



The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

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Issue #1 • February 2012

Winter Congregational Meeting

by Linda Skromme, Moderator

Save the date! On **January 29**, please remain in the sanctuary immediately following worship for the Winter Congregational Meeting. Our 2012 Budget will be presented for approval. We will also vote to form a Covenant with Nicole Lamarche for a new church plant in Silicon Valley. Several updates and presentations will be given for upcoming events and activities surrounding our church facility and family. I look forward to seeing you there! Childcare provided during the meeting.

NEW! Women's Spirituality Group Forming

We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

12 noon for social interaction and lunch (brown bag)

12:30 p.m. promptly begins group session

2:00 p.m. session ends

The new women's group which meets to explore women's spirituality through reading and discussion will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the choir room. On **Feb. 12**, members will focus on their first book, ***Dance of the Spirit—The Seven Steps of Women's Spirituality***, which is available in book form or on Kindle (Amazon). Please read the Prologue and Chapter One, and choose one of the practices to employ. After an overview of the chapter highlights, members' experiences with their practice will form the basis for discussion. For information contact karenholderbein@comcast.net.

Sunday Celebrations

Jan. 29 Beyond the Boundaries, Penny Nixon preaching, Congregational Meeting

Feb. 5 Beyond the Chaos, Penny Nixon preaching, Family worship/communion

Feb. 12 Beyond the Hype, Raj Rambob preaching

Feb. 19 Beyond the Fear, Jerri Handy preaching

Upcoming Dates:

Mar. 18 Lenten Children's Festival: *Prayer Around the World*.

Mar. 25 Christian Education Open House

The Ministry of Mission, Service & Justice at CCSM

By Lee Mullery and Donna Lindsay, MSJ co-chairs, and Penny Nixon

One of our three priorities at CCSM is to strengthen our commitment, action and effectiveness in social justice and outreach. While there is a group of nine people on the official church ministry called MSJ, the whole congregation is actually working together on our commitment to social justice.

Our charge as the ministry of Mission, Service, and Justice (MSJ) is to plan and support the various involvements of the church beyond our own doors. We also seek to educate and involve the congregation in efforts to relate our faith to the needs and issues of the world around us. This past year, CCSM has shared its resources with nearly 20 partners. Take a moment and look through the list at the end of this article.

In 2011, we gave \$74,535 to our partners through the MSJ budget—over 14% of our pledging base and over 3% more than in 2010. We give far more than the dollars reflected in our budget. For instance, we have a Charitable Assistance fund that allows us to help when there are special needs. This past year we were able to help some local people (some from our congregation) pay their rent in order not to lose their home. We are able to help people in emergency situations with food, transportation and accommodations costs. In 2011, we gave \$3,332 for emergencies.

We also provided disaster relief offerings, and made special gifts to worthy organizations like Puente and Singers of the Street. During our Mission 1 campaign, we collected over 1,500 items of food, far surpassing our stated goal of 750! Last May the congregation donated almost 500 pairs of shoes to give away to Soles4Souls. And the list goes on.

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Youth & Family News

Church School Lessons, January- February

- Jan. 29: *Jesus' Inclusive Vision: Beyond the Boundaries*
Feb. 5: *Family Worship: 3, 4 and 5 year olds create Valentines*
Feb. 12: *Love One Another—Valentine Delivery*
Feb. 19: *Where do we see God?*
Feb. 26: *Lent Curriculum One*

February Church School Valentine Brigade!

If your son or daughter comes home saying we are making TONS of valentines...believe them! For many people Valentines Day is a very difficult and sad holiday, so one of our Church School Outreach projects is to make Valentines for those who need some extra TLC. Our list has grown and includes many of our senior members, our neighbors at Leslie Plaza and folks at Brookside Convalescent Home. If you have doilies or red heart stickers, bring them in to church and our children will create a lovely valentine.

All Aboard for Train Day Saturday, February 4th 3-5 p.m., Kloss Hall and Buckham Room!

Our very popular train event is coming back soon! Bring your children, friends and neighbors plus any train buffs to enjoy this wonderful afternoon. You can listen to and watch the electric trains in the Buckham Room or play with Brio Trains and create train crafts in Kloss Hall. There will be goodie bags for the young train buffs and train cake for all! Please bring your favorite finger food to share. Invite a friend and RSVP to 343-3694!



