

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401

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Visionary Voices Weekend

It is not too late to sign-up for Saturday morning's Educational Forum, led by **Rev. Dr. Jim Keck**, former CCSM Senior Minister.



The Beauty of American Religion:

Although we perceive religion in America, like politics, to be characterized by polarization and division, there is actually a broad, gorgeous middle in the American religious perspective that cuts across all the divides. And it's hiding in plain view.

Utilizing the *Pew Forum* religious landscape survey, the work of Gary Dorrien and Phyllis Tickle, as well as Jim's own experience as a local pastor, this lecture/seminar will uncover the perspectives of the typical American Christian and celebrate the surprising liberality that characterizes the forgotten middle. **Saturday, April 17, 9:30-11:00 a.m.**, at **College Heights United Church of Christ, 1150 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo**. To sign-up call CCSM's church office (343-3694) by 5:00 p.m. Friday.

Notes from Penny

We had such a wonderful Easter at CCSM. The children, the music, the excitement of people—no wonder Easter is my favorite holiday of the year. Yet resurrection doesn't just happen on Easter. As a faith community, we are called to be resurrection people. For me that means that we have been given the capacity to embrace more life at every turn. It means being open to transformation in our own lives. It means that our relationship with what is possible continues to expand. The poet Gregory Orr expresses it like this:

*It's not magic; it isn't a trick.
Every breath is a resurrection.
And when we hear the poem
Which is the world, when our eyes
Gaze at the beloved's body,
We're reborn in all the sacred parts
Of our own bodies:
the heart
Contracts, the brain
Releases its shower
Of sparks,
and the tear
Embarks on its pilgrimage
Down the cheek to meet
The smiling mouth.*

Every breath is a resurrection. Some days it is more difficult to breathe than others. Did you ever find yourself taking in a deep breath in the midst of a particularly challenging situation, as if to invite more spirit in to help you? In the midst of joy and in the midst of sorrow, every breath is a resurrection because each breath means that we are taking in life, each breath allows us to connect with the rhythm of spirit.

Years ago I had a very special dog named Jessie. When we took her to the mountains in

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Spring Sunday Celebrations

- 4/18 **Sermon: *Soar We Now Where Christ Has Led*, Former Senior Min. Rev. Jim Keck**
- 4/25 **Children's Musical: *It's Good!*
Membership Class, Buckham room after worship**
- 5/2 **Celebrating Pine Ridge Outreach Trip with Senior High and Rev. Steve Naylor**
- 5/9 **Family Worship/Mother's Day
Sermon: *First Blanketeers*, Rev Nixon
Children Baptisms**
- 5/16 **Sermon: *Breaking Free*, Rev Nixon
Members joining**
- 5/23 **Pentecost Concert with celebration of Jerri Handy, Sermon: *A Noise from Heaven*, Jerri Handy**

Youth & Family News

Mid High News

Sunday, April 25, 6:30-8 p.m.: *Mid High Game Night:* Bring your favorite games! Mid high will be playing our favorite board and card games together.

Sunday, May 16, after church: *Movie Day:* We will walk over to the downtown San Mateo Cinemark to see a movie together after church. As the date gets closer, we will figure out a specific movie and time!

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

Senior High News

Apr. 18, 6:30-8 p.m., *Fellowship in Youth Room:* Trip Celebration and Reflection

Apr. 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m., *60 Minutes* with Mike Mullery

May 2, 9 a.m., Outreach Trip Sunday: Students, Leaders, and Steve lead church service

May 16, 6:30-8 p.m., *Fellowship in Youth Room:* Welcome to Summer

Church School News

Easter Sunday was a glorious day at church! The rain held off until 1:00 p.m. so we were able to have our inspirational Early Easter Service on the lawn. The Confirmation class did a beautiful job out in the cold weather. The Easter Breakfast was a welcome warm spot, nourishing our bodies and souls. This year's Easter egg hunt topped them all—750 eggs decorated the lawn while 85 children bounded in the grass gathering goodies. The Easter trumpets, Mark Meyer's words and Penny's sermon made this day one to remember.

Sunday, May 9 is Mother's Day and Family Worship. As we honor the women in our lives, our 3-4 grade youth will be worship leaders. Several children will be baptized, and we will hear the wonderful voices of our Children's and Youth Choir. Rev. Penny Nixon will be our preacher.

Church Scholarship applicants: Please remember that your scholarship forms, photo, and recommendations are due in the church office by **Sunday, April 25, 2010.** Please call or email Kristy Everson for more information. 650-348-1173 or kristy.everson@hawaiianair.com.



