

Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Friends,

As we enter Autumn, I am aware of a quickening of pace. Children are going back to the hustle and bustle of school days. A series of important days come in rapid succession: Back to School, Labor Day, Blessing of the Animals Sunday, Youth Sunday, Halloween, Election Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Years.

We are asked to slow down to make important decisions, the work load increases, and at the same time we prepare for important celebrations.

In biblical times, the fall was also a very busy time of year. As a primarily agricultural society, ancient Hebrews found Autumn to be just as busy as we do as they harvested their crops, prepared them for storage, and celebrated the bounty of another year. Harvest time was a time for people to gather together. Threshing floors, wine and olive presses were

built around the edges of cities between the fields and the homes so that fruit and grain could be efficiently processed on its way to homes and cities. It also allowed for neighbors to come together – sometimes staying on the threshing floors many nights in a row - to help each one process their harvest in succession as the crops became ripe. Everyone had a job to do, from the youngest to the oldest. Many plans were made together.

Being on the threshing floor meant being with community, working together, and being on the threshold between safety and wilderness, the known and the unknown, the neighbor and the stranger. It was an exciting time and place to be.

As we move through the Autumn months, we have many of the same challenges and opportunities. The Mission Board, Ministry Board, and Trustees have been working hard to bring people together for important decisions, to work hard, and to build goals for next year. The American people are working hard to prepare for the upcoming election. The world is working together to address issues such as climate change and the refugee crisis. You will see coming up many opportunities to gather, to work, to celebrate, to participate, and to invite people in.

Challenge



We stand on a threshold together as a church, as a nation, and as a world regarding the fruits of our labors. We stand looking over what we have accomplished together and what we want to accomplish in the coming years. We stand between familiarity and the unknown, between neighbor and stranger, between safety and wilderness.

(Continued on page 2)

I invite you to pray with me that as we move through these next few months of hustle and bustle, we will work together to gather the harvest and prepare the seeds for our future. I pray that we will stand at the threshold together, loving our neighbor and welcoming the stranger, honoring the familiar and embracing the unknown, knowing we can count on safety but also trusting that every time one of our biblical ancestors stepped into the wilderness, they found God right there to guide them. Amen.

Blessings, *Pastor Tracy*



HOORAY! COMING SOON..... POT LUCK LUNCH OCTOBER 16, AFTER WORSHIP

Save the date! We are having a pot-luck lunch immediately after worship on Sunday, October 16. Please bring some lunchy munchables for you and 6-8 more folks. We will relax, sit together and talk.

We will have the topic of Worship to toss around at each table. What is Worship? What does that word mean to you? Where are the places where you feel most worshipful? Plan to be there and share your thoughts on this meaningful subject.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The painting and repair of the courtyard woodwork and classroom wing is very near completion. The carpenters found less deep dry rot than we feared, but in more beams than we expected, so their costs will be a little more than projected.

The roofer reports there is very little roofing work needed because the carpenters were so careful, so roofing costs should be less than expected. A more complete report will be provided once all invoices are received.



PRAYER PARTNERS

Please remember the following members of our church family in prayer. Pray for their welfare and growth in faith and discipleship.



September 25 - October 1
James (Trip) True

October 2 - 8
Barbara Tullis

October 9 - 15
Jim Turner

October 16 - 22
Richard and Denise Walker

October 23 - October 29
Stephanie Wood

October 30 - November 5
Christine and Bob Bandettini



HELP PAINT OUR CHURCH

On September 11, the Trustees presented to the congregation estimates for painting and related construction work needed for our church facility. After discussion, the congregation voted to move ahead with the work and to authorize the Trustees to obtain a line of credit from Cornerstone as well as approach the Mission Board about the potential of borrowing funds from the Pilgrim Hill Foundation. These funding sources will allow us to

begin and complete the painting prior to the start of rain in late fall. However, we do need to raise funds to repay the money we borrow.

