



ECSM NEWS

Community Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg
Sharing Ministry with
First Congregational Church of Antioch



October 2015, Volume XXII, Issue 9

From the CPC Pastor



Dear Friends,

Today I watched the arrival of the Pope with a couple of Catholic friends, Father Tom and June Kirk, at the Interfaith Peace Project in Antioch. It was after our Tuesday morning study group that Tom led on the Encyclical, and I hung

around to discuss a couple of things. Soon we found ourselves looking up the Pope's schedule while here in America and we watched as our elected leaders greet him on the tarmac.

It was a special moment as I could tell that Tom and June were taking in the specialness of this moment in history. There was a pomp and circumstance to the greeting, but most of all humility on the part of the Pope. He was very personal with both the Catholic religious leaders and political leaders, as well as the children there to greet him. The limited number in the crowds chanted a welcome. And then something more than symbolic occurred. The Pope got into a small four-door Fiat 500 car and waved as he left for the Embassy.

The Secret Service vehicles went before and after the little car, and the visual clash was surprisingly obvious. Instead of a decked out limousine carrying the flag of the Vatican, a little car half of the size of the black Expeditions was driving down the street with the Pope dressed in white waving out the back door windows of the tiny car. We discussed the church leader at one of the churches where Pope Francis – "Brother Francis" as Tom likes to call him – will be leading Mass. The priest found a high back chair that the Cardinal usually uses when he leads there, and June mentioned that Stephen Colbert put out a Pope chair on "The Late Show" and it was a folding chair with the word "Pope" written with a magic marker. What a contrast.

Of course, not everyone loves this Pope. Climate change deniers and defenders of Capitalism have shared some harsh words lately. Many Native

From the FCCA Pastor



Dear Friends,

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:2

In a sermon he preached towards the end of his visit to Cuba, Pope Francis said, "We are asked to live the revolution of tenderness as Mary (the mother of Jesus) did."

Revolution of tenderness....

The words, "revolution of tenderness" carry such power. The pope completely redefined revolution in a country that has experienced a very different kind of revolution. What the pope is speaking to is a change of heart, a revolution in our own hearts. An older gentleman who was in the Cuban crowd listening to the pope said he was moved by the message. He went on to say, "Revolution isn't a political event. Revolution is evolution. That's what the pope is asking for, that our way of thinking evolves. He's opening up a lot of people's minds (and hearts)."

Revolution of tenderness...

Recently, stories of Syrian refugees fleeing their war torn country and images of victims of the California fires have filled our waking hours and haunted our dreams. Often the suffering appears overwhelming. Millions are fleeing Syria, thousands have been left homeless by the fires. Can we join the revolution of tenderness as we respond to the suffering we see.

Revolution of tenderness...

Before Hungary closed her borders, members of local churches were present in train stations

*Pastor Will continues on page 2...
Pastor Christy continues on page 3...*

Pastor Will continues...

Americans have rightly questioned the sainthood bid of Junipero Serra, the California Franciscan Priest who founded many of the Missions and has quite a mixed record in the way he treated First Nation peoples. Some conservative Catholics take umbrage at his informal way of focusing on the needs of people in the church and the poor – especially around Climate Change, preferring the previous Popes who focused on preserving the dogma and teachings of the church. I've heard it from more than one Catholic person that they fear for Pope Francis' life, especially during this trip to America.

Perhaps this is also why a number of people have fallen in love with Pope Francis (including my wife), because of his humility and ease around the people he meets. His theology is people centered as well, encouraging Priests to be pastoral and forgiving when serving in the confessional and welcoming the divorced back to the Eucharistic Table. It seems he operates more as a Friar, a Franciscan Brother, than a Jesuit academic. He loves mercy more than justice, while calling the Catholic church and the Church Universal to care more for the poor. I expect him to ask the American churches and convents to take in a family of refugees as he has called on the European churches to do. He even said that a congregation that refuses to take in a family shouldn't be a tax-exempt organization any longer.

In our Presbyterian Book of Order, a part of the Constitution of the PCUSA, we read about what the mission of the church is. Our present Book of Order describes Membership in this way in G-1.0304 *The Ministry of Members*.

"Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- *proclaiming the good news in word and deed,*
- *taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,*
- *lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,*
- *studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,*
- *supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,*

- *demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,*
- *responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,*
- *living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,*
- *working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,*
- *participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and*
- *reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful."*

An older version included this phrase that I'm sorry doesn't remain in our latest version: *"The Church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life, trusting in God alone as the author and giver of life, sharing the gospel, and doing those deeds in the world that point beyond themselves to the new reality in Christ."*

Perhaps this is what the Pope can remind us and the rest of the American Christian church about in this age of consumerism, individuality and political excess. Perhaps a new form of Christianity can arise from the public discourse of faith, beyond the intolerant voices found on television – perhaps we can reclaim a truer version of the purpose of the church – that of local and global service, humility and love, and extravagant welcome.

Together we serve,

Pastor Will

Pastor's Schedule: Pastor Will will be out of town Oct. 8 – 11 and on vacation to attend the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City, Oct. 13-20th. He will be on Study Leave on Oct. 27-30th returning for Sunday service. Contact Pastor Christy at (510) 847-4650 if needed during these days.

Pastor Christy continues...

and temporary refugee camps offering food, water, diapers and encouragement. Additionally, Church World Service, an organization that we have supported for years, is instrumental in helping to resettle Syrian Refugees. The Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Christ are committed to working to help refugee families get the support they need to begin new lives. The NCNCUCC Conference offered immediate aid to victims of the California fires. We are partners with others as we hear the call to this revolution of tenderness.

Revolution of tenderness...

Jesus calls us to respond with open hearts to those who are suffering. As those called to follow Jesus, we open our hearts and minds to be transformed by the power of love. As we read in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that...you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Revolution of tenderness...

Together, let's join the revolution....nurturing the tender heart of the church. We are partnering with other churches to respond to both the Syrian Refugee crisis and the California fires. Responding both as a church and individually, let's seek out ways to offer support. Clothes, food and money are needed immediately to support fire victims. Down the road, as events unfold we may consider sponsoring a Syrian refugee family.

Revolution of tenderness...

Joining the revolution of tenderness, we invite Christ's love to work through us.... praying that the Holy Spirit may guide our responses.

May it be so.

Blessings,
Christy

**Weekly Worship Services CPC-FCCA
October 18th will be our monthly**

Sparkle Sunday

*wear something that shines to share the light of Christ.
Bring a can of food or a donation for the food banks.*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANTIOCH

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



FCCA Cabinet will meet in the Stoneman Room on Sunday, October 18th following worship.

The Northern California Nevada Conference

UCC is hosting Church Day, Saturday, Oct. 24, at Congregational Church of San Mateo, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 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.

In Memorium: Cherrie McNeilly died peacefully on Friday, September 18, 2015. Her daughter and granddaughter were by her side. Sympathy cards may be sent to
Karen Crabaugh
720 Almond Dr.
Oakley, CA 94561

Vicki McGuire sends her thanks for the school supplies given so generously.

Announcement from the Fish Family...

Our newest grandbaby, Shane, born on International Day of Peace to Jase & Erin Fish, weighing 9.4 lbs and 21.5 inches tall, is our 6th Grandchild.
Mama and Baby are doing well.



THE SHARED LIFE OF THE CHURCH

World Communion Sunday is October 4th;
Neighbor's in Need Offering and Peace & Global Witness
offering will be received.

Upcoming Small Group Meetings:

The **Joint FCCA-CPC Women's Luncheon** will
next meet Wednesday, October 7th at 11:30am at Cre
Asian Restaurant, Pittsburg

Theology Pub: Tuesday, Oct. 6th at 7:00 pm
at Viva Mexico, 1335 Buchanan Rd., Pittsburg.

Mondays in Antioch: We meet at 10:00 am at St.
George's Episcopal Church, 301 E. 13th Street, for an
informal time of conversation, prayer & study.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: We meet every
Tuesday morning at 10:00 am in the CSR to explore
various biblical and theological issues.

Outreach Committee: Our next meeting will be
Monday, October 12th at 1:00 pm in the CSR.

LGBT Film Night: Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00
pm "Three to Infinity: Beyond Two Genders" in the CSR.
Don't miss it! Bring a snack to share and share in the fun.
All are invited! Save Tuesday, November 24th for the next
movie.

Fellowship Ministry: Our next meeting will be
October 7 at 2:00 PM in the Camp Stoneman Room. All
are welcome to attend and help us plan the fellowship
opportunities we have in the future. If you have questions
about this please ask me. Mary Burks

Worship Committee: Our next meeting will be
Wednesday, October 21st at 4:00 pm in at Ann Custer's
home.

Free Lunch Event: Our church will now host free
lunches every 3rd Saturday of the month for the
community. Seated lunches will be served in October &
November. Bagged lunch will be provided in
December. We are looking for volunteers! Please call
(925) 439-9361 to learn more about this program.

