



# The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo  
United Church of Christ

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Vol. 59

Issue #6 • May 10–30, 2010

## Good News Regarding Staffing at CCSM

By Mike and Lee Mullery, Co-Moderators

Recognizing that our congregation is growing and needs to plan for the future, a group called the Organizational Design Task Force was appointed. The members of the group are Doug Henton, Dorothy Gorman, Barb Karlin, Judi Powell, and Alison Schwandt.

Their charge was to identify how CCSM should organize its staff to support the programs that will serve the needs of the congregation in the future. The Task Force did a careful study of where we are, and what our vision for the future includes. They reported that the number one priority for future staffing is “A position to serve the needs of the senior members of our congregation. This should be a minister but it could be part time.”

In keeping with the findings of the task force, on April 18, the Board of Ministries unanimously passed the following three motions:

1. CCSM will increase Betsy Woodward’s hours from three quarters time to full time effective September 1, 2010, through the end of the year. Betsy will spend the additional 8 hours a week focusing on Senior Programming. The plan is to extend this into next year when the new budget is approved.
2. CCSM will offer Jerri Handy, soon to be a graduate of Pacific School of Religion, a contract for 20 hours a week for pastoral care and counseling, effective September 15 through December 31, 2010.
3. The plate offering (not including pledges) on May 23, 2010, will go toward the Ministry Growth Fund to support the above motions.

*Continued on page 4*

## Reflections on Pine Ridge

*Two of our youth share their views and faith after their outreach trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.*

### Re-Membering As One

By Shannon McEntee

The events that struck me the most were our visit to the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre and the speakers that graced us with their wisdom and gratitude—both were deeply touching and powerful.

Wounded Knee was simultaneously heart-breaking and angering: the senseless slaughter committed there more than a hundred years ago disgusted and saddened me; it is so wrong that human beings could be so cruel to other human beings. Walking amongst the graves, my heart was chilled: an eight-year-old, a six-year-old, a tombstone for an infant who’d lived less than a year. All this pain, all this persecution, because they had the audacity to be true to themselves and their culture. How could our government begin to justify such cruelty? It reflects incredibly poorly on us as a nation, that we would willingly destroy another people’s way of life because it was different from our own. So much for “Liberty and justice for all.”

Sharply contrasting were the Lakota who spoke to us. They possess such pride for their land, culture, and above all their people. Their stories and humor, songs and passion inspired me greatly and has expanded and altered the way I look at life now. They gave us nothing more than the bare truth of what they’ve faced, what they still face today. And yet...there was no bitterness or animosity when they spoke to us. They looked beyond the faults of the nation and into the hearts of the people that came to help them, and they appreciated the compassion

*Continued on page 6*

## Sunday Celebrations

- 5/9** Family Worship/Mother’s Day  
Sermon: *First Blanketeers*, Rev Nixon  
Children Baptisms
- 5/16** Sermon: *Breaking Free*, Rev Nixon  
Members joining  
Haiti celebration and lunch, Buckham room
- 5/23** Pentecost Concert with celebration of Jerri Handy  
Sermon: *A Noise from Heaven*, Jerri Handy  
Children’s Pentecost Festival
- 5/30** Rev. Valerie McEntee preaching

## Youth & Family News

### Youth News

#### Confirmation Class continues to meet

On **Sunday, May 16**, the class will be attending Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco and then serving lunch at Glide's free meals program.

**Sunday, June 6, is Confirmation Sunday** and end of the year festivities for Christian Education. The day will begin with the Confirmation breakfast in the Buckham Room. The confirmands will be our worship leaders and will be joining the church in a special ceremony. Then after church, we will celebrate another great year of church school with ice cream sundaes and a kids' jumper on the lawn. This is a day to be present at CCSM!

#### Summer Church School begins June 20

Our summer church school program will be the *Life and Times of Jesus*. Our children and youth will experience life as it was in Palestine 29. Our lessons will include weaving, making foods of the times, creating oil lamps and more. Summer is a great time to try your hand at teaching, so please sign up in Kloss Hall to join our teaching teams!

