

THE VISITOR

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

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Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt

Rev. John Towery, Pastor Emeritus



In 1956, cyclist **Fiorenzo Magni** crashed in Stage 12 of the **Giro d'Italia** and broke his collarbone. Rather than drop out, Magni decided to press on. However, his broken collarbone prevented him from pulling on his handlebars with his left arm, which is necessary for gaining leverage and exerting power, especially when climbing a mountain. So Magni had his team mechanic tie a piece of rubber inner tube to his handlebars so he could grab it with his teeth and pull on it like a dog playing tug-of-war with a rope, thus enabling him to gain the leverage and power he needed.

Because his injury also prevented him from breaking or steering effectively with his left hand, especially when going down a mountain, Magni crashed again while descending on Stage 16. He flew off the road into a ditch, this time breaking his humerus and passing out from the pain. The race officials loaded the unconscious Magni into an ambulance, but when he came to his senses, he demanded to be let back out so he could resume the competition. The officials let him out and Magni caught up to the peloton, which as tradition dictates, slowed down upon hearing he was back in the race.

Four stages later, the now infamous **Stage 20** of the **1956 Giro** featured a route that took the cyclists over three high mountain passes. The weather was atrocious, with a blinding snowstorm, pelting ice, howling wind, and sub-freezing temperatures. Sixty riders abandoned the race that day. Not Magni. He completed the stage. The only thing keeping his teeth from chattering uncontrollably was the frozen inner tube they clenched.

Charly Gaul, a rider from **Luxemburg**, won the Giro d'Italia that year. Fiorenzo Magni, riding in excruciating pain with two broken bones and teeth yanking madly on a piece of rubber, came in second place. For me, as a cyclist, Magni is a true inspiration. Cycling is a tough sport, one in which pain and suffering are inevitable. When I suffer on my bike, I think of Magni. He both challenges and inspires me to endure more pain. He shows me by example. If he can do *that*, then I can withstand a bit more.

Jesus Christ suffered. He also told his disciples that any who would follow him must pick up their cross and suffer as well. In **Matthew's** gospel, we read, "From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering...and be killed." Jesus began to *show* his disciples. Jesus didn't just talk about suffering. How could his disciples learn how to suffer if Jesus just talked about it? Jesus had to do it himself. He had to show them, so that in watching him, even if from a scared distance, they could learn from him. That way, when the time came for them to suffer, they'd have an exemplary teacher to follow. Someone to both challenge and inspire them. If Jesus can do *that*...

I can't imagine suffering on my bike as much as Magni suffered on his bike. No riding with a broken collarbone and playing tug-of-war with a rubber inner tube for me. Nor can I imagine suffering as much as Jesus Christ suffered on his cross. No getting my body whipped and nailed to a cross for me.

Yet we need the extreme cases of suffering to challenge and inspire us. Cyclists need the example of **Fiorenzo Magni**. If he can do *that*, then I can push myself harder and endure more pain. Christians need the example of Jesus Christ. If he can do *that*, then I can pay a higher price to love someone, forgive someone, or relinquish something I have for the benefit of another. I can inconvenience myself more. Serve more. Sacrifice more. I can be reduced to a more humble position. Walk an extra mile. Give the extra coat. Make more room at my table. Speak more truth to power. Face more serious consequences. Carry the cross further.

Christ challenges and inspires us to do and give more, and to pay a higher price, all in the service of undergoing a transformation and being agents of transformation. All in the service of liberating, healing, and reconciling the world. Christ inspires us by *showing* us. By giving everything he was and had. By paying the highest price one can pay. May what Christ has shown us challenge and inspire us. May we challenge and inspire others by what we show them.

TOM



An **Action Form and Discussion** was held at the church on August 24th to discuss public policies that could address the crisis involving refugee children crossing the border into the U S. Guest presenters spoke about the pressing needs of the refugee children who are arriving in Central Texas as well as how this humanitarian crisis affects the debate over immigration reform.

