

THE VISITOR

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

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Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt



On Saturday, April 2, Sheik Umer and members of the Nueces St. mosque, human rights activist Bonnie Tamres-Moore, and folks from neighboring churches and the wider community, gathered with members of our church for the public unfurling of a banner that reads: We Stand With Our Muslim Neighbors. After a few quick speeches highlighting the toxic nature of Islamophobia, and the need for non-Muslims to stand in solidarity with Muslims to counter anti-Muslim words and deeds, we processed together to the mosque for an open-house tour, panel discussion, and meal.

This gathering was a prelude to a much bigger event that will take place at University United Methodist Church on Thursday, April 28th, at 2 pm. That event will launch the national banner project, in which churches and syna-

gogues all across the nation will hang banners like the one we hung. At that time, more leaders from Austin's churches and synagogues, along with political and community leaders from the city of Austin, and any of you who can be there (you're all invited and encouraged to participate), will stand in solidarity with Muslims to say Islamophobia, like racism and all other forms of prejudice, is unacceptable and we will not tolerate it.

Islamophobia is a big topic, but we can break it down to three component and interrelated parts: the anti-Muslim attitudes expressed in words and deeds at the level of everyday life; the anti-Muslim rhetoric we routinely hear from some politicians; and the "Islamophobia industry" that consists of well-funded organizations and individuals that manufacture anti-Muslim studies and policies.

At the level of everyday life, more students in our nation's grade schools and colleges are harassing, bullying, and intimidating their Muslim peers. Muslim women are taking self-defense courses because more Americans are harassing them and threatening them with violence. Americans are committing more hate crimes against Muslims: beating them in parking lots, throwing stones through the windows of their homes, shooting at their mosques, sending death threats to their religious and community leaders, and killing them.

This isn't to say the general public is overwhelmingly anti-Muslim. It isn't. But a growing segment of our nation's population fears and hates Muslims, and believes it acceptable, necessary, or patriotic to target Muslims for suspicion, surveillance, intimidation, and violence.

This fear and hatred is reinforced by the anti-Muslim rhetoric we hear from some politicians. Islamophobic statements and posturing has become a staple in our nation's political discourse at the local, state, and national level, especially within the Republican Party. It's sometimes difficult to discern the extent to which

Church Announcements

politicians sincerely share this fear and hatred of Muslims, and the extent to which they're cynically throwing fuel on the fire with anti-Muslim language and policy proposals to advance their careers by exploiting voters' fears and hatreds. At any rate, the anti-Muslim rhetoric we hear from Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and others is exacerbating the Islamophobia that exists at the level of everyday life, thereby making it more difficult and dangerous for Muslims to live in our nation.

As for the "Islamophobia industry," the Center for American Progress published two reports in the past several years documenting the organizations, scholars, pundits, and activists that comprise a tightly-knit network that spreads misinformation and hateful propaganda about American Muslims and Islam. A small group of charitable foundations fund these organizations and individuals with millions of dollars. These "think tanks" and individuals work closely with conservative media outlets, right-wing Christian organizations, grass-roots political groups, law enforcement, and politicians to disseminate anti-Muslim rhetoric, and to craft anti-Muslim policies and legislation. Their basic message is that Islam is inherently incompatible with America, that Muslims are actively seeking to undermine our nation, and that Muslims pose an existential threat to who we are and everything we hold dear. In short, they're telling Americans that Muslims are our enemy and we need to treat them as such.

All these expressions of Islamophobia are (obviously!) harming our Muslim friends and neighbors. They're also damaging our community, nation, and world. Misinformation and lies never benefit public discourse or the relations between citizens and neighbors. Enflaming and exploiting people's fears and hatreds never produces a good outcome.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we stand with our Muslim neighbors to counter the lies with truth, and to face the fear and hatred with healing and reconciling love. We stand with our Muslim neighbors, sharing a commitment with them to promote understanding and respect, justice and peace.

The Front Porch Lunch ministry is in need of a few more volunteers to serve lunches. Lunch is served to area homeless (mostly LifeWorks guests) every Thursday of the month in our Fellowship Hall. If you are interested, contact John Goff or our church Administrator, Rimma Aguirre.

