

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401

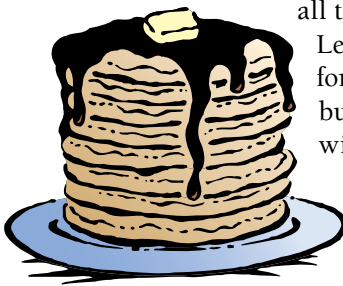
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Vol. 58

Issue #2 • February 1-15, 2009

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 24, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Pancakes on Tuesday? You Bet! Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is our opportunity to eat up all the fat in the house before the beginning of Lent. It is also an excuse to have pancakes for supper! Look forward to delicious buttermilk and blueberry pancakes along with turkey ham and fruit. Invite your spouse or partner, your kids, grandparents and your friends. Enjoy a yummy Pancake Supper along with Lenten activities and games for everyone.



Sunday Celebrations

Season of Epiphany: *Let Your Life Shine*

- Feb. 1** Preacher: Penny Nixon
Let Your Life Shine: Tools of the Trade
- Feb. 8** Preacher: Penny Nixon
Let Your Life Shine: Who Has Got a Testimony?
- Feb. 15** Preacher: Steve Naylor
Let Your Life Shine: Your Healing Power
- Feb. 22** Preacher: Penny Nixon
Let Your Life Shine: Transformation Happens
4:00 p.m. *Fabulous Four Piano Concert (pg 6 details)*

Blanketeers Make A Difference!

By Linda Skromme

A card sent to the Mother Bear Knitters at CCSM recently acknowledged our shipment to the Mother Bear Foundation. An excerpt reads, "Soon your bears will receive a red felt heart to show they were made with love...we will be sending them off to children in Africa as quickly as possible. Your bears will bring comfort and hope to children affected by HIV/Aids."

In addition to the bears, every person in our homeless shelter receives a homemade quilt to keep. From our November quilt sale, we also contributed \$1,800 to the Mother of Peace Orphanage.

If you enjoy knitting, crocheting or quilting, join us on **Sunday, March 7, from 1-4 p.m.** in the Buckham room. Linda Skromme will be teaching a new quilt pattern, and patterns will be available for creating bears.

This Is A Great Church!



By Jerri Handy, *Seminary Intern*

What a wonderful feeling I experienced as I returned to CCSM. I left in a hurry on January 5th, hoping I would make it home before my Uncle Paul died. I arrived Monday evening at his home and spent the next five days providing care to Uncle Paul, Aunt Nancy and my cousins Crystal, Craig and Brian. We all gathered by his bed on January 10 as he peacefully slipped from this life to the next. To the very end, he shared his faith with all who gathered. It was a privilege for me to be there with my parents and extended family.

Being witness to such a profound event is sacred as well as emotionally difficult. On the plane on the way to Indiana I read a book by Kelly Corrigan called *The Middle Place*. There is a line in the book that says something to this effect: "Sharing the moment of death is as sacred and profound as sharing the moment of birth." The meaning of these words resonated deeply with me as I have been profoundly changed by this experience.

As pastor-in-training, I returned to CCSM a little apprehensive. After all, it is my job to provide care for the members and friends of this congregation. Yet I had just had this experience that changed my family and myself. What I found when I walked through the doors of the church was a community of people who had been praying for me. Tender embraces, words of shared loss, words of encouragement all served to ease me back into the life of this wonderful community of faith. I thank you all for your prayers. You are indeed the hands, feet, and face of God.

Youth & Family News

Mid High News

Over MLK weekend, some of our Mid High youth were able to enjoy a weekend together in the mountains at our winter retreat! We were able to make new friends and explore God through music, dancing, nature, and community. Our youth made instruments (and shared their musical skills!), shared prayers of gratitude, and played some pranks on friends and cabin-mates. All of us had a great time, made a lot of new friends, and found it a great way to kick off our new year with Mid High.

Since we made so many new friends at camp, we would like to hear your input about trying to plan an event with our Mid High friends from other area UCC churches. Make sure to come to our next meetings and let us know your ideas for this and for the rest of the year!

For more information e-mail Joliene (Joliene.Wade@gmail.com) or Christiana (Christiana.E.Martinez@disney.com).

