



The Bridge

August 2014 | Community Congregational Church UCC

www.cccucc.org

Church Office Hours Tue—Wed 10:00am to 2:00pm

Rev. Renie's
Office Hours

Tues - Thurs. 10:00am to 2:00pm
and by appointment

Happenings

Sunday, August 3
10:00 AM Communion Sunday
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

Tuesday, August 5
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

Saturday, August 9
Friends of the Street

Sunday, August 10
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group
1:00 PM CHURCH RENTAL FOR
PAT WYATT 50th Wedding Anv.

Tuesday, August 12
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

Sunday, August 17
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

Tuesday, August 19
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
6:45 PM Church Council
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

Saturday, August 23
Building & Grounds Fellowship
Day!

Sunday, August 24
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

Tuesday, August 26
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

Thursday, August 28
**7:00 PM Choir
Rehearsal**

Sunday, August 31
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

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Campus Enhancement

Jim Lessenger

Campus Enhancement Committee

With the help of Chris Hanna, the folks from Genesis House, and many willing hands, the campus has been prepped for construction. The railroad ties were removed and taken to the museum where they were stacked. The museum has a plan to eventually use them in the construction of a picnic area. The crew also cleaned the museum campus behind Building 7 and in-trade we were allowed to throw some trash in the museum trash bin. Twelve ties were kept back for use on the upper tier. The crew also removed plants and pruned the entire campus. Selected railings were also removed. In all, it cost about \$1500 for us to do a project that was quoted to us as \$20,000.00.

The application for a construction permit was filed last Friday, July 25. The architect is sending the drawings to the contractor this upcoming week and we should have contract ready to sign within the next two weeks. Once the contract is signed, construction will begin.

Debbie Conway and Jackie Lawrence have done a really great job in organizing the parking needs during the reconstruction. We should plan to have no extra church activities for the months of August and September.

Many thanks to the people who came out Saturday to clean up the campus. It was a great day by the bay. The campus is going to look great when we're done.



Campus Improvement Project, Finances to date:

Total costs to date for design and engineering studies: (paid from Capital Improvement Fund)	\$28,610
Balance remaining in the Capital improvement Fund (end of May):	\$21,767
Balance remaining in the Parking Lot Fund (one time donations):	\$30,427
Total balance in both Funds:	\$52,194

The total amount needed to service our upcoming Cornerstone Loan will be \$22,548 each year assuming that we take out the full \$350,000. As of the Congregational Meeting on June 22, 2014, pledges to the Capital Improvement Fund for 2014-2015 total \$22,302. That is just \$246 short of what is needed for loan payments for the year. That is PHENOMINAL!

Harvest Festival

Save the date-10/26/2014

The date for the Harvest Festival has been set for October 26, 2014. CCCUCC will have a family fun day that will include pumpkin painting, games, costumes and family fun for all. Like all of the activities of our church there will also be good food and great fellowship.

Tracy Daffern and Deanna Mitchell will devise games again this year. Those that attended last year will remember those two came up with some very creative games. Cannot wait to see what they have in store for us this year.

More Information will be forthcoming closer to the date. Just letting you know to **save the date-**

10/26/2014 for our very own Pumpkin Patch and Harvest Festival.



Weekend In The Trees 2014

Keith Read

September 26—29

Our theme for Weekend In The Trees (“WITT”) last year was “Oh, The Places We Will Go!” – a wonderful months-long series of inspirations led by Pastor Renie based on Dr. Seuss stories. Perhaps this year we should paraphrase the theme and call it “Oh, How Time Flies” for it is almost time for another retreat. This year WITT will be held the last weekend of September from Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28.

Our updated WITT Registration Form can be found by clicking on the WITT link on our church homepage: www.cccucc.org. WITT is always open to all of our members and friends and this year we return to our traditional format of 3 days and 2 nights at its new location at Monte Toyon Camp in Aptos (near Santa Cruz). Monte Toyon is a beautiful camp set in a redwood forest. We found it to be a very well maintained camp, with a hard working staff who works diligently to take care of all aspects of the camp. There are even upgraded sleeping facilities (carpeted cabins!), convenient restrooms and showers, paved trails throughout, numerous fire pits scattered throughout the camp, a level ping pong table with a light for nighttime contests, a large meadow for games and outdoor activities, to name just a few features.

