

# THE VISITOR

**The Congregational Church of Austin    United Church of Christ**

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**Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt**



**E**arth is our home. Many of us realize this to be true. Or partially true. Some consider the cosmos our ultimate home. But since Earth is more tangible to our senses than the cosmos, it's easier to think on that scale. As for me, my home is in the south by southwest region of North America, between hill country, dry plains and mountains one way, and flatland, woodlands and ocean the other way.

But what of those folks who don't realize Earth is their home? Those whose sense-seeking bodies, hearts and minds, spirits and souls are largely separated from what we call nature? Those who live where there's little to no opportunity to see, hear, feel and smell fields of tall grass, woods packed tight with trees, swamps teeming with skunk cabbage, frogs and snakes, deserts carpeted with sage and prickly pear, mountains topped with snow in July, or the ocean and the night sky? Those who have no backyard in which to play, or park with grass, flowers and a pond?

What of those folks whose environment is dominated by asphalt, cement and brick? Who live where electric light prevents the night from getting dark? Where the sounds heard are traffic, car horns and sirens, subway rumble and jet engines, electronic media and other people? What of those who're accustomed to the smell of bus exhaust, but have never caught a whiff of pine, seaweed or cow dung?

When I was just out of college, I spent the summer in Philadelphia volunteering at an inner-city summer camp for children. Home to them was deep within the economically poor and racially segregated urban core of a sprawling city. Much of the housing and infrastructure that dominated their surroundings was in serious disrepair. The children spent a lot of time outdoors playing on the sidewalk, in the streets and alleys, and in debris-strewn vacant lots.

In Philadelphia, the business and tourist districts show off big public fountains. Every afternoon, we loaded the children in two vans and drove them to the fountains so they could cool off. It was the highlight of their day, the poor urban child's version of swimming at the lake or going to the beach. For two hours, they had splash fights, squirted water from their mouths, and bodysurfed the ripples in knee-deep water.

At summer's end, we took the children on a field trip to a cabin in the woods. On the way, we drove through Valley Forge. The children pressed their noses against the van windows, oohing and awing at seemingly endless fields of grass they had never seen before. When we pulled over and let them loose to play, they rolled in the grass, marveling at how it felt against their skin and how *green* it was.

## Church Announcements

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The evening was less fun. The children were scared of the dark. Really scared. Never in their lives had they been immersed completely in darkness. Never had they looked into darkness or disappeared into darkness. Where they lived, when the sun went out the artificial light came on. Their world was always lit to some degree. But here, on this cloudy night with no moon or stars, the absence of light scared them. As did the loud screeching from the dark, the pulsating rub and chatter of countless insects. "What's that?" they cried, not with wonder but fear.

Seeing how these children reacted to the countryside and the woods, during the day and at night, had a profound impact on me. I grew up in a rural part of New England where I could routinely run through fields, explore the woods, play in the swamp, swim in the ocean, and see the night sky. In the summer, I hiked up and down mountains in New Hampshire and Maine, drinking water from streams, sleeping under stars on windy nights, and getting bit by mosquitoes. I'm eternally grateful that I could find places outside my door that were, for a child, wild. Places where I could run, climb, dig, roll around, and get dirty. Places safe from the watchful eye, listening ear, and prying questions of parents and other people. Places where I felt at home.

My childhood provided me the opportunity to be outdoors in ways that enabled me to explore and enjoy nature. And eventually, to realize that Earth is my home. All children have the right to explore, enjoy, and feel at home in nature. All children have the right to know Earth is their home. Unfortunately, Earth's people deny this right to many of its children. Many children, too cut off and separated from nature, don't feel at home in nature.

For the sake of children and the adults they'll become, for the sake of Earth itself, let's provide as many opportunities that we can for children to romp around in, explore, learn about, and feel at home in nature. As many possibilities that we can for children to realize that Earth is their home, a home they share with countless other living beings.

