



FINE LINES *Notes from Pastor Pam*

Dear Ones,

We're just getting used to Christmas being over, and here comes Lent! Wow! Let's remember, Lent is the 40-day season that evokes Biblical times of searching in the wilderness. Its purpose is to prepare the believer - through prayer, repentance, almsgiving and self-denial - for the commemoration of Holy Week, the Crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus. Many Christians no longer observe these events, but we encourage you to do so. Here's what'll be happening in and around our church:

Shrove Tuesday (February 21) - The day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. You may also know it as "Mardi Gras" (Fat Tuesday). But the word "shrove" derives from the word "shrive" which means to receive absolution for one's sins! It's more of an English celebration than French or Brazilian, and it is sometimes called "Pancake Day!!" That's because that Tuesday is the last day to enjoy sweets and other luscious things before surrendering to the penitential spirit of Lent. Like last year, we'll have a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30. Come support our Youth Group!

Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) - Once again, Pastor Pam will share in officiating at the ecumenical service held at Resurrection

Catholic Community on State Park Dr. in Aptos. This is an informal yet moving event where participants offer the "imposition of ashes" to one another. Join us at 7:00 PM.

Community Lenten Events - We will be joining with three other Aptos churches (Christ Lutheran, St. Andrew Presbyterian, and La Selva UCC) to offer a four-part series of special midweek prayer and worship services. They will begin on March 7th, and offer experiences of the Labyrinth, Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, and Taize. (The Taize Service will be held here at Aptos on March 27th.) Refreshments will follow, and these will be a time of fellowship as well as devotion.

Good Friday - Again, Pastor Pam hopes you will join her for the community service at Resurrection Catholic Community. Folks from our church will be invited to participate - but mark your calendar now for April 6th!

Easter Sunday! Come to Rio del Mar beach for a community Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM, April 8th. And of course, here at Aptos we'll celebrate the Resurrection with fabulous music - the full Cantata "Come Walk with Me" offered by our choir. I can't wait!

Whether you join in one of these activities or not, I hope the journey through Lent will be a profound and sacred time for you!

FINANCIAL REPORT - December, 2011

	<i>Monthly Actual</i>	<i>Monthly Budgeted</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>YTD* Actual</i>	<i>YTD* Budgeted</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Income	\$19,041	\$20,123	(\$1,082)	\$236,803	\$255,675	(\$18,872)
Expenses	\$20,436	\$21,579	\$1,143	\$237,269	\$256,175	\$18,905
Difference	(\$1,395)	(\$1,456)	\$ 61	(\$ 466)	(\$ 500)	\$ 34

*YTD = Year to Date

Average Attendance in Sunday Worship: 89

ACUMC 2012 Mission Focus

The Missions Team met January 16th and selected a variety of mission projects for the church to be involved with this year. Information about the projects and how church members may support them will be publicized as the projects are introduced. Additional projects may be included if there are significant mission appeals that arise. The team hopes that every Aptos church member will become involved with and support one or more of these mission projects.

The team set the following calendar for mission activity during 2012. In addition there will be appeals for support for Habitat for Humanity as homes are built locally.

January/February: Share information and raise funds for the church's covenant with missionary Katherine Parker. An offering for the covenant will be taken on Sunday, February 5th

March: Pack UMCOR layette kits
Participate in Second Harvest Food Sort on March 10th

April/May: Pack "appreciation" boxes to send to our troops in Afghanistan

June: Share information and take offering for Conference mission outreach

July/August: Raise funds for school backpack project; pack the bags

September/
October: Collect donations and walk in Crop Walk to support Church World Service and Second Harvest Food Bank
Participate in Second Harvest Food Sort on September 8th

November: Share information and raise funds for National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)

December: Participate in Alternative Christmas giving to support various charities.
Participate in an Adopt A Child/Family outreach.



Pray for Missions

Special Offering to Renew Covenant With Missionary Katherine Parker in Cambodia

Sunday, February 5th a special offering will be taken to renew the covenant that ACUMC has with missionary Katherine Parker. Katherine is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, serving with the Community Health and Agricultural Development (CHAD) initiative of the Methodist Mission in Cambodia. ACUMC began a covenant with her last year. Through this covenant ACUMC supports Katherine's work with Cambodian villagers. She helps develop food security and "livelihood" cooperative projects such as cow, pig, chicken and duck raising, rice co-ops (banks), vegetable farming and various small business projects through savings and credit groups. She also works with local congregations to help ensure their communities have continued access to biologically safe drinking water. Katherine regularly emails updates to her covenant churches. Excerpts from her most recent letter are printed on the following page.

