

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

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Vol. 58

Issue #16 • November 2–22, 2009

Stewardship 2010: One Tree, Many Roots

By Deanna Riding, Stewardship Chair

Fall is the time to reaffirm our membership and commitment to our church family, which is appropriately also the beginning of our traditional season of Thanksgiving. Each of us is asked to pledge our support for the core operations of our church: the inspirational church services, the beautiful music, the stimulating programs for our children and youth, and many outreach programs. It is also a time for each of us to give thanks for being part of this loving church community. You are invited to join us for a Stewardship Luncheon on November 15th after church to hear more about the vision for the future of CCSM.

Our costs continue to rise at CCSM because our ministry grows ever larger. Pledges and plate collections make up approximately 75 percent of the annual revenue with the remaining 25 percent comprised of endowment interest, rental income, and fundraising events/gifts. Whatever amount one is able to give to the church is crucial and becomes part of the collective expression of faith at CCSM. In balancing the budget, it is extremely important to be a pledging partner; every pledge is a worthy one.

Please take time over the next few weeks to thoughtfully consider your pledge for 2010 and come to church on November 22nd when we will collectively dedicate our pledges.



Notes from Penny

I received a wonderful email from one of our CCSM members that said, “In the last *Pine Tree* you wondered about our response to the *One Tree, Many Roots* theme, and I can tell you that I’m finding it a very enriching experience. The exposure to the variety of religious philosophies, beliefs, and histories is fascinating. I find the inspired performance-lectures of Rabbi Singer a new way to experience Judaism. I like so much, also, that the children are learning about the other major religions, and they are encouraged to value the worth of all beliefs.”

And then my heart leapt as I read the next sentence: “Surely if we could open our minds to the beliefs the major religions have in common, rather than narrowing our minds to our differences, we could make a major step toward peace in the world.” This thought captures exactly why I believe honoring and learning from the wisdom of other traditions is so important.

The tree theme continues to “take root” and communicates multiple meanings. Bill Coye just returned from Hawaii and told me the story of the Bayan tree he and Lynne saw. He says, “The Banyan tree is over 130 years old and shades over an acre. When I first saw it, the *One Tree, Many Roots* theme came to mind. Although there is one central original trunk there are twelve “dangling” roots that dropped from the tree’s branches, taken root and have become part of the tree’s support system. Some of these roots are a foot in diameter. In the heat of the day it becomes a shelter for people of all walks of life, a true kaleidoscope of humanity.”

We are truly one tree with many roots here at CCSM. The growth and excitement we have witnessed this past year is due in large part to all who stepped forward in 2009. During the worst

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Sunday Celebrations

- Nov. 1** *Is There Life After Death?* Rev. Nixon
All Saints Day • Multi-Faith Children’s Festival
Family Shelter begins
- Nov. 8** *What Does It Mean to Be People of the Book?*
Jhos Singer
Singer Dialogue, Fireplace rm. noon
- Nov. 15** *Is Intolerance Ever Okay?* Rev. Nixon
Stewardship luncheon
- Nov. 22** *How Do I Live Authentically as a Christian in a Pluralistic World?* Rev. Nixon
Stewardship Sunday

Youth & Family News

Mid High Events

Make sure to keep track of these dates and join Mid High for fun and our upcoming fellowship and outreach events.

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

Sunday, Nov. 15, Fellowship, 6:30-8 p.m., Mid High will play games and discuss the importance of food in the world and our upcoming social justice project: raising funds for Heifer International.

Sunday, Dec. 6, Heifer Shares after church. Mid High will be selling shares for Heifer International as a holiday outreach project.

Make sure to keep these dates in mind! If you have any questions or would like information, email Joliene (joliene.wade@gmail.com).

Senior High November Calendar

Nov. 1, Sunday 6:30-8 p.m. Fellowship: Students and friends come hear about the Spring Break Outreach trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Nov. 7-8, Saturday 1:00 p.m. to Sunday 9 a.m. Overnight Spirituality Retreat. We will camp out in the youth room and spend the day serving and the evening having fun!