**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

## Church Announcements, continued

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### Say “Hi” to your Outreach Coordinators

John Goff and Reuel Nash are serving as “Outreach Coordinators” this year. As most of you may be aware, the outreach coordinator position is actually quite new. Not long ago we had a Board of Christian Outreach that oversaw our outreach activities. Or at least tried to. The truth is, most of our outreach activities – Freeze Night Shelter, Front Porch Lunch, Micah 6 Food pantry, Green Team, Care Team – are autonomous and self-directed among a dedicated team of volunteers. Outreach happens at our church whether or not we have a Board or a Coordinator. Quoting shamelessly from an insurance company commercial: it’s what we do. In a recent effort to streamline our Church’s governance, we therefore decided, along with Christian Education (which now operates with paid staff), to eliminate the Boards and replace them with two coordinators each.

So: what does an outreach coordinator DO in our church? Or, better yet: what SHOULD an outreach coordinator do? As we see it, we have 3 primary responsibilities:

1. Outreach Coordinators are representatives of, and advocates for, the outreach mission or our church. One of us sits on Coordinating Council, and it is our job to ensure that outreach concerns factor into the church’s decision-making. We are YOUR representatives. If you have any sort of concern about, or idea for outreach activities, speak to Reuel or John and we can ensure that it gets a hearing.

2. Outreach Coordinators are conduits of information regarding outreach. We keep the Coordinating Council informed about outreach activities. We inform the outreach teams about decisions of the coordinating council that affect them. But perhaps our most important function in this regard is to keep the Congregation informed about outreach activities and opportunities for participation. This is where we recognized the most room for improvement – which begins with a renewed effort to present outreach moments. These are indeed good, but we can also do a

lot better in making sure that outreach information is published more often in the church’s newsletter and highlighted on our web page.

3. Outreach Coordinators provide advice to the Trustees regarding our Cooperative Responsibilities budget. Until this year we have only had to recommend minor modifications, but with the large budget shortfall this year, we have had to manage sharp reductions in some of our donations. Those of you who were at last Sunday’s congregational meeting are aware that there was a strong consensus for trying to offset the larger cuts – such as OCWM, Huston-Tillotson, CUE - with special directed offerings through the year. We coordinators were tasked with organizing these events, so this is something that we will incorporate into our budgetary responsibilities.

So there you have it – that’s what an Outreach Coordinator does (or WILL do). Don’t hesitate to chat with John or Reuel about any outreach topic on your mind.

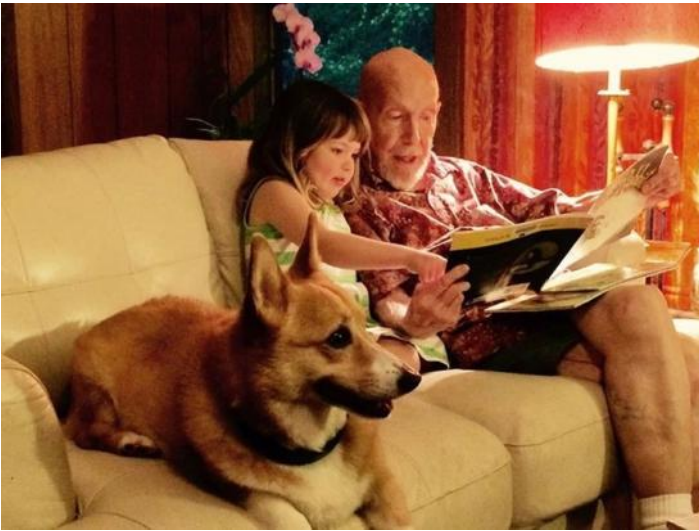
## Personals

by Pat Oakes

Our church family has suffered a great loss with the recent death of Doyal. **Doyal William Pinkard** was born **July 28th, 1929**, in **Detroit, Michigan**, and passed away on **July 3rd, 2016**, in **Brevard, NC**, where **Doyal** and **Tommie** had recently relocated. He was born at home because there had been a mixup of newborns in the hospital where his mother was set to go, so she refused. His mother's parents came from Wales, and Doyal identified with all things Welsh. Doyal and Tommie met in the late 1940s at **University Baptist Church** just blocks from the University of Miami in **Coral Gables, FL**. Doyal's parents and sister had just moved to Coral Gables and both he and Tommie were home for summer vacation from college. He died of complications of heart disease and stroke. Tommie reports that Doyal's passing was a quiet, peaceful one. He was asleep for two days and nights. When the hospice nurse told her gently that the end was near, she e-mailed their sons **Chris** (in CA) and **David** (in NYC). They made plans quickly to fly down the next day. Chris and family made it easily, but David's flight was cancelled after they waited hours when it was "delayed."



