

Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Earlier this month I had the privilege of spending a weekend at Walker Creek Ranch. On Sunday morning I was walking with my cup of tea toward the next activity and caught sight of a mule deer standing in the tall grass on a hill behind one of the buildings. The deer heard me before I saw her, and she startled but did not run. Several moments passed as we regarded each other. While deer are likely used to human activity on the ranch, she still had to assess whether or not I was a threat. I don't know how to make a steaming mug of tea look small and non-threatening while still sipping on it, but I did my best.

After a few minutes she bent her head and continued eating. It was a peaceful scene. Golden rolling hills, the rising sun glistening off the dew of the grass and trees, mist rising off the ground, and a single deer munching quietly on a hillside. It was also a rare scene. In our busyness and pre-occupation we humans rarely have the time or the awareness to notice or enjoy such things.

After a moment, I saw a second deer stand that had been there all along, sitting hidden in the tall

grass. By this time I had beckoned over other passers-by to see the deer, and a small group of us stood watching



them. Finally, a third came bounding through the grass to join the other two, jumping and trying to play. This seemed to break their thrall, and they all ran together through the camp, disappearing into the trees on the other side. If I had followed my initial feelings—my desire to get closer and pet the deer—I would have scared her away and missed seeing the other two. Also, the moment would not have lasted long enough for other people to enjoy. Worse still, I probably would have spilled my tea.

The theme of the weekend was Love, and I thought of how during wedding homilies I remind the couple that in the Bible, Love is a verb, an action. It is how we behave toward one another, regardless of what emotions may come, and goes as quickly as flighty deer. It is a conscious choice to be still, to be non-threatening, to give space, to serve, to listen, to give, regardless of how you may be feeling in the moment.

This past month at FCC San Rafael I have sat in many meetings with different ministry teams and learned about all of the different ways our church serves its community, how many lives it touches. The amount of service that this church does is overwhelming. I have seen how hard people work to gather food for the hungry, to bring school supplies to the impoverished, to care gently for aging parents, to educate the alien and the sojourner, to invest in the highest quality building materials to house the poorest in our community.

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Everything Under the Sun....continued

At these meetings, I have seen people who were tired, who were ill, who were hungry, who were feeling a little burnt out, who were distracted, who were worried about many people and things in their lives. Their emotions were all over the map, but their actions were still loving toward each other and toward the people they served, even those whom they had never met. When I ask them to tell me about the work that they do, I see the joy that their work brings them and loving feelings fill them up and outweigh the fatigue and the distractions. That reflection is a moment of tranquility that fills us up with love so that we can pour it out again through our actions.

One of the activities that we did at the retreat was to finish the sentence “Love is...” and write down examples we have seen to be pinned on a blanket. This blanket will be hung in the church over the next several weeks, and I would encourage you to come see it and add your own reflections. As I think of all of the examples of love that I saw that weekend and over the past month at FCC San Rafael, I am reminded of the story of Jesus and Caesar’s Coin that we studied on Sunday, September 21. We are created in God’s image, and God’s image is one of compassion and justice, peace and hope, liberation and love. We are vessels for all of these things. When we pour these out to other people and to our world, God fills us up with more. When we act in love, we are reflecting the image of God. When we pause to reflect on what we do and the people we share it with, we can experience moments of sublime tranquility and restoration.



As we move through the next several weeks, we will be taking time to honor and bless many people in our communities. We will be celebrating World Communion Sunday and taking the Neighbors in Need offering reflecting on the many ways that our church and the United Church of Christ acts in loving ways throughout our nation and world. We will be celebrating the furry and scaly, feathered and slimy friends and all the love that they bring into our lives and as we honor St. Francis of Assisi Sunday and bless the animals. We will be observing the Children’s Sabbath and encouraging all youth to help lead worship. We will be celebrating All Saint’s Sunday and remembering all of the friends and family that have passed before us and the love they brought into our lives. We will be blessing and honoring veterans. As I look ahead to the upcoming weeks, I see how much love there is in our church and our world.



As we move through the next month together, I invite you to take time to reflect on the loving actions that are poured out on you, and on how much you do to love others. Share these reflections with someone close, share them with me, or share them on the “Love is...” blanket at church. Let me know what happens when you do. I’ll look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings, *Pastor Tracy*

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



September 28-October 4
Marie Douglas

October 5-11
Julie Dowling

October 12-18
Mary and Oak Dowling

October 19-25
Elaine Farwell and Andrea

October 26-November 1
Louis and Khamla Frost and
Melanie Sakskul



October 5, 2014 - World Communion Sunday - Please join us for this annual celebration of communion as part of our global community of faith. Calling all bakers! We will celebrate a diverse and multicultural communion with breads from around the world, so watch for sign-up sheets in the upcoming weeks.

