

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista
United Church of Christ

September 2015

Melinda's Musings:

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. – Eleanor Roosevelt

“Futuring” is a special discipline within the humanities that is used a lot by businesses trying to get ahead of new market opportunities. It is also a fairly complicated and incredibly inexact science with high stakes outcomes for companies seeking to remain profitable in a rapidly-changing world.

Lots of church folks trying to understand the decline of oldline churches such as the United Church of Christ have also become enamored of the techniques from the futuring gurus as a means for reversing this trend. Our use of the lean start-up process to test the idea of starting a café/cabarét church is an effort to harness great practices from the business world to bolster our ability to dream a new future for Mira Vista Church.

As summer closes and we move into the Fall, we will practice **being the church right now**, even as we also think about how to be church in the future.



In order to organize our time, I would like to restart our discussion tables during and after La Mesa. Beginning on September 6, I invite you to join the **social action table on the first Sunday of the month** and to be a part of our mission to serve the wider community. The **worship table, on the second Sunday of the month**, will be the place to continue to refine our Mira Vista “style” of music, prayer, preaching, and spiritual practice.

Then **on the third Sunday we will have conversations about the future of Mira Vista**. I plan to bring specific questions from the lean start-up process to this conversation table so that when we have another Saturday retreat, in late October or early November, we will have a lot more data to feed into the process.

Let me know if you would be willing to help convene one of these tables on a regular basis.

Love and many blessings,

Melinda

Don't miss our Fall Fiesta! September 13th



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

The 2015 theme for NIN is "Unexpected Places" and connects to the work of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) and our denominational advocacy to address centuries of injustice stemming from the Doctrine of Discovery. Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Mira Vista will receive the Neighbors in Need offering on Sunday, October 4, 2015.

September Celebrations



21st Iris Ridgway

23rd Elisabeth Severson



18th Ken Alborn & Joan Thompson

20th Ruth Ann Clark & Ardith Hayes

24th Melinda McLain & Colleen Rodger

25th Heinz Lankford & Kathe Kiehn

WANTED

ROOM TO RENT

Arimina, Wilma West's caregiver, is trying to find a room for a friend to rent in West County. He works during the day. If you have a room to rent or know someone that does please call Arimina at 510 798-5160

Thanks,
Sylvia.

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News from the Pews (and beyond!)



Our own “real life Rosie the Riveter” **Betty Coates** was one of over 900 “rosies” dressed in blue coveralls and wearing polka-dot headscarves to set a world record for a gathering of Rosies on August 15th at Rosie the Riveter National Park in Richmond. Betty reports that she took her t-square and met a number of other draughtsman at the festive event.

Margaret Maher writes, “I am pleased to let you all know of changes in my life. Mira Vista has been a part of me throughout my life. I got married to a school mate on January 17th, 2015. Nicholas Thompson and I went through school together from second grade at El Monte, Portola Junior High, and Harry Ells High School. Although, these buildings are no longer a part of the school district, they helped form my life; as did Mira Vista and its former building. After graduation, Nick and I only met up at reunions. However, after our last reunion, both being once again single, began to see each other and he moved up here last fall, having retired, from San Diego. I retired this past June from teaching at Hercules High School. We are now moving to our retirement home in Lincoln, CA.” If you would like to be in touch, Margaret’s address is available from the office and will be in the next edition of the directory.

Colleen Rodger and Melinda McLain’s house renovation continues and we’re now in the final stretch. We are having a final open house party in San Francisco from 1p - 4p on **Saturday, September 12th** and we plan to have a garage sale in San Francisco on **Saturday, September 26th**. All are invited to these two events in San Francisco. The sale will include some very useful things from our downstairs rental apartment including a comfy queen-size bed, dresser, and nightstand plus a number of modern chairs, and other items. If you are looking for something in particular, ask Melinda, we might have it! The final move to El Sobrante is now slated for **Wednesday October 7**.



Organist/Pianist Ray Capiral announces “Spike’s Mic Night” presents LIVE piano karaoke every third Wednesday, 8:30-11:00, at Pops SF bar (<http://popssf.com>). Our first night was a great success and a lot of fun.

Sycamore Congregational Church UC
シカモア組合教会
1111 Navellier Street, El Cerrito

Outdoor public worship at 11:30 a.m.
Bazaar open 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

SYCAMORE
BAZAAR
Sunday, September 20

ようこそ
シカモア教会へ!

Enjoy delicious Japanese food, great entertainment, silent auction, plants, and games for kids. A portion of proceeds will support youth and outreach activities.

The collage includes images of food (udon, tempura, dumplings), people at a bazaar, a lion dance, and a person in a blue shirt. There are also vertical signs with Japanese text: 'UDON', 'CRISPY', 'BOY TEA', and 'BOY TEA'.