Lent for Children

During Lent our Church School classes will be using the UCC curriculum, *Faith Practices*, designed to encourage us to be God's hands, feet and face in the world. The children will be using the units, *Living Stewardship and Giving Testimony and Witness*. As our Lenten tradition, we will have Lenten coin banks to share our wealth with Home and Hope. On March 11, our children will experience a Seder meal in Church School. The Palm Sunday processional will be on April 1 and our children and youth will stay in worship that day. Please bring your children to church during Lent!

Particularly For Parents

Tuesday mornings with Rev. Nicole Lamarche

Moms of Young Children: Mothers with young children are invited to an informal gathering to build connection, share resources and support one another as we find God in motherhood. We will be working with the assumption that parenting is a spiritual journey. The first meeting will be **Tuesday, January 24th from 10-11:30 a.m.** You are invited to bring your babies or young toddlers to the meeting. If you are more comfortable, childcare is available. Please RSVP to Nicole or be in touch if you have questions, revlamarche@gmail.com.

The Sex Life of Teenagers

Wednesday, March 21 • 6:30-8:00 p.m. with Raj and Bonnie Rambob.

Please see the bios of some of our special guest speakers and facilitators on the web.

From Betsy's Desk...Thanks for 25 years!

Overheard in the loggia! "What, you can't be retiring! My children are still small!"

From *Webster's Dictionary*, "**Retirement:** The act of leaving a job or a career at the usual age (Is there a usual age anymore?) **or** a state of being withdrawn from the rest of the world or from a busy life." (Withdrawn—I don't think so!) I confess that I love my ministry here at CCSM.

I love writing curriculum and thinking up creative activities for the children. I love preparing Family Worship and watching our children and youth blossom into worship leaders. I love learning new names and getting to know new families. I love working with the staff. The church community is warm, welcoming and deep in my soul. It has nourished me and my children, challenged me to grow and deepen my skills, and fully carry the mantle of Commissioned Ministry. I am very grateful for my 25 years here.

But there are days when I can sense that I have a little less motivation. On rainy days, I catch myself wanting to sit home with a fire in the fireplace and write poetry or read a book. I miss being able to spend weekends with my grandchildren. I would like to have some time to travel, to see Israel and all the cities of Paul's letters. I am sure my life will continue to involve children in some way.

I am at the usual age and our church is thriving; our children's program is growing. It is shocking to realize that the CE Strategic Plan I wrote in 2005 is happening! Many Sundays we have 70 children and they are actively involved in Church School. Amazing! Our youth programs are blooming. It is a good time to hand over the mantle of Children, Youth and Families to another vibrant, energetic and caring person who will carry the program to new levels.

And I am not leaving until the fall so we have lots of time to say goodbye. And I will be back, after 6 months or so as a regular member, maybe singing in the choir and attending Adult Education, just being with my church family. Thanks for 25 wonderful years of ministry at CCSM

Senior High Appalachia Outreach Trip

After considering many options, CCSM's Senior High Youth decided to offer their strong backs, hands and hearts to the people of Appalachia for their bi-annual outreach trip. With the congregation's help, on June 23, seventeen youth and chaperones will embark on a plane headed for Tennessee, a region of the country few of our youth have visited before. The group will spend a week in rural and remote Eastern Tennessee repairing homes for folks who cannot afford to pay, growing spiritually and developing deep connections to each other and high school students from around the country through the United Methodist's Appalachia Service Project program.

As the senior high youth narrowed down their outreach trip possibilities in the context of the Occupy Movement, they recognized their desire to help the disenfranchised and poor in the United States. They considered inner-city outreach, but decided that helping ease the burden of poverty in the backwoods of the Deep South would challenge them more. They expect the experience of the trip to transform their lives as much, if not more, than the lives of those they go to serve.

Shortly, you will be hearing of multiple fun and exciting opportunities to provide financial assistance to the sojourners from CCSM. All of the fundraising efforts are/will be group planned, led and executed. The funds raised will cover the cost of the entire group's trip so that all youth who choose to participate, can. Thank you, in advance, for your incredible support. Contact Bonnie or Raj Rambob, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org with questions.