October 12, 2014 - Blessing of the Animals - Please join us as we celebrate St. Francis of Assisi day with a fun and festive animal-themed service, followed by a Blessing of the Animals. Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends to this very special outdoor service.



October 19, 2014 - Children's Sabbath - We will celebrate children and the important gifts they bring to our church community and throughout biblical history. All children are encouraged to participate in the worship service, so you won't want to miss this special day.

October 26, 2014 - Halloween and Higher Education Sunday - Please join us for this fun and unique Halloween-themed service as we read the spookiest story in the whole Bible! We will also celebrate Higher Education Sunday by unveiling our Winter Bible Study series.



November 2, 2014 - All Soul's Day - This is a day for remembrance of those loved ones we have lost. You are invited to bring photos or small mementos of your loved ones to place on the altar, and to light a candle in their memory. Children will be working on a similar craft to celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in Sunday School.

News About Kids



OUR KIDS CREATE ART

On Sunday, September 21, our artistic Church School kids created **Thank You** and **Welcome** drawings that will be turned into a series of cards that Pastor Tracy can send to both newcomers to our worship and to those who help in special ways. Many thanks to our kids and church school teachers for helping all of us reach out to others with original works of art!



PARENT MEETING — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28



Please join us as we begin to design our youth program and Sunday School curriculum for the upcoming year. We invite all parents to share their thoughts, hopes, and needs for youth programming and curriculum at FCC San Rafael.

We will meet shortly following worship service at 11:45 AM on Sunday, September 28, in the Plum Room. Child care will be provided.

EDFK UPDATE

Look for a number of upcoming events supporting EDFK that are currently in the planning stages. We would like to remind everyone that the need to provide nutritious meals for hungry children in Cuernavaca continues to be strong. Your donations to support Every Dollar Feeds Kids are greatly appreciated. Thanks for your continuing support.



WELCOME ABBEY MONTESSORI



The Abbey Montessori School now has morning classes in the downstairs area of our church. We would like to welcome them. It is wonderful to have a school back in the building. As we as a congregation use the kitchen downstairs, please keep in mind the school, and only use church kitchenware.

Again, welcome Abbey Montessori!



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



SEPTEMBER 28 — PRESENTATION OF CROP WALK TROPHY

Our congregation raised the most funds for the 2014 CROP walk, \$3,077, out of a total of a little over \$18,000, with 16 churches participating. We'll receive the trophy during worship.

OCTOBER 5 — NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Our annual Neighbors in Need Offering will be on Sunday, October 5. This offering is a major support for the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.



Two-thirds of this offering is used to fund a wide array of local and national justice issues and direct service projects, dealing with, for example, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. One third of all NIN Offerings are traditionally slated to support our American Indian neighbors in the UCC, establishing churches and working with various UCC congregations on reservations. NIN is an invaluable resource for these churches and their pastors. Look for bulletin inserts and an offering envelope in future church bulletins.

Your Mission Board thanks you for your generous support of Neighbors in Need !

OCTOBER 5 — WATER CONSERVATION CHALLENGE



As we all know, the state of California is in the middle of by far the worst drought in recent history, and that includes Marin and Sonoma counties. Most of us have already taken some steps to reduce our water use, but there's much more we could be doing. All it takes is a little education.

FCCSR is co-operating with a program called "Water Conservation Challenge," which is being jointly run by the Marin Municipal Water District and the City of San Rafael. On Sunday, October 5, at noon in the Plum Room, a team from the city will be here to explain the Challenge program and how YOU can participate to save more water, save money and earn the undying gratitude of your neighbors.

Join us after coffee hour on October 5 to learn all about it. Please RSVP by calling Sue Spofford.

PILGRIM PARK NEWS



Directors Greg Ripley (President), Bob De Haan, Bill Harrison, Eric Caindec, David Knopf, Lynn Grant (Secretary) and Bob Smith attended the quarterly board meeting on September 17th. Also attending were Pastor Tracy Barnowe, Loren Sanborn (John Stewart Co. executive), Nancy Smith (Site Manager), and Linda Bettencourt, Independent CPA from Holden & Company LLP. The main topics covered were:

1. Review of financial results for the year ended June 30, 2014 – Bob De Haan summarized operating results:

- Revenues up slightly to \$1,116,000
- Profit before depreciation up to \$206,000
- Loss down to \$18,000 – essentially breakeven

After mortgage payments and major additions (mostly two decks) to the buildings, Pilgrim Park's reserves increased modestly and remain very strong.