Upcoming dates:

Feb. 8: Bowling and pizza

Feb. 22: Fellowship

Senior High Ministry

The senior ministry is moving ahead with many projects and trips. Our digital interfaith project is well on its way and our youth will soon be meeting other youth groups from Buddhist, Muslim, and different cultural UCC churches in an online environment before we meet face to face in the spring for a service project.

Pizza Fundraiser Preparation Day: *Note Time Change!* **10 a.m.-12 p.m., January 31** in the CCSM kitchen. All students please bring \$10 to donate towards the cost of ingredients.

SH Fellowship: February: 8, 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

60 Minutes: February: 15, 10:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Tahoe Ski Trip has been postponed TO MARCH.

Feb Camp: Senior High students are encouraged to go to Feb Camp and connect with UCC youth from the Bay Area. However, there will be no adult leaders from CCSM attending. **Sat., Feb. 14 to Mon., Feb. 16** (President's Day Weekend) at Monte Toyon Camp in Aptos: Cost for youth: \$175. Look forward to hiking, games, dancing, crafts, music, delicious food, and so much more! Register on the Youth & Outdoor Ministries page at www.ncnccucc.org.

Little Ones Playgroup

Saturday, January 31, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Church School parents with preschool children are invited to our Saturday Playgroup! It is just a fun informal time for kids to play while parents mingle and chat. Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh will be your hostess. Please plan on bringing a snack to share and let Jennifer know you'd like to come! Her email is jjacobyeh@yahoo.com.

Confirmation Class 2009

Sunday, February 1, 12:00-1:30 p.m. in Buckham Room will be the first session of Confirmation Class 2009. The first class will begin with lunch, and the confirmands and their families will share their faith journeys. Confirmation is a series of 8-10 classes, each one focusing on a different aspect of our faith and church life. All the ministers will have a time with the Confirmation students. Each student will also choose a sponsor—a church adult who will spend a few occasions with the confirmand on his or her journey. If you wish to be a sponsor, please talk to Betsy Woodward.

Church School Special Programs

Church School Valentine Outreach! For the next few weeks, our Church School children will be very busy being secret Valentine creators for the residents of Pilgrim Plaza (next door). 3rd and 4th grade youth will create 57 valentines that they will hang on their doors. Our 1st and 2nd grade class, in addition to 7-8 grade youth, will make valentines for many of our older members who cannot attend church. It is a wonderful Valentine Ministry that makes everyone feel happy.

If you wish, you could please buy doilies and/or heart stickers and give them to Betsy for our Church School Valentine Outreach!

In February, Please Bring Your Toiletries To Church! Our Church School classes will be collecting donations of sample toiletries in our sanctuary's narthex. With these little samples, we can create wonderful little toiletry bags for people who are homeless. So clean out your closets and share the wealth. Our Church School students will be filling bags in the middle of February.

All Aboard for Train Day!

Saturday, February 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m., in Kloss Hall and the Buckham Room. Bring your children, neighbors and any train buffs you know to enjoy Train Day. Watch the electric trains whistling by in the Buckham Room and enjoy Brio Trains and train crafts in Kloss Hall. All young train buffs will receive a special train bag and have first choice on the train cake! For your contribution, please bring appetizer or finger food to share and invite a friend to come. Train Day is a popular event, so please RSVP to Renato Floresca. r_floresca@yahoo.com

Our next issue of the Pine Tree will focus on the Lenten Series and programs being offered.

Affinity Groups

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

On Monday, February 2, 7:00-9:30 p.m. Kaleidoscope has invited Rev. Valerie McEntee to share her work with the San Francisco Night Ministry. Valerie spends her nights, 10:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m., walking San Francisco streets, caring for those in need. She offers a listening ear, a prayerful presence and company to those who are lonely. Come hear the stories of her ministry. Please bring a potluck dish for dinner and a donation to SF Night Ministry. They need sleeping bags, blankets, coats and umbrellas.

Super Bowl Pizza!

Remember to pick up your pizzas on Sunday, February 1st after church.



20'30's February Wine Tasting

Join us for wine tasting in San Mateo on **Sunday, Feb. 15, 2:00 p.m.** at the *750ml Wine Lounge*, located at 227 San Mateo Drive. The newly opened *750ml* ushers in a distinctive new way to explore and enjoy eclectic wines, and hand-crafted foods. We will be served by one of the newest people enjoying our 20/30's group, Adam Simpson. If you're not into wine just come for the food and friendship.

