

THE VISITOR

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

408 West Twenty-third Street, Austin, Texas 78705-5214

(512) 472-2370 Fax: (512) 472-1175

E-mail: ucausti@swbell.net Web site: congregationalchurchofaustin.org

Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt

Rev. John Towery, Pastor Emeritus



"He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of
their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty."

Paul Krugman writes in a recent op-ed piece, "on average, Americans remain a lot poorer today than they were before the economic crisis. For the bottom 90% of families, this impoverishment reflects both a shrinking economic pie and declining share in that pie...rising inequality becomes by far the most important single factor behind lagging middle-class incomes." After describing the political policies that helped produce this economic inequality, Krugman concludes that surveys of the very wealthy show that they "favor big cuts in safety-net programs. And sure enough, those elite priorities took over our policy discourse."

One of the highlights of the **Advent/Christmas** season is our reading of **Mary's Magnificat** in **Luke's Gospel**. Among other things, Mary's song is a subversive critique of what Krugman calls "elite priorities." *The powerful removed from their thrones*. What a different world we'd live in if the contemporary powerful were removed from their thrones. Imagine a world without an elite group of extremely wealthy and powerful people wielding their resources to create the systems that not only perpetuate their wealth and power but increase it. What a different world we'd live in if "elite priorities" weren't prioritized. That's the world of which Mary sings.

But let's go even further and not limit our critique of self-serving power to the top 1%. Mary sings of a world in which all forms of self-serving, oppressive, and exploitative power are erased. From **Caesar, Herod, and Pilate** on down. From **Wall Street, K Street, and Capitol Hill** on down. No local contractors stealing their workers' wages. No teachers humiliating their students. No parents abusing their children. No playground bullying. No police intimidation through racial or ethnic profiling. No homophobia. No gender discrimination. No cruel treatment of animals in slaughter houses. No blowing the tops off mountains to remove coal. Imagine a world where nobody oppresses, dominates, or hurts another person, species, or the earth for selfish gain. A world where "they shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain," as the prophet Isaiah so eloquently put it. Like the other great prophets of Israel and Judah, this is the world of which **Mary** sings.

One of the most interesting, subversive, and defiant aspects of Mary's song is that she sings as if God has already set the world right. God *has* removed the powerful. God *has* lifted up the lowly. God *has* filled the hungry. God *has* sent the rich away. Yet Mary's not naïve. She knows darn well that the powers-that-be are still sitting on their thrones; God hasn't removed them. She knows that God hasn't lifted her up; she's still poor. God hasn't dropped her a picnic basket from the sky; she's still hungry. God hasn't sent the rich away empty; they're still conspicuously consuming. Mary knows the score. Yet she sings anyway. A song about a radically transformed world. As if the turning-of-tables has already occurred. As if God has already set the world right.

Mary's words are not just subversive. They're defiant. They defy the rich and powerful. They send a potent message—you cannot make me give up hope in a radically transformed world, one in which you're not in control and your priorities aren't prioritized. In fact, I'm going to sing a song of joyful celebration as if you're already gone. You cannot defeat someone like that. The powers-that-be cannot prevail over someone who sings such a song.

Consider the education young **Jesus** received at the dinner table from his mother, **Mary**. Imagine **Jesus** growing up hearing his mother singing this song around the house. If you read the rest of Luke's Gospel, you'll see just how the mother's subversive hope and defiant faith rubbed off on the son. Let's not pull this song out just once a year in December. As we imagine Mary doing, let's sing it over and over again throughout the year. At the dinner table. Around the house. And in doing so, may her hope and faith rub off on us. And our children.

TOM



The children's Christmas gift to the congregation on Dec. 15th. Caleb Parkhill, Francesca and John Dietz, William Harris hidden behind Francesca, Tess Howicz, Alden Harris, Isabella Dietz, Julianne Lippert; front, Scarlett and Juliet Quisenberry; directed by Anna Kimberley.



