



The Bridge

October 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

- 1**
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 5**
10:00 AM Communion Sunday
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group
- 7**
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal
- 9**
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 11**
8:30 AM Feeding Our Friends of
the Street
1:00 PM **Blessings the
Animals**
- 12**
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group
- 14**
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal
- 16**
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal



- 19**
10:00 AM Sunday Mori
Worship Service
11:00 AM **Auction**
- 5:00 PM Saint Paul's and
Community Congregational -
Community Meal!!**



- 21**
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
6:45 PM Church Council
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

- 23**
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

- 25**
Building & Grounds Fellowship
Day!



- 26**
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
HARVEST FESTIVAL

- 28**
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

- 30**
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

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**Save the date!!!
CCCUCC Annual Crab Feed
Friday February 27, 2015**



Campus Enhancement

Jim Lessenger

The Campus Enhancement Committee and the parking lot reconstruction are in a holding pattern.

We have the loan, we have a general contractor, the architect is on board, the lighting system is selected, and the sewer reconstruction slated.

The project is now undergoing design review with the city. The city staff have been generous and helpful. The plan went through fire review with only one suggestion: That the driveways be strengthened for modern fire apparatus (which comes as no surprise to us). The planning review went well: They approved our lighting, parking, auto circulation, design, and planting plans. We met with our neighbors and answered their questions. We will plant more foliage but avoid fences and trees because of the drug paraphernalia problem we had before we trimmed back all the foliage on the campus. The design is now in engineering review. They will require French drains behind the retaining wall, again not a surprise and it will lengthen the anticipated shelf life of the walls. Good news, we will not have to make any changes in our drainage disposition and no new sidewalks.

The lights will be solar. We have been in contact with the architect, supplier and manufacturer on the lights and will have something that is—literally—state of the art and the thing of the future. The lights will have LED lighting, a long-term battery, solar input, etc. Thus, no trenching and copper wiring will be necessary. But, the stubbing in of utilities for the fellowship hall can't happen because we don't know what the utility requirements will be. We are working on some underground conduits for the utilities.

Right now the cost estimate is at \$285,000. But that will increase as the lighting is factored in. Fortunately, the city will only require a core lighting schema. So, we are well within our budget estimates.

We now expect ground breaking the first week in November (but don't hold your breath). We appreciate everyone's patience, especially the Cornerstone Fund. If the lot were flat, we would already be done. But, we're dealing with a hillside with four major terrace levels and that is where the problem is. We already have slippage and the city has to make sure that the lot won't end up in the mayor's back yard. And, we need a new sewer system.



*The Labyrinth was dedicated and renamed the **Jean Osborn Labyrinth**.*



Fall Into Giving with CCC Annual Fall Auction



October 19, 2014

Immediately following worship

Join us for a delicious potluck and auction with fabulous items!!!

Two ways for everyone to get involved:

Donate

Previous items put up for auction include baked goods, big burly man help, gardening, baby sitting, hand-made greeting cards, home-made jams and jellies, wine, home concerts, rides to the airport, hot wheels, paintings, jewelry, theater tickets, and so much more.

What do you have to offer to the auction???

Bid at Auction

Attend church on October 19, bring your cash, check or charge, grab a paddle and bid while enjoying delicious food at the potluck.

Contact Carla or Nancy at sstop16@att.net or call 707-742-4199

Items can be brought to church, dropped off at our home or we can pick them up.
Just let us know!

Music Matters

Barbara Hamm



THANK YOU to Bruce Smith for accompanying the worship services and directing the choir while I was away! I did extended ministry for the Disciples/UCC Women's Retreat at Mission Springs and the KS-OK Conference of the United Church of Christ. I also had a wonderful week of vacation in Dallas with my four sisters.

The choir is meeting regularly on Thursday evenings 7-8:15 and extends a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for singing and fellowship. We have quite a varied line-up of music for the next several weeks, and now would be a good time to start as we begin preparing in earnest for the Advent-Christmas season and the December 12 Christmas concert.

October Ministry of Music:

October 5 – Holy Manna, Sanctuary Choir

October 12 – Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, flute solo by Leslie Lessenger

October 19 – Psalm 95 by Deborah Shanks

October 26 – The Gift of Love

Youth/Children's Choir Rehearsal

October 12 after fellowship time



Harvest Festival

10/26/2014

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.



Welcome and Growth

Dale and Debi Stanley

“No Matter Who You are, or Where You are on Life’s Journey, You are Welcome Here!”

We, as a church family often recite this statement to help us reaffirm that we want to be a warm and welcoming church. For the most part I think we do a pretty good job, and I believe there is always room for improvement. So how can we all extend welcome to visitors?

Look for people wearing the hand-written name tags or no name tag that you do not recognize. It may be someone that new or even someone that only attends on an occasional basis. It doesn't really matter; take the opportunity to greet someone you don't know.

When you greet a new person, you will want to first engage in some “small talk”. Introduce yourself. Ask if they are new to the area, just visiting, etc. It is also appropriate to ask how they found our church and if they have any questions about the church, our programs, or the UCC denomination. You might then take the opportunity to briefly share with them how you found our church, or a favorite experience. Share with them some of the church events that will be taking place in the near future and invite them to attend. Invite them to partake in the food we share after worship. You also could ask if they have had a chance to sign the guest book, and guide them to it if they are open to signing.

You don't need to feel that you must stick with a new person you have greeted and talk with for the duration of fellowship... Introduce them to other members, so they get a chance to meet people that they may have things in common. For example, if they have children, try introducing them to parents with children or our Sunday school teachers. Try to pass them on to others so they aren't left on the side lines, alone during Fellowship time. Pastor Renie is good about greeting new people but you may wish to introduce her to a guest or point them out.