Next, Linda Bettencourt summarized the results of the annual audit and answered Directors' questions.

2. Management reports – Linda Sanborn and Nancy Smith reported on operations.

Highlights were:

- No vacancies and waiting lists are closed
- No significant maintenance concerns
- One sewer project pending
- As of January 1, 2015, rents will increase 2.5%. The Section 8 residents are not affected.

Nancy Smith reported on various resident activities, including visits by Dominican nursing students, weekly food bank deliveries, twice weekly day-old Panera breads deliveries, Saturday morning yoga lessons, monthly birthday celebrations, food bank nutrition classes, and limited tickets to Marin Center performances.

3. SMART train - Bob De Haan reported that he is monitoring SMART construction to insure that uphill drainage will be improved.

4. Next Meeting - The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4th.

SPECIAL MOVIE NIGHT **OCTOBER 3** *MRS. DOUBTFIRE*

To honor the life of Robin Williams, we've scheduled a special Movie Night to re-visit one of his most-loved roles. "Mrs. Doubtfire" showed us both sides of his remarkable talent: the wild, improvisational comic genius and the warm, gentle persona of his "serious" roles. (Watch how he holds himself back in the scenes with the kids so your attention stays with them.)

Join us for an evening of laughter and joy as we remember Robin Williams.



As word spread of Robin Williams' death, fans left flowers at the "Mrs. Doubtfire" house at Steiner St. and Broadway.

Bus Driver: [after noticing Mrs. Doubtfire has hairy legs] I like that Mediterranean look in women. Natural, healthy. Just the way God made you.

Mrs. Doubtfire: [modestly] Well, He broke the mold when He made me. He made me very special.

Bus Driver: He sure did.

7 PM Friday, October 3, in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

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

MOVIE NIGHT OCTOBER 24 – GAME CHANGE

Election day is just around the corner, so here's our candidate for the most enjoyable, and provocative, political drama of the past few years.

Game Change tells the story of the McCain campaign's choice of Sarah Palin as their nominee for Vice President in 2008 . . . the desperation that led them to choose a total unknown . . . their frantic attempts to educate her on important issues . . . how Palin ultimately became the story of the campaign, pulling all the attention away from McCain.

The film succeeds because it treats all the players as credible, complete people. Nobody is presented as a cartoon. Also, while there are plenty of laughs, the film also poses serious questions about the unreal intensity in a modern presidential campaign, and how that led smart, experienced people to make dumb decisions.



Game Change stars Julianne Moore as Sarah Palin, Ed Harris as John McCain and Woody Harrelson as Steve Schmidt, McCain's campaign manager. It won five Prime-Time Emmys and three Golden Globes, winning best made-for-TV movie in both competitions.

"There are some cracks in Julianne Moore's portrayal of Governor Palin, but considering the challenge Ms. Moore plays the candidate with surprising finesse. This is a sharp-edged but not unsympathetic portrait of a flawed heroine, colored more in pity than in admiration. Ms. Palin's detractors will consider it generous, and her advocates have already dismissed it as a liberal smear job."

Alessandra Stanley, *New York Times*

7 PM Friday, October 24, in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

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



BOARD OF MISSION MEETING — October 12

On October 12, the Mission Board will be meeting to continue their Budget and Benevolence Review, deciding which of the many worthy organizations, both local and global, we want to support within the budget we've been given by the Board of Trustees.

GOLDEN GALS — October 14

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, October 14, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



BOARD OF MINISTRY — October 19

Board of Ministry members — and anyone interested — please join us for the next Board of Ministry Meeting on Sunday, October 19, at 11:30 AM.

MEN'S GROUP — October 25



Join us for an hour or so of fellowship and wide-ranging conversation. Our next meeting will be **8:30 AM on Saturday, October 25**, in the De Haan Community Center in Pilgrim Park. Please bring a breakfast pastry for yourself and one other person. We'll take care of the coffee.

