



The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

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Sensational Summer

- Sunday, June 14 Sermon: *In the Boat Together*, Penny Nixon
Peace Sunday featuring Children's Choir
Annual Meeting and luncheon
- Saturday, June 20 **Emotional First Aid Part 2**, 9am-12noon
Liturgical Art Workshop, Kloss, 9am-2pm
- Sunday, June 21 Sermon: *The Parable of the Soil*, Penny Nixon
Senior Highs on Outreach Trip to Fresno
- Sunday, June 28 Nathan Daniels, preaching
- Sunday, July 5 Sermon: *I Heard God Speak*, Jerri Handy
- Sunday, July 12 Sermon: *A Dance to Die For*, Steve Naylor
- Sunday, July 19 Sermon: *Life Changing Moments*
Tuesday Home Circle & Friends leading worship
Church Picnic at Coyote Point
- Sunday, July 26 Sermon: *Let the Club Do the Work*
Golf Group leading worship

August: Sermon Series: Four More Agreements

- Sunday, Aug. 2 The Fifth Agreement: Penny Nixon
- Sunday, Aug. 9 The Sixth Agreement: Penny Nixon
- Weekdays, Aug. 10-14, Vacation Bible School**
- Sunday, Aug. 16 The Seventh Agreement: Rev. Roland Stringfellow
- Saturday, Aug. 22 **Teachers Meeting**
- Sunday, Aug. 23 Eighth Agreement: Penny Nixon
Leadership Meeting
- Saturday, Aug. 29 **Church Retreat** w/Rabbi Jhos Singer
- Sunday, Aug. 30 Sermon: *The Potential for Intimacy, Part 1*, Steve Naylor preaching
- Sunday, Sept. 6 Sermon: *The Potential for Intimacy, Part 2*, Steve Naylor preaching

SNEAK PREVIEW: Summer Speaker Series

Sunday Mornings, July 12-August 16, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

- July 12 *Innovative Housing Solutions*, Bruce Hamilton
- July 19 *Jump Start Your Job Search*, Margie Mader-Clark
- July 26 *World Intellectual Property Wars*, Margeth Barrett
- Aug. 2 *Poverty, Inequality and Faith*, Lauren Speeth
- Aug. 9 *Healthcare in the 21st Century*, Rebecca Ruedy
- Aug. 16 *From Fundy to Fun! A Journey*, Phil Holderbien

Notes from Penny

As I listened to the students read their faith statements on Confirmation Sunday, there seemed to be a symphonic alignment with the hope that is bubbling up in pockets all around the world. The confirmands spoke of their belief in God and their strong faith, while at the same time tempering their confidence with open-mindedness. Instead of firmly drawn lines, there were openhanded invitations to look at the world and its diversity as a reflection of the ways that God speaks and moves through all people. Their expressions of faith gave me hope that they would help create more possibilities for harmony and peace as they become our future leaders.

I listened also with great interest to President Obama's speech to the Muslim world. What a wonderful example of opening up dialogue. It felt like we stepped through a portal to the possibility of forming new relationships as peoples, as nations, and as religions.

And here at CCSM, we also are taking a step in forming some new relationships. Last fall, at our stewardship lunches, I gave a presentation called *Faithful Imagination* where we looked at dreams for our church. One of those dreams was to have a theologian-in-residence, someone from a different faith tradition to come and attach themselves to us as a congregation and to delve into spirituality together. Along with the Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry, I am pleased to announce that dream is coming true! At the end of the summer, we will introduce our **rabbi-in-residence, Jhos Singer**.

Jhos Singer has served the Coastside Jewish Community in Half Moon Bay as its spiritual guide since January of 2000. He has an extensive background in Spiritual Judaism and has

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Youth & Family News

This Coming Sunday June 14 is Peace Sunday!

A wonderful way to celebrate our last family worship of the program year! Music will be framing the service. Our children's choir and the Chancel Choir will sing, and the Carillon Bells will ring. Our youth have planned a Peace drama and each person will receive a blank dove on which they can write a prayer for peace. Our church school children will end the service singing, *We are the World*. This is a special Sunday!

Sunday, June 21, Summer Church School Begins! Yes, There Is Church School All Summer Long!

Summer church school is a slightly different experience, informal and artsy! We have only two classes, *older* and *younger*. After the children's moment, we will invite all the children to join us in Kloss Hall for stories and song. Children second grade and younger will go to the 1-2 grade classroom for their activities. Youth in the 3rd grade and older will stay in Kloss Hall.

Our summer curriculum will focus on learning the Creation story. Each class will create a large poster for each creation day, and each child will design their own creation book. By the end of the summer, they will be able to tell you the story! Summer is a great opportunity for new volunteer teachers who wish to teach only one Sunday. Please speak with Betsy if you can volunteer one Sunday this summer.

