

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS REV. JEFFREY COCHRAN-CARNEY



How Do Churches Grow?

How do churches grow? It is a question I have heard a lot throughout my ministry. As we emerge from the pandemic, it is a timely topic to consider. Most congregations want to grow, though they don't always position themselves to do so. It is a question I have thought about many times, especially when Cynthia and I were starting two new churches with no members at all. I answer the question in two ways. There are certainly a number of things to do that can be helpful, but primarily it is an attitude and awareness that serves churches best.

I believe there are more opportunities to reach people with no faith community today than ever before with the internet and social media we use every day. The challenge is that fewer and fewer people express a desire to

be involved in a church, particularly here in Marin. We often hear the line that "People are spiritual but not necessarily religious." Most major denominations have been on the decline since the 1960's or early 70's, and that trend is not likely to change. However, people do value community and spiritual experiences. I am going to list some particular things that have worked for us over the years.

One important piece is knowing the demographics of a neighborhood and the larger community. This is something that can be purchased by churches for a fee. It is hard to grow when you have assumptions but no current data about the people you hope to reach. What are their needs? What is the median age? What about children? How many have a faith community? What are their top needs? What is their housing situation? This gives us a good place to start planning.

When Cynthia and I started two new churches, there were a number of things we did in terms of publicity and outreach. We did a saturation mailing and sent out 20,000 postcards to the postal routes within three miles of the church. We held community outreach events on the church lawn with free give aways (pumpkin patch, outdoor concerts, Christmas tree lot). We posted flyers in local establishments such as Starbucks or an ice cream parlor. We subscribed to a service that identified new residents in the area, and sent postcards inviting them to church. Most importantly, there was a hospitality team of people to welcome visitors when they came to church, and dropped a free item

(continued on the next page)



(usually a pie!) at their home within 24 hours after they came.

What can we do today that might be relevant and effective? Funds and volunteers are limited. Some things are practical and can be done for free. Some of those things include: check the web-site frequently in order to make sure it is visitor friendly; create a Facebook page for the church and keep it current. The key with FB is that you invite your friends to “like it,” then “share” church information on your page. Have good signage that is relevant and in good repair. Have a way to list current and upcoming events, such as an A-frame sign or banner. Offer free parking during the County Fair and give out bottles of water with the church name on it, and information about the church. Form an Outreach Team that focuses on reaching out to the community. Have a Visitors Sunday when everyone invites a friend; have our musician do a concert and invite people.

Very relevant for today is to effectively “livestream” services. Many people will watch a service online before ever attending in person. Some may never attend in person, but feel connected to the church because of the online service. We also have a huge opportunity now to hire a music director who can infuse energy and joy into the music, as well as connecting with the choir and congregation. What kind of musician could help the church grow? What kind of music would make millennials want to come? Again, many people will livestream first to hear what kind of music is being offered. This is an exciting opportunity going forward where we can excel!

The best strategy for attracting visitors hasn’t changed. Members inviting others to church is still the chief way churches grow. It is something we can all do. Think about why you came to church and stayed. When someone asks you what you did over the weekend, you can say, “I went to my church service on Sunday. It was inspiring and gave me a sense of belonging. You are welcome to come with me next week.”

I hope I have planted some seeds as we begin to imagine what the future might look like post-pandemic. Growing as a church means creating a congregational climate of inviting. There is no single strategy, but an intention to do a lot of little things well makes the church attractive to others. We are already known as a welcoming church. Let’s also be known as an inviting church.

Blessings, Pastor Jeffrey

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



June 27 - July 3

Anne Dannecker

July 4 - 10

Bob De Haan and Nancy Sangster-De Haan

July 11 - 17

Jackie Dema

July 18 - 24

TJ and Saba Dempsey, Sam, Jacob, and Ben

July 25 - 31

Julie Dowling

August 1 - 7

Mary and Oak Dowling

August 8 - 14

Scott and Mim Faraci, Sam, Ben, and Emma

August 15 - 21

Anice Flesh

August 22 - 28

Louis and Khamla Frost, Melanie Sakskul

August 29 - Sept. 4

Megan Fuller



Come and Worship with us!