YOUTH GROUP

think . . . Youth Group Adventures

The next youth group meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 13
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm in the Stoneman Room. We will have
dinner, games, discussion, and something spiritual. As
always, friends are welcome.
Oct. 24 we will head on field trip to the ICAN event on
Food at St. Michael's and Mt Diablo High School, meet at
the church at 2:30 pm. Dinner included. RSVPs required.

Happy Birthday!

October



3	Kellie Kenney
4	James G. Bellinger, III
8	Haley Lamb
	Kendall Lanstrom
10	Lois Zollars
11	Jacob Hill-Broers
13	Margaret Diest Lorgion
15	Lois Arseneau
16	Lisa Hansen
17	Justin Shipe
	Holly Thon
19	Mary Lynne Peck
20	Jacob Conant
22	Allan Grissette
	Jay Shipe
25	Kathy Anderson
	Ted Webb Jr.
	Alex Schoolcraft
29	Doug Conant
31	Jane Fish

Happy Anniversary!

October



17 George and Jude Stephens

**Contact Jessica, the Church Secretary, to add your
Birthday & Anniversary to our records today!*

Beautiful Weddings in the Camp Stoneman Chapel:

*If you or someone you know is getting
married, I would love to meet with them and
help to plan their big day.*

Lisa Hansen ~ CPC Wedding Coordinator.

Please contact our Events Coordinator, Jessica
Natal for information. Private Rental rates for
your friends are based on the number in
attendance. CPC & FCCA members get the
Church Member rates. Contact Jessica at
925.276.0960 or cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net

Fellowship Hour: Thank you to those who kept the Fellowship Hour going while I was away. You all are appreciated!

We are still in need of folks to sign up to provide goodies to go with the coffee during our Fellowship Hour. Please talk to me if you have questions. You can add your name to the sign up calendar on the bulletin board in the social hall.

October 25th will be pasta Sunday! Bring a dish to share made with some kind of pasta. Be creative. We don't want 6 pots of mac and cheese! Could be interesting though if we did. Then we could do a contest to see which would be voted best! So bring any kind of pasta dish. There are lots of pastas and lots of recipes out there. In can be a hot or cold dish!

Please continue to join us each Sunday after worship for this special time together.

Mary Burks
925-427-7225

Westminster Woods: Women of the church! Save the date! Women's week-end will be January 22-24, 2016. Cost is \$170.00. Let's do this!

Small Groups

Wine Tasting: Our next wine tasting adventure will take place on October 10. We will be going to Clarksburg, CA which is towards Sacramento on Hwy 160 along the Delta. It is about 50 miles from here but is a beautiful drive! We will first go to Bogle winery. www.boglewinery.com We will taste there and then have a potluck lunch! We are asking you to bring your own service; i.e. plate, flatware, napkins. We can buy some wine to accompany our lunch. If you want another drink you can bring water, etc. Which might be a good idea anyway.

After lunch we will drive a little way up the road and visit The Old Sugar Mill. This is what is says, an old building with 11 wineries. We will enjoy that. We will decide once we get there which ones to taste at.

Please talk to Mary Burks so we have a planned potluck or if you want to carpool, etc. All are invited! Designated Drivers are welcome, too.

Other Groups: When I did these sign-ups for small groups we had a lot of ideas and a lot of people sign up for them. Some of the others were Hiking, Biking, Book club, Theater play reading, walking, movies, crafts, game time. All it takes to get one of these going is to lead a gathering! Pick a date, announce it and see what happens!!

Thanksgiving Dinner

This annual event will be on Sunday, November 22 with appetizers at 5:00 and dinner at 5:30. This is a great interfaith event started by and carried on by FCCA. The turkey and potatoes, gravy and stuffing are prepared by volunteers headed by Bev Peterson. The sides are potluck prepared by YOU! Save the date!!

Winter Nights Towel Washing

Our congregation participates in the Winter Nights Shelter program. We have participated in the past and last year helped wash towels! We will be doing this again and will be washing towels in November, January and March. Whoever volunteers picks up the towels at St Vincent de Paul on Gladstone in Pittsburg on Friday and returns them on Monday. I will have a sign-up sheet for these dates starting October 4th. Please see me (Mary Burks) to sign up for a date. I will also have more of the details by then.

Thank you so much for your help in this mission to our community.

