

THE VISITOR

February 2025

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

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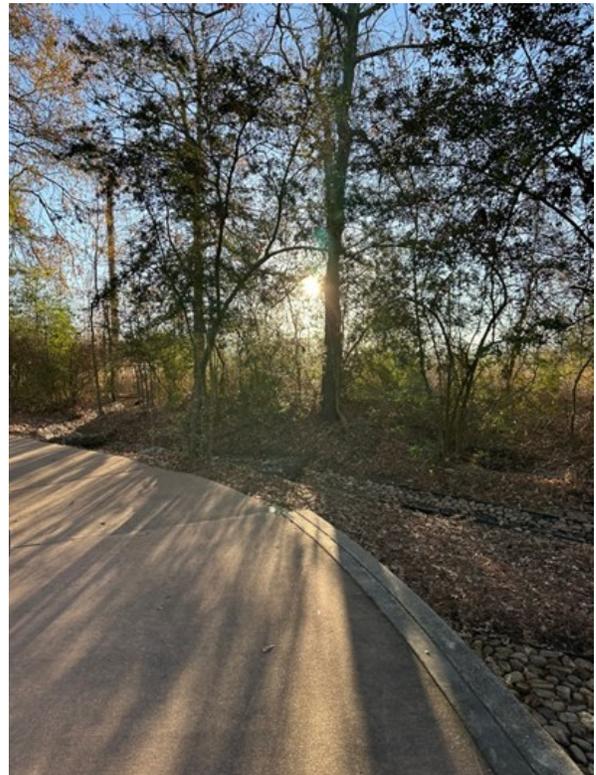
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Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor

One of the podcasts that feeds my soul right now is **Stacey Abrams'** podcast, [Assembly Required](#). Each week, **Ms. Abrams** breaks down the biggest issues we face into digestible, actionable items, introduces us to the warriors for good already working towards solutions, strategize, and shares tangible ways to get involved. As **Ms. Abrams** says, "Because we can't fix everything, everywhere, all at once; but we can each do something, somewhere, soon." Her podcast episode on reclaiming DEI is what inspired my sermon series on the Sacredness of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Here is a [Youtube video of this podcast episode](#).

Below are a couple of pics from recent morning walks. Enjoy!

Blessings, Ginny



March Visitor Deadline February 28, 2025

Church Leadership

Trustee's Chair	Bill Campbell
Deacon's Chair	Roberto H. & Sarah D.
Moderator	Liz Nash
Treasurer	Pam Tucker
Financial Secretary	Jaime Hadley
Children's Sunday School	Kay Pruett
Youth Sunday School	Open
Clerk	Reuel Nash
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Newsletter Personals Editor	Pat Oakes
Member-at-Large	Bill Beardall
Pastor	Ginny Brown Daniel
Dir. of Online Ministries	Serge Martinez
Director of Music	Laura Martin

Personals
by Pat Oakes

René Slataper sent this update last month. "I am still in Brooklyn and in the search and call process. I was leading services at St. Lydia's (ELCA) in Brooklyn before they called their interim but have been doing pulpit supply all over the city and I have more planned in 2025 . I recently went up near Boston and preached at Congregational Church of Needham where Rev. **John Gage** leads. This past year I created websites for St. Lydia's, ChrysalisQ, and I will be launching a website soon for a Lilly Endowment Compelling Preaching Initiative. I've also been leading a preaching lab cohort for the Southern New England Conference called Project Proclaim and I finished up an Interreligious Leadership Cohort with TriFaith. I miss you all tons and I hope I can visit soon! "It was wonderful to see **René** at church on the 26th of January. It was the annual meeting Sunday, and because of time constraints, we did not have our usual time for joys and concerns. It was only after the lunch had ended and **René** had already left did all of us learn that **René** was here in Austin because he had been in San Antonio (from NYC where he moved in 2023) several days before to visit his dying mother. He was with her when she passed peacefully on Friday, the 24th. We all send our love and wish you well, **René**!



1/21/25 Sebastian Hernandez-Geer ready to play in the snow



1/21/25 Xitlali Hernandez-Geer all set to play in the snow



1/26/25 René Slataper with Sara Ross at the lunch before the church annual meeting



1/23/25 Mary Sinclair took her snow shot from near her home in Waterloo, Ontario—definitely way ahead of what we had here in Austin!

Personals (cont.)
by Pat Oakes



1/20/25 Bennett, Lelan, and William Goff, the triplets were born in mid-July

Reuel Nash reports, "I can't remember if we shared about our trip to New York and Massachusetts. We went to New York on Dec 27 to be with family there. **Vivi** got to go to the Nutcracker and **Annie** and **Becky** saw the Rockettes.



James and Vivi sliding at a playground in Central Park.



James celebrated his 3rd birthday on the 29th.

On New Year's Day we went to see the musical *Suffs* on Broadway with **Whit** and **Betty Bodman**.



There was ice skating in Bryant Park. Becky, Louis, James, Vivi, and Liz getting their skates on.



Later that week, Beth Gleason came to New York, and we met her at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Personals (cont.)
by Pat Oakes



Here's Liz and her cousin Allison all bundled up for a walk.



And finally, a nice fire in the stove!

History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes

We had a wonderful surprise on Saturday, Jan. 25th, when we received a small package from **Paul Castle**, son of our late, longtime church pianist, **Florence Castle**. Included were some newspaper clippings and a tape which included **Florence** and **Joe** playing together and a number of **Joe** playing with the various bands he played with in the 1940s in Austin. Mrs. **Mick** was still playing the cello at the church when we arrived in October of 1964, but we had no good picture of her until **Paul** shared these treasures with us. Some of **Joe's** compositions are still in our music archives. For more information about the history of music at our church, go to:

<https://www.patandmeloakes.com/PatandMelOakesFamilySite/CCAHistory/ChurchMusicians.html>

More information on the Castles can be found at:

<https://www.patandmeloakes.com/PatandMelOakesFamilySite/CCAHistory/JoelandFlorenceCastle.html>

Mel continually updates various entries, so if you have questions or find treasures to add, please contact us.



