

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Years ago I served as Youth Minister at a Korean Presbyterian Church. One of their traditions was to have an annual contest wherein the youth were challenged to memorize an entire chapter from the Bible with cash prizes for the best recitations. It was the Youth Minister's job to choose the passage. Even though I had serious reservations about this contest tradition and few of the youth were interested, I went for my favorite passage: Acts 2, the story of Pentecost and the First Christian Community.

On May 24 we celebrated Pentecost, and every week during the time of Centering Silence we invite the Holy Spirit. The rush or spirit, breath, wind. This Spirit that moved over the waters in the Creation Story of Genesis and called life into being. This Spirit that descended like a dove when Jesus was baptized. This Spirit that on Pentecost compelled the disciples out of their safety zone to share their witness with all who would listen. It was this same

Spirit that let everyone present hear the stories in their own mother tongue. What is amazing about Pentecost is what happened afterward. The book of Acts paints a picture of a first Christian Community made up of an incredibly diverse set of 3000 people.

As I watch how FCC San Rafael is changing, I have to admit it sometimes feels a little chaotic. With new people coming in, long-term members embracing new roles, our ongoing conversation about Race Relations, our involvement with the Marin Interfaith Council, and the growing momentum of Sunday School, the Homework Club, Bible Study and the REST Program, I feel sometimes a little like the disciples in the midst of a whirlwind, compelled to leave their comfort zone and engage in a much larger conversation. It must have been frightening and exciting at the same time. It rendered them deeply

vulnerable and yet incredibly authentic. It broke the ties that were keeping them in a closed circle and freed them to build many new connections.

On the day of the contest I found myself nervous and negative. I didn't like this contest and had lots of good reasons why. Several last-

minute issues—including that none of the kids wanted to participate—had threatened to derail the event at the last minute, and I was in a foul mood.

But then an eleven year-old Korean-American girl stood up. With a quiet but clear voice she began to speak the second chapter of Acts perfectly from memory, telling the story of how the disciples were compelled to go out with the people and listing all of their myriad nationalities.



She spoke Peter's first sermon, telling about Joel's prophecy of the day when the Spirit would be poured out on all people, men and women, young and old. She spoke Peter's words telling who Jesus was, and King David's message of hope in the Messiah during the darkest of times. She spoke about repenting of unhealthy ways and receiving the Holy



Spirit, that the promise is there for all people and their children and descendants. Finally, she spoke of the first Christian community, where everyone had enough. Where everyone shared. Where everyone got along. Where everyone ate meals together with glad and joyful hearts. Where this Church had the goodwill of all the people and welcomed newcomers day by day.

Out of the whirlwind came the clear voice of a child with a powerful message of peace, hope, and love, and we were all transformed. Tears flowed.

Out of the chaos doesn't always come order, but with the Spirit's help come relationship, equilibrium, and peace. As we enter the season of Pentecost, in the midst of all of this activity and conversation, I see community coming together in strange and wonderful ways. Bridges, relationships, and ties are being built between Pilgrim Park, a local high school, a church, and the surrounding community. People of all different faith traditions, nationalities, and cultures are coming together to solve a common problem and relationships are being formed. We are learning to hear each other in our own mother tongue.

I ask that you pray with me as we go forward together that we might stay open to the Spirit and to each other.

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.*



**May 31 - June 6**  
Marie Saldana

**June 7 - 13**  
Val and Ralph Sherer

**June 14 - 20**  
Cyndi and Chris Siroky

**June 21 - 27**  
Bob and Nancy Smith

**June 28 - July 4**  
David and Debra Smith,  
Ben, Amy, and Bonnie



# *Come and Worship*

**w i t h u s !**

## **June 7                      Mark 5:1-20**

This passage about Jesus healing a demon-possessed man by casting the demons into a herd of swine has puzzled people for centuries. When we dig into the symbolism of the name and the swine within the socio-political context of Roman-occupied Jerusalem, this strange tale takes on a much clearer meaning with powerful implications and signs of hope for today's political climate.

## **June 14                      2 Corinthians 5:1-17**

This Sunday we will be joined by **Rev. Faune Towery** as Pastor Tracy attends the Northern California Nevada Conference Annual Gathering. Come learn as Rev. Towery explores Paul's thoughts to the Corinthians and Walking in Faith.

