

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista
United Church of Christ

June 2012

Pastor's Corner

Six years ago the members of Mira Vista United Church of Christ were preparing to leave a "forever" church home for a temporary location.

The June 06 POST says: *It is time to travel light, to begin anew without the possessions that so burdened us with their care.... It's possible we'll feel more empathy for people without any place to lay their heads.... We will hear with new ears and see with new eyes.*

Perhaps we'll even feel more aware of the breath of the Spirit in our communal life. If we are responsible for nothing other than the love of God and our neighbor, how will we listen for that call, and what might we accomplish together?

After the sale of the church's property and the move to Christ Lutheran's building, it was time to rest, to discern the spirit, to dream new dreams, to experience new missions together.

And now, six years later – you who participated in our dislocation and relocation, and you whose lives are full of a variety of dislocating changes: Are you more aware of the Spirit's breath in our communal life than you were? Have transition and transience situation helped us grow in the Spirit?

It looks to me like most of us are still "burdened with much serving," like Martha in Luke 10, just like we were before. Only now you're not caring for your church building and its contents.

You are burdened with caring for the people who matter most to you; with your or others' health problems; with loss and grief; with the need for an income; with work or studies; with supporting a dozen different nonprofits; and



concerned about everything from the health of the Bay to the well-being of returning soldiers. We are giving of ourselves where we live, where we work, and far beyond.

In some ways, then, nothing has changed: we're fully engaged in the joys and sorrows of our lives. The difference is in the freedom, in

the spread, in the choices we have made and are making with and on behalf of our own Bay Area and beyond. And oh the adventures we've had in these six years!

Now let us again stop, look, and listen, like Mary who sat at Jesus' feet in Luke 10, so that we can be fully present to the Spirit sent to comfort, invite, and lead us. Take the time for silence, for reflection, for wondering and wandering, for prayer. Feel the Spirit moving in you, renewing and disturbing you. And pray for your church, that we may be mutually transformed from people carrying burdens to children of light, flooded with grace.

Any time people with burdens are transformed into witnesses to God's grace, we see the Spirit at work; together then we bring forth love and power, sharing it forward like the long line of witnesses before and after us.

All that love and power comes straight from the Holy Spirit working in our midst, blowing us where it will. This transient and enduring breath of the Spirit is what we celebrate each year on Pentecost Sunday.

Happy Pentecost -- birthday to the Christian church -- when Jesus' lost followers lit up with a sweet, sweet spirit that still encourages and renews us today.

-Pastor Susan



With Many Thanks

It never ceases to surprise me how quickly time passes. It seems like only

yesterday that I was beginning my time as your Minister in Training. In the past 8 months, I have had the joy to be a part of your community and a part of your lives and I cannot even begin to express just how grateful I am with how you have opened your hearts and your church to me. I have learned so much from each and every one of you, and know that those things I have learned will be with me for a lifetime. You have shown me grace as I have learned and appreciation as I have grown. Even more than all of this, your care for me will never be forgotten and will lift me up as I continue my journey.

I have to say I admire so deeply the Mira Vista Community. You have so many gifts I could not even begin to list them all, your openness and commitment to Mira Vista the best community it can be are truly amazing. I want you to know that you offer so much and should be proud of that. I have never been in a church that has been more willing to try new things; you are not afraid to do something you have not done before and I think that will continue to serve you well. I am grateful for your gifts and am sure that there are many others who you have touched who feel the same way.

As I move on to my next steps I want you to know that I carry you in my heart. I will continue to have you in my thoughts and prayers often. So I take my leave as your Minister in Training looking forward to those times when our paths will cross from time to time in the future. With all the love and gratitude in my heart, I pray that the Divine One bless you, keep you, and inspire you to continue live your faith showing the love of God to all who see you.

-Chris Hockley

Upcoming

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Youth, Faith, and Family

Saturday, June 9, 2012

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church

55 Eckley Lane
Walnut Creek, CA

Juneteenth Parade & Festival

Richmond, Saturday, June 16.

