

News from the Brazos Association

I had the privilege of attending two uplifting celebrations of ministry in our Association churches in the month of September. The first was with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran UCC in Richland as they said goodbye to Michael and Laura Vaughn. After worship, the church had a tasty catered lunch and a program with children singing, a band with Michael and friends playing, more outstanding music from a member who plays and sings professionally, lots of tributes, and a roast! It was good fun, with gratitude for a long and meaningful ministry. The second was with Faith UCC in Bryan as they held their final worship in their sanctuary (now former sanctuary) on College Dr. The church building was sold to neighboring St. Michael's Academy about 2 years ago, and the congregation has had an extended arrangement with the school to continue worshipping there. Faith has bought land in the Austin's Colony subdivision on Austin's Colony Parkway next to the new Rudder High School, and they will begin building a multipurpose building there as soon as possible. In the meantime, they are reaching out to their new neighborhood and are worshipping for the next nine months at the Brazos Center on Briarcrest off of the Highway 6 bypass, about a mile from Austin's Colony. As they said goodbye in worship to their longtime church home, many members shared cherished memories of their life together. The service was led in an inspired way by Pastor Karl Tewold, and several former pastors spoke in the service or sent words of greeting that were read. There were several present who were married there, who were confirmed there, who had children baptized there, or who were baptized there themselves. At the end, members came up and collected candles, crosses, Bibles, flowers, the church flag – all parts of the church that would move to the new sanctuary, and processed out in a loving “letting go” of the building to a new and honorable use. Afterward, we shared a good catered meal together.

It is an honor and a privilege to be part of such celebrations of our church's lives. Both St. John's Richland and Faith UCC are going forward with hope for new and faithful ministry while giving thanks for their past. I hope to be able to share in such a holy and joyful way with all of our Brazos Association churches.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Brazos Association Minister