

# THE VISITOR

October 2018

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

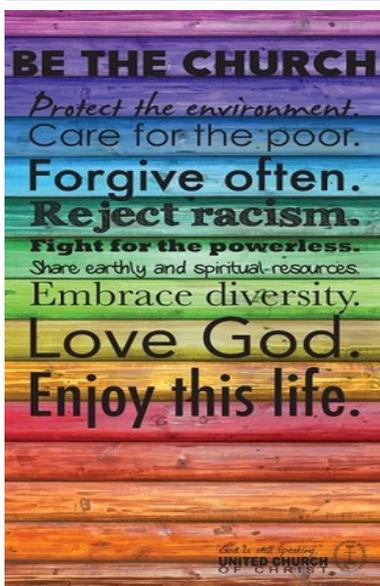
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In his book, *The Fifth Discipline*, **Peter Senge** writes: “Without a pull toward some goal which people truly want to achieve, the forces in support of the status quo can be overwhelming. Vision establishes an overarching goal. The loftiness of the target compels new ways of thinking and acting.”

For **Senge**, vision is an overarching goal that *pulls* people against the forces that support the status quo. The forces that support the status quo can be quite powerful—what we currently accept as necessary, inevitable or true, conventional ways of thinking and acting, the identity we’ve constructed.

The status quo may be good, or it may not be. But even if it’s good now, these forces can inhibit positive change in our lives. They can impede our further development, obstruct our continued growth. The status quo can cling to us, holding us back. Or we can cling to the status quo, holding ourselves back.

We need some counter-vailing force in our lives, a force that can counter the forces inhibiting positive change, development, and growth. When we get stuck in a rut, we need some force that can *pull* us out. That force, that *pull*, is our vision, our over-arching goal. Some goal we *want*. *Truly* want. *Really* want.

It’s the *want* that pulls us. The *want* is our desire, our passion. We *want* it. We don’t just think we want it. We *feel* we want it. It’s a soul-force. And what we want to achieve isn’t just a hobby, it’s not just a side project in our life, something we do in our spare time. No, it *pulls* at the very center of our being, and that *pull* is central to our identity. We organize our life around it, we prioritize it.

In his book, *Facing the Lion, Being the Lion*, **Mark Nepo** writes: “A life well lived can be understood as one that risks not being trapped or governed by its fears, one that follows the pulse of what matters as it presents itself.”

Where **Peter Senge** talks about having a vision that pulls us into our future, **Mark Nepo** talks about following the pulse of what matters as it presents itself. What fantastic imagery—following the pulse of what matters as it presents itself. The beating pulse is a sign of life happening now. What matters now is pulsing with life. We feel *alive* right now when we’re following what matters, when we’re doing what matters.

And where **Senge** talks about the status quo’s power to hold us back, **Nepo** talks about fear’s power to inhibit us from following the living pulse of what matters now. If our fear inhibits us from following what matters, then we follow what doesn’t matter. We waste our time, our lives, on what doesn’t matter. We don’t feel truly alive, but instead, go through the motions. Hemmed in by our fear of risk, our souls feel suffocated.

I think what **Senge** and **Nepo** describe are both necessary. We need an over-arching vision of something that we *really* want to achieve *pulling* us into the future. And we need to be sensitive to *what matters now*, to where the heartbeat, the pulse of life, is beating now. The vision pulls us forward, but we’re always alive right now.

We’re in the midst of our own vision process, a process by which we will, hopefully, feel the strong pull of a vision that we share with one another, and discern the living pulse of what matters right now in our life together. Let’s pray that our vision will be lofty, and that we’ll never just go through the motions of being a church.

In the 2018 Elections, will you support:



1. **Living Wages and Workforce Development**
  - \* Ensure employees receive a **living wage** and **worker safety protections** for all work funded by our tax dollars.
  - \* Secure continued city, county, state and federal funding for the successful job-training program **Capital IDEA**.
2. **Affordable Housing**
  - \* Support **Affordable Housing Bond Packages**; end policies that criminalize homelessness, and develop a comprehensive strategy to **end homelessness**.
  - \* Regulate **payday lending** and provide affordable alternatives.
3. **Community Safety**
  - \* Implement effective **community policing strategies**.
  - \* Work for meaningful **criminal justice and court reform policies**.
4. **Sustainability**
  - \* Implement policies which **promote sustainability** in Central Texas through significant investments in infrastructure, public transportation, parks, lighting, and renewable energy.
5. **Immigration Reform**
  - \* Overturn SB4 in the next legislature; pass **comprehensive immigration reform**.
  - \* Pass legislation to allow undocumented immigrants to **obtain a valid Texas driver's license**; resolve **DACA**.
6. **Access To Healthcare**
  - \* Expand accessibility and funding for **Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, Elder Care, and Mental Health Services in Texas**; broaden services for the disabled.
7. **Quality Education**
  - \* Increase **public school funding** and ensure a safe and supportive school environment.
  - \* Support **neighborhood schools** and promote restorative discipline.

