



Chapel Tidings

Community Presbyterian Church

February 2012
Volume XXXVIII
Issue II

"Sharing Ministry with First Congregational Church of Antioch."

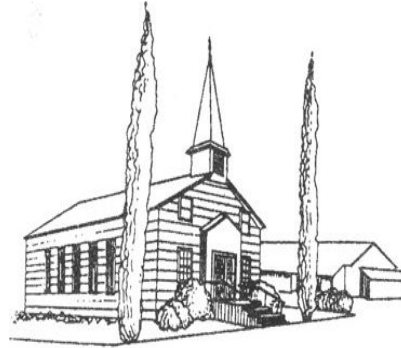
From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Last month, at our Annual Congregational Meeting, Ann Custer shared her decision to retire as our Minister of Music. As you may remember, last November we celebrated her 50 years of music ministry first with First United Presbyterian Church and then CPC after our 1971 merger with Community Congregational Church of Pittsburg.

Hearing of her decision, our Organist for 17 years Jackie Wan announced her retirement as well. Their last week in musical leadership will be Sunday, February 12th. Over the years, we have been blessed by their leadership in so many ways it would be difficult to count the ways. Given our celebration last November, Ann has asked that we focus our thanks and praise for Jackie's leadership at the Organ and with the Handbell Choir, remembering her time as Choir Director in the 1970's.

Beginning February 19th, Dr. Karen Hastings-Flegel will return to ECSM as our Interim Director of Music/Organist. She will be leading the ECSM Chancel Choir, playing the organ, and leading the Handbell Choir. Karen will be seeking a pastor call once certified by her Presbytery, but it will be good to have a familiar face who has worked with music in both of



February Shared Ministry Events

- **Super Sunday with Glenna Shepherd, coach/consultant**

Sunday, February 5th at 10:00 am in the Chapel.

- **Biblical Self Defense Course**

Part 1, Wednesday, February 1st at 7:30 pm in the Stoneman Room. Part 2, Wednesday, February 8th at 7:30 pm in Stoneman Room.

- **Men's Fellowship**

Saturday, February 4th at 8:00 am at Country Waffles in Pittsburg.

- **Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Chapel

- **Black History Sunday**

Sunday, February 26th at 10:00 am in the Camp Stoneman Chapel with the New Way team!

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The Church Family

Midweek Evening Study for Adults: Will take a break until February 29th, as we begin a Lenten study Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the CSR. We will be reading Brian McLaren's new book, entitled "A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith."

Youth Group: We will be collecting Souper Bowl of Caring donations of cash and non-perishable food for the PICES, Antioch Ministerial, and RCC food banks before and after church on Sunday, February 5th.

College Group for Young Adults: Friday, February 24th at 1:00 pm at Los Medanos College Cafeteria. Once a month, our Young Adults will meet for an informal conversation about the 11th Chapter of "A People's History of Christianity" by Diana Butler Bass.

LGBTQ Film Series: We will next meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 23rd in the CSR to watch The Wedding Banquet.

Both CPC and FCCA have committed to being a safe space for all those affected by bullying or in need of counseling. Please call us rather than consider any acts that would be self-destructive.

Biblical Self-Defense Course: Pastor Will is leading Part 1 on Wed., Feb. 1st at 7:30 pm. There will be a "make-up" course of Part 1 on Wed., Feb 8th at 6:30 pm with Part 2 to follow at 7:30 pm in the Stoneman Room. Pastor Will leads a conversation about what the Bible really say about LGBTQ inclusion. Come study the "clobber texts," gender identity, and biblical conceptions of marriage in their context.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Our study is reading a new book called "Who Wrote the Bible." We meet at 10:00 am on Tuesday mornings in the Stoneman Room.

Theology Pub Returns to E.J. Phairs: Thursday, March 1st we have the back tiled room reserved for 12-20 people from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Come on down, taste a brew (or not), and let's talk about God.

Crop Walk organizing meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 15th at 6:00 pm in the CSR. This year's Crop Hunger Walk will be Sunday, April 29th at 2:00 pm in Antioch.

*Happy Birthday!
February & March*



FEBRUARY

1 Dev Krishnan
4 Shelley Daniel
5 Kelly Lieber
6 Charles Franklin
9 Lauren Arms
15 Carol Krishnan
17 Steven Burks
Nora Buluran
18 Vicky Winkler
23 Libby Brownrigg
26 LeAnn Prizznik-
Morgan
Richard Hamilton
29 Reed Custer
28 Barry Winkler

MARCH

1 Ben Johnson
2 Dawn Conant
3 Becky McGarvey
6 Caitlin Kenney
Jordin Burks
7 Carol Hosmer
17 Okoro Umozurike
18 Brenda Atchison
19 Jennifer Shipe
24 Ian McGarvey
30 Jude Stephens
31 Dan Green

SHARED MINISTRY

Weekly Worship Services CPC-FCCA
• February 19th 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.

Please continue to save and bring in redeemable plastic bottles and cans! You can leave them in the church kitchen and they will be picked up. The money we receive from the recycling goes directly to the children's Westminster Woods Camp Fund. Thank you for your generosity!!

Save the date! March 23rd for a Mystery Dinner Theater starring Pastor Will! More details to follow.

Pastor's Letter continued...

our congregations as we move into this new territory. Karen will be leading our music ministries, with Elaine Palmer (our Minister of Music) and Michael Miller (the New Way Minister of Music). Both congregations now equally share the funding and a Joint ECSM Personnel Committee that created updated job descriptions for our three wonderful musicians. Welcome back Karen!

Together we serve, Pastor Will

Upcoming Small Group Meetings:

- **The Joint FCCA-CPC Luncheon** will meet Wednesday, February 1st at Country Waffles, on Harbor Rd. in Pittsburg.
- **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet again February 4th at 8:00 am at Country Waffles in Pittsburg.