Oh, and let’s not forget about the wonderful home cooked meals, including our traditional turkey dinner on Saturday night! Monte Toyon also has a beautiful amphitheater (with its own fire pit) hidden just steps away from the Dining Hall where we will hold the always entertaining Saturday night skits.

Many more details about WITT 32 will follow over the next few weeks, but please mark your calendars now for these dates and plan on joining your fellow members and friends at camp this year. If you do, you will be able to find out What It’s All About - you won’t be disappointed!!

Parking Lot Closed.....NOT the Church

This is an exciting time in the life of the church, in a few weeks our parking lot will have had a much needed face lift. Meanwhile it will be necessary to park elsewhere as the construction goes on. (And that does not mean staying at home.) We will need to park on the street. Entrance to the church will only be from the street. Entry will be by way of the sidewalk between the CE building and the Sanctuary and then through the choir room.

Plans for your assistance have been made for Sunday morning. At curb side in front of the church will be a drop off point for those who would have difficulty walking. A Greeter will be waiting to assist you on your way to service. Drivers who have dropped off passengers will then proceed to park along West Second, West M and Raymond Streets. For those who cannot make the walk from their car, a ride will be provided. Others are encouraged to walk the short distance.

After service a ride to your car for those who need assistance will be provided.

Thank you for understanding the need for alternate parking. If you can help with these plans as a greeter or driver or have your own thoughts about parking.....please email them to sendmail2jackie@sbcglobal.net or agbook@lessenger.net



Thanks.
Campus Improvement Parking Committee

Music Matters

Barbara Hamm



The Sanctuary Choir is currently on vacation for the summer, having celebrated with quite a feast after its last choir rehearsal for the season. I appreciate every musician—singer, bell ringer, instrumentalist, dancer—who has offered his or her musical and artistic gifts during this past year. You have enriched the worship life of this church; you have helped us to worship in new ways by realizing the incarnation of the holy, inviting us to stretch our imaginations and enlarge our hearts. Thank you, thank you—each one of you! (Please see my Annual Report for a detailed account of all these musical and artistic offerings during this past year.) Those of you in the congregation—think about tapping a choir member or bell player or instrumentalist or dancer on the shoulder one of these Sundays and expressing your appreciation to that person!

I am very grateful to Deborah Shanks and Bruce Smith, as well as others, for providing music at CCC during my absence for the last several weeks. I have been away for a couple of reasons, the primary one being the birth of my lovely grandbaby, Nola Joy Moore! I was also able to make it to Columbus for a couple of days of the Hymn Society Conference, attending an organ concert and several workshops as well as accompanying the plenary session of Marcia McFee, ritual artist and worship planner par excellence—clearly the highlight of the conference for me.

The following musical offerings are planned for the month of August:

Aug. 3: Handbells by the summer handbell choir

Aug. 10: Shelby & Barbara duet

Aug. 17: Dean Gilman, vocal solo

Aug. 24: Bruce Smith, vocal solo

Aug. 31: Nancy Gilman, vocal solo

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN AUG. 28. We meet every Thursday for an hour and 15 minutes, sometimes stretching that out just a bit during the special liturgical seasons. If you love singing and want to serve the church in a significant way, please think about joining us. You'll work hard—and have more fun than you ever dreamed was possible at a rehearsal!



Can you see yourself in this picture? The Rolling Tones will begin fall rehearsals September 2.

If you'd like to join us, contact Leslie Lessenger at lhl@lessenger.net or 751-0289.

There is nothing like a small group, musical experience!

Come and try!