Church Leadership

Trustees Chair	John Goff
Deacons Chair	Jaime Hadley
Outreach Team	Reuel Nash & Warinda Harris
Moderator	Barbara Burnham & Bill Beardall
Treasurer	Gail Christeson
Financial Secretary	Pam Tucker
Christian Education	Rachel Dietz
Coordinators	Van Herd
Clerk	Betty Bodman
Historian	Pat Oakes

Slumber Falls 2014 Women's Retreat

2014 Women's Retreat, September 12-14, 2014
Join us for a wonderful, relaxing weekend of spiritual learning, reflection and enjoy getting to know women from around the South Central Conference and reconnect with friends. The cost is \$100 with a \$50 deposit required at the time of registration. The \$100 fee includes lodging and meals. The 2014 Annual Women's Retreat is open to all women of the South Central Conference and their friends. Contacts: Rev. Lynette Ross, (281) 235-5394, Rev. Cathi Cline, (832) 535-5358.

Personals by Pat Oakes

Ches Towery called on July 12 to say that his dad **John Towery**, pastor emeritus of this church, had started going downhill very fast and he could no longer be cared for adequately at The Cottages at Chandler Creek. **Ches** and his sister **Mary** went in to high gear and found a hospice center for him. At the time, they thought he would not last more than a few days. At this writing, he is still at **Bel Air Teravista, 4105 Teravista Club Dr. in Round Rock**; phone # is 512-310-3700. If you call, they will not tell you how he is doing, but will say if it is OK for you to come to visit. It is probably still best to send notes or cards (which John enjoys) through **Mary Masters** at 109 D.B. Wood Road, Georgetown, TX, 78628. After a week of pretty serious decline, he has stabilized. Ches and Maggie went on a long-planned trip to visit with Maggie's aunt in upstate New York with some trepidation, but John did fine while they were gone. Daughter **Sally Johnson** was able to get here quickly and stayed for two weeks which everyone, especially John, enjoyed. Mary reports that he is still eating, has good days and some not as good, but he is up in his wheelchair every day. Mary is philosophical and says that he could be gone very soon or could be OK for several more months. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.

It has been a summer of celebrations and farewells. On Sunday, **July 20th**, the congregation bade a fond farewell to the **Howicz** family. It was hard to let them go as they have been with us for almost a dozen years and both **Jen** and **Jim** have been active on various boards and committees. We hope that we will be seeing **Emily** every now and again as she started at **Austin Community College** on August 25th. She will be living in nearby **Dobie** dorm. Jen brought Emily to Austin and had hoped to stay in Austin for a few days and see some folks, but Jim's grandmother, **Josephine Everhardt** died suddenly on the 23rd, so their plans had to change. She had worshipped with us years ago on the Sunday that **Tess** was christened. Tess started 6th grade the day after Labor Day. Emily and Tess spent some of the summer with their grandparents in Chicago while Jen and Jim got settled in their new home—Jen says that Jim picked out the perfect house on a quiet cul-de-sac, as he has been working at his new job for some months now. Jen reported that it was seventy degrees and raining one recent August day. Their new address is **Jim and Jennifer Howicz, 732 S. Everhart Ave., West Chester, PA 19382**

July 27th was a very busy day for the church. During the service and later at coffee hour, we honored **Anna Kimberley** for her four years of service with us—first as the nursery person and then as the Sunday school teacher. Much loved by the children and the adults as well, she will be sorely missed. She is going on to **UT/Galveston** to work on a graduate degree in occupational therapy. Be sure to say hello to her replacement, **Amy Rivera**.



Jim and Jen Howicz with daughters Emily and Tess at their farewell party. They are wearing tags encouraging us to miss them and visit them--and we certainly will!



7/27/14 Anne Kimberley and her last Sunday School class with us. Julianne Lippert, Juliet Quisenberry, Caleb Parkhill, Anna with Scarlett Quisenberry, and William and Alden Harris

Later that day **Martin Garrison** was ordained at the church with a good crowd in attendance—folks from our church and a good number from **St. Peter's in Coupland**

Brazos Association News September by Liz Nash

The Brazos Association will begin a very important process on September 20th at our forum to discuss possible merger with the **South Texas Association**. All churches, ministers, and executive board members have been sent a letter inviting and encouraging each church to send at least one (and as many as you wish) representatives to this gathering to learn the specifics a merger would entail, to ask questions, to express concerns, and to think creatively together. **We need to have your church's rsvp with those who will attend (send to lizknash@gmail.com).** Soon after, the South Texas Association will meet on **October 11th** with the merger as their major agenda item, possibly voting on a motion to merge subject to Brazos Association's decision. Our fall Association meeting on **October 25th** will then take up consideration of a merger as appropriate, depending on the discussion and action at the South Texas Association meeting. The specifics of our Brazos meetings are as follows:

Forum to discuss possible merger with the South Texas Association: **Saturday, September 20th**, 2-4 pm at **St. Peter's Church of Coupland**.

