

# 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**



**O**n the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me  
a partridge in a pear ...  
two turtle doves ...  
three French hens...  
four calling birds...  
five golden rings...  
six geese a-laying...  
seven swans a-swimming...  
eight maids a-milking...  
nine ladies dancing...  
ten lords a-leaping...  
eleven pipers piping...  
and twelve drummers drumming.

Several years ago, I read that this traditional Christmas carol originated in England during the time when Roman Catholics were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Apparently, the carol served as a coded catechism for young Catholics to teach them the basics of the faith. Whether this is indeed the true origin of the carol is contested today (some say it is, some say it isn't). Either way, it offers an interesting interpretation of these otherwise puzzling images. Have fun with it, and have a blessed Advent.

The **partridge in a pear tree** is Jesus Christ.

The **two turtle doves** are the Old and New Testaments.

The **three French hens** are faith, hope, and love. I Corinthians 13: 13.

The **four calling birds** are the four gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The **five golden rings** are the first five books of the Old Testament. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The **six geese a-laying** are the six days of creation. Genesis 1.

The **seven swans a-swimming** are the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. Romans 12: 6-8

The **eight maids a-milking** are the eight blessings and woes. Luke 6: 20-26.

The **nine ladies dancing** are the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5: 19-23

The **ten lords a-leaping** are the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20: 1- 17

The **eleven pipers piping** are the eleven faithful disciples. Matthew 10: 2-4.

The **twelve drummers drumming** are the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.



**D**uring my period of ministry where I was working with churches in transition (helping four congregations to resolve questions related to mergers and relocating. Faith UCC merged to become its present property at 76th St. and gave its other church (at 4th and Meinike) to the Conference for \$1. Bethel UCC merged with Bethany to become Bethel Betheny. The photo was taken at Bethel when it was located at 30th and North. It is a rare picture of me without facial hair. My side burns were just a little over the acceptable fashion of the time, and haircuts were beginning to be optional. The women must have liked my sermon. It was interesting work with people in varying culture locations. In some cases I was working with two congregations on the same Sunday morning, rushing from one service to the other. Lent in two former German churches was close to impossible; and, two choir directors died the same Christmas from the strain. It had a strong bearing on our decision to move to Texas and for Betty to begin a degree program at U.T. - Bill Phillips

**Food + Friends = Fellowship**  
by Ruth Koenig

**'Celebrating the Season'**

**Featuring the Huston-Tillotson University  
Concert Choir**

**C**onsidering the attendance at Fellowship Hour, our members obviously enjoy and appreciate this ministry. Our buffet table does not magically fill with food, of course. We Deacons are pleased with and want to acknowledge some of the recent donations of food and kitchen help for Fellowship Hour: the Appels, Bodmans, Oakeses, Murphys, and the Pam Tucker family; Bill Beardall, Sara Ross, Geneva Ross, Lynne Lemley, Warinda Harris, Van Herd, Bill Mueller, Norma Hawes, and of course, the Deacons. Others have shared special dishes and surprises from their kitchens, yards, or gardens, e.g. pecans from Jo and Bob, fresh veggies from Nancy Edison. This list is not complete, but whether mentioned or not, we want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone. It can't happen without you. So, if you see **Jason Parkhill** wandering around with a clipboard and pen, he'll be glad to sign you up!

**The Huston-Tillotson University Concert Choir**, under the direction of **Dr. Gloria Quinlan**, will present their annual Christmas musical, "Celebrating the Season," on **Sunday, Dec. 7** at 6 p.m. on the **Huston-Tillotson** campus in King-Seabrook Chapel.

The annual holiday concert of traditional carols with combinations of classical, jazz, and international Christmas favorites, will also showcase the **HT Elite Combo** under the direction of **Dr. Javier Stuppard**, during the campus concert.

Proceeds from a \$15 donation will benefit the music scholarship fund. Admission for students is \$5 with a valid student identification card. Do

Huston-Tillotson University is affiliated with The United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ.

