

Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples, “Truly, I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (MT 18:2-4)

Traditionally, this passage has been interpreted as extolling the childlike virtues of humility, innocence, and openness - all of the things that the disciples (and for that matter many adults) struggled with.

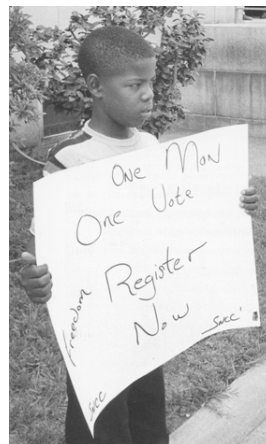
However, recently I heard that my daughter noticed a two year-old new to the church had no one her age to play with, and so announced that she would go find her some friends. She ran down the hill to where she knew the neighborhood children gathered, and brought a gaggle of children back to the church with her. That didn’t demonstrate humility, it showed an awareness of stranger’s feelings, problem-solving, leadership skills, and an innate desire and ability to build community.

An attendee of the Homework Club recently asked to learn more math and science over the summer, and actively seeks out the tutor who can challenge them

most with more math drills. That doesn’t show innocence, that demonstrates a keen sense of the importance of knowledge and a desire to acquire it.

I met a child who when I asked what I could do for their family, asked for a special blessing for their parent who was recently distressed and aggrieved. That didn’t show innocence nearly as much as compassion, awareness, sensitivity, and initiative.

During the presentation *Remembering Selma: “I’m Walkin’ For My Freedom,”* photographer Matt Herron showed a picture of an eight year-old black boy standing alone in front of a courthouse in Alabama, holding a sign that said, “One Man, One Vote” with three imposing white police officers coming to arrest him, which they did.



photos by Matt Herron

Much to my surprise, Mr. Herron spoke of how it was the children who instigated the protests in Selma. While the adults were too afraid to engage the police, the children made signs, protested, and publicly lifted up their grievances and their demands for justice. It was only when law enforcement began incarcerating elementary

school-age children that the parents' anger brought the adults out to join the protests. To me this shows not humility, but fearlessness, defiance, a deep sense of justice, and down-right spunk.

If we are called to build the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth - a just, peaceful, harmonious society where all are embraced and everyone has enough, and we are to take Jesus' words seriously unless you change and become like children, then I would look to the children in our community for examples. Noticing the stranger combined with building community. Compassion combined with initiative and loving kindness. An openness to learning combined with an articulate search for knowledge. A deep sense of justice combined with spunky but organized defiance. In each of these examples, we see integrity: thought, word and actions in alignment. We also see people who are willing to walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

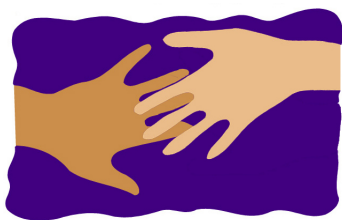
I wonder what that small child so many years ago was doing during the time of the Roman Empire - a period of much unrest, of disenfranchisement of racial and ethnic minorities, a time of war and violence, a time of grief and fear, a time when most everyone either was a refugee and stranger, or lived among exiles as their neighbors. What was it that caught Jesus' attention? What did he commend the child for doing, specifically? We don't know. I imagine the child did what children often do when you praise them in front of a bunch of adults they don't know: blushed and beamed, but mostly looked at the ground. So we are left only with one word: humility. But if that child was anything like these children, I'll imagine that they were also fearless, full of initiative, compassionate, hungry for knowledge, and humble.

As we go forward over the next few months, we will be asking these children to become more active participants in the worship, ministry, and life of the church. I pray that God will bless them in their learning and participation, and that God will bless us that we might change and become like them.

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.



April 26 - May 2

Greg and Sher Ripley, and Blair

May 3 - 9

Joan and Russell Roane

May 10 - 16

Lisa Roberts, and Samantha,
Phoebe, and Lily

May 17 - 23

Karl Raade

May 24 - 30

Melanie Sakskul

May 31 - June 6

Marie Saldana

Come and Worship

w i t h u s !

May 3 John 2: 1-11
Turning Water into Wine

May 10 Genesis 25: 5-21-28
Genesis 26: 34-35, Genesis 27:17
Eve - Mother of All Creation

May 17 Genesis 3
Blessing of the Graduates

May 24 Acts 2
Pentecost Sunday

May 31 Genesis 41: 1-45
Pharaoh's Dream

Bible Study

Topic: Race Relations

Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM, May 6 - June 3 in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once said "it is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning." In this series we will focus on Biblical passages that have been used to influence laws and social policies. These have perpetuated the stark inequalities that have permeated U.S. history and led directly to the achievement gaps, violence, and recent protests in cities such as Ferguson, Wisconsin and Oakland, California. In order to address the race issues that concern us all, we must understand how churches and the Bible can both perpetuate and alleviate the problem.

