



The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

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Vol. 58

Issue #4 • March 2-15, 2009

Lenten Program & Upcoming Events

Lenten Adult Spiritual Ed, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Come and explore Adele Ahlberg Calhoun's *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook, Practices That Transform Us* with Marge Boyd, and consider how to enhance your faith journey during this Lenten Season. Marge will facilitate a five-week Sunday morning study beginning March 1 (using Calhoun's book as a guide) from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Buckham Room.



Soup-er Sundays: Mar. 8, 15 & 22

Immediately following the service, there will be soup and bread in Kloss Hall for everyone who wants it (and children's activities). We'll sit at round tables and share food together.

- Mar. 8 Betty Stout's team will provide delicious soup for all.
- Mar. 15 CFE will feature their famous CFE Minestrone (vegie)
- Mar. 22 The 20/30's Group will sponsor Soup-er Sunday.

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Lenten Sunday Sermon Series

Discovering Beauty in Brokenness

First Sunday in Lent, March 1, Penny Nixon
Mark 8:27-38 • *Transforming Pain Into Power*

Second Sunday in Lent, March 8, Penny Nixon
John 2:13-19 • *Re-membling the Beauty of Our Bodies*

Third Sunday in Lent, March 15, Art Domingue
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 • *Discovering the Beauty in Foolishness*

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 22,
Penny Nixon/Angela Craft Cross
John 14:1-4, 1 John 4:16-21
Moving From the House of Fear to the House of Love

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29, Penny Nixon
John 11 • *The Beauty of Second Chances*

Palm Sunday, April 5,
Penny Nixon, Steve Naylor and Jerri Handy
The Beauty of Sanctuary • Children's Processional

Notes From Penny

My Spiritual Practice for Lent

People often think of Lent as a time to give something up. While choosing that path of *holy subtraction* can be powerful, another thing that can be meaningful is the path of *holy addition*. Adding something entirely new to your life that helps you align with your spiritual values. So this year I have reframed Lent as Let's Explore New Territory.

We will be exploring some new territory in worship as we look at *Discovering Beauty in Brokenness*. This liturgical season of reflection provides an opportunity for us to enter into new ways of looking within, and the worship team is working to provide creative ways for us to do that. We are taking seriously our guiding principle of diversity. That means we are intentional about creating many open doors to spirit so that everyone may find a sense of belonging and meaning here in the CCSM community and in our lives.

As my own spiritual practice, I have decided to take my commitment to ecological responsibility to the next level. I have been reading Barbara Kingsolver's book, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*. Kingsolver tells the story of her family's experience of growing their own food and eating only locally grown food for one year. She also exposes the real truths behind our fossil fuel driven food culture. For the season of Lent, I am going to do my best to eat only locally grown food. It takes my intention to another level and helps me live out my values of being responsible with my use of resources.

I am also going to make it a practice to read the Gospels of Mark and John throughout the Lenten season.

I invite you to consider some *holy addition* to your spiritual path this Lenten season. Our Adult Spiritual Education Hour will focus on spiritual practices and offer some creative ideas for your journey.

Youth & Family News

Lent in Church School

The Lenten theme of *Discovering Beauty in Brokenness* will also be continued into Church School. Each classroom will have some beach glass in their sacred space. Church School lessons will speak to the issues of brokenness and wholeness.

Sunday, March 1st, Lenten Children's Festival!

All the children will come to church school in Kloss Hall. In keeping with our Lenten theme, *Discovering Beauty In Brokenness*, we will be creating beautiful crosses from small parts: sand art crosses, string art crosses, cross puzzles and more. Please invite your children's friends.

Church School Outreach

During Lent, our children will be reaching out to others in need. Each child will receive a treasure chest coin bank to fill during Lent. The money from the coin banks will go to support Homework Central, our neighborhood after-school tutoring program. On Palm Sunday, please bring your banks back and we will dedicate the offering. In addition, we are beginning a new relationship with an orphanage in Nepal. In March, our Church School children will make friendship bracelets and write letters to the children in Nepal. We hope to develop pen pals to continue this relationship in the future. Melodie Lew, a church member, will hand-carry the bracelets to the children in Nepal.

Senior High

Senior High Fellowship: March 8, 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

60 Minutes with Mike Mullery: March 29, 10:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Tahoe Ski Trip: March 13-15 We will be heading up to Kings Beach in North Tahoe. We will leave Friday afternoon and return Sunday evening. Parent chaperones are needed so please email if you are available. Sign up with Steve ASAP to reserve your spot snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org

Mid High Fellowship

Sunday, March 1: Lenten Activities: From 6:30-8:00 p.m., we'll be making hot cross buns, a traditional Lent food! We'll also make prayer pouches and discuss the things we want to meditate on during Lent and the ways we can meditate on them.

Dear Beloved Community:

One of the scriptures that has sustained me over the past few years is a well known passage from Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season." When I was called to CCSM in July of 2007, it was only three weeks after we returned from Zimbabwe with Mercy; we began a new journey as a family. Two brand new seasons all at once! At that time, I could not imagine all the changes that would take place nor envision what life would be like.