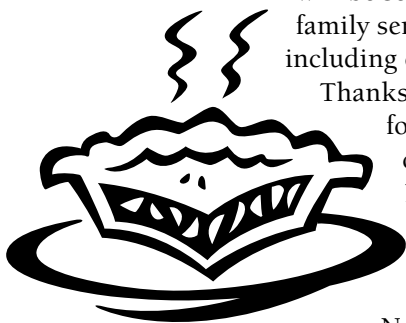
Nov. 21, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Make and Bake Pie Fundraiser

Nov. 22, Sunday, 10:30 a.m., 60 Minutes with Mike Mullery

Senior High Pie Fundraiser

The Senior High is baking pies for your Thanksgiving and our CCSM outreach partners. The money raised will go towards the spring break outreach trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The donated pies you purchase

will be served to local family service agencies, including our own Thanksgiving baskets, for people to enjoy on Thanksgiving. Look for our pie order forms and table the first three Sunday's in November.



Family News

One Tree, Many Roots: Faith Literacy Curriculum for Children and Youth

If you see *The Golden Rule* posters and *Peace* pictures popping up around church, it is planned as part of our *One Tree, Many Roots* curriculum. We have been examining how the *big concepts* in Christianity are also found in many other faiths. We will continue this journey until the First Sunday of Advent. Here are the themes for November

Sunday, November 1: Multi-Faith Festival in Kloss Hall

Sunday, November 8: Practice of Prayer in Many Faiths

Sunday, November 15: Multi-Faith Symbols

Sunday, November 22: Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 1, Multi-Faith Children's Festival

On this Sunday, our Church School classes move to Kloss Hall. Everyone meets on the USA rug after the Children's Moment, and then they will have an opportunity to create symbols of different faiths: Jewish scrolls, Ramadan beads, Hindu points of light, Purim crowns, and Buddhist prayer bags. The 5-6 graders will also cook dinner for the shelter that night. This is a perfect opportunity to invite new families to visit the church! If you wish to be a volunteer craft leader, please talk to Michelle O'Brien, 650 393-5525.

Our 5th Graders Receive Bibles November 8th!

Many of us remember this important occasion and our own excitement. The fifth grade youth will receive the *New Revised Standard Edition Bible* with Jesus' words in red, maps of the region, a concordance and dictionary. And, on the day they receive their Bibles, Rabbi Jhos Singer will be preaching on the *People of the Book*. What a great day it will be!

Bible Fun Night! Calling all 2nd through 8th Grade Youth!

Reserve **Friday, the 13th of November from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** for Bible Fun Night. It will be a multi-media event featuring online Jeopardy, Bible relays, Bible Wheel of Fortune, and, of course, the visit to the catacombs. Dinner will be served and ice cream will be our treat at the end. Sign up now with Betsy at bwoodward@ccsm-ucc.org.

CCSM World Peace Festival

Everyone is invited to come to our World Peace Festival, **Saturday, November 21: 3:00-5:00 p.m.** As a culmination of our studies of *One Tree Many Roots*, we are bringing the World Peace Village to Kloss Hall. It is a multi-sensory experience for all ages. The 6-foot banners of each faith will be accompanied by their symbols, music and religious items. You will be drawn in by the colors, foods, sacred texts and more. Plan to spend an hour or so just exploring with your eyes, ears, hands and mouth. It's an event for all ages.

The Advent Workshop Returns!

On **Sunday, December 6, stay after church** for a light lunch of soup and bread, and begin Advent together! All ages are invited to create their own Advent candle wreath adorned with bells, ribbons and greens and make Christmas cards for the family. We will also have fun Advent crafts to make gifts for others and just to take home. Please bring Christmas cookies to share and greens from your garden as your contributions. Talk to Jennifer Jacoby Yeh for details.

Adult Education Opportunities: Big Jewish Ideas on Monday Nights



November 2, 9, 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m. We continue our popular Monday evening classes on Nov. 2, 9 and the final one on the 16th. Childcare available if requested in advance.