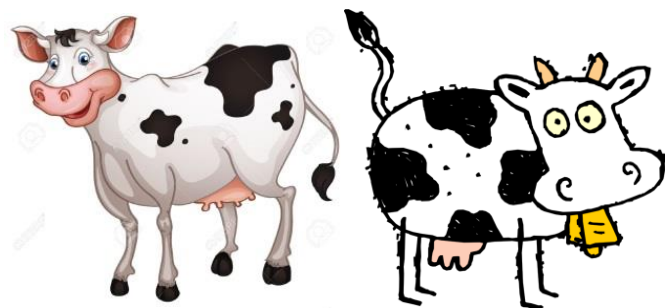
Dear Pastors & Congregation,

We were so happy when told that we had been purchased by your church as going away gifts for Jan & Carol... to be Heifer International heifers! We are still in the states and don't know when or where we will be going. We were born and raised on the same farm but now we may be going to different countries – what an adventure this will be.

We promise to give as much milk as we can for our families – helping to make their lives healthier and provide them with milk, butter & cheese to sell – putting more food on their tables and helping the children with clothing and going to school.

When we are bred we will take care of ourselves and have healthy calves. (Did you know that once we have our first calf we will then be called cows?) When our calves get big enough they will leave us and go to another family as part of the 'pass the gift' program. And so the gift you gave will be just the 1st in a long chain of gifts helping families around the world.

Love & Moos,



Hope & Peace

P.S. We will try not to get seasick when we are shipped – but Hope is such a weenie!

Good Samaritans – 21st Century Style

By Edie Lanstrom

I pulled into an Antioch gas station to fill my car with gas before starting back to Brentwood. On this scorching hot September day, my son and I looked forward to relaxing in our air-conditioned home. After Kendall filled the car with gas, I turned the key and heard a horrible tinny sound. My car would not start! The service station attendant looked at it and said he thought it was the “battery.” Thank heavens for triple AAA. I phoned AAA and soon a tow truck arrived. The tow man did something to the battery and it started! With a grateful heart I left the gas station thinking the problem was solved.

Because there was so much traffic on Lone Tree Way, I turned my car away from the congested road and into a court so I could turn around and get my car headed in the right direction. When the turn was just about completed, the car stopped again! When I tried to start the car, I heard that familiar tinny sound. Kendall tried to push the car enough to turn it around. As I watched Kendall’s futile efforts, I saw a blond-hair boy of about ten or eleven scamper across an unkempt yard. He reminded me of Jody, the boy who goes from childhood to manhood, in the book *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. In a few minutes two men with tattoos decorating their arms came to the car (I realized the boy was running to get help). I got out of the car and told them it was the battery, and as I talked men I noticed the houses looked shabby, tired and worn, some needed painting. I began to feel a little uneasy with these large men tattooed men but tried not to show it.

After the men looked at the battery, one man said, “I’ve got cable jumpers, and I’ll jump the cable if that’s all right with you,” said the large sandy-haired man in a soft voice.

“I would really appreciate that,” I replied. When I looked into the man’s face, I saw kind eyes and a generous smile. What ever happened to those tattoos? I didn’t see them at all. The man got his car and attached the necessary cables to his car battery and my battery. As the men disconnected the charging cables, I said, “I would like to pay for your kind help,” and tried to give them money. They pulled back, “We don’t want any money, glad to be of help. Now this battery needs charging so run it at least 45 minutes before you turn it off.” Kendall and I got into the car, I turned on the car and did not hear any tinny sounds! Before leaving the court, I turned and waved to the men. Kendall and I rode around for about an hour before we turned into our garage, exhausted but grateful for the help the men had unselfishly given us. I did not suspect the car saga was not over.

I jumped out of bed the next morning, eager to see if the car would start. Grabbing my keys from the kitchen counter, I ran toward the garage, slid into the driver’s seat, and turn the keys. I heard that tinny sound and knew I still had problems. *Is there something hugely wrong with my car? Am I facing a big repair bill? Lord, let it be the battery. I would appreciate not having to deal with anything worse. I beg you, Lord, hear my prayer.* With heaviness in my heart, I drugged back into the house.

I don’t know any automotive repair shop in Brentwood, and the man who used to do our car work has retired. Who should I call? I’ll call Big O Tires because it is the only car business I know in Antioch. I took a shower, dressed, woke up Kendall, and ate breakfast. Then I called Big O in Antioch to see if they could handle battery problems. They could. *Thank you, Lord.* I called triple A again and explained I needed a tow truck to carry my nonworking car to a repair shop. By eight-thirty I was sitting in the cab of a tow truck with my car securely fastened on towing equipment on back of the car.

