



The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

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Vol. 58

Issue #7 • April 13–May 10, 2009

Holy Week and Easter at CCSM

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

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

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

Reflections on the Seven Last Sayings from the Cross

Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday and Communion

Inspirational music and message within the joy of community!

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, on the lawn

Confirmation class as worship leaders with music, and Rev. Naylor preaching. Please bring flowers for the wire cross.

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Easter crafts begin. Decorate a bunny or Easter bag

9:45 a.m. Easter Egg hunt. Little ones first with plenty for all—up to ten years old.

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

Easter crafts in Kloss hall.

Child care in Fireplace Room.



The Path of Courage

Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day that says, "I will try again tomorrow."

April 19 **The Courage to Name:** Jerri Handy preaching
Luke 24:13-25

April 26 **The Courage to Make New Relationships:**
Rev. Penny Nixon. Luke 24:36b-48. New Members joining, Earth Day

May 3 **The Courage to Encounter God:** Rev. Steve Naylor
Pluralism Sunday

May 10 **The Courage to Speak Up:** Rev. Penny Nixon
Mother's Day, Family Worship

May 17 **Gloria Squared,** Spring Festival Concert

May 24 **The Courage to Remember:** Rev. Penny Nixon
Acts 1:6-11. Ascension Sunday, Memorial Day

Notes From Penny

In preparation for Holy Week and Easter, I spent a day of spiritual reflection, study and writing at Jenner, a town in Northern California, where the river meets the sea. It is a holy place; a healing place for me. The vastness of the ocean calls out to me that all will be well. The redwoods on the hill stand as a reminder of the strength of deep roots that the winds of change cannot threaten.

The river flows into the sea. My own life flows into the life of God—vast, wild, ever changing and ever present. Resurrection—my own soul renewed in the unending energy pulse of the universe.

I've been reading a book by Brian McLaren called *Finding Our Way Again: The Return to Ancient Practices*. He says that when a community of faith realizes that it has lost its way, it begins looking forward by looking back. In one sense, we as an American people have lost our way. Our frail economy and our endangered environment are becoming a catalyst for us to examine how we are living.

Holy Week and Easter are a time for us to look backward. We can take a look at how those who went before us weathered difficult times. We can embrace the power of resurrection as they did. Resurrection was an effective stimulus package for them. It lit their fire of passion, and they believed against all odds that things could be different. And it was so. The history books tell us that they "turned the world upside down."

As we re-enact the events of long ago—the children waving the palms, the last supper, the words from the cross—and as we experience resurrection on Easter Sunday, we look forward to living resurrection power with courage in the days ahead. There is always the opportunity to begin again. That is the message of resurrection.

Youth & Family News

Mid High News

April 19: Ice Skating! As we move into a warmer season, we'll say good-bye to the cold with ice skating at San Mateo Ice Center from 1:30-3:30 p.m. We'll get some activity and try not to fall!

During the month of May, Mid High will hold a donation drive at church to collect money and necessary items for the Peninsula Humane Society. Keep your eye out in the bulletin and your email inbox for the types of things we'll be collecting.

May 3: San Francisco Zoo! We'll head to the SF Zoo to kick off our Humane Society month. We'll stay from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the zoo learning about animals we seldom get to see in real life.

May 17: Humane Society Visit! From 2:00-4:00 p.m., we'll take our collection to the Peninsula Humane Society and visit the animals looking for homes. We'll have snacks at Coyote Point.

Senior High News

On April 19, mandatory parent information meeting about Fresno Mission trip (June 16-21) **at 6:30 p.m.** (Parents and students begin in Buckham Room; students leave with Volunteer Leadership Staff).

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

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

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

Church School Classes After Easter

Our focus will be on New Testament stories such as the Road to Emmaus, and the lives of Lydia and Cornelius. April 26 will be an Earth Day celebration, and of course our mothers and families will be celebrated on Mother's Day, May 10. The last day of regular church school will be June 7th, which is also Confirmation Sunday. Sunday, June 14 will be Family Worship focusing on *peace*.

Confirmation Class Is Going Well

Our nine Confirmation youth will be worship leaders at the Easter Sunrise service. After Easter, they will be visiting church members and developing relationships with their mentors. May 8-9 will be the overnight Confirmation Retreat at church. We will attend the Shabbat service at Temple Beth El, discuss our images of God, begin our faith statement and discuss Buddhism.

A Training for Potential and Longtime IHN Shelter Volunteers

The long awaited training in expectations and guidelines for rotating homeless shelter volunteers is taking place on **Saturday, April 18 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Buckham Room.** Amber Carroll, the social worker at the IHN office, will present the majority of the information. We will also cover some specific information and guidelines that apply to CCSM. This will help us all be better servants in this worthy endeavor. All volunteers, including those who received training years ago, are strongly encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Linda Kilby, 299-1531, kilbyl@sutterhealth.org.