**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
Web mistress	Sara Ross

**Follow-Up to Lord's Prayer Discussion**

The recent discussion of the **Lord's Prayer**, led by Tom, was well-received. The topic had been prompted initially by the Deacons and the discussion included some interest in other versions of the prayer. On a trial basis, the Deacons decided that we will use an alternate version on Communion Sundays. That will begin on **Jan. 4, 2015**. Watch for it.

## Personals

by Pat Oakes

Our beloved pastor emeritus **John Towery**, 88, died peacefully in his sleep on **Friday, November 28**, the day after Thanksgiving. He had been in hospice care for several months and had not been the same after the death of **Eleanor**, his wife of 63 years, eight months ago. Son **Ches** had last visited him on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and knew that John was slipping away. As Ches got ready to leave, he kissed his dad and told him he loved him. John, who had been unresponsive until that point, opened his eyes and told Ches, "I love you back." The **Masters/Towery** family had Thanksgiving together at Mary's the next day with all of them missing Eleanor and John so much. Services for John were held on Wednesday, December 3. John was the pastor of our church for 30 wonderful years from 1959 –1989, and filled us with the spirit of love, community and giving that exists in the church today. He created **The Visitor**, which is still central to keeping our community connected. He will be sorely missed. If you would like to send condolences to the family, please do so through Mary Masters, 109 D. B. Wood Road, Georgetown, Texas 78628. The Deacons are planning a service in January at the church which will further celebrate John's life.

**Cameron Goff**, 17 and a senior at **Anderson High School**, had a most memorable seven weeks this summer. He says, "The trip was an absolutely amazing experience and if you have children I would highly suggest they participate in **Amigos** in the future. As you may know, I went to the **Cotopaxi Region** of Ecuador. After a long day of travel we (about 50 volunteers, I believe) arrived at our briefing site on the outskirts of **Quito**. We spent a couple days learning about the region, safety, and various topics that would be helpful in the community. On the last day of briefing we found out our partners and communities. My partner, **Marwan**, was from Houston and about an inch taller than I am. For those of you that don't know, I'm about 6'1" and on average we were over a foot taller than just about every **Ecuadorian** we met (as you'll notice in the pictures at the end of the article). Our community was a medium-sized one, about 300 people according to our information packet, and was at a very high elevation that we estimated to be about 12,000 ft. During the day the weather was great, probably around 70 degrees Fahrenheit, though the strong winds could make it quite chilly. At night it could drop down to freezing and I typically slept in pants and a jacket along with my sleeping bag to keep myself warm. We lived with a host dad, mom, grandpa, grandma, brother, and two sisters. The kids were all fairly young and loved to play with us. We typically spent our days working in the fields, teaching campamentos (camps for the kids), hanging out and napping. It was a great break from the stresses of school. I read the **Lord of the Rings** trilogy and the two



Late June, 2014 Cameron Goff on his ride up the mountain to his community in Ecuador. The two girls behind him were also working in nearby communities.

most recent **Game of Thrones** books during downtime. The kids really seemed to love campamentos and they were typically the highlights of our days. For our microempresa (micro enterprise) we worked with the girls of the community (none of the male youth wanted to help out) to sell pas- teles (fried dough pastry things) at the Sunday soccer games in the community. It ended up being a huge success and the girls seemed to have a lot of fun and learned a lot in the process. At the end of our trip we did some more touristy things and visited **Mt. Cotopaxi** and climbed a short ways for some pictures. Then back in **Quito** we visited the **Centro Historico** and a market where we bought lots of souvenirs. Finally, after lots of goodbyes, we began the long trip home." Cameron is most appreciative of all of the church members who donated to **Amigos** so that he could go. Here's a link to an album of over 400 pictures Cameron took on the trip. A lot of them have some sort of description as well.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10201505485999414.1073741829.1844375754&type=1&l=68de49a6e1>.

**Tapestry Singers** member **Lucy Hanouille** hopes you will mark you calendars now for the holiday performance of The Tapestry Singers at the **Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center** on **Saturday, December 13**, at **7 p.m.** The address is 4801 La Crosse Ave. It will be wonderful music admission to this family-friendly event is **FREE** with two canned food items for the Capitol Area Food Bank.