Upcoming fundraisers:

Superbowl Pizza—Let us fill your growling stomach during the big game with delicious take-n-bake pizza. Choose from two sizes of cheese, pepperoni, veggie, combination or a donation to give without taking home a pizza. Order during coffee hour after church, or call Bonnie, 343-3694. Pizzas will be available for pick-up right after church on **Superbowl Sunday, Feb. 5.**

Parents' Night Out—Friday, Feb. 24, 6-9 p.m. Go on a romantic date, see a grown-up movie, have a leisurely dinner, or just take a nap in your quiet house. The Senior High will feed and have a blast playing with your kids in Kloss Hall. Suggested donation: \$40 for the first child and \$20 per additional child from the same family. (We want your kids there; the suggested donation is a guide, not a requirement.) Contact Bonnie, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org, or 343-3694 to sign up.

Mid High Events

Sun., Jan. 29	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm.
Wed., Feb. 1	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Youth Rm.
Sun., Feb. 5	meet at 9:15 a.m.	Family Worship	Sanctuary
Sun., Feb. 5	11:45-1:15 p.m.	Confirmation Class Session #2	Youth Rm. (8th graders)
Sun., Feb.12	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm.
Wed., Feb. 15	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Youth Rm.
Sun., Feb.19	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm.
Sun., Feb. 19	11:45-1:15 p.m.	Confirmation Class Session #3	Youth Rm. (8th graders)
Tues., Feb. 21	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Shrove Tues. Pancake Supper	Kloss Hall kitchen
Sun., Feb. 26	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm.

Senior High Events

(Bold events are required for Appalachia Outreach Trip (AOT) participants)

Wed., Jan. 25	4:00ish	Jamba Juice Meet Up	44 E 4th St., San Mateo
Wed., Jan. 25	by midnight	AOT Commitment Forms DUE	Bonnie's box or email
Sun., Jan. 29	after church	Superbowl Pizza sales	Kloss Hall
Sat., Feb. 4	9-11 a.m.	Make Superbowl pizzas	Kloss Hall kitchen
Sun., Feb. 5	after church	Distribute Superbowl pizzas	Kloss Hall
Mon., Feb. 6	7-9 p.m.	Group Study Time	Youth Rm.
Wed., Feb. 8	4ish	Jamba Juice Meet Up	44 E 4th St., San Mateo
Sat.-Mon., Feb.	18-20	NCNC-UCC Feb. Camp	Monte Toyon Camp, Aptos To register: http://www.ncnuc.org/event/feb-camp-2012
Fri., Feb. 24	6-9 p.m.	Parents' Night Out Fundraiser	Kloss Hall
Sun., Feb. 26	10:30-11:30 a.m.	60 Minutes	Fireplace Rm.

Peace Village – Save the Date!

Once again, CCSM will partner with Peninsula Temple Beth El and the Muslim Children's Garden School to bring an interfaith, peace education village to San Mateo. The summer day camp is for children, grades 1-8 and will happen the week of **August 6-10, 2012**. Registration forms will be available very soon. For answers to questions or to be placed on the email registration list, email or call Bonnie, bonrambob@gmail.com, 343-3694.

Educational Programs

Saturday Morning Educational Programs

Saturday, February 11 • 9:30-11:00 a.m. with Rev. Jerri Handy

Forgiveness: What It Means, And Why It Is Important

Forgiveness is something each of us deals with in our lives. Some things are easy to forgive and some things are very difficult to forgive. This workshop will offer an opportunity to explore what forgiveness means for ourselves and for the one we forgive. We will also practice crafting words of forgiveness.

Saturday, February 25 • 9:30-11:00 a.m. with Dr. Randi Walker

The History of Progressive Christianity: Getting the Show Back on the Road

What has the progressive Christian movement accomplished in the past 30-40 years (essentially since the civil rights movement) in making the United States a more just society? What are the markers of effectiveness for progressive Christianity? Is there a difference today between the progressive Christian agenda and the liberal political agenda? Who are the progressive Christian leaders who are making a difference?

