

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista
United Church of Christ

November 2012

Pastor's Corner

After an ocean vacation I've been reading a book on freak, rogue and giant waves from the points of view of surfers, ship captains, and scientists. It's a good thing the book came after the ocean visit, because I've become a lot less

comfortable with seaside time after learning about the more frequent and more extreme, much higher and more unpredictable ocean waves almost certainly affected by global warming of our oceans (even though there are some self-proclaimed Christian ministers claiming we gays caused it).

Today I'm hearing about Hurricane Sandy's terrible cost in the Caribbean and along our U.S. eastern coastline. What are we ocean lovers to do?

First, Bill McKibben and 350.org are beginning a nation-wide tour the day after the election called "Do the Math," inviting all of us to take action right now on climate change. You can read his Rolling Stone article (click here in the emailed POST): ["Global Warming's Terrifying New Math."](#)

Second, the United Church of Christ has just opened The UCC Center for Environmental Justice at Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard, Washington, in partnership with Moving Planet, 350.org, and Earth Ministry. Here we can learn, and bring home to teach, a transformational message about environmental justice. Who'd like to go for a weekend or a week – we can help you get there. For a list of resources we can use now: (click here in the



emailed POST) <http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries/resources.html>

Third, our United Church of Christ is sponsoring a campaign called **Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days** between Easter and Pentecost 2013.

We will be One United Church on a shared resurrection witness for Planet Earth during 50 great days of greening up, powering down, and shouting out for the environment.

Three goals:

- ONE MILLION HOURS of engaged earth care, including clean up, advocacy, education, and behavioral changes that will impact the environment.
- Planting more than 100,000 TREES locally and globally in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation and the UCC's denominational partners around the world.
- Writing/sending more than 100,000 ADVOCACY LETTERS on environmental concerns to elected officials and local and national newspapers.

In these ways, we can honor and offer healing to our oceans and our coastal peoples around the world and take forward the gift of Tevyn East and "Leaps and Bounds" we received last month.

In closing, *Aloha*. "Aloha" may be translated as: being a part of all, and all a part of me. When there is pain - it is my pain; when there is joy - it is also mine. I respect all that is as part of the Creator and part of me. The earth, the sky, the sea are mine to care for, to cherish and to protect. Aloha!

Aloha bound,

Pastor
Susan

STEWARDSHIP AT MIRA VISTA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nobody wants to work on the stewardship campaign, and I can't figure out why.

You all know a lot about money, and as a child you became an expert at asking for it -- so that's not it.

When you don't help, the stewardship campaign ends up back on your pastor's desk -- and I know you don't want that. ☺

You respond when asked to help; you are God's generous people, so that's no problem.

Working on stewardship doesn't give you much to do at Mira Vista; all you have to do is hold out a plate and we fill it up. Is it that the job is too easy?

The thing is, though, it's a lot more fun filling up the plate when you have someone loving and creative telling you about God's love for you and everyone, and how we need to work together (all hands on deck) to bring about the transformation our faith promises.

It feels so right when your fellow member reminds you that providing for spiritual community is the most important way to care for yourself and your loved ones.

So the next time someone asks you to work on the stewardship campaign, please say "yes." It's a lot more fun than saying "no." ☺

By the way, November is Stewardship Month, and on November 18 we will make estimates of what we can give to our church for next year.

See below all the places your 2012 pledges traveled. That's because when you pledge money to Mira Vista UCC, a bunch of it is tithed *right off the top* to nonprofits who need our support. Our money and our time go hand in hand, paying it forward. ☺ Now that makes us all smile.

Berkeley Creative Wellness Center	200.00
California Council of Churches	100.00
Campaign for American Dream	250.00
Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic	250.00
Community Alliance for Learning (WriterCoach)	250.00
El Cerrito Interact/Little Flock Homes, India	250.00
Family Violence Appellate Project	1,000.00
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program	500.00
Latina Center	400.00
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation	250.00
National Alliance on Mental Health	100.00
NCNC - Storm/Tornado Relief	1,000.00
NOLA	268.00
Pacific School of Religion	500.00
Puente de la Costa Sur	200.00
REACH Fellowship International	400.00
Rebuilding Together - Richmond Projects	500.00
Richmond Emergency Food Pantry	500.00
RYSE Center	250.00
San Francisco Night Ministry	300.00
STAND! Against Domestic Violence	250.00
	7,718.00

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

10th Heinz Lankford
10th Jeanette Smith
13th Amy Ukena
24th Maddie Kavanaugh-Lynch
25th Elise Hariton

A VISIT TO MOM & DAD, UCC-STYLE



All children deserve the right to touch and see their parents, but children whose parents are incarcerated far from home are deprived of this contact. One of our

UCC churches is creatively stepping in to mend that breach: for the sixth year First Congregational Church of Bakersfield, CA has sponsored a bus to take children to see their parents in prison, either at the Women's Prison in Chowchilla, CA or at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, CA. First Congregational Church provides breakfast at the church prior to their departure and travel bags for the children and their caregivers, with lots of items to use and snacks to eat on the long bus ride to and from the prison. Thank you God for UCC Bakersfield

COUNCIL CORNER *by Cathy Noble, Clerk*

As you all know, the needs of the Souper



Center is great. During the course of this year, more money has been spent to provide food at the Center than what was budgeted. If you are

so inclined, monetary donations would be greatly appreciated to help with the remainder of the year. You may send a check to the office or place it in the offering plate on any Sunday. Please remember to write Souper Center on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your help.