Lighting the candle of Peace on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. With Tom assisting, Julianne Lippert, William and Alden Harris lit the three Advent candles and Tess Howicz did the reading. Choir (from left) Nodie Murphy, Don Miles, Betty Phillips, Greg Futch, Lucy Hanouille and Bill Mueller.



The wonderful team of cooks and helpers who served 86 hungry people on Christmas Day. From left—Christy Kuhner, Dennis Murphy, Marilyn Vaché, Olivia Vaché, Cecile Adam and Alex Vandestadt.

Church Leadership

Trustees Chair	John Goff
Deacons Chair	Jaime Hadley
Outreach Team	Marilyn Vaché
	Warinda Harris
Moderator	Reuel Nash
Treasurer	David Ross
Financial Secretary	Steve Domingue
Clerk	Betty Bodman
Historian	Jaime Hadley
Web mistress	Sara Ross

Personals by Pat Oakes

We're delighted to welcome two new members to CCoA. **Debby Kohrt** and **Sarah Darter** joined the church on November 24th. Debby is the mother of member **Kristen Parkhill**, and she also has a son who lives in **Wisconsin**. She was originally from **Kansas**, lived in the Upper Peninsula of **Michigan** for many years, and is most recently from **Peshtigo, Wisconsin**. Peshtigo's claim to fame, a huge fire in 1871, was less famous then it might have been due to the more famous Chicago fire (see <http://www.peshtigofire.info/>), which happened the exact same day. Debby was raised in the Methodist church, and also worshipped in the Lutheran denomination for many years. This is her first experience in the UCC, and is finding herself very much at home with us. She enjoys scrapbooking, quilting, crafting and spending time with her grandchildren. Debby has also recently begun volunteering with our church's second **Care Communities** care team. **Sarah Darter**, already active in our congregation, is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She is a graduate of **Union Theological Seminary** and was the first woman chaplain commissioned in the United States Navy where she served for 14 years. She has served various congregations in the **Midwest, California, and Las Vegas**, and is open to church and chaplaincy ministry.



Debby Kohrt and Sarah Darter joined the church on Nov. 24th.

Jen Howicz writes, "It's with mixed excitement and sadness to write that Jim has been hired as General Counsel at 3

a company in the **Philadelphia** area. Jim starts his new job in January, and the rest of us will follow in June after **Emily's** high school graduation and **Tess'** graduation from elementary school. Though we look forward to our new adventure, the decision to leave Austin was very difficult, mainly because of the friendships and community of CCA. During the past 12 years, we have truly developed strong "ties that bind" with our church family, and will miss everyone greatly!" It is sad news for all of us, Jen and Jim--but we know we will stay in touch!

Pastor Tom had an unexpected run-in while on his bike on December 11th. In broad daylight, mid-day, a woman came to a rolling stop at a stop sign and bumped into Tom. Tom reports that she was far more scared than he was. Tom was wearing a helmet and survived with only a sore back. We are so glad you are OK, Tom! And keep on wearing that helmet. (**Josh Sabik** would never forgive you if you did not wear it! Tom bought Josh a helmet after Josh was hit by a pick-up truck while on his bike).

Whit and **Betty Bodman** are really looking forward to April! Their daughter **Elizabeth** and her husband are expecting a baby girl then--Whit and Betty's first grandchild! Needless to say, they are tremendously excited about this. Whit notes that Elizabeth's older brother, **Noah**, having felt the heat for several years about producing the next generation, apparently bribed their daughter to go ahead and produce and take the heat off him and his wife. Betty has announced that she will go from full time teaching to adjunct status this coming summer, which will give her more time to abandon Whit and go visit their progeny. She is more than ready to lighten her schedule and spend more time in **Jersey City**, giving advice and babysitting. **Whit** will be taking a group of students from the seminary to **Trinidad** this January. It is an ideal place for any travel seminar since it is close, inexpensive, English speaking, religiously diverse, and has a Presbyterian organization to help us with arrangements. Nice beaches, too. The Bodmans were looking forward to all being together here in Austin over the Christmas holidays.