Women's Weekends at Westminster Woods are scheduled! Take a minute to go to www.westminsterwoods.org and check it out. Rev Judith Stone will be the leader on the February 3-5 week-end with the theme of Blessing. Keep this in mind and plan to join us. We had a lot of fun last year when we went. Please call me or talk to me if you are interested in going. 427-7225. - Mary Burks

Hymnals: Did you know that our current Presbyterian hymnals are over 20 years old? There will be new ones coming out in 2013. So...if you are interested in buying a hymnal in memory of or in honor of a special someone, you can do that by giving \$15 to this fund. If all 150 books are ordered by 12/31/12, we will not have to pay for shipping. As I'm very Scotch, this appeals to me. Just think, if you save \$2 a month, you could have enough for a book by mid-September. - Carol Krishnan

How to talk to your teen about Sex

Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 11th at 10:00 am, ECSM will host a conversation for parents of teens about how to discuss human sexuality. Bay Area Communities for Health Education (BACHE) will be leading the conversations with our pastors, who will give the spiritual component of the presentation. This will be an informal conversation with opportunities to discuss and share our experience and questions.

Per Capita: Per Capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (GA Minutes, Part 1, 1995)

Paying per capita is similar to

- *contributing one's dish to a potluck meal*
- *paying to be connected to the internet*
- *paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone*
- *pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip*
- *participating in community supported agriculture (CSA) or a similar co-op*

Members and friends – please make every effort to pay the initial offering of \$1.00 and the \$32.00 per capita cost per member prior to the end of February. Thank you!

Social Hall Rentals: Please contact our new Events Coordinator, Lisa Hansen for information. Private Rental rates for your friends are based on the number in attendance. CPC & FCCA members get the Church Member rates. Lisa can be contacted at 925.356.1918 or lisamichele01@sbcglobal.net

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.



Shared Ministry Update: The next joint Session-Cabinet meeting will be a Day Retreat with our Consultant on Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Stoneman Room.

Prayer Page

Prayers of Concern: Those affected by the earthquake & tsunami in Japan. Continuing relief efforts in Haiti and Pakistan. Safety for all in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and Sudan. California Public Schools and teachers. The economy, and those laid off or in need of employment. The rise of democratic protesters around the globe. Friends and families of those who have taken their lives. The family of Molly Clark. Debra Scott, husband Vernon Scott passed, Helen Woodall (Myrdell's mother) and the family of Jeanne Diagre.

Prayers For Sisters and Brothers Around the World: The Gulf Coast; Conflict in the Middle East; Darfur, Sudan; East Congo, Bolivia; Columbia; 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 the jobless.

Prayers For Our Mission Partners

Prayers for the ministry of Habitat for Humanity and 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, Rev. Charles Tinsley at Juvenile Detention Center, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Winter Nights Rotating Shelter, Shelter Inc., Heifer International, and the Al-Basma School and Program in Beit Sahour, Palestine, Joining Hands – Bolivia, Hesperian International, and the Keep Hope Alive Program.



Prayers of Healing: Roy Hanson, Renée Moore. Virginia Devens. Lucille Corzine, Jeanette Pickering, Reggie Washington, Alice Gibbons. Craig Comontofski (husband of Linda Thomas – Helen Thomas' daughter.) Lois Zollars. Corey Pettus-McCoy (related to Letha Arms, has a brain tumor.) Valerie Galarza. Sig and Edie Lanstrom. Starr Lieber & Kathy Anderson.



February Prayer Families and Churches

February 5

The McGarvey Family
Sturge Presbyterian Church – San Mateo
Lucy Jagard
Community UCC - Orinda

February 12

Kylie McLaughlin
Amoy Taiwanese Grace Presbyterian Church – Walnut Creek
The Lamb Family
Community Presbyterian Church – Pittsburg

February 19

The McLaughlin (Garner) Family
Contra Costa Korean Presbyterian Church – Walnut Creek
The Lanstrom Family
Hillcrest Congregational UCC – Pleasant Hill

February 26

Tristan Mendoza & Matt Taum
Grace Presbyterian Church – Walnut Creek
Billie Magner
Broadmoor Community UCC – San Leandro

Prayer cards are located in the Narthex by the Guest Book

February Celebrations

February 5th

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c;

1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Rev. Glenna Shepherd

February 12th

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30;

1 Cor. 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Rev. Will McGarvey

February 19th

Transfiguration of the Lord

Sparkle Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6;

2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

February 22nd

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12;

Ps. 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26th

1st Sunday in Lent

New Way Sunday

Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9:15

Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage



Ash Wednesday Service

A Joint Service Wednesday, February 22nd at
7:30 pm in the Camp Stoneman Chapel.



Worship Leaders

February 5

Liturgists George Stephens
Janis Harris Bellinger
Ushers Jim Atchison & Wayne Xiao
Greeters The Umozurike Family
Acolyte Acelynn Buluran

February 12

Liturgists Sue Ferguson
Sandy Henry
Ushers Richard & Betty Pankey,
& Sandy Henry
Greeters The Hosmer Family
Acolyte Michael Conant

February 19

Liturgists Alice Gibbons
Peter Tedeschi
Ushers Dave & Letha Arms,
& Janis Harris Bellinger
Greeters Barry & Vicky Winkler
Acolyte Madeline Hansen

February 26

Liturgists New Way Service
Ushers Barry & Vicky Winkler,
& John Saavedra
Greeters The Arms Family
Acolyte Kenneth Umozurike

Usher Reminder: It is greatly appreciated by the head usher that as an usher you come on your assigned day. If you cannot make it, please find a replacement from the usher list. - Matt Taum

Minutes for Regular Stated Meeting of Session January 24, 2012

Call to order in the Stoneman room at CPC at 6:40 pm.