See the full issues at <http://www.austininterfaith.org>

## November Visitor Deadline October 25, 2018

### Church Leadership

Trustee Chair	Keith Beresheim
Deacons Chair	Barbara Burnham
Outreach Team	Whit Bodman
Moderator	John Goff
Treasurer	Gail Christeson
Financial Secretary	Bryan Rutherford
Christian Education	Lynne Lemley
Coordinators	Shaela Rutherford
Youth Sunday School	Sam Clubb (Acting)
Clerk	Jaime Hadley
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Webmaster	Mel Oakes
Member-At-Large	Bill Beardall

## Heart of Texas Association News August

by Liz Nash

**Y**ou are all invited to our Heart of Texas Association Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 20th, 11am, at United Christian Church, 3500 West Parmer Lane in Austin. Registration begins at 10:30; we will break for lunch provided by several of the Austin area UCC churches, and then continue the meeting. Our time together will include the Ecclesiastical Council of Will Nelson, candidate for ordination, member of Church of the Savior in Cedar Park, and graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. We also look forward to hearing in depth from **Jeremy Albers**, Director of Outdoor Ministry at Slumber Falls Camp, who will be sharing about the life changing experience of summer church camp. Our offering will go to Slumber Falls to support the mattress drive and the general fund. As always, we will have our business meeting and, most importantly, we will share our time of fellowship and community together among our great folks who come from our Association churches. We do not have a set ending time, but our normal time to finish would be by 2pm. Directions to United Christian can be found at <http://www.uccaustin.org/directions.html>. We anticipate sending out **Will Nelson's** ordination paper very soon to our churches and pastors for distribution to those who are coming, and we encourage those of you who come to read it in advance. **Karl Tewold**, pastor of Faith UCC in Bryan for the past ten years, has announced his retirement at the end of this year.

During **Karl's** time at Faith, the church took the courageous step of moving from their sanctuary on College Ave., first to a temporary home at the Brazos Center and then to their newly constructed church home in Austin's Colony in Bryan. **Karl** led them through the challenging process of building and having a new start. In addition, he has been a leader in our Association, most recently as the chair of our Committee on Ministry. We rejoice that he and **Gwen** will be able to enjoy family and travel more as we prepare to support Faith in the search for their next pastor.

I also ask you all for prayers of support and encouragement for our churches currently in the search and call process with interim ministers. We have five right now: Bethany Congregational in San Antonio with interim **Tom Robison**; St. John's UCC in Burton with interim **Charles Stark**; Friedens Church of Washington with interim **Glen Schoeneberg**; St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi with interim **Tom Neilsen**; and Weimar UCC with interim **Kristin Galle**. I give thanks for the hard and caring work of these churches and for our caring and committed interim ministers. Let us look forward with these churches to the new ministry ahead, full of hope for their future calling in Christ's work.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash, Association Minister

## Personals by Pat Oakes

The congregation was delighted to welcome four new members on Sunday, September 30. **Nathan** and **Bethany Leach** moved to Austin in 2015. They came from New Haven where **Nathan** was a student. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Religious Studies at UT. Someone told **Barbara Burnham** he holds 4 master's degrees! **Bethany** has a degree in Spanish and a master's in linguistics. She edits audio books, mainly for Audible and Harper Collins. She also teaches ESL at daughter **Hattie's** elementary school (Hornsby-Dunlap) as a volunteer. They have three children: **Hattie**, 6, **Nick**, 3, and **Zella**, 5 months. They had been attending First Baptist Church and were active there. They were in a Sunday School class with **Amelia Fulbright** and **Jonathan Zercher**, and they came to CCA a few times when **Amelia** was preaching. Now they have followed **Jonathan** and **Amelia** to our church! **Jonathan** was born in

When **Amelia** preached last summer, and joined, **Jonathan** and **Amelia** decided that the family would leave the church **Vivienne** and **Jonathan** had been going to and move all the way to CCA. It was a relief and a joy for **Jonathan** to come to CCA. **Jonathan** enjoys running, keeping up with Longhorns sports, listening to metal, singing, and spending time with **Amelia** and **Vivienne**. **Jonathan** loves the people, the community, the worship and the adherence to principles of the church, and is looking forward to being an official member.



