

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401
650 343-3694 • email: info@ccsm-ucc.org • website: www.ccsm-ucc.org

Vol. 58

Issue #6 • March 30-April 12, 2009

Holy Week and Easter at CCSM

Sun. March 29, Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Beauty of Second Chances: Rev. Nixon

Sun. April 5, Palm/Passion Sunday, Rev. Nixon

Members joining

Adult Education, 9:15 a.m. Buckham room

Thurs. April 9, Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 p.m.

Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m., Kloss Hall

Fri. April 10, Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.

Reflections on the Seven Last Sayings from the Cross

Sun. April 12, Easter Sunday and Communion

Inspirational music and message within the joy of community!

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, Rev. Naylor

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Easter crafts begin

9:45 a.m. Easter Egg hunt on the lawn

10:30 a.m. Easter service, Rev. Nixon—**Experience Resurrection!**

Holy Week and Easter Details

Palm Sunday, April 5, 10:30 a.m. worship

Everybody loves a parade especially the children's palm processional. Beautiful singing and excitement accompany this service as our children and new members carry in the palms for Palm

Sunday. Children and youth who wish to carry palms should meet at 9:45 a.m. on the loggia. Come relive the ancient drama of Palm Sunday. Please plan to come a few minutes early if you want to be in the processional.



Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.

Come at 6 p.m. for the traditional soup supper; the service will be at 7 p.m. in Kloss Hall.

Continued on page 4

Notes From Penny

Throughout the season of Lent, Mary Susan Gast, our conference minister, has sent out a daily devotional via email to all the ministers. She is quite fond of the Psalms, so often she reflects on one and contemporizes it. This morning I opened my email to find these words based on Psalm 51*:

Create for me a new beginning, O God,
*We move, in our faithful lives,
From secure orientation,
To painful disorientation,
To surprising reorientation.* (Walter Bruggemann)

**Create for me a new beginning, O God,
And put an unshakable spirit within me.**
*I am open and I am willing,
To be hopeless would seem so strange,
It dishonors those who go before us,
So lift me up to the light of change.* (Holly Near)

Create for me a new beginning, O God,
I was struck by how Bruggemann's words reflect our current economic situation—from secure orientation, to painful disorientation—and then how together we are seeking to create a surprising reorientation.

Such is the journey of Holy Week that approaches on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we enter deeply the painful disorientation of betrayal, abandonment and death. It is only by walking this journey that we can experience “surprising reorientation” on Easter.

Holy Week at CCSM will be a moving time where members of the community share their own journeys through liturgy, drama, poetry and song.

I invite you to walk the journey of Holy Week all the way to Easter. As we look ahead to the day of resurrection, we arrive open and willing to be lifted up to the light of change.

—Peace, Penny

*Psalm cited from *Redemption Songs—A 21st Century Descant on the Psalms*.
Walter Bruggemann, *Praying the Psalms* and Holly Near, “I Am Willing”

Youth & Family News

Church School News

Next Sunday, March 29, please bring plastic eggs! One of the highlights of Easter morning at the Congregational Church is the Easter egg hunt on the lawn. We are going to fill 700 eggs for the many Church School children, so we welcome your donations of plastic Easter eggs. The Mid Highs will fill them on the evening of Palm Sunday, April 5.

Palm Sunday, April 5, is the day to return the little Treasure Chest Coin Banks. Adults and children are invited to bring them up during the children's moment. All donations will be given to Homework Central, our tutoring program for neighborhood children. Thanks for your generosity!

Little Ones Playgroup

Saturday, March 28 is the Little Ones Playgroup spring play date. Families with children four and under are invited to come for bubbles, balloons, and just playtime! We will meet from 10:30-12:00 noon in the 1-2 grade classroom and play yard. It is a great opportunity to get acquainted with other young families. If you can come, please RSVP to Renato Floresca (Sofia and Zach's dad) so we have enough helium balloons! r_floresca@yahoo.com.

Senior High News:

Senior Fellowship Sunday Nights, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Youth Room. April: 5, 19; May: 3, 17, 31; June: 7

60 Minutes with Mike Mullery, 10:30-11:30 a.m.: March 29, April 26, May 24.

Interfaith Service Day: May 9th 12:30-4:30 p.m. in Palo Alto.

Fresno Refugee Mission Trip Dates: June 16-21

Mid High News

April 5: Easter Eggs from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We'll decorate eggs together and help put eggs together for the church egg hunt on Easter Sunday! It'll be a great way to help out our church and get into the Easter spirit!

Contact Joliene (Joliene.Wade@gmail.com) or Christiana (Christiana.E.Martinez@disney.com) for more information.

Scholarships Candidates Wanted!

The Ministry of Children, Youth and Families is soliciting candidates for the youth scholarship funds: the Arthur J. Younger Fund, the Bracamonte Memorial Fund, and the Macon Banks Memorial Fund. In 1978, Norma Younger established the Arthur J. Younger Scholarship for youth and seminarians. In 1985, the Bracamonte Memorial Fund was established by Dorothy Bracamonte, in memory of her husband Reginald. In 1999, Tom Banks established the Macon Banks Memorial fund. It is his wish that the money be used for youth.

