

September 2019

First Congregational Church of
San Rafael

The TIE

TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



At one of our meditation evenings during Lent, someone mentioned this book and the extraordinary spiritual experience it describes. Pastor Sally acquired a copy, began reading it, and could not put it down. She found it amazingly powerful, inspiring and thought-provoking.

Thousands of people have had near-death experiences, but scientists have argued that they are impossible. Dr. Eben Alexander was one of those scientists. A highly trained neurosurgeon, Alexander knew that NDEs feel real, but are simply fantasies produced by brains under extreme stress.

Then, Dr. Alexander's own brain was attacked by a rare illness. The part of the brain that controls thought and emotion—and in essence makes us human—shut down completely. For

MEDITATIVE BOOK STUDY

Wednesday, September 11 at 6 PM
Home of Cathi Fuller: 323 North San Pedro Road

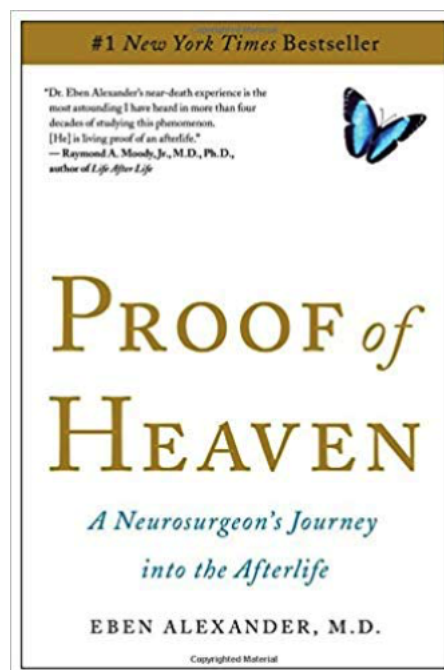
Wednesday, September 18 at 6 PM
Home of Annie Song-Hill: 31 Elda Drive
Bring food to share if you wish

seven days he lay in a coma. Then, as his doctors considered stopping treatment, Alexander's eyes popped open. He had come back.

Alexander's recovery is a medical miracle. But the real miracle of his story lies elsewhere. While his body lay in coma, Alexander journeyed beyond this world and encountered an angelic being who guided him into the deepest realms of super-physical existence. There he met, and spoke with, the Divine source of the universe itself.

Alexander's story is not a fantasy. Before he underwent his journey, he could not reconcile his knowledge of neuroscience with any belief in heaven, God, or the soul. Today Alexander is a doctor who believes that true health can be achieved only when we realize that God and the soul are real and that death is not the end of personal existence but only a transition.

This story would be remarkable no matter who it happened to. That it happened to Dr. Alexander makes it revolutionary. No scientist or person of faith will be able to ignore it.



CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES SEPTEMBER 5

Calling all voices! We need yours in the church choir. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:40-9:00 PM and from 9:20-9:50 on Sunday morning before worship. We welcome new members!



EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM
Church School and Child Care

SEPTEMBER CARE TEAM

The care team for September is headed by Charles Little (415 342-2720) with Jim Turner and Amy Kaufman.



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



Sept. 1 - 7

Catherine Hills and Audrey Borden, Josie

Sept. 8 - 14

Caryl Hodges

Sept. 15 - 21

Alana and Brandon Intrater, Emma and Jack

Sept. 22 - 28

Lorene Jackson

Sept. 30 - October 5

Ann Jolly



Come and Worship with us!

September 1 Communion Sunday

Living the Gospel in the Post-modern Age

We are now living in the post-modern age and worshipping in a post-Christendom church. What does that mean? It means we are in transition. A new church is emerging, but we do not yet know what form it will take. Pastor Sally will share some of her thoughts about Christianity in the coming years.

September 8 Pray Naked

Our sermon title for today may sound a little risqué, but of course it not meant to be taken literally. We will explore Psalm 139, a prayer which says, “O Lord, you have searched me and known meit was you who formed my inward parts...” We will reflect on the notion that God made us and knows us at our very core. When we enter into relationship with God, we have nothing to hide. We, in fact, cannot hide. When we enter into prayer, we can do so with an open heart.

September 15 Releasing the Holiness Within

“Sin” and “Salvation” have been part of the Christian vocabulary from the very beginning. “Confession” and “repentance” are time honored spiritual practices. Yet do those words speak to us today in ways that are helpful to our growth? We will read Psalm 51: 1-10 and Luke 15: 1-10. Pastor Sally will reflect on the ways we experience grace, the ways we grow spiritually, and the difference between repenting and healing.

September 22 Field of Hope

In Jeremiah 32:1-3a; 6-15 the great prophet buys a piece of land at a time when it makes no rational sense to do so. His country is about to fall to a foreign power and his deed will be worthless. Yet he buys it. Why? Because he has a vision that his country will be rebuilt. He acts on that vision with faith, hope and trust. Pastor Sally will reflect on the power of a clear vision when we commit to it in word and deed.

September 29 Blessing of the Animals

Bring the animal companions in your life- furry, feathered, or scaly - and join us in the courtyard for a spirited (but brief) worship service in which we will reflect on the many gifts we receive from animals. If you have friends with a pet, invite them to join us! In the spirit of St. Francis, each animal will receive an individual blessing, a prayer for its family, and a treat. If you cannot bring your beloved animal, bring a picture!

We will also take a moment to remember and give thanks for our “animal saints” who completed their earthly life this year. Bring a picture if you like. Please use your best judgment to determine whether your pet needs to be on leash, in a carrier, or a cage to be safe and secure with other animals around. We look forward to seeing you and your animal friends.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



BACKPACK SUNDAY NETS 30 BACKPACKS AND OODLES OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual gathering of school supplies for the Ritter Center kids. We donated 30 backpacks and lots and lots of school supplies. The Board of Mission estimates we gathered almost \$1000 worth of backpacks and supplies to support many needy students in Marin County. THANK YOU ALL!