I settled in a chair in the Big O waiting room and began reading a book while waiting for my car to be fixed. In a short period of time, I heard a man call my name. I answered and identified myself.

“There is nothing wrong with your battery or alternator.” said the mechanic.

“Nothing?”

“Not a thing,” replied the man as he handed me my bill.

“Thank goodness,” I replied. As I took the bill and headed toward the counter to pay it, I remembered the tow truck man securing the battery by turning some things (screws?) attached to the battery. Could he have solved the battery problem? As I got close to the counter, I looked at the bill and saw only zeros where there should have been the cost of examining the battery. As I reached the counter, I asked the man who I think is the manager of the business, “Is this right? There is no charge for checking out the battery?”

“Yep, we didn’t do anything to your car.”

“Thank you, I appreciate it.”

The man just nodded his head.

As I walked toward my car, I prayed, *Lord, thank you for the three Good Samaritans who so graciously ministered to my need. May Good Samaritans minister to them when they are in need. Amen.* My car started the minute I turned the key, and with a feeling of thanksgiving I headed home.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

October 4th

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Communion Sunday

Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

October 11th

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps. 22:1-15;

Heb 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Rev. Will McGarvey

October 18th

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sparkle Sunday

Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

October 25th

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
New Way Sunday

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Ps. 34:1-8 (19-22)

Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Rev. Will McGarvey

Deacons' offering

The first Sunday of each month has traditionally been Deacons' Sunday at Community Presbyterian Church.

Deacons have a special fund for persons in need who come to our church looking for emergency support. The fund has been used to provide housing, food or gasoline to help families who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Special green envelopes are available in the pew racks for those who wish to help the Deacons provide support for those in need coming to our church seeking help.

The Deacons thank everyone for their support.

PraY, SerVe, GiVe!

Stewardship Campaign begins on October 18th -

The CPC 2016 pledge drive will begin on October 18th and will culminate with the dedication of pledges on November 22nd. As the finance committee finalizes the theme for "how" to get the pledge information out, we ask you to spend the next couple of weeks **praYerfully** considering how you want to "**serVe** and **giVe**" in 2016.

Faithfully yours,

The Finance and Stewardship committee



WORSHIP LEADERS

October 4th

Betsy Sullivan

Mary Burks & Sue Ferguson

Sue Ferguson

October 11th

Joanne Chalmers

Roberto & Nora Buluran

Roberto & Nora Buluran

October 18th

Richard Pankey

Steve Hosmer

Mary Burks

October 25th

New Way

Matt Taum & Tristan Mendoza

Edie & Kendall Lanstrom

November 1st

Jane Fish

Roberto & Nora Buluran

Liturgists

Ushers

Greeters

Liturgists

Ushers

Greeters

Liturgists

Ushers

Greeters

Liturgists

Ushers

Greeters

Liturgists

Ushers

Greeters

Ushers: Please let Letha Arms know by the Friday before your Sunday if you cannot make it on the date/date's above. You may contact the lead usher, Letha Arms at 925-427-2245 or armsl@comcast.net and she will find a replacement. If you have any questions or would like to become an Usher, please email or call her.



Usher's Needed!!

Calling CPC/FCCA

members! We are in need of ushers! If you are feeling called to Usher, please contact Letha Arms, 925-427-2245 or email armsl@comcast.net

ECSM News!

All newsletter articles are due on the 22nd of each month. Please email to Jessica at cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net.

PRAYER PAGE

Prayers of Healing

Renée Moore, Virginia Devens, Reggie Washington, Starr Lieber, Kathy Anderson, Pam H. & Rebecca P., Janis Harris Bellinger and Dorothy Shipe. Lucille Corzine. Elaine Grothmann, Anne and Scott Cakebread. Jerry Castleberry, Richard James, Betty LaMar. Cherrie McNeilly, Edie Lanstrom, Kendall Lanstrom, Margaret Wilcox. Barbara Sellers. Cherie & Daniel Persing. Jim Magner. Kathy Kenney. Paul Telfer, Mary Vargo. Jackie in Israel, Lili's friend who is battling breast cancer. Jason, Becki Peterson's friend's son (9, chemotherapy). Nora Buluran. Elwin, Bev Peterson's husband. Adam Greenwood and family, relatives of Betsy Sullivan. Carol Krishnan's sisters. Kookie McGuire. Betty Rexroth



Prayers for Sisters & Brothers Around the World

The North East; Conflict in the Middle East; Darfur, Sudan; East Congo, Bolivia; Colombia; Venezuela; Lebanon, Israel-Palestine, North Korea, and Mumbai, India. Long term aid to Tsunami victims; children in Tsunami areas and the victims of Hurricanes, those affected by earthquakes, and the unrest in Pakistan. For those who serve in the Armed Forces. For those who suffer from hunger and thirst; loneliness; illness; malnutrition; ageism. For those who are excluded; homeless; friendless; the underemployed and jobless.