Scholarship applicants need to be high school seniors who are members of the church and active in the church, their school and community. The applicants must be continuing their education in the fall.

All applicants will be considered for all of the scholarships. Application packets for eligible high school seniors are available in the church office. Each packet includes a letter of recommendation form that must accompany the scholarship application and photo. The scholarships are reviewed and awarded by the Ministry of Children, Youth and Families. Please submit your completed applications to Kristy Everson, CYF Ministry office mailbox, no later than **Sunday, April 19, 2009**. Please call Kristy (348-1173) if you need more information.



Souper Sunday Super Success!

Souper after church was a big hit this Lenten season. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it possible. This was a great way to meet new visitors/members and learn more about our shared interests.



Affinity Groups

Monday Night Book Group

Monday, March 30, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Fireplace Room. Monday Night Book Group will meet to discuss People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks. It is a fascinating story. Please read the book and come join us for our discussion. Our April book is Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson which we will discuss Monday, April 27. New readers are always welcome! If you wish to receive emails about this group, please contact Susan Stoehr. s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

Monday, April 6, 7:00-9:30 p.m., Kaleidoscope Women's Group has invited Lani Leydig and Karen Olson Stern to share their experiences on the New Orleans Mission trip fall of 2008. This was the adult Mission trip led by Rev. Steve Naylor where they were the hands, feet and face of God! Please bring a quick and easy potluck dish to share. Call Shirley McKinnie if you have questions, 349-3663.

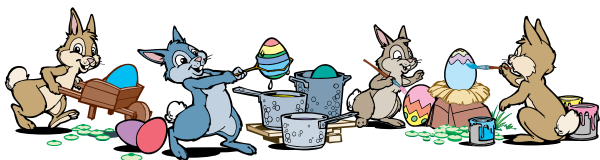
20/30s: Roof Top Social at PSR

We're going to Berkeley! Join the 20/30's on **Saturday evening, April 18th at 6:30 p.m.** for a Roof Top Social overlooking the bay. Come for the view, come to socialize, come for the food. It will be an excellent time. Cost is \$5-\$10 sliding scale. We will be enjoying the most spectacular spot on the campus of the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) where Jerri currently attends classes and where Steve graduated. Carpooling suggested. Contact Steve for details.

Looking for Easter Bunnies!

By Lani Leydig, Congregational Care

One of my favorite outreach programs here at CCSM is the annual Easter Lily Delivery. After church on Easter Sunday, many of the lilies that have graced our sanctuary are taken to the homes of our homebound church members and those who have lost loved ones during the year. The "Easter Bunnies" who deliver the lilies usually stay and chat for a while, bringing a much appreciated hug to some very special people. Would you like to join the Easter Bunny ranks? Call Pam Ridlehuber at 579-7835 to hop into service!



Joys & Concerns

Congratulations!

Eva Thomson is celebrating her 90th birthday on March 30. Cards may be sent to Eva at 2440 Garfield Ave, B-79, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Evelyn MacDougal will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 7 with her extended family. Cards may be sent to Evelyn at 66 McClellan Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403.

Mike and Bonny Armacost celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! Congratulations!

Proud grandparents, **Cindy and Paul Montalbano**, are pleased to announce Samantha Jane Wright's arrival on March 16. Parents **Michelle (Montalbano)** and **Scott Wright** along with brother Colby are overjoyed!

Prayers of Healing

Dottie Scott is home from the hospital after successful back surgery. Cards for a quick recovery may be sent to 1101 Blythe St., Foster City, CA 94404.

Martha Osborn healing from cataract surgery. Cards may be sent to Heritage House, 304 22nd Ave., San Mateo 94403.

Sandi Blodgett is facing these last rounds of chemo with determination.

Diane Griffith is at Chope Hospital. Please keep Diane, her husband **Charles Levine**, and guide dog Joey in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.

Cheryl Pierpont had successful skin cancer surgery. Cards of support may be sent to 123 Louise Lane, San Mateo, 94403.

Andrea Ratkowski, daughter of Chris Neil and sister of John Neil is doing better following a stroke. Chris sends thanks for all the kind thoughts and prayers.

Prayers of Comfort

Norm Naegle passed away on March 17, 2009. **Clare, Marilyn, and Richard** and their families surrounded him with love during his last days. Our hearts and prayers are with them all. The Celebration of Norm's life will take place here on Saturday, March 28, at 2:00 p.m.

In Our Prayers...

