

## *Everything Under the Sun....*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My daughter Faye is a lizard whisperer. For as long as I can remember, whenever we have gone camping, Faye has caught lizards. One year, she caught 12 lizards in five days (though technically one of those she caught three times in a row - that one wasn't very bright). The first time that my daughters visited FCC San Rafael, Faye's first question was, "Are there lizards around here?!" She and Rosemary fell in love with the natural beauty surrounding the church and were excited to explore the grounds, climb the trees, and hunt for local fauna. Yet in all of their searching since then, they have not found any lizards.

This past Wednesday, I was sitting in the office by myself and something small wiggled across the floor. It startled me, but I took a closer look and discovered a small baby lizard dashing to-and-fro across the carpet. You can imagine the ensuing scene as I tried to chase this small (and very fast!) creature down in my heels

with the limited tools at hand. After much lunging and pouncing, I finally captured the skittery critter under a coffee mug that Hilary Spaulding had brought in on Monday. A moment later, David Knopf arrived and escorted it outside while I tried to catch my breath.

When the mug was finally lifted near a tree in the courtyard, the lizard sat petrified just long enough for me to snap a picture of it before it launched itself toward the nearest tree. It ran so fast off the lip of concrete that it managed to flip itself over onto its back as it skidded higgledy-piggledy in the dirt. It lay there, wriggling with its white belly to the sky for a long moment before it was able to roll over and then disappear into the leaves.



When I told this story at the Council meeting that evening and later to friends and family, it brought much laughter and multiple friends commented on how this was confirmation that this church was a great fit for us and vice versa. Faye and Rosemary are now filled with hope that they will be able to find lizards if they look hard enough.

(continued on page 2)

## Everything Under the Sun....continued

As I think about Faye's original wish and the chaotic scene that unfolded many weeks later, I can't help but think about how often God answers prayers in strange unexpected ways, and how that can spread joy and hope to others in our lives.

On June 29, I spoke about how we all have all the resources we need to be reflections of God's love and light in the world. We are not heroes, but we are not unlikely, either. I am not a Lizard Whisperer, but I can wield a coffee mug when necessary. Over the next few weeks in worship, we will continue exploring themes of opening our minds and hearts to new opportunities for fellowship, outreach, and community involvement, and opening our eyes to seeing the gifts and resources we bring to these opportunities.

Please join me on upcoming Sundays as we explore Moses' unique call despite his fears (Aug 31), Moses' fresh start in an unlikely new community (Sep 7), Reimagining ourselves as instruments of God (Sep 21), and God's extravagant and repeated invitation (Sep 28).

I have been overwhelmed by the welcome and outpouring of love and warmth from this congregation. It has been a whirlwind first week! It has been a pleasure to get to know you better and to sit in conversation with our Ministry Team, Council, Sunday School teachers, and Music Director, and to bless all of our students as they head back to school this fall. My goals for the next few months are to get to know the congregation and community by continuing these conversations. Please watch for information on how to set up time for coffee at your convenience in this newsletter and during worship. I'll look forward to sitting down with you soon!

Many 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.*



**August 31-September 6**  
Bob De Haan and Nancy  
Sangster-De Haan

**September 7-13**  
Jackie Dema

**September 14-20**  
TJ and Saba Dempsey, Samuel  
and Jakob

**September 21-27**  
Mary Lou Doodokyan

**September 28-October 4**  
Marie Douglas

## YOUR NEW PASTOR WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU!

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is a blessing to be your new minister and I am feeling very grateful for such a warm welcome. It is my hope to be able to meet with everyone at FCC San Rafael within the next several weeks so that I can get to know you better.

For the next two months, I am generally available at the following times:

Monday - Thursday from 9 AM - 1 PM

Wednesdays evenings from 4 PM - 8 PM

Every other Sunday after church from 12 N - 8 PM

You can schedule a meeting with me three ways:

- 1) I have set up a calendar at <https://doodle.com/revtracybarnowe> for people to be able to make appointments. I would like to meet with everyone for one hour and I would like to invite you to come my office at the church. If, however, you would like to meet at your home, please schedule a two-hour meeting and know that the half hour at the beginning and end will be travel time.
- 2) Email me at [revtracybarnowe@gmail.com](mailto:revtracybarnowe@gmail.com)
- 3) Call me at 510-703-0108

Please be sure to include a phone number where I can reach you when you schedule the meeting.