In early November, **Juliet** and **Scarlett Quisenberry** were treated to "hooky" from school and a few days in **Disney World** with their maternal grandparents. They may have also had 1-2 extra desserts during their time away. A great

## Brazos Association News

December

by Liz Nash

**T**he Brazos Association met on Saturday, **October 25th**, with a welcome by our hosts at **United Christian Church**. We had representation from most of our churches, including several guests from an Austin area **United Methodist Church** exploring dual affiliation. The spirit was warm, and we enjoyed a call to the meeting from the trumpet playing of **Dickie Muehr** from **Weimar**. **John Gage** and **Nikki Stahl**, pastors at United, led opening worship.

Our major agenda items were very important to the life of our Association: hearing from our guests to get to know them and consideration of a motion to invite the South Texas Association into merger as one Association. We discussed the mechanics and spirit of merger at length, talking through the distance between churches and how it could work. The spirit of the meeting was, as our moderator **Marianne Muehr** put it, extravagant welcome and a readiness for a new “us” making decisions as one Association. Then, the Association unanimously approved the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Brazos Association (BA) accepts all churches in the South Texas Association (STA) into the BA, pending the STA vote to merge. Be it further resolved that the BA Executive Committee be empowered to take all necessary actions to disperse or merge BA funds; merge or dissolve committees, bylaws and other actions necessary to complete the merger, with the proviso that the bylaws of the expanded Association be approved at a future Association meeting.

We ended with a Texas barbecue lunch and with a part that we always enjoy — sharing, during lunch, from each church present about important parts of their lives together.

Our **Church and Ministry Committee** also met October 21st. The Committee voted to accept a suggested way from the national UCC to handle clergy fitness review appeals, allowing the Association executive board to decide these appeals should they ever come to us. A fitness review occurs when a clergy person is accused of actions that raise a clear question of that person’s fitness for ministry (for example, financial or sexual misconduct). We have not had a way to handle this in the past and (thankfully) we have not had this situation before us. The Committee also passed a motion to rename itself the Committee on Ministry in order to have the same name as similar Association committees

throughout the **United Church of Christ**. We anticipate that both of these changes would be incorporated into the Association’s constitution and bylaws if these are revised in the coming months. The Committee also met with **Carl Schwartz-King**, candidate for licensed ministry from United Christian. We look forward to continuing to work with Carl in the hope that he will soon join our group of licensed ministers in the Brazos Association.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash  
Brazos Association Minister



Back row, l to r, Glen Schoenberg (Burton), Judy Sherman (Burton), Kristin Galle (at the time she was finishing an interim at Geronimo), Douglas Anders (Conference Minister), David Greer (Burton), Liz Nash, Dan DeLeon (College Station), Scott Martin (New Braunfels), Enid Ross, John Boydston (Georgetown), Martin Garrison. Front row l to r, Cindy Miller (Burton), Greg Felder (Washington), Frank Dietz, Jerry Carpenter Weimar), Karl Te-wold (Bryan).

The photo above is our from our last **Jam and Bread Brazos Association** (plus a couple from South Texas and Douglas) ministers' gatherings, which are bimonthly, at **St. John's** in Burton. We are having really nice groups of folks turn up, a very warm and supportive group. It has some of our members and good friends. The box in front is part of the "Jam and Bread" I bring kolaches from **Kolache Creations** (the Kolache Shop) on Burnet Road, and St. John’s provides the always welcoming cups of coffee for anyone who comes there. - Liz Nash



Juliet and Scarlett Quisenberry at Disneyland.

time was had by all and Shannon and Jason enjoyed the novelty of a quiet (and clean!) house for a few days.