Saturday, March 10 • 9:30-11:30 a.m. with Lisa Lang Cuff

Consuming Kids screening and discussion seminar at CCSM
This workshop offers a screening of *Consuming Kids*, a new film from The Media Education Foundation that takes a powerful look at how corporations relentlessly target children and the impact of that marketing. In addition to the screening, a discussion seminar will be held with time for discussion and practical learning. The goal is to raise awareness about the commercialization of childhood. This seminar is for anyone who cares about children—parents or not. (A Peace Village for Adults program)

Monday Evening Educational Programs

Mondays March 5 & 19 at 7 p.m. with Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon

Finding Your Voice: The Art of Public Speaking

Want to hone your skills in public speaking? Have something to say but want to be able to say it with more power? Want to learn how to use your nervousness to your advantage? This 2-session class is for you. It will be a hands-on participatory class where you will get up in front of the class and work on your presentation skills in a supportive environment. As I teach in preaching class, it is all about delivery! **RSVP required**, and must be able to make both sessions and do homework. Sign up by emailing pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org

LENT 2012: Fully Alive

Feb. 24 Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 26 First Sunday of Lent: *No Regrets*

Mar. 4 Second Sunday of Lent: *Got Connection?*

Mar. 11 Third Sunday of Lent: *Divine Porpoise*

Mar. 18 Fourth Sunday of Lent: *Making Choices*

Mar. 25 Fifth Sunday of Lent: *The Comfort of Ruts*

Apr. 1 Palm Sunday: *Generations of Love*

Apr. 8 Easter: *The Resurrection Life Line*

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, aka Mardi Gras!

From 6:00-6:45 p.m. CYF will serve pancakes for supper! It is a fun occasion for the whole family and we added gluten-free pancakes and sugar-free syrup so everyone can eat! Look for Mardi Gras necklaces and fun children's activities including a pancake race and *Lenten Bingo* games. For the best pancakes, come before we stop serving at 6:45 p.m.

Greg and Friends:

Wednesday Evenings During March! 6:30 p.m. in Buckham Room

Join Greg Davis and stay connected during the days of Lent by coming together for a light supper, special music, teaching, prayer and discussion. This is a different way to connect, coming around a table with others on the journey towards Easter. We are looking for folks to provide or help with food preparation. Maybe your ministry would like to help. Contact Pearly in the church office if you would like to help. May this "season of the heart" be meaningful, as we stay connected to one another other and to love's divine source.

Spiritual Practices with Marge Boyd, Sunday Mornings During March 9:30 a.m. in Fireplace Room

(based on Joe Driskill's *Protestant Spiritual Exercises*, Jane Vennard's *Embracing the World—Praying for Justice and Peace* and Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak*)

- Lectio Divina
- Contemplative Listening
- Guided Meditation
- Journaling
- Observing Sabbath
- Prayer
- Rule of Life
- Four-Stranded Garland
- Covenant Group
- Labyrinth walk

Connections:

20/30s Lunch Dates

All 20 or 30-somethings are invited to a monthly lunch gathering on the second Sunday of the month right after church. Sometimes we go to a restaurant; sometimes we potluck or picnic or have a home-cooked meal prepared for us by one of our own (most recently, Chef Amber Piatt). To join the Facebook group or email list, contact Raj Rambob, rajrambob@gmail.com.

Music And Arts Circle

Friday, Feb. 17, noon. De-mystifying the Art of Conducting. Who better than our own Minister of Music, Dr. Kathleen McGuire to explain the challenges of conducting, whether it be choral, orchestral or operatic! Bring a sandwich to the Buckham Room; beverages and dessert will be provided. Guests are welcome, and are asked to call Caroline Reinke at 341-0221 to reserve.

Time Out for Lunch/Dinner

Several years ago, two groups of about eight people each formed to have lunch in one another's homes. The groups decided to meet often enough for every member to co-host a lunch within that six-month period. At the end of six months the groups were reorganized. Our purpose is to enjoy a meal while getting to know one another better. We also started two dinner groups. Our Time Out For Lunch/Dinner groups are soon to reorganize. We would happily welcome new members into either group. If you be interested please call the church office or Trudy Duncan at 573-7053.

