



# The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo  
United Church of Christ

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## Festival Music Spring Concert, Gloria Squared on May 17

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 choir and orchestra and directed by Bill Coye. Please join us for these marvelous works.

Funding for this concert provided by The Elfenworks Foundation.



help one, help many, start a ripple,  
[www.elfenworks.org/ripple](http://www.elfenworks.org/ripple) think-before-printing

## Sunday Celebrations

May 10 *The Courage to Build Bridges*: Rev Nixon, Carly Olson, and Andrew Loudon  
Mother's Day, Family Worship

May 17 *Gloria Squared*, Spring Festival Concert

May 24 *The Courage to Remember*:  
Rev Penny Nixon  
Acts 1:6-11 Ascension, Memorial Day

The church office will be closed Monday, May 25,  
for Memorial Day

## Summer Mission & Outreach to Fresno

By Steve Naylor

The Senior High Youth Group is heading to Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministry for an Outreach Trip, June 16-22, to learn and reach out to a community living in poverty. Our work in Fresno is part of our call as Progressive Christians who strive for peace and justice among all people, to protect and restore the integrity of all God's children, and to bring hope to those our society often neglects. The Senior High youth is going to help and to learn. We will be running a Vacation Bible School in the evening for the children, and during the day we will teach English and citizenship to the refugees.

Fresno is a city of 600,000 people, and 60,000 of them are refugees, most of those from Southeastern Asia. Fresno's minorities live deep in poverty. The unemployment rate for the refugee community overall is 65 percent, almost two out of three. Nine out of ten refugees live below the poverty line, and 40 percent of ALL the children in Fresno live in poverty.

We are selling Outreach Trip Shares to the CCSM congregation to invest in what the youth are doing. Our goal is to raise \$4000 in shares for the Outreach Trip. We hope that this generous community will help us blow that goal out of the water...who's with me? **That means we need a 100 people to buy 2 shares.** Our purpose is to build and strengthen communities of hope with New Americans. Primarily we will be reaching out to the Slavic and East Asian refugees.

Shares costs \$20 each, and you can buy as many as you would like. Your investment is greatly appreciated! A share holder is entitled to: 1) A personal Postcard from Fresno and, 2) A youth going on the trip will contact you before or after the trip to share about his/her experience.

Your share will support the faith development of the youth of our church. Provide much needed supplies and educational tools for the adult refugees and bring hope to the children growing up in America! Thank You.

## Youth & Family News

### Confirmation Retreat: May 8-9

The confirmation youth will meet Friday, May 8, 5:15 p.m. through noon Saturday, May 9th, in the Buckham Room for dinner, and a discussion of Judaism. After dinner we will drive to Temple Beth El and join their congregation for the Friday night Shabbat service. The rest of our evening will include ice cream sundaes, voting with your feet, exploring images of God, and a game of Sardines in the sanctuary. On Saturday morning, after a delicious breakfast, Bob Jarmusz will be our guest speaker on Buddhism and lead us through a short Buddhist meditation. Please bring a sleeping bag and pillow, change of clothes, toiletries and your Confirmation notebook! Call Steve or Betsy if you have questions—650 343-3693.

### Mothers Day/Family Worship

On May 10th **Rev. Penny Nixon**, 8th grader **Carly Olson**, and 7th grader **Andrew Loudon** will preach on the theme, *The Courage to Build Bridges*. The 3rd and 4th grade youth will be our worship leaders and our children's choir and their mothers will lead us in wonderful music. In honor of Mothers Day, all women will receive a flower.

### Pentecost Children's Festival: Sunday, May 31

Pentecost is a very important day! It is the birthday of the church and a perfect day for a children's festival. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us on this festive day! Put a star on your calendar and remember to **wear red**.

### Save these dates!

**Sunday, June 7: Confirmation Sunday.** This is the day that students in our Confirmation class will have the opportunity to join the church. A very good day! Join us in celebrating our Christian Education Program with **ice cream sundaes** right after church.

**Summer Church School begins Sunday, June 21!** Join our Church School teaching teams! Each teacher teaches about 1/3 of the Sundays and you can choose your Sundays. 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.

**August 10-14, Vacation Bible School 2009** is coming—mornings 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ages 3 through 11 are invited!

