

# The Menu



“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” Luke 14:13-14

Newsletter of the UCC Social Justice Team

Issue 1, February 11, 2007

## New face of social justice at the UCC

In an effort to better promote awareness about justice issues and the response of faithful people around the UCC and the larger Austin community, leaders of the Social Justice Team have created a bi-weekly newsletter.

If you would like to help with planning events and workshops or have ideas to add to the team please email [sjteam@utcatholic.org](mailto:sjteam@utcatholic.org).

### SJ Team Mission statement:

The UCC Social Justice Team seeks to connect what we experience at Mass on Sunday to how we live the rest of the week by focusing on the tenets of charity and justice. We serve the common good through works of mercy for the poor and vulnerable and advocating for just social policies.

## Prayer Vigil for Life to be hosted at the UCC, Sat. Feb. 17 7-10:30 am

The event, which will be hosted by Catholic Longhorns for Life, begins with Mass at 7 am, then some people will caravan to a Planned Parenthood facility for peaceful prayer, while others remain in Adoration at the UCC. Refreshments will follow in the UCC Atrium.

## Chef's Special:

# Being a Steward of God's Creation

## Catholic Social Teaching: Stewardship of God's Creation

The goods of the earth are gifts from God, and they are intended by God for the benefit of everyone. There is a “social mortgage” that guides our use of the world's goods, and we have a responsibility to care for these goods as stewards and trustees, not as mere consumers and users. How we treat the environment is a measure of our stewardship, a sign of our respect for the Creator.

“True stewardship requires changes in human actions—both in moral behavior and technical advancement. Our religious tradition has always urged restraint and moderation in the use of material goods, so we must not allow our desire to possess more material things to overtake our concern for the basic needs of people and the environment. Pope John Paul II has linked protecting the environment to ‘authentic human ecology,’ which can overcome ‘structures of sin’ and which promotes both human dignity and respect for creation.”

Sources: *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*, USCCB, 2001 #16; <http://www.osjspm.org/cst>

## Helen Prejean to speak at the UCC



Sister Helen Prejean will be at the UCC on Feb. 14 at 3:30 pm Sister Prejean ministers to inmates on death row and wrote the book *Dead Man Walking*, which inspired the movie by the same title. If you can not make it during the day, she will be at San Jose parish at 7pm (Location: 2435 Oak Crest, Austin, TX 78704)

## What does scripture say?

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Genesis 2:15

## UCC Gets Recycling Program!

In an effort to become better stewards of God's creation, the UCC has started a recycling program. There are paper collection bins located in the copy room and computer lab. The can bins are in the kitchen and by the coke machine in the basement. Please help us recycle!

## Stop the Coal Rush Lobby Day at the Capitol

**Participate Mon., Feb. 12.** large cities including Dallas A small number of power and Houston are also companies, including giant protesting because their air TXU, want to build 18 new quality will suffer from the new coal-fired power plants in emissions, and environmental Texas. Governor Perry groups and business issued an executive order in community leaders have filed 2005 directing Texas' lawsuits to stop the plants. environmental agency to rush the proposed new Texas already leads the nation plants through the state in global warming emissions—permitting process. the emissions from just the proposed new coal plants would more than offset all the global warming emissions reductions California recently adopted. Texas air is already so

Citizens in areas where the proposed plants would be built have been trying to stop the “fast-track” process all year. Mayors of several *Continued on back page*

"BUT WHEN YOU GIVE A BANQUET, INVITE THE POOR, THE CRIPPLED, THE LAME, THE BLIND, AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED. ALTHOUGH THEY CANNOT REPAY YOU, YOU WILL BE REPAID AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS." LUKE 14:13-14

## What's the Big Bin of Groceries next to the kitchen? It's for the Micah 6 Food Pantry!

The mission of the Micah 6 Pantry is to meet the needs of the homeless and impoverished in the UT campus area. It is like a mini grocery store with two small rooms of fruits, vegetables, canned goods, breads, cereals, and meats. Guests are greeted with a smile and select what groceries they need from the donated items. The Micah 6 Pantry is located in the basement of the University Baptist Church, on Guadalupe and 22nd and is open for shopping Thurs. evening 6-7pm and Sat. morning 10:30-11:30am.

