

# THE VISITOR

October 2024

## The Congregational Church of Austin    United Church of Christ

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## Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor

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Hello all,

Podcasts:

- [The Wonders of Stevie: Five Years, Five Albums, Infinite Wonder](#)
  - o This FREE podcast on Audible is produced by Barack and Michelle Obama. The host takes us through 5 albums of Stevie Wonder in the 1970's. Holy Moly was this podcast good! It's spiritual, political, artistic, and amazing music! I jammed to and from Austin listening to these episodes!
- [The Golden Girls Deep Dive](#)
  - o If you want to know what I listen to on Sunday afternoon as I drive home after a busy day of worship – here it is! This podcast goes through every episode of the Golden Girls. I love it because it brings up wonderful memories of my family when this show was popular.
- [The Suburban Women Problem](#)
  - o I was concerned that too many of my podcasts were led by men. I discovered this podcast and love how they have 4 women completely different from one another talking about politics and culture!
- [Literally! with Rob Lowe](#)
  - o I love all things movies and so does Rob Lowe. He interviews actors with a focus on the back story of movies. I especially enjoyed his episode with Jeff Bridges!
- [Where Everybody Knows Your Name with Ted Danson and Woody Harrelson](#)
  - o This is another podcast I listen to just to empty my brain after worship (and help the miles go faster!). I'm pleasantly surprised that Ted Danson (from Cheers) is a great interviewer because he names that he is a curious person.

Books:

- [Something Lost, Something Gained. Hillary Rodham Clinton](#)
  - o LOVE!!!! I am going to see Ms. Rodham Clinton in Houston on October 14 so I wanted to "read" her book beforehand. It is wonderfully written as she shares stories about January 6, friendships, and helping to get Afghan women out of Afghanistan in 2023. Highly recommend!
- [While Justice Sleeps. Stacey Abrams](#)
  - o I listened to this mystery thriller in August. It was pretty good. Not her best work but enjoyed the storyline.

As always, I welcome your suggestions for podcasts and audiobooks! Have a wonderful October! Blessings,  
Ginny

## November Visitor Deadline October 25, 2024

### Church Leadership

Trustee's Chair	Bill Campbell
Deacon's Chair	Open
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

We haven't seen **Doris Williams** in a while, but she writes with exciting news! She says, "I just thought I would give you an update on what I have been doing for those in the church community who remember me. I have not changed my religious or church affiliations. I recently sold my home in Pflugerville and relocated to Bastrop. You may not know I was born in Bastrop (although I never lived there), all my relatives descend from Bastrop. I am on my way to live near my daughter and her husband in La Platta, Maryland, in a couple of years. I bought a home near them in La Platta. However, I plan to stay in Bastrop 2-3 years as my organization is building a new African American Cultural Center and Freedom Colonies Museum in Bastrop. It is a \$27-30M, 25,000 square feet facility being built by the City of Bastrop and my organization. You can go to our website: [www.bastropcountyafricanamericanculturalcenter.org](http://www.bastropcountyafricanamericanculturalcenter.org) to learn about my organization. You can also go to Facebook and Search, "Bastrop County African American Cultural Center" and follow us on Facebook. I have been very busy, but it's on my bucket list to visit the church one Sunday." We would love to see you, **Doris!** What an exciting project! It sounds like an amazing field trip for us to make when the African-American Culture Center opens!



11/25/18 Doris Williams at coffee hour enjoying catching up with Dave Ross, Kevin Dietz, and Dennis Murphy

It was great to have **Britt Hicks** with us on Sunday, Sept. 15th. **Britt** filled in for Pastor **GINNY** who was on a trip to Clarkton, NC, to attend a class reunion with her dad, sister, niece, and nephew to meet with friends of her late mom. **Britt** is currently a Member in Discernment and graduated from Austin Presbyterian Seminary last May. Currently they are doing a residency in Chaplain Pastoral Education.



