type of Christianity, or God forbid, as *American* Christianity.

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I think we need to be deeply passionate about how we interpret our faith in Jesus Christ. We need to articulate, as clearly and powerfully as possible, how we interpret what Jesus called the Law and the Prophets, and the kingdom of God. We need to articulate, as clearly and powerfully as possible, how we interpret the love of Christ, the cross of Christ, new life in Christ, and the peace of Christ. How we interpret Christ's mandate to love God, our neighbor, and our enemy, and to serve the lease of these, his (and our) brothers and sisters.

How we interpret the words and deeds of Christ informs our shared values and identity as a Christian church. Let us not be shy about articulating them as clearly and powerfully as we possibly can.

Tom

Outreach and Service Opportunities by Joan Mueller

AGE in ACTION on 38 1/2 Street accepts donations to give to needy seniors: Wheel chairs, rollators (rolling walkers), shower chairs and many other items. Contact Joan Mueller for details at 512-356-9339.

Home Funerals, Green Burials hold informational meetings in Austin about caring for dying family members and after death issues. For information contact Sandy Booth at 512-440-7979 or Donna Belk at 512-922-8045.

Also, a special workshop will be held October 30 at 1 pm for anyone who would like to learn about how families can be intimately involved in after death care. This workshop is held by Sandy and Donna, who have both worked for AMBIS and hospice.

Another timely issue, is **TCADP, Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty**. They have a website and send out quarterly newsletters. If you want to receive updates and action alerts contact them at info@tcadp.org. For additional information, contact Joan Mueller at 512-356-9339.

Vision Committee Plan (Updated) by Reuel Nash

The Vision Committee has divided the visioning process into two phases: 1) Determine who we are as a congregation, and 2) Determine the direction we should go as a congregation. The first phase will be completed in 2011, with the second phase to follow in early 2012.

We have created a schedule for the initial phase: determining who we are. The plan is to survey adult members and resident friends in three areas: demographics (e.g. age, education, occupation), church program evaluation, and spirituality type.

After an experiment with the Discipleship Group, we decided to do the spirituality type survey during an after-worship-service meeting, followed by a discussion. Once the surveys are returned and collated, the committee will present the aggregated results of the surveys to the congregation. Then, we will invite each member to participate in a house meeting for a discussion of the survey results, with the goal of further clarification and explanation of the survey results. We will be seeking volunteers to serve as hosts, leaders, and scribes for these house meetings. The results of the house meetings will be gathered and presented in a culmination of the first phase of the vision process.

The schedule is:

- Sept 11: send out surveys
- Sept 18: expect returned surveys
- Oct 2: After church meeting for spirituality type survey and discussion
- Oct 9: presentation of survey results to congregation
- Oct 9-16: train house meeting leaders and scribes
- Oct 16: After church makeup meeting for spirituality type survey and discussion
- Oct 17-30: house meetings
- Nov 6 (or before): Vision Committee and house meeting leaders meet and look at results.
- Nov 13: Presentation of "Who we are" to the Congregation

Reuel Nash

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Trustees Chair	Jaime Hadley
Deacons Chair	Joe McMillan
Christian Outreach Chair	Bill Beardall
Moderator	Reuel Nash
Treasurer	David Ross
Financial Secretary	Pam Tucker
Clerk	Betty Bodman
Historian	Whit Bodman
Web mistress	Sara Ross