The focus of this series will be on examining scriptural passages that have traditionally been used to harm and disenfranchise people of color. We will place these passages back in their proper historical, social and linguistic context amid the Bible's larger message of inclusion, equality, and all being one in Christ, with an emphasis on concrete actions that can be taken toward healing, reconciliation, and unity.

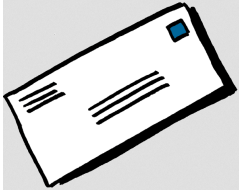
Please bring finger-foods to share if you are able.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



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. This year the focus of our letters is on child nutrition programs here in the United States. You will find additional information, a sample letter and the addresses of your senators and representative on the next pages.

If you aren't in worship on May 3, you can certainly write and mail your own letters, or bring them with you on May 10 to be stamped and mailed by the church.

TOWEL SUNDAY - June 28

Check out the sales and get a head start on our June Mission project, Towel Sunday. We will be collecting towels on Sunday, June 28, to be used at the Homeward Bound complex.



NEW !!

R.E.S.T. DINNERS — Pilot Program Adds Summer Dinners

We have recently learned that the REST program will continue as a pilot program this summer. The Mission Board has agreed to host **four Monday meals: June 15, June 29, July, 13, and July 27**. These are 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 during the winter season. This new pilot program will take place this coming summer. Contact Sue Spofford to participate.

Why the Child Nutrition Program Is Important

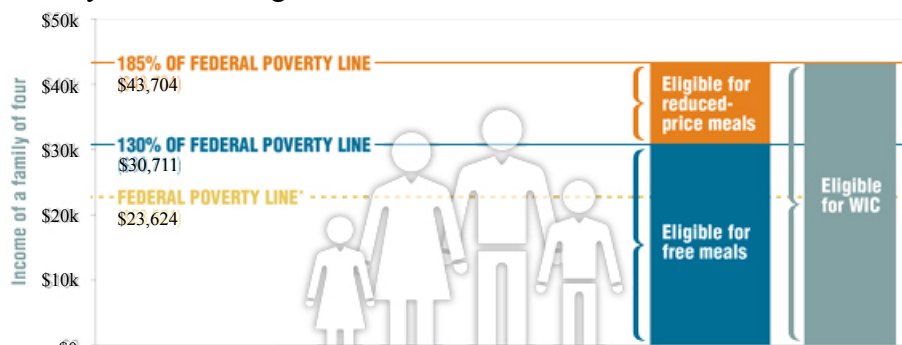
Nearly 16 million children in the United States—one in five—live in households that struggle to put food on the table. Many of these children have parents who have job and work hard, but their wages aren't high enough to cover the high costs of rent, transportation, and utilities—and daily meals. So our federal government's feeding programs serve as a lifeline for vulnerable children and families. Because children are hit especially hard by the effects of hunger and malnutrition, nutrition programs aimed at children are particularly important. A healthy start in life—even before a child is born—pays off for years, not only for individual children and families, but for communities and our nation as a whole.

What the Federal Government Does

Only one out of every 20 grocery bags that feed people who are hungry come from church food pantries and other private charities. Federal nutrition programs, from school meals to SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), provide the rest. Our government's child nutrition programs serve millions of children each year. Here are the major programs and their functions for low-income children:

	National School Lunch Program	School Breakfast Program	Summer Food Service Program	Child and Adult Care Food Program	WIC Program
What does it provide?	Free or reduced-price lunches	Free or reduced-price breakfasts	Meals during summer months	Healthy meals and snacks	Nutritious food, nutrition education and healthcare referrals
For whom?	21.5 million low-income children	11.2 million low-income children	2.4 million children in 2013	Approximately 3.4 million children	8.3 million low-income pregnant women, infants, and children up to age 5
Where?	In more than 100,000 schools	In more than 89,000 schools	Over 47,000 community-based sites	In child care or qualified after-school programs	Food is bought by recipients with WIC checks or a debit card

To receive free or reduced-price meals or WIC benefits, children must live households that are "low-income" as defined by the federal government. The illustration below shows the programs that a typical family of four is eligible for at various income levels.



Congress must review and renew child nutrition programs every five years, and they are up for “reauthorization” in 2015. Currently, these programs are governed by the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010. When Congress reauthorized child nutrition programs in 2010, it made some of the biggest investments in their histories. Despite these gains, however, gaps in participation remain, and far too many children continue to live at risk of hunger. Of the 21.5 million low-income children who receive a school lunch, only a little over half also receive breakfast. And only about one in seven receive meals during the summer months. Children are most at risk of hunger during the summer and school breaks. Bread for the World is urging Congress to pass a child nutrition bill that protects nutrition programs and gives more hungry children access to the meals they need to thrive.