1952 An elegant trio--Joe, (violin), and Florence (piano) Castle with cellist Lucille Mick at the Austin Hotel

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History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes, cont.

The Austin American
Sun, Dec 10, 1939 - Page 6



The Austin American, Dec. 10, 1939. Housewives; teachers, businessmen and students by day—musicians by night. This might be a description of the Austin Symphony orchestra, made up of non-professional musicians who give their time to rehearsals and concerts for the pleasure of Austin audiences. The orchestra gives its December concert in Hogg auditorium Tuesday, Dec. 19. Above are pictured some representative members of the group, which is directed by **Henrik Buytendorp**.

Mrs. **C. E. Mick** (left, above) is known wherever music is played or listened to in Austin. Second from the left above is **Carl Edward Bock**, deputy district clerk and statistician for the Chamber of Commerce. The instrument Mr. **Bock** holds is believed to be the only original viola in Texas. Formerly it was put in a pin and played like a cello; however, Mr. **Bock** plays his viola like a violin.

Young **Anita Marie Schmedes**, third from left above, is the member of a musical family. “Everybody in our family plays some musical instrument except mother—and she plays the knitting needle,” says **Anita Marie**. Her father, **Kurt Schmedes**, is pictured in the group below.

Miss **Maurine Owen** (above, right), teaches in the Austin public schools and directs school orchestras. She is pictured in the new dress “uniform” the women of the orchestra will wear for their concerts.

Below, left, is Mrs. **Vernon Magee**, member of the string quartet of the Wednesday Morning Music club.

The group at the right above, reading left to right, includes **Mr. Schmedes**, cotton exporter, and Mrs. **Joseph Castle (Florence)** and Mr. **Castle**. The **Castles** are music teachers, and Mrs. **Castle** is accompanist for **Chase Baromeo's** voice pupils at the university's college of fine arts. Mr. **Castle** played with the **Kryl** Symphony the season of 1938.

Lucille Mick

The Austin Citizen

Austin musician dies

By JOHN BUSTIN
Amusements Editor

Lucille Martin Mick, one of the founders of the Austin Symphony Orchestra and a familiar figure on Austin's music scene for 50 years, died Wednesday in Laredo, where she had been living for the last six years.

Services for Mrs. Mick, the widow of C.E. Mick, will be held Friday at 10:30 a.m. at Hyltin-Manor Funeral Home with the Rev. John C. Towery officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Mrs. Mick, who observed her 88th birthday Saturday, came to Austin in 1918 to lead the Hancock Opera House orchestra. She had been living in Waco and playing cello in a theatre orchestra there when Louis Novy, the celebrated Austin showman, sent for her to take over the pit orchestra in

his theatre on West Sixth Street.

It was the peak of the vaudeville era, and all major theatres across the country had their own orchestras. Mrs. Mick, however, was the first and only woman ever to conduct a vaudeville theatre pit orchestra in the country.

She also conducted the orchestra at the Majestic Theatre (now the Paramount) until the advent of "talking" pictures in the late 1920s.

In addition to performing the accompaniment for vaudeville acts and touring concert artist, Mrs. Mick's orchestras also provided background music for the silent movies of the day.

Mrs. Mick later was part of the group of civic and music leaders banded together to form a symphony orchestra in Austin. She became a

charter member of the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its original first-chair cellist. She continued to perform regularly with the orchestra until her retirement in the late 1950s.

While performing in the Austin Symphony, she was active in chamber music circles and a pioneer in string quartet performances here. With violinists Mary Alice Mitchell and

Earl Cornwell (later a member of the famed Glenn Miller Air Force Orchestra as well as the bands of Tex Beneke and Stan Kenton) and violist Carl Edward Bock, she organized a quartet that was widely heard around Austin in the '30s.

Six years ago, she moved to Laredo to live with her only daughter, Lucille (Mrs. Arthur) Lang but maintained her interest in Austin musical activities until her death.

JUN 23 1977

6/23/1977 Obituary for Lucille Mick, cellist of the Congregational Church of Austin trio for many years — note that Earl Cornwell's name is in the 2nd to the last paragraph. Earl was the church violinist for nearly 40 years. Note that our own Rev. John Towery officiated at Mrs. Mick's serve.

Cont. on the next page

History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes, cont.

C. EARL MICK

Funeral for C. Earl Mick, 82, of 2311 Nueces St. will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Hyltin-Manor Funeral Home with Rev. John C. Towery officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park with graveside services under auspices of Hill City Lodge No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Pallbearers will be Togie Baylor, J. C. Patterson, Bill Davis, Sam Kimberlin, Sam West and Cecil H. Bird.

Mick died in a Killeen Hospital Monday evening. He was a retired auditor for the State Comptroller's office; was a member of the Congregational Church of Austin; was a member of Hill City Lodge No. 456 A.F. & A.M.; member of the Scottish Rite Bodies; and Ben Hur Shrine.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Lucille Mick of Austin; one daughter, Mrs. Lucille Lang of Laredo; and one sister, Mrs. W. R. King of Temple.

WED. 9-10-69

9/10/1969 Obituary for C. Earl Mick

Note that Rev. John Towery also officiated at Mr. Mick's service John was pastor of CCOA from 1959-1989