PERSONALS

by Pat Oakes

There has been both joy and concern in the **Towery** family as this is being written. The joy is that **John** (85--pastor emeritus of this church which he served for 30 years) and his wife **Eleanor** welcomed a new great-grandchild into the family on Thursday, August 18. **Haley Christine Reynolds**, daughter of **John and Tanya Johnson Reynolds**, daughter of Sally (Towery) and Tommy Johnson, weighed in at 5 pounds and 8 ounces 18 1/2 inches long and is doing just fine at her home in Brockton, Massachusetts. **Maggie and Ches Towery** happened to be taking their great-nephew **Andrew Johnson** home to Massachusetts to his mom **Pam** (Tanya's sister), so they got to admire the new baby, too. The cause for concern, however, is that John has been in St. David's Hospital for more than two weeks after he collapsed at home on August 13. There has been no clear diagnosis, but several infections have been cleared up. As of this writing, John is expected to be released to a skilled nursing home in the next few days. Mary, their daughter who lives in Georgetown, has been taking Eleanor to see John every other day, plus Mary has spent many hours at the hospital with her dad. Please keep them in your prayers. You can send cards to The Towerys, 1130 Camino la Costa #116, Austin, TX 78752-3952.

That Sunday we also bade farewell to the **Freese-Summerlin** family--**Elizabeth, Talley** and their two daughters **Rose** and **Vivian**. Elizabeth reports that they made it safely across the country having a good time visiting family and seeing the countryside. They enjoyed a brief tour of D.C., including the Mall--giving special priority to the Lincoln Memorial and teaching the children about the new MLK Memorial which was unveiled just weeks after they were there. They then drove via the Shenandoah Valley and Gettysburg (where they read Lincoln's address again in context) to New Jersey. They camped out for several weeks in their new apartment while they waited for the movers to arrive. They've been enjoying the cooler temperatures and RAIN. The girls ran around and around in the foreign substance and had a great time. Elizabeth is starting the PhD program in Religion and Ecology, based in the Sociology of Religion area, at Drew University in Madison, NJ. Classes started on Aug. 29, Rose and Vivian don't start school until Sept. 7th. They are at Torey J. Sabatini, which is a great elementary just down the forest path from their campus apartment. They'll take karate and dance at the nearby Y as well. Talley is working from home, still with **EnviroMedia** in Austin, through September, and then they'll see after that.



A farewell reception for the Summerline-Freese family and the Masers was held on July 24. Shown from left to right are Elizabeth Freese, Vivian, Rose and Tally Summerlin, Jim and Mona Maser, Tom Vandestad and Joe McMillan.

Sunday, July 24, was a time of farewells for the church. During coffee hour we honored **Jim and Mona Maser** who have moved to Live Oak, Texas, where they found just the right house. They joined **Bethany UCC** in San Antonio on Aug. 21. They have a long commute, as they are both still working in Austin at their old jobs. They are hoping for the price of gas to drop soon! Both Jim and Mona are on the road for Austin by 4:35 a.m., work their shifts from 6 and 6:30 am until 3 and 3:15 pm, and are back home by around 4:30. They say hello to one and all.

We finally got to celebrate **Florence Castle's** 95th birthday in proper style on Sunday, July 31. Florence was not doing well in mid-May at the time of her birthday, but she was in fine fettle on the 31st. Her son **Paul** was at the service, as were a number of her friends from other musical venues where she has spent much time. The trio provided outstanding music, including a number by Florence's late husband, **Joe Castle**. The choir rose to the



Florence Castle's belated 95th birthday celebration was held at the church on July 31, 2011

occasion by singing a great rendition of "This Little Light of Mine", which had everyone's toes tapping. A plaque was unveiled on the piano which reads "Dedicated to Florence Castle, the Heart and History of the Piano Trio, Congregational Church

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of Austin UCC, Spring 2011" **Nodie Murphy** put together a wonderful bio of Florence, and the choir outdid themselves with a delicious coffee hour. Nodie also composed an "Ode To Florence" sung to Beethoven's tune "Ode To Joy." It is worth sharing with everyone.



Francis with Cathy Hubbs (l) and Sara Ross (r) admiring the photo album the Rosses made for her.