4-Way Covenant. It is hoped that you were able to meet *Monika Maria Grace* on Sunday during worship. Mira Vista is exploring the possibility of a 4-way covenant.

Rebuilding Project. Thank you to Sylvia Sugg for participating in the Rebuilding Project on October 13. She worked with a group that repainted trim and re-glazed windows on the back of a small bungalow in Berkeley. Your hands and heart were hard at work -- thank you Sylvia!!

AROUND OUR CHURCH

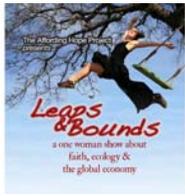


As you read this I'm deep into Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) planning and time traveling back to the present to invite you to our unique and wonderful worship services coming up in November. Your presence is much desired for this experience of blessed community. Amidst this agonizing election, we'll need a little help remembering where we best put our trust (hint: not in mortal princes); where's our true home (hint: not built by men); and where joy comes from (hint: joy comes TO us, happy or not). We will end November with Hannah's story, whose practice of showing up will point us toward a blessed and blessing Advent.

Music will be part of the gift to you this November and December. After a long fall with no choir, our new Interim Choir Director is convening the Amazing Graces for November and December. Welcome to Melinda McLain, and Godspeed to your healing, Amy Ukena, who shall return in the blink of an eye.



The Amazing Graces are scheduled to sing for the first time on November 18, Stewardship/Thanksgiving Sunday, followed by turkey and all the fixin's – a day to remember for sure.



Way back in October we worshipped and shared table fellowship with Arlington Community UCC. Our inspiring leader was the amazing Teyvyn East performing her Leaps & Bounds. If you were there, you saw a whole new take on exponential global growth in the light of creation history and the Bible. We raised approximately \$545 for her Affording Hope environmental justice nonprofit and are, I hope, all stimulated to pay her work forward.



Also back in October we had a blast raising money for two sister churches in New Orleans who are finally fixing their buildings after years of fixing homes. We're not done yet, but looks like our jambalaya and pralines have so far raised \$635 (before expenses). Thanks be to God, and to all you who cooked, ate, and donated!



Worship for November 2012

November 4, 2012, 12 noon
Communion Sunday / All Saints' Day
John 11:32-44; Psalm 146

Trust not in mortal princes, but in the One who brings us to Life.

November 11, 2012, 12 noon
Mark 13:1-8; Psalm 127

We rest in peace when our home is within, built by the Divine Spirit

November 18, 2012, 12 noon
Stewardship Sunday



Amazing Graces sing!
Thanksgiving Potluck Meal
Matthew 6:25-33; Psalm 126
Our God has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

November 25, 2012, 12 noon
1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10

Hannah's story: Showing up at Shiloh

November worship: looking for home
"All of the roads belong to God. The real challenge is not choosing the correct fork, but learning to walk with the Savior who can use any road to bring us home." -
M. Craig Barnes

AMAZING GRACES, November-December, 2012 ALL WOMEN WELCOME!

ALL women who love to sing welcome, whether or not you read music, have the time, or have done this before. Take a risk and enjoy a very special 2 months!

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

with Interim Director Melinda McLain,
Accompanist Wendy Mahoney

REHEARSALS

Thursday, November 1	7 pm
Saturday, November 10	10:30 – 12:30
Saturday, November 17	10:30 – 12:30
Thursday, November 29	7 pm
Thursday, December 6	7 pm
Thursday, December 13	7 pm
Thursday, December 20	7 pm

Additional rehearsals@ 11:20 am on singing Sundays; others times/days by special arrangement

PERFORMING, all at Sunday noon except 12-24

Sunday, November 18, Thanksgiving & Stewardship Sunday
Sunday, December 2, Advent 1
Sunday, December 9, Advent 2
Sunday, December 16, Advent 3
Sunday, December 23, Advent 4
Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 8 pm (rehearsal 7:10)

November 2012

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Amazing Graces Rehearsal, 7pm	2	3 Yoga, 9-10:15 am "A New Earth" Study Group, 6pm @ Pastor Susan's.
4 Holy Communion 12 Noon Worship 	5 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	6 Election Day  Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10am 	7	8	9	10 Yoga, 9-10:15 am Amazing Graces 10:30-12:30
11 12 Noon Worship SAT Meeting, 2pm	12 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	13 Bible Study, 1pm	14 Council Meeting, 7pm	15	16	17 Yoga, 9-10:15 am Amazing Graces 10:30-12:30
18 12 Noon Worship Thanksgiving & Stewardship Sunday	19 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	20 Bible Study, 1pm	21	22 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	23	24 Yoga, 9-10:15 am
25 12 Noon Worship	26 Yoga, 7-8:15 pm	27 Bible Study, 1pm	28	29 Amazing Graces 10:30-12:30	30	

The Fellowship Post
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