## **June 21                      Matthew 9:18-26**

This story-within-a-story contains two wonderful tales of Jesus healing a hemorrhaging woman and a sick little girl, as well as a strange phenomenon which occurs in none of the other healing stories. Could it be possible that even Jesus underestimated his own abilities, and how can this inform our own calls to serve? We will also be honoring Father's Day, so please join us!

## **June 28                      Acts 8:26-30 and Matthew 19:1-12**

You might think that the story of Philip baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch, Jesus' thoughts on divorce, and Marc Anthony and Cleopatra have nothing to do with one another. However, when we look at the historical, cultural, linguistic and political atmosphere of these texts, we find that these historical players were actually intricately connected. Much to our surprise, these stories have enormous implications for Lesbian and Gay rights and Race Relations in the United States today. In honor of San Francisco Pride, we will be exploring this passage because it has a lot to teach us about honoring and welcoming the lesbian and gay community in the church today.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET OUR NEW CONFERENCE MINISTER FRIDAY, JUNE 19

On Friday, June 19, at 7 PM, we will be hosting an informal get-together in the Oak Room for Rev. Diane Weibel to meet us and the other churches in the Golden Gate Association. Please join us as we start a new chapter in the life of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

In April, Rev. Weible was elected Conference Minister for the Northern California Nevada Conference (NCNC) of the UCC, ending a long period of interim leadership. Rev. Weible has an interesting history in the UCC, most recently as Associate Conference Minister in the Hawaii Conference. Her first day in her new position was May 20.

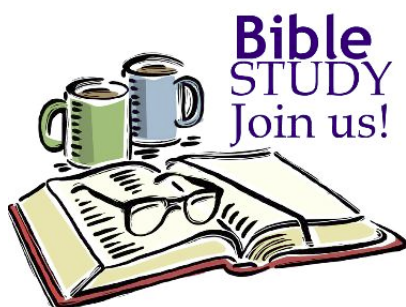


Rev. Diane Weible is excited to talk with us and learn more about our churches and ministries. Come and get to know her and give her an opportunity to get to know our congregation.

We will look forward to seeing you there!



### JUNE 3 BIBLE STUDY - 6:00-7:30 PM



Wednesday, June 3, is the final session of our spring Bible study, focusing on race relations. But even if you haven't attended previous sessions, you are most welcome to come on June 3.

For more information, please contact Pastor Tracy.



# News For Kids



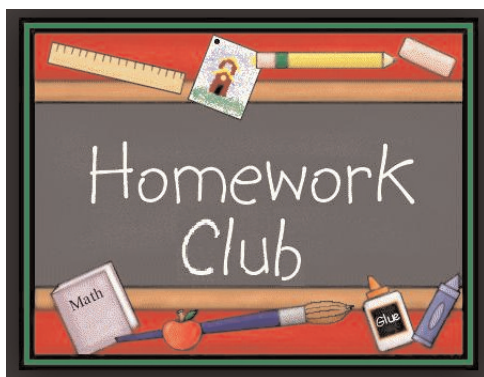
## **SUMMER CHURCH CAMPS ARE TERRIFIC!**

Give your kids an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, meet new friends, laugh a lot, and be inspired--all in a great week or weekend at UCC Camp Cazadero above the Russian River, or Camp Tamarack in the Sierra foothills. Scholarships are available.

The summer camps hosted by the Northern California Conference of the United Church of Christ offer a week (or weekend for the youngest campers and for adults) of faith exploration in one of two amazing settings in the natural beauty Northern California offers. These camps provide a safe setting for youth to explore their faith, to engage in discussions with adult leaders, chaplains, and other campers. All staff are screened, trained, and willing to share their faith and interests with campers.

There are camps for every age group and even a shorter camp for parents and their primary grade youngsters to introduce the camping experience.

Need more information? Talk to Pastor Tracy and check out the web site at:  
<https://ncnuc.org/outdoor-ministries/>



## **HOMESCHOOL CLUB GROWING. . . .**

### **SUMMER PROGRAM PLANNED**

The successful spring Homework Club, organized by the Board of Mission, has provided homework help to elementary students living at Pilgrim Park. Meeting after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays for one hour, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM, the club attracted about 10 different children and 10 or more different adult

tutors, some from our congregation and some from our larger community.