A Covenant Relationship annual donation from a church is \$2,500 or \$5 a member. ACUMC members gave \$1,000 in 2011, reflecting the church's 184 members. Please support our missionary Katherine Parker's work in Cambodia through giving generously to the February 5th special offering.



MISSIONARY KATHERINE PARKER WRITES FROM CAMBODIA

Aptos CUMC has formed a covenant relationship with missionary Katherine Parker serving in Cambodia. Here are excerpts from her latest letter:

“It is the harvest season in Cambodia, and the rice fields have turned that lovely gold that glows in the dust as the wind brings the weary workers home. But there is also a somberness this year since so many fields were destroyed with the flooding. Thanks to donations from around the world, the Methodist Mission in Cambodia was able to distribute relief packages to more than 1,000 families in November, and this week again to nearly 800 more families in the impacted regions. About 10% of the farmers in the communities where we work have re-planted fields with dry-season rice, if they have sufficient access to water. There is a story from Mr. Thy on our blog about how church members in the village of Raksmei have shared their plots of land that are suitable for dry-season farming to highly-impacted neighbors who otherwise would have nothing this year.

This morning I sent funds to a new project group in Kampong Thom to purchase a water pump. Thank you to everyone who has contributed through Alternative Giving to support these projects this year. While on a church visit last Sunday, Mr. Thy gave me an update of another irrigation group that was started two years ago in Svay Rieng. We helped the group to dig a deep irrigation well and purchase a water pump. At harvest each family in the group puts 100kg of rice into a savings fund for each hector of irrigated land. After two years of saving they were able to dig another irrigation well to expand the impact of their group in the village.

I’ve received several emails asking about how we celebrate Christmas in Cambodia. Local Methodist churches here hold Christmas programs through December and even into January. It is a joyful time to take a break from the harvest and also to visit each other. This year I joined Toul Kork church members who drove two hours out to Kirirom Church in the mountains of Kampong Speu. There were games for the children, a modern-day interpretive play of the Prodigal Son by the Toul Kork youth, songs by the men’s choir of Kirirom, a sermon from District Superintendent Hong Phally and the ever popular and delicious curry with rice noodles. We finished off the day with fresh, organic bananas that had been harvested from the lay leader’s farm and then hung from trees around the church so the children could grab one as they ran by. They reminded me of piñatas hung to tempt children with treats. The harvest was indeed plentiful!

In the face of adversity and the terrible realities all around us, I have found hope in the powerful witness of communities coming together. Together to re-plant the rice, to eat bananas and to rejoice in the coming of the Christ child – the reminder that God is with us even here, even now.

With joy and gratitude,
Katherine

ANNOUNCING THE PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN FORUM

Friday March 9th, & Saturday, March 10th, 2012 at the **First Congregational Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz**, an event co-sponsored by Aptos Community United Methodist; Calvary Episcopal Church; COPA, Circle Church, Disciples of Christ; UCSC Committee for Advance of Religious Studies; First Congregational Church; La Selva Community UCC; Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church; Resurrection Catholic Community; St Andrew Presbyterian Church; St Stephens Lutheran Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; United Christian Campus Ministry; and United Methodist of Santa Cruz.

JESUS & EMPIRE: OCCUPY EVERYWHERE: Featuring Theologians and Activists, Ched Meyers and Elaine Enns, Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, "Jesus Jubilee & Sabbath Economics, Economics and Empire, Discipleship, Christian Faith & Social Analysis, and How Shall We Describe the Great Economy?" **First Congregational Church, High Street**

Lenten Events prior to March Progressive Christian Forum:

Tuesday, February 5th: Bonhoeffer and the Church's Response to the Nazis, David Grishaw-Jones, **7:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, High Street, Santa Cruz**

Tuesday, February 13th: "Latin American Liberation Theology, David Sweet, 7 p.m. **First Congregational Church, High Street, Santa Cruz.**

Thursday March 8th: "**FAITH PERSPECTIVES ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE.**" Panel with Ched Meyers, UCSC Campus Forum with Ched Myers, a Muslim scholar/Imam and a Jewish scholar followed by question & answer session, **Stevenson College Event Center, UCSC, at 7:00 p.m.** Sponsored by UCSC University Interfaith Council

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

The whole subject of membership is "in the air" at Aptos Community UMC. You may want to get into the conversation in one of several ways:

Welcome! At our All Church Conference in November, Pastor Pam indicated that while "membership" is under discussion, we want to be intentional about continuing to provide a warm welcome to visitors and guests. If you are especially interested in this, please consider joining her for a discussion and planning on our Welcome - Saturday, February 4th at 10:00. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Invitation! (Shh ... don't tell anyone ... it used to be called "evangelism." We want to pick up our "intentionality" as well about the way we are known in the community and providing what people are looking for at church. Several activities (including a "Bring a Friend" Sunday) are being discussed - if you want to participate in those activities, or have some great ideas, please call Pastor Pam at the church.

