

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. 64

Issue #8 · September/October 2015



Homecoming Sunday at CCSM!

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30am

FALL SERMON SERIES:

THE ROAD TO CHARACTER



October 4

World Communion Sunday

Family Worship

Topic: SELF-CONQUEST.

Sermon: *Daniel's Friends Take Some Heat.* Penny preaching.

October 11

Topic: WHAT TO DO WITH SUFFERING.

Sermon: *Mary's path to purpose.* Joliene Wade Gatlin preaching.

October 18

Pick-A-Party Sunday

Topic: THE SUMMONED LIFE.

Sermon: *Moses the Reluctant Leader.* Penny preaching.

October 25

Topic: RADICAL HONESTY.

Sermon: *James and the Giant Truth.* Penny preaching.

November 1

All Saints Day

Topic: FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

Sermon: *Esther, an Unlikely Saint.* Penny preaching.

November 8

Topic: SELF-MASTERY.

Sermon: *Paul: Progress, Not Perfection.* Penny preaching.

November 15

Topic: FROM AMBITION TO MEANING.

Sermon: *Jacob Wrestles his Way to Maturity.* Penny preaching.

November 22

Thanksgiving Service

Family Worship

Topic: SELF-ACCEPTANCE AND GRATITUDE.

Sermon: *Hagar's Perfect Eyesight.* Penny preaching.

Continue to engage with the Road to Character series through Joliene's blog on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/CCSM.UCC](https://www.facebook.com/CCSM.UCC)), meditation on Sundays and Mondays, yoga on Wednesdays, and conversation with other CCSMers!

Service and Justice at CCSM

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner!

by Kibbie Ruth

The line of church members shuffled along shaking hands and sweetly complimenting the sermon, until it was her turn. Glaring at me, she said bluntly, "I don't care what Jesus said; I am going to do what I want to!"

I was so new to preaching I just smiled a weak "Okay."

Actually, it's not okay! The Sunday text that morning was a parable about who's welcomed to dinner. In the parable, after the exclusive invited guests failed to show up, the king ordered his slaves to "go into the streets and invite everyone you find to the banquet." Guess the parishioner wanted to be pickier about who she fed.

The Samaritan House Dining Room was a banquet like the king's. Every weeknight, everyone was welcome regardless, regardless. Guests only had to sign their name for a headcount. No one had to prove they were worthy of dinner.

But in 2013, the church that had rented space to Samaritan House closed its doors to the diners, so the Dining Room moved out of the neighborhood further south to a temporary metal building and handed out dinners in clamshells. MSJ members grumbled until at least there were tables and chairs again. MSJ bought bowls for soup and real juice for the children. But the welcome was still dismal, and the location temporary.

Meanwhile MSJ explored moving the Dining Room to CCSM, but our space stays too busy. Undaunted, MSJ eyed that magnificent old building across from the CE Building—but connecting with the Masonic owners took creativity (including attending exercise

—Continued on page 5—

Children, Youth and Families

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Meet our new Lead Teachers and Godly Play Storytellers

Sandra SotoGrondona



I am delighted to join the team of Godly Play docents as the Storyteller in the 4th-5th grade classroom. I look forward to collaborating with parents and ministers for a well-rounded Christian intergenerational education program at CCSM.

I am passionate about teaching children as I think it is critical to pass knowledge on to the next generation—emphasizing the way we came to understand and interpret our world, as well as our mistakes. I also believe it is important to stay up-to-date with children's dynamic realm in order to learn as much from them.

I come from a strong Christian formation and consider myself a person of faith and a spiritual seeker. I learned and practiced the teachings of Liberation Theology as a catechist and while training social justice leaders in Latin America and working at several NGOs involved in social and environmental justice issues around the world.

For the last 13 years, I have been a mother of a wonderful boy and collaborated on sustainability matters with policy makers as a professional urban planner for the City of San Francisco. Nowadays, I teach children at various schools through Engineering For Kids, Inc. and in outdoor art and science summer camps with Follow The Child, Inc. among other fun programs for children.