What You Can Do to Help

Participate in the Bread for the World Offering of Letters on Sunday, May 3. You can use a pre-printed letter (a sample is below) that you sign and address to your senators and representative, write your own letter, or send a letter online at <http://www.bread.org/ol/2015/> Your letter should urge Congress to pass a child nutrition bill that protects nutrition programs and gives more hungry children access to the meals they need to thrive.

Dear Senator _____ or Representative _____

As you consider the 2016 budget and renewing child nutrition programs this year, I urge you to make sure children at risk of hunger can get the healthy meals they need to learn and grow.

Specifically, I urge you to protect child nutrition programs from cuts and harmful policy changes and improve children's access to these programs while not cutting other safety-net programs. SNAP (formerly food stamps), serves nearly 21 million children. I urge you to protect SNAP and other anti-poverty programs from harmful budget and funding cuts.

Nutrition programs serve as a lifeline for America's vulnerable children and their families. As your constituent, I urge you to protect and improve child nutrition programs.

Sincerely

(Your Name)

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Jared Huffman
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

Senator Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES - MAY 17

Please join us for a special worship service and blessing for the graduates in our lives. Graduates of all ages are welcome!

BOARD OF MINISTRY MEETING - MAY 17

The Board of Ministry will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, May 17, in the Plum Room.



MEMBERSHIP CLASS - MAY 23



Membership Class from 10 AM - 4:00 PM in Pastor Tracy's Office. Thinking about joining the church? Whether you've been worshipping with us for a long time or just started, this informational session is for you. Lunch and child care will be provided. For more information, please contact Pastor Tracy.

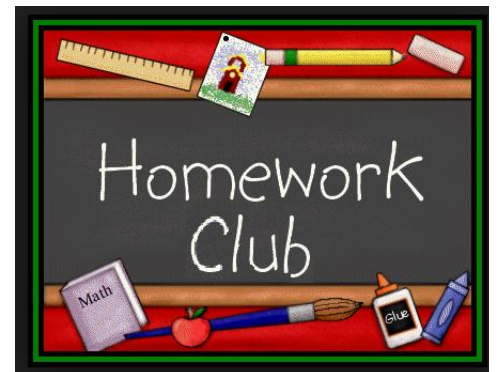
STANDBY TUTORS NEEDED FOR HOMEWORK CLUB

Our Pilgrim Park Homework Club is thriving, with somewhere between five and nine students attending each day. We are currently offering homework help on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM, through the month of May.

Most of our tutors prefer working with only one student at a time, and as much as possible we try to provide a consistent one-on-one pairing of student and tutor. In this way we can provide a quiet environment with maximum attention and minimum distraction.

But sometimes, without warning, we find that we have more students than tutors. That's when we need "standby tutors" who are ready to step up to the challenge of helping a new student with homework assignments. Sometimes all that is required is to listen while a child reads.

So please, let us know if you can be a "Standby" on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays in the month of May. At the very least you will meet some delightful kids from Pilgrim Park, and you will be helping our homework team continue to do its job. If you'd like to help, please email Sue Spofford <Suespof@comcast.net> or Pastor Tracy <revtracybarnowe@gmail.com>.



CALLING ALL KIDS! YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Pastor Tracy is looking for kids, no matter how small, to help with any of the following. Please let her know if you (or your child) can help.



- Help serve Communion on the first Sunday of the month
- Read scripture, prayers, or other parts of the worship service any Sunday
- Write, choose and/or lead the Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance, the Pastoral Prayer, the Call to Worship, and/or Offertory Prayer (I can help you with this, you don't have to do it all by yourself if you would prefer)
- Greet people at the door and hand out programs
- Collect the offering/pass the plate
- Sing in the choir or play an instrument for special music
- Suggest special music to be played during worship
- Give the Birthday/Anniversary Blessing on the second Sunday of the month

DO YOU SPEAK OR READ A LANGUAGE BESIDE ENGLISH? PASTOR TRACY NEEDS YOUR HELP ON PENTECOST - MAY 24

As part of the service on Pentecost Sunday (May 24), Pastor Tracy is planning to have part of the scripture read in as many languages as possible, with all reading the same passage simultaneously in a different language. Please contact her if you can help.



INVITING ARTISTS - CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Any artists are invited to design a Thank You Card and/or a Welcome card by writing the words "Thank You" or "Welcome" on an 8.5 X 11" sheet of paper (any color) and decorating it. It will be shrunk down to one quarter of its size and printed on a set of standard-sized greeting cards and used by me and others to send to people who come to our church. You can be as creative as you want, just make sure that somewhere on the picture you put your name and age.