The Help Paint Our Church fund raising kicked off at services on Sunday, September 18. Pledge forms were distributed to those attending service asking us all to select and sponsor, with our gifts of money, the different projects need to complete this project. We need sponsors for the following:

- 22 Metal Joist Caps (\$90 each)
- 22 Wooden Joists Replacement (\$450 each)
- 6 Doors (\$75)
- 30 feet of Roof (\$100 per foot)
- Painting the facility (Think cans of paint - 20 cans at \$500 per can)

Pledge forms will be available at services each week and will be mailed out by the Trustees as part of the fall Stewardship Campaign. You can also obtain an electronic copy by contacting Caryl Hodges or David Knopf. Your pledge can be paid between now and January 2020 in monthly, yearly, or one donation.

PILGRIM PARK UPDATE

Passages – Many Pilgrim Park residents mourned the passing of a husband of one resident and the long time boyfriend of another resident.

Construction Activities – It seems that there is always something to report. To get ready for winter, we replaced a key drain pipe outside the laundry. To avoid trip hazards, we replaced three sections of sidewalk on Merrydale.

Food – The Food Bank has upgraded our pantry designation so that all residents are now eligible. Extra Food has now expanded their sources of food for Pilgrim Park to include such places as Costco. We now longer get food from Panera.

Nancy Smith - Nancy will be on medical leave for six months or so for medical treatments. We expect her back after she completes these treatments.



Bob De Haan

The header features a decorative border of green grapevines with leaves and a large orange pumpkin on the left side. The text "Come and" is in a black cursive font, "Worship" is in a large orange cursive font, and "with us!" is in a black sans-serif font below it.

Come and Worship with us!

October 2 **John 6:25-35**
World Communion Sunday

October 9 **Luke 13:31-35**
Blessing of the Animals

October 16 **Matthew 5:13-16**
Salt of the Earth, Light of the World

October 23
Youth Sunday

October 30 **Matthew 7:15-20**
You will know them by their fruits

CHEERFUL OPPORTUNITIES COMING YOUR WAY

Paul writes to the Corinthians (and to us....)

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Our boards and committees have been hard at work developing goals to guide next year's budget and stewardship. How ambitious and bountiful we can be depends on how much we have. The Board of Trustees plans on requesting pledges earlier this year, so mid-October watch your mailbox for more cheerful giving opportunities!



KIDS! UPCOMING EVENTS



EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM - Church School

OCTOBER 2: - 3-5 PM - Planning for Youth Sunday

Please join us as we get ready for Youth Sunday on October 23. This is the day that the children lead worship! Children of all ages are encouraged to join Pastor Tracy to help choose a theme, decide how they want to help, and make a plan for that Sunday. On October 23 children will be invited to preach, choose scripture, write prayers, serve as readers, ushers, and sing in the choir. There are many different opportunities to serve and all are welcome to participate and plan. For more information, please contact Pastor Tracy at 510-703-0108 or revtracybarnowe@gmail.com

OCTOBER 9: - 10 AM - Blessing of the Animals

Bring all your furry, feathered, and scaly friends for a special outdoor worship experience followed by a blessing of the animals. If you have friends with a pet, please invite them to join us! Pets are welcome to join us during worship. Please use your best judgment to determine whether your pet needs to be on a leash, in a carrier case, or in a cage or box to be safe and secure with other animals around. We will look forward to seeing you there!

OCTOBER 23: - 10 AM - Youth Sunday

Youth of all ages are warmly invited to lead worship on Sunday, October 23. There are opportunities to serve for all ages. Please see above announcement about the planning meeting on October 2.

FAITH FORMATION PROCESS FOR YOUTH

Pastor Tracy and Sunday school teacher David Knopf are considering a faith formation process for youth who are interested in questions of faith and church membership. One possibility is a program called *Confirmed not Conformed*.

Meetings could be alternate Sunday mornings, and/or could be through periodic retreats. The group would also visit other churches, create a service project, and each youth will have a mentor from the congregation.

Pastor Tracy and David will be discussing these and other ideas with our young people and their parents over the next few weeks. If you know of youth who might be interested, please let Pastor Tracy or David know.