Fall Meeting of the Brazos Association: Saturday, October 25th, 10 am – lunch (registration at 9:30) At United Christian Church, Austin.

Our Association Executive Board will meet on **Saturday, October 18th** to consider the outcome of the South Texas Association Meeting and put together the agenda for our Fall Meeting in light of what South Texas discusses or decides. We encourage you to contact **Liz Nash** or Association **Moderator Marianne Muehr** ([979-263-5432](tel:979-263-5432)) if you have questions about the process.

We also will celebrate with two of our churches and ministers at their installation services in September and October. **Martin Garrison will be installed as Pastor at St. Peter's Church of Coupland, Sunday September 21st at 3 pm**, with clergy invited to wear robes and red stoles. **John Gage will be installed as Senior Pastor at United Christian Church in Austin, Saturday, October 11th at 4 pm**, with Jo Hudson preaching. All of our churches are welcome and encouraged to be part of these joyous times in the lives of our brothers and sisters at St. Peter's and United Christian.

Finally, I share with you two opportunities. First, **Pilgrim Congregational UCC of Houston** is inviting anyone from our Conference Churches to join them on their mission trip to **Back Bay Mission** from November 17th-22nd. **Rev. Jasmine Quinerly** is arranging the trip. She is currently a 4

board officer at Back Bay and has led several trips there. This is a great opportunity to serve at a wonderful mission outreach. Contact Jasmine Quinerly at quinerly@sbcglobal.net for details. Also, there are three **"Come and See"** events on **September 13th and 14th** to explore how the **New Beginnings Assessment** could help many of our churches. These will be held in **Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio**. To see if your church might benefit from New Beginnings, see <http://www.ucc.org/new-beginnings/> or contact **Rev. David Schoen** at 216-736-3827, schoend@ucc.org.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash

Greetings from the executive committee of the Brazos Association.

As many of you know, the South Texas Association has approached the Brazos Association requesting that we consider a merger of our two associations. Our Brazos executive board discussed this possibility in depth at our June meeting. We have decided to host a forum:

Saturday, September 20th
St. Peter's Church of Coupland, 2-4 pm.

We are asking that each **Brazos Association** church send at least one representative, and we are encouraging our churches to send more to discuss this important issue. **Rev. Liz Nash** and **Rev. Douglas Anders** will be present at this forum as well as a representative from South Texas.

The consensus of our Brazos executive committee was that we want to be open to this possible merger with an extravagant welcome, while also knowing that there are a number of details to be worked out if both Associations decide to move toward merger e.g. process, how to meet considering distances, budget, constitution, dues. South Texas is also continuing to discuss and consider the merger. Let's pray and be open to God's abiding Spirit as we discern together what our relationship will be. Should you have questions, do not hesitate to contact **Association Minister, Liz Nash** at lizknash@gmail.com or **Marianne Muehr** 979-263-5432, BA Moderator. Please let Liz Nash know who your representative(s) will be so we can welcome them.

Rich Blessings,

Marianne Muehr, Moderator



The service of ordination for Martin Garrison. -r John Boydston representing the Brazos Association, Douglas Anders representing the South Central Conference, Liz Nash (Brazos Association), Martin, and Jaime Hadley, representing the Board of Deacons.

where Martin started his work with them on Aug. 1st. Many thanks to the Deacons and congregation members who have joined in to make/bring goodies for all of the celebrations throughout the summer.



We bade a fond farewell to Christie Kuhner and profusel thanked Nodie Murphy for coordinating our uplifting hymn-sing.

August 24th was another busy Sunday. It was our annual **Hymn Sing**, which everyone enjoyed immensely. After church we said farewell for **Christie Kuhner** who has been with us for the past five years (coming from the same church in **Wrentham, Massachusetts**, where **Pat Oakes'** grandparents were members). During the hymn sing, **Nodie** created one of her famous songs to say our farewells. It was sung to the tune of "Simple Gifts" and recounted Christie leading the very successful effort for us to repair the tapestry over the altar, teaching the middle and senior high Sunday school class, coordinating the Christmas dinner for the homeless, making endless casseroles for homeless shelter freeze nights, arranging flowers for the altar, 5

etc. She will be moving to the Bay area where she will be nearer to two of her sons. We will miss you, Christie!