What a joy to look back over the last year and a half and count all the blessings of this incredible journey of transformation. I have trusted the spirit at every turn, discerning each step and bathing each phase of the journey in prayer.

Annlee and I have entered yet another new season in our lives. We are so excited to share with you that we have bought a house in Alameda. Alameda? You mean the island, the quaint town that time forgot? Yes. That Alameda. Back in July of 2007 I had only been to the island a few times. But, through a series of divinely inspired events, we were led to the most wonderful school for Mercy there. Last March we moved from El Cerrito to Alameda to be closer to CCSM and nearby Mercy's school. We fell in love with the island and it has been a perfect place for our family.

Our extended family is within 10 minutes and Mercy has 5 aunts that see her weekly. She also has an adopted grandmother in nearby Oakland who met her in Zimbabwe. It really does take a village to raise a child.

The commute is easy. Our house is about 12 minutes north of the San Mateo bridge. Most mornings it's a 35 minute drive door-to-door. The commute time is actually an unexpected gift, a nice transition from work to home life. I have found that it enhances my ability to be fully present at work and fully present at home.

Our initial plan was to move to the Peninsula. However, I had no idea how things would unfold. As I have gotten to know the church and the community, I have realized how many "zipcodes" are represented in the church. We are a gathered community, coming from many different places and different walks of life. Like many of you, my life is made up of many communities: work, church, school, and social interests.

It feels good to put down roots. Buying a home in Alameda was affordable and we were very fortunate to find the right house at the right time. It is a 1907 Edwardian (we've always loved old houses) with lots of charm.

CCSM had generously offered to help us purchase a home with some of the endowment money. However, I am thankful that we were able to carry this on our own and leave the endowment growing for the future of the church.

I couldn't feel better about how things are going at CCSM. I am amazed at how the spirit is moving and how we are growing and transforming in every way. As you can probably tell, I am deeply committed to growing our community and being involved in the work of social justice.

I am grateful for the support of the leadership and believe that we have many exciting things ahead as we dedicate ourselves to our vision and mission. The best is yet to come.

We'll be moving in mid-March and once we settle in, future pick-a-parties are just waiting to happen. Thank you for your support and for sharing the journey together.

—Peace, Penny

Affinity Groups

LGBT Affinity Group:

Contra Dancing at the Humanist Hall in Oakland
Saturday, March 7th, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Contact: Annlee McGurk, Jon Karesh
Phone: 707 718-8597 (c), 650 572-2621

Email: annleem@comcast.net, or jon94404@aol.com

Blanketeers Project

Blanketeers will be sewing a quilt project on
Saturday, March 7, 1-4 p.m. in the Buckham room. If you would like to learn to sew a simple four-patch quilt (lap size) and have a lot of fun and fellowship, email linda.skromme@gmail.com

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

We will meet **Monday, March 2, 2009. 7:00-9:30 p.m.**, Buckham Room will be the focus on Poetry! We have many poets in our church and often poetry can open our spirits to the presence of God. We invite all women of the church to bring a few favorite poems to share, yours or others. And don't forget that quick and easy potluck dish! Please call Shirley McKinnie if you have questions, 650 349-3663.

CCSM Pictorial Directories arrived!

Please stop by the directory table after Sunday services in March and pick up your copy. You can also come by the church office Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to pick up your book.



New Noah's Ark Painting! Ginger Slonaker, one of our talented church members, has completed her beautiful Noah's Ark painting for the children of the church. It is hanging in the first floor hallway of the Christian Education Building. Please take a trip to the CE building and admire it.

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

We welcomed **Hunter Steele Stoval** and her parents, Delaney (Steele) and Shawn Stoval last Sunday with their extended family!

Nancy Jalonen had a bad reaction to a medication, but is home and well.

Prayers of Comfort

George Fogerson passed away on February 8, 2009. George and Nancy both grew up in the church, as did their children, Amy Fogerson, Karen Liesse and David Fogerson. Cards may be sent to the family at 18635 136th Place SE, Renton, WA 98058. FwoFogies@msn.com.

Muriel, Roxana Wales' mother, died on February 22, 2009 in Boston. Cards to Roxana's family at 137 Barkentine St., Foster City, CA 94404.

Prayers of Healing

Healing prayers for **Furman Baldwin**, who fell on Sunday, February 15 and broke his shoulder. Cards may be sent to Furman and Peggy at Magnolia Gardens, 201 Chadbourne Ave., #218, Millbrae, CA 94030.

Martin Hanson, son of Krista and Eric Hanson, is home recovering from an appendectomy. Cards may be sent to 431 Bloomfield Road, Burlingame, CA 94010.

Miranda, a ten year old friend of the Slonaker and Block families and a student at Baywood, is battling cancer for the second time. Prayers for Miranda, her family, and her many friends.

Joan Kilroe had successful eye surgery. Prayers for a quick healing before more surgery is scheduled.

