



Pastor: Rev. Jules Williams, Jr.	Telephone: 409.998.0339
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The Christian Social Ethic

The title of this short but informational newsletter article sounds like the heading for a class assignment at Eden Theological Seminary. The title provides a starting point for a discussion about the role of the post-modern church in the 21st century. Hang with me for a few more minutes before you dismiss me so you can move on to the exciting parts of the newsletter. As a theologian, I often ask the question, "What is the role of the church in this dispensation?" Is the role of the church simply about showing up on Sunday morning and listening to the bearded pastor meticulously discuss the scriptures followed by raising money and then sharing words laced with love with the community? Is the church's role based on checking the boxes or is the role about doing our part to better society? If the aforementioned sentence is true, then we are living the title of this newsletter article entry. We are demonstrating the social ethics of Christianity. Living out a Christian social ethic in the public arena demands doing what is necessary to work for a just society.

Not long ago, politicians resorted to gaslighting to whip many in America into a foaming from the mouth frenzy because of "ism" words. I will not rant about "ism" words or chase a rabbit down a hole explaining "ism" words. However, I will defend the importance of caring for people that society has forgotten while the rich and powerful line the deep pockets of the greedy by robbing the shallow pockets of the needy. The church must express a new kind of politics. The early church is our example of a **Christian Social Ethic**. The early church consisted of individuals on the fringes of society, but they helped shape and influence the populous known as the oppressive and brutal Roman Empire.

*Blessings,
Rev. Jules Williams, Jr.*

We Remember in Prayer

Prayers has the power to heal and change the lives of those who are hurting in body or mind or spirit. We ask that you would send up prayers for:

- **Olive Baer**, who has limited mobility.
- **Cheryl Jett**, who has back issues.
- **Bud Spooner**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Pat Spooner**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Marjorie Meier**, who is living in a memory care facility.
- **Paula Haley**, who is living with Parkinson's disease.
- **Gladys Barton**, who welcomes prayers.
- **John Rehling**, who is living with heart failure.
- **Kevin**, who welcomes prayers during his illness+.
- **Anthony Maldonado**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Tammy Spangler**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Mack Joseph**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Mary Todeschni**, who is recovering from reconstructive surgery after breast cancer.
- The family of **Joe Mallott**, who died in September of Covid.
- **Diane Mayo**, who welcomes prayers.

Reaching Out

Cheryl Jett is a long-time UCC member who is recovering from illness and tragedy. In recent months, Cheryl has struggled with physical problems and speech difficulties. In those areas she says she is much improved. Another event has brought sadness. This year, Cheryl lost her daughter-in-law, Todd's wife Amanda, to Covid. Our love and concern go to both Todd and Cheryl. Cheryl is living in north central Texas to be near her sons.

Let's reach out to our friends, Cheryl and the Jett family, with words of sympathy and care either by phone or by card. Please hold the Jett family in your prayers. Cheryl's address is:

Cheryl Jett
910 S. 9th St. #110
Midlothian, Texas 76065
Phone: 291-615-6163

Thank You for All You Bring to Us

- ❖ Thanks to *Ron Krueger* and his saxophone. He leads the love train with gusto and glee.
- ❖ Thanks to *Gaye Fairbanks* for coordinating children's time and for helping with music and so many other things.
- ❖ Thanks to *Gail Royster* and her work with mission projects and her decorator skills—a bright spot at worship.
- ❖ Thanks to our greeter, *Kim Williams*. She's a cheerful face on Sunday morning, and keeps us on task during worship with bulletins and songs.
- ❖ Thanks to *Chris Teese* for contributions to bible study—some serious, some humorous. A little levity never hurt anybody, did it Chris?
- ❖ Thanks to *Pallotta's*. Without their banquet room, we might be meeting on the parking lot. As it is, we have an attractive room, a quiet spot to worship, the “comforts” of home, and delicious food available after church.

November Mission Project

A New Entry ---

Igniting Hope, Passion, and Purpose

Two decades ago, an unfulfilled Peter Daniels left behind his career in electrical engineering and went back to school to become a licensed medical social worker. That goal accomplished, he started the nonprofit [A New Entry](#) in Austin to offer people experiencing homelessness, people who've been incarcerated, and people living with chemical dependency a place to work toward their own goals.

"The essential thing is moving them into being fully alive," Daniels explains. "What are they passionate about? What's their gift, talent mix? And maybe it's gone untapped for a while. What needs to be uncovered, recovered, discovered about themselves?"

With a residential treatment program, transitional housing, and recovery supportive housing, [A New Entry](#) provides resources to fit an individual's

needs. And unlike traditional treatment programs, a person can stay as long as is necessary to find stable housing so that the organization is not releasing anyone back onto the street.

Our pastor Rev. Jules Williams of Open Arms UCC has first-hand knowledge of this mission and ministry in the Austin area. He is long-time friend of Rev. David Vaughan who is director of outreach.

Look around your house or apartment. Ever wonder what you would do if you didn't have that living space? Our mission offering in November will help [A New Entry's](#) programs to assist homeless people to work toward their goals of no longer having to live on the streets. Thank you for your giving to brothers and sisters in need.

