



# The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo  
United Church of Christ

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## Pick-A-Party 2009

Our annual church fundraiser, Pick-A-Party, is underway. We will collect party offerings throughout September. Here is what you'll need to know:

- Think of something you enjoy and then build a party or activity around it.
- Select a date for your party. While most any date during the coming year is fine, we ask that you select a specific date.
- Submit your party offering by September 27. You may send it via email to Carol Henton at [carolhenton@aol.com](mailto:carolhenton@aol.com), or phone her at 650 571-7563.
- During October, we will advertise the parties that have been offered—so you can decide which parties you want to purchase.
- Pick-A-Party Sunday is October 18. Come at 9:45 a.m. with your party choices and your checkbook.



## Pick-A-Party

Pick-A-Party combines fun and fellowship with fund-raising for important church programs.

### Sunday Celebrations

**FALL THEME: *One Tree, Many Roots, A Multi-Faith Journey***

**Sun., Sept. 20 *Where Do I Find God?***  
Rev. Nixon w/Marcia McFee

**Sun., Sept. 27 *How Do I Begin Again? Is Forgiveness Always Necessary?*** Rev. Nixon  
Yom Kippur

**Sun., Oct. 5 *What is Right Practice?*** Rev. Nixon  
World Communion Sunday  
1 p.m. Blessing of the Animals on front lawn

**Sun., Oct. 11 *Why Am I Here? What is the Meaning of Life?***

**Sun., Oct. 18 *What Is My Response-ability as a Human Being?*** Rev. Nixon  
Pick-a-Party Sunday

## A Note from our Rabbi-in-Residence, Jhos Singer

Dear CCSMers,

Well, I must say that I have been so warmly welcomed by those of you I have met so far, that I feel I have a spiritual 'home away from home' already. The Jewish High Holidays begin this **Friday, September the 18th.**



At this time of year, we engage in the practice of "cheshbon ha-nefesh" or an accounting of our soul. On the new moon of the month of Tishrei in the Jewish calendar, Jews all over the world will be gathering to welcome in the new year of 5770. We will step across the threshold leaving this year and into the next, just as we hope to step across the boundary that separates who we were from who we are still-to-be. The holiday as it is described in our Torah is simply a "day of remembrance, a day of sounding." Our rabbis and our people took that simple description and have turned it into an intricately woven tapestry of self-reflection, communal accountability and deep prayer. When we gather this Friday night, we enter into a sacred time when all habits and addictions are in danger of being broken, when all debts are due and when all that is life-draining is due to be ditched. We are like a snake ready to shed, letting go of a once protective layer that has outlasted its usefulness.

I hope that you at CCSM will join us either in body or in spirit this Rosh Hashana, either to participate or to stand in support of your Jewish partners, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors, as we walk once again into the Yamim Noraim, the days of awe. For it is truly awesome to see what emerges when that old, dull and dry layer slides

*Cont. on page 6*

# Youth & Family News

## Youth Fellowship

### Mid High News

We have a full calendar ahead and lots of new faces joining Mid High. Keep these upcoming dates on your calendars and bring friends if you like!

**Sunday, Sept. 20, Kick-Off Social, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** We'll be meeting at church to get to know the new faces in Mid High, reunite with old faces, discuss the coming year, and enjoy ice cream together.

**Saturday, Oct. 3, World Communion Bread Baking, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.** Mid High is baking bread for World Communion Sunday again this year! Dawn Graves will be helping us craft some beautiful loaves to share with the congregation.

**Saturday, Oct. 10, NCNC Fall Fest, 9:30 a.m., 3 p.m.** We'll be joining other UCC churches for a day at San Francisco Zoo. We'll make new friends, visit old ones, and get to know some of the people we'll be seeing at Mid Winter Camp. We'll need some help driving to this event. If you can help out this day, please contact Joliene!

**Sunday, Nov. 1, Movie Night, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** We'll enjoy a movie and snacks together at church. If you have movie suggestions, contact Joliene!

Make sure to keep these dates in mind and if you can offer to help with transportation on the 10th, please let us know! If you have any questions or would like information, email Joliene ([joliene.wade@gmail.com](mailto:joliene.wade@gmail.com))

### Senior High

Please put these dates on your calendar for our meetings.

- Sept. 20: Kickoff Fellowship Night, 6:30-8 p.m., meet in Kloss Hall
- Sept. 27: 60 Minutes with Mike Mullery, 10:30 a.m. in Fireplace Room.
- Oct. 4: Fellowship Night, 6:30-8 p.m.