Elders present: Allan Grissette, Betty Brown, Dave Arms, Jerry Castleberry, Jim Campbell, Myrdell Dybdal and Moderator Will McGarvey. A quorum was present. **Elders excused:** Tristan Mendoza **Elders absent:** Carol Krishnan **Guest:** Jim Atchison, Ruling Elder elect **Discussion of chapter 5 "Open Source Church"**. We are to read chapter 6 for the February meeting. **Opening prayer** was led by Will. **Mission Statement was read.**

Docket was read and approved. MSC to approve minutes of Regular Stated Session Meeting December 27, 2011, Annual congregational Meeting January 22, 2012

SPECIAL REPORTS: Clerk of Session: 83 members. Jeanne Lash Daigre died January 16, 2012.

Correspondence: None. **Pastor's Report:** All the regular meetings and classes. Led the Safe Place Youth Group lock-in 12-28 at the church, earning trust with the teens, and helping them learn baking skills for the bake sale they will lead in the spring. Took vacation from January 2 through 12, spending time with family in Utah. I've been offering care and preparation for the families of Vernon Scott and Jeanne Daigre who died in early January. We held the planning meeting for the April 29th CROP Hunger Walk meeting, which ECSM is taking the lead on again this year. Helped lead the ECSM Youth Group on a trip to the Chabot Science Center. I offered prayers and served on the Presbytery Commission installing my good friend Rev. Kamal Hassan as Pastor/Teaching Elder at Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church in Richmond. **Presbytery Meeting report:** Next Presbytery meeting will be January 31 at Grace PC, Walnut Creek. CPC is entitled to send 2 elder commissioners to presbytery meetings. Packet is available at presbyteryofsf.org. Lois Zollars will be presenting on her candidacy as an Elder Commissioner to the next General Assembly, and we would like to have support there for her from 5:00 to 6:15 pm for the conversation and vote. **Treasurer Report:** Year-end report emailed 1/15, reviewed. **Deacons:** No report, Deacons BBQ planned for May 6. **Event Coordinator:** Year-end report emailed 1/17. **Nominating Committee:** Report emailed 1/17. Note that the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers at the Annual Congregational Meeting January 22. There are currently two unfilled elder positions, and one unfilled deacon position. **Personnel Committee:** No report. The Personnel Committee will meet with members of FCCA to determine the Job Description for Karen Hastings-Flegel as Interim Music Minister/Organist.

Shared Ministry Update: Rev. Glenna Shepherd is available for one-on-one meetings with members of both communities on Thursday and Friday, February 2nd and 3rd. 15 & 30 minute time slots can be signed up for by calling Jessica in the Office. On Saturday, February 4th Glenna will be facilitating a retreat for Cabinet and Session members, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Stoneman Room (or Social Hall if the Heater isn't fixed). Rather than a potluck style lunch, as was advertised, Sandy Henry will be picking up lunch and we ask that attendees donate to the pot to cover expenses. Jerry volunteered to set up coffee in the morning, Myrdell will bring breakfast pastries.

MSC to receive special reports.

Session approval by email: None. (Note the following motion was made by email: "That CPC enters into an agreement with Dave Trujillo to do handyman work around the church. This agreement would be in an amount not to exceed \$1,131.32. The agreement will be on a job by job basis. CPC will have to be satisfied with the first job before he can move to the second." There were four yes votes (Jim, Allan, Tristan, Myrdell), the motion has not carried.

Consent Calendar:

- Set Sunday, February 12th for the Installation of Officers.
- Approve a Rummage Sale on May 5th led by Jim Atchison and Mary Burks.
- Approve the March 23rd Mystery Theater Dinner as a fundraiser for Kids to Camp
- Approve \$50.00 from the Memorial Funds for a gift for Rev. Elizabeth McCord's ordination.
- Approval of Pastor Will's vacation (4:9-15), Credo Study Leave (6:4-11), Family Vacation (6:12-25), General Assembly (6:28-7:6), Youth Group trip to Disneyland (7:15-19), Study Leave to the Unconference at SFTS (7:30-8:1), Israel-Palestine Mission Trip (10:12-27) with members of the church.

MSC to approve the Consent Calendar

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Alternative Worship: None. **Building & Grounds:** Emailed by Jim Campbell 1/14. Motion: That CPC enters into an agreement with Dave Trujillo to do handyman work around the church. This agreement would be in an amount not to exceed \$1,131,32 from the Capital Improvement Fund. The agreement will be on a job by job basis and Jim Campbell will oversee the work. Work will begin February 6 replacing the Social Hall hallway tiles. CPC will have to be satisfied with the first job before he can move to the second. MSC. The heater for the Camp Stoneman Room died. MSC to replace the heater with Capital Improvement Funds, with the amount to be approved retroactively. MSC to commit up to \$1,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to upgrade the Energy Management System to a web-based system that more individuals will be able to access. **Christian Education:** Will meet 2/9. **Church World Issues:** None. **Fellowship:** None **Stewardship:** None **Welcoming and Publicity:** Will meet 1/25. **Worship:** Will meet next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approve hiring Karen Hastings-Flegel as Interim Minister of Music at the annual rate of \$6,800, beginning 2/12.
MSC

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Session Meeting notes continued...