"Joyful, joyful, let us sing and celebrate this choral way
Florence Castle's presence here among us each and every day!
Loyal wife and faithful mother, valued teacher, blessed friend -
Helping us through bonds of music, lovingly our lives to blend.
We appreciate her kindness, brightness and humility,
Using all her gifts in music to create such harmony.
Persevering through life's struggles,
yet remaining strong and true,
Florence represents the hopeful flowering of life anew.
Gladly now we raise our voices, happy that we're all alive!
Joyfully we sing our hymn to Florence (who is nine-five!)
We adore her, praying for her, hoping that her time may be
Like the music that surrounds her, filled with love and melody."

Long-time choir director at the church and good friend of Florence's, 97-year-old **Marie Scheel**, had hoped to be at the party for Florence, but fell in the middle of the night the Wednesday before the celebration. She called her wonderful neighbors who came right over and called EMS. Marie spent a night and a day in the hospital being checked over very thoroughly, but amazingly all she had was a broken right thumb and some bruises. Good friends stayed nights with her for several weeks after she fell, but she is now on her own again. She is looking into getting **Meals on Wheels**--at least until her thumb heals.

Alex VandeStadt has begun her freshman year at Trinity University in San Antonio. She went down several days early to participate in orientation and some service projects in the area with new freshmen, and then Tom and Robin went down for two days to get Alex settled in her dorm. Alex is having a great time, and Tom and Robin are getting used to their empty nest!

Ben White spent a long weekend in early August with son **Carl** and family in Denver and the nearby mountains (mostly Frisco) hiking, dining, and loafing. A "cooling-off " period in the 50s and 60s was a nice switch from the Austin heat.

Beth Placek is having a wonderful time on her trip to England. Beth, a huge fan of **Brother Cadfael**--a wonderful medieval mystery series by Ellis Peters (also a BBC Mystery series), is headed for Shrewsbury. She will be walking through the abbey and castle along the Severn River where the mysteries are set. She was also hoping to see her friend Elizabeth in Lichfield and her friend Janet in Shropshire. It sounds wonderful and cool!

George Hetrick has found that the hot weather has really cut into his bike-riding time. He cites as his upper limit that he won't ride his bike to and from work if the forecast is for 105 or over. In previous years that has not been too limiting, but this summer he has only ridden to work twice. We will all really be grateful when the heat finally breaks, but George will be especially ecstatic.

It was wonderful to welcome **David Pinkard**, his wife **Suzanne Conolle** and their baby girl **Daphne** to church on July 10 while they were visiting **Doyal and Tommie Pinkard**. They were visiting the same Sunday that **Dot Everett Waldrip** was in church. Dot, who lives in Albuquerque with her husband **Bryan** and just blocks away from their daughter Kate and her family, is the daughter of the late **Rizer and Hildegard Everett**, who



Dot Everett Waldrip (l), daughter of Hildegard and Rizer Everett, was in town the same Sunday as David Pinkard and Suzanne Conolle with their daughter Daphne (Tommie's middle name) on July 10, 2011. (Shown here with Tommie.)

were long-time pillars of this church. Doyal and Tommie's visit to their niece's family in Gallup, New Mexico was timed to coincide with the 90th Annual InterTribal Ceremonial. With **Lori and Dave**, their four children, and Doyal's sister **Carol** and her husband, **Wes**, they enjoyed the big parade with all the veterans groups, bands, queens and princesses of every tribe and elementary school in the area. The big outdoor celebration that night was another story. Lori had purchased reserved seats for all ten of them, so they made their way to the grandstand in the rain and watched big tractors trying to pack down the mud so the performers could dance without sinking. But thirty minutes after the scheduled starting time, as the rain still poured down and the tractors still whipped around in the mud, all but two of them gave up and sought haven in their cars. The two? Ever loyal Doyal sat on with Lori to watch, finally, now barefoot dancers gamely performing for the minuscule audience remaining on the wet benches. The evening was far from a total loss, however.

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carving of a Native American woman that Tommie fell in love with. Doyal and Tommie continued their trip in California where they visited with son **Chris** and his wife **Rizza**, Chris's son **Gabriel** and their daughter **Kiana**. Rizza and Chris are expecting another baby in December right about Christmas time.