Monday Night Book Group

Monday, Jan. 30. Our January book will be *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. It is a fascinating story about a journalist whose research connects her own life to a Jewish family in 1942. If you wish to plan ahead, our book for February will be *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht. It is in paperback and on the best sellers list, so why not! It is a war novel set after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. Susan Stoehr is our email guru. s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

Monday, Feb. 6, from 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the Buckham Room. Betsy will lead the group in a new way of praying, called *Praying in Color*. Come prepared for a relaxing and meditative evening. All the women of the church are invited. Don't forget your quick and easy potluck dish to create our delicious supper. In March we will NOT meet so others can attend Penny Nixon's program on *Public*

Speaking. If you have questions about Kaleidoscope, please talk to Shirley McKinnie, our affinity group contact. 650 486-1449.

Wise and Wonderful Seniors

Wednesday, February 8. Seniors Gathering: 10:30 -11:30 a.m.

We have a special honored guest. Rev. Penny Nixon, our Senior Minister, will come and chat with us! Plan on attending and bring a few questions you would like to ask Penny. If you can bring refreshments, please let Betsy know.

Thursday, Feb. 28 from 11:30-1:00 a.m. We'll meet for lunch at Tannorine, on 25 Ave. San Mateo. It is a great Lebanese restaurant serving excellent lamb and vegetarian offerings. It's a short drive from church with plenty of parking in the back. Come join your friends for a lunch date! RSVP the church office by Monday, Feb. 20.

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, March 14. Seniors Trip to Bouquet De Arts, SF.



Circles of Trust

A Circle of Trust is a group that gathers at regularly scheduled meetings (monthly or quarterly). These meetings are an opportunity to reflect, write, listen, learn and share your inner truths. In a Circle of Trust, we move beyond shallow listening to deep listening with open and honest questions. It becomes a safe sanctuary to share, listen and trust with this intentional inner group.

Circle #2 will meet the **4th Thursday of each month from 2-4 p.m.** at the church. This group is for those who prefer an afternoon group.

Circle #3 will meet **10 a.m. -12 noon once a quarter: February 18, April 21, July 21, and October 20th** in the CCSM Library/Conference room upstairs. This group is for those with a busy schedule who still want to make time for soul work.

Choir Boot Camp

In January, the Chancel Choir hosted Choir Boot Camp, introducing inexperienced and "rusty" choir members to choral singing and most Boot Camp participants also robed and sang with the choir on Sundays.

One of the Boot Camp's special projects is preparing a piece to sing at the Family Service on **Sunday, Feb. 5**, with the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and the Men's Choir. The piece, called *Elijah Rock*, is a traditional Spiritual, recognizing Black History Month as well as being pertinent to the scripture reading and sermon for the service that day.

Choir director Kathleen plans to have Boot Camp again in the summer, so you'll have another opportunity to learn.

New members are always welcome. Please note that the Chancel Choir's regular rehearsal moves to Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m as of February 21.



Ministry of Mission...

Continued from page 1

Of course, these are just some of the things we can measure. Volunteering is giving freely of our time, energy, and love—which is priceless and difficult to measure. The IRS values volunteer hours at \$10 an hour, so a cursory accounting of MSJ hours adds up. If we were able to track all of our volunteer hours, the numbers would be staggering. For example, the hours for hosting the family shelter is approximately 198 hours. Last year we hosted the shelter four times so total hours would be almost 800. The Peace Village had over 70 volunteers who donated collectively over 600 hours throughout the week. Just those two projects add up to over \$14,000 for volunteer hours. Volunteers don't just give their time; they are generous with their money. Think of the food and items which are brought for collections: holiday boxes, the rummage sale, and gifts for Adopt-A-Family, to name a few.

In 2012, the plate offering each week is being designated to a MSJ project or organization. The "plate offering" includes all cash and checks not designated as a pledge or regular offering. This gives us an opportunity to support organizations and causes about which we are passionate and inspires MSJ to continue seeking to be in alignment with our CCSM three main priorities and to be the hands, feet and face of God to others.

Thank you CCSM for making MSJ a real priority last year! Your generosity has made a difference to the following partners in many ways.

