



# The Fellowship Post

## Mira Vista United Church of Christ

July 2012

### Pastor's Corner

*The idea is to write it so that people hear it and it slides through the brain and goes straight to the heart.*

—Maya Angelou

Coaching young writers at El Cerrito High school is a delightful commitment for me, because writing, reading, and creative young people are three of my favorite things. I worked with young people I would never have met, from family faith traditions, languages, and cultures from all over Planet Earth.

When the school year ended, the students, teachers and principal gave us feedback, thanked us, and shared how their 1<sup>st</sup> year English classes have changed since we arrived.

Remember, coaches worked with students maybe 10 times, for 20-30 minutes each time. This is what the teachers said:

- ❖ The assignment turn-in rate increased 100% for students who had a writing coach.
- ❖ Writing improved vastly, and teachers were able to assign more complicated, lengthy writing projects because of our 1 on 1 time.
- ❖ 80% of the D and F students went up 1 letter grade.
- ❖ For English language learners, having an English-speaking adult encouraging them in their writing fills a real need. "It means so much for them to be respected."
- ❖ It may be the first time a student has been *heard* by an adult they don't know.
- ❖ "Hashing out their ideas with a coach helps them translate their beautiful thoughts onto paper."
- ❖ Coaches' comments on the feedback forms helps the teachers see another side of their students.



- ❖ Students who turn in nothing else, do turn in their writer/coach assignments!
- ❖ Students went up an average of 1 full letter grade between the 1<sup>st</sup> (uncoached) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (coached) assignments.

My purpose here is not to brag about what a few volunteers did, but to invite you

to think about the impact you have in *your* daily life. Who do you see, walk past, talk to, write to, pray for? Each of us has an impact on every human being and creature that comes near us, willing or unwilling; seldom do we hear what that impact is, but it is no less real. We share breath and energy with every other sentient being on this planet, including those who came before us.

As a "bookworm," it's tempting to imagine that I have learned most of what I know from books. On the contrary -- I have learned most of what I know from fellow humans and animals, known and unknown to me, whether I was giver or receiver, even if we never exchanged a word.

So any time someone thanks you for something, touches your arm, smiles, encourages you, blesses you, sees you – multiply that by a million and hear the voice of God saying, "*You are my beloved – I have loved you since you were in your mother's womb.*" Take that moment to give yourself a break – you are blessed and a blessing! Keep the faith, take time to rest, thank God for miracles, and remember the greeting we all long to hear:

*Welcome home! Supper's ready! I love you!*

*Pastor  
Susan*



## “Graces” End Season With...Grace

Some Sundays seem a little more special than others. On Sunday, June 17, the Amazing Graces performed two anthems

(noted below) and the day was full . . . :

- the end of the choir season
- Father’s Day
- Juneteenth, and
- Mira Vista’s semi-annual meeting.

Sunday, June 17 also marked Director, Amy Ukena’s summer hiatus.

### Anthems

- **Esto Les Digo**, by Kinley Lange, from Matthew 18:19-20: *This I say to you, if two of you here on earth are in accord to ask anything in prayer, my Father who is in heaven will give it to you. Because where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.*
- **Nothin’ Gonna Stumble My Feet**, words, J. Parker; music, G. Gilpin.

These two anthems couldn’t be more different, but after months of rehearsal, both were a joy to sing and to hear. We’ll be sure to let you know when the “Graces” are due to come back in the Fall, and hope that you can sing along with us. We are so grateful to Amy Ukena, who has brought us a very long way.

### Semi-Annual Meeting Packets



If you were not able to attend our semi-annual meeting, Mira Vista members, please pick one up at church on Sunday or call Latifah in our office, 510 526-0110.

Many hours of effort go into pulling together these materials so that you can be fully abreast of our joys and concerns as leaders of Mira Vista UCC.



## Welcome, Latifah

A big welcome to our new office manager, **Latifah Abdullah**; please stop by between Tuesday and Friday, 10-3, to welcome her! Here she is in her own words:

I am pleased to be here working in the Mira Vista UCC office. It’s very peaceful and it’s a pleasure speaking with you over the phone and when you come in.

I migrated to California from Illinois some years ago; I have two daughters, and am a business owner.

My background is in administration and I’ve also worked in the real estate, legal and insurance industries.

Thank you for extending the invitation to work with you and thank you for your warm welcome.

### Social Action Giving

Here are the seeds we have planted!



