

## **FINE LINES Notes from Pastor Pam**

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Dear Ones,

October is the month when we will prepare for a journey – a shared journey as the church into God’s future. As with any journey, there is planning to do, and that is what October will be about. Specifically, we will have our Finance Campaign in October – each of us will be invited to consider a gift or a pledge that will allow us to continue this journey that Christ laid out for us. Our gifts and pledges will allow us to do the things we feel called to do as God’s people. But, when you take a journey, do you start by saving up the money? Or do you start by deciding where you want to go, and what it will take to get there? It’s hard to know how to finance a journey if you don’t know whether you’re going to San Jose or Rome. Whether you’re going to drive or fly. Whether you need an overnight bag or a trunk. And when it’s time for the trip, it could be really disappointing if you decide you want to go to Rome, and you’ve only prepared for San Jose.

So we have taken a more proactive approach to our Finance Campaign this year. We have asked all our teams and committees to think about the future. Where do they want to go? What do they want to do to get there? And we have encouraged them to “think big” – this is God we’re talking about, after all. All this is going to be laid out for you in October – look elsewhere in the Tide for information about how our campaign will proceed.

But now, let’s talk about you. (Us!) Let us talk about our own preparation and our own stewardship. I know, I know. You have probably heard all the sermons and pep talks you’ll ever want to hear. Stewardship – it’s not just about money, it’s about time and talent. It’s about our relationships with God. Yes, yes, I know. And you’re still going to ask me for a pledge. (Yep!)

Before you start thinking about your pledge to the church for 2011, I’d like you to think about something else. Have an authentic conversation

with yourself and your loved ones about stewardship of ... everything. Leave money out of it for the time being. I really mean this. Think and talk seriously about this truth – that it all belongs to God. Everything. Everything around you, everything you have, everything you’ve worked for, and will work for. It all belongs to God. And it is all on loan to you, entrusted to you for the time being, as God’s steward. (Stop! Don’t think about the money!)

How is your living affected when you accept this reality? The beauty of where you live isn’t yours, but God’s. That one’s not so hard. But your home is God’s, too, not yours. So are your clothes, and your car, your place of business. Harder still - your spouse and your children and grandchildren – are God’s. Your successes are God’s. So are your failures, and your hardships. In your thinking, release all these things (all things, period) from your own safe-keeping, from your ownership. It’s really very freeing!

Now ... here’s the truth: the degree with which you struggle with this truth, is the degree to which you struggle with faith. And ... with money. The degree to which you embrace it? Is the degree to which you en-joy and are em-powered by faith. And ... money.

True stewardship isn’t fund-raising. It isn’t paying dues or bills. It isn’t charity. Stewardship is a response from a growing awareness of and gratefulness to God. It is an act of devotion. It is an act of discipleship.

So, before you start hearing about budgets and plans – before you take a look at that pledge card – please be in prayer with God. Ask to be freed from all that encumbers your faith. Consider stewardship as a way of life – one that will transform your living. And when it comes time to pledge, make it a gift of pure love that will help us all journey closer to God.



MISSIONARY SPEAKER

## ***Meet Missionary Katherine Parker Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM***



MISSIONARY SPEAKER

Save the evening: Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>! United Methodist missionary Katherine Parker is coming to Aptos Community United Methodist Church to discuss and show slides of her work in Cambodia. A 6:30 PM reception to welcome and introduce Katherine will be followed by a 7:00 PM presentation and question/answer session. Appetizers will be served.

Katherine is a young, dynamic missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. She is supported by the California-Nevada Annual Conference and grew up attending the Mt. Tamalpais UMC. Katherine serves as part of the Community Health and Agricultural Development (CHAD) Initiative of the Methodist Mission in Cambodia. She has a degree in biology and works with local Cambodian congregations to help ensure their communities have access to safe drinking water. She also helps develop food cooperative projects and small business projects to improve living conditions.

Katherine is supported through covenant relationships with Methodist churches in the conference and beyond. Large churches contribute \$2,500 for a full covenant relationship while smaller churches give \$5 per member to support a full covenant. Through a covenant relationship with a missionary a church enters into an exchange of information about the missionary's activities. The missionary provides frequent updates, information for study for both children and adults, and an opportunity for the church to support global mission outreach through a personal connection.