Ken Feldstein, husband of Nancy Feldstein, hoping the new cancer protocol will make a difference.

Doris Godinez-Phillips' friend, Tina, needs prayers as she deals with metastasized cancer.

Diane Griffith goes into Stanford Hospital this week for long awaited surgery. Cards for a good recovery may be sent to 4000 S El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Norm Naegle and Clare are grateful for all the prayers and love being sent their way.

In Our Prayers

Barbara Apolskis, Ruth Black, Sandi Blodgett, Gene Boaden, Gladys Cretan, the family of Andi Daschbach (Joan Daschbach's daughter-in-law), Erik and Ronnie Errichson, Mary Jane Foltz, Penny Gahagen, Carol Glasmann, Frances Goodrich (Carol Goodrich's mother), Ruth Gowen, Marjorie Griffin, Gina (Joan Kilroe's daughter-in-law), Travis Edmonson (friend of Jon Karesh), Ken Kirk (Scotty Kirk's father), Wolf - Joachim Lenigk (Margot Lenigk's son), Bridgette Jensen (Terri Litz's friend), Evelyn Loschenkohl, Barbara and Jim Lowrie, Marilyn Manion, Sue Miller, Betty Niederhaus, Eleanor Norberg, Martha Osborn, Allen Pero (Rosemarie Pero's husband), Elsie Phillips, Linnie Williams (Vera Pitts' sister), Ruth Robinson, Marie Shepard, Jim Simmons (Kibbie Ruth's father).



All Aboard for Train Day! Train Day was a wild success. Over 100 people wandered into Kloss Hall to enjoy the Brio trains and Jim Granucci's electric Train set. Because of the sandwich board outside the church, over half of the participants were neighborhood people. We gave away 65 little train bags. It was a great day to see children from everywhere playing trains together on the USA rug! Many thanks go to the Ministries of Children, Youth and Families and Care Fellowship and Evangelism for making this a big success.

Newest Equipment Needs Players

Yes, the church sound system is one of our most recent instruments, and we need volunteers to learn how to play it. Thanks to those of you who have indicated interest. We will be scheduling training in the coming weeks, but would like four more volunteers. If you are interested in joining the training group, please contact Jim Shaul or email Mike Harris at mypirocks@mac.com.

SF Night Ministry Lunch Brigade!

On Sunday, March 22 Kaleidoscope Women will begin making lunches for San Francisco Night Ministry Open Cathedral services. We will meet in the Church Kitchen at **9:00 a.m.** with the goal of making 70 lunches. It is a great outreach program that just takes a little of your time. Marilyn Cintel is coordinating teams of people to make lunch. Please call Marilyn to help, 343-7072 or the church office 343-3694.

CCSM Member Plans To Create A Library In Nepal

By Melodie Lew

Late in March, CCSM member Melodie Lew and her husband will travel to a small farming village in the Chitwan Province of Nepal. This will be Melodie's second trip to this village. During her first visit it became apparent that the local farmers were too poor to afford basic school supplies for their children, not to mention books for a school library, or balls and games for the students.

CCSM children will make friendship bracelets, among other activities, which Melodie will take with her and deliver to the children.

If you want to know more or wish to help, please contact Melodie (650 573-9765; boygie.m@rcn.com). There will also be a table set up in Kloss Hall after the service on March 1

Electronic Waste Collection

Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the parking lot will be collecting your unwanted electronic equipment. This collection event will benefit People to People: Student Ambassadors to Japan. Please check the bulletin board flyer for free recycling items and minimal charge items..

Save The Date!

Gloria Squared Concert

The CCSM Festival Choir will present both the Vivaldi *Gloria* and John Rutter's *Gloria* for our spring concert on **May 17 at 10:30 a.m.** In addition to the two *Glorias*, we will premier Donna Spencer's exquisite and moving setting of *Dona Nobis Pacem*. All three works will be accompanied by members of the CCSM orchestra.

Lenten Programs Events

Continued from page 1

Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study

On Wednesdays during Lent (**March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1**), join one of the ministers for Bible study. Bring a brown bag lunch to the Fireplace Room at 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Ministry Opportunities

Thursday, March 12: a workshop with seminary intern, Jerri Handy, for those who want to know how to pray with others at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 2: for those who are interested in being readers in worship. We will learn techniques of reading in public and will practice from the lectern.

NCNC Church Leadership Day

On **Saturday, March 21** our Northern California Nevada Conference is sponsoring this Church leadership day at Orinda Community Church. If you wish to attend, please talk with Betsy Woodward.

Please Come! No Homework Tonight Fundraiser This Friday!

You are invited to attend the annual Homework Central Fundraiser **Friday, March 6 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in Kloss Hall**. It is a great occasion! Savor delicious appetizers, listen to wonderful music, bid on enticing auction items and finally hear testimonies about this wonderful neighborhood-tutoring program that we helped create and have been supporting for eleven years. The event is FREE: your presence is requested. Yes, it is a fundraiser, bring your checkbook!



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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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e-Pine Tree Subscriber's Extra photo page!