It was great to see **Debbie Appel Knowlton** at church on November 9th. She was in town to help her dad **Vic** and wife **Betty** move into their new home at Senior Living at **Belmont Village** in Westlake Hills. Debbie's sister **Cheryl** had been in town from **Wisconsin** several weeks prior helping Betty and Vic get packed for their move. Debbie, Vic, and Betty had a nice visit while getting them settled in their new place. She and Betty went with Vic to his memory program, consisting of daily seminar classes, an exercise class, and crafts. That week's seminar topics included holiday celebration traditions and the Native American Indians. Being a lifelong educator and learner, Vic appeared to enjoy these classes, and actively participated in discussions (no surprise there!). They also helped downsize Vic's belongings, with the plan to donate many items to our own Lifeworks program housed in our church. In good traffic, **Belmont Village** is a 15 minute drive from the church, close to **Westlake Hills High School**. The facility itself is beautiful and the food is good. You are all invited to join them for a meal there, on Vic. Debbie reports that the facility itself is beautiful and the food is good. You are all invited to join them for a



Nodie Murphy and Debbie Appel Knowlton with Vic and Betty Appel.

meal there, on Vic. The facility is new and is in the process of getting fully staffed. Debbie was glad that she was there to help remind them of what Vic's care needs are. Not surprisingly, the move has been stressful, so Debbie encourages us to stop by for a visit at any time. Debbie says, "It was wonderful as always visiting with all of you. Please send lots of prayers for Dad and Betty that they may have a smooth transition into their new home!" If you can't get by, do call or send them a card. The new information is as follows:

Senior Living at Belmont Village, Westlake Hills  
 4310 Bee Caves Rd., #313  
 Austin, TX 78746  
 512-330-1744 (this is a new phone number)

If they don't answer, you may call the front desk and ask them to tell Vic and Betty to come to their phone to answer. Front desk phone number is : 512-347-1700. Betty's cell number is 512-487-4129.

**Debby Kohrt**, in addition to being **Kristen Parkhill's** mom, **Jason's** mother-in-law, and fabulous grandma to **Caleb** and **Zoey**, is also an operating room nurse. In early fall she got a call from **Tricia**, her friend since 1975, who lives in San Diego, who asked if she would like to go on a mission trip with the **Smiles International Foundation** to **Cabo San Lucas**. Debby was very excited not only to go on the trip but to spend time with **Tricia** and another old friend **Joni** (a friend from Denver's Children's Hospital) who was also coming along. The group she was with was comprised of two oral maxillofacial surgeons, four surgical residents, two anesthesiologists, one fellow-anesthesiologist, five operating room RNs, and one recovery room nurse. They had two teams working in two operating suites for four days, performing 48 surgeries. **The Rotary Club** in **Cabo San Lucas** arranged everything from their lodging at a beautiful resort, transportation, and hosting two special events for them. Debby says



Debby Kohrt-middle row, 3rd from left--and her Smiles International surgical team in Cabo San Lucas.

that this was a wonderful experience . . . a feeling of giving back. She is hooked, and will be going again in **April 2015**. For more information on **Smiles International**, click on the Web site <http://www.smilesinternationalfoundation.org/home0.aspx>

**Becky Nash** is finishing a mid-semester break in which she flew from **Varanasi, India**, to **Bangalore** (also known as **Bengaluru**, (Liz and Reuel found this out helping her change her **Air India** plane tickets), to visit someone she originally met on an earlier college trip to **Chile**. She has just flown to **Taipei** for the rest of the semester and was waiting in the airport, low on sleep, for others in her group to arrive from wherever they went on their break so they could all be picked up with one van. Liz was chatting with her via Facebook messenger as Becky connected through **Kuala Lumpur** and was then waiting at the **Taipei** airport. (Amazing right? ) They will do the rest of the semester there studying **Buddhism** and whatever the religion and culture orientations are there. Liz is curious because her old friend from grad school from Taiwan (he is Chinese) told Liz most people there are not followers of any particular religion, at least not as we would understand it. Liz has a pretty good list of world clock times that she can look at on her phone now trying to follow Becky. In fact, she now knows that **Malaysia** is in the same time zone as **Taiwan**. Liz was headed to **Back Bay Mission** for the week with a group mainly from **Pilgrim Congregational** in **Houston** but riding with folks from **New Braunfels**. The Nash family, except for **Becky**, will go to **Montreal** to fix a Thanksgiving meal for **Ellie** and her boyfriend **Louis'** family. The **Canadian** Thanksgiving is in October and doesn't have the turkey meal tradition we have, which is a big favorite of Ellie's. But Louis and his dad are vegetarians, so **Reuel** has found a really nice veggie pot pie recipe and they'll use lots of vegetable broth cooking so only the turkey divides the carnivores from the vegetarians. Liz thinks it will be lots of fun and pretty chilly. It will be **Reuel's** first trip to Montreal. They are glad Annie will join them so they can mostly be together.