No more flights were available, so they drove for 14 1/2 hours. Doyal died soon after they arrived. Doyal and Tommie were staunch members of the Austin community with long careers of public service in Texas state government. Long-time members of the Congregational Church of Austin, they were well-known for their extensive volunteer work for numerous local and national charities. Doyal taught Sunday school for many years for both adults and middle schoolers and high schoolers. He was a voracious reader and learner, had a wonderful sense of humor, and was kind to all. He is survived by Tommie, his wife of 66 years. He is also survived by his two sons, Doyal Christopher and David Thomas, and four grandchildren: Chris's children **Gabriel**, 19, **Kiana**, 11, and **William** 4, (Chris's wife **Rizza Pinkard**) and **Suzanne Connole** and David Pinkard's daughter **Daphne**, 5. Private memorial services were held on **Tuesday, July 5th** with family and their many new friends in Brevard, NC, where he died in hospice care. Because of Doyal's hospitalizations before they moved, the congregation was never able to find a Sunday to give Doyal and Tommie a proper send-off. Instead, part of our Sunday service on July 10 was devoted to celebrating Doyal's life--singing a number of his favorite hymns, sharing individual memories of Doyal and his impact on our lives, and remembering him and Tommie in our prayers.



2015 Doyal reading to his granddaughter Daphne (David and Suzanne's daughter) while faithful dog Corky looks on

**Tommie** was so glad to have special visitors on **July 19**. **Rollin** and **Betsy Russell** came over to visit Tommie while they were in **Asheville** visiting their daughter **Amy** and her family. Rollin was the associate conference minister here in Austin a number of years ago and he and Betsy and their children (**Amy**, **Stephen**--now back with us and living in Austin--and **Bethany**) were members here for many years. Tommie and the Russells enjoyed catching up with each other. Tommie is also in close touch with Doyal's sister **Carol** and her husband who live just few minutes from Tommie in the College Walk retirement community in Brevard. Tommie has moved 3 times since she has been there (mid-April)--from the independent living larger apartment when she and Doyal first arrived, then to an assisted living apartment when Doyal became more ill, and now to an independent living smaller apartment where she is finally getting settled. Her new address is **100 N. College Row, Apt. 117, Brevard, NC 28712**. Her phone number is **828-884-8587**. She is looking forward to being able to participate in the active social and intellectual life of her new community.

Stephen Russell, center with his spouse Scott Neely, right, and their adopted son Ryan, left



8/16/15 Debbie Appel Knowlton initiated this photo of long-time folks at the church. Bob Knowlton took this photo of Pat and Mel Oakes, Tommie and Doyal Pinkard (who were celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary!), Stephen Russell, Vic Appel with Debbie, Rambie Briggs, Dave and Sara Ross, Cathy Hubbs, Fran Briggs, and Nodie Murphy

We didn't see much of **Stephen Russell** the first part of the summer as he was visiting colleagues at **Sapienza University of Rome**. He gave several lectures on educational policies and programs in the US that have been effective for reducing bias and discrimination in schools, and for promoting well-being and achievement for LGBT and all students. He also gave professional development lectures to Ph.D. students on strategies for seeking postdoctoral training and funding opportunities in the US. Stephen's colleagues there are doing some of the first research on the health and well-being of LGBT youth in Italy, and Stephen was collaborating with them on several studies/research articles. He also enjoyed doing some touristy things with his spouse **Scott** and their adopted son **Ryan**.



