

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista
United Church of Christ

July 2016

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

Partly-inspired by the smash hit Broadway musical, **Hamilton**, I have begun reading the biography: *Alexander Hamilton* by historian Ron Chernow that inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda to write the show.

Hamilton is an unusual member of the "Founding Fathers" pantheon. He was born in very trying circumstances in the West Indies, and as a result, held a number of contrary views to those of Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and Monroe. He was a staunch abolitionist and believed in a well-regulated and centralized financial system. His enduring legacy is not well-known except that we rely on it every day when we go to the bank or participate in the modern economy. Without his service as the first Secretary of the Treasury during Washington's administration, the entire world would work differently because he made the case for centralized and national banks, setting up the interlocking financial systems that we use today.

In his major philosophical work, the **Federalist Papers**, Hamilton placed his thumb on the scale towards greater power for the national interest with regard to the states. As such, the *Federalist Papers* continue to be extremely important, and hotly-contested in both academic and legal circles, as a means for talking about good governance and the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

This July 4th marks the 240th birthday of the United States of America. As we continue



to grind through the current presidential campaign and election cycle, while mourning the losses of the Orlando massacre, and wondering what will happen to the world as Britain exits the European Union, reading this book about Hamilton brings hope and depth to the current headline-driven news milieu we currently live in.

I am also mindful that the political environment we now have is very, very different than the one Hamilton lived in, although his death by duel with a rival, does seem to have more possibility in

the current struggle than it might have even a few years ago. Some days it does seem that our politicians are fighting one another "to the death" regardless of how much damage is done to our nation.

It is also a means for thinking about **why church?** Would it be possible for our church (and by extension many other churches) to become known as a trusted place for respectful conversation, celebration of diversity, and the formation of spiritual practices that prevent violence, curb greed, and promote healing? It seems to me that becoming such a place would be a great birthday gift to our nation.

With love and many blessings,
Melinda

Assessing the Viability of Our Café Church By Pastor Melinda

Over the summer, we are working on a business plan that includes detailed financial estimates and projected operating costs. We are blessed to now have the assistance of **Rob Lyman**, a previous member of First Congregational, UCC, Redwood City. Rob is a top-flight business consultant and financial planner who is also passionate about being church in new ways. Our team for creating the business plan now includes: **Patsy Severson** (our resident human resources, budgeting, and organizational integrity guru), **Brian Campbell-Miller** (with his amazing real estate skills!), **Colleen Rodger** (who is working on fixtures, space, and function!) **Barbara Cook** (bringing her culinary wisdom and financial genius to the project!) and **Pastor Melinda** (focusing on public relations, marketing, and vision). **Tom Emanuel** and **Bonnie Hariton** continue to help as their travel schedules allow. The hope is that this plan will be ready for review by early October.

Mira Vista Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, June 12th** was short, but sweet as we bid goodbye (for now . . .) to **Bonnie Hariton** as Moderator and we elected **Brian Campbell-Miller** to be our new Vice-Moderator. We then installed, with prayer and much gratitude, our new Church Council: **Joan Thompson**, Moderator; **Brian Campbell-Miller**, Vice-Moderator; **Patsy Severson**, Treasurer; **Cathy Noble**, Clerk/Secretary; and **Kathe Kiehn**, Financial Secretary. **Pastor Melinda** serves ex-officio and **Tom Emanuel** participates as part of his learning/serving covenant. If you have interest in becoming part of the Council, do speak with Joan Thompson. We usually meet on the **first Tuesday evening** of each month at 7p in Melinda's office. This is an exciting time to be a leader at Mira Vista!

If you are a far-flung friend of Mira Vista and would like to receive a digital copy of our annual reports, do contact **Diane Young** in the church office.

News from the Pews

Howard Coates peacefully passed from this life to the next on **Tuesday, June 28th**. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held soon here at Mira Vista, so stay tuned for more information. If you would like to send a card to **Betty**, she is living at El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Avenue #330, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Do keep the entire Coates clan in your thoughts and prayers. Betty and Howard were married for 67 years.

Diane Young, our office manager, has had several losses in her family including her beloved uncle in Los Angeles. Do keep her family in your prayers.