I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Blessings,

Rev. Tracy Barnowe

## WALKER CREEK RANCH RETREAT - SEPTEMBER 13 and 14



**Retreat Theme: LOVE IS....**

### RETREAT SCHEDULE AND DETAILS

Arrive between 1:00 and 3:00 PM on Saturday, September 13.  
Official activities begin at 3:00 PM.

#### Activities include:

games, crafts, nature walks, folk dancing, meditations,  
campfire singing, Sunday worship service, chocolate cake,  
...and lots of free time.

#### Meals include:

Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch.

Check out is after lunch on Sunday, October 27 around 1pm

**Day Use:** Saturday dinner and activities.

**It's not too late!**

**Sign up  
by September 7**

Driving directions and final schedule will be available the week before the camp.  
Contact MARY DOWLING 456-7251, email [maryrpt@comcast.net](mailto:maryrpt@comcast.net) or see her at church.

## CHURCH SCHOOL STARTS NEW SEASON — SEPTEMBER 7

This fall church school will begin with a study based on celebrating creation. We will also be active in helping our church be welcoming and in supporting several ministries of the church.

The church school curriculum is based on the *Seasons of the Spirit* program, which was created by a consortium of denominations including the United Church of Christ in the US, and denominations in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The program uses the lectionary as a starting point, and includes ritual, Bible stories, crafts, games, and art.



We will also have several special events this fall including the Walker Creek Retreat, Blessing of the Animals, a Children's Sabbath, and Dia de los Muertos. This year we will also start with a preschool group taught by Cathi Fuller and Milagro Ramirez, and a school age group lead by David Knopf and Caryl Hodges. For more information contact any of the teachers or Call David at 246-6570.

## YOUNG ARTISTS NEEDED — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21



Calling all young artists! Children will be designing special greeting cards to welcome and thank all of our neighbors. Watch for more information in upcoming weeks.

## 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.





## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### BACKPACK SUNDAY REPORT

Backpack Sunday was a huge success, thanks to the generosity of so many of the congregation. We collected and donated to children in Marin County (through Ritter Center):

48 backpacks	24 sets of crayons (24 count)
6 lunch boxes	25 boxes pencils
4 binders	7 scissors
36 notebooks	21 rulers
22 composition books	14 sets of pens
17 folders	7 sets of erasers
22 pkgs. binder paper	2 binder pouches
5 sets large markers	45 glue sticks
7 sets colored pencils	6 pkgs. subject dividers
15 sets of highlighters	7 pads of paper
	1 desk set



### SEPTEMBER 7 — BOARD OF MISSION MEETING

On September 7, the Mission Board will be meeting to do a 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.

We will, of course, want to keep supporting local programs that provide food and shelter where there is great need, but we wonder if there are other ways of helping people we should consider -- providing transportation, perhaps, or helping folks communicate (phone, email, letters), helping people repair stuff, helping people get rid of stuff they don't need, or even helping people find jobs. We welcome any suggestions you might have. If you have an idea that would "fit" our mission as a church please contact anyone on the Mission Board, or drop your suggestions off in the Mission mail slot in the church office.

The two-part "Mission Statement" we have been using to guide us in past years is:

- 1) to make a difference in our local community, working with organizations that serve the poor and needy and, for the most part, with programs that focus on social-justice, and/or the education of children.
- 2) to promote awareness of critical global issues and to contribute to programs that build a more equitable and sustainable world.

### 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 — WATER CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

Learn about the Water Conservation Challenge in a meeting after worship on October 5. There will be lots of checklists and "How to" resources for both homeowners and renters. Lots of tips and tools to share. More details in the next weeks!



## PILGRIM PARK NEWS

The following letter explains the wonderful response of Pilgrim Park residents to San Rafael's invitation to celebrate National Night Out. My wife and I attended from our church.  
Bob De Haan

August 12, 2014

Honorable Gary O. Phillips  
1400 Fifth Avenue  
PO Box 151560  
San Rafael, CA 94915-1560

Dear Mayor Phillips:

The residents of Pilgrim Park have asked us to thank you, the City Council and City Manager for promoting the National Night Out.