Shannon McEntee

Shannon grew up at CCSM attending church school and participating in youth programs. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Music Therapy at University of the Pacific. For more than twelve years, Shannon has worked with children in various capacities. She earns her living as a full-time nanny for two separate families, each with their own unique needs for their children. She actively participates in playtime, and creates a meaningful and safe environment conducive to positive expression and growth. During her college years, she was blessed with opportunities to work with at-risk and special needs children.



Peace Village was blessed by her gifts as she was among the first cohort of teen/young adult Group Leaders. Shannon, along with her teammates, set the culture of peace-making now deeply embedded in the Peace Village experience.

Her following year at Peace Village, Shannon acted in a supervisory capacity for the youth counselors. Shannon's experiences with children cultivated in her a deep love of children and passion about their journeys of growth and learning—all of which she brings to her 2nd-3rd grade Godly Play classroom.

Fall Church School: Road to Character series

Let's be on this journey together.

Date	Adults' Road: Sermon Themes	Kids' Road: Godly Play Stories
Sept. 13	Adam I and Adam II: two human natures	Second Creation: the "Falling Apart"
Sept. 20	The Shift: Joseph and the Big Me	Joseph Part I: the young man who loves to show off
Sept. 27	Dignity: Joseph Rises Above His Dreams	Joseph Part II: growing into a man with grace under pressure
Oct. 4: World Communion Sunday, FAMILY WORSHIP	Self-Conquest: Daniel Takes Some Heat	Families worship together in the sanctuary
Oct. 11	What To Do With Suffering: Mary's Path to Purpose	Mary's Story: bringing up Jesus
Oct. 18	The Summoned Life: Moses the Reluctant Leader	Moses: the reluctant leader
Oct. 25	Radical Honesty: James and the Giant Truth	Elijah: the brave truth-teller
Nov. 1	For the Greater Good: Esther, and Unlikely Saint	Esther: a woman who cares about others
Nov. 8	Self-Mastery: Paul—progress, not perfection	Paul's Discovery
Nov. 15	From Ambition to Meaning: Jacob Wrestles to Maturity	Jacob: climbing a character ladder
Nov. 22: FAMILY WORSHIP	Self-Acceptance: Hagar's Perfect Eyesight	Families worship together in the sanctuary

PEACE VILLAGE RETURNS Calling for Peace Village Group Leaders

DECEMBER 28-31, 2015

This year, the interfaith peace education camp for kids ages 7-13 will be held December 28-31, 2015. What a way for kids, youth and adults from local Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities to end 2015 – as friends learning together about peace. Your child/ren will not want to miss it!

REGISTER NOW! [Click here <villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage>](http://villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage) for more information and on-line registration. Scholarships are available. For information, contact Bonnie, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org.

Please register today as space is limited.

Inside Out Communication: a workshop for youth (ages 12-19) and their parents Saturday, October 24, 10 AM-Noon, Youth Room

Curious? Click the link that describes you.

I'm an [adolescent](http://goo.gl/gu0cpr). goo.gl/gu0cpr

I'm the [parent of an adolescent](http://goo.gl/qLr5cj). goo.gl/qLr5cj
(bi-curious? Go ahead and click both.)

Crossing the Threshold - Volunteer Opportunity

We have three thriving Godly Play classrooms, PreK-5th grade. Each is full of children who are wondering, listening, exploring and sharing. Each is in need of caring adults who are welcoming, caring and fun. The gift of learning with children is available at our church without requiring a lot of outside preparation. If you'd like to learn more about the very important **Doorkeeper Role** in the Godly Play learning environment, please contact Bonnie, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org. (Volunteers working with children will be asked to sign a Covenant and provide a social security number for background check.)

Welcoming Patrick Kane, our new Director of Youth Ministries

Patrick first came to CCSM as a high school student, when his family was looking for a church with a youth program that provided fellowship as well as opportunities for service work with other youth. He became a member of CCSM a few years ago, and has been an active volunteer with the youth program at the church. When he's not at CCSM, he is also active in the wider church, and currently serves as chair of the Conference Outdoor Ministries Committee, and is an active volunteer with the UCC Conference camping and youth programs.



Patrick is excited about taking on the role of Director of Youth Ministries here at CCSM, and is looking forward to working with the congregation to mold and shape the youth program, following the example of radical welcome and inclusion that CCSM has set.