Indoor worship is now being held every Sunday, with masking and social distancing.

July 4 Hometown Hero (Communion) Luke 4:21-30

“Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.” (Luke 4:24) With these words Jesus returned home to Nazareth, only to find that he was not welcome. He had been teaching in the synagogue, and read from the prophet Isaiah. He told the people that he was the fulfillment of this prophecy. At first, many spoke well of him. But soon they turned against him. They became furious and drove him out of town. Thomas Wolfe said it best: “You can't go home again.” Sometimes we want to turn the clock back, or fall back on what used to work before. Yet Jesus broadened his horizons and ours, and offers us new lessons to be learned.

July 11 Crossing Over to the Other Side Mark 4:35-41

Jesus and the disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, attempting to cross over to the other side. As often happens in the evenings on that body of water, a fierce storm broke out. The disciples were terrified and frantically began searching for Jesus, only to find him asleep in the stern. “Peace, be still!” His words to the disciples are a word to us when we experience storms and turbulence in our lives. We can safely “cross over” any situation to the other side, knowing we are not alone.

July 18 Mission Sunday and Homeward Bound

Join us for Mission Sunday. We are pleased to have Mary Kay Sweeney from Homeward Bound with us. She will update us with a message and presentation during worship on what is happening with this vital ministry our church supports. (See page 5 of this issue of the TIE for more details.)

July 25 Hungry for God Isaiah 55:1-6; John 6:1-14

The story of multiplying the loaves and fishes is the only story to appear in all four gospels. That ought to give us an idea of how important it was to the early writers of the gospels. The meager resources of one little boy were enough to feed over 5,000 people, and he trusted Jesus to use what he had. God's provisions and resources are always bigger than our own. Jesus is the one who can end real hunger—hunger of every sort. Jesus said in John, “I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never hunger.” We worship a God of abundance. Jesus still touches lives today in miraculous ways and transforms people's lives, whatever our hunger might be.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 18 MISSION AND PILLOW SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JULY 18 will be **MISSION SUNDAY**.

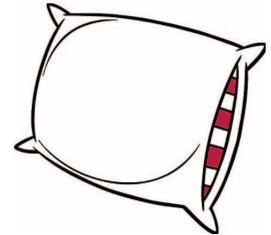
Two special events will happen that day...

First, we are asking that you **bring new bed pillows** to donate to Homeward Bound clients.

Second, Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director of Homeward Bound, will be with us during worship to talk about Homeward Bound and update us on the developing Mill Street Center shelter.

In a way, we will be celebrating our long association with Homeward Bound by providing pillows that are welcomed each year. (Except for COVID year)
Please plan to be there!.

FCC Mission Board



DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK

The Food Bank needs **money**.

You can donate to the San Francisco Marin Food bank on their website:

<https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/>

Or you can send a check to:

San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
2550 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901



JULY and AUGUST AGAPE TEAMS

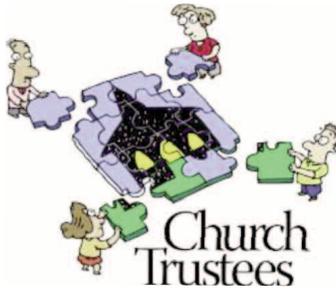


Agape - Providing compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, calls, and visits.

Our Agape leader for July is Jackie Dema (415-446-0125), with Val Sherer, Denise Walker, and Tessa Templeman.

Our Agape leader for August is Cathi Fuller (415-246-6571).

TRUSTEE'S REPORT



Music Director Search Committee Progressing

The Music Director Search Committee has interviewed six candidates for a new Music Director via Zoom. They will hold several face-to-face interviews (including having the candidates work with the choir) in July. We hope to have the new person start with the choir by Labor Day. The committee includes Louis Frost, Charles Little, Michael Meehan, Lucinda Ray, Val Sherer, and

Tessa Templeman, along with Pastor Jeffrey Cochran-Carney.

Putting on a Fresh Face.

The Trustees are working on several projects to help the church put on a fresh face to the world.