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### Mid High news

During the month of May, Mid High will hold a donation drive at church to collect money and necessary items for the Peninsula Humane Society. Keep your eye out in the bulletin and your email inbox for the types of things we'll be collecting.

**May 17: Humane Society Visit! From 2-4 p.m.**, we'll bring our collection to the Peninsula Humane Society and take a look at the animals looking for homes. It will be a great way to give to the animal community and learn more about animals. After our visit, we'll have snacks at Coyote Point.

**June 7: Ice Cream Night: From 6:30-8 p.m.**, we'll enjoy ice cream at the church, talk about what we will be doing next year, and what we'd like to be doing next year!

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Joliene ([joliene.wade@gmail.com](mailto:joliene.wade@gmail.com)) or Christiana ([Christiana.E.Martinez@disney.com](mailto:Christiana.E.Martinez@disney.com)).

### Senior High news

#### Interfaith Service Day

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** is a culmination of interfaith work of the Senior High Youth. We have spent months working through a pilot project to get students from different faith traditions interacting with each other. We are participating in Interfaith Service Day where faiths traditions from all over the Bay Area will be participating in *Clean Up The Bay* in Palo Alto. We will be cleaning for most of the day, enjoying dinner together, and then participating in interfaith dialogue.

## The Music School

SING, MOVE, PLAY, & MORE...

### Music School Spring Concerts

You're ALL invited to attend The Music School's annual spring concerts on **Saturday, May 9, in Kloss Hall**. The students will explore the **World of Make-Believe** in their songs, instruments, movement, stories and games. The concert with the 3 to 5 year olds is at 11:00 a.m. and the 5 to 9 year olds is at 3:00 p.m.

### Pick-a-Week Summer Camp Music & Art

From **June 26 to July 24**, we begin our Summer Camp. We will hold weekly music and art classes for 2 to 3 hours daily for children 16 months to 9 years. Our skilled staff will delight your children with unusual and fun-filled musical and artistic activities. A snack and outdoor play is also included. To register: call 650 344-4263 or [musicschoolsanmateo.com](http://musicschoolsanmateo.com) or come to the C.E. Bldg. and pick up an application. For questions contact Julie Berk or Cari Parker.

## April 2009 New Members

### Edith Alvarenga

Edith has called the Bay Area home since she immigrated from El Salvador, 20+ years ago. She is a proud mother and grandmother. Edith enjoys her time with her family and friends. Edith began attending CCSM last October and feels very much at home here. Edith knows that she is on course for a great spiritual journey.

### Jeanne and Greg Back

Greg and Jeanne recently moved to the Bay Area from New York City with their daughter Lauren. Greg is starting a new technology investing firm with several other partners in the area. Originally from Chicago, he is particularly pleased that here he is able to spend more of the year outside. Jeanne is a native of New Jersey and new to the area. Jeanne is enjoying her new life in California and is having fun exploring the area. Jeanne enjoyed her church experience in NYC and prioritized finding a new church home for herself and her family. Jeanne and Greg are both so happy to have found CCSM!

### Marge Boyd

Marge grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana and attended Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). After a five year teaching career, she moved from Indiana and began a thirty-one year career with a financial institution, first in California and later in Oregon. Marge's spouse, Jerri Handy, is attending the Pacific School of Religion and serving CCSM as a clergy intern. Marge and Jerri live on campus at PSR. Marge is active in CCSM's Handbell Choir and plays the cello as a hobby. Her other interests include scuba diving, creative writing and walking.

### Susan Campo

Susan was raised in the New York/New Jersey area in a Presbyterian practicing family. She moved westward with college and teaching. Susan has been in the Bay Area for more than 30 years and so enjoys the natural beauty, diversity and weather. She has two grown daughters, one working (Yay!) in Las Vegas and the other a university student in Miami. As a recently retired teacher, Susan enjoys the freedom to travel, read, walk and exercise, take Spanish.

### Darren Dieguez

Darren loves the "still speaking" God who gives us all life and love of one another. He appreciates that we aren't done yet, and whatever failings we have in life and love of one another, we will overcome



*Newcomers joined on Palm Sunday, April 5.*

and continue on. What matters to him a lot in finding a church home is to be okay with the mistakes we make as people. Darren is open to exploring what it means to be in relationship with God, this world, others and more.