9/15/24 Folks enjoyed catching up with Britt Hicks who preached on the 15th while Pastor Ginny was out of town--Kay Prueett, CJ Wood, Britt Hicks and Amy Harris

**Andrea Haksoon Low** shares, "I was accepted into the Leadership Austin cohort 46-2025. Here's a flyer with photos of the members of the class: <https://leadershipaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Essential-46-2025-Class-Roster-FINAL.pdf> As an aside, the t-shirt I happened to be wearing at the opening retreat quotes **Jimi Hendrix**: Music is my Religion. Fun fact: **Jimi** and I were both born on November 27th." Congratulations, **Andrea**—it looks like you are in excellent company!



9/24 Andrea Haksoon Low was accepted into Leadership Austin cohort 46-2025

## Personals (cont.) by Pat Oakes

**Joy Penticuff** spent three wonderful weeks visiting her family in North and South Carolina in August. The trip started out with **Joy** flying to Asheville, NC, to join her three sisters **Gloria**, **Beth**, and **Ann** for three nights in an historic cottage in the heart of downtown Asheville. **Joy** continues, "We spent many hours talking and reminiscing about our experiences growing up together as well as long conversations about our current lives. We toured the famous "Biltmore", the largest family residence in the U.S. built by the Vanderbilts in the early 1900s. Then I spent four days in Mooresville, outside of Charlotte, N.C., at my sister **Ann's** home that she shares with her sweetheart **Greg**. **Ann** is a retired elementary school principal who now sings and plays the drums in local venues, donating tips to children's charities. My sister **Beth** and her husband **Steve** also stayed at **Ann's** to see her perform. While driving from Mooresville to my sister **Gloria's** home in Columbia, S.C. Ann and I visited the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, N.C. The Center and Museum is located in the Woolworth's store that

was the site of the first lunch-counter sit-in that eventually led to desegregation of public restaurant facilities. in the U.S. In Columbia I had time to visit **Gloria's** children and grandchildren, who are all doing wonderful things. My final event was the celebration of my Aunt **May's** 80th birthday at the farm she inherited from my Hinson grandparents. **May's** son **Chip** runs the farm and **May** now lives there in her own recently-built addition to the old farmhouse. **May** and **Melissa**, **Chip's** wife, and **Chip** now live on the 100-acre farm in Manning where I spent many happy hours with **May** and my grandparents. My grandfather taught me to ride horses and my love of riding started there. **May** and I rode together until my family moved to Augusta, Georgia, when I was twelve. **May** and **Chip** look after my retired horse, **Armani**, who lives on the farm. After 21 fabulous days with my family in the Carolinas, I returned to Austin. My husband **Michael** and our new little dog Promise welcomed me back. It was good to be home!"