Katie Lemley gave the sermon and was confirmed on August 17th.

Katie Lemley was confirmed on Sunday, Aug. 17th, with family and friends in the congregation. **Lynne's** parents came from **Lubbock** and **Jeffrey** and his girlfriend Allison Edwards came over from **College Station**. Katie delivered a heart-felt and inspiring sermon. She did such a good job that **Tom** remarked that now he knew he had someone else who could sub for him if need be.

Cecile Adam retired on August 29th as a chaplain from **Seton Hospital** where she had worked for 12 years. That also happened to be her husband David's 76th birthday (Cecile's 74th was on the 22nd). Cecile pointed out to the congregation that she and David would be 150 on the 29th—and that the party at Seton on the 29th was for her. David had to celebrate later in the day! Those of us who have spent time in Seton over the years have welcomed her calm reassurance and positive words. Cecile may be retiring, but she certainly felt up to standing through the civic academy held at the church on the Sunday before she retired. (photo on next page.)

Three-year-old **Daphne** arrived the 15th of August with her daddy **David Pinkard** for a joyful but brief visit with

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Beth Gleason and Cecile Adam were among the standing-room only crowd at the civic forum after church.

grandparents Doyal and Tommie. David had fun showing her off to old high school friends. Tommie was glad to be out of the hospital so she could enjoy David's cooking. Tommie spent a good bit of July in the hospital with breathing problems, so she and Doyal were especially glad to be able to come to church on Sunday, August 10th, for a celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary.



Doyal and Tommie Pinkard celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary at coffee hour on August 10th. Tommie was just out of the hospital and is using a small portable oxygen tank.

George Hetrick has just returned from his second post-retirement vacation trip. This one was to Ireland, where he spent 9 days touring with a group via motor coach around Counties Cork, Kerry and Clare. He got to see castles, old churches, listen to music, and spend time with a fantastic group of people. Some of the musicians were internationally known (the lead singer for Danú, for example). Roads were a "bit narrow" in Ireland. A friend told George the definition of a narrow road in Ireland is: when a bicycle and a car are coming from different directions, the cyclist has to dismount and climb the hedgerow, pulling up the bicycle, to allow the car to pass. George, an avid cyclist, notes that his first post-retirement trip was with **Adventure Cycling Association**—an "Intro to Dirt Touring" course with eleven students and two instructors checking out off-road biking for six days in Montana. In early September he will be off on another cycling trip around **Prince Edward Island**.



The Quisenberry family in France this summer. Shannon and Jason with Scarlett (l) and Juliet ®.

The **Quisenberry** family was lucky enough to visit the south of **France** again this summer for an extended period. A vacation portion of the trip was followed by two

weeks with mom and dad working remotely. While mom and dad worked, **Juliet** and **Scarlett** had the opportunity to attend the full day camp program hosted by the village public school. The twins honed their communication skills and ate well. The French children were also eager to learn American hand-slap games from their novel visitors!

Becky Nash started her junior year at **Long Island University Global College** at the beginning of September. Her fall semester will include a lot of travel and will be a study of culture and religion in **Turkey, India, and Taiwan**. **Ellie Nash** will be starting graduate school in sustainable development at the **University of Montreal**.

School started in Austin at the end of August. Our children live all over the Austin area and attend a variety of schools. **Savanna** (7th grade) and **Harrison** (4th grade) **Tucker** are attending a new school for them—**St. Francis**. **Juliet and Scarlett Quisenberry** are in 3rd grade at **Casis**. **Alden Harris** is in 6th grade at the **Fulmore** magnet middle school. and his brother William is in 1st grade at **Patton**. **Caleb Parkhill** started 1st grade at **Menchaca**. **Isabella Dietz** in is the 6th grade at **Lamar Middle School** and Francesca and John are in the 3rd grade at **Gullet**. Katie Lemley is a senior at **Westwood High** school. **Cameron Goff** will be a senior and **Megan** is a freshman at **Anderson High School**. **Julianne Lippert** has begun first grade at **Highland Park Elementary** and her brother **Evan** is attending the **All-Austin Cooperative Nursery School**.