If you enjoy spending time with children, learning about peace, building an interfaith youth community, being amazed at different religious traditions, acquiring community service hours and earning a work stipend during a school break – you may be the perfect candidate for a position as a Peace Village Group Leader. This opportunity is open to current high school and college students. Click [HERE <villagerelations.com/peace-village-san-mateo-group-leaders>](http://villagerelations.com/peace-village-san-mateo-group-leaders) to apply.

Peace Village Group Leader Mandatory Training Dates:

- ♦ Nov. 15, 1-5 PM at Peninsula Temple Beth El
- ♦ Dec. 13, 1-5 PM at CCSM
- ♦ Peace Village: December 28-31, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM at CCSM, PTBE (and may include other field trips)

PARENT/YOUNG KID HANGOUT Sunday, October 4 after church

Parents with young kids, join us on the grass after church on Sunday, October 4th for a Parent/Kid Hangout. We will have food to share and bubbles to blow! Come for conversation and connection with others on the parenting journey. Contact Nicole Lamarche with questions: Nicole@siliconvalleyprogressivefaith.org

Youth News from Patrick

Thank you all for the warm well-wishes on my new position of Director of Youth Ministries here at CCSM. It's been so great to see up close just how much support there is in our congregation for the youth of this church, and that everyone is looking forward to what is to come.

October 4th marks the fall kick-off to our youth programs! The **MID-HIGH YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting the first and third Sundays of the month, from 6-7:30pm in the youth room (there will be dinner!). **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH** will be meeting every Sunday, following worship 11:30am (-ish)-1:00pm (lunch included!).

On October 30th, our friends at the First Congregational Church of San Jose have invited us to join them for their Halloween all-night 6th-12th grade youth event! The event runs from 8pm Friday October 30 to 8am Saturday the 31st. Get more details and register over at goo.gl/oDyWFn

November 7th, the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC is hosting their Fall Youth Event overnight for high school youth! The event will be held at Peace United Church of Christ in Santa Cruz, and will go from 1pm on Saturday to 11:30am Sunday. Head on over to nccucc.org/2015-fall-youth-event/ to get more info and to register!

Exciting News from Your Moderator

by Jeanne Back

I am so very pleased to be able to share with you that **the Board of Ministries has unanimously voted to make Kibbie Ruth's role official**, formally adding her to our ministry staff at CCSM as our Minister for Social Justice!

As such, Kibbie is responsible for educating, engaging and encouraging direct experience of CCSM congregants in service and justice efforts, locally and globally. Kibbie will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Service and Justice to create opportunities for all of us to serve others and to advance justice through advocacy and volunteer efforts.

There is even more good news!

Because of the generosity of an anonymous donor, we are able to go even further in our shared passion for issues of justice by **launching a community analysis initiative**. A "Community Analysis" is a methodology used by churches to

interpret the culture of a surrounding community so as to better navigate—with supplication—through the visible and more hidden realities of its neighborhood.

It includes gathering and analyzing data. However, it is also building real relationships and appreciating the unquantifiable realities of a community—the underlying history, the culture, the spiritual life, and the unique personalities—so as to minister in a way that is relevant.

Our goal for this project is to better understand how CCSM can indeed become more relevant in the neighborhood that we have called home for 151 years.

I am happy to announce that our Minister in Training, **Jorge Perry Bautista, will be leading this project** and that Jorge will continue to serve as our Minister in Training until his ordination at which point in time he can officially become our **Minister of Community Engagement**.

Please join me in congratulating Kibbie and Jorge in their roles!



Ann Lamberston representing at the CCSM Bayfront Cleanup Day

You've heard this before . . .

While you were enjoying your summer activities, the church continued to operate each Sunday and the doors were open during the week. **If you did not keep up to date on your pledge, now would be a good time to bring it up to date.** Pledge income, the primary source of funding for the ongoing expenses of the church, has lagged over the summer and bringing your pledge current would be most helpful. If you have any questions about your pledge amount or what you have paid to date, call Pearly at 650-343-3694.



Where's Penny? (a la Where's Waldo?)