## Church School

Homecoming Sunday was a glorious day! 73 children returned to their Church School classes, and over 300 attended worship. Our welcoming ribbons revealed that more than 10 people in the congregation have been here more than 50 years! The delicious BBQ, kids jumper and balloon animals made it a most wonderful day. Our multi faith journey has begun!

### One Tree, Many Roots: Faith Literacy Curriculum

Our new Church School curriculum was off to a great start! Each Sunday we are working to connect our Church School lessons with the sermon topic. Last Sunday, our children learned about God welcoming them whoever they are. This coming **Sunday, Sept. 20**, our focus is on Sacred Spaces: Where do we find God? Then on **Sunday, Sept. 27**, our lessons will focus on understanding our faith amidst Judaism, Buddhism and Islam. Our younger children will focus on our church and traditions. Each week you will see a deepening of this concept, **One Tree, Many Roots**. The curriculum will be framed with our Christian concepts. Through that lens, we will study the similarities with other faiths. Our hope is that the fall curriculum will assist our children in knowing their own faith tradition while also having a greater awareness of the diverse faiths among their friends and in their schools.

### Fall Church School BBQ's

Church School families are invited to informal Church School BBQ's to meet and greet the other families and children in your son or daughter's Church School class. Please bring a potluck dish to accompany the BBQ and RSVP by email.

**Sunday, Sept. 27: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Church School BBQ for families of 3, 4, and 5-year olds** at Jennifer Jacoby Yeh's home. 480 Virginia Ave. San Mateo, 94402. ([Jjacobyeh@yahoo.com](mailto:Jjacobyeh@yahoo.com))

**Saturday Oct. 3: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Church School BBQ's for families of 1st through 6th graders**, Betsy Woodward's home, 227 Turnstone Ct. Foster City, 94404. ([bwoodward@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:bwoodward@ccsm-ucc.org))

### Little Ones Playgroup, Saturday, Oct. 24 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Kindergarten classroom

For parents of little ones under 4-years old, our playgroup will resume in October. What is this, you ask? The Little Ones Playgroup is an opportunity for parents of young children to get better acquainted and enjoy the fun equipment in the Kindergarten classroom. The room is geared for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. We gather to play, share ideas and have a snack. Please join us and bring a peanut free snack to share. Email Renato Floresca if you would like to attend. [r\\_floresca@yahoo.com](mailto:r_floresca@yahoo.com).



Vigilant safety testers (aka Moms) checked out the jumper. Well, that is what they said they were doing as they slid out.



## Homework Central Begins Again On Monday, October 5th!

Homework Central is organizing for another great year of tutoring 60 neighborhood children. All Homework Central tutors are invited to the **Tutor Welcome** to be held on **Thursday, September 24, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Buckham Room**. Please join us for food and fellowship. We will talk over plans for the year and meet with the Site Coordinators and tutors from our respective sites.

This is a great time to become a new tutor! Join us in helping 3-5 grade children one day a week. Build a relationship with a little person who needs your smiling face guidance, and support. If you would like more information, please talk to Judy Hemmer, Margi Stone or Lani Leydig.

## You Are Invited To The Next NCNC Church Day, Saturday, Oct 3!

Church Day is an opportunity for our church lay leaders to learn more about the UCC church with other UCC church members. The next Church Day is **Saturday, Oct. 3, at College Avenue UCC, Modesto, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.** Church Day is a twice-yearly all-conference lay leadership training event. Focus groups offer how-to information on vital areas of church life. The groups for Oct. 3 include: adding contemporary worship to the Sunday morning schedule, how to be a church moderator and treasurer, the Whimsy Principle (outreach to LGBTQ youth and Sunday Adventure program), and the work of the NCNC Marriage Equality Task Force. Local churches may bring an unlimited number of people to the event. Cost is \$8 per person for lunch. Ask David Cowell, Mark Meyers and Joliene Wade about their experience last March and join us for this training event. See Betsy to register!

## Sun., Oct. 4, Blessing of the Animals 1:00-2:00 p.m. On The Church Lawn

We will celebrate The Feast of St. Francis this year by holding a blessing of the animals. You are welcome to bring your pets and receive a blessing from one of the ministers. CCSM members, friends and neighbors are welcome. St. Francis wrote

a *Canticle of the Creatures*, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures."

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic and often is a reflection of unconditional love. We invite you to enjoy the opportunity to bring your animal companions to church for a special blessing. Please have dogs on leashes and other animals in carriers. If you have questions, call Penny Nixon.



