



The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401

650 343-3694 • email: info@ccsm-ucc.org • website: www.ccsm-ucc.org

Vol. 58

Issue #9 • May 25-June 7, 2009

16th Annual Organ Concert and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 p.m. This is a not-to-be-missed double-dip event of the year—Angela Kraft Cross’ Organ Recital plus Ice Cream Sundaes. Beautiful music played by a gifted organist. The concert will feature works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Duruflé and others, as well as Angela’s latest composition, *Homage to Henri Nouwen*. As always the program will be followed by a scrumptious ice cream social spearheaded by Trudy Duncan and Barbara knees with delectable ice cream toppings! Come, enjoy and bring your friends.

Congregational Meeting

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, June 14**, after worship to celebrate our past year’s accomplishments, learn about plans for next year, and elect our incoming officers and new members for our church ministries. A delicious lunch will be catered by *Pasta, Pasta!*

Sunday Celebrations

- May 24** *The Courage to Remember*, Rev. Nixon, Acts 1:6-11
Ascension, Memorial Day
- May 31** *The Courage to be Still*
Jerri Handy preaching,
Pentecost, Children’s Festival

Worship in June: SOULFUL SUSTAINABILITY

- June 7** *Spiritual Sustainability: Here I Am!*
Rev. Nixon, Isaiah 6:1-8,
Confirmation Sunday, CE Social
- June 14** *Ecological Sustainability: In the Boat Together*, Rev. Nixon
Mark 4:35-41, **Peace Sunday**
Family Worship
- June 21** *Emotional Sustainability: The Parable of the Soil*, Rev. Nixon
Mark 4:1-9, **Father’s Day**
- June 28** Nathan Daniels preaching

Notes from Penny

I came across this line in a Mary Oliver poem: “Listen, are you breathing just a little, and calling it a life?” How often I do not stop to breathe. As summer approaches and the days heat up, my dog starts his panting. From what I know about dogs, panting is their internal air conditioning system. It is just the opposite with humans. We need to take long, slow, deep breaths to cool down our otherwise overheated and overworked systems.

Many of us live at a level of stress and worry that often leaves us spinning directionless. Someone once said to me that worry is like a rocking chair—there’s a lot of going back and forth, but you don’t get anywhere.

In fact, some folks have remarked to me that Sunday morning in church is their one time to sit still, to find solitude in the midst of community, to have their souls widened by the time of prayer, to engage in reflection, and simply, to stop.

How often do you stop and reflect on your life, your living? I’ve been thinking a lot lately about the preciousness of life. And this life I am living right now is the only one I have. I wonder how often I miss the great gifts life offers because I am too busy thinking about the next thing, too consumed with my *to-do list*, and too entrapped in a *glass half empty* frame of mind.

Last night we received a call from the director of Mercy’s school. One of the parents of Mercy’s friend had been diagnosed with leukemia on Monday and had suddenly and unexpectedly passed away Sunday morning. We will be one of the families helping to care for the 5 year old child who has just lost her mother. As I write this, Mercy and her classmates are with their teachers having a talk about what death means in ways that children can understand.

What I understand about death is that I never grow accustomed to it. I know that it is a part of the great cycle, and I do have a faith that sustains me when inevitable loss touches my own life.

I don’t want to breathe just a little and call it a life. I want to know the richness and abundance of living life to the fullest. I want to live more often from that deep place of well being—that *spring of living water* that Jesus spoke about within each one of us.

So with me embrace breathing deeply through: Meditation. Quiet. Stillness. Service. Laughter. Listening. Playfulness. Community. Gratitude.

Youth & Family News

Mid High

We are continuing to take donations of new or used blankets and towels for the Peninsula Humane Society for the rest of the month. Please bring your donations to church and leave them in the appropriately labeled box in the narthex.

Our last meeting of the church year!

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! Questions? Contact Joliene (joliene.wade@gmail.com) or Christiana (Christiana.E.Martinez@disney.com).

Senior High

Senior High Fellowship: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meet in Youth Room.

May 31: Birthday Party

June 7: Mystery Scavenger Hunt!

Sunday, May 31 is the Pentecost Children's Festival

Pentecost is a very important day! It is the birthday of the church and a perfect day for a children's festival. Kloss Hall will be festooned with red, orange and yellow streamers for the Festival. We will begin with a story and a song. Then our children's activities will include building a Lego church, spirit windsocks, creating doves and decorating a Birthday Cake for Coffee Hour. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us on this festive day and wear red!

Ice Cream Sundaes Sunday, June 7

Join us in celebrating our Christian Education Program. We have over 120 children enrolled in our CE program and nearly 60 attend every Sunday. This is something to celebrate. After worship, there will be ice cream sundaes on the loggia, a jumper on the lawn, and roving balloon makers at your service. It is a day to play!