October 13-15, Penny will be a featured speaker at The Center for Innovation in Ministry Presents: RITUAL ARTISTRY IN WORSHIP LAB

Music. Drama. Poetry. Storytelling. Spoken Word. Mixed Media Art. How can these forms of expression be woven into worship to provide a transformative experience? The most sought-after ritual artists will gather for the first time ever in one location to lead the following workshops:

Think Like a Filmmaker, Dr. Marcia McFee • *Creating Sacred Spaces for Transformative Worship*, Alexandra Childs • *Visual Homiletics and the Art of Curated Conversations*, Ted Lyddon Hatten • *Scoring a Worship Experience*, Chuck Bell • *Getting the 'Word' Out: Biblical Storytelling Coming Alive*, Phil Porter • *Preaching as Authentic Conversation*, Dr. G. Penny Nixon • *Children in Worship*, Mark Burrows

On Friday, October 23, Penny will also be the luncheon plenary speaker at the Housing Leadership Council at their conference at College of San Mateo.



CCSM's crew of Bay Front Cleanup Workers were out in force in September!

5 Forgiveness Films and Book Discussion @ CCSM

Mondays: November 2, December 7, February 1, March 7, April 4

6 - 8 pm, Buckham Room



On the first Monday night of the month for five months, we'll gather for two hours to talk about the meaning of forgiveness—90 minutes to watch a film & 30 minutes for group

discussion.

We'll talk about developing forgiveness muscles and deepening our spiritual practice through wisdom and practices of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism readings, films, and personal reflections, and we'll study the role of forgiveness and reconciliation in the wake of injustice on a larger and/or institutional scale.

We will: describe in our own words what forgiveness is and is not; explain how a grievance story is created; cite examples of how forgiveness promotes health and well-being; identify scriptures and practices regarding forgiveness; describe their progress in applying forgiveness in our own lives and ministries; and listen and support others on their journeys toward forgiveness. A book recommendation for this group is *Forgive for Good* by Dr. Fred Luskin.

To sign up, contact Dakota Brown 415-244-3696 or dakotaorange2004@yahoo.com

7th Annual Interfaith Choral Concert:

The Messiah

—a Benefit for Home and Hope—

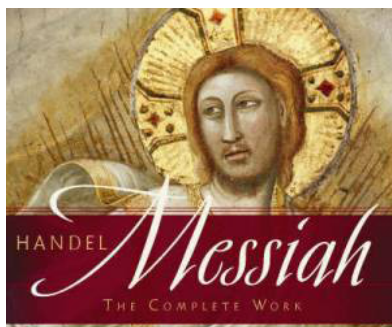
November 22 • 5pm

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew

1 South El Camino Real, San Mateo

We are looking forward to a very exciting concert this year, with the *Messiah sing-along concert* being the culminating event of St. Matthew's 150-year anniversary celebration! We have come full circle as the very first concert took place at St. Matthews 7 years ago. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 from this concert for Home and Hope.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



Films:

1. *The Power of Forgiveness* (2008) 78 min. Documentary: an Amish community, survivors of Sept. 11, people from Northern Ireland and others share their views on how forgiveness has helped to alleviate their grief and resentment.

2. *The Cats of Mirikitani* (2006) 74 min. Documentary about a homeless Japanese artist imprisoned in an internment camp during WWII and what it takes for him to let go of anger and resentment.

3. *Amish Grace* (2010) 88 min. Documentary about the 2006 shootings at an Amish schoolhouse that depicts the difficulties and complexities of the spiritual practice of forgiveness.

4. *Forgiving Dr Mengele* (2006) 82 min. Documentary: Eva Mozes Kor and her twin sister, Miriam, the girls were able to survive Auschwitz; much of their family did not. Kor returns to Auschwitz on a quest to heal her wounds with an astonishing and controversial act of forgiveness.

5. *A Man Named Pearl* (2006) 78 min. Documentary about the life an African American man who turned obstacles into breathtakingly beautiful possibilities in a magical garden as well as his extraordinary life, both of which serve as inspirations to his family, his community, and the thousands of visitors who come to experience Pearl's world each year.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner!

—cont. from p. 1—

classes there in hopes of ferreting out who to call for information). Phone calls weren't returned; no website existed. Then in late July, the city told Samaritan House there'd be no more use of the metal building—move the Dining Room by the end of September!