- Discuss and approve budget. 2012 Income and Faith proposed budgets were presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting and in the 2012 Annual Report. MSC to approve the proposed budgets with the following revisions: Add an income line for \$7,500 from FCCA to reimburse one-half of the music program; delete the Organist line(3,380); change Minister of Music to Interim Minister of Music and increase to \$6,800; eliminate New Way Pianist (600), add Ensemble Minister of Music (\$4,100). The total annual expense for music staff is now budgeted for \$15,000, with \$7,500 to be reimbursed by FCCA, leaving a net expense for CPC of \$7,500.
- MSC that a joint CPC/FCCA personnel committee will do all reviews of and oversee music staff.
- MSC to elect Carol Hosmer as Treasurer for 2012, with appreciation.
- Approve and record pastor salary and housing allowance for 2012: MSC all effective salary as housing allowance.
- MSC to approve 2012 special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, Christmas Joy. Souper Bowl of Caring, with proceeds going to PICES/AMFC/RCC
- MSC to approve Presbytery mission pledge form for \$1,000 and the NCNC UCC mission pledge form for \$1,000.
- Kitchen stove fundraising was discussed, as well as the need for a new stove and whether or not the existing stove could be repaired. Opinion from a consultant years ago, according to Dave, was that it could not be repaired because parts are no longer available. Jim C. is concerned that if we contact an expert to check the stove out, it may be red-tagged and the gas would be shut off. MSC to approve establishing a designated fund for replacing the stove, pending session approval of the replacement selected.
- Valentine the dog in the church was discussed at length, with consideration given to both our commitment to being a welcoming church and our concern about the liability of having a dog on the property in close contact with so many unfamiliar people, including children. As a session, we think it unwise to welcome the dog. Will shall talk with the dog owners about our decision.
- We have been contacted by a group in Akron Ohio that want to present a spiritual play in our Social Hall on June 30, not pay rent, but perhaps give an offering or a percentage of sales. Our consensus is that they are welcome to rent the Social Hall and Betty will give them the Event Coordinator contact info, but we are not interested in participating with them in this endeavor.
- Asking the Presbytery of SF to co-sponsor the Regional Sabeel Conference with \$1,500 from the Presbytery Peacemaking Fund, which CPC contributes toward with our Peacemaking Offering. The request is only to endorse a request made by Carol Dolezal-Ng. MSC to do so.
- Adjusting Committee names to better match where we are in our Shared Ministry. Assign committee responsibilities. We agreed to the following changes, with suggested elder chairs:
 - Building and Grounds – Jim Campbell
 - Christian Education – Tristan Mendoza
 - Fellowship – Jerry Castleberry
 - New Way Worship (formerly Alternative Worship) – Dave Arms
 - Outreach (formerly Church World Issues) – Tristan Mendoza (Interim)
 - Stewardship – Betsy Sullivan
 - Welcome & Marketing (formerly Welcome and Publicity) - _____
 - Worship – Jim Atchison
- MSC to approve the creation of a Courtyard Sub-committee to raise funds, create a plan for session approval, and do renovations of the courtyard in preparation for the installation of the gifted Peace Pole from the Interfaith Peace Project. (Father Tom's ministry in Antioch). The expected date of installation of the Peace Pole will be September 21, the International Day of Peace.
- Elect/appoint session representative to Nominating Committee: tabled until next meeting
- Agreed to replace the scheduled June session meeting with a meeting July 24th because of Will's busy June schedule.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Pew cushions update: no report
- Music program, funding priorities: tabled until the next meeting
- Adding an Alternative Gift Page to the website – allowing people to give to the church and gift cards for our mission partners that we choose to highlight. This is on hold until the website is updated.
- Talk about our 5 FOR 5 feedback forms: Allan will try to get the current forms to session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm with final prayer led by Will. Next Session Meeting: February 28 at 6:30 at Jim Campbell's. Joint CPC/FCCA leadership retreat scheduled for February 4, 2012 from 9 am – 4 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room. Jim Campbell to prepare elements for March communion. Session/Deacon Retreat scheduled for March 10, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church (1578 Kirker Pass Rd., Clayton, CA). Lunch will be provided by the Deacons, Myrdell will check with Carol Hosmer re: who brings breakfast snacks. Next Joint Session/Cabinet meeting: Scheduled for April 1, 2012 at 11:30 am in the Camp Stoneman Room.

Respectfully submitted, Myrdell Dybdal, Clerk of Session.

FCCA CORNER



Lent Devotional for 2012
Stillspeaking Writers' Group

Single copy - **\$6.00**
Includes FREE shipping and handling

Give up your old ideas about Lent, and get a brand new take on the season from these short daily reflections by The Stillspeaking Writers' Group and other contributing authors. This 56-page devotional offers inspiration, humor, and unexpected insights for each day of Lent. Ideal for a weekly Lenten study series or for individual use.

The **Joint CPC/FCCA Women's Fellowship Luncheon** will be Wednesday, February 1st at Country Waffles on Harbor St. in Pittsburg at 11:30 am.

Northern California Nevada Conference UCC Annual Gathering 2012 Sofitel Hotel in Redwood City

Event date: April 26, 2012 12:00pm –
April 29, 2012 1:00pm

We would like members of both CPC and FCCA to attend either Friday and/or Saturday to experience the workshops, worship and UCC connections.

Online registration available NOW! Or contact registrar Joy Davis via email or phone 510-247-8995 with questions or to register.



There are still 5 slots free on Friday, February 3rd to sign up to talk with **Rev. Glenna Shepherd**, the Shared Ministry Consultant.

Remember that you don't have to be for

or against the Shared Ministry to need to share your experience with Rev. Glenna. She will want to talk to anyone and everyone while with us Feb. 3-5, and will want to hear as much as possible to prepare her report to us about where we are in our process, and make suggestions for the work we need to do together.

Glenna has been a church musician, and has pastored a church through a merger similar to ours.

FCCA February & March Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

Feb. 4	Anne Greeff Silver Halladay
Feb. 7	Hillary Lamb
Feb. 9	Cherrie McNeilly Vicki McGuire
Mar. 12	Ethel Stow Jaime Grace Mo raya Bellinger
Mar. 21	Bev Peterson

East County Shared Ministry: LGBTQ Film Series
East County Shared Ministry: Community Presbyterian Church
First Congregational Church of Antioch (UCC)

Stoneman Room, 200 E. Leland Rd., Pittsburg, CA

Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm



Join us in the Stoneman Room for a special screening of:

The Wedding Banquet

Join us for cute and funny romance movie for our February gathering.

A gay New Yorker stages a marriage of convenience with a young woman to satisfy his traditional Taiwanese family, but the wedding becomes a major inconvenience when his parents fly in for the ceremony.