Another creation of **Nodie's** brings added blessing to the church in the summer. While we all miss the choir (which is on hiatus in the summer), Nodie lines up folks for worship gifts which are given at the time the choir would sing the anthem. Among others over the summer, **Shannon Quisenberry** sang a beautiful song, **Bill Beardall** played his guitar and sang a wonderful song, Jo Jensen talked about the prayer net she and others created for the Dell Children's Hospital, **Greg Futch** read 3 of his poems, and **Megan Goff** talked about her art work and showed the beautiful works she has created.



Jo Jensen's worship gift was the story of the prayer net that she and others created at Dell Children's Hospital.

Andria Miner, husband **Alan Lippert**, and big sister Julianne, 3, welcomed **Evan Ross Lippert** on April 30. Andria, a veterinarian, went back to work in mid-July. so it has been an adventure getting up at night to feed him--and then to get to work the next morning. We look forward to seeing more of them once Evan starts to sleep through the night.

Don Miles was at Seton overnight on August 5th. They looked at an angiogram and decided *not* to do surgery, but to schedule him for an EECF, which is an "Enhanced External Counterpulsation." It's not invasive, and involves putting sets of "cuffs" around both legs, similar to the ones used for taking one's blood pressure. When the heart beats out, the cuffs respond by beating back, setting up a whole new network of little arteries around the heart which will take over the job not being adequately done by what's there now. The treatment, probably in September, will take one hour a day, five days a week, for seven weeks. EECF has been FDA approved since 1995, and is the only non-invasive treatment for cardiovascular disease. We'll expect an update from Don next month!

Olivia Vaché, daughter of **Marilyn Vaché** and **Graylin Grissett**, had a most unpleasant start to her junior year at Sarah Lawrence in NYC. Several weeks prior to school starting, she was involved in a freak accident which resulted in her tearing 3 ligaments in her right knee. She had surgery before school started (dad Graylin went up to be with her) and her many friends rallied around and helped her get moved back into her dorm. She was distressed to realize that there would be no captaincy of the volleyball team this year--and that she would have to give up several jobs. We will expect an update next month to see how she is doing.

Paul Deisler wrote to say that his and Ellen's elder daughter, **Jane Deisler-Seno**, underwent serious surgery on August 2. She is now home from the hospital, convalescing, and must lead a life of very little physical strain for some six weeks. She already feels better, so the operation was a success. She will be able to drive in a week or so. Her son Thomas is with his uncle, **Conrad Deisler**, in Austin and her daughter, **Ellie**, will be back this weekend from Camp Champions (at Marble Falls) where she has been serving as a counselor. She will be a great help. All eight of Jane's dogs are in the local dog hotel for the duration but her seven cats, who require only minimal maintenance, are at home. The cats are especially happy without the dogs. Imagine their chagrin when the dogs show up again! Members of Jane's church, the Fellowship of Oso Creek, are visiting and helping out as are several friends. Needless to say, Paul and Ellen are happy with the outcome of Jane's surgery.

Keep **Lisa Kirch** and her daughter **Sarah** in your prayers. Her dad, **George Hall**, fell and fractured his skull at his home in Diamondhead, MS, in mid-August and died 2 days later as a result. Lisa was able to drive from Alabama to Mississippi to be with him. The same day her dad died, her dad's long-time companion, **Carole**, who lived with him, got a stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis. Lisa was there to take her to the doctor's office and help her get started on her treatments. Lisa's daughter Sarah, a sophomore, was in school in Birmingham so was not able to go with her mother. Lisa relates that her dad lived through **Katrina**, claiming she was nowhere near as bad as that typhoon in the South Pacific in the summer of '44. He was a WWII Navy vet and served on DD501, USS Schroeder. His service will be at Biloxi Nat'l Cemetery, Friday, September 2, at 10 AM, with military honors.