The Future! In the big wide world of the church and Christianity, there is a lot of new thinking about "how to be church." This is a fascinating subject and if you want to be invited to this discussion, please let Pastor Pam know.

COPA ACTIVITIES

The Church & Society Team is sponsoring a Care Fair pot luck lunch after church on Sunday March 4th where COPA leaders will lead workshops on Economic Development, Affordable Housing, Public Safety or Education and Immigration, COPA's five strategy teams and provide further information on COPA.

COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action), came into being as the result of a retreat of progressive Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic Clergy in Santa Cruz searching for a ways to act together to carry out the biblical witness for peace and social justice in an inter-faith nonpartisan organization. Last November our church joined COPA along with other churches, non-profits, schools and community organizations in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Those in Aptos include St. John the Baptist Episcopal, Resurrection Catholic Community, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Temple Beth El and in Santa Cruz the Live Oak School District and First Congregational, Calvary Episcopal, and Holy Cross churches.

Our church's core team includes Pastor Pam, Bob Blaney, Boyd Brown, Marcia Burns, Kathleen Hoaglund, DeAnne Hart and Pharis Harvey.

Boyd Brown has agreed to be our captain in this year's COPA'S "**Stand Up and Take Charge Campaign.**" We are planning to recruit 10 leaders to assist us in this campaign to recruit volunteers to go door to door to registered voters in the Rio Del Mar area to share COPA's priorities for the upcoming elections. These goals were developed, discussed and identified by COPA's five strategy teams, **Economic Development, Health Care, Education, Immigration, Affordable Housing and Safety** and might include increased funding for education, more affordable housing, formation of an economic development corporation in Santa Cruz county, and improved health care for seniors and the homeless.

To learn more about our church's involvement with COPA please join us on Sunday, March 4th, after church, for the Church & Society Potluck.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS DONATIONS TOTAL \$1,995

The December Alternative Christmas project resulted in \$1,995 donated to five charities. Totals were: Habitat for Humanity: \$225; Heifer International: \$290; Missionary Katherine Parker: \$370; National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): \$185; and Second Harvest Food Bank: \$925. There were 22 individuals or families who honored or memorialized relatives and friends through Alternative Christmas giving. Checks and lists of donors and their honorees/memorials have been sent to the charities. Thank you to everyone who participated to make this a very successful mission outreach activity.

TRAINING IN HOW TO USE FACEBOOK

Are you interested in learning how to use Facebook? The Facebook members number over 600,000,000 in the world, making them the third largest “nation” after China and India!

Some people worry about security and privacy, but Facebook is no less secure or vulnerable to invading your privacy than a postcard.

If you are interested in a one-time workshop on how to get on and use Facebook, please let Ruth Landmann know. You can reach Ruth at 688-2555 or by email at tddynewf@cruzio.com.

This workshop could be scheduled for a Saturday morning or afternoon, or after church.

FOOD SORT

Our next Food Sort at the Second Harvest Food Bank is **Saturday, March 10th**. The sort will run from **8:00 until about 11:30 AM**.

We will meet at the church at **7:30 AM** for those who want to carpool or caravan or you can go directly to the Food Bank at 800 Ohlone Parkway in Watsonville to meet at **8:00 AM**. As usual, long pants and closed-toed shoes are required for working at the Food Bank.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: EPISODE OF HOARDER'S CANCELLED, “EXTREME MAKEOVER” INSTEAD.

Due to the dedication and hard work of our newly formed “Campus Logistics Team”, who diligently cleaned out our kitchen, closets, nursery and library, we no longer qualify for the Hoarder’s episode. However, we now qualify for the “Extreme Makeover” show, since we spent so much time and effort getting things up to snuff. Please be sure to notice all the newly clean and tidy areas, and see what you can do to add to our spic and span reputation.

Book Club Plans



Monday February 20th at 2:00 PM

We will discuss the book “The Tiger’s Wife” by
Tea Obreht

Hostess: Susan Weeks

The ACUMC Book Club meets at 2:00 PM on the third Monday of every month. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Laurel Blaney (477-7550) for more information.

