

Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we come to the end of the Lenten season, we approach Easter with great anticipation. I am reflecting on how much has happened since Advent, when the nation was riveted by the events in Ferguson, Missouri, surrounding the death of Michael Brown. On the first Sunday in Advent I preached a sermon in which I asked the congregation to pray with me and turn the issue of racism in the United States over to God, and wait for a response. The following week, I asked how many people got an answer. Only one person raised a hand.

You might think that that is a sign that God did not answer, but in reality many, many things happened. Several people came to me immediately after worship on that day and told me their own stories of witnessing (and participating in!) racism in their own lives. It was clear that they wanted a safe place to talk about it. I began receiving emails from parishioners forwarding me articles about racism in the United States and concrete actions that white people could take to combat it.

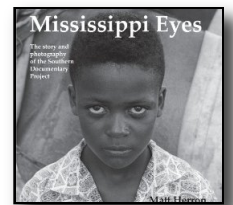
Requests came for more sermons on this topic, for more avenues for conversation and action. The

Mission Board discerned that they wanted to focus their efforts on educating the children of immigrants by starting a Homework Club and scholarship program. A long-time member approached me saying he had recently seen a photographic presentation on the Civil Rights protests in Selma, Mississippi, in 1963; would the church be interested in inviting the photographer, Matt Herron, to present to the congregation?

Since then, we have opened up a conversation on race relations in the United States—past, present, and future. We will be seeing Matt Herron present the photographs from his new book, *Mississippi Eyes*, on April 26. On May 22 we will be watching the movie *Selma*. In August we will be hosting a performance of *Cops and Robbers* which navigates an officer-involved shooting of a black man in Oakland, California, in modern day.

We are opening our eyes to the problem, opening our minds to learn new information, and opening our hearts to engage in honest conversation about how our own thoughts and actions can exacerbate or solve the problem.

As we enter the season of Easter, let us remember that Christ revealed himself to people in many unexpected ways, challenged them to open their eyes to uncomfortable truths, and called them to respond with humility, authenticity and service. In December I asked that you pray with me for a clear direction to take. Now I ask that you prayerfully respond to the opportunities and challenges we have been given.



Blessings, *Pastor Tracy*

News For Kids



THREE SPECIAL EASTER EVENTS FOR KIDS

April 5

Easter Processional: All children are invited to come early and participate in this festive processional.



April 5



Easter Bonnet Parade and Contest: Calling all men, women and children to wear their fanciest and most creative Easter bonnets. There will be a parade and contest immediately following worship service.

April 5

Easter Egg Hunt: Children of all ages are encouraged to join in the Easter Egg Hunt after the Easter Bonnet Parade and Contest.



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



March 29 - April 4

Sung Park

April 5 - 11

Jeffrey Paul and Trista

April 12 - 18

Milagro Ramirez

April 19 - 25

Lucinda Ray and Charles Little

April 26 - May 2

Greg and Sher Ripley, and Blair



Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday

All children are invited to come early to the worship service so that they can participate in the Parade of Palms.

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM

Please join us for a multi-sensory Communion service with Hand Washing as you arrive in the Narthex.

Friday, April 3 Good Friday

Noon-3pm: A labyrinth will be set up in the courtyard to allow for a walking meditation that follows the Passion of Jesus. An additional silent, reading meditation will also be available.

6:30 pm: Please join us for a candle-lit, meditative Tenebrae (Light-and-Dark) service in the sanctuary, followed by a moonlit walking meditation of the passion in the courtyard labyrinth.



Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday

Easter Lilies will be used to decorate the altar on Easter Sunday. You may order your own Easter lily for \$10.00 and then take it home with you after the service. Please see your bulletin for an order form or contact Patty Trosclair for more information.

Easter Processional: All children are invited to come early and participate in this festive processional.

Flowering of the Cross: All are invited to bring flowers from their garden to decorate the cross. Please come half an hour early if possible to allow time for the decorating before worship begins at 10 AM.

Easter Bonnet Parade and Contest: Calling all men, women and children to wear their fanciest and most creative Easter bonnets. There will be a parade and contest immediately following worship service.