What seemed like a crisis soon turned into a miracle. Someone knew someone in the Masons. Slowly the details were worked out... and last week the "deal" closed! In a three-way collaboration, the Masons graciously invited our neighbors to dine at their Temple starting October 5. Samaritan House is thrilled to have the Dining Room closer to families in the North Central area and to continue to partner with CCSM on other service/justice challenges. Now CCSM can personally connect with our community as we greet and serve meals to the hungry right across the street. On third Wednesdays when the Masonic Temple isn't available, dinner is at our place!

Want to be a part of this magic? Send a note to kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org.

AN ASSORTMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES AT CCSM

Music and Art: Guest artist Linda Salter

Friday, October 16 at noon • Buckham Room

This month's Music and Art program will be award winning artist, Linda Salter, who will share her skills in pastels and oils with the group. She has a studio at the Peninsula Art Institute in Burlingame. Remember to bring your own sandwich/salad; dessert and beverages provided. Guests and new members are always welcome.



Reserve your place by calling Pat Pepper, 650-343-4266 or Bonny Armacost, 650-315-2999.

Homework Central needs more tutors!

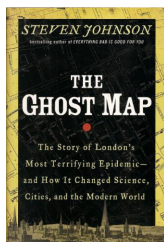
If you are searching for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, there are some students in North Central San Mateo who are looking for you! They are hoping you would assist them with their homework, learn about their lives, and become a friend. These 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are struggling academically but they really want to succeed. With your patient help, they can! What would your commitment be? You commit to coming once a week for two hours. You sit down with 2-3 students and help them complete their homework... math, reading, spelling, and maybe a little science sprinkled in. You will become attached to your new friends and they will become attached to you. Ask Mary Ann Notz, Karen Stern, Lani Leydig, Phil Lind or Betsy Woodward. They are regular tutors and they can tell you why they come!



First Tuesday Book Group

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30-9:00pm • Fireplace Room

Our October book, *The Ghost Map* by Steven Johnson is a riveting page-turner with a real-life historical hero that brilliantly illuminates the spread of viruses, rise of cities, and the nature of scientific inquiry. The book takes place in the summer of 1854 when a devastating cholera outbreak seizes London, a modern city of more than 2 million people. Dr. John Snow—whose ideas about contagion had been dismissed by the scientific community—is spurred to intense action when the people in his neighborhood begin dying.



Please read it and bring your opinion of the book to our group. We are a diverse group of people who LOVE TO READ! So each discussion is lively and thought provoking. You are welcome to join us this time or any time. November's book is *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion and we will choose books for 2016 in October and November. Please contact Susan Stoehr to be added to the email list (s_stoehr@hotmail.com) or Betsy Woodward for questions (betsdce@comcast.net).

Tutoring is from 3-5 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 1-3 on Wednesday. And in four spaces: Martin Luther King Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, Sunnybrae School and San Mateo Park School. Each site is unique and wonderful. Please join us. It will become your favorite day of the week! Talk to Betsy Woodward, 650-571-9359, or Holly Miner, volunteer@smhwc.org if you wish to tutor.

20/30s at CCSM: Join us for Dinner!

A group of young adults (between 20 and 40) is forming at CCSM. We're getting to know each other and San Mateo by getting together for dinner, drinks, and conversation. We've recently checked out Mango Garden, Curry Up Now, Little China Kitchen, and had a make-your-own-pizza party (thanks, Mike and Kristen!). Join us!



COMING UP:

October 12, 7:00 p.m.: Roti Indian Bistro • 201 E 3rd Ave., San Mateo

October 27, 7:00 p.m.: The Counter • 41 W Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo

If you have suggestions for places to go, things to do, or have questions, email Jolien: jgatlin@ccsm-ucc.org

Wednesday Yoga with Kate

Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:00am
Buckham Room

Our very popular yoga class has started up again with CCSM member and yoga teacher Kate Joyce. This spiritual practice is a gentle class for people with wide-ranging physical abilities/limitations to participate fully. The class will also incorporate the week's scripture reading(s) and sermon topic. Come join Kate on Wednesday mornings! .



Class is free but optional donations directly to Kate are welcomed.

