

# 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**



Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
No hands but yours, no feet but yours,  
Yours are the eyes through which is to look out  
Christ's compassion to the world;  
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing  
good;  
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.  
--Teresa de Avila

**H**ow do you say, "I love you," without using words?

How do you say, "I love you," with your body language? How do you say, "I love you," with your face? With your expression? Your eyes? How does the rest of your body express love? Your posture? Your gestures? Your openness?

Touch? How about all the other ways your body can do something with someone or for someone to express love? Maybe a kiss. Maybe making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

And now, go ahead and use words. How do you say, "I love you," with words? But without the words, "I love you." Which other words and phrases say, "I love you," to another person? There are countless words and phrases you can use, depending on the situation. Everything from, "you're precious to me," to, "let me buy you a beer."

As humans, we're blessed with countless ways to express love. With and without words.

Try this now.

How do you say, "God loves you," without using words?

How do you say, "God loves you," with your body language? Your expression? Your gestures? Touch? What your body does with or for another person?

And now go ahead and use words, but not the words, "God loves you." Which other words communicate God's love to another person?

As humans, we have countless ways to express God's love. With and without words. With our bodies. Our expressions and gestures. Touch. What we do and how we do it.

But does how we communicate God's love to someone really differ from how we communicate our love to someone? It seems to me that we communicate God's love in the same ways we communicate our love. God's love is the source of our love. Our love is God's love. In both cases, we're simply expressing love.

Now try this.

How do you proclaim, "Christ lives," without using words?

Without using any words, how do you communicate, "Christ lives," to another person, to the world?

How do you say, “Christ lives,” through your body language? Your face? Your gestures? Your touch? Your presence? Your actions?

And now using words, how do you say, “Christ lives,” without actually using those words? Which other words communicate, “Christ lives,” to another person?

Does proclaiming “Christ lives” really differ all that much from the ways you express love to other people? Your love? God’s love? *Love*?

I don’t think so. To proclaim, “Christ lives,” is to proclaim that God’s love is still incarnate within human life. Christ’s love is still here in human form. In our human form.

As humans, we have countless ways to proclaim, “Christ lives.”

Proclaiming “Christ lives” is what we do as disciples of the living Christ. We practice proclaiming, “Christ lives,” in as many ways we possibly can. We look for every opportunity, with every person we encounter, in every situation we find ourselves in, to proclaim, “Christ lives.”

And because we’re blessed with so many ways to communicate, so many ways to express ourselves, we may never even have to use the words, “Christ lives,” to communicate to another person that God’s love is still present in human form. In our human form.

Tell everyone you meet today, “Christ lives!”

Tom

## 2017 Easter memories . . .



4/16/17 Sara Darter (center), Nikki Darter w her husband Aaron Jones, and Sara’s grandson Parker Darter-Jones-- Easter Sunday



4/16/17 Easter Sunday with Beth, Eugene, Emily, 16, Ethan, 14, Pat and Mel in Iowa City



4/16/17 Choir member Cathy Hubbs amid the Easter lilies--photo by Sara Ross



4/16/17 Jaime Hadley and Marilyn among the many participating in the celebration of the flowering of the cross, a tradition brought to us a number of years ago by Marilyn when she moved to Austin. Dave Ross photo

