

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista
United Church of Christ

April 2015

Melinda's Musings

Once upon a time there was a little mouse who lived in a church. Everything that could possibly go wrong for this little mouse, went wrong. His father was killed in the church mouse trap. His mother was caught, tormented and eaten by the neighbor's cat. His brothers and sisters all ran away. The little church mouse was all alone.

Each day he hid in the darkness, and when he became so hungry he thought he would die, he ran through the church kitchen looking for crumbs. Each Sunday the little mouse hid under the choir loft, and listened to the minister talk about how much God loves all creation. After a while, the little mouse began to wonder what he had done wrong.

What had he done to make God angry enough to take away his whole family. The more he wondered, the more he believed he had done something very wrong. One Sunday, a young girl, who always sat with her family in the second row of pews, saw him hiding under the choir loft. The little mouse was so scared he didn't dare move an inch. After church was over, and everyone had left the sanctuary, he poked his head out of the darkness to see if the "coast was clear."

The little mouse made his way to the kitchen, but someone had already finished sweeping the floor. There was not a crumb to be found. As the little mouse was heading back to the sanctuary, he saw the young girl push open



one of the two big oak doors, and run out to catch up with her family.

When the little mouse squeezed through the crack under the massive doors and returned to the choir loft, the little mouse found a great big chocolate chip cookie. The cookie lasted all week, and the next Sunday there was an oatmeal

cookie. Each Sunday the little girl left him a cookie, and each Sunday he would sit expectantly under the choir loft, and wink at her, as only a little church mouse can do, and together they listened to the minister's sermons that always seemed to last a little too long.

The mouse learned that God's love is very real, not so much from the minister's sermons, but from the delicious cookies God's little angel shared with him each Sunday. The church mouse learned to avoid cheese that smelled too good to be true, all the traps in life, and he always watched out for his neighbors – especially the neighborhood cats.

The little church mouse grew up to become a wise old mouse, who never doubted God's love again. The little girl grew up to become a minister, and God just had to smile. (thanks to the ucc.org forum for this anonymous story)

Resurrection is all around us. It breaks forth whenever we dare like Jesus to love more than we know how, give more than is necessary and live more fully the life that God has set before us.

Happy Easter!
Melinda

SOCIAL ACTION MEETING

On March 15th Linda Young from Arlington UCC came to talk to us about an organization called Jubilee. It is a faith based organization that is "building an economy that serves, protects and promotes participation of the most vulnerable. Jubilee has won critical global financial reforms and more than \$130 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest people." Jubilee USA is engaged in national and international efforts to prevent new cycles of debt through accountable and transparent borrowing and lending rules. Support for Jubilee can be just an agreement to pray for them and the work they are doing and dedicating one Sunday a year reflecting on their work. Support can also be financial to help with their advocacy.

Respectfully submitted

Sylvia Sugg



National Rebuilding Day, April 18 and 25

We have decided to participate with **Rebuilding Together East Bay-North** to help renovate a home for a neighbor in need. Mira Vista has done this before and let's do it again! Saturday April 18th will be a training day and time to get our assignments. Then on Saturday, April 25th we will go do the work!

Please let Pastor Melinda or Patsy Stubbs know if you plan to participate. This is also a swell opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, and able-bodied family members to help us make a difference!

NCNC-UCC Annual Gathering 2015 New Time, New Place!

Time. It always seems to be something we are always wanting more of. Not enough time to spend on vacation; with family; finishing a report; reuniting with friends. Mother Teresa once said "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

If you haven't registered for the **NCNC-UCC Annual Gathering at Sonoma State University from June 11 – 14**, you still have time. In fact, if you register before the end of this month, you qualify for an early bird discount. So don't waste time – register online or give the conference office a call today. Don't miss out on welcoming our new Conference Minister; attending interesting and thought provoking workshops and being part of five spiritual and uplifting worship services.

Reunite with old friends and meet others within your conference association. Consider this a family reunion. All are welcome to attend and Mira Vista is entitled to two voting delegates. Let Bonnie Hariton or Pastor Melinda know if you'd like to attend.



"Amy Ukena, Katie Morrison, Melinda McLain, and Will McGarvey have some extracurricular fun during a previous Annual Gathering



News from the Pews . . .

Transitions are happening everywhere! **Adelle Lemon** is moving into El Cerrito Royale, the lovely senior living facility that is already home to **Virginia Carrieri** and **Tharon McDavid**. If you wish to drop a card to **Adelle**, the address is: 6517 Gladys Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Pastor Melinda and her wife Colleen are in the process of buying and then renovating Alice Park's home in El Sobrante. (BTW - Alice continues to thrive at Pinole Senior Village!) They hope to move from San Francisco in the Fall and they are both looking forward to being closer to the church and friends in the East Bay.

We continue to hold the families and friends of **Carmen Anduiza** and **Steve Darrow's** families in prayer as they grieve. Melinda officiated at the burials for both of these beloved members of the Mira Vista family in March.

Have any "news from the pews" you want the wider Mira Vista family to know? Contact Pastor Melinda.

Celebrating Music Transitions at Mira Vista

On **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, we will say a fond farewell to our pianist/organist **Ji Yeon Song**. Even though she has only been here a few months, she has been a terrific gift to our worship experience and to our community. Do be sure to express your thanks to her as she moves on to her next adventures in life and music.

Even though we will miss Ji Yeon, we are fortunate that **Ray Capiral** will be joining us as our new pianist/organist on **Sunday, April 12th**. Ray described himself in his resume like this: "classically-trained rockstar pianist, teacher and composer with thirteen years of experience working to inspire people of all

walks; closet stand-up comedian, faith-filled seeker of truth, humanitarian." Ray plays with lots of heart and skill and is a seasoned church musician.