### Nancy Dieguez

Nancy grew up in the Congregational Church in Massachusetts. She is drawn to CCSM through its warm, welcoming approach, its love and commitment to social justice, its celebration of diversity and individuality, and its love of God. Nancy has been married to Gregg for 27 years, and they have 3 young adult children. The Dieguez family moved to the Bay Area 25 years ago. Nancy loves California for its beauty and outdoor opportunities: the mountains, oceans, rivers, redwoods and deserts.

### Michelle Fontanosa-Yee

Michelle was born and raised in San Mateo, and now lives in South San Francisco with her husband Dave and varied animals. Michelle's background is in zoology, and most recently, in early childhood education. She is aspiring to be a humane educator, teaching children about kindness to animals. Michelle is a feral cat feeder with Homeless Cat Network, and enjoys listening to music, watching dance performances, writing, and singing.

### Shirley Huey and Nick Olmsted

Shirley and husband Nick live in San Mateo. Shirley was born and raised in San Francisco and recently returned to the Bay Area. She is a civil rights attorney in San Francisco. When not working, Shirley enjoys cooking, reading, and exploring farmers markets, neighborhoods, the arts and outdoors. Nick grew up in the Midwest and has lived in the Bay Area for a year and a half after relocating from the East. He works as a business lawyer and in his spare time enjoys hiking, biking, playing guitar and appreciating the bounty of good food and wine in the Bay Area.

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*Sunday, April 26 eighteen new members joined our CCSM community.*

## April New Members

*Continued from page 3*

### **Tim Richmond**

Tim has lived in California most of his life. San Mateo has been home for 40 years. He recently retired from the City of Burlingame, where he worked in Parks and Recreation for 26 years. Tim's church background is diverse, but he has been looking for a faith community that "fits" for some time. CCSM feels like a good fit with its diversity, its welcoming quality, and its deep sense of commitment. CCSM ministers to the whole person, and Tim looks forward to participating in that ministry.

### **Robin Russell-Truffa and Michael Truffa**

Robin was born and raised in Upstate New York. She holds multiple degrees and enjoys sewing, singing, and painting illuminated manuscripts. Michael grew up near Washington D.C. Currently Michael manages a testing department for a financial services software company in San Francisco. He enjoys motorcycles, nature, physics, philosophy, history and technology. Robin and Michael have one daughter, Trinity. Both Robin and Michael have had far ranging spiritual journeys, and never imagined they would find a church like CCSM, so authentic, accepting and affirming.

### **Janet Taylor**

Janet moved to the Bay Area in the early 80's after attending Cal State Los Angeles with a major in Child Development. She taught at a Catholic school in Menlo Park for nearly 14 years. Janet is currently a second grade teacher in the Los Altos School District. After meeting her partner, Colleen, they decided to have children and moved to San Mateo in 1998. Her family consists of her partner of 17 years Colleen, her daughter Madison, age 11, and son Dylan, age 6. Janet has been involved with CCSM the last five years and is excited to finally become a member.

### **Christopher Zeier**

Christopher was born in Southern California, but moved near Chicago, Illinois when he was five. After college, Christopher entered into a culinary arts program and has since enjoyed baking, cooking, and managing several restaurants. Last year, during the Lenten season, Christopher set off on a journey to find a spiritual home, and is grateful to have found one here at CCSM. In his free time, Christopher loves to listen to music, attend concerts, watch baseball (Chicago Cubs), catch up on world and political news, and spend time with his fiancée, Diana.

### **Pamela Appell**

Pamela is a native of Connecticut who moved to this area in 1978. Raised as a Methodist, she was drawn to CCSM because of its warm and welcoming congregation and its belief that faith and spirituality is an evolving process. She has two daughters and a step-son and lives in Foster City with her husband Martin. She owns a travel agency and loves to travel, cook, read, and hike. She looks forward to becoming a part of the CCSM community.

### **John Eby**

John moved from San Diego about four and a half years ago for a job promotion with Xerox. He's currently a regional sales manager for Xerox covering the Peninsula and Santa Clara. Recently, faith has become a very important aspect of John's life. He searched the internet to find a progressive church that he could identify with. After attending multiple Sunday services and listening to the sermons provided by Penny, he feels he has found a spiritual home. John enjoys traveling, snowboarding, and surfing in his spare time.