## Heart of Texas Association News

August

by Liz Nash

As many of you know, Charles Stark, who has served as the Director of Outdoor Ministries at Slumber Falls Camp for many years, will be retiring in the coming year. Charles's ministry at the camp has touched and changed many lives. His service to the wider church through our Association and Conference, as well as his ministry in several of our churches before moving to Slumber Falls, has uplifted many of us in ways too numerous to list. Right now, the South Central Conference has a search committee looking for an Interim Director of Outdoor Ministries in preparation for Charles's retirement. The camping ministry here and across the UCC is a significant part of the church's caring work that continues to nourish youth and adults. Let us lift up the search committee, the search process, and Charles and Bonnie Stark in our prayers at this time, giving thanks for this life-giving ministry and asking for wisdom as the ministry at Slumber Falls moves toward the future.

Our churches do so much to love our neighbors who are "other" from many of us, from hosting homeless families and youth to feeding the hungry to offering activities for seniors outside the church to lending a helping hand to those displaced by natural disasters - - an incomplete list by far. Several of our Association churches have added to this list by reaching out in friendship to stand with neighboring Muslim communities recently before and during the month of Ramadan. Dan DeLeon, pastor of Friends Congregational Church in College Station, led a group of 150 people who surrounded the Islamic Community Center of Bryan/College Station in early July in a show of support after someone fired shots through the Center window. In Austin, our UCC churches, beginning with the Congregational Church of Austin, have put up "We Stand with our Muslim Neighbors" banners and have been partnering with local Islamic groups in an effort to build understanding and friendship at this critical time. United Christian has

continued its ongoing relationship with the Raindrop House Turkish Cultural Center. Both churches shared an Iftar dinner (breaking the fast during Ramadan) this year with other neighboring Christian and Muslim groups to learn more about our respective faith traditions.

Finally, I want to say personally that I rejoice in the summertime ministry of our churches, particularly for our children and youth. So many of you do a labor of love to put on Vacation Bible Schools that minister to your children and the wider community. You send kids to Slumber Falls Camp and provide financial support. A large group from our Association joins yearly in a youth mission trip, this year to work with Mission Waco. You raise money to send kids on life changing experiences like the UCC National Youth Event -- Redeemer UCC in Zuehl even raffled off a car! Thank you for these wonderful ministries.

And we hope you will plan to attend our fall Heart of Texas Association Meeting, Saturday, October 29, 10 am through lunch, at St. John's UCC in Burton.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash  
Heart of Texas Association Minister

## Personals (continued)

by Pat Oakes



6/26/16 Jo Jensen, Tom VandeStadt were among the participants in Chuck Jackson's last class on death and dying

Chuck Jackson's life was celebrated at church on Sunday, July 24th. He died early in the morning of July 7 with his sons, David and Bryan, by his side. Chuck was with us in church on June 26th and, after the service, led his last class on death and dying. Chuck joined the church in August of last year--and received the news within a month or so that a cancer he had survived almost 5 years prior had metastasized in his lungs. Chuck tried chemotherapy that would only help a little bit and found it to be too difficult. He was grateful that his doctor understood and honored his decision. Chuck met once a month after coffee hour with a group from church to share with them his experience of dying and his anticipation of death. Pastor Tom said, "Chuck was incredibly open, fearless, compassionate, and wise when it came to reflecting on the meaning of life and death. He looked back over the course of his life with gratitude, and he approached the end of his life with curiosity. We will certainly miss him."

Pam Tucker, Harrison, Savanna and Alison Goodgame went on their annual fourth of July trip to Cuchara, CO, recently. For the fifth year, they were part of the small town parade. "The Angry Birds" made their appearance and opinion of the political race this year...(you can see the Trump and Hillary poster above the windshield in the attached pic) In addition to their family, Savanna and Harrison's cousins - Jessica and Tucker - got to visit Cuchara this year! They were part of the parade, too. Pam climbed the West Peak to the summit and she and Harrison climbed another mountain called Teddy's Peak. They all had a wonderful vacation!



8/8/16 New members Chuck Jackson, Natasha Wright, Barbara Johnson, Nettie Reynolds and her son Gibson Hartsock



7/4/16 The Tucker/Goodgame family participated in the local 4th of July parade in Cuchara, CO. in the guise of Angry Birds.