Sunday, June 7 is a Day of Celebration!

On this day our **Confirmation class** will have the opportunity to join the church! At 9:15 a.m., the Confirmation class, their families and their sponsors will be honored with a special breakfast in the Buckham Room. After breakfast, the class will spend some time getting ready for the rite of Confirmation. The rite of Confirmation will be the focus of the morning worship service.

Sunday, June 14 is Peace Sunday

For our last Family Worship Sunday, we will be focusing on *peace*. Our children's choir will be framing the service with many songs. Our youth will present a *Peace* drama, and we will end the worship with all the Church School children singing, *We are the World*.

Summer Church School Begins Sunday, June 21

This summer, Church School will have a slightly different pattern. After the children's moment, we will invite all the children to join us in Kloss Hall for stories and song. After the stories, we will divide the children for activities. 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. The theme for the summer is Creation Murals. We will create large murals and students will also design their own Creation books. At the end of the summer, they will be able to tell the story themselves. BUT, we do need summer teachers. Summer is a great opportunity for new volunteer teachers who wish to teach only one Sunday! You will be given the curriculum and supplies, so what could be easier? Please speak with Betsy if you can volunteer one Sunday this summer!

Become a Regular Church School Teacher

As the children leave after the children's moment, do you wonder... where do they go and what are they actually doing? We have some wonderful teaching teams who guide the children through Bible stories. They read and pray, discuss and create, bake and cook, share and become little communities. We would love to have **you** join our teaching teams this coming fall. We are looking for new teachers at every level to join the veterans! The curriculum and supplies are prepared for you. Each teacher teaches about one third of the Sundays, and you can choose your Sundays. So please think it over and decide to add your name to our teaching roster. Interested? Please talk to Sarah Block, Jennifer Jacoby Yeh, or Betsy Woodward.

Vacation Bible School 2009 is Coming

August 10-14 are the dates. 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. is the time! Ages 3 through 11 are invited! Our theme this year is **God's Green Earth**. We will connect Bible stories with ways of being more ecological in our daily lives. It is just like camp—lots of singing, art and stories, games, science and fun. **The cost is \$75 per child** with scholarships available. Lunch is included. VBS applications are now available in the church office and Christian Education Building. And, our VBS team is always looking for new ideas and new volunteers. Please talk to Julie Berk, Ginger Slonaker or Shirley McKinnie if you wish to help.

Sign up for Pride Parade

CCSM will be marching in the **San Francisco Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28th**. We need to have a rough idea of how many folks will participate, so we can let the parade organizers know our numbers. This parade is a lot of fun and fellowship. Valerie McEntee will be present in Kloss Hall during Coffee Hour to sign up folks.



Join the fun! Affinity Groups

20/30's Afternoon in Central Park

Join us **Sunday, May 31st, 1-4:00 p.m.** Imagine a sunny afternoon filled with friends, bocce ball, Frisbee, football, reflection, and sunshine. This is a great event to bring your friends and introduce them to the group or just let them enjoy the games and food. Bring something to share. (last name A-M bring food, N-Z: bring non-alcoholic drinks). RSVP to Steve Naylor, snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org.

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

Please join us **Monday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.**, at **Il Fornaio** restaurant, 327 Lorton In Burlingame. We will celebrate the end of the program year by going out to dinner. It is an opportunity to catch up with good friends. Shirley (Snailladie@yahoo.com) will be making the reservation so please email her if you can join us.

The Monday Night Book Group

Our next meeting is **Monday, June 15, 7:30-9:00 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room. **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** by Mary Anne Shaffer and Annie Barrows is our book. It is a wonderful light read that is a series of letters written at the end of World War II. For more information, email Susan Stoehr, s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

WSL Membership Survey

By Rebecca Smith, Chair

On behalf of the Ministry of Worship & Spiritual Life (WSL), I would like to extend our thanks to everyone who participated in the WSL survey earlier this year. We had a large number of respondents, across all generations and length of time at CCSM. Within all the feedback, the sense of joy and commitment to being part of the CCSM community and its spiritual life consistently emerged.

Based on survey responses across a number of topics—including spiritual life, worship services, and feeling connected—WSL compiled a full report recently presented to the Board of Ministries. In the coming months, we will be addressing the following specific recommendations that stemmed from your feedback:

- Offer more educational programming about world religions and progressive Christianity
- Reach out to CCSM's Spanish-speaking neighbors via programming and/or worship
- Participate in exchange programs with other Peninsula congregations and faith traditions
- Include time for quiet reflection during worship services
- Expand spiritual programming and pastoral care for CCSM seniors
- Develop greater communication by all ministries on the CCSM website and Facebook
- Focus on our extravagant welcome and hospitality: from the initial welcome and ushering in the sanctuary to coffee hour

As our church evolves and grows, open dialogue and a commitment to continuous improvement are critical. If you have any other specific feedback related to the worship or spiritual life of the church, do not hesitate to contact the ministerial team, myself, or other member of WSL.