Micah 6, the consortium of 11 University area churches working together to meet the needs of the homeless, need food and servers for its weekly **Sunday afternoon drop-in center** at University Baptist church. The drop-in needs volunteers who can **cook** a healthy dish for about 25 people, or come to the drop-in center to **help serve** those dishes. More information on the drop-in center can be found at:

Micah 6 Youth Drop-in Center -
<http://m6sydic.weebly.com/>

Micah 6 also needs clothes for its **Fig Leaf clothing distribution center**. Donations can be brought to our Sunday morning worship. If you have any questions or need more information, please see our church's Micah 6 representative, Whit Bodman.

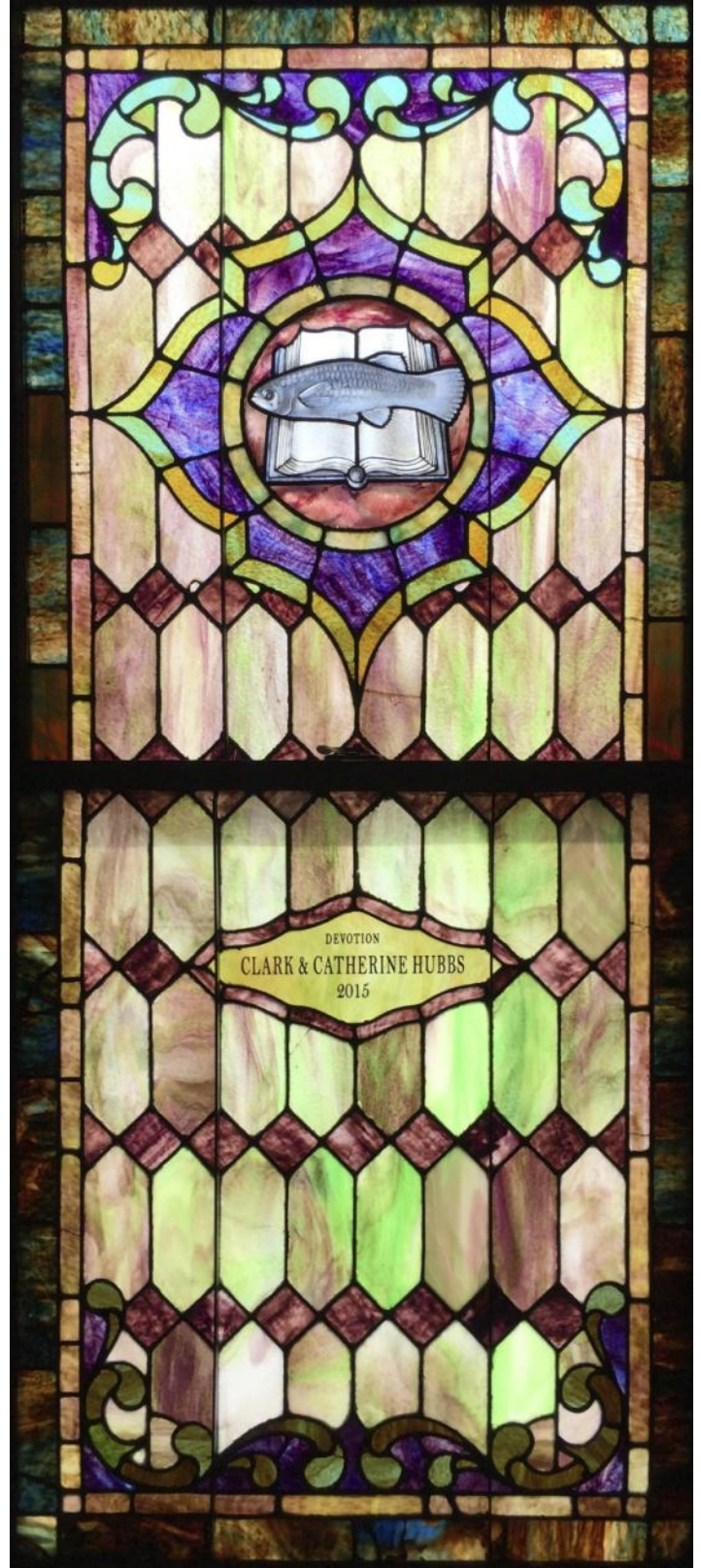
Church Leadership

Trustee Co-Chairs	Don Brown & Bill Campbell
Deacons Chair	Janet Parsons
Outreach Team	Reuel Nash & John Goff
Moderator Co-Chairs	Barbara Burnham & Bill Beardall
Treasurer	Gail Christeson
Financial Secretary	Pam Tucker
Christian Education	Rachel Dietz
Coordinators	John Burlinson
Clerk	Betty Bodman
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Webmistress	Sara Ross
Member-At-Large	Bill Beardall