Ruth Koenig recently gave her grandchildren a gift, not just for Christmas, but something she hopes they will treasure for a long time. In a little memoir titled *A Girl Named Ruth*, she describes growing up on a farm in northwestern **Ohio** during the Great Depression. The idea came to her last year while reading a story about a farm and cute little animals to her four-year-old great-grandson. She realized that SHE had grown up on a REAL farm with animals, on the kind of farm which hardly exists anywhere in modern-day America now. She wanted her grandchildren to know HER stories. Her life was light years away

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Brazos Association News
December
by Liz Nash

On **Sunday, December 1st**, five of us from Brazos Association churches — **Sylvia Summers** and **Charlotte Albert** from **St. Peter's Coupland**, **Linda Coats** from **Friends Congregational College Station**, and **Ellie Nash** and **me** (Liz Nash) from **Congregational Austin** -- drove to **Back Bay Mission** in **Biloxi, Mississippi** for a week of mission work. Our group spent time working in many areas of Back Bay's work: in the **Micah Day Center**, which provides a day refuge for homeless guests; in the food pantry; shopping for and filling Christmas food baskets for area low income people; and doing painting, floor-laying, and other "finish up" work on a house that was being repaired and on a house that is to be sold as affordable housing. We also were featured on local TV station **WLOX's** newscast in a video about the Christmas food collection and distribution. Like everyone who takes part in Back Bay, we were brought into their community of staff, volunteers, and people being served. And, we had lots of fun cooking, relaxing, visiting **WLOX**, and seeing the area together. Ask any of our group to share with you about it.

Faith UCC in Bryan held a joyous ordination service for **Janice Kerlee** on **Sunday, December 8th**. Janice began commuting to **Perkins School of Theology at SMU** in 2004, and came to the UCC after serving United Methodist churches. She has served as the interim at **Lyons Evangelical UCC** and currently serves as chaplain for **Compassionate Care Hospice**. It was a privilege to be part of her ordination.

Ken Ingram will be next in the "season" of new ministry in our Association. His service of ordination will be at **3 pm, Sunday, January 19th** at **United Christian Church** in Austin. Ken serves as Chaplain at the **Heart Hospital of Austin**. Currently, he is on the youth ministry volunteer team at United. We invite all in our churches to come to his ordination.

On the 19th, we also bid farewell to **Ken White**, Associate Minister at **United**, who has accepted a call to be the pastor of **College Street Congregational UCC in Burlington, Vermont**. Ken has had a tremendous ministry at United, building a youth program that has truly enriched

the lives of many as well as ministering to the church in countless ways. **College Street Congregational** is getting a gift in welcoming Ken. We will miss him!

United is in a season of joyous anticipation and transition. **Interim Senior Minister Jack Mullins** completes his ministry there on Sunday, January 5th, and they welcome **John Gage** as their Senior Minister when he begins his ministry at **United** on **February 17th**. John has served as Associate, Co-Pastor, and Senior Pastor at **Church on the Green UCC in New Haven, Connecticut** for the past 14 years. He was ordained in the **Brazos Association** through **Congregational Church of Austin**, graduated from **Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary**, and grew up in Austin. We look forward to having him as one of our Brazos Association ministers. Let's keep United in our prayers in this time of change.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash
Brazos Association Minister

El Salvador Mission Trip Support

Beth Gleason and **Liz Nash** are headed for **El Salvador** with a group from UCC churches in **Pennsylvania** and **Iowa** to support the work of the co-op in the **Alegría** area, enabling people there to work together for a better life through agricultural projects, improved housing, micro loans to start small businesses, and improved access to health and education. We are grateful for the approximately \$500 people generously paid as during the recent pie/dessert sale. Our goal is to take at least \$1000 down with us to contribute to this work, led by **Oscar Rodriguez**, the community organizer who has worked so faithfully in this region over several years. Our trip will be from January 26 - February 1. We encourage and appreciate your continued donations. To donate, give to **Congregational Church of Austin** by January 19 and mark your check "El Salvador Trip." If you are interested in donating supplies to be taken to El Salvador, contact Liz or Beth to find out what they can take. If you are interested in possibly going, contact Liz Nash right away to find out more information.