TOM EMANUEL

A PORTRAIT OF THE MINISTER AS A YOUNG MAN

Rome, Italy; San Ignacio,
Belize; Weimar,
Germany; Pine Ridge,
South Dakota; Taizé,

France... these are just a few of the places to which Tom Emanuel's journey has led him. And now the Bay Area, where he is in the second year of his Master of Divinity program at the Pacific School of Religion! He is beyond delighted to be sharing this portion of his pilgrimage with Mira Vista UCC as your Minister-in-Training for 2015-2016.

Tom left his heart in San Francisco the first time his parents played him the rock & roll of their 1960s youth, but his own childhood was spent putting down pine-tree deep roots in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He received a BA in Political Science and German from the University of South Dakota in 2012 and has spent the intervening years living out his values by teaching German, living as a volunteer in a multiracial intentional community on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, running a social justice nonprofit, serving as an assistant minister at the Vermillion, SD United Church of Christ, and taking to the protest-streets of Berkeley, among other things.

When he's not dreaming up intentional spiritual communities or getting himself arrested for civil disobedience, Tom is probably singing. Music is his primary channel to the Divine: making it, listening to it, dancing to it, talking about it for hours on end (just try to get him to stop gushing over Bruce Springsteen, I dare you). He also leads daily Taizé prayer services, walks an average of forty miles a week, and writes a lot of poetry – good or bad, he leaves it to the reader to judge. At the end of the day, though, he mostly believes in friends and laughter and the wonders Love can do, and is looking forward to incarnating those beliefs together with y'all at Mira Vista.

BERESHIT

Be strong and courageous!
Do not be afraid, and do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God is with you whenever
you go.

'Cos you see, God sees
the world as I see this book,
with its chapter-flippable timeline,
a searchable database
of Past, Present, and Perhaps.
But we who inhabit the pages
can only read them with the chronolinear
bifocals we use
for our finite myopia.

And then, at the chime of a city clock—
Surf's up!
The hour is strike, the street quicksilver-moon!
They committed it to tape in '67,
but only in *this* hearing, *this* singing, *this*
ecstas-ing,
could God smile and say:
"It is finished. It is good."
And it was so.
Yes, *I* was the only one who could pull it all
together—
so how about a credit on the record sleeve,
huh?

Therefore thus saith the Lord:
dance, dance, dance, and be not afraid!
Dance the seam between What-Was and
What-Is and What-Ain't!
Sew together with your steps
the smiles and the sadnesses and the falsetto
harmonies.
Because the LORD our God is with us
whenever we go,
and God only knows what we'd be without
each other
ah-ah-ahhh
bom-bom-bom
ah-ah-ahhhhhhhhhhh
and resolve to Love and Mercy never-ending
in the forever-and-forever-and-forever-all-right
NOW!

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2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10 am Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7 pm	2	3 Amazing Graces, 7 pm	4	5
6 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa Social Action Table	7	8 Mira Vista Council, El Cerrito Royale, 6:45 pm	9	10 Amazing Graces, 7 pm	11	12
13 Fall Fiesta! 12 noon Worship & reception of new members followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion Worship Table	14	15 Mindfulness Circle, 7 pm	16	17 Amazing Graces, 7 pm	18	19
20 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa Good News Table Sycamore UCC Bazaar, 12 pm ±5 pm	21	22	23	24 Amazing Graces, 7 pm	25	26
27 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by La Mesa	28	29	30			



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 on Holy Communion every First Sunday in the sanctuary and during La Mesa on subsequent Sundays. All are welcome at our table!

We have much to celebrate in our worship this Fall! The **Amazing Graces begin rehearsals on Sept. 3rd** and will sing on **Sept. 13th for our Fall Fiesta**. And our new student from Pacific School of Religion, **Tom Emanuel will be with us and helping lead worship beginning Sept. 1.**

September 6 "Grace Under the Table", Mark 7: 24-30 Holy Communion

September 13 "Getting the God You Want", Mark 8: 27-33 Fall Fiesta!

September 20 "The Wisdom of Children", Mark 9: 33-37

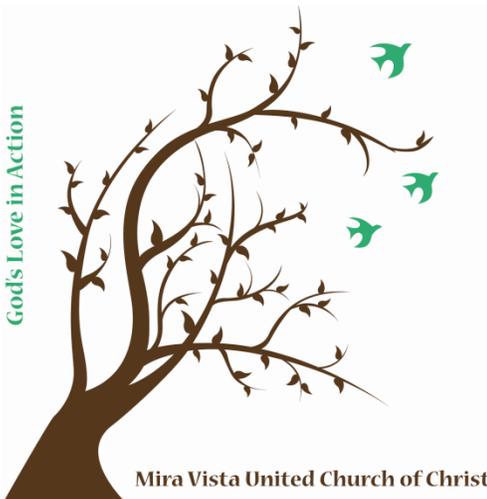
September 27 "Stumbling Blocks", Mark 9: 38-42

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

Address Change Requested

Dated Material
September 2015

God's Love in Action



Mira Vista United Church of Christ