#### Vacation Bible School, August 9-13

It is a fun and spirit-filled week of Bible stories, music, art and energetic activities. We meet from 9:00-12:30 p.m., including lunch. The cost is \$75. Your children ages 3-11 will love it! So sign them up NOW. VBS forms are now available in the office and on the website.

### Mid High News

**Sunday, May 16: Movie Day.** After church we will walk to downtown San Mateo Cinemark to see a movie together. As the date gets closer, we will figure out a specific movie. If you have any questions, email Joliene at [joliene.wade@gmail.com](mailto:joliene.wade@gmail.com).

### Senior High News

**Sunday, May 16: Senior High Fellowship in Youth Room.**



The Pine Tree • Page 2

# The Music School

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

### An Invitation to The Music School's Annual Concert

By Julie Berk & Cari Parker

You are invited to attend one or both of our concerts in Kloss Hall this **Saturday, May 8, at 11:00 a.m.**, *Our Wonderful World* will feature 3.5 to 5-year-olds singing, moving, and playing various instruments. At **3:00 p.m.** enjoy another musical treat, *Garden of the Earth* with 5-year-olds through 3rd grade children entertaining you with their songs, dances and movement, instruments and stories. The concerts are free to all.

### Summer Music & Art Camp

This is a community favorite for 3.5 to 8-year-olds. We have weekly two or three-hour camps of musical fun daily with our well-trained staff. Activities include singing, playing our Orff mallet instruments and drums, moving to music and classes on the keyboards. For children over five years, we have additional recorder or flute classes. Mid-class features an outdoor break for snacks and free play. Toddlers (16 months to 3.5 yrs.) meet once a week with a parent for four weeks. There are four sessions to choose from throughout the summer.

Go to [musicschoolsanmateo.org](http://musicschoolsanmateo.org) to download an application or to learn more. Hoping to see you!

### CCSM Hosts Immigration Workshop

On **Saturday morning, May 15**, CCSM will be hosting a workshop for immigrants living in the local community. The purpose of the workshop will be to help inform the attendees of their legal rights, as well as to make them aware of resources that are available to them. One-to-one counseling will be provided by immigration attorneys, and a representative of the Mexican consulate will be present as well.

The workshop is being organized by the PIA Local Organizing Ministry at CCSM, along with the help and support of other members of CCSM. St. Matthews Catholic Church, another PIA member, is co-sponsoring the event. If you would like to help with the planning and hosting of this workshop, please call Linda Kilby at 299-1531.



Left: Visionary Voices Celebration and Fundraiser Dinner.

Right: Carole Melis, Jim Keck, and George Parker enjoying the evening.

## To Care is to Do

### Rotating Shelter Signups

CCSM is hosting the rotating homeless shelter for families again from **June 27 through July 3**. The families arrive at 6:00 p.m. and spend the evening and night in Kloss Hall; they leave the next day at 7:00 a.m. We do not know the number of families or the ages of the children until close to the start date of our rotation commitment.

**We need to fill about 75 volunteer slots, including the following:**

**Sunday, June 27 right after the service:** help with bringing supplies down from the room over the stage in Kloss Hall.

**Sunday, June 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m.:** six to eight people to unload rotating supplies from the van and set up tents, beds, etc.

**Every evening from Sunday, June 27 through Saturday, July 2:**

5:30-7:00 p.m.: two people to provide and serve the evening meal

6:00-8:30 p.m.: two hosts to share the meal and interact with adult guests

6:30-8:30 p.m.: two people to engage children in homework or activities. *Volunteer families with children are appreciated.*

8:30-7:15 a.m.: two people to spend the night in the volunteer tent in Kloss Hall, put out breakfast selections, and clean up before leaving.

**Sunday, July 3:**

four to six people to take down tents, deflate and fold aerobeds, etc., before and/or after the service.

One to two people to take sheets & pillowcases, laundry and return.

1:00-1:30 p.m.: four to six people to meet and help load the van.