Members of the community are encouraged to donate groceries and plastic bags to the bin at the UCC. Volunteer shifts are Thursday morning, afternoon, and evening and Saturday morning.

Margot Wilson, a UCC grad student, volunteers the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month from 9:30-11:30 am and invites anyone interested to join her! For more information visit the website: <http://micah6austin.org>, contact Margot Wilson at [margotw@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:margotw@mail.utexas.edu) or Harriet Choffel, the Saturday Coordinator at [hchoffel@austin.rr.com](mailto:hchoffel@austin.rr.com).

## Stop the Coal Rush, continued from front page:

polluted that more than half of Texans live in areas where the air fails to meet federal minimum health-based standards. Texas has more renewable energy potential than any other state in the country—Texas' renewable energy sources could provide enough power to meet 40% of US demand if they were developed.

## What Can Legislators Do to Stop the Coal Rush?

-Moratorium: Lawmakers could pass a resolution putting all new power plant

permitting "on hold" pending a review of the health, environmental and global warming implications of proposed technologies.

-Carbon emission cap: Lawmakers could enact legislation similar to California's recently enacted Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which requires the state's environmental agencies to adopt regulations to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions.

-Comprehensive energy efficiency legislation: Lawmakers could adopt a package of energy-efficiency standards that would diminish

## Assist the Elderly with Care Calls

This service helps to ensure the safety of the elderly who are often alone and may need someone to check in on them and make sure they have necessities like food and heat or A.C. It takes 5 minutes daily or 20 minutes per week so even busy university students could participate. All you do is call elderly, frail people to check if they are o.k. To get further details and get started with this program please call 476.6325.

## Soup Suppers are Back

The UCC community will come together each Friday during Lent to break bread. The soup suppers will begin at 6:30 pm after the Stations of the Cross. A simple, meatless meal will be served in the atrium while a speaker from a local advocacy organization gives a presentation. If you would like make a soup of approximately 20-30 servings for one of the suppers please contact Michael Burkhart at [tarazan\\_fox@yahoo.com](mailto:tarazan_fox@yahoo.com). If you are interested in cooking for a "night of organic soups," contact Jenn at [jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com) to coordinate.



## Support CWS CROP Hunger Walk

CROP stands for **Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty** and identifies interfaith hunger education and fundraising events. Austin's CROP Walk is Mar. 3-4 at Roy G. Guerrero park. To participate in the Austin walk go to <http://www.main.org/cropwalk>.

Texas' expected growth in electricity demand over the next several years enough to eliminate the demand for some or all of the proposed new coal-fired plants.

-Serious renewable energy targets: Lawmakers could increase significantly Texas' "renewable portfolio standard" —the percentage of electricity in the state that is required to come from renewable sources. Under current law, only about 10% of Texas' electricity will have to come from renewable sources by 2015.

-New technology standards: Lawmakers could pass

legislation requiring power plants built after a specific date to meet or beat industry "best practices" that would reduce (but not eliminate) new power plant emissions in Texas.

Source: [www.stopthecoalrush.com](http://www.stopthecoalrush.com)

## There will be a lobby day at the Capitol about this issue on Mon, Feb. 12.

To find out more, or to get more info about contacting your legislators about this issue, go to [www.stopthecoalrush.com](http://www.stopthecoalrush.com) or to sign a petition against TXU's actions, go to <http://ga3.org/campaign/>

## Like what you see? Want to become a part of it?

A small group of students and adults committed to promoting justice around the UCC and the larger community produces this bi-weekly newsletter, looks for opportunities to do charity and justice, leads workshops, and hosts other events. If you would like to help with planning, have ideas to add to the team, or would like to put a submission into the newsletter, please email [sjteam@utcatholic.org](mailto:sjteam@utcatholic.org).