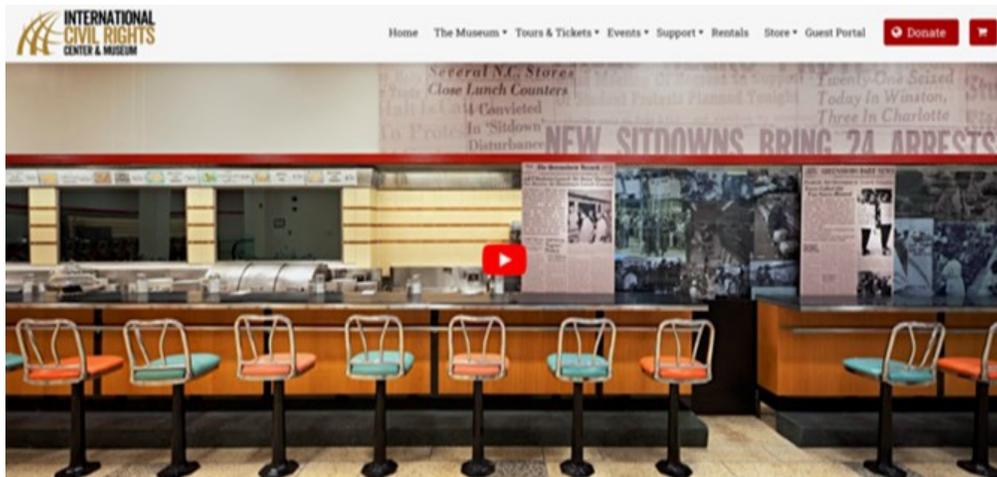


Left to right: Joy, Beth, Ann and Gloria at the Biltmore



Ann, Joy and Beth at Ann's House in Mooresville N.C.

## Personals (cont.) by Pat Oakes



Woolworth Lunch Counter preserved from 1960



### Presenting: The A&T Four

On February 1, 1960, David Richmond, Frank McCain, Ezell Blair, and Joseph McNeil – the A&T Four – four college freshmen who attended N.C. Agricultural & Technical College – conducted a sit-in at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro. Their non-violent direct action challenged America to make good on its promises of equality and civic inclusion enunciated in the Constitution.

The A&T Four



Joy's Aunt May at her 80th birthday party with her kids Chip, Thomas, and Caroline

Personals (cont.)  
by Pat Oakes

**Kay Pruett** took the opportunity to answer a lifelong curiosity and dream to go to Alaska this August. "Traveling with a friend, we flew to Seattle. We began with a day seeing a bit of Seattle with my sister and a visit to my mom. I was surprised to learn about the artwork trolls of **Thomas Dambo**. As I understand it, his troll creations are made entirely of recycled materials. Sailing from Seattle on the Holland America Line, we visited Juneau where we hiked out to a beautiful waterfall near Mendenhall Glacier and rode a tram up the side of a mountain with a lovely evening view of the lit-up ships in port. We sailed a day in Glacier Bay National Park viewing a glacier and sea lions floating on the chunks of ice drifting by. Later, on a smaller boat tour, we got to see humpback whales and bears far off on the shore out of Icy Strait Point. In Sitka, we saw brown and black bears up close at a bear rescue organization. Then we took another small boat wildlife tour where we saw more humpback whales, as well as some young orcas, otters, bald eagle young and their nests. Our last Alaska stop was Ketchikan where we visited a native village and saw totem pole carving and native dancers that I got to dance with. The wood in the totem carving building smelled amazing, even better than the deeply grounding smell of being of being in the Alaska forests. With a brief evening stop in Victoria, B.C., we returned to Seattle, and ended our trip with a bit more quick sightseeing before flying home very early the next day. The weather was wonderful for Alaska - we only got seriously wet on the hike to the waterfall, even though Alaska averages more rainfall than Seattle. It was a bit hard to return to the August Texas heat. I loved experiencing Alaska."



8/24 Kay by a beautiful waterfall near Mendenhall Glacier



8/24 View of the harbor at Juneau



8/24 Kay with troll Frankie Feetsplitters designed by Dane Thomas Dambo who also designed Austin's troll Malin in Pease Park



8/24 A view of Glacier Bay National Park

Personals (cont.)  
by Pat Oakes



8/24 Kay with a totem pole in Ketchikan

**Warinda Harris** and her father **Clainent Johnson** made their annual trip to NYC for the U.S. Open Tennis Championship, and this time they brought **Warinda's** son **Will** along! The trio watched exciting matches and had a great time, then traveled to Massachusetts and Maine for a too brief visit with family. Another great road trip!

**Karen** and **Frank Dietz** were married in 1963 in New Orleans! **Karen** began her teaching career in St. Louis, while **Frank** finished seminary. They have been blessed with two sons, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren in their 61-year journey. **Karen** has been an early childhood and ESL educator. **Frank** has served UCC congregations and the Texas Conference of Churches. In Austin, **Frank** chaired the board at Huston-Tillotson. In retirement, **Karen** manages her family's Twin Oaks Ranch, securing a conservation easement, while **Frank** writes a conservation column and serves on the local board. Welcome, **Karen** and **Frank**, as affiliate members of the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC! Woohoo!