It was a joy to see **Debbie Appel Knowlton** with **Emily** (6th grade) and **Sam** (4th grade) in church on August 24th, visiting from **New York**. They were in town for ten days to visit with her dad **Vic** and his wife **Betty**. Husband **Bob** came in the next week and stayed for five days.



Jake Wilding and Cathy Hubbs at Jake's vocal concert at Westminister. Maimy Fong is in the background.

Jake Wilding (son of **Matt and Martha Wilding**), who was a part of this church when he was a toddler some years ago, was back in town from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to visit his grandmother **Sarah Roebuck** who lives at **Westminister**. That is a bonus for them and for others as Jake enjoys sharing his vocal talents. On **July 7th** he gave a concert at **Westminister Assisted Living Center** with about 50 folks in attendance including **Cathy Hubbs** and **Pat and Mel Oakes**. Also in the audience were his mother **Martha** and younger brothers **Bill** and **Ben**—**Matt** was not able to come. **Maimy Fong**, who sometimes plays at our church, was his accompanist.



Clara Matthews, Whit and Betty Bodman's new granddaughter.



Debbie Appel Knowlton with Sam, Betty and Vic Appel and Emily Knowlton.

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Marilyn Gaddis spent July 4th weekend in **California** reminiscing with her **Class of 1946 Santa Maria High School** classmates. She missed her "Big 65" when the airlines cancelled her flight! As the flight approached **LAX**, fireworks filled the sky! Quite a sight! Friends drove her around the Valley - agriculture is still "king!" She attended the morning service at the **First Methodist Church** where she was married in 1951. The church has undergone some drastic renovation - a new entry, carpeting, new pews, etc. She enjoyed some **Santa Maria** "barbeque" before flying back to Austin.

CCA Supports "Arte de Lagrimas" Refugee Children Art Project

By Beth Gleason



A team of bilingual volunteers led by **Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuellar** from the **Austin Seminary** worked with refugee children and their mothers in **McAllen, Texas**, the weekend of **August 15-17**. Setting up art "stations" in local shelters and the Greyhound bus station, immigrant children were invited to "tell their story" with the simple art supplies our church provided, of their arduous journey across the border from Central America to Texas. This "art of tears" project was very successful and the 80 drawings we collected will be on display in the near future at an Austin venue. Gratitude and thanks to the generosity of the CCA community for supporting this effort.

Gail Christeson and **John Goff** were able to do a **Facebook** chat with son **Cameron** in **Ecuador**. The school in his village of **Consolacion**, in southern **Cotopaxi**, has a computer lab with internet connection! Things appear to be going well. He is working on a microenterprise project, organizing girls to sell fried dough (a traditional snack) at local soccer games. He's tried the local specialty "cuy" (guinea pig) three times, and called it "interesting." His Spanish is improving – hardly fluent but he can "hold down a conversation." He hasn't heard much **Kichwa** (the local native language) spoken. His host family includes two sisters (5 and 12) and a brother (10), parents and grandparents – the granddad is the president of the community, but is hard to understand because he has a strange accent and slurs his words. He and his **Amigos** partner, **Marwan** from Houston, are both way too tall for the village – they keep bumping their heads on door frames. He thinks the altitude of their village is ~11,000 feet, but he's not exactly sure. They can see the **Cotopaxi** volcano from their village on a clear day.



Cameron Goff and his Amigo's partner Marwan peeling potatoes



Cameron and his Amigo's partner Marwan pose in the village of Consolacion, Ecuador, with a view of Cotopaxi volcano.

A Message From Your CCA Green Team

by Peter Jacobs

Safe Disposal Of Unused Meds in the Austin Area

Unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs should be disposed of properly.

Various studies found trace amounts of medications including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones in community drinking water. Amounts are low and do not pose immediate risk to humans but long-term effects are unknown. Aquatic life has been adversely impacted. Fortunately, Austin's water tested negative for pharmaceuticals in a 2008 test.

Experts say the main way drug residues enter water systems is when people take medications and pass them naturally through their bodies. Nevertheless, we don't want to make things worse.