9/30/18 We celebrated 4 new members here being introduced by the deacons--Joy Penticuff, Bill Campbell, Jo Jensen, new member Andrea Low, Darcy Grostick Beresheim, new member Jonathan Zercher holding his daughter Vivienne next to his wife Amelia Fulbright, Barbara Burnham, new member Bethany Leach holding Zella, Nick and Hattie, and new member



9/30/18 New members Nathan and Bethany Leach with Zella, Jonathan Zercher with Vivienne, Andrea Low, Hattie Leach at coffee hour after church

Newton, Kansas, and grew up in Hesston and Wichita, Kansas. His parents both grew up Mennonites, and **Jonathan** and his sister went to Mennonite churches during their early years. **Jonathan's** father was a music minister, and a good gig meant the family became Methodist. **Jonathan** occasionally came to CCA with **Amelia** when she visited it as one of the supporting congregations of Labyrinth, and sitting in the services felt like home to him.

**Andrea Haksoon Low** was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. Throughout her childhood she attended a United Church of Christ, and was educated through high school at *Punahou*, a UCC school in Honolulu. From there she went to Harvard—experiencing quite a culture shock—and graduated with a degree in Fine Arts. **Andrea** became very involved in voting rights, working at the Campaign for Political Rights and the League of Women Voters in Washington, D.C. **Andrea** decided to go to law school, and graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law. She returned to D.C. and worked at the Federal Election Commission. During that time, the **Anita Hill** hearings occurred. (cont. on next page)

**Personals (cont)**  
**by Pat Oakes**

In the mid 1990s **Andrea** returned to Hawaii and was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. During this time she met her husband **Paul** in a court trial in which he was the defense attorney. **Andrea** went into private practice and became very active in the Church of the Crossroads, UCC. **Paul** and **Andrea** were married on her birthday in 2010. In October, 2017, **Andrea** and **Paul** moved to Austin and she now works as Assistant General Counsel for the Texas Ethics Commission, focusing on Campaign Finance.

Congratulations to our wonderful Sunday school teacher **Amy Rivera Kent** and her husband **Robert** who became parents to **Henry Atlas Kent** on Thursday, September 6, here in Austin. He weighed 8 pounds and 11 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. They are delighted to report that he is perfectly healthy. He was about 10 days overdue, so **Amy** and **Robert** were particularly glad when he decided it was time to make his appearance. While **Amy** is on maternity leave, our Sunday school is in the capable hands of **Sam Clubb**, our usual nursery teacher and church volunteers are filling in for **Sam**. It takes a village!



9/15/18 Henry Atlas Kent with his pleased as punch parents Amy (Rivera) and Robert Kent

More congratulations are in order for **Faye** (one of our deacons) and **Andy Dierksen** (one of our trustees) who celebrated their 6th wedding anniversary on Saturday, September 1st.



9/15/18 Brand new Henry Atlas Kent has a lot to smile about!!



9/1/18 Andy and Faye on their 6th wedding anniversary

## Personals (cont) by Pat Oakes

**Megan Goff** is happily ensconced in her dorm just a block or so from where she is enrolled and attending classes at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). She is getting to know her new roommate who is from Taiwan and is really enjoying her classes. **John, Megan** and **Gail** packed their car to absolutely full and **John** and **Megan** drove to Chicago while **Gail** flew up and met them. The day they were moving into the dorm, **John** gave **Gail** and **Megan** a call from the parking garage 2 blocks away which was where they had left the packed car. He reported that the car would not start. Rallying to the problem at hand, **Gail** and **Megan** commandeered a large rolling cart and made their way to the garage. **John**, in the meantime, had called a towing company to see if they could help him get the car started. When the truck arrived, it was too large to get inside the garage. They did some checking and found that the battery in **John's** car had died. In due time, a new battery was installed, but in the meantime they got **Megan's** stuff to her dorm with several trips with the rolling cart involved. After a very hectic time getting **Megan** settled, **John** and **Gail** enjoyed a lovely trip home with a several day stop in the Ozarks.

At the beginning of August, **Savanna Tucker** travelled to Blaine, Minnesota, to play in the Youth Club Championships (YCC) for Ultimate Frisbee with her team, Texas Tango. Texas Tango is a U-20 girls ultimate frisbee team in Texas (the only one) and competes in two tournaments, Texas Two-Finger and YCC, each year. The season begins at the end of May and continues through until YCC. This year we won pool play, but unfortunately lost in the quarter-finals. At the end of the tournament we placed 5th in the country for the U-20 girls division. **Savanna** says, "Texas Tango has influenced how I have shaped myself because of role models I have on the team and how I have shaped myself to become a role model for some of the younger girls on our team." **Savanna** is currently a sophomore at Anderson High School.