It has been a delight to have **Rhys Ulerich** and **Michelle Thompson** back in our midst after a time out having their two adorable sons. We have seen more of Michelle and the boys than we have of Rhys, as he is currently working in **NYC**, commuting to and from Austin each weekend.



Rhys Ulerich and Michelle Thompson with their sons (left) Ozark, and Oxford.

When **Christie Kuhner** got to the **Bay** area, she had planned to find an interim place to live while she tried to find or develop a permanent home. But she now thinks she has actually found a place to settle as opposed to just a place to live. She has been interested in co-housing for many years. There just wasn't anything like that in Austin (there had been a group about 6-8 years ago but they didn't survive the economic collapse). **Brookdale Common** ([www.brookdalecommons.org](http://www.brookdalecommons.org)) has been going in Oakland for about eight years. They, too, had a hard time in the collapse but managed to come out of it with a pair of buildings. Christie is planning to buy a two+ bedroom unit at the development. It is located almost exactly half-way between her sons and her nephew in a pretty, safe, integrated neighborhood. She will be able to move the second week in December—a good time of year there, just like in Austin. It really beats her packing up to leave Austin in August. (What was she thinking?) Thanks to Liz Nash's recommendation, she has found a church, the **Plymouth "Jazz and Justice" UCC**. Through them she has begun to volunteer in the **Food for God** program that feeds about 100 homeless every week and the reading tutorial program at a local elementary school. She is beginning to feel she has a life there. Early in November, she went into San Francisco with her son **Jeremy** to observe his wife keep 40+ toddlers enthralled for a 30 minute storytime/sing along. She is the curriculum director for the **Children's Creativity Museum** and pulls off this amazing feat three times a week. Christie says that it was such a pleasure to

watch her work and to see how proud **Jeremy** is of her. It's exactly this kind of day that prompted her to move there.

In mid-November, **Eunice Paul** wrote from **England**, "I'm sorry for my lack of response to the newsletter but there never seems to be anything to report! At the age of 93 I don't expect excitement! You have no idea how much I enjoy reading the *Personals* every month - there are still so many familiar names and faces. **Dean, Lydia** (Eunice's son-in-law and daughter) and I are just back from a five-day visit to their son **Joshua** and his family (**Martina, Jessica**, 8, **Victoria**, 5 and **Tobias**, 9 months) in **Graz**, Austria, in order to celebrate **Dean's** 70th birthday (which was in September). Son **Nathaniel, Zoe, Eleanor**, 7, and **Thomas**, 5 also went with us from England. That is all the members of the **Tapley** family, with me as a hanger-on. While we were there, we took the opportunity to drive to **Zedlitzdorf** where we have rented a former monastery for all our family, including the American branch, to spend **Christmas** and **New Year**: Seventeen adults and five children is our **Paul/Tapley** grand total! The adjoining church still functions but, fortunately, the bells only ring for service on Sundays! Perhaps more news in January if I survive!" Editor's note--In the summer of 1982, **Dean Tapley** was our summer exchange pastor with his family here and **John and Eleanor Towery** spent the summer at Dean's church in England.

**Travis Moore** has moved back from **Durango, Colorado**, to Austin with his band—"Cactipus." His dad **John Moore** has been informed that the style of music they play is "Hillbilly Punk." They have hooked up with a production company called **Raw-Paw**, and are in the process of booking gigs and setting up recording sessions. Newlyweds **Sarah Moore Racino** and husband **David** took a trip to **Boulder, Colorado**, to pick up a second line of equipment for David's mobile beer-canning business (**American Canning**). They worked in a brief respite at the **Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort**. American Canning needs the second line as they are working their existing line round-the-clock to keep up with the booming craft brew business in Austin and surrounding communities. Raise your cans to **Travis, Sarah** and **David!**