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The CCSM Flamingo “flock” landed in the middle of the front lawn. Then at the stroke of 10:00 a.m....it was chaos!



Youth Mission: News from South Dakota!

We had an incredible trip to Pine Ridge Reservation working with and learning from the Oglala Lakota people. We hope you will join us for worship on May 2nd as we share our experience with the congregation. There will also be an adult education hour dedicated to sharing some of the history and spiritual lessons we learned. Look forward to reading more in the next *Pine Tree*. Here is a taste of what happened from one of the students who participated.

“Coming to Pine Ridge has really been a life changing experience. I discovered how fortunate we really are by one look at the reservation. When going to help at the houses and seeing how little they have and how much work they need to do—household items, such as a stable roof and walls that don't fall down—things that we take for granted. Almost all of the people on the reservation live like this, and barely any have jobs to support their families.”

—Makenna Cornwall



Join an Affinity Group Monday Night Book Group

We will meet **April 26 in the Fireplace Room from 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

We will be discussing another book on the best seller list, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. On **May 23** we will discuss *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See. On **June 28**, we will return to the second book by Steig Larsson *The Girl who Played with Fire*.

If you love to read and share your thoughts with others, this is the group for you. We are not afraid of expressing our opinions and find it fascinating that there can be so many divergent ideas. All are welcome. To be included in the email blast, email Susan Stoehr. s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

Blanketeers

We are sewing on **Sunday, May 2, after worship**. If you have wanted to join our group and couldn't make the Saturday meetings, now is your chance to join in the fun. We are working on a group quilt but have plenty of other projects to start. Bring your bagged lunch and we'll share a meal together. Then we'll sew until we want to quit! Call Linda Skromme for information at 578-8655.



Kaleidoscope Women's Group

We will meet on **Monday, May 3rd, from 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the Buckham Room**. It's May Basket time! We will create beautiful May baskets for church members who are homebound and also deliver them that evening! So you have an assignment. Bring baskets, moss, six-packs of flowers, potting soil and/or ribbon. Please call or email Shirley McKinnie to let her know what you can bring. We will have our usual potluck dinner first, so don't forget that quick and easy potluck dish. Please invite a friend who is a flower lover! You can contact Shirley at 650-349-3663 or snailldie@yahoo.com.

Book Exchange in Kloss Hall!

Great ideas come from affinity groups! Please check out our new Book Exchange in Kloss Hall. You are free to bring books to share and also borrow books to read. And, in honor of Melodie Lew's drive to bring books to Nepal schools, we are also collecting donations. We are so lucky to be able to have books to read and borrow. So rather than buying a new book, borrow one and leave some money for the Nepal book fund.

2030s Habitat Build Day on Saturday, May 8!

Join the 2030s group as we participate in the Habitat for Humanity build day. We would like to have at least ten 2030s volunteer for this event. Please sign up with Steve Naylor at snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org. We will be working on a home building project in Daly City. Details about exact location and meeting times will follow. Please plan on working an eight-hour day.

Music And Art Circle

On **Friday, April 16** Pearly Masters will share treasured childhood memories as she talks on *Growing Up As A Minority In Pakistan*. Come at noon to the Buckham Room and bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be served. Guests are welcome, RSVP Barbara Mollison at 349-0336.



In Appreciation of Music

"It's Good, It's good!" God said "It's Good!"

Come one, come all to see the Children and Youth Choirs perform *It's Good!* a musical about the creation. Words and music by Kathleen Hart Brumm and directed by Youth Choir Director Julie Berk. See God, the angels, the animals, and the cosmos, all move and sing with joy on **Sunday, April 25th, during worship**. Please come and see for yourself just what's so good about it!

A Tribute to CCSM's Choir

On **Sunday, April 25**, our choir will jointly sing with the Mormon choir at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at **7:00 p.m.** Our choir has received numerous compliments and was invited to join them. Angela Kraft-Cross will also be featured on the organ. The church is located at 975 Sneath Lane, San Bruno.

The Amici Brass Quintet at CCSM

The Amici Brass quintet will be performing in our sanctuary, **Sunday, April 25th at 4:00 p.m.** They have an exciting program planned for us that includes music from Russia and Bulgaria, a cinematic thrill ride called *Escape*, as well as works by Leonard Bernstein and Billy Joel. Also on the program are Dvorak's Slavonic Dances for piano duo, and some cabaret styled vocal selections by soprano Elizabeth Palumbo. The Amici Brass pride themselves on fun and eclectic programs, and this concert is no exception. Donation: \$10 adult, \$5 senior/student.