“Go And Do Likewise”—Show Mercy and Love

On October 19, the Bible Study group closed their reading of selected parables of Jesus. The class looked at these ancient stories with all their layers of meaning and discussed the powerful lessons for us in 2021. Perhaps one of the most important observations for us is the eternal truths found in Jesus' words. For a closing parable, we read about the Samaritan who had mercy on one who had been ignored and left half dead by the side of the road. Who exemplified the term “neighbor”? The one who gave mercy **and** the one who needed mercy. This is the commission we should all honor and obey. Love your neighbor as yourself.

The 3 Great Loves Initiative: Seeking a Just Love for All

A new study of current issues will begin on November 2, 16, and 30 on Zoom at 5:00 p.m. Barlow Bradbury will lead the group in a study of the three great loves movement: “Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation, Love of Children.”

In the Loves Initiative, the United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. “In a just world, all are welcomed, everyone is loved, and justice is inherent,” a vision validated in the language of our faith. Hence, as a denomination, we are committed to showing and acting –for justice for all, a just world. This will be the focus of the study of the “Three Great Loves.”

Look forward to November 14 -- That’s a fish day!

Open Arms’ members are looking forward to an old-fashioned fish fry, hosted by James and Liz Lemm. The details have not been finalized, but some things are for sure: the fish is “catfish,” we will eat at the Lemm’s starting between twelve and one on the 14th, most of us will probably eat too much, and go to bed early.

Watch for more news about our upcoming fish fry. Be sure and save the day.

Happy Birthday

Sylvia Bradbury – November 9

Kim Williams – November 28

Remember October—A Very Good Month!

- *Remember World Communion Sunday at Open Arms—Jules’ message and Gail’s decor. Wow! And Wow!
- *Remember the Love Train visit to Jean Brooks with Ron on the Sax, everyone singing in the rain, and Jean’s beautiful art work that left all in awe of her talent.
- *Remember the Open Arms booth at the Pride Festival—arranged by Ian and Heather Says.
- *Remember Rev. Hodson’s visit, his sermon, his open demeanor, Pallotta’s great luncheon.
- *Remember Zoe Leann (Spangler’s) acceptance at Belmont University and her budding music career.
- *Remember sweet, crisp autumn mornings. Let’s hope we experience many more.

Lit Wits — A Time To Learn, A Time To laugh

Li Wits did both learn and laugh in their Zoom session on the 1959 novel, **Love is a Wild Assault**, Tuesday, October 12. We learned about Texas history and some of the early pioneers who fought for Texas and settled the land. We laughed at the antics of Harriet Page Potter Ames, “the bravest woman on the Texas frontier,” who transfixed every man she met with her beauty and acumen. What a woman! Donna Gonzaski did a great job leading the discussion of this book.

Kate Flagge is home in time to host **Proof of Heaven**, neurosurgeon Eben Alexander’s account of his journey into the afterlife. The meeting will be on November 9 at Kate’s home or perhaps a local restaurant.

Join Lit Wits; you’ll be glad you did!

Neighbors In Need—A Mission for Every Month

Neighbors in need (NIN) was the mission project for October for Open Arms. While we contributed to this important cause this month, NIN supports organizations and projects that make it a worthy mission all year long. The NIN offering is focused on helping groups that serve homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry; two thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy effort, and direct service projects in their communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO THE UCC WEB PAGE OR CONTACT debardeb@uss.org.

Community Assistance Center

One of the “ministries” that we supported as one of our Mission of the Month was CAC - Community Assistance Center.

CAC is a Montgomery County agency actively helping people in a number of ways since 1981. Four O A folks attended a Breakfast event last week, and I have to say - it was a Breakfast of Champions!! Oh, not the food (no cereal), but the info about the help provided.

In 2020, CAC assisted just a few less than 40,000 people whom they call “neighbors in need” Sound familiar? (One of our five for five offerings) The list of assistance types is incredible: food, utilities help, rent and mortgage, crisis intervention, disaster recovery, school backpacks and supplies, senior grocery delivery, the Unique Resale shop, and more.

Needless to say, Kenneth, David, Gail, and I were greatly impressed, and thankful we and O A are blessing neighbors thru CAC.

From Bill Royster

THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS??

And gift giving - and receiving?? Lots of laughter emerges from the ugly sweater stories.

How about telling/writing your loved ones a note that says: “In your name, because we love you, we sent pigs to a needy family in Myanmar.”

Or maybe baby fish to Honduras, chickens to Tanzania, a goat to Haiti. Beehives, cows, seeds, farm tools, a well, water filter, a doctor’s visit, a month of formula and diapers, and soooooo much more.

Church World Service, an ecumenical ministry that began at the end of WW2 to help Europe and Asia recover, provides the means for this help to go where it’s needed.

Sending chickens for your grandchild and telling the story can be a delight - and a blessing. Gail and I have done this Alternative Christmas giving for over 30 years. It’s fun and meaningful to write the list and read it to family on Christmas day.

We’ll bring the catalog to church for your perusal or - go to cwsbestgift.org. They really are gifts that keep on giving.

From Bill Royster

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13

The Love Train – October 14, 2021 – Visiting With Jean Brooks