Frank & Karen Dietz

## History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes

Thursday, January 14, 1982 Austin American-Statesman B7

### SHALL WE LEGISLATE DISCRIMINATION?

The Congregational Church of Austin, in its concern over the proposed housing ordinance to be voted upon January 16, 1982, affirms the following:

- There should be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation against persons seeking housing.
- Differences of view regarding homosexuality as a lifestyle should not color one's decision about this ordinance. Fair housing and sexual orientation are separate issues.
- The principle of individual freedom should not be abridged by a government pledged to guarantee it. More importantly, as Christian people we support the fundamental biblical imperative to treat all persons with justice and compassion.
- We join our Pastor, the Rev. John Towery, and 52 other Austin clergy in their appeal to citizens to vote against the proposed initiative.

**The Congregational Church of Austin**  
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A congregation of the  
United Church of Christ-  
"uniting persons in personal faith and social responsibility"

From the New York Times 1/18/82

### ***AUSTIN VOTERS REJECT AMENDMENT ALLOWING HOUSING DISCRIMINATION***

The voters of Austin Saturday overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have made the Texas capital the first city in the nation to legalize housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The proposed amendment to the city's Fair Housing Ordinance was defeated almost 2 to 1 by the voters of this central Texas community, which has a reputation for tolerating diverse lifestyles. In an unusually high turnout, 29 percent of this city's 199,390 registered voters participated despite bitterly cold temperatures. The final tally was 36,239 against the proposal and 20,997 in favor of it.

'Open-Minded, Fair People'

The referendum, which many Austin residents complained was "unnecessary," "stupid" and "a waste of taxpayers' money," proved "what we've always said about the makeup of Austin, that it is made up of a majority of very open-minded, fair people," said **Robb Southerland**, an Austin businessman who led the Citizens for a United Austin, a coalition of homosexuals, blacks, Hispanic Americans and labor and religious leaders who opposed the amendment.

"And Austin is not the kind of town that is made up of the kind of people that want the right to discriminate against someone else, especially as it pertains to the basic right of housing," he said. "If anyone wants to try to discriminate against anyone else, Austin, Tex., is not the place to try it." The referendum was forced by the Austin Citizens for Decency, a conservative, anti-homosexual organization that was formed last August when the Austin City Council refused to vote on a Fair Housing Ordinance that included a provision protecting the housing rights of homosexuals. The Austin Citizens for Decency took to the streets to "Walk a Block for

## History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes, cont.

Decency" and collected 27,000 signatures on a petition to place their version of the housing ordinance before the voters. Concerned About 'Moral Climate' that version would have allowed landlords the "moral discretion" to refuse housing to anyone on the basis of 'sexual orientation." Dr. **Steven Hotze**, the chairman of the Austin Citizens for Decency, said he was "concerned about the moral climate of this city," adding, "We organized to protect our children." He said his group wanted to keep Austin from becoming another San Francisco, referring to that city's sizable and politically active homosexual population.

The initial efforts of the Austin Citizens for Decency were focused on protecting the right of property owners to choose the tenants of their property. But as the vote drew nearer, Dr. **Hotze** conceded: "The primary concern is not property rights. It is whether our City Council has the right to give public sanction and public respectability to homosexuals by making them a minority group with rights and privileges that can be protected.

"It is totally improper for our City Council to grant these things to a group of people who are morally wrong, who lead a deviant, perverted lifestyle. It flies in the face of traditional family values, community standards and community respectability."

Mr. **Southerland** disagreed with Dr. **Hotze's** reasoning. "This is not a purely homosexual issue," he said. "It concerns all of us. Everyone has a sexual orientation. We don't believe in the legalized discrimination of one of people's most basic rights - housing."