



# The Fellowship Post

## Mira Vista United Church of Christ

August/September 2016

### **Melinda's Musings:** by Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain

What a difference twenty years makes! When I was ordained in 1996, HIV/AIDS was still ravaging the community and I was called to work with women infected and affected by the virus and to serve out-of-town families visiting the Bay Area to care for gravely ill adult children. I did this community-based chaplaincy work until 1999 when combination therapies shifted HIV/AIDS into a more manageable, less fatal disease.

1996 was also an election year and President Bill Clinton was running for re-election against Senator Bob Dole from Kansas. And though that was a somewhat brutal campaign, it really doesn't even compare to the level of nastiness that now attends American political campaigns. The world really has changed in this regard and in many other ways.

For example, our world has become hyper-connected with instantaneous interactivity via digital media and it is difficult to understand exactly how much this has changed us individually and in community let alone how it has affected our spiritual lives.

Our "society" now has very fuzzy borders as globalization both draws us together and separates us into silos of specific self-interest based mostly upon habits and preferences instead of geography.



These silos, I believe, have made us more susceptible to fear-mongering and less trustful of one another. This is the most difficult change I have seen since I was ordained. And on many days, I just don't have a clue how to turn back this tide of fear and violence. At the same time, I am deeply grateful for a spiritual tradition rooted in hope and good news and I am relieved that Jesus commanded that we love one another - even our enemies.

Meanwhile, what most of us think of as "church" is rapidly disappearing.

In my early days as a community-based chaplain, I remember long conversations with colleagues about how to "be church" in any situation. Even then, we knew that "church" had to become portable, expansive, and not tied to any particular location. We had to BE the Body of Christ out in the world and without a safety net of structure and set rules.

For me, ministry has certainly changed over the years, but what it means to BE a minister hasn't changed much at all. I am still committed to embodying the love and compassion of Christ in circumstances where it is desperately needed. It is a deep and abiding pleasure to serve among and with you in this place and wherever the Holy Spirit may lead us next.

With love and many blessings,  
Melinda

## News from the Pews



**Brady Morales-Woolery** has agreed to join the Council and serve as point person for stewardship and special offerings.

**Amy Ukena, Kathe Kiehn, and Melinda V. McLain** made their debut as the Andrews Sisters for **Howard Coates' Memorial Service**. Hopefully this will not be their last appearance as the famed trio. Also, many thanks to **Bonnie and Dan Hariton** for bringing beautiful tablecloths and napkins for the service.

Lots of travels this summer. **Bonnie, Dan, and Elise Hariton** spent one month in Romania; **Colleen Rodger and Melinda V. McLain** spent 10 days in New Mexico and Colorado where they saw **Nancy and Don McKay** at the Santa Fe Opera; and **Wendy, Olivia, and Michael Wisely** spent time in London.



*MVUCC 2016 Giving Award - Pictured with Pastor Melinda is Associate Conference Minister Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones*

## *August Celebrations*

### **Birthdays**

4<sup>th</sup> Rev. Susan Meeter  
8<sup>th</sup> Rev. Thom Longino  
18<sup>th</sup> Tharon McDavid  
19<sup>th</sup> Ardith Hayes  
30<sup>th</sup> Michael Oenberger



### **Anniversaries**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wendy & Michael Wiseley  
24<sup>th</sup> Patsy & Stan Severson

## *September Celebrations*

### **Birthdays**

8<sup>th</sup> Carol Kiehn  
21<sup>st</sup> Iris Ridgway  
23<sup>rd</sup> Elisabeth Severson



### **Anniversaries**

18<sup>th</sup> Joan Thompson & Ken Alborn  
20<sup>th</sup> Ruth Ann Clark & Ardith Hayes  
24<sup>th</sup> Rev. Melinda McLain & Colleen Rodger  
25<sup>th</sup> Kathe Kiehn & Heinz Lankford

*Best wishes to each of you  
with love from Mira Vista!*



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**2016**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa with Social Action Team	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10 am	<b>7</b> Mindfulness Circle, El Cerrito Royale, 7p	<b>8</b> Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p  Council meeting, 7p	<b>9</b>   Pastor Melinda in Los Angeles & → Austin through September 16	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion Tom Emanuel preaching	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
					→	
<b>18</b> 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion  Sycamore UCC Bazaar, 12-5p	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Mindfulness Circle, El Cerrito Royale, 7p	<b>22</b> Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p  	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Bay Assoc. Eccl. Council, Congregational UCC, Danville, 10:30a
<b>25</b> 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p	<b>30</b>	

## ***Our worship life together . . .***

Join us on **Sundays at 12 noon** for our celebration with music and preaching, then stay for lunch because our worship continues as we share food and friendship together at La Mesa. We celebrate the sacrament of **Holy Communion every First Sunday** in the sanctuary and during La Mesa on subsequent Sundays. All are welcome at our table!

August 14 "The Great Cloud"	Hebrews 12: 1-2
August 21 "Unusual Healing" <i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i>	Luke 13: 10-17
August 28 "Hospitality and Hubris"	Luke 17: 7-14
September 4 "Perilous Prosperity "	Luke 14: 25-33
September 11 "Playing with Percentages" <i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i>	Luke 15: 1-10
September 18 "Faith and Fortune"	Luke 16: 1-13
September 25 "Rich Revelation"	Luke 16: 19-31

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### *The Fellowship Post*

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