Personals

by Pat Oakes

Sunday, March 6 was a very special day in the life of the **Congregational Church of Austin**. The project that began over two years ago finally came to fruition when the three **Hubbs** children gathered in our sanctuary on March 6th for the dedication of the new window to their parents, **Clark** and **Catherine Hubbs**. Clark and Cathy joined our church in **1949**; their children **Laura Hubbs-Tait**, **John Hubbs**, and **Ann Weissman**, were raised here and were delighted to see their parents honored by their church family. Clark (died 2008), an ichthyologist and professor at the University of Texas, is represented in the window art by an illustration of a “big band gambusa,” one of the fish he discovered and saved from extinction. The book in the picture reminds us of Cathy, the librarian and life-long volunteer. The word “Devotion” appears in the window to epitomize the couple’s love for one another, for education, for our church, and for God’s world. The dedication ceremony began with an introduction by **Nodie Murphy**, giving some of the highlights of the Hubbs legacy. Cathy recalled that the first day they visited the church, they were introduced to the congregation by the head of the welcoming committee as “Mr. and Mrs. Tubbs.” Laura, Ann, and John each spoke briefly, then our pastor led us in a lovely dedicatory reading. Cathy joined the choir in the 1960s and has been a faithful alto for half a century. It was only fitting then to end the dedication with one of **Ralph Vaughan-Williams’ Five Mystical Songs**—“**Love Bade Me Welcome**”—beautifully sung by visiting baritone **Thomas Orf**. All of the hymns in the service were selected by Cathy herself. After the worship service, we gathered in the Fellowship Hall to sing one of Nodie’s odes and to enjoy the bounty that so many members brought to fill the table and to celebrate our beloved Congregationalists, Clark and Catherine Hubbs. **Rev. Bert Miller**, a pastor at the church in the 1950s, called to strongly approve of the window dedication. He reported how important the Hubbs were to the church and his ministry during his Austin tenure.



Clark and Cathy Hubbs Church Window



Ann Hubbs Weissman, Cathy Hubbs and Laura Hubbs-Tait

Benjamin E. (“Ned”) Murphy returned home from his second deployment to **Afghanistan** on **March 11**. He was greeted at **Fort Drum, New York**, where he’s stationed, by his wife **Faye** and their five-month-old son, **James**, whom Ned had not seen since the baby was three weeks old. Ned’s parents, **Dennis** and **Nodie**, are proud of their soldier – and very happy that he has come home safely.



Ned, Faye and James Murphy

Pat Oakes continues to recuperate from her two major back surgeries that were a month apart. She and **Mel** have benefitted from the kindness of so many church members and friends. The rehab is quite demanding. However, she is determined to eventually say goodbye to the walker.

On **February 28**, two couples who have long-term associations with the church worshipped with the congregation. **Rollin** and **Betsy Russell** of **Hillsborough, North Carolina**, were in town to visit their son, **Stephen**, a new professor at UT as of September. Many of you will have met Stephen during fellowship hour. **Garry** and **Judy Cole**, longtime members, came up from **San Antonio** to visit the Russells. Rollin served as **Associate Conference Minister** for the **South Central Conference**. He was a member of the faculty of **Lancaster Theological Seminary** in **Lancaster, PA** until his retirement. The Russells were also able to visit **Omer** and **Zona Galle** and their daughter **Kristin**. The Galles, former church members, drove down from **Kansas** for the visit.



Judy and Garry Cole, Rollin and Betsy Russell

As of this writing, **Doyal Pinkard** has been out of the hospital for over a week following the implanting of a pacemaker. He is delighted to be home. But both he and **Tommie** are sadly missing their beloved eight-year-old Corgi, **Corky**. Inexplicably, while Tommie was preparing to go see Doyal, Corky dashed out of the house and was fatally hit by a car. The house is so quiet without Corky's cheerful presence.