Monday Sitting Meditation with Penny Continues

Mondays, 12:30pm

Come sit in silence in the upstairs library with experienced and beginner meditators. Sit in a chair or bring your own cushion. Penny leads a brief reflection then we meditate together. A nice group comes out each week.



CHURCH DAY RETURNS!

Saturday, October 24 at CCSM • 8:30am – 4:00pm

The Northern California Nevada Conference UCC is hosting Church Day at CCSM. Church Day is a gathering for lay members and ministers in churches of all shapes and sizes to come together for connecting, learning and growing. Workshops on Tech Tools for Ministry, Generosity, and Congregational Growth will be offered, along with many more. Boundary Training for authorized ministers will be held concurrently. Morning refreshments, lunch and childcare are provided.

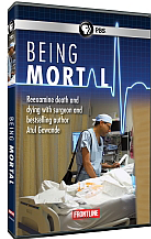


Registration at \$15 per person is required. For a complete description of workshops, schedule, and to register, go to nccucc.org/church-day-boundary-training-2015-registration/.

Wise and Wonderful Seniors talk about Being Mortal with Penny

Wednesday, October 7th, 10:30 am – noon

Come watch the Frontline Documentary Being Mortal and then have a discussion about what really matters.



FRONTLINE follows renowned New Yorker writer and Boston surgeon Atul Gawande as he explores the relationships doctors have with patients who are nearing the end of life. The film investigates the practice of caring for the dying, and shows how doctors are often remarkably untrained, ill-suited and uncomfortable talking about chronic illness and death with their patients

Ballots, Bullets, and Bargains: American Foreign Policy and Presidential Elections

Author Mike Armacost (CCSM Member) talks about his new book

Sunday, November 1st, 11:45 a.m. Kloss Hall

Drawing on twenty-four years of experience in government, Michael H. Armacost explores how the contours of the U.S. presidential election system



influence the content and conduct of American foreign policy. He examines how the nomination battle impels candidates to express deference to the foreign policy DNA of their party and may force an incumbent to make wholesale policy adjustments to fend off an intra-party challenge for the nomination. He describes the way reelection campaigns can prod a chief executive to fix long-neglected problems, kick intractable policy dilemmas down the road, settle for modest course corrections, or scapegoat others for policies gone awry.

Community Opportunity

The Peninsula Multifaith Coalition, which sponsors the Martin Luther King Day of Service among other things, is looking for a CCSM member to represent CCSM on its board, which meets approximately one evening a month to plan the MLK event and other interfaith opportunities all year long. Is there anyone who would like to be that board member?



Please contact Penny at the church office or pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org.

DO YOU LOVE CHILDREN?

Then encourage them to read! Samaritan House is dedicated to promoting literacy in their young clients by distributing over 3,000 books each year! You can help by donating to **CCSM's October Book Drive**. Your gently-used books will then be available year-round to Samaritan House youth of all ages (babies to teens). New books will be saved to thrill a child during the holidays. Every young person visiting Samaritan House's Holiday Toy Shop in December will get to choose two new books.

Please bring your books to church. At worship, children can bring your donations forward as an offering at the "Time for Children" (or leave your books in the bins in Kloss Hall or the CE Building).



Over 40 Neighborhood Families attended Homework Central's Mad Science Family night last week. The students were enthralled. One father helps his young son write on the paper tablecloth.

Check us out at
ccsm-ucc.org



Delegation to investigate root causes of immigration from Central America returns and meets the press at SFO. Kibbie is speaking about the traumatic effects for the people if the Alliance of Prosperity is passed by Congress and the need for immigration reform to focus on human dignity rather than fear.

NEW MEMBERS • September 27, 2015

MICHAEL & SUZANNE HILL

Michael and Suzanne arrived in Redwood City via Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Florida. Michael is a retired Hospital Association CEO and Legislator. Suzanne is an occupational therapist. They enjoy writing, genealogy, and their grandchildren. They are enthusiastic about the energy, music, message and the people at the CCSM. Michael served as Moderator of the Spring Hill Florida United Church of Christ.



TODD BOWER

Todd lives in Hillsborough with his wife Janet Bower. They have two children and four grandchildren. Todd was born in Portland, Oregon and grew up in Arizona, California and New Jersey. Todd enjoys golfing, exercise and reading and loves the thriving ministry at CCSM for all people in all places of life. Todd is an Internet marketing consultant and also serves as Executive Director of Critical Reach, a non-profit founded in 1995.