R.E.S.T. DINNERS TO RESUME — NOVEMBER 24

The Mission Board will once again offering you an opportunity to provide meals for homeless women in Marin County at the Women's Winter Shelter Program in San Rafael. Officially called Marin REST, which stands for Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, this is a program of the St. Vincent dePaul Society,

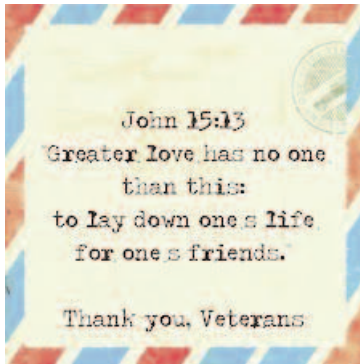
Our congregation has been a faithful and important participant in this program for five or six winters. We have agreed again this year to provide the evening meal for a group of about 20 homeless women who are sheltered at the Wellness Center in San Rafael for one Monday night each month during the winter season. Our first dinner will be November 24.



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

See next month's issue of The TIE for more details.
Contact Sher Ripley or Suc Spofford if you would like to participate.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER



November 9, 2014 - Veterans Blessing - During this special worship service we will be blessing and honoring all veterans. Is there a veteran in your life? We encourage them to bring them to worship for a special gift and prayer. Children will be preparing special bags for gathering non-perishables for the Thanksgiving food collection.

November 23, 2014 - Blessing of the Harvest - We invite you to come as we celebrate God's abundance and share it with those who are less fortunate during this Thanksgiving Season. We invite you to bring non-perishables for the Food Bank. Watch for special collection bags in the preceding weeks! Children will be collecting, blessing, and sending the food off to the Food Bank.



November 30, 2014 - 1st Sunday of Advent - Watch for more details in upcoming weeks about Advent Season at FCC San Rafael.

REMEMBERING A RELAXING, REJUVENATING RETREAT

Mary Dowling reports that 32 lovely folks attended last month's Retreat at Walker Creek Ranch, and that a great time was had by all!

Pastor Tracy's article on the first page of this month's TIE captures a memorable moment. The pictures on the next page are just a few glimpse of the event.



REMEMBERING A RELAXING, REJUVENATING RETREAT



AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO GOOD AND FEEL GOOD

Dear FCC Friends,

At our end-of-semester party last June, Juana came up to me shyly, then threw her arms around me, and with tears in her eyes, said, "Thank you teacher. Thank you." Juana's thank you lets me know how important it is to volunteer at the Canal Alliance.

I've been teaching English to recent immigrants to this country for about three years now. It is about the most rewarding and enjoyable thing that I do in my life.

The Canal Alliance is a service organization, serving the Canal Area of San Rafael and its mainly Latino population. It offers opportunities for volunteers who range from those who speak no Spanish to those who are fluent. At this moment, here are the areas where volunteers are needed:

- Academic Tutors for Youth Program
- Compañeras "Childbirth Coaches"
- Computer Class Assistant
- DACA Workshop Assistant
- DACA Workshop Pro-Bono Attorney
- ESL Teachers and Aides
- Food Pantry and Open Market Assistants
- Host a Party with a Purpose
- Immigration Department Office Assistant
- Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Immigration Legal Intern
- Technology Planning Volunteer
- U Visa Immigration Legal Intern

To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to do good and have fun, call the volunteer coordinator, Joan Green, at (415) 306-9452, or email joang@canalalliance.org.



Thanks,
Charles Little



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

TIE DEADLINE for the November Issue - Monday OCT. 26

The deadline for articles and news for the November issue of The 28th is Monday, October 26. Please have all articles for the September issue at the church office by Sunday, October 25th. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS






















Rev. Tracy Barnowe – Pastor

Monday 9 AM - 1 PM
Wednesday 9 AM - 1 PM
Cell Phone (510) 703-0108
revtracybarnow@gmail.com

Eric Rowe – Office Manager

Tuesday 12:00 – 5:00 PM
Friday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Office Phone: 415-479-2747

FCC Calendar OCTOBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care  11:45 am Parent Meeting	29	30	October 1	2  7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	3  7 am Movie Night - "Mrs. Doubtfire"	
5  Neighbors in Need Offering  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care  12 am Water Conservation Challenge	6	7	8	9  7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care  11:30 am Board of Mission	13  Columbus Day	14  10 am "Golden Gals" monthly meeting	15	16  7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care  11:30 am Board of Ministry - Hum Room	20	21	22	23  7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24  7 am FCC Movie Night - "Game Change"	25  8:30 am Men's Group
26  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	27	28	29	30  7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31  Halloween	1

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.