In June, **Marilyn Gaddis** and **George Carruthers** joined a travel group from **Bethany UMC** for a four-day Palo Duro Canyon trip. The first morning in the Panhandle, George won the trophy for winning the most "money" on the horses at the **River Breaks Ranch Cowboy Breakfast**. Then they headed to the Canyon to enjoy the vividly colored canyon walls and breathtaking views. However, it was 110 degrees at the bottom of the canyon while they ate lunch. In the evening, they watched the spectacular dancing at the **Kwahadi Indian Museum**. Most of the male dancers were Boy Scout Eagle Scouts! The second tour day took them to Groom, to see the 2nd largest cross in the Western Hemisphere. It is 19 stories tall with bronze Stations of the Cross around its base. The afternoon was spent at the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon walking among the over 3 million artifacts on display. In the evening it was back to the canyon for a steak dinner and to view the show, "Texas." The temperature was hovering around 113, so they ate and returned to the air-conditioned bus until show time. The "help" handed out ice cold washcloths and small bags of ice to those in need. The show participants rushed from air-conditioned rooms to the stage and back after their numbers. Needless to say, there were no fireworks at the end of the show. Instead, they placed lights along the ridges above the stage and had streams of water playing with colored lights flashing. It was a very interesting trip with great travel companions.

In late August the **Bradford/Moores** took son **Travis** to Du-

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Brazos Association News

July and August 2011

by Liz Nash

Our Brazos Association Fall Meeting has been scheduled. We will gather at **Friedens Church of Washington UCC** on Saturday morning, October 15 for worship, fellowship, business, and a program. Save the date and plan to join us. Friedens Church is in a lovely setting, and they always offer a warm welcome

For all of you who want to “dig a little deeper” in theological and biblical study, I have a great opportunity to share with you. **Eden Theological Seminary** is offering online classes this fall and spring for lay people, licensed ministers (including those who would like to enroll for continuing education), and clergy at a price that is greatly reduced from their seminary class tuition. These classes are part of their online **Pastoral Theology Certificate** program, a series of classes that are each approximately equivalent in work and content to a one hour credit undergraduate college class. Offerings this fall include “An Introduction to Biblical Interpretation,” “How to Think Theologically,” and “Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling.” The dates are September 12 – November 18, with tuition due by September 9. Tuition is \$200 per course for audit and \$375 for credit toward their certificate program. The courses are taught in a collaborative online environment by doctorate level theologians, and have been developed under the guidance of Eden’s faculty. One additional course this fall is “An Overview of UCC History, Polity, and Theology,” which is being offered from September 12 – October 14 for audit only (tuition \$150).

This class is intended for members of Committees on Ministry / Church and Ministry Committees and those who would just like an introduction to the UCC in some detail. (It does not fulfill the polity course requirement for ministry). Spring offerings will include “Theological Questions in Historical Perspective,” “Introduction to Christian Worship,” “An Introduction to World Religions in America,” and a repeat of “An Overview of UCC History, Polity, and Theology.” My understanding is that Eden will be requiring a minimum enrollment of 5 students per class by the week before instructions begins to be able to go ahead with the class, and will give refunds if a class does not “make.” Interested? The website to check for enrollment information is <http://www.eden.edu/Academics/Pastoral-Theology-Program.aspx>.

As I noted last month, we are beginning to hold **Licensed Ministry (LM)** classes this summer. Earlier, we had scheduled the next class to be on Saturday, August 16th at St. John’s UCC in Burton but we have had to change that date. It is not completely set as I write. If you are not on the email list for this meeting and want to find out when it will be, if you just want to know more about Licensed Ministry classes and possibly explore joining us, or if you definitely want to join us and have not been in touch with me about it, contact me at lizknash@gmail.com, (512) 799-2782 (cell), or (512) 231-0045 (home). I will talk with you about the steps you need to take and what is scheduled. We are still in the process of deciding whether our students will take some of the Eden classes or if we will offer all of them locally (as in the past). However, I would encourage those interested in Licensed Minis-

try who want to take Eden classes listed above to do so, since many of them should count for the LM program. I would be happy to discuss which Eden classes would cover material in the LM program with those who are considering them.