Vacation Bible School: Aug. 10-14

Think of it as summer camp! The week is filled with art, music, science, Bible stories and just plain fun for three and a half hours a day. Our theme this year is God's Green Earth. We will connect Bible stories with ways of being more ecological in our daily lives. School is from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and children three through eleven years are invited! The cost is \$75 with scholarships available. VBS applications are now available in the church office and Christian Education Building. Our VBS team is always looking for new ideas and new volunteers. Please talk to Julie Berk, Ginger Slonaker or Shirley McKinnie if you have ideas, or wish to make lunch, or volunteer to teach.

There Is A Place For You— Become A Church School Teacher!

For anyone looking for a way to become involved in the church, we have a place for you. Consider becoming a church school teacher. We have a wonderful church school program here—lively kids, a good curriculum, fun teams and a flexible teaching schedule. As you can see, we have many children attending, so **we need your help!** Our church school classes are an opportunity to have some personal weekly Bible study, interact with great kids and enjoy creative activities. The curriculum is prepared for you, and each classroom is stocked with supplies. We are looking for a few new teachers at every level to join the veterans. Each teacher teaches about 1/3 of the Sundays with free passes on Festival Sundays and Family Worship. **You can choose your Sundays!** It is a wonderful way to give back to your church and get to meet some awesome kids who will run up to you and say "Hello!" So please think it over and decide to add your name to our teaching roster. If you are interested, please talk to Sarah Block, Jennifer Jacoby Yeh, or Betsy Woodward.

Church School Teachers' Meeting

Save the Date: Saturday, August 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Buckham Room. We will discuss our fall multi-faith curriculum—**One Tree, Many Roots!**

Ryan Schwandt is 2009 Recipient of Macon Banks Memorial Scholarship!

The Ministry of Children Youth and Families is pleased to announce that Ryan Schwandt has been awarded the Macon Banks Memorial Scholarship for \$500. You probably know Ryan. He is that tall, redheaded young man with a bright smile and positive attitude. He is great with kids and does some babysitting, and he is also admired by his peers. Ryan, son of Alison and Jim Schwandt, has spent his life at this church. He was active in Church School and children's music, then summer camps and Vacation Bible School, and finally Mid High and Senior High youth groups. Ryan participated in both the 2006 Mexico Mission trip and the 2008 New Orleans Mission trip.



Ryan is a senior at Aragon High School where he has been very busy with music, sports and academics. He is principal trumpet in the Aragon Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Orchestra and lead trumpet in the Jazz Band. He even says he enjoyed getting to school at 6:50 am to be in the Jazz Band! We were lucky enough to have Ryan play his trumpet in our worship service on Easter morning.

Ryan will be attending Miami State University, Ohio in the fall, with a plan to major in Bio-chem. He says he is looking forward to leaving California and experiencing many new things!

Congratulations, Ryan!

Summer Time Activities Start

Bible Study and Brown Bag Lunch

It's back! Bring your brown bag lunch and Bible. Join us at **12:30 p.m. each Wednesday in June** in Kloss Hall for a time of Bible Study and fellowship. One of the ministers will lead the study.

20/30s Summer Bible Study

In addition to our regular monthly meeting, the 20/30s will be running a ten week Bible study this summer. The dates are **every Sunday from June 14-August 16**. Liz Schwandt and Steve Naylor will lead the study first, and we encourage other people to take a turn at leading. We will begin by reading four chapters a week in the Gospel of Mark and see where the group wants to go after that. This is an exciting time to deepen your faith and rediscover the great truths and wisdom in our sacred texts. Friends are welcome! You can come for all or any of the Sundays. It will help to do the reading ahead of time, but it is not required.

First Bible Study: **Sunday, June 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Bell Choir room**. All subsequent Bible Studies will start at **12:15 p.m.**

The Monday Night Book Group

Please join us on **Monday, June 15, 7:30-9:00 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room for an inspiring discussion before we take a break for the summer. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Anne Shaffer and Annie Barrows is our book. It is a wonderful light read in a series of letters written at the end of World War II. For more information, email Susan Stoehr, s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

July 19th—CCSM Church Picnic at Coyote Point

Please save the date for the Church Picnic to be held at Coyote Point after church on Sunday, July 19th. We plan on having something for everyone—old fashioned summer games, great food and lots of time to just catch up and enjoy a summer day with your CCSM family.

FIRM Outreach Fundraising Fresno Trip Update

By Steve Naylor

The Senior High Youth Ministry will be leaving **Tuesday, June 16**, for a six-day trip working with refugees and running a Vacation Bible School for over 150 kids ages three to eleven years. We had a very successful Outreach Trip Shares fundraiser for the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministry (FIRM) Senior High Outreach Trip 2009. Thank you for your generous support! We raised over \$3,000! The youth have contributed \$100 each as a sign of personal commitment to the trip. When we total all of our fundraisers from the past year—remember all those pies and pizzas—we will be able to put away a little extra money into the reserve fund to help fund future outreach trips. We look forward to sending all our contributors postcards from the trip and sharing our experience with you when we return.