Rebecca June Rosson, daughter of **Robin** and Julia Ross Rosson, was born on **March 16, 2016**, at 1:34 AM. She is the granddaughter of **Barbara Burnham** and **Chester Rosson** and baby sister of **Samantha**, 4 1/2. Robin was the cellist at the church for many years. Rebecca June weighed in at 8 lbs 8 oz and 19 3/4 inches.



Samantha and Rebecca June Rosson

It is with sadness we report the death of **Janice "Terri" Morrow Ocean**. She passed away on **February 24, 2016**. She was born in **DeWitt County, Texas**. She graduated from **Cuero High School in Cuero, Texas**, and graduated from **Jefferson Davis Hospital School of Nursing** as a Registered Nurse. Her nursing career took her to **Abilene, Texas; Anaheim and Garden Grove, California; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Austin, Texas**. She specialized in pediatric, adolescent psychiatric, and home health nursing, ending her 50-year nursing career at **Meridell Achievement Center in Liberty Hill**. Those who were members of the church during the 1980s will remember her fondly. She is survived by her

sons **Mark Ocean, David Ocean**, and **Stephen Ocean** and daughter **Christine Ocean-Rintala** and son-in-law, **Pekka**, all of Austin. In lieu of flowers Terri asked, 'Please do a kind deed for a person in need and think of me.' Thanks to **Sarah Bentley** for finding the notice of Terri's death.



Terri Ocean

On Sunday morning, **March 20**, **Whit Bodman** shared the tragic news that the home of his nephew and niece, **Tom and Lindsay McKinnon**, burned down in **Roanoke, VA**. Their two sons, 10-year-old **Patrick** and 5-year-old **Logan**, died in the fire. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to **Whit and Betty, Tom and Lindsay**, and all who are grieving the loss of these two boys. Tom asked Whit if there was any practical way our church could support Tom and Lindsay, and he mentioned that friends were raising money to support them. If you would like to support them, you can click one of the two links provided below.

<<https://www.youcaring.com/tom-and-lindsay-mckinnon-541685#.Vu3sMcXuM48.facebook>> and <https://www.gofundme.com/syv2q8pw>

Thanks for Jim Howicz for taking these lovely Easter photos!



Congratulations to our own **Doris Williams!** The **Austin Metroplex Chapter of National Women of Achievement, Inc.** on **March 26, 2016**, inducted 15 honorees for the **Fourteenth Biennial African-American Women's 2016 Profiles of Prominence.** An independent selection review committee, composed of members of the greater Austin community, selected the inductees. This year's program was held at **St. James Missionary Baptist Church.** Doris J. Williams, retired **Lieutenant Colonel** for the **United States Army** and substitute teacher for the **Pflugerville Independent School District**, was selected for her public service.



The flowered cross



Children enjoying the Easter egg hunt

Heart of Texas Association News

April

by Liz Nash

We have a great opportunity to join in the UCC's long term disaster recovery work going on right now in this Association. Betzi Yungclas, an experienced UCC volunteer, is working in Taylor to help in the rebuilding of homes and in the community effort to provide housing resources to those still displaced from the flooding last year. Although many other hard hit areas received more news coverage, a number of homes were heavily damaged in Taylor. Betzi is a site construction supervisor who has worked as a full time disaster recovery volunteer for a number of years, including substantial time in New Orleans, West Virginia, and Joplin, Missouri, as well as other sites. She recently shared her experiences and a description of the need in Taylor with our Jam and Bread ministers gathering. Work groups are welcome in Taylor, whether or not you commute in from home or need a place to stay. It is possible to work on weekends if your group makes arrangements with the disaster ministry to do so. In the work after disasters, different denominations specialize in areas of need: the UCC works in the area of long term recovery. The minimum age to work in Taylor is 16. Groups generally need to be of 5 or more, although they can be smaller if skilled construction workers are coming. To join in the work, see http://www.ucc.org/disaster-disaster-volunteers_texas_williamson_county_recovery.