Prayers of Concern

Those affected by the recent violence here and abroad. Those affected by the natural disasters in Nepal, Northern & Southern California, Hawaii, the Philippines, New York, New Jersey, Japan, Chile, Panama, Haiti, Cuba, Vanuatu and Washington State. Safety for all in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Egypt and Sudan. California Public Schools and teachers. The economy, and those laid off or in need of employment. Those living without shelter, experiencing any form of mental illness and those without healthcare. Lois Zollars. Cherrie McNeilly's family.

Prayers For Our Mission Partners

Prayers for the ministry of Friends Feeding Friends, Habitat for Humanity, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Loaves and Fishes, P.I.C.E.S., the Antioch Ministerial Food Bank, the Literacy Project in Pittsburg, the Presbytery of San Francisco, the Bay Association of the Northern California-Nevada Conference, UCC, Westminster Woods, Camp Cazadero, Rev. Charles Tinsley at Juvenile Detention Center, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Winter Nights Rotating Shelter, Shelter Inc., Shepherd's Gate, Heifer International, and the Al-Basma School and Program in Beit Sahour, Palestine, Joining Hands – Bolivia, Hesperian International, and the Keep Hope Alive Program.



Prayer cards are located in the Narthex by the Guest Book

October September Prayer Families & Churches

October 4

Lois Zollars

Montclair Presbyterian Church – Oakland

Lucy Jagard

City of Refuge Community UCC – Oakland

October 11

Greg & Rosemary Almand

Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church – Oakland

The Lamb Family

Faith Community UCC – Oakland

October 18

Kathy Anderson

Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana – Oakland

Edie & Kendall Lanstrom

First Congregational UCC – Oakland

October 25

The Arms Family

St Andrew Presbyterian Church – Pacifica

Lyn Loftin & Joanne Chalmers

First Samoan CCCAS UCC – Oakland



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Minutes for Regular Stated Meeting of Session

September 15, 2015

Call to order at 6:40 p.m. at Tristan Mendoza's home by checking in.

Elders present: Ruling Elders: Tristan Mendoza, Dave Arms, Mary Burks, George Stephens, Myrdell Dybdal, and Teaching Elder/Moderator Rev. Will McGarvey. A quorum was present.

Elder excused: Betsy Sullivan

Mission statement was read by all and opening prayer was led by Will

Docket was read and approved.

MSC to approve minutes of August 23 session meeting

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Clerk of Session: 67 members. A congregational meeting is called for September 27 following worship to elect four members-at-large to the Nominating Committee.

Correspondence: Interfaith Peace Project information, More Light Presbyterians survey and request for financial support, Interfaith Council fall appeal

Pastor's Report: Tuesday morning studies and regular committee meetings. LGBTQ film night. Multi-Faith Action Coalition clergy breakfast. Helped Dave and Ian install the monitor cables. Poverty Simulation Sunday. Theology Pub. Women's Fellowship. Vacation with family in Utah. SF Presbytery meeting. Worship. Personnel. Minister/Musicians meeting.

Presbytery Meeting report: Presbytery meeting was September 8 at Calvary PC, San Francisco. Mary and Myrdell attended as commissioners. Mary reported on the meeting, focusing on the conflict between High Street PC and Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana in Oakland. Will led an Open Space discussion on the fossil fuel overture going to 2016 General Assembly and talked about presbytery's new priority encouraging congregations to collaborate on regional mission projects.

Treasurer's Report: August financial report emailed by Carol Hosmer, reviewed. MSC to appoint Cherie Persing as the successor treasurer when current treasurer resigns. Session has deep appreciation for Treasurer Carol Hosmer, and for Cherie's willingness to assume the position.

Deacons: No report, as Deacons have not met.

Event Coordinator: No report

Nominating Committee: No report

Personnel Committee: September 13 meeting focused on music staffing. By consensus, session is recommending to the Joint CPC/FCCA Leadership that the Chancel Choir take a sabbatical, due to diminishing participation and energy. The proposal is for New Way to continue, the rest of the music program will consist of special music provided by soloists, ensembles and instrumentalists. Elaine Palmer and Michael Miller would coordinate and schedule the music. Personnel Committee will evaluate quarterly the work required by the Event Coordinator to clean up after problem rentals.