Sine Nomine Concert

Come join **Sine Nomine** and director Galen Marshall for an afternoon of exquisite choral music on **Sunday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m.** The choir will perform Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with string orchestra, and other works by Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Hindemith, and others. \$15 adult, \$10 senior/student.

The Music School's Spring Concerts

All concerts will be held on **Saturday, May 8, in Kloss Hall**. You are all invited to attend one or both concerts. Julie Berk, director, and her teaching staff are preparing the students for presentation of two wonderful programs in May, and their performances will delight you. There is no admission charge; however, scholarship contributions are welcomed.

Our Wonderful World at 11:00 a.m., 3.5 to 5-year-olds will present their program of songs, stories, instruments and movement for families and friends. (1/2 hour's length)

Garden of the Earth at 3:00 p.m., 5.5-year-olds to 3rd grade will entertain you with favorite songs, dances, instruments, stories and movement. (1 hour)

Haiti: An Adult Ed Forum and Traditional Lunch

Come and see and hear more about this trip to Haiti in an adult education forum on **Sunday, May 16 after worship in the Buckham room**. We will share a meal built around Haitian Rice and Beans with a tropical fruit salad. There will be a presentation of all the things Jerri Handy and her team saw and did. Please RSVP to the church office so we have enough delicious food. Call 343-3694.

Building Anew in Haiti

By Jerri Handy

"Bonjour!" Greetings from Haiti. What a wonderful time our group had while in the company of our mission partners in Haiti. While it remains true that many buildings have crumbled, faith and hope for the future run high.

Our small training turned out to be three days with 350+ pastors and lay leaders. We spent time together talking about how trauma affects individuals and the fact that Port-Au-Prince has had a catastrophic trauma, thus compounding the healing process. By combining all of our skills and abilities, we were able to give both theory and definitions of trauma, emotional, stress and healing processes. We were also able to give hands on tips for dealing with grief, anger, anxiety, and forgiveness.

The mission dollars you gave were used to feed these pastors and lay leaders each day. Those attending gave up 3 days of work to attend this seminar; it was a joy to provide food for each participant. We also took with us first aid supplies, radios, watches and a few clothes. These were all enthusiastically received. Each person took one item from the suitcase; some even decided the suitcase would be the greatest gift.

On Saturday we participated in the Memorial service. What a special day that was! The General Minister and President from both the Christian Church (DOC) and the UCC (Sharon Watkins and Geoffrey Black), Both DOC and UCC Global Ministry directors (David Vargus and Cally Rodgers-Witte) and Area Executive, Felix Ortiz came to provide pastoral presence and bring words of encouragement. We brought greetings on this day to over 500 who attended the memorial. I was able to consecrate the bread and later discovered that I may have been the first woman to preside at the table. What an honor!

Preaching Palm Sunday, in City Sole, was also a wonderful experience for me. The children sang for us to the delight of all.

Altar Flowers: Offering Beauty to God and CCSM

By Lee Mullery
Each Sunday,

the beauty of creation is made visible to our congregation with flower arrangements on the altar or communion table. These



arrangements are usually the work of Betty Stout and Pam Ridlehuber. Over fifty years ago, Betty joined what was then the Altar Guild and began creating beautiful altar arrangements for the Sunday services. Many others have helped over the years, but Betty is still at it. A few years ago she recruited Pam to work with her. They often bring flowers from their own gardens, and are grateful for the many church members who offer flowers and greenery from their yards. The lovely arrangements help create a spiritual atmosphere for worship that is an artistic gift to all of us. Thank you, Betty and Pam.

CCSM Organist Angela Kraft Cross on Sabbatical



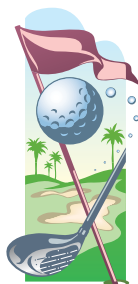
After 17 years of music ministry here at CCSM, **Angela Kraft Cross** is taking a well-deserved sabbatical. She will be working on some compositions, doing

some tours, and just plain resting!

She will continue organ camp and her practice schedule. **Angela's annual organ concert and ice cream social** will be on **June 6th at 4:00 p.m.**, so save the date. She will be greatly missed but we wish her renewed creativity during her sabbatical. **Stephen Lind** will be filling in the month of April and **Peter Bassford**, our associate organist, will be with us on most Sundays.

Annual Church Golf Tournament

Save the Date: Memorial Day, **Monday, May 31** at Deep Cliff Golf. Call Linda Skromme to sign up at 650-578-8655.



Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

Eric Errichson celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday, April 9 with a festive gathering near the San Carlos Elms, where he is now living.