from the experience of today's children, who take central heating, **Skype**, and jet air travel for granted. While Ruth



Ruth Fissel was born in 1927 and grew up on a farm in northwest Ohio, near the town of Spencerville. Between then and now, she married Don Koenig, bore two sons, Doug and John, graduated from college with bachelor's and master's degrees, and was for many years a high school and community college teacher. Most of her life has been spent in Ohio and Illinois, although she also lived for a year each in Great Britain and China, and now makes her home in Austin, Texas.

This is Ruth's second book. Her first, *The Red Blackboard*, published in 1996, recounts the year she and her husband spent in China, teaching English at the Chengdu College of Technology.

jokes that she wasn't born in a log cabin, nor was it like *The Little House on the Prairie*, as someone mentioned, there were no modern conveniences that we now consider necessities. While writing the book was like a trip down



memory lane and the recollections were fun, she is quick to say she would not care to relive those days. She hopes, however, that it will bring the past alive for her young readers, and they will appreciate what they have and not take it for granted.

Tommie Pinkard made an early December trip to chilly **California** with two suitcases, one with clothes and a bigger one crammed with Christmas presents for son **Chris**, his wife, **Rizza**, and the three grandchildren, **Gabriel**, **Kiana**, and **William**. Tommie and Doyal had a great time with **David** and family, but Tommie's asthma acted up and she had to go to the hospital for several days, leaving Doyal to be the host. The latest word has Tommie improving daily and she hopes to be in church again by mid-January.

Joe McMillan is doing much better, but he certainly had an unexpected setback on **Nov. 30** when he was following his friend **Willie** in his car out on **Hwy 620**. Willie was headed out to have some car work done and Joe was going to drive him home. When Joe stopped to turn left, he was rear-ended by a driver who was not paying attention Joe saw him coming and managed to turn partially out of the way, missing a much worse impact. He was able to drive away, but too much damage had been done to the car and the insurance company declared Joe's beautiful red 1980 **Volvo Bertone** totaled on Dec. 17th. Joe laments that the car was designed and made for the **King of Sweden** and only a few hundred were produced. It was featured in the November, 1980, Motor Trend Magazine. So, in addition to holiday shopping and going to Home Depot seeking out leaky bathtub repair options, he was looking at gently used cars. We will give you an update next month. Happy hunting, Joe!

Former child caregiver **Thaisa Howorth** has started her teaching in **South Korea**. She is doing well but has not been writing in her blog as much. It was taking a lot of her time--and the folks who were reading it were not writing back to her. She misses all of us and send her regards.

Last month we had a wonderful wedding picture of our former pianist **Aaron-Carter-Cohn** with his new bride, Quintina Obianuju Enyi of **Lagos, Nigeria**. Now we have a full report from Aaron. "A traditional **Ìgbò** wedding was held on 13 October 2013, and we were legally married 23 October 2013 on **Quintina's** 29th birthday. We are still waiting to have a church wedding (or "white wedding" as it is called in Nigeria) when we get on our feet financially. Quintina hopes this will be soon because it is the most important to her. We met during my Fulbright research grant in Music Theory. The project used acoustic analysis (spectrographic and fundamental frequency extraction) to study the correlation between speaking and singing in West African tone languages. Quintina comes from a family of singing enthusiasts (both professional and amateur), and she is a church choir director in Lagos. She is also very interested in languages, fluent in three, and sings in many, many more. Quintina is in her final year of a baccalaureate degree at **Lagos State University**, but is delayed indefinitely because of a nationwide university fac-