## Personals

by Pat Oakes

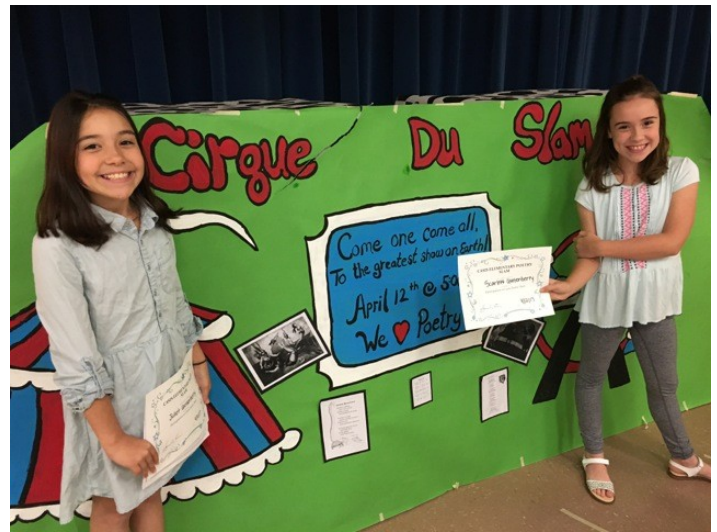
Yet again, the Congregational Church of Austin came through with tremendous support for the Hill Country Ride for AIDS. George Hetrick, Robin Chapman and Tom VandeStadt raised funds as members of the Care Communities Cycling Team. Together, they raised \$3,370. They were the top three fundraisers for the team, and CCA was the single largest source of funds for the team. In total, the event raised \$417,623. Thanks to everyone who contributed! As for the ride, George broke his foot a week before the ride and was unable to pedal his bike on the big day. Robin and Tom rode the 65-mile course, and when they completed the hilly course in hot and windy conditions, the NXNW beer and Licks ice cream surely did taste good.



4/8/17 Whit and Betty Bodman's granddaughters Clara, 2, and Elsie, brand-new

Whit and Betty Bodman have a great deal to report. The most important thing, of course, is the birth of their second grandchild, Elsie Rose, born on April 3—exactly a month before her older sister Clara's second birthday, at 6 lbs. 1 oz. and 19 inches. They are the children of Greg and Elizabeth Bodman Matthews. The second great pleasure of their family, which is riddled with Tar Heels, is that UNC won the national basketball championship. That is a family event. Betty continues to knit hats, socks, sweaters and who knows what else for everybody in the family. Betty spent more than a week in New Jersey helping out with the grandchildren. Whit offered to go up, too, but he got the feeling that he would be more of a burden than a help. He totally resents the accuracy of her judgment there. Instead, Whit is <sup>3</sup>

spending a great deal of time going around to churches doing presentations on Islam. He is working hard on developing ways to present Islam credibly to a skeptical audience, a presentation that is concise, accurate, and respectful of those whose attitudes have been shaped by a deluge of violent images and news. A series of YouTube videos could be next. Attending to his new responsibilities as the church outreach czar is also a priority. They also enjoyed having the Dierksens, the Rutherfords (with Naomi and Ena), the Dietzes (with Isabella, John and Francesca), and Debbie Kohrt (with Zooey) over for a picnic in the park a couple weeks ago.



4/12/17 Juliet (left) and Scarlett (right) at the recent Casis Elementary poetry slam

For their original work, Juliet and Scarlett Quisenberry were chosen to represent their classes at the Casis Elementary 2nd Annual Poetry Slam, which was held on April 12. Juliet read two pieces, "Rainbow" and "Life on the Moon". Scarlett recited her shorter piece, "The Pet I Never Got." Mom Shannon reports they did a fantastic job both in the writing and in the presentation.

Bill Campbell and Victoria Li recently returned from a two-week learning tour in China led by the China Center of the International City Management Association. The delegation, consisting of American and European city planners, engineers, and administrators, enjoyed discussions with local government officials as well as sightseeing in the cities of Qingdao, Shenzhen, Xi'an, Yangzhou, and Shanghai. The group also participated in

(continued on p. 5.)

## Heart of Texas Association News

May

by Liz Nash

**O**n Sunday, March 28th, we had a joyful celebration of Trent Williams' installation at Friends Congregational UCC in College Station. Trent was called there last fall as Associate Pastor, and began his ministry at the church this past October 16th. He has returned to his Texas roots from serving churches and community ministries in the Philadelphia area. Trent grew up in Waco, went to seminary at Brite Divinity School, and did his field education placement at Friends a number of years ago. Many friends attended and were part of the service. We hope and pray that Trent's ministry at Friends is one that bears much fruit in service and in discipleship.