The classes help deepen our understanding of *Shabbat*, *Mitzvah*, *Tzedaka*, *K'vod*, *K'dusha* and *Shalom* through study of scripture, commentary and chevruta. Each class will begin with a short chant and blessing.

Adult Spiritual Education Hour: A Multi-Faith Perspective

Sundays at 9:30-10:15 a.m. Child care available. Our guests from other faith traditions will be teaching us about their faith practices. Here are our confirmed guests:

Nov. 1, Warren Jones, Baha'i Faith



Since accepting the Baha'i Faith in 1969, Warren has served as a member and officer of local, regional and national governing bodies in the US, India and Botswana. Married 41 years, Gail and Warren feel that following the Baha'i teachings has strengthened their marriage and provided a strong framework for raising five children.

Nov. 8, Sarabjit Kaur Cheema, Sikh Tradition



Sarabjit is a beloved wife, mother of three young men, and a full time engineer. Participating in interfaith activities to develop the bridges of understanding is her way of answering the call of 9/11 attacks, when the Sikh Community faced a back-lash of hatred because of the turban-wearing tradition. Turban wearing is an essential part of a Sikh's unique way of life.

Nov. 15, Sister Chandru, Brahma Kumaris



Sister Chandru Desai is the Director of the San Francisco Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center and Vice President of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization, USA. A teacher and practitioner of Raja Yoga meditation for nearly four decades, Sister Chandru is a founding member of the United Religions Initiative, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, and the Interfaith Center at the Presidio.

Nov. 22, A guest from the San Mateo Buddhist Temple

Homework Central's Chevy's Day!

It is time for a Chevy's Meal! **Thursday, November 12** is Homework Central's Chevy's Day! 25% of your meal costs (lunch & dinner) will be donated to CCSM's neighborhood tutoring program. Look for a coupon in this week's bulletin and in your email!

Reciprocal Preaching & Dialogue

Our rabbi-in-residence will be preaching on **November 8th!** After the service Penny and Jhos will be having a *dialogue* about the sermon from their different perspectives. It should prove to be a lively discussion! Pick up refreshments from Kloss Hall and come by for a 30-minute chat.

And on **Friday evening, November 13th at 7:30 p.m., Rev. Penny Nixon will be preaching at Jhos' congregation, Coastside Jewish Community.** The service is held at Holy Family Episcopal Church, 1590 S. Cabrillo Hwy, Half Moon Bay. Hopefully lots of CCSM folks will be able to attend and experience a wonderful evening of worshipping with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Growing In Wisdom Through Loss: A Day Retreat for Seniors

CCSM has planned a special retreat on **Thursday, November 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** for those who are 70 or older to be led by Rev. Charlotte Russell, minister of seniors and care, at First Congregational Church of Berkeley. Suggested donation: \$20. Lunch will be provided.

We experience a myriad of losses: grieving the loss of a loved one through divorce or death, adjusting to retirement, moving from a family home to a retirement community, losing physical strength, grieving the loss of friends, and countless other losses, both great and small.

Wherever you are on life's journey in the *senior years*, you will find this day a wonderful way to be a community and to learn more about this journey of life and faith.

Notes from Penny

Continued from page 1

economic crisis our nation has faced in a long time, CCSM grew in revenue and pledges. Fifty new pledges were added in 2009 alone.

As we embark on our 2010 Stewardship Campaign, please consider how CCSM feeds and comforts you and your loved ones, how the dreams we have together can come to fruition, and how we can sustain this special place we call our spiritual home. Also think about how we can continue to serve one another, the local community and our mission in the world and in social justice ministry. While it is important to give of our time and talents, financial help is the mainstay of this inspiring place to keep the superb staff and programs running at maximum speed.

—Peace, Penny

Join the Fun! Join an Affinity Group

Monday Night Book Group

Our next meeting is on **Monday, November 30, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room**. Our book choice is *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. The story is set in New England and features a seventh grade math teacher who isn't very pleasant. The book is in paperback and a perfect read for a chilly night. Please email Susan Stoehr (s_stoehr@hotmail.com) to be included in our book group email.