Katherine has served as a missionary in Cambodia for the past three years. She returns to the United States each fall to visit churches and share information about the Methodist Mission in Cambodia. This will be her first visit to ACUMC and a great opportunity for us to learn about this Methodist mission outreach. If you would like to know more about Katherine in anticipation of her visit, you may read her biography at Global Ministries of the United Methodist church or her blog at <http://bokashi.blogspot.com>.

### ***SAVE THE DATE!***

### ***ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE***

### ***Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> after church***



Every year in the Fall, our United Methodist Churches each hold an all church conference to conduct certain business as well as to celebrate our life together. Our All Church Conference will be held after worship on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. You will receive more information as the time grows near, but we would like everyone to be there – so please mark your calendar now!



## **FOOD SORT**



2,400 bags of canned goods were assembled by the 31 people representing ACUMC at the Second Harvest Food Bank on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Food Sort was fast and furious, but also fun. Just ask Sarah Hancock or Pat Nofrey! Thanks for all the hard work.

## ***Pajaro Valley CROP Hunger Walk Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>***

Will you join in? ACUMC is going on a walk Saturday morning, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The church is participating in the Pajaro Valley CROP Hunger Walk to support Church World Service and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

You may participate in a CROP hunger walk in a variety of ways:

- by collecting pledges and walking,
- by pledging money to a walker, and
- by praying for the success of the walk.

The Pajaro Valley CROP Hunger Walk has two purposes:

1. To raise awareness about people around the world who must walk to find food, water, firewood, freedom and other necessities of life.
2. To raise money to help stop hunger wherever it exists.

CROP walk information and registration forms will be available each Sunday in the church office. A sign-up list for walkers is being circulated each Sunday before worship. Anne Scott, 688-8709, is coordinating the church's participation.

Carpools of walkers will leave ACMUC at 8:30 AM on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The CROP walk will begin and end at the Second Harvest Food Bank. Registration will be at 9:00 AM, and the walk will begin at 9:30 AM. You may participate as an individual or as a family. The entire walk will be three and a half miles in length, but you may walk only as far as you are able. We will have a car following the walkers to pick up Aptos people when they are tired.

The goal for each walker is to raise \$150 in pledges. Pledges may be in any amount. Seventy-five per cent of the money raised will go to Church World Service programs around the world. Church World Service is currently very active in Pakistan helping persons made homeless by the floods there. Twenty-five per cent of the money raised will be given to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville to provide food for local people in need.

## ***FINANCIAL REPORT – August 2010***

	<i>Monthly Actual</i>	<i>Monthly Budgeted</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budgeted</i>
Income	\$19,193	\$18,799	\$140,000	\$150,388
Expenses	\$18,168	\$19,016	\$153,218	\$162,922
Difference	\$1,025	(\$217)	(\$13,218)	(\$12,534)

***Please bring your pledges up to date!!***

Average Attendance in Sunday Worship: 80

*Errata: Figures reported last month were from July 2010.*

## ***2011 Stewardship Kick Off***



To initiate the start of our stewardship campaign for 2011 we are hosting two open forums to share with the congregation our initial plans for the upcoming year and the supporting funding needs. We have been working as a church to set longer term goals for ourselves and initiate actions which advance our progress. We will share with you the significant progress we have made together in 2010 and outline our vision for the coming years and specific actions we have planned for 2011.

The first session will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the service on October 10<sup>th</sup> and is expected to run a half hour. The second session will be held in the afternoon on Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM and will also meet in the sanctuary. In these sessions we will hand out a summary of the planned activities for the coming year and how they relate to our future vision as well as individual pledge forms. We ask that these be returned by Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> when we will have a celebration lunch after the service. If you are unable to attend either of the open forums we will mail the presented information and pledge forms to your home.

Hope to see you there!

## ***Planning for the Future After Worship--October 17<sup>th</sup>***



### **THE HOUR IS HASTENING ON ...**

Some time back, a number of folks in the church asked for some education and help in end of life planning. As you read this, you may have come from enjoying a presentation sponsored by our Finance Team of Estate Planning and Charitable Giving. But there is more to end of life planning than that, isn't there?

Over the next couple months, you are invited to participate in a series of workshops on this subject. We will begin by working with two valuable resources. One is "If Something Should Happen," a workbook for organizing the information your loved ones might need after your passing, such as insurance information, location of personal records, people to contact, and so on. The other is "Five Wishes," a publication that will help you decide things like what kind of care you want at the end of your life and how comfortable do you want to be, with a place to write down things you want to say to others that you may be unable to say at such a time.