The labels of some pharmaceuticals say leftovers can be flushed in the toilet. The following are alternatives:

In a 2010 report, the **Texas Commission On Environmental Quality** determined it is safe to put unused pharmaceuticals in the municipal trash after rendering the drugs undesirable. Packing them in something like coffee grounds makes them less desirable. Other steps include sealing them in a bottle, putting the bottle in a Ziplock bag and then the whole thing into the regular trash.

If you're concerned that even the best sealing job may come undone in a landfill and contaminate groundwater, below is a list of pharmacies in Travis County that accept medications for safe disposal. Over-the-counter, liquids and controlled substances are not accepted. Original pack-

aging with labels intact may be required. Feel free to bring what you have and let them sort it out. Only Lamar Plaza has a fee and that is for prescriptions that were not from their store.

38th Street Pharmacy
711 W 38th S., Suite C3
[512-458-3784](tel:512-458-3784)

Apothecary Shop
11645 Angus Rd., Suite 1
[512-345-1444](tel:512-345-1444)

Lamar Plaza Drug Store
1509 S Lamar, Suite 550
512-442-6777

Some **Walgreens** sell a mailing bag for \$2.99 to ship unused meds for disposal postage prepaid. Pills should be in containers such as vials. Ask your favorite Wags about the offer.

Watch for **National Drug Take-Back Day**. This year it was celebrated on April 26th. Likely sites for disposal stations are schools and police stations.

Syringes, needles and sharps can go in regular trash. Put them in a sturdy plastic container with a tight fitting cap such as a laundry detergent bottle. Tape the bottle shut and label as "Syringes", "Sharps" or "Needles." Don't put this container in recycling.

Bless you for taking care of yourself and the earth.

The Interfaith Community for Palestinian Rights

Based in Austin, Texas, **The Interfaith Community for Palestinian Rights** (ICPR) is a grassroots movement dedicated to promoting peace with justice for Palestinians. Their objective is to educate the community about the injustices imposed on the Palestinian people and demand international fulfillment of the legal rights of Palestinians in accordance with international laws and U.N. resolutions.

The group meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in their Education Building, 3208 Exposition Blvd, Austin. All are welcome. More information is at their web site at <http://icpr-austin.org>



Peter Jacobs took this photo of the Texans for Gaza rally on August 2.

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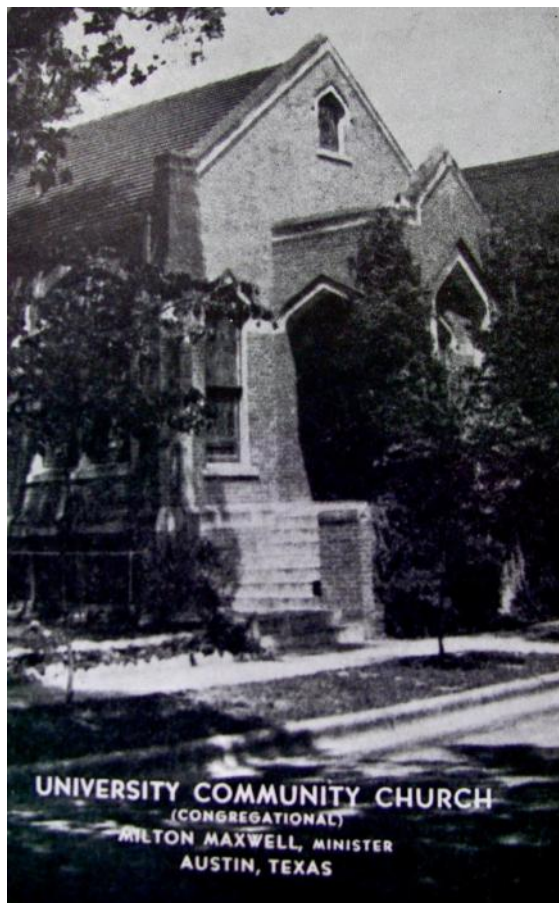
Return Service Requested

Deadline for October Visitor — September 21st

History Corner



Milton Bierbaum Maxwell, pastor from 1940-1945, was the tenth minister of the church.



10 The church bulletin cover, 1940-45. Note that we had a different name at that time. This is something else to research--how many names has the church had--and for how long?