What is Emotional First Aid? Special Workshop Offered Wed., April 29

By Jerri Handy, CCSM Clergy Intern

As we have walked together in ministry for several months, it has been rewarding for me to worship and learn with all of you here at CCSM. One of the skills I bring to ministry is the training and experience I have gained through my involvement with the Trauma Intervention Program Inc. Through this national program, I have been able to provide a ministry of presence when people have experienced a traumatic event such as a fire, car accident, death of a spouse or child—difficult times in families, life-changing moments.

It is hard for people to know what to say to family and friends immediately when loss strikes. So we either fumble to say something that never feels quite right, or we say nothing at all, even if it means avoiding those we love. I have good news for you. **We will hold an Emotional First Aid Training workshop Wednesday, April 29 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.** at CCSM. This workshop will provide special skills: learn what to say and what not to say, learn the power of simply being present, learn what is most needed in those first few hours, learn to trust yourself as a person who can make a difference.

June Vining, the Chief Operating Officer of Trauma Intervention Program Inc. (TIP), and National and Executive Director of the Portland/Vancouver chapter of TIP and I will lead the workshop. Please come join us for this workshop. There will come a day when you will be so glad you did. Cost: **\$25/person.** RSVP to CCSM office by April 21.

Successful Adopt-A-Box Easter Food Drive

By Anne Fuller

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the Adopt-A-Box Food Drive. Approximately 50 boxes were brought to CCSM on April 5. Several others took their boxes of food directly to the CALL Primrose offices. We are grateful for your generosity in this time of increased need. Thanks to Linda Grier for suggesting this project. If anyone else has ideas for other projects, please contact Anne Fuller or Erin Leydig, co-chairs of Mission, Service and Justice Ministry.

Sunday, May 31 A Pentecost Children's Festival

Pentecost is the birthday of the church and a perfect day for a festival. Birthday cake decorating, building a Lego church, spirit windsocks, and learning *spirit* in many languages are just a few of the plans for the day. Put a star on your calendar to remind you to **wear red that Sunday!**

Celebrate Pluralism Sunday on May 3rd

On May 3, churches around the world will dedicate their worship to a celebration of our interfaith world. Progressive Christians thank God for religious diversity! We don't claim that our religion is superior to all others. We recognize that other religions can be as good for others as ours is for us. We can grow closer to God and deeper in compassion—and we can understand our own traditions better—through a more intimate awareness of the world's religions.

Join An Affinity Group Music & Arts Circle

Friday, April 17, *Journey With a Muse*. Come join artist Carolyn Shaw as she describes her artist's life and work. We meet in the Buckham Room at noon. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages are provided. Guests are welcome. Call Zelta Adams at 341-1644.

20/30s

We're Going to Berkeley! Join the 20/30's on Saturday evening, **April 18th** for a Rooftop Social over looking the bay on the campus of the Pacific School of Religion. Come for the view, come to socialize, come for the food. We will have an excellent time. Cost is \$5-\$10 sliding scale.

LGBT Affinity Group

We will meet **Sunday, April 19th, 12:30-2:30 p.m.** for potluck lunch at Robin Truffa Russell's home right around the corner from church at 117 N. Ellsworth Ave., San Mateo. We'll enjoy fellowship, lively conversation and guaranteed laughter. People with children are especially invited as Robin has special activities for kids. RSVP to Annlee McGurk at annleem@comcast.net.

Eco-Justice

We will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 21 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room to discuss how our greening efforts are coming along. We had the e-waste recycle program. We've completed most of our research on green cleaning products, and we need to look at our energy audit survey from San Mateo County. All are welcome and encouraged to come.

Monday Night Book Group

We will meet on **Monday, April 27, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room. On discussion will center on the book, ***Out Stealing Horses*** by Per Petterson. Please bring new book ideas for the next few months. Newcomers are always welcome! Please email Susan Stoehr (s_stoehr@hotmail.com) to be included in the email reminder.

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

We will focus our **Monday, May 4** meeting on the work of Shelter Network. Lynnelle Bilsey, volunteer coordinator and Susan Stoehr, Network volunteer, will lead the program. Our meeting will be from **7:00-9:30 p.m.** in the Buckham Room. Please bring a potluck dish for dinner. Please join us and bring a new friend from the church.

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

I wish to thank everyone for all the many cards, prayers and good wishes prior to and after my surgery. My CCSM church family are dear to my heart. With much appreciation and gratitude.