8/18 Savanna Tucker (front left) with three of her Texas Tango teammates

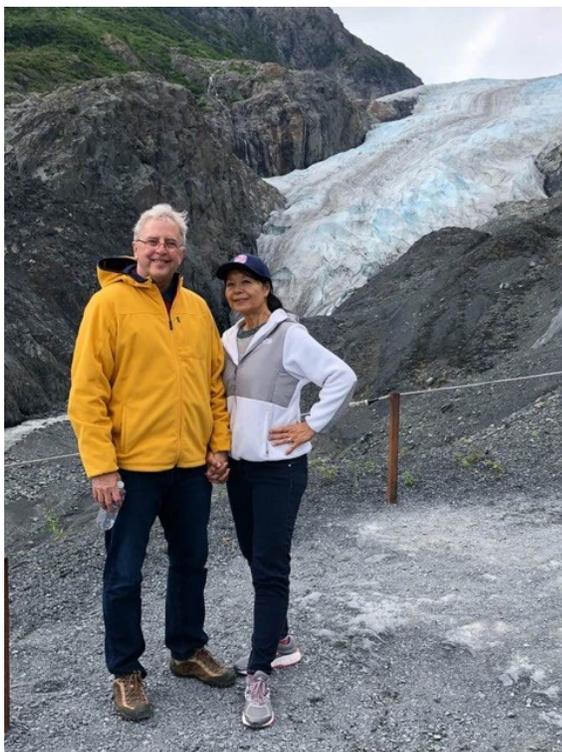


8/18 Savanna Tucker (center) with four of her Texas Tango teammates

## Personals (cont) by Pat Oakes

In mid-August **Victoria Li** and **Bill Campbell** had a short (five day) trip to Alaska in conjunction with a conference **Victoria** was attending. Alaska was as beautiful as advertised and really does seem like the last frontier. They spent a couple of days in Anchorage, a nice enough city in a spectacular setting. The highlight of their trip was driving down to Seward, a village on the coast 130 miles south of Anchorage. The drive down Seward Highway is said to be one of America's most scenic drives and **Bill** and **Victoria** certainly would say that's true. From Seward they took a full day boat tour of Kenai Fjords National Park. That national park has several fjords with glaciers at the inland end of the fjords. At the center of the park is a 600 square mile ice field thousands of feet thick. The glaciers flow from the ice field. They were very fortunate to tour the park on a partly sunny day with calm seas and enjoyed scenery that really can be described as awesome as well as a chance to see orcas, humpback whales and sea lions. They hope to go back to Alaska for a longer visit. Sadly, they were unable to see Russia from their hotel.

Many if you remember our dear friend and longtime member **Tommie Pinkard** who moved to Brevard, NC, several years ago to live in a wonderful retirement community (College Walk) where **Doyal's** sister and brother-in-law live. Sadly, her husband **Doyal** died of heart failure there just months after they arrived. The good news is that **Tommie** is going to celebrate her 90th birthday on November 1st and her sons are arranging a celebration for the weekend of Nov 3rd. Son **David** wanted to let us know that folks who would like to come would be most welcome to attend, but it would also be wonderful to send her a card. **David** has suggested that the cards be sent to him and his wife **Suzanne** and they will bring them to the party. Address them to **Tommie**, but send them c/o **Pinkard** at 588 Prospect Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11215. If you would rather send your card directly to **Tommie**, her address is 100 B College Row, Apt. 117, Brevard, NC. 28712. Go ahead and send the cards now—let the celebration begin!



8/18 Bill Campbell and Victoria Li enjoyed a marvelous, cool trip to Alaska, here posing in front of a glacier near Anchorage

## History Corner

**A**s many of you know, our church is undergoing a visioning process to think about our future, so it was serendipity at work when I unearthed the following link this past week while going through files of archives. **Mel** took the clipping and created the link below which is from the *Austin American-Statesman*, Jan. 13, 1997—a little more than 21 years ago—when our church community was trying to decide whether to move from or stay in the University area. **Yoshi Kaneda** was our pastor at the time and I wanted to be sure that he read it, so I sent it to him early. I received this from **Yoshi** after he read it. *"THANKS for the History Corner Item for the October Visitor! I believe the timing of this item to be really a splendid idea when the church is about to start a new visioning process. Folks will be helped a lot as they consider their strong identity... as a committed church with a long heritage. Yoshi"*

Fortunately for those who wanted to stay in our current location, the parking garage was eventually built in 2006—making it possible for us to rent spaces for our use on Sundays. Up until then we relied on inadequate street parking and the 4 spaces on the church property.

[http://server16.websitehostserver.net/~patandme/CCAHistory/AustinAmericanStatesman9\\_13\\_97.html](http://server16.websitehostserver.net/~patandme/CCAHistory/AustinAmericanStatesman9_13_97.html)



2/6/06 Clearing for the new parking garage to be built soon—where the Co-Op parking lot used to be

**History Corner** (cont. from p.11)



4/8/06 Parking garage across the street from the church undergoing construction



7/6/06 New parking garage going in across from the church



7/31/2006 The new parking garage catty-corner from the church