All of us who participate in this effort serve as the hands and feet of God to these families in their temporary difficulties. We will start taking volunteer signups in **Kloss Hall after the service on Sunday, May 16**. For more information call Linda Kilby, 299-1531 or Joan Kilroe, 346-7230, or e-mail [kilbyl@sutterhealth.org](mailto:kilbyl@sutterhealth.org).

### Volunteer Training For The Rotating Shelter, June 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Any volunteer for the rotating homeless shelter (**CCSM will be hosting June 27 through July 3**) is strongly encouraged to attend this volunteer training, presented by the new Executive Director, Raj Rambob.

It will be held on **Tuesday, June 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** located at 975 Sneath Lane in San Bruno. For additional information, contact the Home and Hope.

### New Name And Director!

**Home and Hope** (previously known as *Interfaith Hospitality Network*) is the new name for the overseeing organization of the rotating homeless shelter. The new Executive Director is **Raj Rambob**. The offices remain at 1720 El Camino, Burlingame, 652-1103.

### Simple Miracle: Just Add Time

CCSM has just finished a trial commitment to Samaritan house to help **serve food on the first Wednesday of the month**. We are looking for volunteers to carry this forward and keep feeding the hungry. It takes less than three hours once per month to make a real difference in the lives of people in our community. Please contact any member of the Ministry of Mission and Social Justice or Hal Hanlin, [halbert099@gmail.com](mailto:halbert099@gmail.com) for more information.

### First Sunday Food

Help feed the hungry through First Sunday Food, a new monthly program starting Sunday, June 6. The first Sunday of every month, bring your donation of non-perishable food (canned foods, peanut butter, pasta, etc.) to church and place it in the container in the narthex. Donations will help people on the peninsula through the CALL Center, our partner for "Adopt-A-Box for Easter." First Sunday Food will supplement our existing holiday food collections, since hunger is a year-round issue. Let's continue to put our faith into action, by donating a can of soup or box of cereal once a month. For further information contact Linda Grier at 650-344-3357 or [grieroddy@gmail.com](mailto:grieroddy@gmail.com).

### Ushering At CCSM

Would you enjoy ushering one Sunday a month? It's a great way to meet and greet members of our church family. Let me hear from you. Arnold Duncan, email [trudy@askmar.com](mailto:trudy@askmar.com).

### A few thoughts before I go...

By Jerri Handy

On Wednesday, May 5th, the folks from the Peninsula Regent and I enjoyed lunch together and then heard about my recent trip to Haiti.

On **Sunday, May 16th, after church there will a Haitian lunch and presentation**. Lizzy Beach, Lindsay Million and I are excited to share our experiences.

The Mission trip was a wonderful time for all of us on the trip. We learned so much by being present with the Haitian people. We also want to express our gratitude for the support we received from the CCSM community. Please RSVP to the church office 343-3694 if you would like to attend.

## A New Beginning! A Focus on Senior Programming at CCSM

By Betsy Woodward

A new day is dawning at CCSM with a focus on Senior programming. It is an opportunity to create new activities and events that are designed specifically for seniors. I am honored and excited to head up this new focus. Together we will create new programs! For years, CCSM has been blessed with many active and creative senior members. Our seniors volunteer for nearly every aspect of our church—Blanketeers, ushers and greeters, coffee hour hosts and reception coordinators, front desk receptionists, *Pine Tree* mailers, flower arrangers, Nursery moms, and more. But over the years, many of the seniors' programs have disappeared. We have lost Women's Fellowship, Men's breakfast group, circles, colonies and even the Tilton Travelers. So now is a good time at CCSM to create new opportunities for seniors, to gather and enjoy each other's company, for fun and serious occasions, or social and thoughtful times. Although the senior programming will begin in the fall, we need to get together before summer comes and discuss the shape of the new senior programs at church. I look forward to all of us deepening relationships and making new friendships.

### Summit for Seniors, May 20, 10:30 a.m., Buckham Room

Senior members of our church, please come lend your thoughts and ideas to shape the new CCSM Senior Programming. We are offering a Summit for Seniors on **Thursday, May 20, from 10:00-11:30 in the Buckham Room**. It will be an opportunity to discuss what programs, activities and relationships we wish to create for seniors. While we talk, we will enjoy coffee, tea and goodies. Please RSVP to Betsy Woodward, at the church office, 343-3694.