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING OCT. 6

On Sunday, October 6, we will receive your offering for Neighbors in Need. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering that supports UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Most of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support, through grants, a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), which represents the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors, and strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of tribes who are members of various UCC congregations. Please give generously.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY JULY 6



Michael Meehan, Charles Little, and Lucinda Ray attended a Saturday work day for Habitat for Humanity in Sebastopol on July 6. They sawed, hammered, nailed and carried lumber and helped work on two houses.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Building updates

Since our last Tie, the Montessori preschool has reopened under the name Acqua Montessori. It started small this summer, and expects to grow this fall.

Also, thanks to Hamilton and a crew from the Hispanic MEAD church, the Community Room has been painted. Still to be complete is the woodwork in the kitchen area. Any volunteers?



Pride Flags

Leading up to Pride Sunday at the end of June we had three rainbow flags stolen, two rainbow fish placards broken which said "Jesus welcomed everybody, so do we", and a large banner torn. As a result the Council decided to have an extra Pride Sunday in August, and put out a lot of Rainbow Pride decorations to reaffirm our openness to all. A surveillance camera was installed on the sign and for several weeks we had the Rainbow flag and extra rainbow decorations. None were sabotaged this time. We anticipate having similar symbolic decorations on other themes.



The Search Committee continues to meet and review profiles, interview candidates, and look at sermons. Graciously, our interim Pastor Sally has agreed to continue as needed. We do recognize that she cannot continue permanently, so we are vigilant in our search.

THE INTERIM PROCESS HERE ARE THE NEXT STEPS

- ☒ We appoint an Interim Search Committee to locate and recommend an interim pastor
- ☒ We hire an Interim Pastor - **Rev. Sally Train began November 8, 2017.**
- ☒ We appoint a Search Committee -
**Megan Fuller, David Knopf, Alana Intrater, Anice Flesh,
Michael Meehan, Helen MacLam, Annie Song-Hill, Oak Dowling**
- ☒ We create our Church Profile, a description of our church to be read by potential pastors
- ☒ The Search Committee will consider all potential candidates
- ☒ The Search Committee will select possible candidates
- ☐ The Search Committee will interview these candidates
- ☐ One candidate will be recommended to the congregation
- ☐ The congregation will have an opportunity to meet the candidate
- ☐ We will vote on the recommended candidate
- ☐ We will join in worship to install our new pastor

SEPTEMBER 27 MOVIE NIGHT - *TOOTSIE*

A desperate struggling actor puts on a dress and lands a female role in a hospital soap opera. Romantic complications ensue. That sounds like a great concept for a comedy, and it was. *Tootsie* was giant hit in 1982, second only to *E.T.* at the box office.

But, with insightful direction by Sidney Pollack and sensitive performances by Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange, it was much more: *Tootsie* went deep into issues of gender stereotyping and “me too” moments that are with us still. It was nominated for 10 Oscars, but won only for Lange in the year when *Gandhi* ran the table.



“*Tootsie* is the kind of Movie with a capital M that they used to make in the 1940s, when they weren’t afraid to mix up absurdity with seriousness, social comment with farce, and a little heartfelt tenderness right in there with the laughs. This movie gets you coming and going.”

Roger Ebert, 1982

7 PM Friday September 27 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

Trailers and links to reviews of *Tootsie* are on the FCCSR website.

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 8: The Board of Mission meeting will be on Sunday, September 8, in the Oak Room.

SEPTEMBER 8: The Board of Ministry meeting will also be on Sunday, September 8, in the pastor’s office.

SEPTEMBER 17: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, September 17 at 7 PM in the Plum Room.

SEPTEMBER 25: The Church Council meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.



NICEVANGELISTS JOIN US ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 25



Presenting Jonah and the Whale during worship



Amazing acrobats



Dancing in the courtyard



Dancing together in the courtyard

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2 — Julie Dowling	10 — Megan Fuller
4 — Greg Ripley	16 — Will Godbey
6 — Ray O’Leary	21 — Josie Borden Hills
9 — Emma Faraci	23 — Paul Burks
10 — Joan Roane	25 — Tim Dempsey
	25 — Caryl Hodges

GOLDEN GALS — Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 10

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



TIE DEADLINE for the October Issue - Mon., SEPT. 23

The deadline for articles and news for the October 2019 issue of The TIE is Monday, September 23. Please have all articles for the July-August issue at the church office by Sunday, September 22. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Sally Train – *Interim Pastor*

Wednesday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Phone (925) 216-9706

sallytrain@comcast.net

Amy Powers – *Office Manager*

Tuesday 11 AM- 2 PM


















Wednesday 9:30 AM - 2 PM

Thursday 9:30 AM - 2 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	2 Labor Day	3	4	5 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 Grandparents' Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am <u>Mission Board Meeting</u> 11:30 am <u>Board of Ministry Meeting</u>	9	10 10 am  Golden Girls monthly meeting	11 Pentecost Day 6 pm  Book Discussion at Cathi Fuller's home	12 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	16	17 7 pm  Trustees Meeting 7 PM	18 6 pm  Book Discussion at Annie Song Hill's home	19 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	23 5 pm  TIE Deadline for October 2019 issue	24	25 7 pm  Church Council Meeting 7 PM	26 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	27 7 pm  Movie Night: Footage De Haan Center Pilgrim Park	28
29 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	30	1	2	3 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	4	5

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.