Patsy Severson was again our faithful representative in the **United in Spirit** contingent marching in the San Francisco LGBTQ Pride Parade. She has done this for many, many years and also takes the safety monitor training which allows the larger group to qualify each year.

Our new **Vice-Moderator Brian Campbell-Miller** is in the process of exploring a run for the Hercules City Council. He is already serving as the President of the Friends of the Hercules Library.

Our **Minister-in-Training Tom Emanuel's** amazing poem about the Orlando massacre entitled **Pulse** was published in the online version of **Tikkun** magazine edited by **Rabbi Michael Lerner**. It was also published as part of our weekly devotional, **This Week at Mira Vista**. Tom has also been accepted in the **Art & Social Change: InterPlay for Millennial Leaders** program.

Pastor Melinda V. McLain and Colleen Rodger will be headed to Santa Fe for vacation and immersion in opera, chamber music, and green chile, July 27-August 5. This year's offerings include the rarely-done, but wonderful opera **Vanessa** by Samuel Barber.

HOWL

By Tom Emanuel

Howl of Grey Wolf
is a different kind of sound entirely
from Howl of Human Being.
Human Being hears Wolf
and thinks her lonely,
because Human Being
is himself Loneliness
crying to Loneliness,
burning for Connection and Escape.
But Wolf is not lonely at all,
for Wolf sings to Pack
and Hills
and Wind
and Spruce,
and they whisper back
her place in the Family of Things.
It's only Human Being hears Wolf
and shivers in awareness
of animal Vulnerability.
It's only Human Being hides
from Sun and Stars and Moon.
It's only Human Being forgets
he's never Alone.



Our own Patsy Severson in a selfie with Michael Leslie of United in Spirit at the 2016 San Francisco LGBTQ Pride Parade

The Fellowship Post

Editor: Diane Young
published monthly by Mira Vista
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
780 Ashbury Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
(510) 526-0110
office@miravistaucc.org
www.miravistaucc.org

Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain, pastor
melinda@miravistaucc.org



23rd Wilma West
24th Barbara Bly
29th Chris Hockley

Lots of happiness to each of you
on your special day!

♥With love, Mira Vista♥



Mira Vista United Church of Christ

780 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530
 phone: (510) 526-0110 fax: (510) 526-0110
 email: miravistaucc@earthlink.net
 website: www.miravistaucc.org

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 12n Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa with Social Action Team 	4 	5 Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10a  Council meeting, Melinda's office, 7p	6 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p	7 Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p	8	9
10 12n Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion Tom Emanuel, preaching	11	12	13	14 Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p	15	16
17 10a Mira Vista Worship and Picnic at Melinda and Colleen's	18	19	20 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p	21 Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p	22	23
24 12n Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion	25	26	27	28 Open Door Interfaith Zen, 6p	29	30
31 12n Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion Rev. Paul Honigs, preaching						

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!

July 3 "On the Road" Luke 10: 1-11

July 10 "Good Sam Living" Luke 10: 25-37
Tom Emanuel preaching

July 17 "Mary and Martha" Luke 10: 38-42

July 24 **Mira Vista Worship and Picnic at Melinda and Colleen's, 10a**
Do note: there WILL NOT be a worship service on Ashbury Ave. this day. Bring appetizers, salads, and beverages to share. If you need a ride to El Sobrante, do speak with Pastor Melinda or a member of Council.

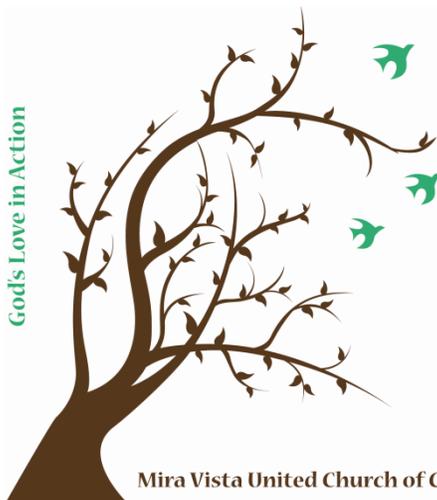
July 31 "Riches in Heaven" Luke 12: 13-21
Rev. Paul Honigs, preaching

*Mira Vista United Church of Christ
780 Ashbury Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530*

Address Change Requested

Dated Material
July 2016

God's Love in Action



Mira Vista United Church of Christ