

Brazos Association News

Friedens Church of Washington has gone through a pastoral transition. At the end of October, George Klett finished a full and much appreciated interim ministry. On November 1st, Greg Felder began as the acting pastor at Friedens. Friedens is in pastoral search and, as acting pastor, Greg may be considered for and called as the permanent pastor. As many of you know, interim ministry is a specialized ministry to help the church in the transition period between permanent pastors – through a period often marked with sadness at the departure of a minister, decisions about church needs and the future, and perhaps a time of trying out some different ways of worship and ministry together. Greg Felder's ministry comes after a substantial interim time, so the decision was made that he can be considered for the permanent position if he and the Friedens decide to proceed in that way. Greg is a Licensed Minister in our Association, has served as the Associate Pastor at St. John's UCC in Burton, and is a friend to many of us. Our best wishes and prayers are with Friedens as they continue their search process, and with the church and Greg as they join in ministry at this time.

John Boydston, Pastor of Evangelical Church in Lyons and Friedens in Gay Hill, and his wife, Linda, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this December. Instead of having their usual Pastor's Open House in December, they lifted up this special day by having a reception in the Evangelical Church Fellowship Hall where people brought food for the Somerville Area Assistance Ministry. What a marvelous and blessed way to celebrate by sharing. Congratulations to John and Linda!

Many of us may not know that St. Peter's Church of Coupland has worked to bring a much needed ministry to Coupland and the surrounding area for the past two summers. Using money from a grant, they have had a twice weekly St. Peter's Community Summer Program at the church to supplement the three day a week program at the local school. The church offers a meal and activities including computer and art classes at minimal cost for the kids who come. In addition, the church has been building an outdoor play area that is now covered for all weather use by the church and the Coupland community. St. Peter's, which is located prominently in the center Coupland on the hill, is a blessing to the whole community.

Hope United in Georgetown is rejoicing at the growth and vibrancy of their ministry. They now meet for worship each week at 10:00 am in the Heritage Oaks Clubhouse. With signs to guide people to the right place, they are easy to find. Their worship is filled with enthusiasm, warmth, welcoming child care, and good music. In addition, they host Bible Study groups in Georetown and Burnet, as well as a number of outreach activities (see <http://sites.google.com/site/hopeunitedonline/> and also on Facebook). Pastor Ron Trimmer reported that, after beginning weekly worship in October with an attendance of around 30, they had 45 people in worship on December 12, all from the Georgetown area. We join with Ron and Hope United in saying "Praise Be to God!"

We have many more fine and vibrant ministries in the Brazos Association. It is a joy to share them with you!

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Brazos Association Minister.