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Gratitude

Marilyn Manion, turns a chipper 93 on June 8. Cards may be sent to her at 1127 Alomar Way, Belmont, CA 94002.

Fred Tileston is getting around well on crutches and has joined us back at church! Way to go, Fred!

Michelle Fontanosa-Yee and David Yee are so thankful to welcome **Evan** into the world. He was born on May 28, 2009. Congratulations may be sent to 36 Elkwood Dr., So. San Francisco, 94080.

Prayers of Comfort

Barbara Apolskis, a long time member passed away on April 26 after a prolonged illness. A memorial service was held for Barbara at the place where she lived. Condolences may be sent to her son, Ray Apolskis and his family at 2921 Center Street, Soquel CA 95073.

Jennifer Cooke's grandfather, John Cooke, passed away Sunday, May 31. Our prayers are with Jennifer and her family. Send condolence cards to 948 S. Idaho St., San Mateo, CA 94402.

Prayers of Healing

Sandi Blodgett has completed her fourth and final super chemo treatment. Prayers for a healthy outcome going forward.

Carla Cornaglia had successful cancer surgery and appreciates the prayers from her church family as she continues her treatment. Send cards to 2060 Lexington Ave., San Mateo, 94402.

Eric Errichson is home from the hospital recovering from pneumonia. Send cards to 1505 Chula Vista, Belmont, 94002.

We surround **Diane Griffith and Charles Levine** with healing prayers.

Jon Kares is back at Peninsula Hospital. He continues to fight the aggressive infection in his leg. Send cards to 1952 Vista Cay, San Mateo, 94404.

Shaun O'Brien, one of our new members, is at home recuperating from surgery. Send cards to 612 Fathom Dr., San Mateo, 94404.

Margi Stone had successful arthroscopic knee surgery. Cards for encouragement send to 842 Highland Ave. #3, San Mateo 94401.

CCSM church office will be closed, Mon., July 6

Emotional First Aid Training, Part 2

By Jerri Handy, *clergy intern*

On **June 20, from 9 a.m. to noon** we will hold our second training. The first workshop was very successful and nearly forty people attended.

The Emotional First Aid Training, Part 1, with June Vining, COO of The Trauma Intervention Program Inc., provided us with excellent training for dealing with trauma. We learned the five basic skills to meet the five basic emotional needs of people in trauma. Talking about death and trauma are indeed difficult, but this training has equipped several of us to respond effectively in times of emotional trauma.

June 20th is the day to continue our conversation of preparing for trauma in our own families. Talking about death and last wishes in advance of a traumatic event can be a huge benefit to those who have taken time to have such conversations. Emotional First Aid Training, Part 2, is a workshop designed to provide individuals and families a place and some guidance in planning for and talking about your wishes when you die. Come as a family, come by yourself, and learn how to talk through planning. Learn what documents are helpful to have in place. The workshop will be facilitated by Jerri Handy.

I welcome and encourage you to come to Part 2 even if you did not attend the first workshop. If you are ready to begin conversations with your family about last wishes, but do not know how, this is the workshop for you.

For more information, see Jerri Handy or email intern@ccsm-ucc.org. Please sign up in Kloss Hall on Sunday, or in the church office. I look forward to seeing you June 20 in the Buckham room from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There is a nominal fee of \$5 per person for training.

Update SSRC Forums Scheduled

On **Sundays, June 21 and 28, the Sacred Space Renewal Committee (SSRC)** will host informational forums following morning worship. These forums are an opportunity to learn more about the Committee's progress regarding potential improvements to our sanctuary. **Please join us on either Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in the chancel** (choir area), where we will review our findings thus far and talk about next steps in our process. If you are not able to attend either session but are interested in learning more, please contact Jim Berthelsen or any member of the committee.

Confirmation Class of 2009 with family members



Notes from Penny

Continued from page 1

studied with master teachers of every Jewish denomination. In 2002, Singer was ordained as a Maggid (literally a "teller" but probably better translated into English as Preacher) by his teacher, Rabbi Gershon Winkler. He was also certified as a "Moreh Hitbodeidut"

or Jewish meditation teacher by Chochmat HaLev in Berkeley, CA in 2002. Maggid Singer has an extensive musical background ranging from Classical to Rock and Roll. He lives in Berkeley with his wife and three children.

We'll be telling you more about Jhos as time goes on, but you'll get a chance to meet him in worship on August 23rd, and he'll also be leading a half-retreat on Saturday, August 29th. Throughout the fall, he'll be teaching classes, preaching a sermon, and giving us an opportunity to understand Judaism in a creative and progressive way.

I guarantee that we will experience transformation because of Jhos' ministry with us. And like our confirmands, perhaps *our* faith statements, and *our* beliefs, will find new expressions of openness and acceptance.



Liturgical Art Workshop:

Sat. June 20, 9a.m.-2p.m., Kloss Hall

Helpers needed to make CCSM summer banners for the sanctuary. Bring sack lunch. We might finish earlier than planned.



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A newsletter for the families & friends of the
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