RICK & TEREASA NEE

Rick and Tereasa reside in San Carlos and are parents of three daughters; Shelby Young, 15, Sydney Young, 13, and Sharlotte (Charley) Nee, 4 (pictured). Rick is from Boston and is a High Tech Global Sales Manager. Tereasa is a local from Belmont. He enjoys reading, learning, and running. Tereasa enjoys reading, running, yoga, spending time with family and friends and she loves to laugh. They both appreciate the open and accepting environment at CCSM.



DEBORAH (DEBBIE) CHANG & CARLA HAMMONS

Debbie and Carla live in South San Francisco. Debbie is originally from New York and New Jersey and Carla is from Oklahoma City. Debbie is the Head of PTD Learning and Development and Carla is retired. Tennis is Debbie's hobby and Carla enjoys art. They love everything about CCSM and attend church with their two service dogs. Debbie most recently was President of the Church Council at San Francisco St. John's UCC before leaving.



HOLLY AGUILAR

Holly Aguilar lives in Belmont with her son Rowan (8). She is from Kentucky and is a physician. She enjoys yoga, cooking, gardening, and body pump. She appreciates the open-mindedness of CCSM.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Joy...

Barb Karlin's son Jesse Karlin was married on September 26 to Sedona Turner in Carmel. Congratulations and blessings!

Rev. Bonnie Rambob was ordained at CCSM on August 15. We are grateful to God for Bonnie's deep faith, vision and loving presence as she serves as our Transitional Minister of Intergenerational Education.

Happy Birthday to very special people who are celebrating very special birthdays in October: **Penny Gahagen** (October 4), **Max Miller** (October 5), and **George Parker** (October 19).

Elizabeth Schwandt, daughter of Alison and Jim Schwandt, was married August 30, 2015 to **John Siami**. Congratulations to the newlyweds--blessings on your life together!

Dr. Jim and Lorna Groundwater happily announce the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, **Austin Wayne Groundwater**, born September 1, 2015. Joy abounds!

Trish Green and Janelle Bradford found an apartment in Southern California, which they will be able to move into in October. Prayers for Trish and Janelle as they make the transition to a new home and a new life.

Laura Van Hagen offers prayers of thanksgiving for **Bryan's** new opportunity with the Stockton Police Department, and for **Mark's** clean CT scan and continued good health.

Sharon Tobin's son John, is healing well and has returned to work.

Prayers of Comfort...

Longtime member **Ron Trowse** passed away on September 24, 2015 after many years of struggling with Parkinson's. The Trowses were very active at CCSM for many years and moved to the North Bay ten years ago.

Kay Harris' sister, Penny Sullivan, passed away on August 31 with Kay by her side. Please keep Kay and her family in prayer as they hold Penny in their hearts.

Prayers of Healing and Support...

The thousands of refugees leaving Syria, in search of safety, food, healthcare and a better life, and for all who are addressing their resettlement, are in need of prayers as they seek solutions to the crisis.

All those affected by the earthquake in Chile and the first-responders tending to their immediate needs are remembered in our prayers.

The many people who have experienced loss due to the wildfires and floods in the western region of the U.S. Prayers for their comfort and for the firefighters' safety are lifted up during this time of trial.

Cathy Latta and her daughter Lily have moved to Fort Worth, Texas to be closer to family. Prayers for Cathy and Lily as Cathy seeks a new job, settles into a new home and manages severe headaches. Cathy and Lily will be greatly missed at CCSM.

Betty Stout had another fall. Please pray for management of her pain and for her continuing rehabilitation.

Kathleen Erwin, Maureen Martin's cousin, is completing her cancer treatment. Maureen would like prayers for Kathleen's full recovery.

Vera Pitts has now returned to the Assisted Living area of the Peninsula Regent. Continued prayers for Vera's rehabilitation are requested.

Janet Bower continues to heal well and gain strength. She will be on medical leave for several more weeks. Janet is grateful for the prayers and well-wishes she has received and is looking forward to returning to ministry at CCSM very soon.