### **Linda Grier and Pete Roddy**

Linda and Pete are long-time residents of Burlingame and have three sons. Joining CCSM is an exciting next step in their spiritual journey together. Pete works in finance for a biotech company and enjoys playing guitar. Linda has focused on raising their kids, done a lot of volunteering and loves to read, write and walk.

### **Heather and Hal Hanlin**

Heather and Hal recently moved to California for a job relocation. Friends recommended CCSM as a place where their divergent views would both be embraced. Heather is an illustrator and volunteer art teacher. Hal is a video game designer. They have two lovely, wonderful children, Xander and Jazzy.

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## Affinity Groups

### Blanketeers

We will meet on **Saturday, May 16 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** Bring your quilts tops or new projects to sew. We will have one or two quilts to tie together. New members are welcome! Contact Linda Skromme if you have any questions 650 578-8655.

### 20/30's Afternoon in Central Park Sunday, May 31, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

We had such a success in the San Mateo Central Park last year that we are making it an annual event. Imagine a sunny afternoon filled with friends, bocce ball, Frisbee, football, reflection, and the beautiful sunshine. This is a great event to bring your friends and introduce them to the group or just bring yourself. Bring something to share. (last name A-M bring Food, N-Z: bring non-alcoholic drinks). RSVP to Steve Naylor, [snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org).

### Save the Date!

CCSM will be marching in the **San Francisco Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**. Our contingent always has a great time at this event, so mark your calendar now and keep an eye out for more details in the weeks ahead.

### Emotional First Aid Workshop, Part 2 on June 20

By Jerri Handy

We had a powerful four hours on April 29 with June Vining from the Trauma Intervention Program when she came and taught about 40 people. It was a wonderful learning experience. Now there are some more steps people at CCSM can take in preparing for their moments of crisis. We will be holding another workshop to address those issues. Save the date JUNE 20. Watch for more information. Also for those who attended Part 1, please share some of what you learned with others. Please notify others that all can attend Part 2 even if they did not attend Part 1 of these workshops.

### Brown Bag Bible Study

By popular request, the Brown Bag Bible Study on Wednesdays will begin again in June. More details to follow.

## Joys & Concerns

### Congratulations!

**Erik Errichson** 99 on April 9, **Thelma Kromhout** 90 on April 15, **Martha Imai** 94 on April 23, **Clare Naegle** 91 on April 30, and **Don Singer** 95 on April 30 and **Eleanor Norberg** turned 92 on May 2! What a wealth of experience, love, and joy we have in our church family.

**Donna Simpson** is settled in her new home and would love to hear from friends. (1252 Redwood Court, Dixon, CA 95620) Her new phone number is 707 693-1071. Her cell phone is still 650 576-6253.

### Prayers of Comfort

**Alan Roby's friend, Ken Kendall** passed away on April 22, 2009.

**Barbara Lowrie**, long time member and loving wife of Jim Lowrie, passed away peacefully on, Friday, April 17, 2009. Our hearts and prayers are with **JW, Christine, Carter, Bill, Peter, and Mikkel** and the whole Lowrie family. Cards may be sent to 1301 Columbus Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010. A Memorial Service will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 10 at 3 p.m.

**Bill Jalonen**, a gentle and faithful member, passed away on April 22, 2009. A memorial service was held here on Saturday. Our love and prayers to **Nancy**, daughter **Wendy** and son **Chris** and the family. Cards may be sent to 30 Mounds Rd #406, San Mateo 94402.

**Kibbie Ruth's dad, James Simmons**, died April 22, 2009 in Atlanta. He was in his 90's and a gracious Southern gentleman in every sense of the word. Cards may be sent to Kibbie at 612 Alambra Rd., San Mateo, 94402.

**Bob Plumhott, Susan Stoddard-Phillips' father**, passed away April 22, 2009. Prayers of comfort for Susan and the family. Cards may be sent to Susan at 1360 Hayne Rd., Hillsborough, 94010.

### Prayers of Healing

**Jon Karesh**, who is going to New York to have surgery to correct a long-standing foot injury—pray for success this time. Jon's friend, **Travis Edmonson**, critically ill is in need of your prayers, too.

**Irv Stern, husband of Karen Olsen Stern** had successful cervical spine surgery and is recovering at home under Karen's healing care.