Parade, 10 am, Cutting & Marina Way to
Nicholl Park.

Festival, Nicholl Park, 33rd & MacDonald,
11:30-6, with food, vendors, kids' expo, and
music: gospel, hip hop, R&B, and blues.

3rd Annual Richmond Native American Pow-Wow

Honoring the Ancestors

Saturday, June 23, 2012 10am -6pm

Nicholl Park, 3230 MacDonald Avenue
Richmond, CA

June is LGBT PRIDE month,
with special events all over the Bay Area.
You are invited to March with Mira Vista
UCC on Sunday, June 24!



June 2012



Dear Mira Vistans,

June means that soon we will have to say "See you in September!" to the Amazing Graces and to me for the summer. We've had a good year, albeit a year that has seen a few changes.

As we look ahead into summer, I'd like to share some of my favorite music quotes:

++++
++++

Music is what happens between the notes.
Duke Ellington

Without music life would be a mistake.
Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Everything in the universe has a rhythm,
everything dances.
Maya Angelou

My idea is that there is music in the air, music
all around us;
the world is full of it, and you simply take as
much as you require.
Edward Elgar

We are the music makers, and we are the
dreamers of dreams.
Arthur O'Shaughnessy,

You can't possibly hear the last movement of
Beethoven's Seventh and go slow.
Oscar Levant, explaining his way out of a
speeding ticket

++++
++++

Thank you, Amazing Graces, for "pouring your love on your people", as our Pentecost anthem proclaims, all year long. Thank you, Wendy and Margaret, for providing the

accompaniment to all our services. Thank you, Susan and Chris, for being our spiritual guides!

May this month be filled with music in your heart and spirit.

In harmony,
Amy Ukena

P.S. **SAVE THE DATE!** Choir meeting & tea party, 3-5 pm, Pastor Susan's home.



Council Corner- June 2012

Thank you to those of you who participated in the rebuilding project on April 28th. There were 30 volunteers, with six from MVUCC. There were 13 teenagers in that 30. The front and back yard was worked on, along with inside painting and clean-up.

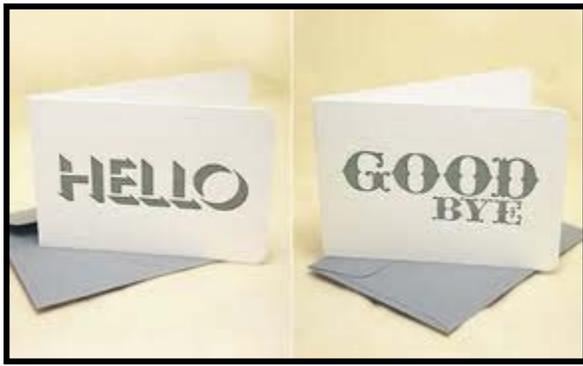
The Solano Stroll is coming up in September. Please think about participating in some way:

- walking in the opening parade,
- set-up,
- take-down, working our booth. What can you suggest?

-Cathy Noble

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. Susan Meeter, pastor
 revmeeter@miravistaucc.org



When we have many hello's and goodbye's in our lives we can say that we are richly blessed with love and grace; opportunities abound for many blessings between us and each person we meet. Sometimes, though, we would be happy to have less of that good stuff if we could just keep things the same for just a tad longer.... We are in a season of many changes in our lives and communities, and our MVUCC church office is no exception.



We are sorry to say farewell to **Diane Young**, our extraordinary office manager for the past five years. What a joy it has been to work with her;

what a ministry she's had with all of you! Diane's last day is June 1, but she would very much like you to stay in touch. We are also hoping that she will be able to come to one of our Sunday services and hear your appreciations in person.

Diane has been training her replacement – **Latifah Abdullah** -- who will be fully operational and in charge of our church office beginning Tuesday, June 5. Latifah plans to keep **office hours on Tuesdays through Fridays, 10-3**. Stop by, telephone, email and welcome her! Latifah will introduce herself more fully in our July issue, but I can tell you she has a daughter who is graduating from El Cerrito High School this year, that she is commuting from Vallejo, and that she has lots of experience and skill in office management.