Plans are now in the works for a summer program, which will meet five mornings a week during the summer, from 9-11 AM. Pilgrim Park will be participating in staffing this program, but we will also be looking for volunteers to work with that professional staff as Teacher's Assistants.

Look for a more detailed description of the plans in a few weeks. And please let Pastor Tracy know if you are available to vol this summer as a Teacher's Assistant....no experience is required.



## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### TOWEL SUNDAY - JUNE 28

The Board of Mission of our church has proclaimed Sunday, June 28, as our annual Towel Sunday. The Board is planning on a carload of towels for distribution to Homeward Bound's Next Key (their gate way out of homelessness).

Therefore we want to have lots and lots of regular size bath towels pile up around the Communion table on June 28th. This is one item that they need most, so let's do our part in helping to fill those needs.

Lynn Grant, one of the Mission Board members who is involved with delivering the towels to Homeward Bound, commented, "I wish you all could hear the staff's joy when we deliver the towels to them. It is truly heartwarming to know that our little church is part of their blessing."

If you sometimes wonder how you can help homeless people, here is one good way! Bring some regular-size bath towels to worship on June 28.

### R.E.S.T. DINNERS CONTINUE THIS SUMMER JUNE 15, JUNE 19, JULY 13

The REST program will continue as a pilot program this summer. Our Mission Board has agreed to host **three 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 if you would like to provide a meat, vegetable, for dessert dish.



**June 20, 2015, Noon-3p.m.**

**8 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael**

**Benefits Every Dollar Feeds Kids**  
*feeding hungry children in Mexico*

**TACOS**  
**PUPOSAS**  
**TAMALES**  
**SNOW CONES**  
**COOKIES**  
**...and more**

**Food Tickets \$1**  
**12/\$10**  
**25/\$20**



*With live musical performance by Mariachi Femenil Orgullo Mexicano  
and participation by Enriching Lives through Music*

## **EDFK EVENT FEATURES FOOD AND MUSIC**

Six food and refreshment stands around the church courtyard will offer tacos (six varieties), enchiladas, tamales, Salvadoran pupusas, shaved ice snow cones, enchiladas and more. Eat at the fair or take this great food home for dinner.

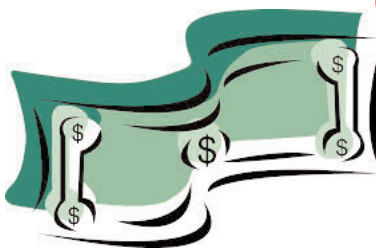
Entertainment will be provided by the twelve-person women's Mariachi—Mariachi Femenil Orgullo Mexicano—whose membership includes our own Catherine John and who are donating their usual performance fee to support EDFK. Young performers from Marin's ELM (Enriching Lives through Music) will also join us.

Mark your calendar for June 20 now. Bring an appetite and we'll see you at the Fiesta!



## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 10

The next Church Council will be Wednesday, June 10. The Council expects to review the progress of our challenge budget and pledging. The Council will also consider summer plans of ministry, worship, and mission and particularly ways to support the next developments of the Homework Club.



### **DON'T FORGET THE MARIN FOOD BANK**

The Food Bank needs food all year long, not just before Thanksgiving. But, not only do they need food—even more, **they need money.**

Please consider dropping a check in the collection plate each Sunday (payable to FCC but noting "MarinSF Food Bank" in the memo line).



Even small contributions can add up to make a huge difference. Thank you!

## ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE!

WALKER CREEK RANCH RETREAT

Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, 2015

"BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING"

Lower priced lodging available in bunk beds or tents.  
(Semi private lodging also available as in past years)

### **Activities include:**

games, nature walks, crafts, folk dancing, meditations, campfire and songs, worship, chocolate cake, plenty of free time.

SIGN UP with Mary Dowling  
AFTER CHURCH IN COMMUNITY ROOM



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



## MOVIE NIGHT JUNE 26 AND JULY 3

### ANGELS IN AMERICA

Tony Kushner's *Angels in America, A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* is a landmark of American theater. More than any other work of art, it captured the impacts of the AIDS crisis of the 1980s on our society, our politics and our religious life. (It also earned condemnation from the right for naming and shaming Ronald Reagan's inaction on AIDS.)