Partnership Visioning Council: No report.

Bountiful Table meal program: There will be a sit-down lunch served September 22 in the Social Hall.

COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Total for the LED light retrofit that Dave installed is \$5,551.64, after substantial rebates. This will be paid from the \$25,000 gift from FCCA. Once the lighting is paid for the balance in that fund will be approximately \$4,800. Dave is recommending that the 5 parking light poles be retrofitted, and the cost be paid from the same fund. Dave will work out a Phase 2 proposal.

Christian Education: Sunday School teachers for the upcoming year are Gayle Namanny and Cherie Persing.

Fellowship: Report emailed by Mary 9/11. Rally Sunday was successful, and thanks to Richard James for all the work he put into it.

Outreach: No report

Stewardship & Finance: No report, committee will meet September 21.

Welcoming & Marketing: No report, as committee has not met

Continues on page 10

Worship: Report emailed by Ann Custer 9/11. We talked about the need for new greeters and ushers and encourage anyone interested to contact Letha Arms.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Designate forthcoming retained Peacemaking Offering: MSC to use our portion of the Peacemaking Offering to offset expenses for the Winter Nights program CPC will host in February 2016 with 4 yes votes, 1 no vote, 1 abstention.
- Policies and procedures manual, or standing rules for CPC: committee is gathering resources from other churches and organizations, having difficulty finding a time to meet. Suggest this be removed from the docket as the committee is in place and will report when appropriate.
- Appoint Stoneman Village board director from CPC: Mary agreed to serve.
- Church directory progress: Jessica is about half-way finished. The membership module of the new ServantKeeper software is much easier to use than the old one.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with final prayer led by Myrdell

Next Session Meeting: October 20, hosted by Myrdell

Congregational meeting September 27 following worship.

Next Joint CPC/FCCA Leadership meeting scheduled for September 27, following the brief CPC congregational meeting.

Myrdell Dybdal
Clerk of Session

CPC Treasurer's Corner

Beginning Balance August 1	\$ 62,468.27
Income	\$ 15,905.63
Expenses	\$ 19,503.59
Ending Balances August 31	\$ 58,870.31

ECSM Music Ministry Takes on a New Look (and Sound)



As you know, our search to find a new organist and choir director is still underway. Karen's shoes are proving quite difficult to fill. With that in mind, our music ministry is undergoing a few changes and adjustments while we continue that search.

The plan is to feature some of our own musicians in an "ensemble" format of soloists, duets, trios and so forth, as well as calling on some of our outside musician friends. Michael and Elaine will coordinate this new look, and that's where YOU come in.

Our first step is to compile a roster of those willing to participate occasionally in this music ministry. You are invited to consider a more temporary involvement in our music ministry rather than a long-term commitment to rehearsals. We know you're out there, and your help is needed to keep music as an active and dynamic part of our worship celebration.

Secondly, Christmas (and other holidays) choral music has long been a tradition for our congregations. We hope to have a Christmas Choir that would sing an anthem (or maybe two) on Sunday, December 13 and at the Christmas Eve service. This would involve minimal practice and commitment, depending on how many wish to participate.

Please contact Elaine, elainepalmer723@gmail.com, or Michael, mdmillerr@aol.com, and let's lift our voices in praise, thanksgiving and love. The holidays are rapidly approaching. Let's meet them head on!