On April 23, **Martha Imai** will celebrate her 95th birthday and **Virginia Weir** will celebrate her 90th. On April 27, **Betty Niederhaus** turns 95. And on April 30, **Clare Naegle** celebrates 92 with her family in Rome, Italy (!) and **Don Singer** will celebrate being 96.

Thank you to all the **Easter Lily volunteers** who spread Easter Joy to members of our congregation (from Palo Alto to San Bruno!). They delivered lilies to members who have lost a loved one during the last year or who are homebound, or recovering from or fighting a serious illness or injury. The generous donations, from CCSM members in honor of loved ones, make this outreach possible. Thank you to **Pam Ridlehuber** for organizing this group of volunteers and to **Betty Stout** for finding the most beautiful lilies to grace our sanctuary on Easter morning and for the volunteers to deliver.

Prayers of Comfort

A Celebration of Life will be held for **Gay Kocmich** in the Fireplace room on Monday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Robert Glen Heimsoth, son of Guy and Betty Heimsoth, passed away on March 16, 2010. Cards may be sent to 36 Pine Crest Avenue, San Mateo 94402.

Dave Barr, a private, longtime member, passed away on March 26, 2010. Our prayers are with his wife **Pat** and their family. Cards may be sent to Pat at 393 Georgetown Avenue, San Mateo, 94402.

Prayers of Healing and Support

Doris Godinez-Phillips and husband, Veril, are waiting to learn more about her test results. Prayers are needed and cards may be sent to them at 555 Laurel Avenue #524, San Mateo, 94401.

Carolyn Shaw requests healing prayers as she recovers from cancer and reconstructive facial surgery. Cards to 819 N. Humboldt St., #208, San Mateo, 94401.

Mark Meyers is getting intensive rehab therapy at Kaiser, Vallejo. The great news is that they have given him a discharge date—April 21, and there's a countdown clock on the *FriendsOfMarkMeyers.com* website now.

Adrienne Mitchell is recovering at home with two broken wrists. Cards and calls welcome. 165 Redwood Ave., Hillsborough, 94010.

Scotty Scott is back home from extended care now. He and Dottie are taking it one day at a time. Cards and calls welcome. 1101 Blythe Street, Foster City, 94404.

Marge Marchant is still having extreme pain in her left knee after her knee replacement. 622 Pico Avenue, San Mateo, 94403.

We are keeping **Margi Stone, Zee Larrew, Gary Steele, and Sandi Blodgett** in our prayers as they travel their different journeys with cancer.

Last Chance to Sign Up for Habitat for Humanity Project

Sunday, April 24, will be the last opportunity to sign up to participate in the upcoming Habitat for Humanity project. On **Saturday, May 8**, twenty volunteers from CCSM will be putting the final touches on a townhouse in Daly City. No construction skills are necessary. Volunteers need to be over age 18 and physically able to be on their feet and work for 8 hours. Whether you have participated before or this is your first time, we are confident you will find this to be a very rewarding experience. Please join us. Questions may be directed to Anne Fuller at 650-340-1479 or afuller@fullerthaler.com

Membership Class

If you are interested in learning more about CCSM, please join us for membership exploration class immediately after the service on **Sunday, April 25th** (light lunch and childcare provided) or on **Wednesday, April 28th from 6-8 p.m.** (pizza and beverages). Please RSVP to Pam Larsen at plarsen@ccsm-ucc.org or call the church office with questions.

Campus Improvements Projects

Strong support was expressed at the March 28th Special Congregational Meeting to move forward with the next phase of design work for the two proposed CCSM campus improvement projects. As a result, architects are being hired to work with the respective committees for each project.



Early Easter Service, led by the Confirmation Class with Rev. Naylor and Betsy Woodward.

Guess What!

Presently we have 38 individuals involved in five groups in our *Time Out for Lunch or Dinner* project. It is not too late to join in the fun. Sign up, (forms are in the narthex) and as soon as we have enough people for a table, we will start another new group. Then in October and again in April we will reorganize the entire group of tables for a new experience. Thanks, Trudy Duncan.

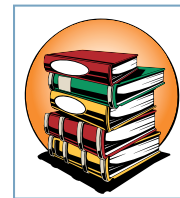


Notes From Penny

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the winter, and went for walks in the snow, she would find any hill or incline, run to the top, lie on her back and give herself a big push with her back feet. Sliding down the hill on her back, she was in ecstasy. Her tenacity for embracing joy and the gift of life encourages me to live my interior life in a way that looks for every opportunity to slide down a hill with joyful abandon. I guess that is resurrection too.

—Peace, Penny



Penny's Pick

Books I have found interesting:
The Help by Kathryn Stockton
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot.



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