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

Congratulations to **Valerie McEntee**. Starting June 1, she will be the Director of Christian Education at the Congregational Church of Belmont, UCC.

Louisa and Jim Shaul are on the way to recovery. Jim's finger surgery scheduled on May 19.

Andrea Ratkowski, daughter of Chris Neil and sister of John Neil, has almost recovered from her stroke.

Prayers of Comfort

Travis Edmonson, a good friend of Jon Karesh, passed away May 9, 2009.

Marianne Zimmerman, Marc Zimmerman's mother, passed away on May 10, 2009. Cards for the family, Marc and Leina and children Melia, Leilani, and Kamaile, can be sent to 85 Oriskany Dr., San Mateo, CA 94402.

Prayers of Healing

Fred Tileston is recovering from his bike accident at home. Visits and cards are welcome. (1060 Barroilhet, Hillsborough 94010)

Jon Karesh will be home this week. Prayers that his surgery for a long-standing foot injury has been successful.

Edith Alvarenga is recovering from pneumonia at home. Cards may be sent to 236 Anita Rd, Apt 5, Burlingame, CA 94010.

Margi Stone, scheduled for knee surgery May 21. Cards may be sent to 842 Highland Ave. #3, San Mateo, CA 94401.

In Our Prayers

Barbara Apolskis, Lynnelle Bilsey, Ruth Black, Miranda (a ten year old friend of the Block and Slonaker families), Sandi Blodgett, Gene Boaden, John Buckham, Gladys Cretan, Joan Daschbach, Erik and Ronnie Errichson, Ken Feldstein, Mary Jane Foltz, Penny Gahagen, Carol Glasmann, Tina (Doris Godinez-Phillips' friend), Ruth Gowen, Marjorie Griffin, Lorraine Gustafson, Al Hanna, Nancy Jalonen family, Gina (Joan Kilroe's daughter-in-law), Bridgette Jensen (Terri Litz's friend), Wolf-Joachim Lenigk, Jim Lowrie family, Marilyn Manion, Sue Miller, Betty Niederhaus, Eleanor Norberg, Martha Osborn, Elsie Phillips, Ruth Robinson, Marie Shepard.

The Music School

SING, MOVE, PLAY, & MORE...

Music School's Summer Camp

From **June 26 to July 24**, we will hold weekly music & art classes for two to three hours daily for your child's age. Parents can select the weeks they would like their children to attend. 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 or come to the C.E. Bldg. & pick up an application. For questions, contact Julie Berk or Cari Parker.

Sermon talk-back with Jerri, May 31

After worship on **May 31**, please participate in a short reflective conversation about Jerri Handy's sermon in the Fireplace Room from **11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.** The session will focus on the impact of the sermon: What are you taking away? Did you grasp an important idea or gain a deeper understanding of something? Sense movement of the Spirit? See any implications for your thoughts and actions? This conversation is different from an evaluation—what you liked or didn't like.



As you know, Jerri is finishing her first year of *field education* in our church; she will continue with us next year in *advanced field education*. One of her goals is to develop further her skills in preparing and delivering sermons; by hearing how she reached (or missed) you, she can grow as a preacher. There is a good chance that you will also gain from the conversation as you hear how the sermon spoke to others, and as you hear Jerri's reflections on our reflections.

—Jerri's Parish Teaching Committee: Julien Phillips, chairman
Nancy Jalonon, Lucy Lee, Shannon McEntee.



In March, geotechnical studies (core samples of soil) were conducted in connection with proposed CCSM Memorial Garden.

Bill Coye's Entry into the World of Commissioned Ministry

By Mike Mullery

On Friday April 17, our Music Director Bill Coye began his journey toward becoming a Commissioned Minister of Music, as authorized by the United Church of Christ. Bill along with Lynn Marie Coye, Commissioned Minister Betsy Woodward and Vice-Moderators Lee and Mike Mullery



attended the beginning question and answer session that day at the Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill. Also present was a five-member committee from the UCC Northern California/Nevada Conference. They will advise and mentor him during the coming year, with the hope and expectation that Bill will be granted the title of Commissioned Minister of Music in the spring of 2010. Bill demonstrated his passion for music throughout the meeting, most especially when he stated: "Human beings cannot exist without music!" Your fellow church members say Amen to that, Bill. Our prayers and best wishes are with you on this journey, as you grow in faith and in your ability to minister to others through music.

Liturgical Art Workshop:
Sat. June 20, 10a.m.-3p.m., Kloss Hall
Helpers needed to make CCSM summer banners for the sanctuary.



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.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE • TIME VALUED MAILING