ulty strike (not the first one that has delayed her degree!). After a brief return to the states for a series of conference presentations without her in November (her visa was not approved), I am now happy to be back in Lagos with my wife. I have put my PhD coursework on hold and am volunteering at the **University of Lagos** (aka Unilag). During this time, I hope to complete the three courses I started teaching at **Unilag** during my Fulbright funding last spring--it's the second time a strike has interrupted my teaching, and this time I don't want to give up! More imperatively, we hope that Quintina can finish her degree at Lagos State University and return to the US with me before the Fall 2014 semester. At that point, I'll continue my coursework and teaching at the **Ohio State University**. Meanwhile, there has been talk since last May (that has not abated) that **Nigeria** is on the verge of a (second) civil war. This is rather a foggy term and the circumstances are quite different, but I sincerely hope this does not happen; last time there were around two million civilian casualties (mostly children who starved as a result of a trade blockade to Biafra). Despite challenges, we are very happy and productive, enjoying music and research, and being newlyweds, of course. My mother, **Karen** (whom many of you know), very much wanted to come for the first two (of three or four) ceremonies, but the process of getting a passport, a Nigerian visa (which is



Aaron and Quintina's traditional wedding in Áffà. Two musical fathers, David Aina (left) and Sir Emeka Nwokedi (right), formed a surrogate family of musicians to represent Aaron's family (they are both well-known choir directors and composer/arrangers in Nigeria).

not easy, perhaps retributively) and flying across the world (to what few people other than me would call a travel destination) seemed like too much, so I advised her against it.

Pastor emeritus **John Towery** and his wife **Eleanor** celebrated 63 years of marriage on December 9. It was a quiet day for them both as Eleanor, who has inoperable breast cancer, is not doing as well as she has been. They are comfortable and happy at the **Cottages of Chandler Creek** in Round Rock. They love to get cards and letters, so send 6

them something through their daughter Mary Masters. Mary's address is 109 D B Wood Road, Georgetown, TX 78628. John and Eleanor's son **Ches** and his wife **Maggie** are looking forward to becoming grandparents in February. Son **KC** and his wife **Kendra** are expecting a baby boy in mid-February. Kendra had to stop teaching school and at this writing has been on bed rest and will remain so for the duration of the pregnancy. It is good to have a nurse in the family (soon-to-be grandmother Maggie). John and Eleanor's daughter **Sally Johnson** (who lives in Massachusetts) is doing much better after surgery to treat a painful infection in her spine. She is now clear of infection and is through with the antibiotics--and is enjoying getting back to doing normal things. Sally and Tommy's daughter **Pam's** fifteen-year-old son **Andrew** was planning on coming on Christmas Eve to see his grandparents and aunts and uncles for a few days before going on to **New Braunfels** to visit with his father. **Ricky and Monica Masters** (Mary and Danny's son and his wife) were looking forward to a big family gathering on the weekend of the 22nd for eight-month-old **Clara's** christening in **Taylor**, where they now live.

Mary Sinclair won't be playing tennis any time soon. On December 9, she was playing doubles with friends at an indoor court (she and husband **Dick Jackson** live in **Heidelberg, Ontario, Canada**) when she went for a high shot that was coming in behind her. She back-pedaled mightily, hit the shot, scored the point--and fell backwards, breaking her left wrist (she is right-handed) and suffering a mild concussion. She and her partner forfeited the match--but she is now doing well--and got out of cooking Christmas dinner!

Michelle and **Rhys Ulerich** have welcomed a new baby boy into their family. **Oxford** was born on **December 10** and is now three year old **Ozark's** baby brother.

Former long-time members **Garry** and **Judy Cole** were in **London** from the 15th thru the 27th of December visiting their daughter **Allison** and her husband **Chris Stutz**, and granddaughters **Hazel** and **Violet**. Daughter **Heather**, son-in-law **Jeff** and sixteen-month-old granddaughter **Alex** joined them from Austin on the 21st. A lively Christmas was enjoyed by all.