LANDSCAPE HELPERS NEEDED

Green Thumbs and as well as Helpers with Regular Thumbs are needed. Here are some projects the Landscape Committee would like to accomplish. Please contact Sue Spofford (Suespof@com-cast.net) if you can help.

- fencing off a section or two in the courtyard so that children don't trample the plants
- planting new plants in the Church Sign Garden, including more Lantana along the sidewalk behind the Church Sign.
- pruning the laurel bushes back from the signs.
- clearing trash from the parking lot edges and hosing those plants only occasionally with water.
- establishing a compost pile for collections of leaves and branches.



MOVIE NIGHT MAY 22

SELMA

Capturing even a small slice of the history of civil rights in the U.S. has been a daunting challenge for movie-makers. To quote critic A.O. Scott: “How do you capture the chaos, uncertainty and sheer crowdedness of events without sacrificing coherence? How do you suggest what happened before and after? How do you endow a relatively well-known episode from the recent past with the urgency of the present tense?”

Approaching the 50th anniversary of the Selma march, director Ava DuVernay pulled it off. Working with a first-time screenwriter (Paul Webb) and a Nigerian actor known mainly for his work on the English stage (David Oyelowo,) she delivered a coherent, insightful drama that wowed critics and audiences alike. *Selma* was controversial. The King family denied her the right to use the words of MLK’s speeches. Defenders of Lyndon Johnson felt she did their hero a great injustice.



But that’s the price of doing a historical drama with a real point of view. Join us on May 22 and see what you think.

With Selma, director Ava DuVernay has created a stirring, often thrilling, uncannily timely drama that works on several levels at once. Yes, it’s an impressive historic pageant, and one that will no doubt break the ice for similar-themed movies to come. But DuVernay has also rescued King from his role as a worshiped — and sentimentalized — secular saint. Here, she presents him as a dynamic figure of human-scale contradictions, flaws and supremely shrewd political skills.

Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*

7 PM, Friday, May 22nd, In the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

You can view the trailer at the FCCSR website.



Benefits Every Dollar Feeds Kids
 feeding hungry children in Mexico



EDFK CELEBRATION - JUNE 20

Put this date on your calendar, so you won't miss it!

Please join us for a festive day of food, fun, and music with a live Mariachi band. All proceeds benefit Every Dollar Feeds Kids (EDFK), our mission in Cuernavaca, Mexico, that feeds impoverished school children.

Excellent food, a Mariachi band, kids, celebration—all in our church courtyard from 12 to 3 PM on June 20th.

REMEMBERING SELMA: "I'M WALKING FOR MY FREEDOM" DEEPLY MOVING AND INFORMATIVE

On April 26, not only did we see incredibly moving pictures, but we were able to hear about the ordinary people - men, women and children - that stepped out to take a stand and effect social change. Presenter and photographer Matt Herron is a gifted story teller and brought to life the surprising stories behind his iconic photographs. He opened our eyes not only to the continuing problem of racism in this country, but also the signs of hope and change that erupted out of this time period and continue today.



Pastor Tracy, Matt Herron, Patty Trosclair, and Oak Dowling

MAY BIRTHDAYS



2 — Joshua Siroky
3 — Peggy Hartman
4 — Jean Nadell
10 — Val Sherer
10 — Brandon Siroky
11 — Mary Dowling

18 — Mary Lou Doodokyan
23 — Cathi Fuller
23 — Loreen Russell
25 — Colin Templeman
28 — Lynn Grant

GOLDEN GALS — May 12

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 — May date to be announced



Do you want to discuss a wide range of important topics, including current events. Plan to attend the next men's group meeting on a Saturday to be announced in May. 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 June Issue - Tuesday, May 26

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2015 issue of The TIE is Tuesday, May 26. Please have all articles for the June issue at the church office by Sunday, May 24th. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Tuesday, May 26.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS































Rev. Tracy Barnowe – *Pastor*

Monday 9 AM - 1 PM
Wednesday 9 AM - 1 PM
Cell Phone (510) 703-0108
revtracybarnowe@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 MAY 2015

3 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:15 am  Prayer for the World Offering of Letters	4	5	6 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 7 pm  Bible Study - Race Relations	7 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 Mother's Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	11	12 10 am  'Golden Gals' monthly meeting	13 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 7 pm  Bible Study - Race Relations	14 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17 10 am Blessing of the Graduates 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:15 pm Board of Ministry Meeting - Plum Room	18	19	20 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 7 pm  Bible Study - Race Relations	21 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	22 7 pm  Movie Night 'Selma'	23 10 am - 4 pm  New Members Meeting
24 10 am  Pentecost Sunday 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	25  Memorial Day	26 5 pm  TIE Deadline for June Issue	27 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 7 pm  Bible Study - Race Relations	28 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	1	2	3 6 pm - 7 pm  Bible Study - Race Relations	4 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	5	6

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.Faussebraie.org.