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### Good News Staffing

*Continued from page 1*

These actions are in support of the Organizational Design recommendations for our future. However, since this funding was not included in our budget for this year, contributions to the *Ministry Growth Fund* are welcome.

## Special Invitation to Seniors: POLST Program

**Monday, May 17th at 3 p.m., Fireplace Room**

By Penny Nixon

For several months I have served on a sub-committee of the Hospital Consortium in San Mateo County as a religious community representative. One of our goals was to help educate various communities about POLST.

POLST is an acronym that stands for *Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment*. It is a doctor's order that gives patients more control over their end-of-life care by specifying the types of medical treatment they want to receive. Use of the form began in California in 2008, and became part of state law on January 1, 2009. Francine Serafin-Dickson, Executive Director of the Hospital Consortium of San Mateo County, has selected CCSM to host an educational pilot program for our seniors. She will lead a presentation on POLST and receive feedback about the community education program they are launching here in San Mateo County.

*POLST encourages:*

- communication between providers and patients,
- enables patients to make more informed decisions, and
- clearly communicates these decisions to providers.

*As a result, POLST can:*

- prevent unwanted or medically ineffective treatment,
- reduce patient and family suffering,
- help ensure that patient wishes are honored.

In order for the program to be successful, we need at least ten seniors to participate. Please RSVP to the church office 343-3694 if you are able to attend this important event.



*Pine Ridge Outreach Trip: Protecting ourselves from drywall dust. View additional photos on page 6*

## Join an Affinity Group

**Annual Golf Tournament** is scheduled for **Monday, May 31, Memorial Day, at Deep Cliff Golf Course.** Green fee is \$50 per person including lunch token. Tee off time is 11:00 a.m. with an All Family Potluck BBQ after the tournament at Doug and Carol Henton's home. Contact Linda Skromme to reserve your space at [linda.skromme@gmail.com](mailto:linda.skromme@gmail.com).

**Music and Arts Circle will meet Friday, May 21 at 11:30 a.m. at the Peninsula Regent** for our final luncheon program of the year. Please meet in the church parking lot at 11:20 a.m. to carpool or walk as parking there is limited. Bring a check for \$17.48 made to *Martha Imai*. Questions? Call Nancy Jalonon at 581-1237.

**The 2030s group** at CCSM has had a quiet winter of smaller social and outreach events from visiting Mercy Center Taize service to enjoying numerous lunches, dinners, and the occasional happy hour. Many of our members are experiencing transitions in their careers, living situations, dating, and education. The group is grateful that CSSM can be a place all people can call home—a place to come back to amidst the changing times of our lives.

The 2030s group will be participating in the Habitat for Humanity build day. We have 2030s on the waiting list for Habitat which means we are a community that is providing meaningful work for a demographic looking for connection.

**Kaleidoscope Women's Group will gather on Monday, June 7** for our annual evening at a restaurant. We will meet at **Macaroni Grill at 7:00 p.m.** (31 West Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo) and enjoy a delightful dinner together. Please come and bring a friend along. RSVP to Shirley at 650-349-3663 or [snailldie@yahoo.com](mailto:snailldie@yahoo.com).

**Monday Night Book Group will meet May 24 in the Fireplace Room from 7:30-9:00 p.m.** This month's book is *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See. It is a story of two Chinese sisters and their journey during World War II and afterwards as they make their way to Los Angeles. Our last book group meeting before the summer will be on **Monday, June 28.** We will return to discuss the second book by Stein Larsson *The Girl who Played with Fire*. If you love to read and share your thoughts with others, this is the group for you. All are welcome. To be included in the email blast, email Susan Stoehr. [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com).

**Book Exchange in Kloss Hall.** Already many books have found new readers and returned to the bookshelf! Please check out Book Exchange in Kloss Hall. You are free to bring books to share and borrow books to read. And, in honor of Melodie Lew's endeavor to bring books to the children of Nepal, 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.