We will also continue to enjoy the gifts of **David Joon Song**, our Minister of Music and the director of the Amazing Graces. Do pray for David this month as he finishes his final exams to become a music educator and while he continues his student teaching and then begins to seek a position as a choral conductor/music teacher. His devotion to choral music is limitless and the Amazing Graces are benefitting from this commitment.

Finally, many thanks to **Sylvia Sugg** and **Bonnie Hariton** for a long season of work on the personnel committee to complete all our shifts in music staff! Give them both a pat on the back of thanks for a job well-done!

NCNC Selects a New Conference Minister!

On **Saturday April 11th**, there will be a special meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ to consider the call of **Rev. Diane Weible** to be our next conference minister @**First Congregational, Palo Alto, 10a-2p**. Mira Vista is entitled to two voting delegates and you can find out more about Diane and the process by visiting <<http://www.ncnccucc.org>> Please let Pastor Melinda know if you would like to attend this wonderful event.

April Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1st Dan Hariton
- 4th Joan Thompson
- 7th Paul Honigs
- 7th Bill Willcutts
- 10th Cordell Britt



**Happy Birthday to each of you
with love from Mira Vista!**



PAAM 8th Annual Music Festival



The Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministry of the Northern California Nevada Conference of UCC, invites you to an evening of tasty food, exciting fellowship and uplifting & joyous music at our 8th annual music festival.

May our sons, in their youth, be like plants full grown; our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace."
-Psalms 144:12-

We realize that our young adults are our future. Whether in PAAM, our family or our community. PAAM has always supported and encouraged our young adults to attend NCNC, PAAM & UCC activities and have established scholarships for this. It is with that thought that all donations from the music festival will be used to created an Education Scholarship Fund to be used for graduating seniors of any active NCNC PAAM church in 2015 graduating year. All applications will be reviewed by the officers of NCNC PAAM. The amount disbursed will depend on monies raised.

WHEN: Saturday, April 25, 2015

5:00pm - 6:00pm = Dinner

6:30pm - 8:30pm = Entertainment

WHERE: Lake Park Methodist Church
281 Santa Clara Avenue
Oakland, CA

COST: A \$5.00 donation at the door includes dinner.

PLEASE RSVP: In order to plan for food, and keep waste to a minimum, you MUST RSVP as to how many from your church/group will be having dinner. You will be given meal tickets when payment is received at the door. Only those with meal tickets will be served dinner. Email or fax using the below information.

DEADLINE: All request must be received by April 11, 2015. We tend to sell out so order early.

COMPLETE BELOW AND EMAIL/FAX BEFORE THE DEADLINE

CHURCH: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

EMAIL: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEAL TO RESERVE: _____

NCNC PAAM
c/o Chinese Congregational Church UCC * 21 Walter U. Lum Place * San Francisco
510-558-0736-fax * paamncnc@aol.com-email

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2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Maundy Thursday Service, El Cerrito Royale, 6 pm; Amazing Graces to follow	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
5 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa  Christ is Risen!	6	7 Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10am  Mindfulness Circle @ Patsy Stubbs, 7 pm	8 Pre-council meeting @ Namaste, 12 noon	9 Amazing Graces rehearsal, 7 pm	10	11 Special meeting of the NCNC-UCC to call a new Conference Minister, Rev. Diane Weible, @First Congregational UCC, Palo Alto, 10 am – 2 pm
12 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa	13	14 Council meeting @ El Cerrito Royale, 6:45 pm	15	16 Amazing Graces rehearsal, 7 pm	17	18 Rebuilding Together East Bay-North training
19 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa	20	21 Mindfulness Circle @ Patsy Stubbs, 7 pm	22	23 Amazing Graces rehearsal, 7 pm	24	25 Rebuilding Together East Bay-North work day PAAM 8 th Annual Musical Festival, Lake Park Methodist Church, 6:30 pm
26 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa	27	28	29	30 Amazing Graces rehearsal, 7 pm	31	

Our worship life together . . .

Join us on Sundays at 12 noon for our celebration with music and preaching and then stay for lunch because our worship continues as we share food and friendship together. All are welcome at our table!

April 5, EASTER, Mark 16: 1-8, "Rolling Back the Stone", followed by festive La Mesa
Last Sunday for **Ji Yeon Song**

April 12, Lent 3, John 20: 19-23, "Breathing in the Spirit", **Worship team** during La Mesa
First Sunday for our new pianist/organist **Ray Capiral**

April 19, Lent 4, Luke 24: 13-35, "Walking the Path" with the Amazing Graces singing followed by
La Mesa

April 26, Lent 5, John 10: 11-18, "Tending the Sheep", **Sermon feedback and theology circle**
during La Mesa

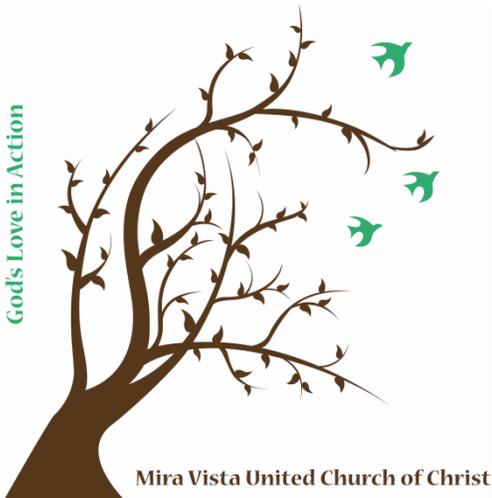


Christ is Risen!

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Address Change Requested

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