MINI CAMPUS YARD-SALE SUNDAY FEB 5th, 2012, 10AM – NOON BOOK, TOYS, PLANTS, AND MORE

Plan to come early on Sunday, February 5 and peruse a selection of children’s books, leftover yard sale items, basket, toys, and other items we have cleaned out of church closets and cupboards in the last 2 months. All proceeds will go to covering the cost of new organizer units and the general budget.

This is a great opportunity for grandparents to pick up books and toys to have on hand when your little ones come visiting. Remember, being a grandparent makes all those parenting years worthwhile!!

A heart-felt thank you for the Christmas bonus gift! All of you, my church family, are so special to me... and your generous gift was very appreciated.
With love, Susie



Prayer does work!!!

I came out of cancer surgery with only a weird looking scar. I'm convinced prayer was responsible. All you who prayed, sent cards and phoned—
THANK YOU!

Special thanks to my Mother Hen, who accompanied me on doctor visits, spent time in hospital and provided bed and breakfast for days following surgery. Thank you Laurel!!!!

Pastor Pam was bedside most of the time saying "no one should be alone at this time." It helped to have a direct line going up.

If you ever find yourself in this situation, call on these resources. It works!

Gratefully, Velma Greyell.



We have a wedding coming up in our church family! Congratulations galore!! Bill Fennell and Ying will be married after church on **Sunday, February 12th**. Everyone is invited to stay for the ceremony & share cake & potluck finger food afterwards!



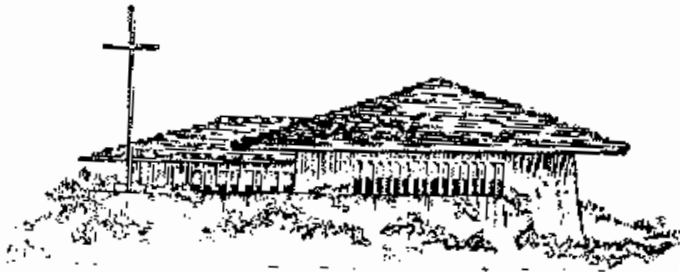
February Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Lucas Treffkorn | 13 Ken McElroy |
| 4 Tom Lahue | 17 Judd Gilbert |
| Megan Mackh | 18 Lexi Baker |
| 5 Margie Jurach | 19 Laurel Blaney |
| 9 Bob Folker | 21 Allyson Cook |
| 10 Drew Rossi | Glenn Pearce |
| Anita Little | Sheila Vaughn |
| 11 Michelle Bagley | 25 Marcia Burns |
| 12 Seth Manning | 28 Jane Green |
| Cliff Nichols | 29 Betty Nuss |

Please Pray for:

*Paul Sweet & Family, Cindy Jackson, Chris Loosley
Beth Hinton, Wendy Baker, Ken Doolittle, Velma Greyell
Hannah-Lyn Edwards, and Hannah-Lyn's sister, Beth
Kay Willcox, Greg Smith, Bill & Connie Moore
Peggy Roll, June Dyer, Fern Lindahl, Sarah Talbot
Joyce Quinn, Ivan Rusch, Helene's Mom, Sylvia Milner, Seth Manning*





Aptos Community United Methodist Church

"The Church Worth Finding"

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

Phone: (831) 688-2210

www.aptosumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



***YES, WE'RE HAVING A
CONFIRMATION CLASS!***

So many of you have been asking! Pastor Pam and the Rev. Helene Milner will coordinate a Confirmation Class for ALL our youth, even those who may have attended before. We anticipate beginning with a "Team Building" expedition on the weekend of February 25-26. Then, the class itself will begin in March, meeting after worship on every other Sunday. Traditionally, youth in our area also attend a retreat with our Bishop, Warner Brown, right here in Aptos at Monte Toyon. We are still discussing curriculum, which will determine how long the class will go, but expect it to culminate with welcoming our Confirmands into membership of the church in May. Adults, please know that your participation will be requested as one of the most important aspects of confirmation is to have a mentor to walk with the youth through this journey.

***SCHEDULING SOMETHING AT
CHURCH?***

If you are scheduling a meeting, a meal, or some other kind of special event PLEASE check with Susie to make sure the date and room you want are available. Not only do other church groups need spaces, we rent rooms during the day and evening to community groups. Please do not assume the date/room you want is yours without checking first! And? Checking with Pastor Pam is NOT the same thing as checking with Susie!

AND please remember, Susie works in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. She does not work on Mondays or Fridays. If you need to schedule, or need help finding something, please remember to call on those days. Pastor Pam is in and out on Fridays. The office is completely closed on Mondays.