Joys & Concerns

Congratulations!

Lucas John Matiskella, was born to **Susan Lucas and David Matiskella** on January 16, 2009. Welcome to the world, Lucas John!

On Saturday, January 10, **Adam Montgomery, son of Joyce Montgomery and Delores Thomas** were joyfully married in a family wedding.

Prayers of Gratitude

Elrae Bilsley, new member and mother of our Bell Choir director, Lynnelle Bilsley, is back home and feeling better.

Frances Goodrich, Carol Goodrich's mom is at home with 24-hour care.

Norm Naegle is holding his own at home. He and Clare are grateful for all the prayers and love being sent their way.

Prayers of Comfort

Jerri Handy's beloved Uncle Paul, passed away Saturday, January 10, 2009. He was surrounded with love by Jerri and his family. (1798 Scenic Ave. Box 479, Berkeley, CA 94709)

Dorothy Henson, Cheryl Pierpont's mother, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 18, 2009. Cards may be sent to Cheryl at 123 Louise Lane, San Mateo 94403.

Sandy Kirk, mother of Scotty Kirk, passed away on January 20, 2009. Scotty and his family were with her. Our prayers go out to the family. (621 Chestnut #303, San Carlos, CA 94070)

Joan Daschbach's daughter-in-law, Andie died on Jan. 26 after a prolonged illness. Please pray for Joan, her son John, his sons Kyle and Cooper and Andie's parents at this time of grief.



Prayers of Healing

Sandi Blodgett scheduled for surgery on January 28 at Peninsula Hospital.

Ken Feldstein's wife, Nancy, is asking for prayers for Ken for an effective treatment plan for his cancer.

Diane Griffith has surgery scheduled for Feb. 3.

Amy Handy, Jerri Handy's niece, had emergency gall bladder surgery. Prayers for a quick recovery.

Al Hanna, and brother-in-law of **Karen Wigren-Hanna** is seriously ill. We hold the Hanna family in our prayers.

Travis Edmonson, friend of Jon Karesh, prayers are requested as he recovers from a biopsy complication.

Terri Litz's friend, Bridgette Jensen, was diagnosed with a serious illness. Prayers requested.

Marilyn Manion has come home from the acute rehab center at Mills Hospital. Cards may be sent to 1127 Alomar Way, Belmont, CA 94002.

Vera Pitts' sister Linnie Williams was diagnosed with Parkinson's and Vera's good friend, **Denis Cambell** had a heart attack. Prayers for both of them.

Ryan Schwandt suffered a collapsed lung while skiing with friends at Tahoe. Send cards to 732 Foothill Drive, San Mateo 94402.

In Our Prayers

Barbara Apolskis, Ruth Black, Gene Boaden, Gladys Cretan, Erik and Ronnie Errichson, Mary Jane Foltz, Penny Gahagen, David Garrett (Patty Kane's friend), Carol Glasmann, Frances Goodrich, Carol Goodrich's mom, Ruth Gowen, Marjorie Griffin, Gina, Joan Kilroe's daughter-in-law, Ken Kirk, Dad of Scotty Kirk, Wolf - Joachim Lenigk (Margot Lenigk's son), Evelyn Loschenkohl, Barbara and Jim Lowrie, the family of Jean Mawdsley, Sue Miller, Eleanor Norberg, Martha Osborn, Allen Pero, Rosemarie Pero's husband, Elsie Phillips, Ruth Robinson, Jim Simmons (Kibbie Ruth's father).

Highlights of Jan. 25th Congregational Meeting

By Susan Stoddard-Phillips, Moderator

2009 Budget

The congregation approved the 2009 budget, which represents the values and commitment CCSM has to increased our mission outreach and growth of our programs. We are especially pleased to report that we have 48 new pledgers—this exceeds any previous year at CCSM!

Reverend Steve Naylor Called to One Year Designated Term Ministry

We unanimously approved the appointment of Steve Naylor. In February of 2008, we invited Steve to serve CCSM in a part-time role as Acting Minister of Programming and Outreach. Steve has grown in his ministry with us and is now an ordained minister at CCSM with expanded job responsibilities.