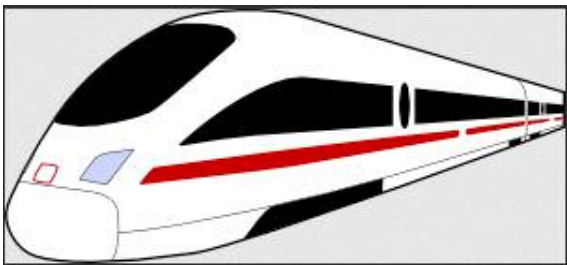
Pilgrim Park Apartments was founded with a mission of fostering community spirit. Authentic community spirit is vital because it reflects the true sense of the connection people have to one another. It is our belief that many issues, challenges, and opportunities can only be met when people act together like in the National Night Out Event.

We all greatly appreciated the visits by the firemen, policemen, city staff and the City Manager. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the fire hats, the glowing necklaces and just getting to meet and interact with the firemen and police up close.

This was a good opportunity for about 87 of our 127 residents to mingle, share food and enjoy the performance given by our pilgrim park children in a warm, loving and safe environment. Thank you for joining us.

Very truly yours,  
PILGRIM PARK APARTMENTS

## SMART TRAIN "QUIET ZONE" MEETINGS



Are you concerned about the SMART train noise? The church has received a request to join efforts to convince the City of San Rafael to request a "Quiet Zone."

Current federal law requires that trains sound horns at 96-110 decibels when approaching intersections such as at North

San Pedro Rd. This requirement can be waived if enough safeguards are established.

The City of San Rafael is organizing public meetings on these issues to be held September 18th from 7-9 P.M. at the San Rafael City Hall and September 29th from 7-9 P.M. at the Terra Linda Community Center.

To request updates and more information, contact [quietsanrafael@gmail.com](mailto:quietsanrafael@gmail.com).

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.*

## GOLDEN GALS — September 9

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, September 9, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



## BOARD OF MINISTRY — September 10

Board of Ministry members — and anyone interested — please join us for the next Board of Ministry Meeting on Wednesday, September 10, at 4 PM.

## MEN'S GROUP — September 20



Join us for an hour or so of fellowship and wide-ranging conversation. Our next meeting will be **8:30 AM on Saturday, September 20**, 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN WORSHIP THIS FALL



**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.



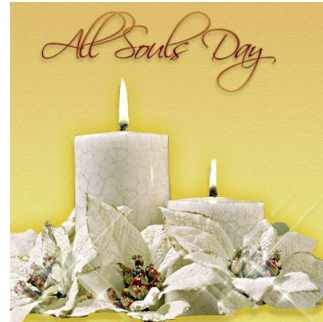
## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN WORSHIP THIS FALL



### 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.



**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.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9 — Elaine Farwell  
10 — Joan Roane  
10 — Megan Fuller  
16 — Will Godbey  
23 — Paul Burks  
25 — Tim Dempsey  
25 — Caryl Hodges



## TIE DEADLINE for the October Issue - Mon., SEPT. 22

The deadline for articles and news for the October issue of The 28th is Monday, September 22. Please have all articles for the September issue at the church office by Sunday, September 21st. Or, email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:revtracybarnow@gmail.com)

**Eric Rowe** – *Office Manager*

Tuesday 3:30 – 5:30 PM  
Friday 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Office Phone: 415-479-2747

# FCC Calendar SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>September 1</b> Labor Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10 am  Church School Begins 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am Board of Praise	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 am  Golden Rule monthly meeting	<b>10</b> 4 pm  Board of Ministry - Plam Room	<b>11</b> 7:30 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  FCCSR Annual Retreat
<b>14</b>  FCCSR Annual Retreat 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:30 am  Men's Group
<b>21</b> 10 am Young Artists Event 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:45 am  Parent Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:30 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 7 pm  Movie Night - Mrs. Douillard	<b>4</b>

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](http://www.FccSanRafael.org).