For **Al Hanna, brother-in-law of Karen Wigren-Hanna**, who is receiving chemo for his cancer.

**Whit Wales, husband of Roxana Wales**, is doing really well after a heart transplant in March.

**Diane Griffith and Charles Levine** were back in church on Sunday after some difficult medical times. Welcome home, Diane and Charles!

**Sandi Blodgett** is taking a break from the chemo to see daughter Katie, graduate. Then she'll have her final chemo, finally!

# April New Members

Continued from page 4

## Kathleen Kane and John Gouws

A native Californian and a Mainer, Kathleen and John met in college. After marrying in 1999, they lived in Austin, the Washington D.C. area, and North Carolina, where they were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Maeve. Kathleen is a lawyer who has worked with the Department of Justice and representing foster children. She now works part-time at a small firm. John works at a Bay Area biotech firm doing absolutely nothing scientific. They both enjoy music and trying to keep up with 3 year-old Maeve.

Karin and Ron Kasper

Karin moved from Sweden in 1986 and Ron came from Chicago in 1981. They were married in 2001 by the previous minister at CCSM, James Keck. In 2004 their daughter Alina was born. Alina was baptized at CCSM. Karin works for Samuel Merritt University-San Mateo Learning Center and Ron for the City of San Mateo. They have enjoyed coming to CCSM regularly for the last two months.

## Tom Lewis

Tom has been a resident of California since 1979. He grew up in Colorado and served in the Navy aboard submarines for 5 years. He has worked primarily in the high tech industry in marketing and management. He considers himself semi-retired, busying himself as owner of a couple of small commercial buildings. Tom has been coming to CCSM for about a year and a half, which is just about as long as he has known Joyce Montgomery. Tom and Joyce are getting married in July.

## David Loughhead and Sandy McNabb

David and Sandy met at Stanford where they were attending graduate school. David is a research chemist working for a pharmaceutical company in Palo Alto. Sandy is an attorney in a small law firm in San Mateo. They have two boys: one a graduate student studying immunology, and the other about to graduate from college with a degree in psychology. Sandy and David live in Belmont. They enjoy skiing, hiking, and taking their pug Gizmo for Sunday afternoon walks along the bay.

## Chen Low

Chen was born and raised in Malaysia and recently moved to the United States to attend and plans to go to graduate school for an MBA program. Chen was raised in a Buddhist family. While preparing to come to the United States, a friend sent information about CCSM and when Chen arrived in the United States he started attending Sunday services here. Shy at first, Chen says he warms up easily. He is interested in learning more about the LGBT group at CCSM. Chen's hobbies include cycling, jogging, traveling, reading, cooking, and hanging out with friends.

## Christine Morente

Christine grew up in Los Angeles and moved to the Bay Area five years ago. She's a staff writer for the San Mateo County Times and has freelanced for various magazines over the last few years. Christine is very close to her family and tries to visit often. When she's not writing, she's reading. She's interested in photography, design, dance and music.

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## Shirley Robertson

Shirley grew up in Stockton and moved to the Bay Area and taught in Burlingame for many years. Later she went back to school and became an elementary school librarian, also in Burlingame. Shirley has been retired for many years, and has volunteered at the Burlingame Public Library. She loves to read and enjoys going to the ballet and musical events..

## Sandra Soto-Grondona

Sandra, a native of Chile, South America, is the single mother of 6 year-old Angelo LaCommare-Soto. They moved to San Mateo County about 5 years ago from San Francisco, where Sandra still works as an urban planner. Sandra and Angelo continue to travel to Chile every Christmas. Sandra has worked with sustainable energy, architecture, international development, indigenous peoples issues, social and environmental justice. She hopes to continue exploring the spiral of life, motherhood, her path of faith as a seeker and a survivor, and contributing as much as she can to becoming more involved in the church.

## Annual Church Golf Tournament

If you enjoy golf then this is your kind of tournament. All skill levels are welcome to play on **Monday, May 25 at Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino**. Cost is \$50 per person for golf. Following the game, we will gather for a family potluck BBQ at Jim and Alison Schwandt's home. Call Linda Skromme to reserve a tee time 650 578-8655. We have a few openings left!



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A newsletter for the families & friends of the  
Congregational Church Of San Mateo, U.C.C.

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