# The Music School

## SING, MOVE, PLAY, & MORE...

By Cari Parker

The Music School is beginning its 28th year of children's music education on Monday, September 28. Julie Berk, director, and her teaching staff are eager to meet and teach the fall music classes for children ages 18 months to 9 years old.

Each age level enjoys a different level of instruction. Toddlers enjoy their parent's or a care-giver's help with their singing, playing simple mallet instruments, games, stories, and musical play. For 3 1/2 to 5-year-olds classes, parents disappear, and their children enjoy songs, musical games, Orff percussion instruments, clapping and moving to notated rhythms, and keyboard classes are added. In Grades 1-3, the children's music making is more complex, and reading skills improve. Students are able to read simple melodies, sing and play them on the keyboards, recorders and flutes. Most children are singing on pitch and enjoy singing rounds, having the gift of the discovery of their singing voices for a lifetime!

For information or an application please visit our website at [musicchoolsanmateo.com](http://musicchoolsanmateo.com) or call Julie Berk at 344-4263. We'd love to meet some of our new families and discuss our delightful approach to music education with you.

## Communion Servers Training

By Jerri Handy

On Sunday morning **Sept 27th**, communion servers will be gathering for training in the Fireplace room at **9:15 a.m.** This training will equip you to serve the elements and offer blessings. Those who have participated in the training before have enjoyed the training. Come and join us if you have interest in serving in this way.

Communion is a wonderful moment in our worship life together, a time where we open ourselves to the power of Spirit at work in our lives. The moment of sharing bread and cup are powerful meaningful moments. Come and be involved in spirit work.

Those who have already participated in the training are invited to come again in order to support and affirm new members to the communion serving team. Contact the church office to have your name added to the training list; you will find the list on the reception desk.



## Welcome New Members on September 13, 2009

### Kelly McCarty

Kelly moved to the Bay Area from her hometown of Oklahoma City about twenty years ago. She is a pharmacist and works at the Walgreens located at the Stanford Cancer Center in Palo Alto.

Kelly lives in Foster City with her daughters Kyra (age 17) and Cori (age 13). In addition to being a mom, Kelly enjoys reading, baking, photography and yoga.

### Rosemarie Pero

Rosemarie is a native of San Mateo and was raised in the Catholic faith. She always had questions about her religion but didn't receive adequate answers. In 2006, Ann and Syd Lambertson invited Rosemarie to CCSM, and she loved the music and enjoyed Art Domingue's sermons.

Travel is Rosemarie's #1 passion, with cooking and experimenting with new recipe ideas a very close second. Rosemarie is married and has two grown sons, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

### Grace Yoo and Jason Chang

Grace and Jason moved to the San Francisco area in 1994 from Southern California. They reside in Pacifica and both work at San Francisco State University. Jason and Grace are the proud parents of Albert (5) and Jeremy (10). Since coming to the Bay Area, Jason and Grace have looked far and wide for a progressive, inclusive Christian church. They feel ecstatic that they have found CCSM. They have been attending since January and feel this is the place where they can grow, get inspired, invite friends, as well as a place for their kids to find inspiration.

## Affinity Groups

### 20/30s Save these dates

**September 27: 9:15 a.m.** Making sandwiches in CCSM kitchen for SF Night Ministry

**October 2: 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Taize at Burlingame Mercy Center

## The Monday Night Book Group

We will resume its meetings on **Monday, September 28, 7:30-9:00 p.m., in the Fireplace Room.** Our book of choice is *Shakespeare's Wife* by Germaine Greer. Please find the book and read it so you can add your thoughts to our lively discussion. If you wish to join our email list, please email Susan Stoehr, [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com).

## Celebrate! Save The Dates

### Oct. 8, Special Shelter Network Breakfast

You're invited to reserve a place at the CCSM table at the Annual Shelter Network Benefit Breakfast on **Thursday, October 8, at the Hyatt Regency, Burlingame at 7:30a.m.** The guest speaker will be Dan Rather. Contact Laura Peterhans 637-8783 or Marie Shepard 594-3903. Cost \$75 per person. Scholarship donations are encouraged.

### October 18, Fall Festival & Fiesta!

Harvest festival, neighborhood outreach, Connections, service, and fun! What else could we ask on a Fall Sunday afternoon? Several ministries have joined forces to host an afternoon of fun and games for the entire family. We also hope to connect with our neighbors and share information about our wonderful church. Please join us right after the service, and invite family and friends. If you would like to connect by volunteering, please call Doris Godinez-Phillips at 650 589-4627.