- The first is landscaping the area around the cross by the parking lot. Thanks to Pilgrim Park Apartments for underwriting Audel Barajas' landscaping work. He cleared and prepared the site before adding drought and heat tolerant plants and a drip system. It looks beautiful!
- Next, we have accepted a bid to add low energy lights to the cross by the parking lot, the cross at the back end of the sanctuary, and over the steps to the preschool.
- The most daunting refreshening will be repainting the sign by the street. We are talking with several graphic design/sign companies with the goal of improving recognition and having a way to have a changeable line of text that communicates something about our church.

The Trustees hope to have all these done by the end of summer, for a fresh start by the fall.

FIRST PPP LOAN FORGIVEN

In June, the church received official news from Redwood Credit Union and the federal Small Business Administration that our first Payroll Protection Loan of \$12,600 has been forgiven. Amazing Grace! The creative ways God forgives!

These PPP loans have been particularly helpful since few of the groups that have been renting have returned. Our current rent income is still only about one half of our usual rent income. Nevertheless, the church is in OK financial status because our expenses are down some, members have been keeping up with pledges, and we had previously built a "rainy day" fund (which should be called a "drought season reservoir").

MODERATOR'S REPORT

We have a great deal to celebrate as we will finally get to worship inside our sanctuary on July 4th!! We will be asking everyone to wear masks for the safety of all. The Delta variant is hitting hard, we want to welcome everyone, and some may not yet have been vaccinated. The Board of Ministry is continuing to alter some old routines as a precaution. So we will have some new ways of gathered worship. This is again a work on the drawing board. Still, it will be such a pleasure to be sitting in our pews, seeing our lovely stained glass windows and humming together. Our congregation has done a remarkable job of managing the last 1 + year, and everyone has helped keep us going forward in an unprecedented time. The word "thanks" is truly not enough. How about Huzzah and Hurrah to all members, friends and family of FCC? I am so proud to be connected with all of you. Lynn Grant, Church Moderator



BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Pride Sunday June 27

A bright and joyous celebration was held on the patio Pride Sunday, June 27th. Special thanks from worshipers has been expressed for the following folk who shared their rainbow of talents during our worship:

- Thank you to Michael Meehan for preaching the Pride Sunday sermon on June 27th. It was clear that Michael spent a great deal of time researching Biblical history and context and put deep thought into sharing his discoveries. Michael shared how the message of Jesus' ministry was one that demonstrated that loving one's neighbor and not laws that create caste systems was how we create the Kingdom of God. Jesus expressed in his stories (The Good Samaritan) and actions (touching the man infected with leprosy) that each of us is created "perfect" and is loved by God, unconditionally.
- Thank you to pianist Patricia Diaz for joining us through the month of June with lovely accompaniment and special music performances on the piano. Folk have enjoyed experience.
- Thank you to Lucinda Ray and Charles Little for singing the hauntingly beautiful hymn, "Savior God Above." Lucinda shares that it was a favorite of our beloved member, Jean Starkweather.
- Thank you to Lise Adams, who provided the vocal hymn accompaniment to several beautiful hymns, and amazed us with "Amazing Grace," which she later also lead us in singing quietly together at the close of worship.
- Thanks to many who provided prayers and readings, led or read: Pastor Jeffrey, Tessa, Jackie, Lynn, Judy and David. And for the rainbow flowers, flags, banners, pennants and treats and the setting up and taking down of shades and chairs for our patio worship!



It was also a joy to reunite with long-time FCC member, Laura Bowman, visiting us from North Carolina while attending a family wedding!

Fourth of July Sunday ...indoors!

We will celebrate united in our beautiful sanctuary (with masks) starting on July 4. Communion will be offered in contact-free "independent" servings to each member. Services will continue to be held indoors and also live recorded for those wishing to participate by Zoom.

Pastor Jeffrey will be on vacation August 18-25.

A **Sunday School gathering** was enjoyed in Sun Valley Park on Friday, June 11th with catch-up chat and ice cream treats to celebrate Alli and Sean Kaufman's promotions to middle and high school.