Stewardship (outgoing)

Michelle Cavagnuolo

When I was 13, I became enamored with Patrick Nagel's artwork. I was impressionable and turned on to, of all things, the band Duran Duran, and the cover art for the band's Rio album took a yet unknown artist to every Prints Plus in the ever-growing malls across America. It was on my 14th birthday that a close schoolmate, with her allowance (a precious commodity in the early 1980s), decided to purchase for me, a framed reprint of Nagel's work (a princely sum as I recall), and the one she knew I stared at countless times on our outings of freedom from parental tyranny. It was my first real "surprise" gift, as I had no idea the weight of the act of kindness, and pure generosity would hold for me. The emotional weight of such kindness held so much more in my heart than the actual "thing" I had desired.

On occasion, I remember that time. When I feel selfish or too involved with my own desires to see past what really makes the world turn. Unselfish love, the desire to delight, the act of voluntarily providing joy.

Fast forward, 30 years later, and Larry Schaffer, in only the best Larry Schaffer way, quite unexpectedly, sidled up to me at fellowship and asked whether I would volunteer my time to the church. "Of course," I replied, not knowing he would ask me the following week if I would take the position of Stewardship Chair. "WHAT?"

A greenhorn with no foundation or understanding of the inner workings of a church, very little leadership experience and quite honestly, a real lack in financial experience, I was literally shaking, during our first committee meeting. I voiced many doubts and uncertainties but I was graced with the best team a newbie could have. I was a legal secretary after all, not a financial/fundraising genius. Again, a surprise gift emerged.



Overflowing With Thanks

I found in Dale Olm, a gentle greatness and well-rounded grace that makes me so grateful for his dedication to our church. In Shelby Riddle, a mentor, never afraid to straight-shoot, introduce me to church business and remind me that confidence is half the battle won. In Karen Hanna, the calmness that comes with knowing that volunteer work is mostly, one's desire to share your best. In Nancy Gilman, a prime example of what a Steward does best; listen to the congregation, serve with heart, and keep a steadfast faith that God always provides. In Nora Gauger, unmatched quick thinking, outside and inside the box and tenacity, real tenacity.

In Larry Schaffer and Pastor Renie, a firm faith that given the chance, a woman, "unchurched" and of wobbly confidence could find with her own heart how to lead with love.

A devoted committee, witnessing the surprising power of Tootsie Rolls and trying to discover the heartbeat of our church - gifts such as these are blessed, and rare. I consider myself so very honored to have been gifted the opportunity to serve you and our church as Steward these last two years.



Friends in Deed

Please help support a member of our church who has had surgery recently, Contact Anna Atuatasi if you can prepare and deliver a meal.

Stewardship (incoming) Carla Goad and Nancy Aldritt

Stewardship Report by Nancy Aldritt and Carla Goad

Greetings! We are so delighted to be your 2014-15 Stewardship Chair and Co-Chair. It was a bit of divine inspiration that led us to stand for this role. On the Sunday of the Congregational meeting, as I (Carla) was sitting in the pew, on a different side of the church than we usually sit, just because it looked less full that particular Sunday, I heard someone say, as the collection plate was being passed from person to person, "I have nothing" and they waved the plate on to the next person. I was struck immediately with the thought, "Oh, but you have so much to give." The thought that kept coming to me was – "We all have something to give." It can be as simple as a blessing as we touch the plate, a simple thank you for that which is already in the plate, a pledge, a donation, a wish for the use of the funds in the plate, a thank you for those who are able to contribute, and so much more.

Just prior to the offering we had sung one of my favorite songs, For Everyone Born. This is a sure guarantee that I will be crying by the time we make it to the refrain, because the lyrics are so powerful. I just kept thinking, "It all matters!" "We all matter!" By the time the Congregational meeting began and we saw the open position for Stewardship, Nancy and I looked at each other in that way that you know something without sharing the words. We both nodded in agreement that this is the right thing to do at this time. We know that with God's help and the amazing people in our church community, anything is possible. We look forward to our journey together with you as we navigate the Stewardship of our Church. So far we have learned that this means we may Ask, Thank and Tell. Today, we tell our story...I hope you will tell yours.