7/3/16 Newlyweds Louis Rodgers and Ellie Nash

**Ellie Nash**, daughter of **Liz** and **Reuel Nash**, and **Louis Rodgers**, son of **Louise Gauthier** and **Guy Rodgers**, were married in **Montreal** on **Sunday, July 3**. The weather had been beautiful but they were warned that there might be "a few showers" on the day of the outdoor wedding. A small tent had been set up, just in case. During the ceremony the skies opened and it poured on the tent, sending the musicians scrambling to protect their instruments. At one point, the minister said, "Louder", and Ellie turned to the seated guests and yelled, "I will!



Left-to-right: **Emilie Rodgers** (Louis' sister), **Julian Legris**, **Annie Nash** (Ellie's sister), **Louis Deslauriers**, **Maria Runco**, **Guy Rodgers** (Louis' father), **Louise Gauthier** (Louis' mother), **Louis Rodgers**, **Jean-Daniel Williams**, **Ellie Nash**, **Liz Nash** (Ellie's mother), **Reuel Nash** (Ellie's father), **Alex Duval**, **Becky Nash** (Ellie's sister), **Carlos Pops Obregón**, **Amanda Young**, **Jérémie Perreault**

Oui!" The rain lasted only a little while and then there was a beautiful rainbow, just in time for pictures. The family had a wonderful time in the Montreal area and then many of them came to Austin where the church hosted a small reception during

coffee hour for the bride and groom and both sets of parents and siblings and friends. Ellie and Louis are off on an amazing honeymoon trip including a brief stop in **Cairo** where a friend will pick them up and take them to the **Great Pyramids**, then on to **Tanzania** and **Zanzibar**, a stop in the **Maldives**, then to **Sri Lanka** where they will spend most of their time, and then on to **India** and **Uttar Pradesh** where they will be working in health care design and delivery services. They are expecting to be in Uttar Pradesh for several years. "Bon chance" to the wonderful bride and groom. Stay in touch.



**Sara Brown**, **Hillary Clinton**, **Hattie** with her dad **Andy Brown**

**Don** and **Sharon Brown's** granddaughter **Elizabeth Hadley Brown** is currently called **Hattie** and is 15 months old. She's quite calm about new experiences, as you can see from the picture. Her parents, **Andy** and **Sara**, were invited to a fundraiser when **Hillary Clinton** was in Austin two months ago. Andy raised a great deal of money for **President Obama's** campaigns and is doing the same for Hillary. Sharon was their chauffeur, but didn't attend. As long as she gets lots of hours with Hattie each week, she's happy.

We welcomed new member **Robert P. Garrett** (aka **Bob**) on **June 26th**. He is a native Texan from **Del Rio**, and is the oldest of 3 siblings. Bob was the first person from Del Rio to receive an appointment to and graduate from the **Military Academy at West Point**. Bob has two fabulous daughters, one grandson, and 2 great grandchildren who live in the **New England** area. Bob served the Army for 20 years including 2 tours of **Vietnam**,



**Jo Jensen with her husband Bob Garrett at the Christmas dinner for the homeless at church--2012**

where he earned a **Purple Heart** (he still carries the shrapnel in his body), a **Silver Star**, **5 Bronze Stars**, and myriad other medals. (If you want to learn more, just Google "**Robert Garrett Wolfhound**"). He earned a **Master's in Economics** from **George Washington University**. Colonel Garrett finished his Army career at the **Pentagon** and then began a second career in information technology. He retired from **Boys Ranch** in **Amarillo, Texas** in 2004 where he was the **Chief Information Officer** and where met his devoted wife, **Jo**. Bob is a "glass half-full" guy who can often be heard saying, "If that's the worst thing that happens today, it'll be a great day!" His theology is quite simple. Once invited by a colleague to attend a small group Bible study, and subsequently declining, he was asked if he was concerned about saving his soul. Bob responded, "I'm just trying to do the next right thing." These days, Bob enjoys cooking - especially grilling, writing, studying current events, economics, and history. His wife, Jo, daily celebrates that Bob has chosen to spend the rest of his life with her!