LGBT Affinity Group!

If you are interested in joining the CCSM LGBT yahoo group, please log onto Yahoo to sign up. We welcome new members all the time. The group's name is LBGT-CCSM.

Music And Arts Circle

We will enjoy a potpourri of Thanksgiving arts, hymns and drama at our luncheon meeting **Friday, November 20 at noon** in the Buckham Room. All are welcome! Please bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages are provided. For information call Laura Peterhans at 637-8783.

20/30s Group

Our November event will be a fun-filled dinner at Travis Woodmansee's house from **7-10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21**. We will enjoy a potluck dinner followed by social time, games, and more fun.

Faith in Films—Holiday Offerings

Come enjoy some great films and good fellowship.

Sunday, Nov. 29, *Babette's Feast*

Sunday, Dec. 27, *Millions*

Join us at 1:00 p.m. in the Buckham Room.

Everyone is welcome! Bring your lunch or a snack. Our conversation will be facilitated by Lynnelle Bilsey and Jerri Handy.

Liturgical Arts Team Meets

If you attended Marcia McFee's *Worship Workshop Live* in September and became inspired by the possibilities to support and enhance our worship experience with all forms of liturgical art—dance, poetry, multi-media, banners, tablescapes, to name a few, then join us to plan next years activities. We will meet on **Thursday, November 12, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room**.

Talk to Kay Harris 572-8378 or Rev. Steve Naylor for more information. Attendance at the workshop is not a requirement. Bring your ideas!

Haiti: Here We Come!

By Jerri Handy

I have been told that your smile will get you more places in Haiti than your passport.

The time for the trip to Haiti is drawing near. Let me introduce you to the folks who are going on the trip.

- **Edith Alvarenga** has been a member of CCSM for just about a year. She is bringing her friend Jeanie from the East Coast.
- **Phil Holderbein** has been coming to CCSM just under a year; he has some history with Youth in Mission which takes young people to Haiti.
- **Rosemarie Pero** is a brand new member, but long time CCSMer.
- **Sharon Mann** is a nurse practitioner who has worked medically on many mission trips.
- **Lizzy Beach**, a Pacific School of Religion seminarian.

Our trip is to go as witnesses—to go in with our eyes open and see beyond the poverty and brokenness of the land to the spiritual strength and joy of the Haitian people. Our trip is to go as witnesses to see and listen and return with stories to tell. Our journey is to go with eyes wide open to see the hand of God at work and be changed.

We will be leaving for Miami on January 15, 2010. All of us will gather at LaQuinta Inn in Miami, share a prayer, and receive final instructions for the trip. On January 16 we will fly together into Haiti. While in Haiti we will stay at Walls International Guest House. From there we will travel to see sights, attend worship, provide training of Emotional First Aid Skills, serve in a rural health clinic, visit the school of indentured servant children, see the work of our mission partners in CONASPEH, and have our hearts strangely warmed with the power of God's love. On January 22 we will return home, tired and very blessed. Once again we will be called upon to bear witness to the things we have seen and heard.

There are two specific ways you can help support us on this mission trip.

1. Begin praying for us: our health and safety, our hearts to be open.
2. We are not doing any formal fundraising for this trip but would benefit a great deal from airline miles. If you have any miles you can share with us, it would help so very much.
3. If you can help by praying or by sharing airline miles, please let me know; you will be helping in a very significant way.

Christmas Dance Party: Sat., Dec. 5

Please hold the evening of December 5th for the Ministry of Care, Fellowship and Evangelism's (CFE) **Season of Sharing Event** to be held in Kloss Hall from **7:00 to 10:00 p.m.** This evening of entertainment will include a DJ, appetizers, along with an assortment of holiday desserts.

In addition to fellowship and dancing, our Ministry of Mission and Social Justice (MSJ) will be hosting a silent auction (details on page 8). All proceeds from this event will be used to fund MSJ activities in our community.