MISSION partners

- The United Church of Christ – The UCC is the most progressive mainline denomination
- Pacific School of Religion – PSR develops progressive Christian leaders
- Ellipsis – A progressive Christian worship outside the walls of church
- Mission 1 – CCSM participated with many UCC churches to raise awareness about hunger and food injustice by taking action locally, nationally and internationally



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SERVICE partners

- Home and Hope and Shelter Network – helping some of those in our neighborhood without homes by assisting them to get back on their feet
- Habitat for Humanity – helping build low-income housing on the peninsula
- Homework Central – tutoring neighborhood children needing extra assistance with school homework
- Peace Village – helping children learn about peace and interfaith relationships
- Night Ministry and Samaritan House – preparing and serving meals for hungry people in need of help
- CALL Primrose – donating car loads of food at holiday time and throughout the year
- Blanketeers – Create quilts for guests in homeless shelter and shut-ins

JUSTICE partners

- Outreach trips – Senior High participated in a four-day retreat which included discussions on inequality, poverty, and injustice. An adult group went on a Border Immersion Trip to Centro Romero in San Ysidro to learn first hand the harsh reality of issues that are part of daily life on the border.
- Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA): Our local organizing committee works on special projects such as affordable housing and immigration issues.
- Open and Affirming – Celebration of our nine years of being an official ONA church included a contingent at the Pride Parade in San Francisco.

INTERNATIONAL partners

- We gave significant gifts to The Mother of Peace Community in Zimbabwe
- We support David and Jacob Kur from South Sudan for their schooling and life needs.
- We gave money and books to a school library as part of our Nepal project.

Kathleen McGuire receives ABC7 TV's Profiles Of Excellence award January 10, 2012, presented by news anchor Cheryl Jennings

To Care is To Do

First Sunday Food Collection

This would be a great time to mark your calendars for the rest of 2012 for our *First Sunday of the Month Food Collection*. We collect for CALL Primrose. Did you know they give out roughly 30,000 bags of food each year to those in need? Please bring your non-perishable food items to church on the first Sunday of the month and place them in the narthex. Suggestions: soups, stews, mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, rice, pasta, canned vegetables, cereals. For more info visit www.callprimrose.org or contact Tracy Fallon at 650 245-3325.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Knitting with a purpose! Do you knit or crochet? We have a group for you. The second Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Jerry Handy invites you to her home to knit and crochet with a purpose. As we gather each month, we will pray together for the work that we are doing. As we create prayer shawls we will pray for that shawl and for the person who will receive the shawl. It is exciting to create a shawl that will be a tangible sign of love for someone. For more information contact jhandy@ccsm-ucc.org.

Month of Sundays Ministry

Our Month of Sundays Volunteers send cards to folks listed in our bulletin's Joys and Concerns. Birthday cards, Condolence cards, Get Well, Congratulations! We could use some more cards!! So please check your stash and donate some and place them in Jerri Handy's box in the office. If you'd like to take a "Month of Sundays" and send CCSM hugs to our members, please give Lani Leydig a call, 544-8475. We can always use more hands and heart of God!



Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

February birthdays for our 90+ members: On Feb. 1 **Elaine Zolner** will turn 94, and on Feb. 3 **Joyce Everson** will turn 91, and **Bob McCune** will turn 93. A big Happy Birthday to all of you.

We celebrate the baptism of **Alexander Londgren** January 8. Many were deeply moved by being witness to this sacred ritual.

Prayers of hope for the New Year to bring moments of remarkable peace to our world.

Prayers of Comfort

Doris Henton, mother of **Doug Henton**, passed away on December 23, 2011. Please continue to pray for the Henton Family.

For all in our congregation who are grieving the loss of someone they loved.

Prayers of Healing and Support

Jane Delzell has entered into hospice care. Please pray for husband Bob and the entire family.

Becky Johnson, sister of **Cari Parker**, is experiencing some significant health issues. Cari has gone to be with her sister. Please pray for the family at this time.

Mirla Reyes' father has dementia and family is having difficulty with the many ways their lives are impacted. Please hold them in your prayers.

Chris Johnson, friend of **Joyce Montgomery**, fell four storeys and faces a long recovery. Please pray for Chris and all those who love and care for him.

Bob McCune continues to be at home; please pray for Bob as he has good days and bad days.

Lynnette Kady as she tries to live her best self even though it is difficult for her. A new caseworker is joining Lynnette's team.