Now is the time to make plans to attend the South Central Conference Annual Meeting in Dallas at Cathedral of Hope UCC on Friday, June 9th through Saturday, June 10th. Early registration, with discounted fees, as well as discounted hotel registration, is available on or before May 19th. To register, go to <https://sccucc.org/annual-meeting/>. We will be voting on matters of real consequence to the future of the South Central Conference. A new proposed Constitution and By Laws, revising our current version after many years, will be on the agenda. Each church should have received a copy of this document, but I can forward a copy by email if you send me a request ([lizknash@gmail.com](mailto:lizknash@gmail.com)). We will also be voting on the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Don Longbottom, our current Designated Conference Minister, to be what we call the settled Conference Minister, meaning the he would be our called Conference Minister. Don is sharing about this process and about his vision at our Association Meetings, and it has been in our Conference e-newsletter. Here is a brief description of the process. Don was called last June as our Designated Conference Minister. In designated ministry, a pastor is called to a ministry for a specific term of time, during which both parties can decide to call the minister to the settled position. This differs from interim ministry in that interim ministers are not candidates for the settled position. This spring, our Conference Board of Directors voted to recommend that Don be called as our Conference Minister, and Don has accepted, pending the vote by the Conference at our Annual Meeting to call him. I hope that many of you will come to know Don, his ministry, and his vision 4

for this Conference through his church visits, through time with him at Association meetings, and at the South Central Conference Annual Meeting. Our engaged participation in Annual Meeting is important this year for these votes and, as always, to build the community and ministry among our churches. In addition, Boundary Training for our ministers will be available on Friday, June 9th (renewing) and Sunday, June 11th (first time), with registration for this training also available at the Annual Meeting registration link above.

Our prayers and encouragement go to Bethany Congregational UCC in San Antonio as they are beginning their work on the search process. Also, our prayers in this time of farewell go to St. John's UCC Burton and Glen Schoeneberg as they prepare for Glen's retirement at the end of May from a long and vibrant ministry there. May God bless these churches and our friends Glen and Dottie in this time of change and new beginnings.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash, Association Minister

### Church Leadership

Trustee Chair	Don Brown
Deacons Chair	Betty Bodman
Outreach Team	Whit Bodman
Moderator	John Goff
Treasurer	Gail Christeson
Financial Secretary	Pam Tucker
Christian Education	Rachel Dietz, Lynne Lemley
Youth Sunday School	
Coordinator	John Burlinson
Clerk	Jaime Hadley
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Webmistress	Shannon Quisenberry, Sara Ross
Member-At-Large	Bill Beardall

## Personals (continued)

three professional conferences focused on urban management and land reclamation and reuse. Victoria gave a keynote speech on what makes Austin America's most livable city. Victoria and Bill also connected with Victoria's extended family in Yangzhou, the home city of her father and his ancestors for many generations. It was a great trip marked by the extraordinary hospitality of all the Chinese host organizations and the many opportunities for learning about the culture and seeing such memorable attractions as the terra-cotta warriors and the Shanghai skyline. They also enjoyed riding a bullet train at 200 plus miles per hour.



4/17 Victoria Li in China giving a keynote speech about Austin



4/17 Bill Campbell and Victoria LI in China

Dennis and Nodie Murphy were delighted by a visit from their son Ned, his wife Faye, and his son James, now 18 months old and full of vim and vigor! Ned has ended his time in the army and is transitioning to life as a student in the Twin Cities area in Minnesota.



4/8/17 James and Ned Murphy

Faye will be working toward becoming an acute care nurse at a hospital in St. Paul, and James is practicing his sign language, his laughing, and his running. Daughter Sarah and family came up from San Antonio, and son Seth joined them for a lovely time together. Ned is hoping to transfer to a college in Texas in a year or two, and Nodie and Dennis are looking forward to having him and his family closer. The following week the Murphys were visited by a former student who studied with Dennis when he taught English at Drake University in Des Moines. Dianna Downing babysat for Sarah and Seth when they were very small (while Nodie wrote her dissertation), and she hadn't seen the children since they had grown. She and her husband Dennis came down from Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Once again the clan gathered (minus the northern Murphys). Sarah shared examples of her creative activities and Seth talked about his music. Dianna said that she decided that she wanted children after she had cared for the Murphy youngsters. The Downings are very involved in the Unitarian Church where they live; they attended a service at our local Unitarian Universalist church, then hurried over to our church for a second worship experience, which they enjoyed. They are also connected to the music scene in the Berkshires, so Nodie and Dennis were introduced to some Austin musicians that the Downings visited while they were here. This was their first trip to Texas, so the Murphys did their best to show them around.