Dorothy Scott

Erik Errichson will celebrate his 99th birthday on April 9, 2009. Birthday greetings may be sent to 1505 Chula Vista Drive, Belmont, CA 94002.

Thelma Kromhout will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 15. Congratulations may be sent to 80 El Cerrito Ave. Hillsborough, CA 94010.

Prayers of Comfort

John Buckham is out of the hospital and resting comfortably at home. Cards may be sent to John and Jo at 272 W. 36th Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Marie Shultz, Marian Faber's sister-in-law, died on March 20, 2009, after an illness. Cards to Marian at 10 Debbie Lane, Belmont, CA 94002.

Diane Griffith and Charles Levine continue to need our prayers.

Clayton Lee's aunt Diana Lin passed away March 31. Prayers of comfort for Clayton and his family. Cards may be sent to 694 29th Ave., San Mateo, 94403.

Eleanor Norberg is at Peninsula Hospital, fighting off a stubborn infection. She sends her love and gratitude to everybody, friends and family alike!

Prayers of Healing

Lynnelle Bilsey, healing from surgery.

Marie Shepard has recovered from bronchitis but is having further tests. Cards may be sent to Marie at 2400 Carlmont Dr. #209 C, Belmont, CA 94002.

In Our Prayers

Barbara Apolskis, Ruth Black, Gene Boaden, Sandi Blodgett, Gladys Cretan, Erik and Ronnie Errichson, Ken Feldstein (husband of Nancy Feldstein), Mary Jane Foltz, 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, Jim and Barbara Lowrie, Marilyn Manion, Sue Miller, Andrea Ratkowski, Betty Niederhaus, Martha Osborn.

A Call for Commissioned Ministry

Dear Friends in Christ,

After considerable prayer and discernment, I have the desire to become a person-in-care, and prepare for commissioned ministry in the United Church of Christ. As a director of music for more than 35 years, serving in three UCC parishes, I have felt a number of “nudges” to pursue ministry. So why now? It is said that everything happens in its own time. As I reflect back, I believe I have been on a journey to deepen and weave together three key aspects of my work: music, community and ministry.

I have been asked, “What do you get out this?” In truth, besides a little more recognition within the UCC, outwardly not much... nor do I expect much. Rather, it has more to do with giving. As a commissioned minister I feel, for me, there will be the recognition of our partnership and the leadership I have been exhibiting in UCC churches as both a professional church musician and an active member.

More importantly, I feel it is a way for me to deepen my spiritual commitment and enhance my abilities to minister through music, and whatever other ways I may be called upon, by the denomination and my congregation. I have also been asked, “are you leaving?” No.

Being with you at CCSM completes a circle for me. My parents were married at CCSM. I was baptized here more years ago than I’m willing to admit (any of you remember Rev. Benton Gaskell?), and Lynn and I were married here.

I have been somewhat “fast tracked” on the first leg of my journey towards commissioning. My original appointment with the Section A Committee on Ministry of the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the UCC was scheduled for July of 2010. However, a couple of weeks ago I received a call inviting me to be interviewed on April 17...next week! If I have seemed a bit distracted the past two weeks, it is because there are documents to gather, phone calls to make, letters and a paper to write.

After worship on March 29, I met with our Board of Ministries for a hastily called meeting to discuss my request to become a person-in-care of our congregation. I am very honored to say that the board voted unanimously to support my request.

I want to thank Lynn, Penny, Betsy, Steve and a host of others who have shown support and encouragement. I promise to send you *post cards* as my journey progresses. Think of me on April 17!

—Blessings to you all, Bill Coye, Director of Music

Afternoon Music Concert



Sine Nomine, the choral ensemble directed by Galen Marshall, will present its annual concert on **Sunday April 26, at 4:00 p.m.** They will perform the Duruflé **Requiem**, featuring Angela Kraft Cross on the organ, and other works by Schubert, Brahms, Verdi,

Lauridsen, Belmont, and others. Join us for a fantastic concert! \$15 adults / \$10 seniors and students. Reception to follow.

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 Sundays, 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 6:00 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.

Special Pine Tree Notice

On Palm Sunday, April 15, 14 new members joined the church. On Sunday, April 26, another group of new members will join. The May issue of *The Pine Tree* will feature all our new members from April. Welcome!

Annie's Blankets for Pets

Pets need your help! Please bring in used blankets and towels to support Annie's Blankets, a local philanthropy organization that provides collection barrels for donations to the Humane Society and various veterinary offices. There will be a collection barrel in the Narthex from April 1 to April 26 for donations. —Alyssa Block, 9th grade.



A newsletter for the families & friends of the Congregational Church Of San Mateo, U.C.C.

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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