Director Ang Lee came to international prominence with this warm-hearted comedy, which centers on the farcical confusion that emerges from this deception.

Gao Wai Tung (Winston Chao) has never shared the truth about his sexuality with his family, and hopes to disguise his long-term relationship with his lover Simon by marrying Wei-Wei, a young artist who's only it for the green card. But Wai Tung's parents refuse to let him off the hook easily, showing up to plan a massive wedding banquet.

Indeed, much of the film's comedy springs from the contrast between the sheer lavishness of the parents' plans and the sham nature of the wedding. Naturally, the titular party spins out of control, leading to a series of events that threatens all of Wai Tung's relationships.
– by Judd Blaise, Rovi

www.pflag.org - www.cpcpittsburg.org

Free. With coffee house refreshments and informal conversation.

Youth Page

Winter 2012 Calendar:

Save the dates –

Sun. Feb. 12th – Youth Group @ Noon in the CSR.

Friday Feb. 24th (If there is enough snow in Tahoe, we will do **Winter Camp**, meeting at the church at 5:00 pm) If no Winter Camp yet, we will do our **30 Hour Famine Fast Lock-in** @ 5:00 pm to 8:00 am Feb. 25th at the church.

Sun. March 11th – Youth Group @ Noon in the CSR.

Friday March 30th – Winter Camp or 30 Hour Famine Fast, which we didn't do in February.

Sun. April 15th – Youth Group @ Noon in the CSR.

**teens and parents please
print out this page and post
it on the fridge!**

Youth Leaders:

Kylie McLaughlin	206-6931
Carol Hosmer	207-1485
Larry Bishop	437-1191
Libby Brownrigg	628-9706
Will McGarvey	597-9797

Wanted!

East County Teenagers interested in exploring life's issues, serving the community, and having fun together.



Joint Calendar of Events February 2012

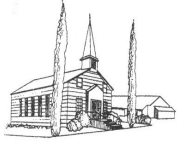
<p>JANUARY 29</p> <p>10:00 AM Friendship Sunday Service in the Chapel 11:30 Chancel Choir Practice 12:45 pm Handbell Practice</p> <p>4-7 MC sanctuary & classrooms</p>	<p>JANUARY 30</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study in Antioch</p> <p>3:00 – 6:00pm – Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:30 PM Adventure Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>JANUARY 31</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 – 3:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>February 1</p> <p>11:30 am Joint Women's Luncheon – Country Waffles – Pittsburg</p> <p>5:00 PM – Youth Champions-SH</p> <p>7:30 pm Biblical Self-Defense Course (Part 1) – CSR</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10 am – 7 pm Individual Time with Church Coach.</p> <p>2:00 – 5:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10 am – 7 pm Individual Time with Church Coach.</p> <p>7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms</p> <p>Women's Weekend @ Westminster Woods until the 5th.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am Men's Breakfast – Country Waffles</p> <p>9am Session-Cabinet Retreat – CSR</p> <p>5 – 10 PM – Crossroads – Sanctuary, CSR & Classrooms</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 AM Super Sunday with Glenna Shepherd, our coach/consultant in the Chapel</p> <p>12:45 pm Handbell Practice</p> <p>4-7 MC sanctuary & classrooms</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study in Antioch</p> <p>3:00 – 6:00pm – Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:30 PM Adventure Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 – 3:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p> <p>7:30 pm Mystery Dinner Meeting – JR High Room</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:00 PM – Youth Champions-SH</p> <p>6:30 PM-HOA – JR High Room</p> <p>6:30 pm Biblical Self Defense – "make-up" of Part 1 – CSR</p> <p>7:30 pm Biblical Self-Defense Course (Part 2) – CSR</p>	<p>9</p> <p>2:00 – 5:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>7:30 pm Christian Education Meeting – JR High Room</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 am – 11:30 am B.A.C.H.E Workshop</p> <p>12:00 – 2:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>5 – 10 PM – Crossroads – Sanctuary, CSR & Classrooms</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 AM Joint Worship Service – Chapel</p> <p>11:30 Chancel Choir Practice</p> <p>Noon to 2:00 Youth Group meeting in the CSR</p> <p>11:30 Cabinet Meeting – JHR</p> <p>4-7 MC Social Hall & classrooms</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study in Antioch</p> <p>1:00 pm Outreach Meeting - CSR</p> <p>3:00 – 6:00pm – Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:30 PM Adventure Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Valentine's Day!</i></p>  <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 – 3:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00 PM – Youth Champions-SH</p> <p>6:00 pm Crop Walk Meeting – CSR</p> <p>7:30 pm Worship Committee</p>	<p>16</p> <p>2:00 – 5:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12pm Private Event –SH</p> <p>5 – 10 PM – Crossroads – Sanctuary, CSR & Classrooms</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 AM Sparkle Service in the Chapel</p> <p>11:30 Chancel Choir Practice</p> <p>12:45 pm Handbell Practice</p> <p>12:45 pm New Way Practice</p> <p>4-7 MC sanctuary & classrooms</p>	<p>20 <i>President's Day</i></p>  <p>NO Bible Study in Antioch</p> <p>3:00 – 6:00pm – Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:30 PM Adventure Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 – 3:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service – Chapel</p>	<p>23</p> <p>2:00 – 5:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>4:30 pm IAC – SH</p> <p>7:00 PM LGBTQ Film Series – CSR</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>1:00 PM College Group- Los Medanos</p> <p>7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Sanctuary & 2 class rooms</p> <p>30 Hour Famine Fast Lock-in or Winter Camp 5 pm – 8 am</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10 am - 1:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>5 – 10 PM – Crossroads – Sanctuary, CSR & Classrooms</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 AM New Way Sunday Service in the Chapel</p> <p>11:30 Chancel Choir Practice</p> <p>12:45 pm New Way Practice</p> <p>4-7 MC sanctuary & classrooms</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NO Bible Study in Antioch</p> <p>3:00 – 6:00pm – Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:30 PM Adventure Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 – 3:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting at Jim Campbell's home.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:00 PM – Youth Champions-SH</p> <p>7:30 pm Book Study – CSR</p>	<p>MARCH 1</p> <p>7:00 PM Theology Pub @ EJ Phair's in the Liberty Hotel.</p> <p>2:00 – 5:00 pm Rainbow Community Center – CSR</p>	<p>MARCH 2</p> <p>7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms</p>	<p>MARCH 3</p> <p>4:00 pm – Private Event – SH</p> <p>5 – 10 PM – Crossroads – Sanctuary, CSR & Classrooms</p>