For all who are unemployed or under employed and for some among us who are feeling the effects of the recession, please pray for continued economic recovery, strength of character, and hope.

Several people in our congregation have indicated that family members have been diagnosed with cancer. Please hold prayerfully all of those who are dealing with this new diagnosis as well as the families who surround them. Prayers for Christine Cameron, and others as they travel their different journeys with cancer.

The Pastoral staff thanks you for sharing your joys and concerns with us. There are many that we pray for each week, some we can share with the congregation and some that we are asked to hold in confidence. Please know that all of your joys and concerns are important. You can contact the church office or email jhandy@ccsm-ucc.org if you need support.

Last Chance Pick-A-Party Openings

If you missed the chance to sign up for a party in October and still want to get in on the action, we have a few parties that have one or more openings. **This is one of the very best ways for you to meet people in our congregation and have a great time doing it, too.** Contact Carol Henton at 650-571-7563 or at carolhenton@aol.com if you'd like to sign up. First come, first serve!



Pick-A-Party

#6 Bocce Tournament and Italian Picnic, \$30 adults, \$10 for kids (ages 8 & over please). Saturday, May 5 at 11:00 a.m. Hosts: Kathy and Tony Gallo, Lisa Stoltz and Laurie Hearne, Karin Albright, and Candy Nagare. Place: Bocce Ball Courts and Picnic Area, Beresford Park San Mateo.

Join the craze. Spend a couple of hours just tossing a ball and socialize with friends while indulging in good Italian food. Enjoy traditional Italian picnic fare, Italian sodas and chianti, and delicious homemade cannoli.

#10 Chilean Cultural & Political Discussion, \$15. Sunday, March 25 at 12:30 p.m. Host: Sandra Soto-Grondona. Place: CCSM, Fireplace Room.

Sandra will lead an afternoon conversation about the politics and culture of Chile – its past and current society. Enjoy an empanada and a glass of Chilean wine.

#16 Dessert, Champagne & Music, \$25. Saturday, May 5 at 8:00 p.m. Place: Berthelsen's home in San Mateo. Host: Jim Berthelsen.

Back by popular demand, this delightful late-evening party features dessert, champagne and live musical entertainment while enjoying the company of a house full of friends.

#34 Oh Sugar Card Game and Dessert, \$15. Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 p.m. Hosts: Matt Smith and Angela Fonte. Place: Smiths' home in San Mateo.

Matt and Angela will teach you how to play a very fun card game known as "Oh Sugar". Be sure to bring \$3-\$4 to the party to add to the fun. Winners will take home their winnings. Appetizers, dessert and beverages included.

#43 Self Defense Class, \$15. Saturday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m., Hosts: Davida Kwoka and Mike Larsen. Place: CCSM, Buckham Rm.

Davida and Mike both hold First Degree Black Belts in Judo and Jujitsu. Class will cover basic escapes from common threatening situations such as arm grabs, pushes, and other harassments. Wear loose/comfortable clothing and expect hands-on participation. Expect to be physically active, but physical fitness is not required. Light snacks will be served afterwards.

Expanding our Extravagant Welcome

Construction Committee Update - January 2012
By Jim Berthelsen

In December, the Construction Committee resubmitted our SPAR (Site Plan and Architectural Review) application to the City of San Mateo's Planning Department. This updated package included the requested Special Use Permit for the Columbarium, the Arborist Report, the updated Historical Evaluation, and more detailed plans and elevations for the proposed changes to the Sanctuary and the Memorial Garden.

The next step in the City's approval process is the public Planning Commission hearing, to be scheduled in February. Our architects, committee members, as well as any interested church members, are welcome to attend in support of our application. Let us know if you'd like to be notified when this hearing is scheduled.

Detailed construction documents will be completed by March 1, allowing us to request building permits and contractor bids later this spring. Assuming no further delays in the City's approval and permit process, we anticipate construction will begin this summer. Construction is estimated to take five or six months until completion.

See updated plans posted in Kloss Hall or contact a Construction Committee member if you have any questions on this exciting project.

Construction Committee Members:

Jim Berthelsen (chair), Lisa Bottom, John Fyfe, Clayton Lee, Bahram Mozayeny, and Jim Shaul



The Pine Tree

A newsletter for the families & friends of the
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