Retired former pastor of this church **Yoshi Kaneda** and his wife **Setsuko** visited **Tokyo, Kamakura, and Kyoto**, Japan, just recently. Here is his trip report. "My high school classmate invited me to dialogue with a Buddhist priest in the community hall in **Kamakura, Japan**. They wanted to know how my life in the U.S. for 50 years looked like. With honesty and passion I talked about my student life, my pastorates in **Nebraska, Illinois, California** and **Texas**, and all the joys and sorrows of everyday life. The priest did the same focusing on his drastic mind

change from being a corporate executive into priesthood. As many questions were answered and serious comments were responded by the two of us, we all recognized that we were talking about the connecting points of **Christianity** and **Buddhism**. For four and a half years, before coming to the U.S., I taught at **Doshisha High School** in **Kyoto, Japan**. Doshisha was founded by **Joseph Hardy Neesima**, the very first missionary to Japan commissioned by the **American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission** (the Congregationalists). While teaching there, I directed the **Hosanna Chorus**. Oh, it was the most care-free, happy days of my life. The Chorus celebrated its Centennial with a big crowd and high spirits on November 1. My former students, 42 strong, sang "**Beautiful Savior**" arranged by F.M. Christiansen, "**Roll Jordan Roll**" a Negro Spiritual, "**Exultate Deo**" by A. Scarlatti and "**The Lord Bless You and Keep You**" by Peter C. Lutkin under my direction. The audience gave us a big ovation at the end of each song. Later at the reception, I was among three former teachers honored as "**Consultant of the Hosanna Chorus**" and was given a beautiful crystal plaque. 'The Gospel of Christ must be the congruous center of Doshisha Education. Let's not ever forget that truth!' I stated in my speech. Setsuko and I reaffirmed our ties with families, old and new friends, and former students. At our age, the human ties occupy a very important place in life. Both of us heartily celebrated that connections again in our trip to Japan. Blessed and contented are we!"

**Paul Deisler** reports that during the last few years he has taken up cosmology and the attendant fascinating physics as a hobby. Nothing is more fascinating to Paul than this except, perhaps, the biochemistry of the origin of life. Because of his vision problems, he has his iPad set for very large print, white on a black background, for reading scientific articles and the Visitor. Paul gives a lecture about every three months, open to fellow residents and their friends. The next one will be at the end of January. He has so far lectured on the origin of the universe (and the multiverse), our galaxy, the **Milky Way** and the solar system from the sun out through **Neptune**. In January, he will tackle the rest of the solar system, a very large subject indeed. He is enjoying the teaching, and people ask good questions. He has been invited to give a sermon at his church in January and is enjoying a weekly Bible study at his retirement center led by two priests from the nearby Episcopal church. He notes that while he is the only **Unitarian** in the class, that there are a fair number of Southern Baptists in the group, so he sometimes startles them without intending to. Your inquiring mind is an inspiration to us all, Paul.

**Jeff and Stelli Munnis** may or may not be moving. Stelli works for **Sunpower Corporation** which manufactures solar panels. The company is based in **California** in the

# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, UCC

## Financial Pledge – 2015

Our church is a community of people responding to Jesus' call to follow him. Opening ourselves to and living in the spirit of God, we are engaged in the ongoing project of creating a community that liberates, heals, reconciles, pursues justice, and promotes peace.

Stewardship is the means through which we participate in the ongoing creation of this community. The more we discern, open ourselves to, and live in God's spirit, the more God's grace is manifested in and through us.

Our church budget reflects our financial commitment to the ongoing creation of this liberating, healing, reconciling, justice-seeking, peace-promoting community of Jesus' disciples that we call the Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ.

Discerning Jesus Christ's call to me while reflecting on my commitment to the on-going creation of the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC, and taking stock of my financial resources, I am prepared to pledge the following amount for the ongoing work of the church in 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_                      **per week**                      **per month**                      **per year**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Continued from page 7*

Bay Area, but has offices in Austin and all over the world. Stelli has been hired for a new job with the company. Her new bosses are in **San Jose** and **Richmond, California**, and they have expressed a desire for her to be there, but she is part of the marketing department and most are located in Austin. Meanwhile, Jeff and Stelli have been living almost half-time in California with lots of travel. (A total of three trips are scheduled in December.) They are not sure when a decision will be made— to either move or adjust to a new lifestyle they have started to call "mid-coastal." They have missed being in church, but are often headed for California on Sunday mornings. We've missed you at church and hope to see you soon—and safe travels!