SAVE THE DATE! Our **Fall Brazos Association Meeting** will be held on Saturday morning, October 15, at Friedens Church of Washington. Friedens is in a lovely location – it is always a treat to look over the rolling fields of Washington County at the church. Of course, it is close to Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, the birthplace of Texas. We will be determining the program for the meeting after our Church and Ministry Committee meets in September since, at that time, we may have candidates for ordination approved for Ecclesiastical Councils. At our Fall Meeting, we also anticipate sharing from **General Synod in Tampa** this past summer from the delegates from Brazos and from others who attended.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with what an **Ecclesiastical Council** is, here is a bit of explanation. After a person has been in care of the local church and the Association for at least a year in preparation for ministry, has completed a **Master of Divinity** in seminary or equivalent study, has written an ordination paper, and has been recommended by their home church for ordination (in addition to meeting some other requirements), that candidate submits their ordination paper to the Church and Ministry Committee and has an ordination interview. If the Church and Ministry Committee then recommends the person for ordination, an Ecclesiastical Council is scheduled – in our Association, this is generally at our next scheduled Fall or Spring Meeting. The candidate’s ordination paper is sent to all of our member churches to allow people to read it before the Council, and we depend on the churches to share this paper with those who are coming.

At the Council, the candidate is introduced, the person gives a brief statement, and then the group present is asked to question the candidate. Questions generally address their view of ministry, plans, and areas covered by their paper, including their faith journey, their familiarity with UCC history and polity (governance), and their theology. After the questioning ends, the candidate leaves the room and the Association votes on whether to approve them for ordination, pending the receipt of a call to ministry in a church or other setting. If approved, the candidate can be ordained when that person has received a call. Clearly, our faithful and committed participation in these Councils is very important to ministry in the UCC. The councils are interesting and thought-provoking. If we do have one or more **Ecclesiastical Councils**, we will be spreading the word and sending out papers as soon as we can, after our Church and Ministry meeting. I encourage our churches to share these papers with members who will be coming to the Fall Meeting, and I encourage all to come and be an active part of this process.

John Boydston, pastor of **Evangelical UCC in Lyons** and **Friedens UCC in Gay Hill** has announced that he will be leaving at the beginning of Advent in 2012. John has been a wonderful colleague in the Brazos Association in faithful and committed

University Area Partners Meeting Report

August 2011

by Sharon Brown

At the August 23 **University Area Partners** meeting several presenters explained that **University Baptist Church** will enter into a 99-year lease for development of their parking lots on either side of the alley between San Antonio and Nueces, bordered by 21st and 22nd streets.

American Campus Communities (ACC), a locally grown business that is on the NYSE, will lease the land and build freshman housing, which will straddle the alley. Their plan is to buy the alley from the City, bury utilities underground to create a 20-foot easement, and give the alley back to the City. The alley will continue its current use.

The approval process includes application, City staff review, appraisal, submission to the **Urban Transportation Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council**. ACC is now waiting for the appraisal. The structure will be under the 175-foot limit for that part of west campus and will have a required 62-degree sun angle setback on the north side. I believe that setback is designed to prevent the area from becoming canyons of tall, straight buildings.

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ministry to these churches. He and Linda have enriched the life of the Brazos Association in many ways. Our prayers are with them and with these two churches as John and Linda prepare to leave and go on to what we hope will be a blessed time together in the future.

