



FINE LINES Notes from Pastor Pam

Dear ones,

What is church? What are your thoughts about what the church is “supposed to be?” What is the church “supposed to do?”

Our Conference is currently awash with books to read and events to attend and new approaches to living the church life. We have been asked by our General Conference to reclaim a common mission: “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.” We are being asked to “Re-Think Church” with the question, “what if church were more about the other six days of the week?” We all studied the book on “Vital Signs” and found out most of our churches are “decaying” – becoming too inwardly focused and uncommitted to basic Christian practices like Bible study and mission. And we are awash in other books to read. There is *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* – a study of heightened church practices (Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission & Service, and Extravagant Generosity – notice the adjectives!) And there is *Simple Church* which recommends organizing all church activity around a simple, straightforward process for creating and enhancing lives of discipleship.

All of this is stimulated by several situations that our individual churches, our United Methodist denomination, and all our Christian fellowships share: the numbers of people coming to Christ and attending church are declining rapidly. The cost of being church is rising while the amount of money being given to the churches is shrinking. A negatively skewed understanding of Christianity dominates the public conversation, discouraging many from being associated with us. (And is it any coincidence that hatred seems to be on the rise?) Yet the evangelical spirit – the willingness to share our faith with others – has

shriveled. People who might truly love being part of a Christian community and who could learn and grow in God at church, don't find what they *know* of church compelling.

Meanwhile, we who are comfortable with the church the way it is seem to remain oblivious, and uninterested in changing our ways. Read the Bible? *I'm not really interested.* Invite a friend? *She might think I'm weird.* Give more money to the church? *Why should I?* Re-do our worship so that it makes sense to modern minds? *You mean guitars and screens in church – heck no!!*

We at Aptos are not exempt from any of this. There is no doubt – we are a happy family. We are lovely people. We cherish each other, and that is a blessed thing. But if we are not actively involved in the practices of our faith, if we don't experience a sense of urgency about the ways of the world which Christ urged us to address, if we are not offering the life we share and the love we profess to others – are we being the *church*?

Me? I *love* all those books and studies and events. (Sheesh – I once attended a four day preaching conference. Four days of nearly non-stop preaching. *Four days!*) But I don't care whether we all go to conferences. Or read church growth literature. What I do care about is that we are growing in faith, and that we are making that blessing available to others. Are you growing in faith? If so, hallelujah! (And I know some of you are!) If not, why not? And do you see the world around you growing in faith? (Oh, well)

What is the church supposed to do? What is the church supposed to be? Let's talk. Please?

Charge Conference – Sunday, May 2nd

Pastor Pam has asked the Staff Parish Relations Committee to grant her two weeks additional vacation, without pay. Since this involves a change to the salary package approved at our church conference last Fall, approval requires the vote of a charge conference (a meeting of the congregation). This charge conference will be held following Sunday worship on May 2nd, and is expected to take only a couple of minutes. The Rev. Sandra Hammett will preside. Please plan to attend.

The Heart of Christianity

Are you one of those folks who yearns for a meaningful faith life, yet shies away from many of the most orthodox Christian beliefs? Have you wondered if there are others in the church like you? Have you wished for a time/place to talk about what you (and they) do believe about God and Jesus and the Christian life? If any of that is true of you, Pastor Pam invites you to participate in a book study of Marcus Borg's book *The Heart of Christianity, Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. Mr. Borg brings a refreshing understanding of scripture and Christian tenets while offering an authentic invitation to the journey of Christian faith. Our study will take place on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., beginning on April 29th. The cost of books will be \$10 each (though the price of the books should not prevent anyone from joining the study). Please let Pastor Pam know by Sunday, April 25th, if you would like to join the class so that she can provide books for everyone. *(Late joiners welcome, just let Pam know asap to get a book)*

Campus Clean-up



The United Methodist Men are organizing a clean-up of our ACUMC campus on Saturday May 15th from 8 AM until 12 noon. Everyone (men and women) please come and help spruce up the church grounds. We will primarily be whacking and pulling weeds, pruning and washing windows. Bring your tools and come join the fun.

The Power of Prayer

Please keep in your prayers this month: **the family of Holly's friend Trisha McGuire, the Pearce's friend Larry Targett, the Dyer Family on the loss of Frank, Betty Nuss on the loss of her sister, Ruth Breizy's brother Joe, Evelyn Longanecker, Carol Frazier, Dossie Perkins, Peggy Roll.**

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.



Worship in May

Sunday, May 2nd

Communion; Native American Sunday

Text: Revelations 21: 1-6

Themes: New City, New Earth Vision

Sunday, May 9th

Mother's Day

Text: Luke 2: 40-52

Theme: Mothering



Sunday, May 16th

Text: Acts 16: 16-34

Theme: Building Spiritual Practices



Sunday, May 23rd

Pentecost

Text: Acts 2: 1-21

Theme: Pentecost, Rebirth

Sunday, May 30th

Memorial Day Sunday

Text: Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 9

Theme: Remembrance



May Calendar of Events

Special Meetings & Events

SPRC

Wednesday, May 5th at 6:30 PM

United Methodist Men

Saturday, May 8th at 8:00 AM

Trustees

Monday, May 10th at 6:00 PM

Ad Council

Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 PM

United Methodist Med Workday

Saturday, May 15th at 8:00 AM

Weekly Meetings

Alive Now

Tuesday's at 10:00 AM (4, 11, 18 & 25)

FACT

Tuesday's at 11:30 AM (11 & 25)

Bell Choir

Wednesday's at 5:00 PM (5, 12, 19 & 26)

Aptos United Methodist Men Re-Unite

After many years of inactivity the men of Aptos Community UMC are back in the saddle as the United Methodist Men (UMM). Fourteen brave souls met in early December and we spent an hour or so brainstorming on what exactly (or approximately) we wanted to achieve in the activities of our group. In general, we thought we should consider "projects" within our church family as well as within the community at large.