Our South Central Conference Annual Meeting is being held this year in Houston at the Hilton Houston Post Oak (in the Galleria area) on June 3-4. People from all of our churches are invited to come as visitors, as the designated church delegates, or as minister delegates. The keynote speaker, Rev. John Dornhauer, began his call as General Minister and President of the UCC this past year. He is an excellent speaker as well as being a minister with true vision for the church. Our time frame is different than in the past: the meeting begins at 1 pm on Friday and ends at 4 pm on Saturday. Renewal boundary training is available for ministers on Friday morning, while boundary training for those taking it for the

first time (a longer session) is currently being arranged to be on Sunday. The theme, "Perfectly Imperfect on the Potter's Wheel" based on Jeremiah 18:1-4, promises to feed and provide a challenge to all of us. I hope many of you can join us. To find out more, register, or request display space, go to <https://sccucc.org/annual-meeting/>. As in the past several years, our churches are being invited to donate Church World Service school kits and CWS/Back Bay Mission hygiene kits at the meeting. Many of our churches are very, very generous with these donations -- it is great ministry. These will be collected on Friday, June 3. To find a list of what each kit should contain and the donation needed to cover shipping costs per kit, go to <https://sccucc.org/cws-collected-at-annual-meeting/>.

For our youth and adult chaperones headed the UCC National Youth Event (NYE) July 26-30, we have travel scholarship money from the Association and Conference. The scholarships of at least \$150 per person will be awarded after we know how many are going -- after the May 27 registration deadline. Churches are currently working on transportation plans, and we encourage you to plan to travel together with nearby churches by plane or rented van. If you have not been in contact with me about your plans or need help deciding how to plan your travel, please be in touch at lizknash@gmail.com or 512-799-2782. The NYE website, which includes registration information, is <http://www.uccpages.org/nye/>.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash
Heart of Texas Association Minister

History Corner

by Pat and Mel Oakes

Pat's second surgeon was **Dr. Richard Wupperman**, a name familiar to those attending the church during the 1960s. **Alfred Wupperman**, a longtime member, was a first cousin twice removed from Dr. Wupperman. We were able to show him pictures of Alfred and others in the Wupperman family that he had never seen. Here is a little history of this family who was part of the very early congregation through the 1960s.



Cathy Hubbs, Dick Swallow, Matt Blackstock, Weldon Scheel, Alfred Wupperman--church choir, 1970s

Walter Otto Wupperman and **Elisabeth Marie "Else" von Rosenberg** were married in her parents' home by **Pastor R. J. Briggs**, our first minister, on **April 20, 1904**. The Austin paper reported that "The bride is one of Austin's most charming young ladies, while the groom is a prominent young business man of Seguin and a nephew of ex-Senator **Walter Tips** of Austin."

Walter was born **January 12, 1874**, in **Dusseldorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany**. His father, **Otto Wuppermann**, emigrated to Texas from Germany around 1848, married **Elise Tips** in 1850, and returned to Dusseldorf, Germany in 1863. They had seven children, of whom **Walter Otto Wupperman** was the only child born in Germany. **Walter Otto** immigrated to Texas in 1898. **Else** was born **August 7, 1880**, in Austin. Their children were **Alice, Ernest Walter, Alfred Otto, Elisabeth Helene, Eugene, Charlotte, and Viola Hildegard**. **Walter Otto** was a bookkeeper for **Austin Gas Light Company** in 1918.



Else and Walter Wupperman, Children: Alfred on Else's lap, Ernest standing in middle and Alice at right. ca. 1909.

He had earned a **B.A. in Germanic Languages** from **UT** in 1916. **Walter** sketched many views of Texas and **Düsseldorf** and translated texts from German into English. He returned to Germany several times to visit his parents. During one trip he sketched **Ima Hogg**, who was a passenger on the same ship and later became a major benefactor of the University of Texas. **Ima Hogg**, during the 1960s, was a close friend of **Else Wupperman**. The **Wupperman** home at **506 Texas Avenue** is a historic building and well worth driving by. **Else's** maternal grandfather was the German-Texas painter **Hermann Lungwitz**. **Walter** died in 1950, **Else** in 1967, and **Alfred** in 1988. More information can be seen on the History Site:

http://www.congregationalchurchofaustin.org/c_c_a_h_i_s_t_o_r_y/_Congregational_Church_of_Austin_History/W_a_l_t_e_r_Otto_and_Else_Rosenberg_Wupperman.html

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Return Service Requested

May Visitor Deadline—April 20, 2015