More to come in the fall...Morning retreat in September....Book Study...stay tuned!

Guest Musician



WELCOME BACK, KENJI !

We welcome back Kenji Higashihama as our guest pianist for the summer. Kenji was with us in April, and will hopefully be with us until we hire a permanent music director. Kenji has over 30 years of experience on the piano. While he is classically trained, he also grew up singing and playing gospel music in church. He is an experienced music director having worked on quite a number of shows, including a national tour. Here in California he has been seen working with organizations such as Berkeley Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Broadway By The Bay, Transcendence Theatre Company, and Piedmont Children's Choirs. He will be directing the Berkeley Rep production of *Cinderella* in December.

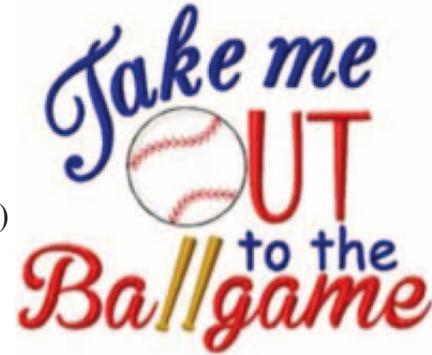
TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Saturday, August 7. Game time 1:07.

Join the fun as we watch the A's play the Texas Rangers, and we enjoy the laid-back pleasures of an afternoon in the ballpark.

If you want to go, contact **Charles Little** (barcaabuelo@gmail.com) or **David Knopf** (knopf.david@gmail.com) by **July 11**.

We will get great middle level seats at \$46 each and work out shared transportation.



PILGRIM PARK NEWS

JUNE BOARD MEETING – The board of Directors met in June to, among other business, approve the budget for the year 21/22, learn that two vacant apartments are being readied for new tenants, and hear that the repairs to the Community Center trellis have been completed and the building repainted.

VACANT APARTMENTS – Invariably one vacant apartment results not only in a new tenant but a reshuffling of Section 8 assignments and tenant occupancies to better match tenant needs with apartment sizes. The current two vacancies, for example, resulted in 6 such changes.

CHURCH LANDSCAPING – Pilgrim Park was pleased to provide the labor to relandscape the area in front of the cross on the end of the church and to install an automatic drip irrigation system and bark to cover the bare ground.

SUMMER PICNIC AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION – Now that the virus has cooled down (and assuming it stays cooled down) Pilgrim Park will again hold an end of summer picnic this year for church and residents. The date will be announced soon. As Pilgrim Park was opened 50 years ago, Pilgrim Park will celebrate the event with a Birthday Party around the end of the year, probably between Christmas and New Years.

COMMUNITY GARDEN –To see unbelievable tomato and other veggie plants walk through the pedestrian gate between the church and PP; turn left and peer through the fence at almost 8 feet tall tomato plants. I suspect there's a little competition to see which tenant can grow the biggest or most tomatoes. These giant plants put to shame my puny two feet tall patio tomatoes.

Bob De Haan



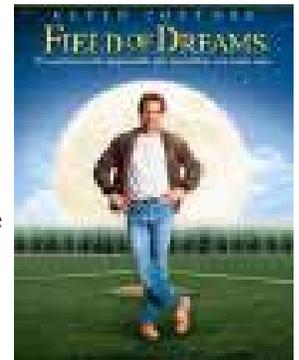
MOVIE NIGHT JULY and AUGUST: THREE BASEBALL CLASSICS

Summertime is the time for baseball, especially when our GIANTS, as of the end of June, have the best record in either league (!) and are playing again to full houses at Oracle Park. Here are three great films that celebrate the national pastime.

All three of these great baseball films can be streamed from Amazon for \$4, or you can borrow the DVD from Bob Spofford.

FIELD OF DREAMS

Field of Dreams is baseball as a mythic, almost religious experience. In fact, Pastor Jeffrey quoted several of its famous lines in a recent sermon: “If you build it, they will come” . . . “Heal his pain.” Kevin Costner plays an Iowa farmer who turns his best corn field into a baseball diamond (with lights no less!) in an effort to redeem the sins of the long-dead players who were banned from the game in the 1919 “Black Sox” scandal.