It was great to have Jaana Rehbein and her daughter Ella visiting with us from Hamburg, Germany, for 3 weeks. Ella is already in first grade and will turn 7 in May. Jaana reports that now that Ella is in school that it is harder to arrange longer visits. Ella goes to school year-round with several short breaks.



4/30/17 Jaana Rehbein and her daughter Ella were visiting from Hamburg, Germany, for 3 weeks

Tommie Pinkard reports that she is doing fine in Brevard, NC. Eldest son Chris came for a visit in April, and David is coming on May 25. Chris (in California) calls every night, and David (in NYC) at least every week. She says, "They just won't leave me alone! Seriously, I love it."

Our former church pianist Florence Castle will celebrate her 101st birthday on May 13. It would certainly brighten her day to hear from those of you who still remember her. She is still living in the home where she and her late husband Joe moved to in 1940. Son Paul lives there with her now. They were way out in the country then, but now the house is surrounded by condos, homes, and apartments. Her address is 2901 Del Curto Road, Austin, TX, 78704.

Heather and Zac Lytle and their adorable daughter Abi were at church on Easter Sunday with Heather's folks from San Antonio, Valerie and Bill Sponsel and her brother and sister-in-law. The Lytles



4/16/17 Zac, Heather, and Abi Lytle with Heather's parents Valerie and Bill Sponsel, her brother Alistair and his wife Laura Stark



4/16/17 Abi Lytle enjoying her first Easter egg hunt

were home for a brief vacation from working in Malawi and leaving for South Africa the next morning. Zac reports that Abi, who just turned two, is a good traveler and that the flight attendants are very helpful. She loved the Easter egg hunt at church. Heather's medical fellowship in Malawi (she is an OB-GYN) is ending at the end of June. The last

month she has to be in Houston, so the family will leave Malawi at the end of May. She still doesn't have a job, so their plans are up in the air. They welcome prayers for guidance in the next steps they take!

Also visiting on Easter Sunday were Cheryl and Debbie Appel Knowlton here to visit their dad Vic Appel and Betty Appel.

Priscilla Grew, daughter of late members Dr. James and Evangeline Perkins (think 1950s and 1960s) was taking a break from retirement by vacationing in London in mid-April. She is looking forward to a trip to Sedona in June for a reunion with her late cousin's daughters, Priscilla used to visit her cousin every year in Sedona and is looking forward to a return visit.

Former members Carol and Fred Scott report that they had quite a year in 2016, but things are better now. They hope to make a long-awaited visit to Austin in the fall. They send their regards to one and all.

Mel and Pat Oakes enjoyed three springs this year. The first one was in March here in Austin with bluebonnets making their appearance several weeks early.



3/27/17 Bluebonnets and a picnic in Zilker Park with Mardie and Durham (almost 5) and Pat and Mel

The second one was in late March when they met daughter Sarah and her husband Joe in the mobbed airport in Phoenix. They finally managed to escape to the beauties of Sedona with a side trip to the Grand Canyon. The trip had been scheduled for last year, but at that point Pat could not even get out of bed by her-

self. Imagine their dismay this spring when they learned that both Beth and Mardie (with grandson Durham) were planning on being in Austin that same week. Mel and Pat consulted, decided they were not getting any younger—and Sedona and the Grand Canyon won.



3/24/17 Joe and Sarah, Pat and Mel at the Grand Canyon at last!

Fortunately, Beth (here in Austin to be a judge in the Austin Chamber Music Center chamber music competition) was able to come a day early to visit with her folks—and Mardie (here in town for the wedding of a dear friend) was able to stay several days after Pat and Mel got home—and Beth and Mardie overlapped while Pat and Mel were gone. Their third spring was in Iowa City for Easter in mid-April. The entire community looked like a huge Easter basket with a gorgeous array of blooming trees.

Beth Placek enjoyed two dance-related trips recently in April. The first was in D.C. where, in addition to the dancing, she was delighted to see spectacular displays of tulips—all colors and everywhere. Her next adventure was in Lafayette, LA, for her 27th international festival. Beth was looking forward to dancin' in the streets!! She and her husband Chenco Flores celebrated their first wedding anniversary May 1.