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING OCTOBER 2



Neighbors In Need (NIN) is the UCC's annual campaign to build support for its ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of the offering supports the work of CAIM (Council for American Indian Ministry), including much-needed financial support for 20 American Indian congregations in the UCC. The other two-thirds of the offering supports justice advocacy and service projects such as just-peace programs and community grants, often addressing issues of hunger and poverty.

The NIN offering, which we will receive on Sunday, October 2, mainly supports the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries with its strong grassroots advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. NIN helps make another world possible. It needs our strongest support. Please give generously on October 2nd.

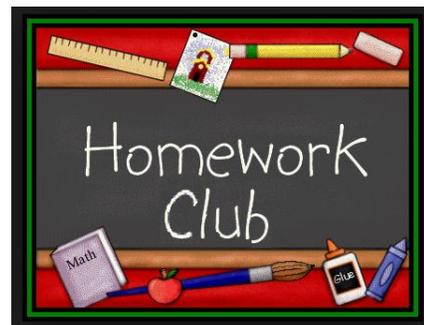


DINNERS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN RESUME NOVEMBER 7 (THE R.E.S.T. PROGRAM)

Sponsored by the Board of Mission, members of our congregation will be participating again with the REST program, which feeds and shelters homeless women at the County Wellness Center in San Rafael. This is the same place that has been used in the past. We'll be preparing to serve and share Monday night meals on the following dates: Nov 7, Dec 19, Jan 9, Feb 13, March 6, and April 3. Watch for the sign-up sheet or speak with Sher Ripley if you would like to help.

HOMEWORK CLUB Wednesdays and Thursdays

Sponsored by the Board of Mission, the Homework Club is back in session on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. The Homework Club serves children from Pilgrim Park and provides support and tutoring as they complete their school homework assignments.



We are definitely in need of more tutors to help staff this vital program. If you are able to volunteer as a homework helper, please contact Mission Board chair Lucinda Ray or Pastor Tracy.

MOVIE NIGHT OCTOBER 28 DAVE

As we drag ourselves toward the finish line of this long, dispiriting election campaign, we all want a chance to laugh and feel good again about American politics. Ivan Reitman's 1993 film *Dave* is just what we need.

Dave Kovic (Kevin Kline) is the sweet hard-working head of an employment agency in a small mid-western town. He is also a dead ringer for Bill Mitchell, the not-so-sweet current President of the U.S. As a result, the Secret Service recruits Dave as a stand-in for the President – walking swiftly to the presidential limo, smiling and waving to the crowd while the real President sneaks out to meet his girlfriends.

Things get complicated when the President suffers a stroke, and his oily Chief of Staff (Frank Langella) decides to hold onto power by keeping Dave on the job full time. The result are by turns scary, funny and encouraging as Dave starts to use the President's power for good, and the real President's estranged wife (Sigourney Weaver) warms to this new version of her husband.



Dave might manage to keep you smiling all the way to Election Day.

7 PM Friday October 28 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park.

The subtext of *Dave* resembles the messages of many of Frank Capra's movies: If people in power only behaved sensibly and with good will, a lot of our problems would solve themselves. Of course its not that simple. But watching *Dave*, there were moments when I found myself asking, why isn't it?

Roger Ebert

Links to the trailer and complete review are in the FCCSR website.



MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

OCTOBER 12 The Church Council meeting will be at 7 PM, Plum Room.

OCTOBER 23 The Board of Mission meeting will be at 11:30 AM, Oak Room.

OCTOBER 25 The Board of Trustees meeting will be at 7 PM, Plum Room

OCTOBER 30 The Board of Ministry meeting will be after worship. We will be firming up plans for Advent.



CHURCH BUDGET UPDATE

Our Financial Status Through 9 Months

Three-quarters of the way through 2016, our spending is on track to finish very close to the budget we approved in January. (Note that the big painting and roof repair project is not part of this budget. That is being paid for out of the building fund and new pledges specifically for that work.)