Blessed
to Be a
Blessing

Pastor's Ponderings

Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk



Some Saturdays when we are in service to our friends on the street I am very surprised at how grateful folks appear. We share from our abundance so that more people can eat today, and they share from their sacristy. "Hello again Pastor" she said to me from the usual spot while she's sharing her food with her puppy. "I'm so glad you guys do this, I know when I wake up on the second Saturday I can get a warm breakfast and good music, this is worth getting up for..." I thank her for her presence cuz it just wouldn't be the same here with out her... she nods and smiles and believes me. Every second Saturday she asks me to pray with her and for her. She lists off her ailments, her concerns and she says "I know if I bring these things to God through you they might make it through..." I remind her that God listens to her prayers even when I'm or we're not around.

But does God answer prayers? Is that the reason we pray? If we rise from our prayer as better human beings than the ones who sat down, our prayers have been answered.

But really does God answer prayer? Although I too have heard stories of miraculous recoveries and remarkable coincidences in people's lives, stories of salvation that credit God's power, I do not believe God supernaturally intervenes in the world in response to prayer. Although my heart yearns for such a God--and at times, I confess, my soul prays in such hopes--my experience in this often pain-wracked world belies the yearning

of my heart.

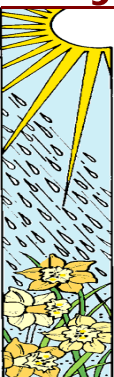
But to say that God does not remove tumors is not to declare God irrelevant. For we can invoke the strength, guidance, and love of God in our prayers. Calling out to God, we elevate ourselves; seeking God through prayer, we can change our lives, and the lives for whom we pray.

Remember that prayer is talking to God, and it can be friendly, informal, and ad hoc anytime 24/7. But it's an action of high seriousness, nevertheless. Prayer is useful for many different kinds of communication with God. You can humble yourself before the Lord and **ask** for your needs or the needs of others; **praise** God for his goodness, grace, and mercy; **worship** him in adoration; **thank** him with gratitude for his gifts, help, and daily sustenance; **confess** your sins and seek forgiveness; and **listen** in quietness for God's direction.

When asking for God's help, though, it's important to remember that God is not your butler, at your beck and call to bring you whatever you ask for. He's not a vending machine that dispenses a blessing when you put in a prayer. He's not an insurance policy that will keep you safe from all harm. He is your Creator, with a very broad view of his creation. So, when you pray, submit every request to God's will—if he wills, may your prayer be granted.

Pray without ceasing. —1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer Requests



Peg Stone

Alice Burgess

Jennifer Otero

Edward Olm (Dale's father)

Jennifer Otero, her daughters

Elizabeth, Victoria and Isabella



Prayers for our leaders

Prayers for all families struggling with pain and separation

Prayers for all our military personnel

Prayers for our planet

We pray for all those affected by war, and we pray for peace

**Community Congregational
Church**

United Church of Christ

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**Remember
Our Homebound Members**

If you know of someone in our church family who needs a visit, please let Pastor Renie or the Pastoral Care Team (Anna Atuatasi) know. We don't always hear about a need right away. Thanks!



Aug 1 Gauger, Nora*
Aug 2 Blackie, Leslie*
Aug 3 Sindt, Cassidy*
Aug 4 Daffern, Tracy*
Aug 5 Scrutchins, Marilyn*
Aug 6 Read, Robyn*
Aug 9 Watson, Lance*
Aug 16 Watson, Jessica*
Aug 19 Thomas, Jett*
Aug 22 Thomas, Benjamin
Aug 26 Stofan, Don
Aug 28 Stamm-Kirk, Allison*

ENJOY THE BRIDGE *ONLINE!*

We hope you enjoy the Bridge Newsletter! Would you like to read the newsletter by e-mail? If so, send your e-mail address to us at bridge@cccucc.org and save a tree!

Lost a past issue? Look it up on the web at www.cccucc.org.

Written contributions for future editions can be sent to revrenie@cccucc.org (deadline is the 20th of each month) or placed in the church secretary's in-box and marked "Bridge". All material submitted is subject to editing for space and content.



2014

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