Another new member who joined the church on **June 26** is **Joy Penticuff**. Joy first heard about the church through **Mel Oakes**, who was talking to Joy at a banquet for the **Academy of Distinguished Teachers** in the spring. Joy is retired from the **UT School of Nursing** and is an outstanding teacher and researcher. You wouldn't think it by looking at her petite stature, but Joy is an avid horsewoman and is still jumping and riding. She and her husband **Michael** recently purchased a small motor

home and are looking forward to exploring the country in it.



**Joy Penticuff, new member**

**Marilyn Gaddis** flew to **California** on **July 9th** to attend her **Santa Maria High School 70th Reunion!** About 20 classmates were able to attend the Sunday afternoon gathering. At the 65th, the Senior Class President vowed he would attend the 70th. Despite terminal cancer, he was there aided by his wife and daughter. The school district finally is rebuilding the high school after years of rubble and weeds. The "beautiful" old buildings were torn down because they no longer met CA Earthquake Standards. While staying at the historic **Santa Maria Inn**, Marilyn had dinner with a **Pomona College** classmate and her daughter. On Sunday morning, Marilyn attended services at the **First Methodist Church** where she was married 65 years ago!



**6/19/16 Nancy Brown, 96 now, mentioned to her good friend Catherine Lee (right) that she would like to go to church--so Catherine and her husband made that happen! The congregation was delighted to see her and lots of hugs were shared.**



7/10/16 Zac and Heather Lytle with 7 month old Abigail and Heather's parents, Valerie and Bill Sponsel

**Heather and Zac Lytle** were in church worshipping with us on **Sunday, July 10**, along with their darling daughter **Abi** and Heather's parents, **Valerie and Bill Sponsel**, and several friends. The Lytles are back in Texas for about 6 weeks from **Malawi** where Heather is working as a doctor. Zac is spending much of his time caring for Abi who is clearly thriving. Heather finds her work very challenging and says that it is almost impossible to comprehend the difficulties that the people of Malawi endure just trying to survive, much less thrive. Keep the Lytles and the people of Malawi in your prayers.

**Whit and Betty Bodman** discovered mold at one end of their kitchen in late October, 2015. It appears that water had gotten in under the roof, probably in the Memorial Day storms, slowed down inside the wall and steamed all summer. There was a nest of carpenter ants enjoying the damp. Luckily carpenter ants are very social and cluster without exploring far afield. Finding the mold explained Betty's severe long-lasting headache and Whit's congestion. Betty's head throb took months to fade away. At any rate, they abandoned ship, lived in seminary housing through Thanksgiving, then an AirBnB for Christmas, and then back to student housing at the seminary. They were two months into the project when they discovered more mold in the front part of the house as well. The whole process unfolded over a period of roughly 7 months, not because there was that much work to do but because – well, says Whit, "You know how it goes." Insurance covered water damage but not mold, which was actually more help

than they expected. They did not like the idea that, after spending many thousands of dollars, they would have the same house that they started with, albeit without any decorative mold. Betty added in some walnut trim in the kitchen so that at least there is something to show for all the work. They have been happily home since the beginning of June. Whit (who is on the faculty there) notes that the Presbyterian seminary was very gracious to provide housing for them in their times of need.

**David Cleaver-Bartholomew** who was an intern under **Rev. John Towery** in the mid-1980s has three pieces of news that folks might be interested in hearing. First, he has finally (after many years) found a pastoral position with a church. He started on **June 1** as the pastor at **Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)** in **New Hartford, NY**. It's the same church where he was the interim pastor back in 2012 - 2013, and is located about 1 hour away from his home in **Manlius**. He has never been able to find a position in the UCC since they moved to NY in 2010, so he's very glad they have ecumenical partners they can work with. Second, **Dena** and David's daughter **Audrey** graduated this May from **Emory University** in **Atlanta**. She finished in 3 years (Hooray!), and is now looking for a job. She hopes to find something in Atlanta since that is where her friends are and is a growing, exciting place to be. Third, Dena, David's wife, is on the final slate of five candidates for the **Episcopal Bishop of Central New York**. The election will be held on **Aug. 6th**, but there are several preliminary events she and the other candidates need to attend around the diocese before then so that people can get to know the candidates.