Tickets are \$20 per person—we'll begin selling tickets after church every Sunday beginning November 1. Look for the sign up sheet at the Welcome Table in Kloss Hall. We hope to see you there!

Joys & Concerns

Congratulations

Amy and Matt Jorde welcomed **Ethan Frederick** into their lives on October 5, 2009. Welcome to the world, Ethan! Cards of joy to 3133 Casa de Campo #D116, SM 94403.

Gary Orosy and Kelly Ring have a new baby boy named **Stephen**, born on October 7, 2009. Cards can be sent to 10827 Plainview Road, Krum, TX 76249.

George Parker turned 91 on October 19—a great reason for much celebration! Cards to 733 Lexington Way, Burlingame, 94010.

Jon Karesh has transferred to SM County's Juvenile Court. He's eager to have the opportunity to help turn around the lives of juvenile delinquents and also to protect abused and neglected children. He is honored that the Presiding Judge chose him for this very important position.

Many Thanks

The **David Hayashi family** send their thanks for all the cards and phone calls in memory of David's mother, **Eiko Hayashi Fujimoto**.

Prayers of Comfort

Paula Beberfall, Tish Showen and Bob Jarmuz's friend, passed away in her sleep on October 7, 2009. Our prayers are with Tish and Bob and Paula's family.

Prayers of Healing

Scottie Scott continues his chemo treatments. Prayers for healing and a good appetite.

Lynnelle Bilsey is nearing completion of her dental surgery. Continue to give her many hugs as this is not fun.

Peggy Grier, Linda Grier's mother and Pete Roddy's mother-in-law will start her chemo treatments soon. The family is in our prayers.

Carla Cornaglia finished her chemo treatments and will start radiation soon. Well done, Carla!

Joyce Clark, Mike Mullery's sister, had surgery last week. Healing prayers for her.

George Cintel had successful surgery last Wednesday. His hospital stay has been longer than expected. Cards to cheer him on to 229 Sonora, San Mateo, 94402.

Barbara Johnson is recovering from a broken hip and is now at Westborough Manor, 2550 Catalpa Way, San Bruno, 94066. Prayers for a full recovery. Barbara would enjoy visitors.

Continued prayers for **Alex Londgren, son of Jennifer and Michael Londgren**, as he fights an autoimmune disorder.

Millie Johnson, Carole Melis' mother, is still in a lot of pain and no plan yet for relief. Prayers are needed during this difficult time.

Michelle Montalbano Wright had surgery on Wednesday. Prayers for full recovery.

Ashley Moore is getting treatment for severe whiplash pain and is feeling better.

Tish Showen has been diagnosed with a rotator cuff tear that has been causing her great pain. She'll have surgery November 6.

Zee and Cliff Larrew need prayers as Zee faces recurrent cancer. 249 Elm St. #208, San Mateo, 94401.

In Our Prayers

Lynnelle Bilsey, Miranda (an eleven-year-old friend of the Block and Slonaker families), Sandi & Mason Blodgett, Gene Boaden, Dan Kerans (Carol Boes' brother-in-law), John Buckham, Celeste and her family, Gladys Cretan, Eric and Ronnie Errichson, Ken Feldstein (husband of Nancy Feldstein), Mary Jane Foltz, Ingeborg France, Penny Gahagen, Enzo Gallo (Tony Gallos' father), Carol Glasmann, Tina (friend of Doris Godinez-Phillips), Ruth Gowen, Marj Griffin, Lorraine Gustafson, Linda Hodges, Bertha Jew, Lynette Kady, Gina (Joan Kilroe's daughter-in-law), Charles Levine, Bridgette Jensen (Terri Litz's friend), Carl and Evelyn Loschenkohl, Bob McCune, Sue Miller, Bruce Mitchell, Betty Niederhaus, Shaun O'Brien, Martha Osborn, Trinity (Rosemarie Pero's cousin), Rick Shepard (Marie Shepard's son), Heavenly Alice and her parents, Colleen and Kirk (Kirk is Betsy Woodward's nephew).