June Celebrations

Birthdays

12th Olivia Wisely
 17th Randi Nielsen
 19th Alicia Romo
 21st Alice Parks
 28th Wendy Wisely



Anniversaries

17th Susan and Barbara



Mira Vista

Semi-Annual Meeting



Sunday, June 17 – 12 noon

Combined worship and semi-annual meeting followed by potluck lunch

At the meeting, we will:

- ❖ Receive Leadership Reports
- ❖ Nominate/Elect & Install Officers & Council Members for 2012-2013
- ❖ Reflect on all events of the past year

See you there!



*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
 website: www.miravistaucc.org

June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Yoga, 9-10:15 am
3 HOLY COMMUNION  Worship Service, 12 Noon Worship committee	4 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	5 Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10 am 	6 Council meeting, 7 pm	7 Yoga, 6-7:15 pm Amazing Graces rehearsal, 7:30 pm	8	9 Yoga, 9-10:15 am
10 12 Noon Worship Worship committee	11 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	12 Bible Study, 1:30 pm	13	14 Yoga, 6-7:15 pm Amazing Graces rehearsal, 7:30 pm 	15	16 No Yoga
17 12 Noon Worship  Semi-annual meeting	18 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	19 3 rd Tuesday Bible Study with Christ Lutheran, 1:00 pm	20 	21 No Yoga	22	23 Yoga, 9-10:15 am Choir meeting & tea party, 3 pm
24 12 Noon Worship Pride Parade	25 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm 55 th Anniversary of United Church of Christ	26 Bible Study, 1:30 pm	27	28 Yoga, 6-7:15 pm	29	30 Yoga, 9-10:15 am Susan on vacation through July 6

YOGA FOR ACTIVE SENIORS

at Christ Lutheran/Mira Vista Church

Monthly Schedule for

June 2012

Patsy Stubbs, RYT
Registered Yoga Teacher
(510)-367-6523



Mondays, June 4, 11, 18, 25

Thursdays, June 7, 14, 28

Saturdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Time:

7 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.

6 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

9 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

Class offered on Saturdays appropriate for beginning level Yoga students. .
Thursday classes deal with different areas of the body.(back, hips, etc).
Regular Monday night classes geared more for the Intermediate beginner level .

Suggested Donation:

\$7-10.00 a class

\$55.00 for 6 classes

**Please contact teacher prior to class if you have special needs
or for any questions.**



SUMMER WORSHIP: This summer we'll be telling stories of David -- King of the united kingdom of Israel, warrior, musician, poet, and flawed human being -- from the Hebrew Bible. (David is also a major prophet in the Islamic tradition and an ancestor of Jesus in our Christian tradition.) This 3,000 year old tale of a shepherd boy chosen by God to be king illustrates many of our own struggles, as we will see. Stories of David and Saul, David and Jonathan, David and Bathsheba, David and Absalom, and more will help us reflect on our own lives, our own decisions, our own contradictions and dilemmas in 2012.

June 3, 2012, 12 noon
 HOLY COMMUNION
 Isaiah 6:1-8, ***Living with that Holy Touch***

June 10, 2012, 12 noon
 SCHOOL'S OUT! CELEBRATING SUMMER
 1 Samuel 8:4-20, ***Living a Blessed Summer***
How can we live without envy, just as we are?

June 17, 2012, 12 noon, *Summertime series*
Father's Day; MVUCC Semi-Annual Meeting
 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13, ***Living With Purpose like David***
How can we live with purpose and direction in a world where the possibilities are endless?

June 24, 2012, 12 noon, *Summertime series*
 1 Samuel 17:32-49, ***Living with Imagination like David***
How can we thrive in reality in this virtual reality world?

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

Address Change Requested

Dated Material
 June 2012