- Berkeley Creative Wellness Center
- California Council of Churches
- Campaign for American Dream
- El Cerrito Interact/Little Flock Homes, India
- Family Violence Appellate Project
- Greater Richmond Interfaith Program
- Latina Center
- National Alliance on Mental Health
- NCNC-Storm/Tornado Relief
- Pacific School of Religion
- Puente de la Costa Sur
- REACH Fellowship International
- Rebuilding Together - Richmond Projects
- Richmond Emergency Food Pantry
- RYSE
- San Francisco Night Ministry
- STAND! Against Domestic Violence



## July Worship

We are continuing with the fruitful story of King David: ancestor of Jesus, composer of psalms, mighty king, and flawed human being. *Exceptions: On July 1 Rev. Longino takes the pulpit to lead you through Mark's story of living out loud; on July 29, we will share a hymn sing service with CLC.*

July 1, 2012, 12 noon  
Holy Communion  
*Living with Creativity*  
Mark 5:25-34, woman who touches Jesus' hem  
Guest minister Rev. Thomas Longino

July 8, 2012, 12 noon  
*Living with a Full Heart*  
2 Samuel 1:17-27,  
David grieves Saul and Jonathon  
Pastor Susan presiding  
Davena Hambrick preaching

July 15, 2012, **11 am, Hariton backyard**  
*Living with Joy*  
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19,  
David's celebratory worship

July 22, 2012, 12 noon  
*Living in the Present Promise*  
2 Samuel 7:1-14a, David has to wait  
until God's time is ripe

July 29, 2012, **11 am**  
**Joint hymn sing & barbecue with CLC**  
*Filled with the Fullness of God*

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*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
780 Ashbury Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
(510) 526-0110  
office@miravistaucc.org  
www.miravistaucc.org

Rev. Susan Meeter, pastor  
revmeeter@miravistaucc.org

## Sunday July 15



### Outdoor Worship Service 11 am!

#### Sunday July 15 OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE, 11 am!

Put on your picnic hats! Dan and Bonnie Hariton have invited us to hold our Summer Sunday worship service in their backyard on **Sunday, July 15, at 11 am**, followed by potluck lunch; **2725 Garrity Court, Pinole. Phone: 758-7031.**

If you would like to **share a ride**, contact Wendy Wisely or Pastor Susan. **NEEDED:** volunteers to bring several **large umbrellas** (Pastor Susan and Barbara will bring one) We are **looking for a karaoke sound system**; if you have access to one, contact Pastor Susan. We **would like to borrow an electric piano**, so please call our church office if you can help.

Barbara Cook is bringing hot dogs, buns, and condiments; Bonnie Hariton is supplying potato salad and lemonade. You are welcome to bring salads.



*Mira Vista  
United Church of Christ*

780 Ashbury Ave.,  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

phone: (510) 526-0110 fax: (510) 526-0110

email: [office@miravistaucc.org](mailto:office@miravistaucc.org) • website: [www.miravistaucc.org](http://www.miravistaucc.org)

**July 2012**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> HOLY COMMUNION 12 Noon Worship Service 	<b>2</b> Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	<b>3</b>  Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10 am	<b>4</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> of July!	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Yoga, 9-10:15 am
<b>8</b> 12 Noon Worship	<b>9</b> Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	<b>10</b> Bible Study, 1:30 pm	<b>11</b> Council meeting, 7 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Yoga, 9-10:15 am
<b>15</b> 11am Outdoor Worship at Dan & Bonnie Hariton	<b>16</b> Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	<b>17</b> Bible Study, 1:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> No Yoga
<b>22</b> 12 Noon Worship SAT Meeting	<b>23</b> Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	<b>24</b> Bible Study, 1:30 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Yoga, 9-10:15 am
<b>29</b> 11am Joint Worship & BBQ w/ CLC	<b>30</b> Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	<b>31</b> Bible Study, 1:30 pm				

## PRIDE Parade

June 24 marked Mira Vista UCC's 20th walk in the PRIDE parade!



In this photo are Patsy Severson and Adelle, David, and Nancy Lemon.

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### **Watermelon –**

Lynn Ungar, *Blessing the Bread*



You know  
what summer  
tastes like—the pink  
flesh  
of a generous earth,  
this rounded life  
fully ripe, fully  
flavored.  
How could you be  
ashamed

at the tug of desire?  
The world has opened itself to you,  
season after season.  
What is summer's sweetness  
but an invitation to respond?  
There is only one way  
to eat a watermelon.  
Bury your face  
in the wetness  
of that rosy slab  
and bite.

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