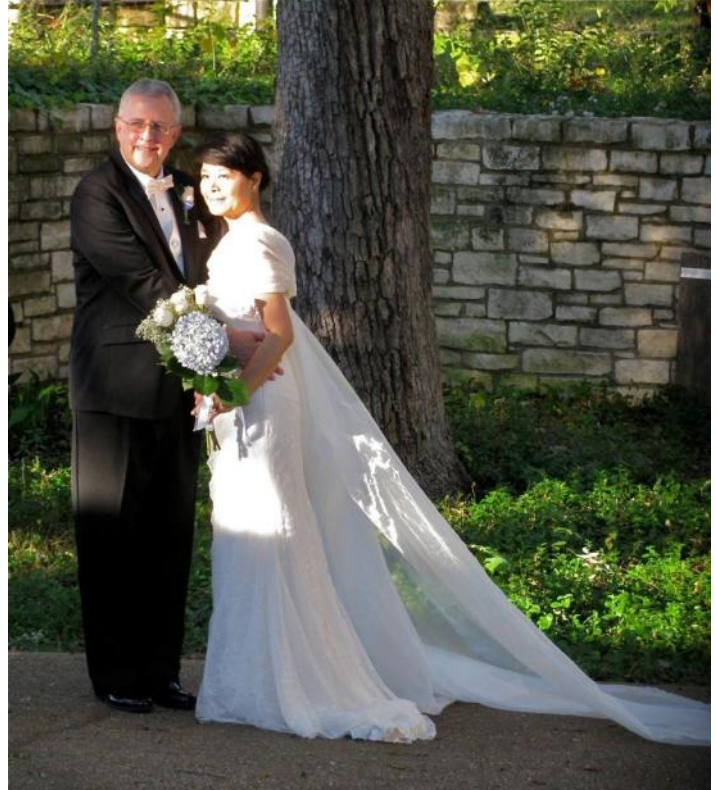
Edith and **David Scott** were part of our church family for almost two years during the 1980s. They went back home to **Scotland** (near Glasgow) and have stayed in touch. Edith reports that they had some truly inclement weather in early December. It ground transport to a halt and there was a lot of structural damage across the country. As she wrote, she was waiting for the roofer to come and fix a leak that was caused by the winds lifting the lead flashing around their chimney. In the scheme of things though, they got off lightly. Her church was delivering boxes of

home-baked gingerbread men to the parish on a December Saturday so that took up most of her day. She wishes she could have been at the church carol service and annual open house at the Oakes' on the 22nd.

Eunice and Bob Paul were a part of our church family in the 1980s when Bob was on the faculty of the **Presbyterian Seminary**. They returned home to England when Bob retired. He died some years ago but Eunice has remained active there. She lives near her daughter **Lydia** and her husband **Dean Tapley** (now a retired UCC minister (**John Towery** and **Dean Tapley** exchanged pulpits between England and Austin one summer many years ago). Eunice made an unexpected trip to the states after her son **Martin** had a stroke in October and the whole family was gathering for son **Tim's** son **Ian's** wedding in New Jersey. Eunice writes about her trip, "We got back in time to get busy with Thanksgiving as Dean's brother and his partner were coming from Chicago, my grandson **Joshua** and his family from Austria not to mention **Nathaniel** and his family from nearby **Redhill**. Since then Lydia has had shingles! The trip to New Jersey went much better than I expected and although it was only a long weekend I seem to have escaped jet-lag more easily than usual. The weather was kind and the situation of the hotel in **Spring Lake** right by the ocean was lovely. The wedding was in the Catholic church where Margaret's parents and siblings were also married. The ceremony was conducted by a married layman as Ian is not a Catholic. It was all very low-key although there had been problems along the way as the priest had serious questions about the credentials of the minister who had baptised Ian - his grandfather in a U.C.C. church in Pittsburgh! It was good to see all my "American" family (total 8) and especially Martin. He is absolutely fine mentally, which is the really important thing, and is making slow but steady progress in rehab, in **Southport, Connecticut**. His muscular strength is good but coordination is the problem. I didn't see him standing on his feet as the carpets in the hotel were so thick that he could not use his walker! He moves around in a wheel-chair and can now get himself in and out of a car without too much of a problem. His apartment has been photographed to see what needs to be done so that he can go home but that won't be for at least a few more months. Tim and his family, including the newly-weds, are going to Connecticut for Christmas so that they can all be together. I haven't been up to London (40 minutes by train) for years, but Lydia persuaded me that a trip to the **German Christmas Market** on the South Bank right by **Waterloo Station**, overlooked by **Big Ben** and the **London Eye**, would be fun to do so we spent a couple of hours there on Tuesday. A mug of **Gluhwein** helped to warm up my 92-year-old bones! Dean and Lydia join me in sending good wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Another longtime member, **Carol Barrett**, who moved to California about seven years ago to work as a city manager