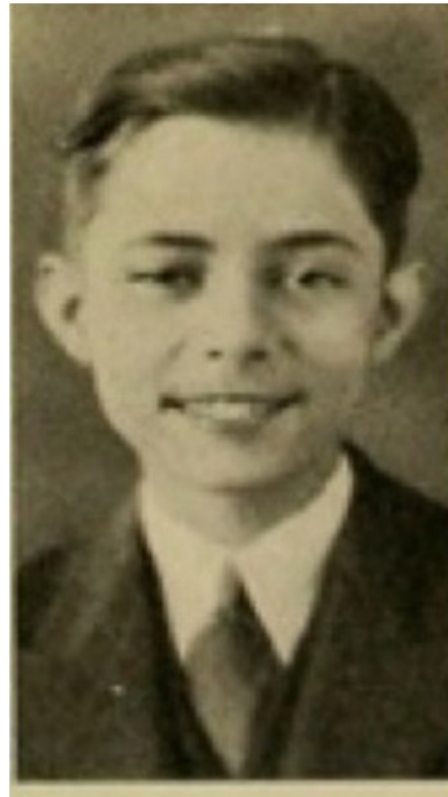
## History Corner by Pat and Mel Oakes

Our church violinist for 40 years, Earl Robert Cornwell, was born in Austin, Texas, on September 19, 1913, and died on April 22, 2006, at the age of 92. His parents were Julia and Earl Cornwell of 807 Rio Grande Street. He attended Pease Elementary and Austin High School (Rio Grande campus--now a part of the ACC system). Earl (called Sonny by his family) had one younger brother, Allie (Ed)ward Cornwell and a younger sister, Kitty Cornwell Howard. He joined First United Methodist Church at the age of 9 and remained a member the rest of his life. Growing up in Austin, Earl took up the violin at age 10. Playing the violin became Earl's passion. Becoming a very gifted classical violinist, Earl was known to be one of the finest musicians to ever come out of Austin.

While he was a student at Austin High, the famed violinist Fritz Kreisler performed in the large auditorium at Austin High. After the performance, Earl tried to get to meet the great man. Mr. Kreisler was in a hurry and brushed Earl off saying, "Sorry, Sonny, but I have to go!" Earl rushed home and told his folks that Mr. Kreisler did not have time to talk, but that he knew his name--Sonny! In the summer of 1929, at the age of 14, Earl was chosen by Harold Dybwad, music director at Stephen F. Austin High School, to go to the music camp at Interlochen, Michigan—in the second year of its existence. It was during this time that Earl set his sights on eventually moving to New York to pursue his career in music. When he graduated from Austin High in 1931, he enrolled at UT. He used to play for his meals at the University Commons. He also played with the 10- or 12-piece Ben Young Orchestra. The University did not have a music department at this time.

After doing studio and radio work in NY and California and playing in orchestras on trans-Atlantic European luxury liners, he enlisted in the army during WWII. Eventually he became part of the Glenn Miller Air Force Band. In 1943, when Queen Elizabeth, wife of King George VI, visited Miller's men in

Bedford, England, Earl was chosen to escort the Queen Mother from her car to the performance. After Glenn Miller's disappearance and after the war, Earl played in the Tex Beneke Band from coast to coast and then toured with Stan Kenton in 1950 and 1951. He returned to Austin and played with The Austin Symphony for 27 years. For much of Earl's tenure with our church, the cellist for the trio was Lucile Mick. Earl recounted that if the pianist started to play the hymns too slowly that Lucile would take her bow and poke the pianist as a clue to speed up. He was a long-time member of The Wednesday Morning Music Club. During this time, he worked for Austin National Bank, he ran a newsstand and tobacco shop downtown, and managed the Congress Avenue Booksellers' store on Congress Avenue. Earl always wore a cravat, never a necktie. He brought so much music into the life of our church for many, many years. For more information on Earl, go to <http://server16.websitehostserver.net/~patandme/CCAHistory/EarlRobertCornwell.html>



About 1928

Earl  
Cornwell  
as a sophomore  
at old  
Austin High

**June Visitor Deadline—May 28, 2017**