Shawn, a friend of Genel Morgan and Sharon Tobin, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Prayers for Shawn's strength and healing as he undergoes treatment.

Update from **Tom Banks**: "Rae continues to receive loving care in the dementia unit where we live. I spend an hour or more with her each day. I have finished my PT after the two hip fractures. I am getting around with an assist from a cane and am now living independently in my cottage. We are thankful that my daughter, **Deborah Brodhag**, who is under care for metastasized lung cancer, is finally moving home after being either in a hospital or in a rehab facility since April. She is being treated with a specially formulated drug rather than chemotherapy and is doing so much better. Greetings to my many friends at CCSM!"

Please pray for **Kate Engelberg (friend of Holly Allen and Camille Grant)**, **Paula (sister-in-law of Kirsten Smith)**, **Janice Kennedy (cousin of Margaret and Gordon Smith)**, **Randy (nephew of Stan Higgs)**, **Bill Daniels**, **Emily Tomasi**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

Continuing prayers for **Ruth Black, Marjorie Griffin, Penny Gahagen, Martha Grannis, Lorraine Gustafson, Martha Imai, George Kromhout, Rosalee Lower, Jim Lowrie, Phyllis Mead, Adrienne Mitchell, Genevieve and John Parsons, Fred Petri, Janet Smith Roberts (sister of Gordon Smith), June Schutte, Eva Thomson, Virginia Weir and Travis Woodmansee**.

The pastoral staff wants to thank you for sharing your joys and concerns with us. There are many that we pray for each week; some we can share with the congregation and some we are asked to hold in confidence. Please know that all of your joys and concerns are important. You may contact the church office or email jbower@ccsm-ucc.org if you need support during the week.



Thanks to the diligent organization of Trisha Violette, over thirty CCSM volunteers pulled trash from the Bay and waterways. They could have posed for a Tide commercial afterwards! If you are interested in other environmental justice efforts, please send a note to kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org.

Pick-A-Party 2015

Our annual "Pick-A-Party" fundraiser is underway -- we are collecting party offerings yet this week and into next. We very much hope you will wish to host

a party this year. While dinner parties are popular, there are many wonderful ways to throw a party. New party ideas and hosts are welcome and appreciated.

Submit your party offering online <ccsm-ucc.org/Pick-A-Party/> or via paper form after worship or at the CCSM office. We hope to receive your party offering by Sunday, October 4.

We will distribute the list of parties on October 11 so you can decide in advance which parties you wish to purchase. October 18 is "Pick-A-Party Sunday"; parties will be offered for purchase in Kloss Hall starting at 9:45 a.m.

Pick-A-Party is a great way to enjoy the fellowship of CCSM members and friends while supporting our church financially. Questions? Contact us via email at ccsmpickaparty@gmail.com or by phone at 650-346-6114 (Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh) or 650-544-7563 (Carol Henton).



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The Pine Tree

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DATES for your CALENDAR

October

10/4	World Communion Sunday	11/7	Youth Fall Event
	Parent/Young Kid Hangout	11/20	God Talk interactive presentation
10/6	Hear, Reflect, Share discussion	11/22	Thanksgiving Sunday (Family Worship)
10/7	WiWos with Penny		Interfaith Choral Concert
10/12	20s/30s Dinner	11/29	Forum on Human Trafficking (1st Sunday of Advent)
10/16	Music & Art		
10/18	Pick-A-Party Sunday		
10/24	NCNC-UCC Church Day		
	Inside Out Communication		
10/25	Pick-A-Party Second Chance		
	New Member Joining Sunday		
10/27	20s/30s Dinner		
10/30	Halloween Youth Event		
10/31	Angela's Halloween Organ Concert		

November

Fill a Bag/Box-- November	
11/1	All Saints Day Kids Christmas Sale and Daylight Savings
	Mike Armacost book talk
11/2	Forgiveness Film Series

December

12/5	CCSM Holiday Party
12/6	Masterworks Chorale Concert
12/7	Forgiveness Film Series
12/13	CCSM Christmas Concert
12/20	Franc D'Ambrosio Christmas Concert at CCSM
12/20	Christmas Pageant, Soup and Caroling
12/28-31	Peace Village (8:30 – 4:30)