### Nov. 21: World Peace Festival at CCSM

Come enjoy the World Peace Festival, a walk-through experience of many faiths focused on the idea of *Peace*. Each faith will have 6-foot banner accompanied by symbols and traditions of each faith. You will learn through touch, taste, reading and hearing. It's an event for all ages. 3:00-5:00 p.m.

### December 5, Season of Sharing Event

Please hold the evening of December 5th for our first Season of Sharing Event to be held in Kloss Hall from **7:30 to 11 p.m.** This evening of entertainment will include a DJ, some type of light food, drink and desserts. In addition to fellowship and dancing, we hope to have a silent auction stocked with goodies and services for your holiday shopping. All proceeds from this event will go to a local San Mateo charity that is currently being determined. We hope to see you there. Stay tuned for more information!

Summer Rummage Sale grossed \$4,077.  
Thanks for your contributions.



## Adult Spiritual Education Hour: Multi-Faith Journey

Sundays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Fireplace Room  
October 4, Imam Abdurrahman Anwar



Imam Abdurrahman Anwar comes from a family of Islamic scholars. Born in San Jose, CA, he later moved to the UK and spent some time there. Imam Abdurrahman attended seminary in India where he studied the advanced sciences of Islam under the tutelage of world renowned Islamic scholars. After having memorized the Holy Qur'an by heart, his studies then continued including comprehensive 5-year study of the Arabic language, followed

by the study of Hadith (Prophetic Traditions), the study of the translation, exegesis and elucidation of the Holy Qur'an, and the study of Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence).

Imam Abdurrahman Anwar has been serving the Peninsula Muslim community since 2006, with the primary and foremost goal of pleasing God. He currently resides in Belmont, CA, near the mosque that he serves. He is also very active in outreach activities and regularly speaks at different places of worship; he also conducts many presentations on Islam and Muslims.

### Upcoming speakers for our series

- Oct. 11 Don Frew, Wiccan Elder
- Oct. 18 No class, Pick-a-Party
- Oct. 25 Sherrie Decker, Native American Spirituality
- Nov. 1 Warren Jones, Baha'i
- Nov. 8 Sarabjit Kaurcheema, Sikh tradition
- Nov. 15 Sister Chandra, Brahma Kumaris
- Nov. 22 A guest from San Mateo Buddhist Temple

## Big Jewish Ideas on Monday Nights

Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

In this series, we will explore a few Jewish concepts that are often expressed in a single Hebrew word, and yet have no simple English translations. In this six week class, we will tackle: *Shabbat*, *Mitzvah*, *Tzedaka*, *K'vod*, *K'dusha*, and *Shalom*. Maggid Singer (or Jhos, which ever you prefer) will employ scripture, commentary, chant, blessing each other to mine these rich veins of Judaic wisdom.

## Interfaith Musical Concert

On **Sunday, October 18 at 5:00 p.m.** our CCSM choir will sing with the church choirs of St. Matthews Episcopal, St. Pauls Episcopal, St. Catherines of Siena Catholic and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It promises to be a joyous Voice of Singing and not to be missed. The concert will be held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church located at 1 South El Camino Real in San Mateo.

## Joys & Concerns

### Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

**Ruth Black** is doing quite well now and is grateful to be able to drive and come in to help with the *Pine Tree* once a month!

**Rev. Steve's** birthday bash raised \$230 for our African Outreach Programs last Tuesday. Thanks to all who came and who donated.

**Barbara Johnson** is doing well and would occasionally like to come to church. She lives on West Poplar near El Camino. If you could help with rides now and again, call Lani at church, 343-3694. Thanks!

**Vacation Bible School** brought in over 149 pounds of food for Second Harvest Food Bank this summer! Thank you VBS students and families!

### Prayers of Comfort

**Della Hanna**, Doug Hanna's mother, Kören Wigren-Hanna's mother-in-law, and Kayla and James' grandmother, passed away on August 15, 2009. Our hearts and prayers are with the Hanna family.

### Prayers of Healing and Support

**Bertha Jew** fell a month ago and continues to have severe neck pain. She will be starting physical therapy this week and requests our healing prayers. She misses being in church.

**Diane Griffith** is home from Stanford Hospital, and the doctors think they have found the proper medication to stabilize her blood pressure. Welcome home, Diane.