Chapel Tidings

February 2012
Volume XXXVIII
Issue II

A monthly newsletter of the Community Presbyterian Church
200 East Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565 Phone (925) 439-9361



TIME DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested

February Events at ECSM

- **Super Sunday with Glenna Shepherd, coach/consultant**
Sunday, February 5th at 10:00 am in the Chapel.
 - **Biblical Self Defense Course**
Part 1, Wednesday, February 1st at 7:30 pm in the Stoneman Room. Part 2, Wednesday, February 8th at 7:30 pm in Stoneman Room.
 - **Men's Fellowship**
Saturday, February 4th at 8:00 am at Country Waffles in Pittsburg.
 - **Ash Wednesday Service**
Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Chapel
 - **Black History Sunday**
Sunday, February 26th at 10:00 am in the Camp Stoneman Chapel with the New Way team!

Letting Our Light Shine

East County Shared Ministry will be holding an “open house” on Sunday, March 25, to celebrate and announce our church an open and affirming congregation where all are welcome. Just like we say every Sunday:

*No matter who you are or
where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.*

We welcome all God’s children, regardless of their social or economic class, racial-ethnic heritage, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or differing physical abilities.

Immediately after worship, we will open the social hall with refreshments, decorations, a little entertainment, maybe even some gifts. Ideally, the decorations will be posters and/or displays scattered around the space identifying all the wonderful opportunities and benefits of ECSM. If you have participated in any of the following groups, please consider creating a poster, photo album, or memento for display. The display need not be fancy or elaborate. A collage of photos will do. You can combine some of the groups into one display if that makes the task less formidable.

Do remember: This is a chance for us to show East County what a vibrant and progressive congregation we are. Take a look at this list! We are pretty amazing!!!



Sunday School. On the second and third Sundays, our children have a special new curriculum called A Joyful Path! They remain in worship on the first Sunday for communion, and the fourth Sunday for the New Way service.

Mondays in Antioch. The FCCA devotional and Bible study group meets on Mondays in Antioch. Pastor Christy leads the group at 10 a.m. at St. George’s Episcopal Church.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study. Our book study group will be reading Who Wrote the Bible, by Richard Elliot Friedman. We meet at 10 a.m.

College Group. Young Adults meet monthly on a Wednesday afternoon for an informal conversation about the history of Christianity and the ways of Jesus, using the book A People’s History of Christianity, by Diana Butler Bass.

Explore Palestine. Pastor Will is leading a mission trip to Israel-Palestine over 17 days in



late October and early November. We will visit holy sites, learn about the peace work of Israelis and Palestinians, and help with their olive harvest.

LGBT Film Series. Once a month we gather in the CSR to watch a relevant movie. We have, in the past, seen “Milk,” “Breakfast with Scot” and many others.

How to Talk to Your Teen about Sex Workshop. We will host a conversation for parents of teens about how to discuss human sexuality. Bay Area Communities for Health Education (BACHE) will lead the conversation with Pastor Christy, who will provide the spiritual component.

A New Way. This is a multicultural, alternative worship service which leads our Sunday morning service once a month (normally on the fourth Sunday).

Youth Group. The Youth Group meets regularly on the second Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Other activities are planned on the third or fourth Saturdays.

Communion. On the first Sunday of each month, as we feast at the Lord’s table, remembering all those in our community who are suffering physical hunger. We gave over \$2,000 to local food banks in 2011



Biblical Self Defense. Pastor Will leads a conversation about what the Bible says about LGBTQ inclusion. Come study the “clobber texts,” gender identity, and biblical conceptions of marriage in their context.

Theology Pub. Monthly sessions. Come on down, taste a brew (or not), and let’s talk about God.

Joint FCCA-CPC Women’s Luncheon. Meets the first Wednesday of the month, rotating between Antioch and Pittsburg eateries.

Men’s Breakfast Group. Meets the first Saturday of the month at Country Waffles in Pittsburg.



Sparkle Sunday. We share the light of Christ each third Sunday. Wear your shiny sparkles and let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Crop Walk. This year’s Crop Hunger Walk will be Sunday, April 29, at 2 pm in Antioch.

Women’s Weekends at Westminster Woods. Westminster Woods exists to build meaningful relationships with Christ, with one another, and with our communities through outstanding programs and hospitality in a remarkable redwood setting.

Safe Place Youth Group. Both CPC and FCCA have committed to being a safe space for all those affected by bullying or in need of counseling. Please call us rather than consider any acts that would be self-destructive. We have programs to teach teens how to cook, express artistic abilities, and share their gifts with their families and friends.

Midweek Evening Study for Adults. We will begin a Lenten study Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., reading Brian McLaren's new book entitled A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith.

Vacation Bible School. Our most recent VBS blended our love of our Creator with love for our planet in an eco-friendly curriculum for children.

Easter Flower Cross and Egg Hunt. During Easter worship our children place fresh flowers in a wire frame cross and then process through the chapel in celebration of the resurrection.

Blessing of the Animals.

Yes, we bring our pets to worship for this special service, with everything from puppies to snakes and expound on the love of St. Francis of Assisi for all God's creatures.



Kirkin' of the Tartans. We celebrate our varied heritage with special focus on the Scottish and Irish backgrounds complete with bagpipes and real kilts!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Dinner. We celebrate and give thanks with our sister churches and with a variety of faiths in honor of our One God with Many Names.