Easter Egg Hunt: Children of all ages are encouraged to join in the Easter Egg Hunt after the Easter Bonnet Parade and Contest.





March 29 Mark 11:1-11

Palm Sunday. "Jesus enters Jerusalem"

April 5 John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday. "When it was still dark"

See the previous page for many more details.

April 12 John 20:19-29

"Doubting Thomas"

April 19 Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

"Creation and Earth Day"

April 26

Sermon will focus on Race Relations and Selma

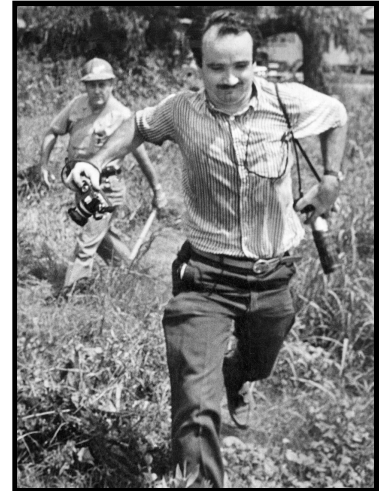
ORDER A LILY FOR EASTER

You are invited to order an Easter lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. The lilies will be placed in the altar area of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5th, 2015. The lilies are \$10.00 each and order forms are in the church office.



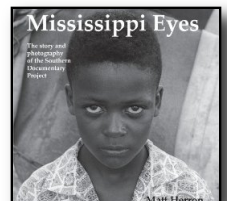
SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - 7 PM
**Selma: The March for Voting Rights; Social Justice Issues
Then and Now**

"I'm Walkin For My Freedom," The Selma March and Voting Rights, is a slide show that begins with the voter registration problems that African Americans encountered prior to the 1965 march, then pictures the March, and finally ends by showing what the March accomplished. The show will be narrated by internationally acclaimed photojournalist, Matt Herron, a resident of San Rafael. This year of 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights, the most significant of all the civil rights marches and the one that directly led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Mr. Herron's new book, *Mississippi Eyes*, will be available for purchase and personal autograph.



Matt Herron has been a photojournalist since 1962, and his pictures have appeared in virtually every major picture magazine in the world. Based in Mississippi in the early 60s, he covered the Civil Rights struggle for *Life*, *Look*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and the *Saturday Evening Post*, as well as providing pictures and support for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 1964 he founded and directed the Southern Documentary Project, a team of five photographers that attempted to document the process of social change in the South. In the 70s, Herron turned to writing, and produced a series of major articles for *Smithsonian* and other publications.

Many of us have seen the movie *Selma*, a 2015 Academy Awards Best Picture Nominee; meanwhile, legislators in some states are busy curtailing those same voting rights that were the major accomplishment of the March. In the weeks following this April 26th presentation, First Congregational Church of San Rafael (FCCSR) will be hosting special events and sermons based on social justice issues then and now.



We hope that you'll join us!

To Register or Reserve Mr. Herron's book, *Mississippi Eyes*: Use either option below:

Eventbrite: online registration for complimentary ticket and book reservation
<https://imwalkinformyfreedom-selmamarch.eventbrite.com>

Or, call our church office at 415-479-2747 to leave a message or speak with the office manager for ticket registration and/or book reservation.

OPEN SEATING: Doors Open at 6 PM

If you have a large group (10 or more) attending, note that in your online or telephone registration.

Event Contact: Patty Trosclair: 415-609-0813 cell/text

PILGRIM PARK RECYCLES ALMOST EVERYTHING

WATER – For some time recycled/reclaimed water from the sewage treatment process has watered all of Pilgrim Park's lawns and gardens.

FOOD – Twice weekly, day-old bakery goods from Panera help residents with their good budgets. And, the SF food bank weekly delivers food for the aged and other residents.

GARBAGE – Residents are now dividing their garbage into the three recycling categories for Marin Sanitary to pick up. This has saved Pilgrim Park over \$9,000 a year because of reduced dumpster use/weekly pickups.

CLOTHING and other reusable household items – There are several Salvation Army receptacles on site into which residents can recycle these items. Sale of the items helps to pay for a men's drug rehabilitation program.