JOINT CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER 2015

Sept 27 10:00 am Sunday Service in the Chapel 11:30 CPC Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary 12:30 Joint Cabinet Session Meeting – CSR 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	Sept 28 <i>NO Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 6 pm – 9 pm PCT Rehearsal – Chapel 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	Sept 28 10 am Bible Study– CSR 6 pm – 9 pm PCT Rehearsal – Chapel	Sept 30 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR 6 pm – 9 pm PCT Rehearsal – Chapel	October 1 6 pm – 9 pm PCT Rehearsal – Chapel 6:30 – 7:30 pm Save Your Praise for God Bible Study – CSR	October 2 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	October 3
4 10:00 am World Communion Sunday Service in the Chapel 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	5 <i>10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	6 10 am Bible Study – CSR 6:30 pm Westgate HOA meeting – CSR Theology Pub at Viva Mexico at 7:00 pm at 1335 Buchanan Rd., Pittsburg.	7 11:30 am Joint Women's Fellowship – Cre Asian – Pittsburg 2:00 pm Fellowship Meeting – CSR 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	8 6:30 – 7:30 pm Save Your Praise for God Bible Study – CSR	9 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	10 9:00 am Save Your Praise for God Bible Study-Meeting – CSR 4:30 pm Private Event - SH
11 8 am: Deacons meeting 10:00 am Joint Sunday Service in the Chapel 4-7 MC – Sanctuary & classrooms	12 <i>10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 1:00pm Outreach Meeting – CSR 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm PCT Rehearsal – Chapel 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	13 10 am Bible Study – CSR 5:00 pm Youth Group – SH/CSR	14 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	15 6:30 – 7:30 pm Save Your Praise for God Bible Study – CSR	16 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	17 12 noon Free lunch Meal Program in the Social Hall
18 10:00 am Sparkle Sunday in the Chapel 11:30 am FCCA Cabinet Meeting – CSR 4-7 MC – Sanctuary & classrooms	19 <i>10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	20 10 am Bible Study– CSR 6 pm Session meeting 6 pm – 9 pm PCT Rehearsal – SH & CSR	21 4:00 pm Worship Meeting – Ann's home LGBTQ Film Night? If so, 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	22 *September Newsletter articles Due to the Church Office today! 6:30 – 7:30 pm Save Your Praise for God Bible Study – CSR	23 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	24 11 am PWCL – Social Hall
25 10:00 am New Way Sunday Service in the Chapel 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	26 <i>10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	27 10 am Bible Study– CSR	28 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	29 6:30 – 7:30 pm Save Your Praise for God Bible Study – CSR	30 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	31 9 am Ministerio Cristiano Women's Retreat – Social Hall 



ECSM NEWS

October 2015
Volume XXII
Issue 9

*A monthly newsletter of the Community Presbyterian
Church and First Congregational Church of Antioch*

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Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL

OCTOBER EVENTS AT ECSM

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 4th, join us for worship at
10 am in the Camp Stoneman Chapel

Joint FCCA – CPC Women's Fellowship

will next meet Wednesday, October 7th at 11:30am at
Cre Asian Restaurant, Pittsburg

FREE Lunch Event

Saturday, October 17th at 12 noon in the Social Hall.
All are Welcome!

Pray, Serve, Give!

Stewardship Campaign begins on October 18th.
Pledges will be dedicated on November 22nd.



WITNESS OUR
WELCOME

WOW

13TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Come Celebrate God's Inclusive Love Welcoming All of God's Children; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Allies

Sunday, October 25th, 2015 at 4:30 PM

“LOVE WILL GUIDE US”

Lynnewood United Methodist Church

4444 Black Ave. Pleasanton, CA (across from the aquatic center)

Spirit Award presentation

- ***Rev. Dr. Justin Tanis of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, preaching***

- ***Music by Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus***

The WOW celebration is sponsored by more than 30 congregations and organizations, including PFLAG & the Rainbow Community Center.

Reception to Follow hosted by PFLAG. Questions: 925-846-0221

Why World Café?



Some of us have participated in all three World Café gatherings. Some have found them to be enlightening and enriching. Some, not so much. In light of the many global issues and crises, we have much to ponder and understand. Since we are a progressive group of worshippers who have chosen to use our minds as well as our hearts, we will inevitably have varying positions on many of these issues. Perhaps a bit of the back-story behind World Café will assist in making this a more valuable experience for all.

World Café is a process of creating a hospitable space where participants feel safe and open to creative thinking, speaking and, most importantly, listening. This process encourages us to share our thoughts, concerns and ideas on how we as individuals, as a church and as a community can effect changes in a world full of inequities and injustices.

We are blessed to have two facilitators who have studied and led such gatherings, and have volunteered to share their experiences and expertise with us as we navigate through controversial waters. Kathryn Burroughs and Teresa Chavez-Sauceda are a dynamic and considerate duo showing us ways to deal with topics that can be difficult, uncomfortable and even painful.

What does it really mean to be the church? Are we able to change our thinking? Can we reflect on where we have been and how we got where we are now? Can we develop our ability to be compassionate? Are we willing to take a more active position?

The aim and intent of the World Café gatherings is to deal with these issues in a loving and supporting environment and grow with grace in our Christian walk. Our next World Café is Sunday, November 15. Our hope is for a huge gathering of open hearts, open minds and open ears as we move forward with our shared ministry.

"As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world as in being able to remake ourselves." ~ Mahatma Gandhi