The new DTM call strengthens the commitment between Steve and CCSM. It also keeps open the possibility of Steve being recommended for congregational vote to be called to an open-ended associate minister position in the future if recommendations from the Organizational Development Task Team guide CCSM in that direction.

Memorial Garden, Accessibility, and Chancel Redesign Task Teams

There are three task teams reporting to the Board of Ministries focused on ways to enhance our sacred space and connect our sanctuary with those who want to be a part of our church family. The chairs of the respective teams, John Fyfe, Mike Mullery (interim) and Jim Berthelsen were introduced. They welcome input and participation from any member or friend of CCSM.

Pictorial Directories are Coming!

Pictorial directories will be available mid-February. If you or your family had your picture taken, you will receive a directory. If you'd like an extra directory, they are available for \$5 by calling the church office. New members who did not get a chance to participate are welcome to call the church office for a complimentary copy.

The congregation sent a big *THANK YOU* to Deanna Riding for managing this major project.

Church History is in the Making

By Lee Mullery, historian

Our past is important, not so we can live in the past, but so the future reflects what has gone before. By learning about the people, the places, and the events of years gone by, we are better able to understand the spirit and the essence of what makes us who we are today as a church.

A new History Task Team, under the direction of the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life, is being organized to help tell our story to the congregation. Come join the fun. Help us sort and organize materials in the attic room upstairs called "The Tower Room." There are Pine Trees and Bulletins dating back many years, along with pictures, ledgers, scrapbooks, historic accounts, displays and many other treasures. Plans are in the works to make a video with interviews of church members to capture the spirit of the past, reflect life in our church today, and outline our visions for the future.

This is an interesting, enjoyable way for you to make a contribution to our church, and there is a lot of flexibility as to dates and times you can help. For more information and to volunteer, call Lee Mullery, 348-5512.

Accessibility Committee is Forming!

At the last Board of Ministries meeting, church leaders voted to establish an Accessibility Committee for the purpose of looking into ways of making our church entrance more welcoming and accessible. There are some architectural plans already drawn, and there are more options to consider. The Committee will consider the different choices, visit other churches with accessible entrances, explore financing and come up with a plan. Their first meeting will be Sunday, February 1, from 9:45-10:15 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. If you wish to join this committee, please speak to Mike Mullery or Betsy Woodward.

NCNC Church Leadership Day

March 21—Mark this day on your calendar for an inspiring and educational event for church lay leaders. Our Northern California Nevada Conference, UCC, is sponsoring the day at Orinda Community Church. There are four major focus areas: Church Moderator Training, Stewardship and Finances, Summer Children's Programming and Young Adult Ministries. Churches are encouraged to send leaders from each area to learn new ideas and bring new energy back to their congregation. Contact one of the ministers if you are interested in attending the event.

Sign-up Now For e-Pine Tree

Receive *The Pine Tree* hot off the press at our church website, 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) 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!

Worship and Spiritual Life Survey

The Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry (WSL) works with clergy and staff in planning, supporting, and evaluating the worship life of the church and the administration of sacraments. As part of CCSM's Listening Campaign and an effort at continuous improvement, WSL would like to gather your feedback about your worship experience at CCSM. The survey can be found on our website home page (www.ccsm-ucc.org), under *Surveys Says* (under the left menu buttons) and will take less than 15 minutes to complete. Please make every effort to submit your feedback by January 29. Paper copies of the survey will also be on the Narthex table. Thanks in advance for your help.

Worship Participation Opportunities

CCSM offers many opportunities for all worshipers to get involved in our weekly services. Each of these roles provides a wonderful and straightforward way to participate in the life of our church and connect with fellow members.

Greeters: Come be the front-line of CCSM's extravagant welcome! Greet worshipers as they arrive. Contact Susan Stoddard-Phillips, sms@gene.com.

Ushers: CCSM organizes ushers by weekly teams, and their worship role includes helping seat worshipers and collecting the offering. Contact Arnold Duncan, 573-7053.

Flowers: If you have flowers from your garden that you would like to donate for our weekly altar display, please contact Betty Stout, 344-1970 or jkduncan@aol.com.

Scripture Readers: Help bring our weekly Scripture passages to life. Contact Caroline Reinke, 341-0221 or reinkebc@netzero.net.