Advent Dinner. An evening of crafts, decorations, carols and our "traditional" fried chicken dinner.

Christmas Pageant. A chance to see our young (and not so young) aspiring thespians tell the story of the Nativity.

Blue Christmas Service. For those having a difficult time during the holidays, a compassionate service is offered in consolation.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. Two services (early and late) are held in a beautiful candlelight setting.

Epiphany Party. Cupcakes are served, some of which contain hidden prizes to honor the season.



Deacon's BBQ. Celebrate Pentecost with lunch on the grounds provided by the Deacons.

Autumn Hoedown. Gettin' down with some good chow, line dancing and lots of laughs. Funds were raised in 2011 for the maintenance of our building and grounds.



School Supplies collection. To kick off the "back to school" season, we collect supplies for local children who cannot afford to purchase their own.

Christmas gifts collection. During the holidays, gifts of toys, clothing and food are collected for those in need who might not otherwise have a celebration.

Rummage Sale. Our biggest fundraiser. Lots of work, lots of fun, and lots of cleaned out closets!

Chancel Choir. A traditional four-part chorus providing a spectrum of sacred music from classical to contemporary.



Handbell Choir. For those who may not read music, you can still be a part of a musical group with the dulcet tones of handbells.

Fuchsia Sisters (and brothers) and other ensembles. For those who'd rather participate less frequently, we welcome small groups to offer their musical gifts, both instrumental and vocal.

Children's Sermon. Each Sunday our children are brought forward in song with a special message tailored to their age and interests.

Please let me know if there are other events or groups that should be celebrated!

Peace and harmony,
Elaine Palmer



PARISH NOTES



FEBRUARY 2012

Christy's Corner



Dear Friends,

Fall in Love

Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

Attributed to [Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ](#)
Finding God in All Things: A Marquette Prayer Book

I appreciate this poem by Father Arrupe because it brings a wonderful perspective to finding God...actually equating finding God with falling in love.

“Nothing is more practical than finding God...than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way.”

Continues on page 2...

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February Shared Ministry Events

- **Super Sunday with Glenna Shepherd, our coach/consultant**
Sunday, February 5th at 10:00 am in the Chapel
- **Biblical Self Defense Course**
Part 1, Wednesday, February 1st at 7:30 pm in the Stoneman Room. Part 2, Wednesday, February 8th at 7:30 pm in Stoneman Room.
- **Men's Fellowship**
Saturday, February 4th at 8:00 am at Country Waffles in Pittsburg.
- **Ash Wednesday Service**
Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Chapel
- **Black History Sunday**
Sunday, February 26th at 10:00 am in the Chapel with the New Way team!

Pastor's Letter Continued...

This falling in love is exceedingly practical. No pie in the sky here. Love simply changes our lives so fundamentally that the most practical details of our day to day lives are affected. When God's love saturates our lives, nothing remains the same. What we do and say, how we spend our money, what we value, what we fight for, what we hope for... are all shaped by this love.

Can we fall in love with God all over again and rediscover the vitality of this love?

Traditionally Lent is a time of reflection and prayer that allows us to open to the mystery of this love. Lent begins on February 22nd with Ash Wednesday. During Lent may we slow down and quiet down enough to hear the *still small voice* that speaks to us of God's gift of love in Jesus Christ. A love that accepts us as we are, blesses us with forgiveness, and calls us to offer our lives in love to a hurting world.

Together, we are called to experience and celebrate this awesome power of love.

Blessings as Lent begins,

Christy

Cabinet Meeting

There will be a Cabinet meeting on Sunday, February 12th at 11:30 am in the Stoneman Room.

Mondays in Antioch

Mondays in Antioch is a devotional, Bible study time. The group meets at 10 a.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church, 301 E. 13th Street, for an informal time of conversation, prayer and study. We will NOT meet on February 20th in observance of President's Day nor February 27th, Christy will be out of town.

Happy Birthday!
February & March

Feb. 4	Anne Greeff Silver Halladay
Feb. 7	Hillary Lamb
Feb. 9	Cherrie McNeilly Vicki McGuire
Mar. 12	Ethel Stow Jaime Grace Moraya Bellinger
Mar. 21	Bev Peterson

Food Barrel



On the first Sunday of each month, as we feast at the Lord's table, remember all those in our community who are suffering physical hunger and bring your food donations. for our East County Food Banks. We gave over \$2,000 to local food banks in 2011.

Shared Ministry Update

The next joint Session-Cabinet meeting will be a Day Retreat with our Consultant on Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Stoneman Room.

Women's Weekend

Women's Weekends at Westminster Woods are scheduled! Take a minute to go to www.westminsterwoods.org and check it out. Rev Judith Stone will be the leader on the February 3-5 week-end with the theme of Blessing. Keep this in mind and plan to join us. We had a lot of fun last year when we went. Please call me or talk to me if you are interested in going. 427-7225. - Mary Burks

February Celebrations

February 5th
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Glenna Shepherd

February 12th
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Will McGarvey

February 19th
Transfiguration of the Lord
Sparkle Sunday
Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

February 22nd
Ash Wednesday

February 26th
1st Sunday in Lent
New Way Sunday
Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

Prayer List



Please hold the following people in prayer:
Sig and Edie Lanstrom,
Cherrie McNeilly and
Eleanor Russell.

If you would like to add people to the prayer list, please call the church office or contact Christy.