Barbara Apolskis, Ruth Black, Gene Boaden, Gladys Cretan, Erik and Ronnie Errichson, Ken Feldstein, Mary Jane Foltz, Penny Gahagen, Carol Glasmann, Tina (Doris Godinez-Phillips' friend), Ruth Gowen, Marjorie Griffin, Gina (Joan Kilroe's daughter-in-law), Travis Edmonson (friend of Jon Karesh), Bridgette Jensen (Terri Litz's friend), Margot Lenigk, Wolf-Joachim Lenigk, Jack Leydig, Evelyn Loschenkohl, Jim and Barbara Lowrie, Marilyn Manion, Sue Miller, Betty Niederhaus, Eleanor Norberg, Martha Osborn, Allen Pero, Linnie Williams (Vera Pitt's sister), Elsie Phillips, Ruth Robinson, Marie Shepard, Jim Simmons, Miranda, a ten year old friend of the Slonaker and Block families, the family of Kathy Weber (Virginia Behrmann and sister Patty).

Holy Week and Easter Details

Continued from page 1

This is a special worship opportunity during Holy Week, and so named because it was on this last night before the crucifixion that Jesus gave a mandate, or new commandment, "that you love one another." It was also on this night that the Last Supper took place, inspiring Jesus' followers ever since then to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Part of the worship service will be the *Office of Tenebrae*, the Latin term for shadows, or darkness. This *Tenebrae* service will be a creative retelling of the events of that evening with the 20/30's group participating. It will be a moving and meaningful service for all.

Good Friday Service, April 10 at 7 p.m.

Reflections on the *Seven Last Sayings* from the cross by CCSM members. The reflections will be interspersed with moving musical selections as well as congregational singing and spoken liturgy. This will be a memorable Good Friday service as our own realities and lives are touched by the themes of Good Friday.

Easter Sunday, April 12

7:30 a.m. Easter morning service. Join us for a beautiful Easter Morning Service on the lawn. Bring flowers for decorating and creating a unique flower wire cross. Rev. Naylor will be preaching, and the worship will involve our current confirmation class. Enjoy the spirit of resurrection in the fresh morning air with special music.

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast begins in the Buckham Room. Join us for a healthy continental breakfast.

9:30 a.m. Easter Crafts will get started! First make your bunny bag or decorate an Easter bag for the Easter egg hunt!

9:45 a.m. The Easter egg hunt happens on the lawn. The littlest children will be the first on the grass finding the eggs. Then each age group up to 10 years old will have a chance to fill their basket with 10 eggs!

10:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service and Communion: Joyful Music, beautiful lilies, and uplifting words as we celebrate the Risen Christ! The buried Alleluia will appear again!

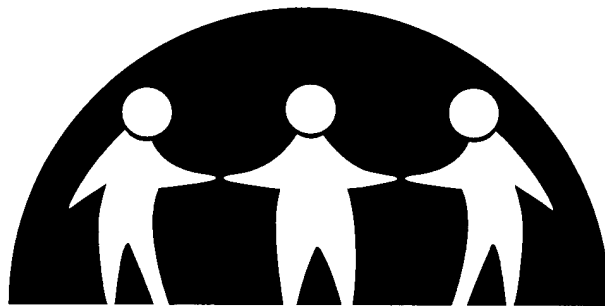
During worship, children's Easter activities will resume in Kloss Hall after the children's moment. Eggshell butterflies, fuzzy crosses, scratch off Easter eggs and egg cookies are just a few of the crafts to engage our children. On Easter morning, infant and toddler care will be in the Fireplace Room.

Membership Class At CCSM

This is an exciting time in the life of CCSM and many new people are becoming part of this growing spiritual community. At our successful soup-er Sunday, it was wonderful to get to know some people who are new to the church and sense their gratitude for having found a faith community that is beginning to feel like home.

A number of people have indicated that they are interested in joining the church. We are planning to have a make-up membership class on **Wednesday, April 15 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.** A light meal will be served. Please RSVP to Pam Larsen at plarsen@ccsm-ucc.org if you plan to attend. Please indicate if childcare is required.

The Pine Tree • Page 4



PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION CCSM Opportunity to Honor Heroes at PIA Luncheon

Every year at its annual fundraising luncheon, Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) honors a hero from the public sector and a hero from the private sector. PIA congregations that sponsor a full table are also entitled to name a local hero whose contributions will be lifted up at the event.

We at CCSM would like to honor Lee and Mike Mullery, both of whom have contributed so much of themselves to our congregation and community. This will require that we fill two tables of 10 each or raise a minimum of \$2,000. Tickets are \$100 each, so anyone who contributes \$100 or more may also attend the event. The Community Heroes Luncheon is always an inspirational event that showcases PIA's remarkable social justice accomplishments. CCSM has been a member of PIA since its founding in 1998.

To attend on **April 24** or contribute any amount, contact Joan Kilroe (346-7230 or joroe42@yahoo.com) Linda Kilby (299-1531, kilbyl@sutterhealth.org), or Harry Dehlinger (589-5287, hhob@juno.com). Harry will be manning a table after the service in coming weeks and will have more information to share.



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.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE • TIME VALUED MAILING