Communion Set-Up: Help prepare our monthly communion, then clean and store after worship. Contact Marilyn Cintel, 343-7072 or gmcintel@earthlink.net.

Communion Servers: Be a monthly communion server or offer blessings to fellow worshipers during communion. Contact Penny Nixon, pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org.

Liturgical Art: Help plan and create special art projects to enhance our worship spaces and services. Contact Kay Harris, 572-8378 or kay@communi-ks.com.

Church History: Help collect, organize, publicize, and display materials related to our church's history. Contact Lee Mullery, 650.348.5512 or LeeandMikeMull@cs.com.

Sunday Front Desk Volunteer: Answer the phone at the reception desk and distribute office mail in the mailboxes while you listen to the service on the speaker. Contact Pearly Masters 343-3694, pmasters@ccsm-ucc.org.

Weekday Front desk Volunteer: Help at the office with the phone, mail, and odd jobs, either from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or from 1-4 p.m. Learn how the church operates and make many new friends. Contact Pearly Masters 343-3694, pmasters@ccsm-ucc.org.

The Organizational Design Task Force Wants to Hear from You

By Doug Henton, Chair

The Organizational Design Task Force is examining what kinds of staffing patterns our church will need to best support our programs. The Task Force has begun its work and is now benchmarking against other churches to see how they are organizing to support their programs.

The members of the Task Force would like to hear from you as well. Our church is growing. As it grows, what would you like to see? How could we support you? What do you like now? Please contact any member of the Task Force and let us know your views.

Dorothy Gorman, dorgor7@sbcglobal.net, 349-2726

Doug Henton, ceidoug@aol.com, 571-7563

Barb Karlin, bkarlin1@comcast.net, 593-8840

Judi Powell, judi.powell@comcast.net, 343-1299

Alison Schwandt, jimalison@rcn.com, 341-1701



Sunday, Jan. 18th Stained Glass Forum attendees with Philip Teefy, stained glass artist and teacher.



CCSM Support Groups Begin

The Healing Journey: Bereavement Support for Grief Recovery

We will continue for Lent the grief recovery support group, The Healing Journey. The four sessions will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:15 a.m. during Lent here at CCSM. If you have had a recent bereavement or wish to learn to recover optimally from a death, this group is designed for you. Rev. Janet Bower, a pastoral counselor with The Lloyd Center Pastoral Counseling Service of San Francisco Theological Seminary, will lead the group. For more information or to *register for the group*, please contact Rev. Janet Bower by calling her at 650-342-3118 ext. 307 or by emailing her at jbower@sfts.edu. Pre-registration is required.

Living Well with Chronic Illness

Are you one of the many people who live with chronic illness? The Lloyd Counseling Center of San Francisco Theological Seminary will be offering an innovative 8-week support group designed especially for people with chronic illness. The participants will receive strategies and support based on the latest research that will foster wholeness spiritually, emotionally, physically and socially. The group will be led by Rev. Janet Bower, pastoral counselor, on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. beginning on March 9. Location to be determined.

The support group is offered without cost to the congregation or the participants as a gift from the Lloyd Center. Enrollment is limited and *pre-registration is required*. For more information about the group, contact Janet Bower at her office (650-342-3118 ext. 307) or by email jbower@sfts.edu.

The Fabulous Four Return

Come join the *Fabulous Four* on February 22, at 4:00 p.m., for a fantastic festival of music for two pianos, four hands and eight hands! Our very own **Bonny Armacost, Angela Kraft Cross, Vija Norkvesta, and Cari Parker** will be presenting a delightful concert of music by Scarlatti, Chopin, Schumann, and Shostakovich, Bach, and Bizet, among others. Come see our ladies tickle the ivories! Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors.

(L to R) Bonny Armacost, Angela Kraft Cross, Vija Norkvesta, and Cari Parker



Do You Know What Trudy Is Doing?

It's Trudy Duncan in the balcony next to the sound system. She is monitoring the recording of the worship service CDs which are mailed out to CCSM shut-ins and used to make the website sermon podcasts. Way to go Trudy, Rita Gray, and Barbara Knees (not pictured)!

Speaking of the Balcony... Did you know the best seats in the Sanctuary are in the balcony. It's a clear view! And, yes, you can spread out!



Betsy always gets surprising answers to her Children's Moments questions.



The Pine Tree

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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