Hymnals

Did you know that our current Presbyterian hymnals are over 20 years old? There will be new ones coming out in 2013. So...if you are interested in buying a hymnal in memory of or in honor of a special someone, you can do that by giving \$15 to this fund. If all 150 books are ordered by 12/31/12, we will not have to pay for shipping. As I'm very Scotch, this appeals to me. Just think, if you save \$2 a month, you could have enough for a book by mid-September. - Carol Krishnan



Worship Leaders

February 5

Liturgists George Stephens
Janis Harris Bellinger
Ushers Jim Atchison & Wayne Xiao
Greeters The Umozurike Family
Acolyte Acelynn Buluran

February 12

Liturgists Sue Ferguson
Sandy Henry
Ushers Richard & Betty Pankey,
& Sandy Henry
Greeters The Hosmer Family
Acolyte Michael Conant

February 19

Liturgists Alice Gibbons
Peter Tedeschi
Ushers Dave & Letha Arms,
& Janis Harris Bellinger
Greeters Barry & Vicky Winkler
Acolyte Madeline Hansen

February 26

Liturgists New Way Service
Ushers Barry & Vicky Winkler,
& John Saavedra
Greeters The Arms Family
Acolyte Kenneth Umozurike

Usher Reminder: It is greatly appreciated by the head usher that as an usher you come on your assigned day. If you cannot make it, please find a replacement from the usher list.

LGBTQ Film Series

We will next meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 23rd in the CSR to watch The Wedding Banquet.

Both CPC and FCCA have committed to being a safe space for all those affected by bullying or in need of counseling. Please call us rather than consider any acts that would be self-destructive.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will be collecting Souper Bowl of Caring donations of cash and non-perishable food for the PICES, Antioch Ministerial, and RCC food banks before and after church on Sunday, February 5th.

Lent Devotional



Lent Devotional for 2012
Stillspeaking Writers' Group

Single copy - **\$6.00**
Includes FREE shipping and handling

Give up your old ideas about Lent, and get a brand new take on the season from these short daily reflections by The Stillspeaking Writers' Group and other contributing authors. This 56-page devotional offers inspiration, humor, and unexpected insights for each day of Lent. Ideal for a weekly Lenten study series or for individual use.

The Stillspeaking Writers' Group is eight United Church of Christ ministers, pastors, and authors who collaborate on a variety of resources for people in the church, outside the church, and not so sure about the church. Their motto: "Hearing God where you live (and other surprising places)."



Ash Wednesday Service

A Joint Service Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Camp Stoneman Chapel

Joint Women's Fellowship Luncheon

The Joint FCCA-CPC Luncheon will meet Wednesday, February 1st at Country Waffles, on Harbor Rd. in Pittsburg.

Outreach Committee

There will be an Outreach Committee meeting on Monday, February 13th at 1:00 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room.

How to talk to your teen about Sex Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 11th at 10:00 am, ECSM will host a conversation for parents of teens about how to discuss human sexuality. Bay Area Communities for Health Education (BACHE) will be leading the conversations with our pastors, who will give the spiritual component of the presentation. This will be an informal conversation with opportunities to discuss and share our experience and questions.

CROP Walk

Crop Walk organizing meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 15th at 6:00 pm in the CSR. This year's Crop Hunger Walk will be Sunday, April 29th at 2:00 pm in Antioch.

Pastor's Schedule

Christy will be out of town attending a workshop from the afternoon of February 26 through March 4th.

Musings on a Winter Morning

By

Edie Lanstrom

I recently read a devotion By Elizabeth Sherrill in which she wrote of visiting her sister in Djakarta, Indonesia where she learned that Indonesians like to use the word d'BLUM" to avoid saying no. Indonesians feel that no is "too negative, too final, too unyielding." Instead of replying no, these Asian people will reply d'BLUM ("not yet"), which allows for dreams. This unusual expression, I think, also offers hope. In this article, the author said a doctor might ask an 80-year woman "Do you have any children?" The Indonesian patient probably would answer, "d'BLUM."

After I read the devotion, I closed my eyes and carried on a mental dialogue with myself.

Edie, have you cleaned the storage space under the stairs? d'BLUM

Edie, have you organized your writing room? d'BLUM

Edie, have you relined the kitchen cabinets? d'BLUM

Edie, to save space on your flash drive, have you learned to make folders on your computer yet? d'BLUM

As I faced my d'BLUM procrastinations, winter musings drifted down another mental corridor, a corridor bathed in the light of God's unconditional love. A love that allows even a d'Blum person like me to hope for forgiveness and eternal life. d'BLUM, a good word to add to my vocabulary.

I saved this article in a folder, so I can erase learning to make folders from my d'BLUM list.

Glenna Shepherd our coach/consultant arrives in town on Thursday, February 2. She wrote the following note inviting each of us to sit down and talk to her about the future of our shared ministry. She writes...



Dear Friends,

I look forward to meeting you next week and hope that our time together will contribute to the bright future that you share as CPC and FCCA. Sharing your thoughts, hopes, and dreams will contribute to our work together. I do hope that you'll sign up for a time to speak with me on Thursday or Friday so that your opinions and vision contribute to the creativity of our weekend events. See you soon!

- *Glenna*

There are still time slots open on Feb 2nd and 3rd. Call Jessica at the church office (925) 439-9361 or (925) 757- 4094 or email her at cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, February 4

9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Joint Cabinet/Session Retreat with Glenna in Social Hall and CSR
Lunch will be provided. (Free will donation appreciated)

Sunday, February 5

10 a.m. – Celebratory Worship and Communion with Glenna

There are still 5 slots free on Friday, February 3rd to sign up to talk with Rev. Glenna Shepherd, the Shared Ministry Consultant.

Remember that you don't have to be for or against the Shared Ministry to need to share your experience with Rev. Glenna. She will want to talk to anyone and everyone while with us Feb. 3-5, and will want to hear as much as possible to prepare her report to us about where we are in our process, and make suggestions for the work we need to do together.

Glenna has been a church musician, and has pastored a church through a merger similar to ours.



Parish Notes

February 2012

A monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church of Antioch
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

200 East Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565 Phone (925) 757-4094

Office Hours - 9:00 am to 12:30 pm – Monday – Friday

Email info@uccantioch.org or cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net

Visit us on the web!

www.uccantioch.org



February Events at ECSM

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