Our group has grown and we continue to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 AM, usually at the church. We begin with a short devotional and breakfast, followed by a bio sketch by a willing member, rotating until all have let us know who they are. Regular business and discussion follow.

A number of ideas for potential UMM activities and programs have been presented and discussed. These include:

- developing a disaster preparedness program focusing on individual and family preparedness and education within our church family;
- working with the Watsonville Salvation Army in its homeless food program;
- promoting participation in the UMC 'Volunteers in Mission' program (VIM);
- periodic forums/programs featuring community speakers;
- working with Head Start providing needy kids with bicycles;
- and, of course, projects in beautifying our church campus.

The UMM are anxious to have your input on our reenergized undertakings. If you would like more information ask any UMM to share the meeting minutes with you. And, if you have not attended one of our meetings, you are invited to join us on Saturday, May 8th for our next breakfast and beyond.



Communication is Important in the Life of a Congregation

We have the wonderful TIDE that is published monthly and found on the church's beautiful web site, and we have the fabulous Daley Planet that comes out frequently, and we have the announcements in the weekly bulletin. In addition to those terrific ways of letting you know what's happening at Aptos Community United Methodist Church, we also have a new Facebook Fan page which features reminders of weekly events, updates, and pictures of recent events. One feature of the Fan page is that YOU can add pictures or announcements for everyone to read and enjoy.

Joining Facebook is easy and free. Just go to <http://www.facebook.com>. Once you join, you go to the Search box on top of your page and enter: Aptos Community UMC to find the church's fan page.

Book Club

May 17th

"The Nine" by Jeffrey Toobin
Hosted by Beth Hinton &
Reviewed by Cindy Jackson



June 21st

"Gilead" by Marilyn Robinson
Hosted by Laurel Blaney & Reviewed By Elsie

July 19th

"Leeward Cottage" by Beth Gutcheon
meeting details to be announced later

May Birthdays & Anniversaries



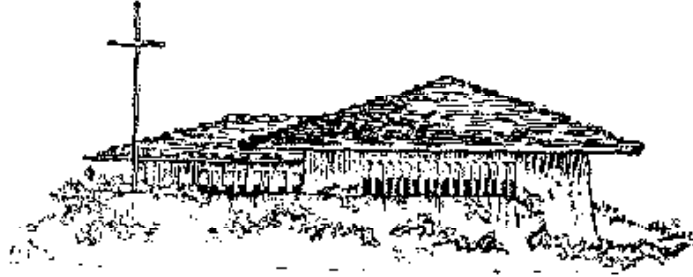
Birthdays

1	Jenna Kaysen	15	Galen Dailey	27	Sid Jackson
3	Susan Baird	16	Kathleen Hoaglund	30	Joyce Quinn
4	Connie Moore	17	Clyde Vaughn	31	Shay Astor
5	Jenny Lewis	18	Sydney Ota		Jay Corsetto
	Sharon Beach	20	Amanda Favorite		Tery Gargiulo
	Kathleen Cook	21	Colleen Clark		Paul Moody
	Zane Ota	22	Velma Greyell		Brian Beach
7	Craig Wright	22	Allison Ota		Dan Rossi
9	Erin Bagley	23	Douglas Sampson		
10	Peggy Roll	23	Kate Sutherland		
13	Molly Hucklebridge	24	Maya Harvey		
14	Ginny Clifford	26	Lee MacDonell		
	Deb Huffman	27	Ann Seibert		
			Dylan McKenna		
			John Green		
			Mark Hucklebridee		



Anniversaries

1	Shirley & Mohan Isaac				
14	Carolyn & David Vallelunga				
15	Lee & Joe MacDonell				
17	Tery & John Gargiulo				



Aptos Community United Methodist Church

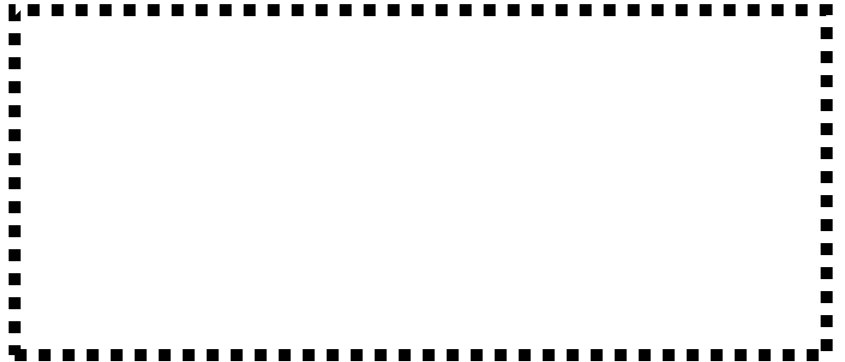
“The Church Worth Finding”

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www.aptosumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM

Church School at 10:30 AM

Child Care Available 10:15 – 11:45 AM

THE PASTOR’S IN JAIL??



If you happen to see posters or articles that indicate Pastor Pam is being taken to jail, don't despair! Yes, she's going to be arrested, but arrested for *good!* Pastor Pam has been invited to participate in the Muscular Dystrophy Lock-Up fundraiser, to be held at Olita's restaurant in Santa Cruz in May. She is participating in honor of the Harvey family.