near **Berkley** reports that her husband **Gary** holds down the fort in Austin, although he spends most of his time on the road, generally in **China** on business. They will be in California for Christmas as Gary's mom is in poor health. Son **Craig** and **Delan** and **Baby Kai** will make the trip from Austin as well. Son **Whitney** is going to **Morocco** on his own for Christmas.



Bill Campbell and Victoria Li after exchanging wedding vows.

Congratulations are in order for **Victoria Li** and **Bill Campbell** who were married in a beautiful ceremony at the chapel of the **Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest** on **Saturday, December 21, 2013**. Pastor Tom officiated at the wedding and the bride's attendants were her three daughters and the groom's attendants were his two sons and his daughter.

The annual church Christmas dinner for the homeless was a great success. Tom reports that 86 diners were served by an enthusiastic group of helpers. Christy Kuhner was the kitchen crew chief and was assisted by an able crew including Reuel, Liz, Ellie, and Becky Nash, Dennis Murphy, Marilyn Vaché and her daughter Olivia, Tom, Robin and Alex, the Dietz family including the kids and Kevin's folks Frank and Karen, the Quisenberry family, Beth Gleason, Ruth Koenig and her son John, Cecile Adam, Jo Jensen, Beth Gleason and several others. Many thanks for all of your work! (See photo on page 2.)

The carol service on the evening of December 22nd was lovely. **Jaime Hadley** did a beautiful job of decorating the 7 windows with candles and greenery. For those of us who have been part of the church for a long while, it brought

Return Service Requested

Deadline for February Visitor — January 21st

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Paula Fracasso with Daphne and her dad David Pinkard at the Oakes' home after the carol service.

back memories of **Hildegard Everett** who did the same thing for the carol service. After the service, about 50 members of the congregation went to **Mel and Pat Oakes'** home for their annual party after the service. It was wonderful to see so many folks. Special thanks to **Beth Placek** who stayed to help clean up, as she has done for many years!

Paul Deisler, back home in Corpus Christi, writes that the whole week around Christmas was a blast. He wasn't sure he would be able to come since he was in the hospital again (third time in 2013) but was released as fit to travel on the evening of December 20th. On Dec. 21st he and his daughter **Jane** headed north toward Austin where a round of get-togethers with friends and family and a very happy attendance at church on December 22nd took place. He had lunch and then dinner, first with one then with another

of his old French speaking groups, too; a fine time at lunch with **Julia Deisler**, mother of his grandchildren; and with Conrad and his family on Christmas Eve. Various family and friends were present at each of these affairs, including his younger daughter, **Julie**, from **Santa Fe**. **Conrad's** four cats took turns pinning Paul down by his lap all Christmas Eve, and two large dogs maintained vigil in case any crumbs dropped. It was altogether a great week, ending with a quiet visit to **Ellen's** and his son-in-law, **Shig's**, graves at **Ft. Sam Houston** on the way back to Corpus. Paul hopes to get to Austin more frequently in 2014 (¡Si Dios quiera!), but does not expect such a rousing time each time he comes. With the new year here, Paul wishes all a very Happy New Year.



Pat Oakes with Paul Deisler and his "seeing eye daughter" Julie.