That's the good news. The not so good news is that payments on pledges and other identified member contributions have not risen to the "stretch" level on +5.5% that we approved at the Annual Meeting. They remain stubbornly on track to come in only 1% above 2015. It's always possible that we'll see a sharp upturn in the last quarter, but if not, we'll finish the year with a net shortfall of about \$4,000.

	Approved 2016 Budget	Expected Through 9 Months	Actual 2016 thru 9/27/16	Projected Full Year 2016
<i>Expenses</i>				
Pastoral Salary & Benefits	90,148	67,611	67,579	90,148
Other Payroll	41,511	31,133	30,748	43,300
Pastor's auto & misc expenses	2,225	1,669	1,607	2,350
Utilities & Website	7,586	5,690	6,230	7,900
Office & Operating Expenses	13,550	10,163	7,770	13,550
Taxes & Insurance (incl. Mortgage)	24,979	18,734	17,158	25,000
Benevolence	8,380	6,285	2,698	8,380
Choir & Christian Education	4,450	3,338	1,289	2,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	192,829	144,621	135,079	193,428
<i>Income</i>				
Pledges & other identified contributions	95,600	71,700	62,383	91,500
Loose Offerings	4,050	3,038	2,252	3,400
Church Growth Workshops	1,800	1,142	142	142
Rents	69,100	51,825	52,085	72,270
Interest & Misc	800	600	644	800
Transfer from Courtyard (for mortgage)	15,599	11,698	11,698	15,599
TOTAL INCOME	186,949	140,003	129,204	183,711
Current Surplus (Shortfall)	(5,880)	(4,618)	(5,874)	(9,717)
2013/14 Surplus applied	5,850			5,850
Overall Surplus/Shortfall	(30)			(3,867)

This has serious implications for 2017. For the past two years, we have been able to partially offset operating shortfalls with surpluses we carried over from 2013/14. (That's the \$5,850 in the next-to-last line above.) That money is now gone, and we cannot afford to continue eating into our reserved with operating losses. Significant cuts in activities may have to be made. We'll keep everyone posted as the Trustees start developing the 2017 budget.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6 — Alan Miller
- 17 — Ann Dannecker
- 19 — Jean O’Leary
- 23 — Sher Ripley
- 25 — Tessa Templeman
- 25 — Deb Smith
- 31 — Bruce Weir

GOLDEN GALS — October 11

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, October 11, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



MEN’S GROUP — October 22

The Men’s Group will meet on Saturday, October 22. We meet at 8:30 AM in the community room at Pilgrim Park. Bring your favorite sweet roll. Coffee is provided. We normally meet for about two hours.

TIE DEADLINE for the November Issue - Mon., Oct. 24

The deadline for articles and news for the November 2016 issue of The TIE is Monday, October 24. Please have all articles for the July/August issue at the church office by Sunday, October 23rd. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tracy Barnowe – Pastor

Tuesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Available by appointment on other days
Cell Phone (510) 703-0108
revtracybarnowe@gmail.com

Gwendolyn Morgan – Office Manager

Tuesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Office Phone: 415-479-2747
office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar OCTOBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Neighbors in Need Offering 3 pm - 5 pm Youth plan Youth Sunday	3	4	5 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	6 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Blessing of the Animals	10  Columbus Day	11 10 am  Golden Gals' monthly meeting	12 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club 7 pm Church Council Meeting	13 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	14	15 Sweetest Day
16 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am Pot Luck Lunch	17	18	19 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	20 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	21	22 8:30 am  Men's Group
23 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Youth Sunday 11:30 am Board of Mission Meeting	24 5 pm  TIE Deadline for SEPTEMBER Issue	25 7 pm  Board of Trustees Meeting	26 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	27 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	28 7 pm  Movie Night, DAVE De Haan Center Pilgrim Park	29
30 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am Board of Ministry Meeting	31  Halloween	1	2 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	3 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	4	5

This calendar is also available on the church's website in interactive form. There you can click on any event to see more details. Check it out at www.FccSanRafael.org.