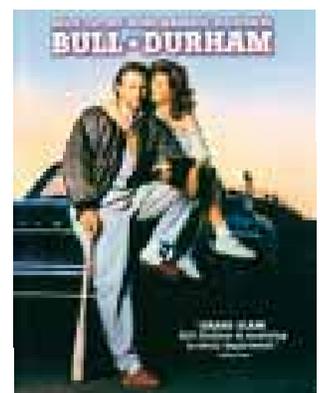


THE NATURAL

The Natural is a dark, dark novel by Bernard Malamud about the corruption of a great natural baseball talent. Screenwriters Roger Towne (*Chinatown*) and Phil Dusenberry (author of many cheery commercials for Pepsi, M&Ms and Apple) made one little change: a glorious happy ending. Literary purists were outraged, but the result was a film, starring Robert Redford as the legendary Roy Hobbs, that captured the magic of the game’s golden age and was nominated for four Oscars.

BULL DURHAM

Bull Durham takes us inside the world of an minor-league team and the busload of players who are either on their way up to, or down from “the show.” Nuke Laloosh (Tim Robbins) is a young pitching prospect with a fabulous fastball and zero self-discipline. Crash Davis (Kevin Costner) is a veteran catcher who is brought in to school Nuke on the latter and prepare him for stardom. Annie Savoy (Susan Sarandon) is a camp follower who schools Nuke in the finer points of life, love and self-confidence.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 — Dorothy Trotter
- 3 — Jack Intrater
- 5 — Saba Dempsey
- 6 — Cyndi Siroky
- 26 — Tristan Cline-Meehan
Michael Cline-Meehan
Jacob Cline-Meehan
Taylor Cline-Meehan
- 27 — Louis Frost
- 29 — Catherine Hills

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6 — Jamie Cline
- 6 — Audrey Borden
- 12 — Rebecca Knopf
- 13 — Allison Kaufman
- 17 — Helen MacLam
- 19 — Emma Intrater
- 19 — Melanie Sakskul
- 22 — Amy Smith
- 24 — Jacob Dempsey
- 27 — David Knopf
- 28 — Judy Girard

GOLDEN GALS — Meeting postponed

The Golden Gals will not be meeting this month due to the Shelter in Place order but hope to do so some time in the future.



TIE DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER issue - Mon., August 23

The deadline for articles and news for the September 2021 issue of The TIE is Monday, August 23rd. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, August 23rd.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Both Amy and Jeffrey are working from home.

You can contact them via email

NOTE: Pastor Jeffrey's new email: fccsrpastor@gmail.com

Rev. Jeffrey Cochran-Carney

Pastor

Mondays and Thursdays 8 AM - 4 PM

Please call first for an appointment

Phone (908) 487-8855

fccsrpastor@gmail.com

Amy Powers — Office Manager

Tuesday 11 AM- 2 PM

Wednesday 10 AM - 2 PM

Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>27</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am ZOOM Meeting - virtual coffee hour</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5 am</p>  <p>THE Deadline for July/August 2021 Issue</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>July 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>Independence Day</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:15 am</p>  <p>Music Director Search Committee</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:15 am</p>  <p>Music Director Search Committee</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>MISSION SUNDAY - BRING NEW PILLOWS</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 am - 8 am</p>  <p>BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:15 am</p>  <p>Music Director Search Committee</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Parents' Day</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5 am - 6 am</p>  <p>Church Council Meeting via ZOOM</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:15 am</p>  <p>Music Director Search Committee</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</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.

FCC Calendar AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 6:30 am - 7:15 am</p>  <p>Music Director Search Committee</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p> <p>1 pm</p>  <p>TRIP TO AS BASEBALL GAME</p>
<p>8 10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 12 pm</p>  <p>Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6:30 am - 7:15 am</p>  <p>Music Director Search Committee</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>
<p>15 10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>
<p>22 10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>23 5 am</p>  <p>TIE Deadline for September 2021 Issue</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>
<p>29 10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 9</p>

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