To participate in this first study, Pastor Pam will invite you to stay after worship for a few minutes on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. At that time, she will introduce the program, distribute the two workbooks, and work with you to set dates for the next gathering. If there is interest, we will also make plans for an additional workshop on planning for your own memorial. However the event on the 17<sup>th</sup> won't be a long session.

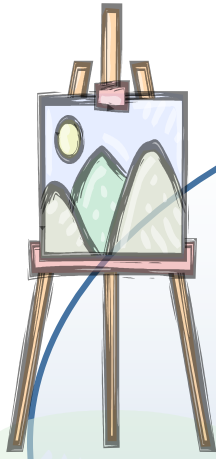
If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please let Pastor Pam know by Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, so she can arrange for the right number of workbooks. The two together will cost \$15 per person. However, please do not allow finances to prevent you from participating.



### ***A Cyber-Sorry from Pastor Pam***



I don't know how they do it, but computer hackers seem to have entered my cyber world and created havoc in my computer. If you've been receiving some odd e-mails from me recently – most of them have a name of someone you haven't heard of and a link – please delete without opening. And, I do apologize!



## *Artisans' Faire*

The Artisans' Faire is coming quickly. We will be hosting our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Faire on November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. We had such a great event last year and there is a wonderful team ready to make it even better. Just look at this powerful bunch of people!

Dan Burklund, Jana Daley, Debbie Eaton, Jeff Favorite, Pam Fine, Roger Houston, Cindy Jackson, Shannon Lindahl, JoAnne Tanner, Clyde Vaughn, Sheila Vaughn, and Kay Wilcox

We hope every member of our church will contribute to our Silent Auction, provide soup or dessert for our Bistro, and volunteer to make a contribution to this weekend. It's going to be a BLAST!

### *Worship in October*

#### **Sunday October 3rd Communion**

Continuing the series on "The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations"

Text: Luke 4: 14-21

Theme: Risk Taking Mission and Service

#### **Sunday October 10th**

Text: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Theme: Extravagant Generosity

#### **Sunday October 17th**

Russ Menk will preach

#### **Sunday October 24th**

Baptism of Lily Joy Holmberg

Text: Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Theme: Baptism and Being Called

#### **Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Halloween

Text: Psalms 100

Theme: Thanks

### *Book Club Plans*

#### **Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

"Prodigal Summer"

by Barbara Kingsolver

Hosted by Lee MacDonnell



The Aptos UMC Book Club meets at 2:00 PM on the third Monday of every month. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Susan Weeks for more information.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## October Birthdays

- 2 Lydia Moody
- 3 Forrest Willcox
- 5 Ali McCourt
- 6 Josh Wright
- 9 Michelle Rossi
- 10 Marilyn Corsetto
- 10 Pharis Harvey
- 12 Steve Cottingham
- 13 Bill Daley
- 13 Marty Fiorovich
- 17 Susie Lewis
- 19 Gerald Fehr
- 20 Roger Houston
- 28 Cathy Wright

## October Anniversaries

- 10 Debby and Hank Eaton
- 15 Fred Sawyer & Helen Greene
- 28 Jillian & Rob Holmberg



## The Power of Prayer

Please keep in your prayers this month: **Nancy Moody on the loss of her dad Willy, Michele Rossi's young friend Emilie, Ruthie Nichol's nephew Brett Ditler, Deb Eaton's friend Robin Rose, Judith Shook, Jane Hull Harvey, Peggy Roll, and Dossie Perkins.**

The Prayer Chain is an important part of our ministry, whose members pray for those in need throughout the week. If you would like to add a name to the list or to join this quiet yet powerful ministry, please contact the Church Office, 831-688-2210.



*"The Church Worth Finding"*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM**  
**Church School at 10:30 AM**  
**Child Care Available 10:15 – 11:45 AM**

## The Tide

*The Tide* is published monthly by Aptos Community United Methodist Church. Aptos Community UMC is an inclusive community that welcomes and encourages full participation of *all persons*, regardless of race, culture, age, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical/mental abilities. We affirm our denomination's motto – **Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.**

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pastor Pam is in the office Tuesday thru Friday. (Monday is her day off.)

## Church Staff

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