A decade after its stage triumph, *Angels in America* gave birth to what is probably the greatest recent movie most people have never seen.

In 2003, Mike Nichols directed *Angels* as a six-hour mini-series for HBO, sticking very closely to the script of the play. Also as in the stage play, a core cast of lead actors (which included Al Pacino, Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson) each played multiple roles. The stage play won the Pulitzer Prize, and Nichols' film won dozens of Emmys and other TV awards. However, it was never released in theaters.



We'll watch *Angels in America* over two nights, just as the play was intended to be seen in the theater. Join us!

**Friday June 26 and Friday July 3 at 7 PM in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park.**

*There is much, much more to Angels than politics, which is why it is so gripping. Were it a didactic ideological piece, it would be deadly. But Mr. Kushner's story is built on characters, gay and straight alike, who fight timeless battles over love and betrayal even as they struggle with the meaning of faith, family and America itself at an apocalyptic moment in the life of their nation. . . if anything, Mr. Kushner's writing has gained in pathos with age. What he has to say about coping with unfathomable loss and the terror inflicted by covert, death-dealing cells at the end of the last millennium speaks to us more urgently than ever.*

Frank Rich, *New York Times*.

You can view the trailer for *Angels in America* on the FCCSR website.

## **PASTOR TRACY TO LEAD CHURCH GROWTH WORKSHOPS AUG. 29 AND SEPT. 26**

Our Pastor, Rev. Tracy Barnowe, is a recognized expert on church growth. For over 10 years she has consulted with churches and non-profits to create long-term and short-term revitalization plans that work.

Demand for these consultations have grown so much that this year that Rev. Barnowe is trying something new: Instead of consulting with one church at a time, she will be conducting two all-day Church Growth Workshops here in San Rafael for multiple teams from interested churches. The workshops will be held on August 29 and September 26.

In both workshops, the emphasis will be on practical techniques and live role-playing exercises.



The workshops are priced for a team from a church to attend, since that's by far the most effective way to learn these techniques. A single fee of \$500 pays for up to five participants from the same church. (10% discount for early registration.)

**Workshop #1: Visitor Retention** — The first workshop, on August 29, will focus on practical steps you can take to increase the likelihood that first-time visitors will return a second time. One Bay Area church using these techniques achieved an 88% return rate for first-time visitors. You'll learn comfortable ways to engage visitors and practical, effective ways to follow-up with them.

**Workshop #2 Interpersonal Outreach** — The second workshop, on September 26, will address ways to overcome the reluctance that members of progressive churches often feel to doing personal outreach on behalf of their church: "Won't people think I'm pushy?" "Isn't that more what fundamentalists do?" Rev. Barnowe will teach ways to talk to others about your church that are authentic, personal, and comfortable.

If you know of churches who might be interested, they can find more information and registration forms on our church's web site.



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 — Annette English  
 7 — Sean Kaufman  
 11 — Martha Girard  
 14 — Russell Roane  
 18 — Bob Smith  
 28 — Randy MacKenzie  
 28 — Inham Girard  
 30 — Bob De Haan  
 30 — Christine Bandettini

## GOLDEN GALS — June 9

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



## MEN'S GROUP — On a Saturday to be announced in June



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 June. 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 July-August Issue - Mon., June 29

The deadline for articles and news for the July-August 2015 issue of The TIE is Monday, June 29. Please have all articles for the July/August issue at the church office by Sunday, June 28th. 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)






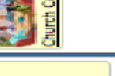













**Eric Rowe – Office Manager**

Tuesday 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Friday 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

# FCC Calendar JUNE 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b> 10 am <b>Blessing of the Graduates</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6 pm - 7 pm  Bible Study - Race Relations	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 am  Golden Gals' monthly meeting	<b>10</b> 7 pm  Church Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  Flag Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 7 am  Meet our Conference Minister	<b>20</b> 12 am - 3 pm  Multicultural Food Fair and March Band to Benefit DDK
<b>21</b>  Father's Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 7 pm  Movie Night: Angels in America!	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7 pm  Movie Night: Angels in America!	<b>4</b>  Independence Day

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).