**Edith and David Scott** (who were with us for a year in the mid-1980s) write from their home in **Strathaven, Scotland**, that their summer is non-existent. We would be glad to share some of ours! They send their condolences regarding the police shootings in Dallas and the underlying tensions that are rising to the surface in some parts of the States. Edith says, "We are equally devastated by the **Brexit** vote. We voted to remain within a reformed EU. In fact Scotland (every region) voted to remain and this has caused a further complication to the vote. My feeling is that some parts of the UK voted purely on the grounds of uncontrolled immi-

gration and I can understand their viewpoint as local culture can be diluted or eradicated, but this situation does not arise for the whole of the UK . Unfortunately some are easily led by rhetoric and I'm sure did not fully understand the consequences of their vote. However here we are and we need to make the best of things. As for Donald ...well! Can you imagine his finger on the nuclear button? Scary!"



7/3/16 Cathy Hubbs and Dave Ross enjoyed catching up with Mary Sinclair (center) at coffee hour.

It was a joy to see **Mary Sinclair** in church on **Sunday, July 3**, visiting from her home near Toronto--**Heidelberg, Ontario**. She had a really great visit to Austin and was delighted to see her little sewing buddy and former Austin neighbor married (Little!...she's taller than Mary is now). **Richard** did not come this time, but they hope to be back at some point.

Our office manager, **Rimma Aguirre**, recently went on the trip of a lifetime with her husband, **Joe**. They first flew to **Chicago** on June 2 to drop their 6-year-old son, **Sam**, off with Rimma's parents and visited for a few days. Then they were off to **Portland, OR; Seattle, WA;** and **Anchorage, AK**. They took a tour bus from Anchorage down to **Seward** that stopped at a nature preserve to observe the wildlife that was being rehabilitated before being released back into the wild. They observed grizzly bears, reindeer, elk, bald eagles, owls, and more at the preserve. In Seward, they boarded the **Radiance of the Seas** for a week-long cruise down the Alaskan coast. They got spectacular views of both the **Hubbard Glacier** and the **Mendenhall Glacier** in **Juneau**. They also went whale watching and were able to get great photos and videos of humpback whales, sea lions, and bald

eagles. They visited an **Iditarod** sled dog camp and got a speech and tour from 7-time Iditarod veteran, **Matt Hayashida**. They also got to play with the sled dogs and their 4-week-old puppies. They then visited a native **Huna Tlingit** village, where they watched a ceremonial story telling and dance and looked at beautifully carved totems. The weather was cold and rainy most of the time, but they still had a blast! Their cruise ended in **Vancouver, BC**, and so they spent a few days exploring the city before picking up **Sam** in **Chicago** and returning home.



6/16 Joe and Rimma Aguirre at Mendenhall Glacier



6/16 Rimma holding a 4-week-old sled dog puppy

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Austin, Texas 78705-5214

**Return Service Requested**

## September Visitor Deadline—August 24, 2015

### History Corner

by Pat and Mel Oakes

Any help long-time members of the church can provide in identifying more folks in the picture would be most appreciated. "Newcomers" may recognize some of us who were in the picture then. Others may recognize names that are remembered in memorial windows in the sanctuary.



1968 Groundbreaking at church for the education wing--now called The Towery Wing--Tommie and David Pinkard on the left, Van Walton back left, Will Warren and his wife (in the red hat), Josie Trenckmann next to her, John Towery, Weldon Scheel (Stella Morrison peeking out near Weldon), Andy and Michael Ross in front of John (Sally Towery is just to the right of her father). The 4 Saustrup boys are there--one at left in a green shirt and 1 with his hand on the shovel, another behind him and another between Cheryl and Debbie Appel. Pat Oakes is next to Billie Bess Saustrup (Marie Clark is between them). Nancy Brown is just behind Pat. Hildegard Everett is wearing a navy dress on the right. Behind her is Helena Mueller and on the far back right is Bo Williams. Possibly Doyal Pinkard peering over the shoulders of the 2 men in suits (architects?) on the right. The education wing was built where the old parsonage used to stand at the corner of 23d and San Antonio.