We are a warm and caring bunch of people but sometimes we need to be careful about touching. Shaking a person's hand is usually acceptable, but we need to remember some people seek out and come to church after wounding experiences. Be friendly and respect a new person's personal space.

It's good that we all be watchful for new faces that we can welcome. “Passing” them from one to another is also a good practice. When you see a visitor speaking to one of us “regulars” you may gently join the conversation or stand by and be ready to introduce yourself and take up the conversation.

However you may choose to be “welcoming” we should always remember that, for most people, taking the step to come to a new church can be a little overwhelming. We want to strive to find the balance right balance in the ways we greet visitors so that will they be comfortable as they learn to know us as warm and welcoming people.



GREETINGS!

Stewardship

Carla Goad and Nancy Aldritt

Greetings to you!!! As I write this article I have visions of baked goods... flyers for big burly (boy) man help... hand-made greeting cards... jams and jellies...home concerts...rides to the airport... hot wheels... paintings... jewelry... theater tickets... and so much more. It's that time of year when we, the congregation donate services and items for the Fall Auction. After church on October 19, 2014 we will have an delicious potluck and will be auctioning off the amazing items and services each of us donates for this church fundraiser. This auction is one of the ways we raise funds for our church to support the wonderful things we do. It is a wonderful event from which we have many fond memories of over the years.

During our first auction at CCC Nancy's parents were here for a visit and they bid on a couple of wonderful items which they gave us as gifts. From our purchases we have had dates to see local theater with members of our congregation in the productions, attended beautiful concerts with members of our congregation in the choirs and last year we had the joy of live music in our home for our reception following our legal marriage. One year we bid on the Big Burly Boy help and were able to remove a gigantic trumpet vine that took over our backyard. Last year Nancy offered gardening services which resulted in a beautiful color palate for one of our older church members and a new friendship for the giver of the service. Through each of these experiences we have become closer to the person who offered or purchased the service or item.

The success of the auction depends on your generosity, so we ask that you offer up a service or items and join us October 19. Your donation will have a dual purpose – making a memory and raising funds for our beloved church. You have three ways to let us know what you have to donate - the sign-up sheet circulating each Sunday, dropping an email to us at sstop16@att.net, or giving us a call at 707-742-4199 with anything you would like to donate. You can also bring the items to church or give us a call and we will pick 'em up or create the flyer for your donation.



Please add October 19 to your calendar and bring a friend, neighbor or another family member for this fun day in the life of our church!!!

Weekend in the Trees



Pastor's Ponderings

Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk



I wish I could tell you about the folks I visit with or should I say visit with me throughout the week, but I can't that would break confidentiality.

I wish I could tell you of the stories of lives I'm invited into and the people who ask me to pray with or for them, while they weep in my arms, but I can't share that with you.

I wish I could tell you about the youth who tell me their pain and the parents I try to glue back together after their kids run away, and they can't figure out why.

I wish I could tell the stories our friends of the street who tell me their journey to the street and then their dreams of getting their lives back, or of their extreme gratitude for us being us, with no guilt trips, no holier than thou attitudes, just love.

I'd love to share with you all the joy that comes with ministry as well, the young giggle couple who can't wait to get married or the couple who have been together 34 years and I can't think of anything I can teach them in premarital that they have not already worked through, for they get "in sickness and in health" already.

You already know all that you share with me, you already know all the times I've walked with you or someone close to you. This job I have is truly a calling and at times I am exhausted and a little off, but I am never ever not grateful to be your pastor, or for that matter the Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk.

It's a lot of responsibility to carry all these stories, to pray for all these people, to go to God on all your behalf's, and to hope you are praying for me and mine too!

One of my all time favorite authors Howard Thurman said, "Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." Coming into ministry has brought me to life like nothing else in my life ever has.

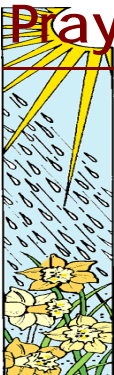
What brings you to life? Recently I was sitting with a new mom and I could just see in her eyes and hear in her stories what brought her to life was this new baby, her eyes well up with tears of joy, she said "I can't imagine ever loving anything this much, or loving doing anything this much, I don't need the high paying job or the stress of my other life, I just need this right now, this is enough..."

What's "enough" for you? At times in my life the corporate ladder was it, at other times stay at home mom was it, and at still others the convent was it, right now serving a great justice filled, mission focused, love based church in Benicia CA is it... who knows what tomorrow will bring.... I invite you to call the church office or send me an email and make an appointment to see me and we can talk about your calling, or your path, or what every you'd like....

Blessings,

Pastor Renie

Prayer Concerns



*Peg Stone
Alice Burgess
Barbara Hamm
Carla Goad & Nancy Aldritt
Pastor Renie
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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Phones with Caller ID blocking -
Please dial * 8 2 ENTER before dialing.



**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 (Jennifer Otero) know. We don't always hear about a need right away. Thanks!



- Oct 1 Atuatasi, Jr.
- Oct 7 Hartzell, Tricia*
- Oct 9 Thomas, Meadow
- Oct 13 McGraw, Cholé*
- Oct 17 Blackie, Jonathan*
- Oct 18 Beatson, Ella
- Oct 18 Esparza, Gina*
- Oct 22 Dolter, Jean*
- Oct 24 Stephens, Steve
- Oct 27 Daffern, Matthew
- Oct 30 Riddle, Shelby*
- Oct 31 Stofan, Susan*

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

October

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