POWER – Although not technically recycling, the management of Pilgrim Park is now investigating the feasibility of changing most outside lighting to LED and installing Solar Cells to generate about 75% of the electricity Pilgrim Park uses.



by Bob De Haan



HOMEWORK CLUB GROWING. . . . TUTORS AND SNACKS NEEDED

Organized by the Board of Mission, we are now offering homework help to elementary students living at Pilgrim Park. We meet after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays for one hour, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM through the month of April.

So far we have ten students who attend—five of them come regularly, and five others come more sporadically. Thanks to our team of loyal tutors – Lynn Grant, Colleen Trudeau, Pastor Tracy Barnowe, Judy Girard, Anice Flesh, Cindy Ray and Bruce Weir – we can usually provide one-on-one homework help for each student. We also provide snacks and juice, and sometimes, on warm sunny days, we work with the kids outside in the courtyard.

However, we can see that the program is growing each week, and we need additional tutors! If you have tutoring experience and would like to participate in this project, or if you'd like to share the job of setting up tables, chairs, juice and snacks for the kids, please contact Pastor Tracy or Sue Spofford.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING - March 29

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. This year we will be collecting your One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings on Sunday, March 29. It will be one of the best opportunities to show our strength as a "mission church."



If you can't attend on March 29, donations to the OGHS may be mailed in or dropped off at the church office any time. Checks should be made payable to FCC San Rafael with "OGHS" written on the memo line. When you make your gift, please give generously.



BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS — MAY 3



You can help end hunger around the world in just a few minutes. We'll provide pens, paper, sample letters, envelopes, stamps, and encouragement. All you need to contribute is a little time.

On Sunday, May 3, after worship, the Board of Mission will sponsor an Offering of Letters. Working together with many other denominations across the country and with Bread for the World, we will write letters to our U.S. representative and our U.S. Senators urging them to act to help end hunger around the world. More information and sample letters will be available



R.E.S.T. DINNER — APRIL 13

The Mission Board offers you one more opportunity this season 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,



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

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 last dinner this spring will be April 13. Contact Sher Ripley or Sue Spofford to participate.

NEWS FROM A FORMER INTERN

One of our former seminary interns, Tisha Brown, enclosed this note for our congregation along with a recent donation she made to Every Dollar Feeds Kids.

Greetings Friends at First Congregational,

It was great to receive your invitation to support Every Dollar Feeds Kids, and to see so many familiar names on the invitation letter. I'm glad you all continue to thrive and do good ministry in San Rafael and beyond.

I recently left my church after ten years and am now working for the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC as the Director of their Lay Academy. I have also developed a singing career! If you are interested, you can find me at www.tishabrown.com.

I think of my time with you with great fondness and am grateful for how you all shaped me in ministry.

May God continue to bless and keep you all.

Tisha Brown
318 N. Owen Drive
Madison, WI 53705

ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE!

FCC/SR WALKER CREEK RANCH RETREAT
Saturday and Sunday, September 12 & 13, 2015

This year's theme: "BLESSED TO BE A BLESS-
ING"

This is our 9th annual retreat!
Come play and pray with us.