Women's Spiritual Weekend Retreat January 29-31, Mercy Center, Burlingame Heartbeat of God: Making Whole Body and Soul

Do you find yourself running all day? Performing task after task without a chance to stop or take a deep breath? Do you long to find out what is going on with your body or soul? Take this opportunity to do just that at this retreat. Join us for a weekend of embodied spirituality that will engage your mind, body and soul. Enjoy something different to stir your soul. Try movement, drumming, creative art opportunities, thoughtful workshops, chances for quiet reflection, and energizing worship services.

Registration forms are in the church hallway or go to www.ncncwomensnetwork.org and click on event link. Credit cards now accepted. Deadline Dec. 21, 09. Our own Rev. Valerie McEntee is chairwoman of this Conference wide event. Call Kay Harris, at 572-8378 for details. Start a retreat practice for yourself!

Thanksgiving Baskets for Shelter Network

It's fall again. Time for pumpkins, turkeys with all the fixings...and time for reflecting on our good fortune. We have an opportunity to share Thanksgiving joy by providing Holiday Dinner Baskets to Shelter Network families. **Starting November 1**, a "Turkey" sign will be posted in Kloss Hall. Come and select a list representing a food donation or food gift certificates towards a traditional turkey dinner. Purchase the items on your list and bring them to church by **Sunday November 22nd**.

Our **goal is 25 baskets**, each one a full Thanksgiving meal with enough for leftovers (really what is a Thanksgiving without leftovers!).

Purchase your items and bring them to the Congregational church in a bag with your name on it. During the week you can leave them in the box in the office. On Sundays, please leave them in the box on the stage in Kloss Hall.

Thank you for your contributions. For questions, contact June Brown, 348-3546, brownjune@gmail.com; or Linda Skromme, 578 8655, linda.skromme@gmail.com.

Calling All The Talented Artists and Art Collectors!

The Ministry of Mission and Social Justice (MSJ) will be holding a silent auction in conjunction with the **Season of Sharing holiday party on December 5**. MSJ will be organizing a silent art auction and is looking for your original pieces! We will gladly accept art in all forms ranging from paintings, sculpture, woodwork, weaving, quilting etc. We know that many in our congregation are painters, knitters, quilters, poets, jewelry makers, calligraphers, etc. We also know that many of us have quality art pieces that no longer fit in our lives. Would you be willing to contribute one or more of those treasures to the auction? The money raised will go towards the many valuable organizations that the MSJ ministry supports throughout the year.

Please contact Liz Henton, echenton@gmail.com or 346-3743 with questions and submissions.



Blanketeers Quilt Sale and Auction

Blanketeers will be having their annual quilt sale on **Sunday, November 22, in Kloss Hall following worship**. We will offer a variety of quilts and handmade items for sale to replenish our funds for supplies. Blanketeers give away 60-80 quilts every year to the IHN Shelter and the Adopt a Family programs. We will also have four very special quilts offered through a silent auction on **Sunday, November 8, 15 and 22**. These four quilts will be on display in Kloss Hall for you to bid on each Sunday. This silent auction will benefit Homework Central and winners will be announced at **12:00 noon on November 22**.




Pick-A-Party Update

Our initial Pick-A-Party Sunday was a tremendous success. We raised over **\$18,700!** We hope to add to this amount once we collect some IOU's and we offer the remaining parties to folks who may have missed the fun on October 18.

We want to thank everyone who offered a party or activity. Without the generosity and loving spirit of our party hosts, this fun, fellowship and fund-raising event would not be possible!

—Sincerely, the Pick-A-Party Committee
(Arnold Duncan, Carol Henton, Cindy Montalbano, Candy Nagare, and Normandie Ross-Rocans).



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A newsletter for the families & friends of the
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The Pine Tree (USPS 433-380) is published in the interest of Christian Fellowship by The Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, California, twice monthly. **Periodical class postage paid** at San Mateo, California. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Pine Tree, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401.

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