For those who have not yet heard, the UCC is conducting **Mission 1** in November with a goal between **11-1-11 and 11-11-11** of collecting one million items of food and other household items for local food banks and outreach serves, collecting \$111,111 for the UCC Neighbors in Need offering, and offering 111,111 letters to the annual **Bread for the World Offering of Letters to Congress** regarding assistance for the hungry worldwide. Interested in joining the campaign?

Go to <http://www.ucc.org/mission1/> for more details. It's always the right time to feed the hungry!

Blessings,
Liz Nash

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at **Fort Lewis College**. He is so excited about being in Colorado and being away from home for the first time. They attended family orientation that Thursday through Saturday, and found time in there on Friday, the 26th, to celebrate Travis's 19th birthday! Travis has an aunt and uncle and 5 year-old nephew who live in Durango, so he won't be totally without family. Suzanne returned home after Travis got set up, but Sarah and John went on to Denver to visit family there. John was also looking for work in Denver while he was there.

There will be a large parking garage within which **UBC** will have 230 spots to lease and use. They currently have 200. The parking entrance will be off of Nueces Street. A smaller area with 34 parking spots will be for ACC staff, who will enter from San Antonio.

Larry Deuser, who serves on the UBC committee, and **Jack Tisdale**, an Austin architect working with ACC, both were very enthusiastic about the benefit to UBC and the way ACC builds and runs its facilities for students. Security is a priority; for instance, security staff ensure that no unauthorized people enter the student residence section of the building. The ground floor contains a main lobby with student services on the west side and dining facilities on the east, all of which open only from spacious, patrolled areas by the alley.

Sharon Brown
Representative to UAP

Jake Burlinson is now a full time DPS trooper based here in Austin, but his National Guard medivac unit (out of San Antonio) will soon be deployed to the Middle East. They spent most of the past 4 months in training and orientation, and will deploy at the end of the year. Mom and Dad (**Carol and John**) have been dreading this. Jake is hoping to get by church to see everyone before he leaves. We wish you well, Jake.

Steven and Jeanine Neuse reported that they had a few days of really nice cooler weather, even had some rain (sorry, their grass has "greened" up again) back in Fayetteville, Arkansas. They spent about 2 1/2 weeks in Texas in June (Steven's cousin and his wife celebrated their 50th anniversary), then brought grandchildren **Bryce** and **Jayce** back with them for 2 1/2 weeks. They survived!! The kids were good but they did have to find some active time to get some of the energy expended. Son Micah and Kara met them in Sherman for a "pass them back." Otherwise, they are trying to stay cool and gearing up for fall activities.

Long-time members of the church will remember **Omer and Zona Galle** (parents of **Kristin Galle**) who have lived in Liberty Hill for years. They decided to retire to the old home place in North Newton, Kansas (new address 409 East 24th Street, North Newton, Kansas, 67117). They are beginning to get settled in, and very much enjoyed a visit from son **Karl** and his wife **Sylvia** who flew over from Cairo to help with the move. Karl and Sylvia visited friends in NYC and then went on to Toronto to visit Sylvia's brother and family. They are now back in Cairo where Karl has a 3 year teaching gig at the American University of Cairo and Sylvia continues to work for USAID.

The Congregational Church of Austin
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Austin, Texas 78705-5214

Return Service Requested

Deadline for October Visitor - Sept. 21

Please “Like” Us On Facebook

Why? It adds credibility and increases our profile views when people visit the church Facebook page. People considering our church, as well as you and your current Facebook friends, will also be able to see mutual friends that like us. Here's how to officially like your church in the world of social media:

- 1) Go to www.facebook.com
- 2) In the search box, start typing 'Congregational Church of Austin, UCC'. Note that another listing for our church, minus the UCC tag, may also show up. You don't want that one. You want the one that shows the photo of the church. Select the correct page and hit enter.
- 3) When you arrive at the church's Facebook page, there will be a gray box next to the church name at the top that says 'Like'. Click there. Now you're done.

NOTE: Another way to get to our Facebook page is by clicking the Facebook icon on the upper left corner of the main page of our website.