**Linda Hodges** had spinal surgery. She is home and in some pain, but doing fairly well.

**Lynette Kady** is going through a period of transition. She requests our prayers.

**Bob Reinke** is to undergo rotator cuff surgery on Friday, September 18. Prayers for a successful outcome and recovery. Cards may be sent to 1526 Carlisle Drive, San Mateo CA 94402.

**Scotty Scott** has had two radiation sessions and starts chemo this week.

**Gary Steele** had successful cancer surgery, and he ruptured a tendon in his foot just days before the surgery. He is recovering with good humor.

## Haiti Dinner And Outreach

By Jerri Handy

Another school year begins, and happily, I have returned to CCSM for a second year of Field Education. As Penny and I were planning for this year, I said, "I need time in January to go to Haiti." Her response: "Great, take some people with you!"

Since 2005, I have been making trips to Haiti, sharing with Haitian Pastors my work with Emotional First Aid. On January 15-22, 2010, I am returning with a small group to provide some follow-up training to seminarians and learn more from them about worship and prayer. Part of the trip will be devoted to working in a rural area outside Port-Au-Prince.

Haiti is a country that has deeply touched my heart. As a way to prepare for this trip and to help you experience my love for this country and interest in its people, Marge and I are hosting a fundraising dinner on **September 23, 2009**. We will be serving some traditional dishes such as black beans and rice, and fried plantains and will share artwork, writings, poetry, and slides. **I am opening the trip for 3-5 people from CCSM** who would like to participate in this adventure with me. If you are interested in traveling to Haiti, just want to learn about its culture, or simply want to offer your prayerful and financial support, please plan to spend the evening with us on **September 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Dinner is \$20 per person. Proceeds from this dinner will be applied toward the cost of the trip. Sign up for the dinner at church office. Note: Anyone interested in going on the trip, should contact me at [intern@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:intern@ccsm-ucc.org) as soon as possible, but no later than October 1. Passports will be needed for this trip.

## A Message From Jon Karesh

As many of you know, I had surgery in May to fix a long-standing foot injury. Unfortunately, I developed an infection, which caused me to be hospitalized for 24 days. While I am getting better, my recovery has taken longer than expected, and I am still not back to full health. Moreover, because it appears that the surgery was not successful, I am going to need to explore other options to deal with my persistent foot pain.

I have recently come to realize that these health issues will prevent me from fulfilling the duties of Vice Moderator. As a result, after much thought and consultation with Penny and Lee and Mike Mullery, I have reluctantly decided to step down as Vice Moderator.

I will stay active in the church in other ways, and am still very interested in the Vice Moderator/Moderator positions in the future, once my health issues are resolved. This has been a difficult year for me, and I will always be grateful for how supportive the clergy and members of CCSM have been throughout my ordeal. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

## Monthly Announcements Deadline Clarification

PLEASE NOTE: Our new monthly bulletin announcements system sometimes requires that bulletin announcements for the new month be in before the last Wednesday of the month. So instead, we are having specific date deadlines for each month. Please submit October announcements by September 21, November announcements by October 28, and December announcements by November 23. Email to Zoe at [zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org) or leave in Zoe's box in the church office. Thank you!

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## A Note from...Jhos Singer

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off. If you are inclined to join with us, you can find information about our services at: [www.coastsidejewishcommunity.org](http://www.coastsidejewishcommunity.org). In any case, I hope that you will take a moment on Friday, September 18th night to notice the moonless sky and know that Jews worldwide will be entering into that darkness with hope and faith that speedily and soon we will emerge with our souls refreshed and our faith in God, ourselves and each other strengthened. I know I will be entering this time of self reflection carrying my experience of CCSM with me. Already I have found in you and your community great wisdom, humor and kindness. This is a dream come true for both of our spirit paths. Thanks to all of you, and especially Rev. Penny for making this keshet/connection. I trust that our efforts will bring us ever closer together in spirit and fascination and healing.

May we all be inscribed in the book of life for another year of growth and understanding.

Lshana tova/Happy New Year—Jhos

## Sponsors Needed: Stewardship Campaign Thanksgiving Luncheon

The Stewardship Committee would like to hold a Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 15th, the week before Stewardship Sunday. Last year, there was a special luncheon after Stewardship Sunday sponsored by a very generous member of the church. We are hoping there are other members who would like to help sponsor a Thanksgiving Luncheon this year to celebrate all we have to be thankful for.

Please send donations to the attention of Pearly Masters.



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A newsletter for the families & friends of the  
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