## Joys & Concerns

### Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

**Eleanor Norberg** celebrated being 93 on May 2. Eleanor joined in 1975 when her late husband Dick became our Senior Pastor. She has remained a steadfast member, and her memory for people and events is amazing. Happy Birthday, Eleanor!

**Mark Meyers** is back at church and walking with his walker. He's proudly wearing his halo. Don't forget that updates continue on [FriendsOfMarkmeyers.com](http://FriendsOfMarkmeyers.com).

**Warren Long** is thankfully OK but very sore and bruised after a bike accident during a 70 mile training ride.

**Jill Wagner**, Homework Central Site and Volunteer Coordinator, is doing very well after her heart surgery. She was delightfully surprised at the cards she received.

**Carolyn Shaw** is now healing well from cancer and reconstructive facial surgery.

**Evelyn and Carl Loschenkohl** have been back in church several Sunday's in a row. What a joy!

### Prayers of Comfort

**Eric (Elmer) Errichson**, beloved husband of Ronnie, passed away April 19, 2010. Our prayers are with Ronnie and Eric's whole family.

**Andy Block's father, Ken Block**, passed away on April 11, 2010. Prayers of comfort for Andy and Sarah, Alyssa and Lindsay.

### Prayers of Healing and Support

**Doris Godinez-Phillips** will be starting her mesothelioma treatments. Prayers are requested.

**Joan Kilroe's daughter-in-law, Gina**, finally knows that her kidney transplant will be in June.

**Adrienne Mitchell** is thankfully free of her casts. Visits and calls are welcome.

**Scotty Scott** continues to enjoy visits and calls from friends and family.

**Marge Marchant** is back at Peninsula with pneumonia again. When she gets home, calls and visits are welcome.

We continue to keep **Zee and Cliff Larrew** in our prayers as they walk together on their uncharted journey with cancer.

**Margi Stone** is continuing her cancer treatments with optimism. Visits, calls and cards are welcome.



The whole Pine Ridge outreach team.

## Reflections on Pine Ridge

Continued from page 1

and openness they saw there. That appreciation was amazing, and touched me deeply.

The driving belief of the Oglala Lakota culture is “Mitakuye Oyasin”—translated it means “We are all related.” This concept was a prevalent theme throughout our time on the reservation, and there is a great amount of truth to be had in this simple saying of the Lakota.

### Reflection

By Sara Graves

Pine Ridge Reservation is a different world from my home. As Dorothy so aptly put it, “We aren’t in Kansas anymore.” However, working with the Oglala Lakota people has been some of the most rewarding work I have ever done. The Rez, as its inhabitants not-so-fondly call it, has conditions that would melt the coldest heart. My favorite part was just being able to help out in this community. I worked at five houses during the week, all of which were in need. Being able to help strengthen the community, reach out, and show the people support was amazing. Not only did we work on construction projects, but we also learned about the history and culture of the people whom we were serving. This included visiting the White Wilderness, or what average Americans refer to as the Badlands. Here, the wonders of God’s work were clearly apparent in the breath-taking beauty that surrounded us. The Black Hills are actually shaped like a human heart when viewed from north-south, and a white buffalo calf being born from east-west, which supports the Lakota creation stories. The rushing of the South Dakota wind is so refreshing and spiritually filling, and it sweeps across the wonderful landscape. I hope to bring this experience home to help better my community and myself. There are so many lessons here to learn, and I hope to return to learn even more about this amazing place.

**Save the Date: Sunday, June 13,  
Spring Congregational Meeting!**



Above: Construction work in the rain.

Below: Tearing shingles to repair the roof.



## Sign-up Now For e-Pine Tree

Receive *The Pine Tree* hot off the press at our church website, [ccsm-ucc.org](http://ccsm-ucc.org)! To participate you need Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, and you must be able to handle downloads. Send Kay Harris ([kay@communi-ks.com](mailto:kay@communi-ks.com)) your request for the **e-Pine Tree update notice** via email. She’ll put you on the list and you can download at your leisure!



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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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