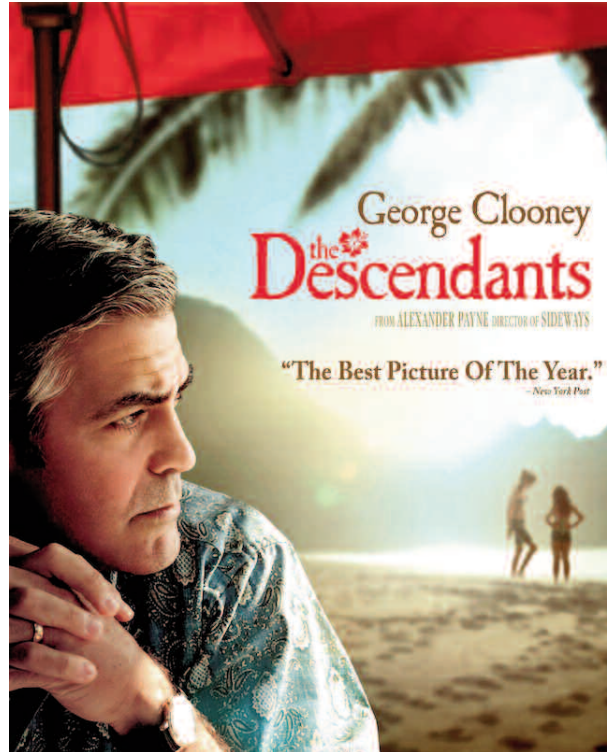


MOVIE NIGHT APRIL 17 *THE DESCENDANTS*

(Note the date! This is a week earlier than our usual Movie Night)

Writer/Director Alexander Payne has a special talent for quiet stories about men growing up and learning to deal with their responsibilities — movies like *Sideways*, *About Schmidt*, and *Nebraska*. His 2011 script for *The Descendants* won his second Best Screenplay Oscar.

In *The Descendants* we meet Matt King (George Clooney) a 40-something lawyer in Hawaii who has skated comfortably through life, but is now confronted by three non-skatable crises: First, his wife lies unconscious after a terrible boating accident, and he has to learn how to be real parent to his 10 and 17 year-old daughters. Second, he learns that he didn't know his wife nearly as well as he thought. Third, as the head of a large extended family who have been in the Islands since the days of the Hawaiian Kings, he must decide about selling the last huge, undeveloped plot of land on Kauai, a decision that could make dozens of relatives wealthy . . . or not.



Clooney's pitch-perfect portrayal of a good man learning to step up and make tough decisions was nominated for a Best Actor Oscar.

"This is Clooney's show. . . the actor has opened up his heart, allowing waves of resentment and regret to batter him, loyalty and love to test him. Who would have thought that one of the last true Hollywood stars would find himself in this ordinary man who deals in very ordinary ways with life in all of its wonderful, wounded whimsy."

Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

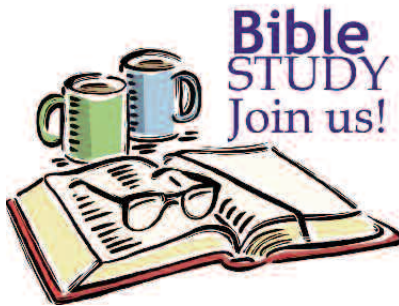
7 PM, Friday, April 17, In the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

You can view the trailer at the FCCSR website.

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS



APRIL 8 AND 22 BIBLE 101 - 6:00-7:30 PM



Please join us for a two-part Wednesday night study series in which we learn about the history, language, and sections of the Bible and how it was formed into the current canons.

The class will focus on the individual books of the Bible and how they correspond to history and the social, historical and geographical context of the Old and New Testaments. For more information, please contact Pastor Tracy.

BOARD OF MINISTRY MEETING - APRIL 19

The Board of Ministry will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, April 19, in the Plum Room.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 29

The Church Council will meet on Wednesday, April 29, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 — Bob Spofford
9 — Bob Bandettini
11 — Jill Krippendorf
14 — Hilary Spaulding
24 — Lucinda Ray
27 — Barbara Miller

GOLDEN GALS — April 14

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



MEN'S GROUP — April 25



Do you want to discuss a wide range of important topics, including current events? Plan to attend the next men's group meeting on Saturday, April 25. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. 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 May Issue - Mon., April 27

The deadline for articles and news for the May 2015 issue of The TIE is Monday, April 27. Please have all articles for the September issue at the church office by Sunday, April 26th. 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 – 4:00 PM

Friday 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

FCC Calendar APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>30 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>31 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>1 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>2 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>3 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>4 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>5 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>
<p>6 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>7 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>8 1 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>9 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>11 1 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>12 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>13 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>14 1 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>15 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>16 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>17 1 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>18 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>19 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>20 1 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>21 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>22 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>23 1 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>24 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>25 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>26 1 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>
<p>27 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>28 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>29 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>30 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>31 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>1 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>2 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>3 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>4 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>5 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>6 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>7 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>8 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>9 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>11 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>12 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>13 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>14 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>15 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>16 12 pm Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>

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.