**Mel and Pat Oakes** were so looking forward to seeing their daughter **Beth**, son-in-law **Eugene**, and grandchildren **Emily** (13) and **Ethan** (11) for Thanksgiving in **Iowa City**. They started out on Sunday, November 23rd after church and got stranded in Dallas when their connecting flight was canceled late that night. They didn't know why the flight was canceled, but they did know that there was going to be severe weather the next day in **Iowa City**. so they were pretty sure they could not get there the next day. Feeling very sad and depressed, they caught the very last flight back to Austin that night arriving home well after 1 a.m. Thanks to good friends **Nodie and Dennis**

**Murphy**, who added two place settings to their Thanksgiving table, so they ended up having a very good Thanksgiving. Both Pat and Mel enjoyed **Skyping** several times with the grandkids—certainly not what they expected, but something to be thankful for nevertheless. Fortunately they will see **Beth** and her family and **Sarah** and her husband **Joe** in **Vicksburg** at an Oakes family reunion after Christmas. It is unlikely that **Mardie, Durham, and Tony** will be there as they have just moved into their newly remodeled **Bernal Heights** (San Francisco) house (built in 1906).

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**Return Service Requested**

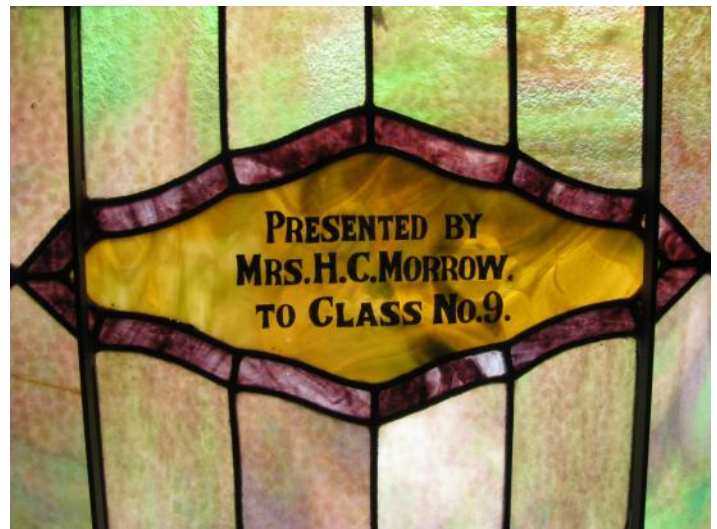
## Deadline for January Visitor — Dec. 19th

### History Corner



9th and Colorado First Congregational Church of Austin building--about 1910. Note the windows--they were moved to the new church on 23rd St. in 1921.

In continuing the series on the medallions on the church windows, we see the third one on the right from the choir side that says, "Presented by Mrs. H.C. Morrow to Class No 9." We know she was teaching Sunday School at the first building where our church was housed in the early 20th century. We haven't been able to find a picture of **Mrs. H.C. Morrow**, but we have found some information about her. She was the daughter of **Norman Potter** (see if you can find that name on any of the windows in the sanctuary) and **Emma Moore Potter**. Their daughter **Belle** was born in the 1860s and married **Horace Cary Morrow**, a physician, in 1885. At the very first service of the church (held in the **Odd Fellows Hall**



Medallion on the choir side--presented by Mrs. H.C. Morrow. This would have been dedicated between 1906 and 1921 at the original church sanctuary at 9th and Colorado.

at 9th and Congress) in January of 1901, Belle Morrow sang a duet with Annie Doom Pickrell. In 1900, **Belle and Horace** lived at 1000 San Antonio Street and her parents were living with them. They lived only a few blocks from the original church building at 9th and Colorado which was built about 1906. It is close enough that could have walked—imagine that! *Pat and Mel Oakes*