



## FINE LINES *Notes from Pastor Pam*

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*Dear ones,*

One time, a long time ago, I was whining to a friend about a problem that kept bugging me. It just seemed like no matter what I did, the problem wouldn't solve. And my friend said, "Well, I know how to solve that problem." "How?" I demanded, "you don't even know what problem I'm talking about!" "Doesn't matter," she replied. "You want to solve your problem?" "Of course," I replied. And she said, "Get a bigger problem."

Get a bigger problem!! Did it ever occur to you that we have most of the problems we have for a reason? Now I'm not necessarily talking about devastating problems like terminal illness, or struggling with the aftermath of fires and floods and earthquakes. (Sometimes those things *are* the bigger problem that makes the ones we had before seem minor.) I'm talking about the problems that come out of our relationships, with each other, with money, with the material world, with God. Very often, our problems are "safety valves" that keep us from venturing too far into life where things are *really risky* (and exciting!). Very often, the problems we have are the problems we feel safe with. They are problems that measure up to who we think we are and are capable of being.

We hear about examples of this in the "secular world." Children that misbehave in school who blossom when given a bigger challenge (they need "bigger problems"). Workers who are average in the day-to-day assembly line, yet who "shine" when they're promoted into management (bigger problem). And think of Susan Boyle, that seemingly uninteresting lady who lived a quiet life

caring for her mother in a tiny Scottish village, who stepped out on a TV stage one evening and sang, "I Dreamed a Dream," and blew the entire world away! Bigger problem! Or, perhaps it's better to say ... bigger challenge.

It may not be that every problem can be solved by getting a bigger problem, every challenge is solved with a bigger challenge. But I do think every problem/challenge should be examined with a critical eye to see whether that is true. To what extent is the job you're complaining about really just safer than going out on a limb to try something new? To what extent is it more comfortable to say, "I just don't have enough money," than it is to be creative about getting the money you want or need. How much safer is it to let dreams fade than do all the things – be the kind of person – that it takes to make them come true.

I – of course – want to remind us that this way of thinking applies to the church as well as to our individual lives. We talked about visions and dreams on Pentecost Sunday. Are we more comfortable – do we feel safer – with church the way it is? Or, are we ready and willing to see new visions and dream new dreams? Double our attendance so that we'd have to have more than one worship service. Involve every adult in a small group that's so interesting, we can't help but invite our friends and neighbors. Take up ministries that challenges us *every day* to be the incredible people God created us to be.

It could be risky! It would surely be exciting! So ... the question is ... is it time we got some bigger problems?

## *Reverend John Wesley Coming to Aptos*

Aptos Community UMC will have a visitor on Sunday, June 20th. It's Methodist co-founder John Wesley! Although Wesley, an English clergyman, died in 1791, his spirit still lives through our former pastor Don Baldwin. After retiring from here in 1999, Don began presenting, "**John Wesley in Person,**" responding to the expressed need that most United Methodists don't really know much about the founder of their own tradition.

"Now, in retirement, I can help people understand a little more about Wesley himself," he said. "Preaching as John Wesley, I share how he got to Oxford (England), his being ordained as a priest in the Church of England, how he came to the new colony of Georgia, and his struggles and successes in attempting to reform the church upon his return to England. Because of Wesley's insistence upon holy living and holy actions, he wasn't always well-received or without controversy. But his powerful witness to God's Spirit, and his deep commitment to a church serving the needs of persons for the transformation of the world - these made him one of the giants in Christian history."

Our service that Sunday will also feature hymns composed by Rev. Charles Wesley, brother of John, and co-founder of the Methodist movement. Charles is noted for writing such well-known hymns as, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," and "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

After the service, the congregation will have a chance to interact with Don. "This will be a wonderful opportunity for me to hear how learning more of Wesley impacted the folks here," and also, "it will definitely be a fine homecoming from my 13 years as pastor!"

## *Christian Education*

Greetings faithful readers and supporters of the children,

As I reflect upon the last five months overseeing the children's program, I am touched with one apparent truth: the kids that we have in our midst are unbelievably extraordinary. Not only are they bright in mind and spirit, they are also vibrant in their love for one another and of themselves. Parents, grandparents and each of you that touch these children's lives, you are collectively giving these kids a healthy balance of respect for themselves and a respect for those around them. I observe this going even deeper than humanly speaking. I sense that they are, if you will, clear and comfortable with God. I have a hunch that this is one of our primary and collective goals as a church body. That each one of the children in our care are learning about and developing a relationship with a personal, loving and brilliant God, one who is big enough to oversee the universe and also personal enough to be with them in their own personal journeys. Good work "team", the fruits of your collective efforts are present every Sunday and, I suspect, every other place where these kids happen to be.

As we wrap up this school year we have some things to consider, primarily what do we offer these amazing kids during the summer? Traditionally, we have not had a "curriculum" during the summer months. Instead, it has been a time when folks step up and offer creative projects. Often these folks have not had the opportunity to help during the school year. If you have a special creative project that you would like to share with the kids, look for the clipboard during service or track down Pastor Pam, Jana or myself. Cooking, arts, crafts, nature projects, special field walks around the campus and up cow hill are all possibilities. Beginning June 13, I invite you to consider what you would like to offer the kids during the summer. Truth be told, you will receive the bigger blessing.

Thank you for your support - Ken

# THANK YOU, VIPs!

In January of this year we began a new program which we affectionately dubbed the VIP program. “Volunteers in Partnership” has been a fabulously successful labor of love and devotion, and a HUGE Thank You goes out to all the folks who have pitched in for a 6 month tour of duty.

The long term plan is that the program will reset every 6 months, so in late June we will have a VIP sign up for the second half of the year. VIPs from the first go-around of January –June will have the opportunity to continue in their jobs, choose a new job, or take a leave of absence (no one can ever fully retire!) and allow others to take a turn.



Please take a look at the following list and 1) Profusely thank the people who worked hard at their assignments and 2) plan ahead for what jobs suit your available time and energy and be ready sign up in late June.

<i>Task</i>	<i>VIP Angel :January-June</i>
<b>Fold Bulletins on Sunday morning at 9:50am</b>	<b>Nancy Moody</b> , Shannon Lindahl, Mark Howard, Joanne Tanner, Charles Ernest, Mary Ellen Rusch
<b>Courtyard Sweeper – once a week</b>	
<b>Trash Emptier – once a week on Thursday</b>	<b>Drew Rossi</b> , John Green, Mike Beebe
<b>Trash Can return on Friday</b>	
<b>Old Kitchen cleaner – once a week</b>	<b>Joyce Pearce</b> , Jane & Steve Green, Kathleen Hoaglund
<b>New Kitchen Cleaner – once a month</b>	Dave Frazier, Dan Frazier, <b>Sue Sampson</b>
<b>Old Kitchen Frig purger – once a month</b>	<b>Kate Sutherland</b>
<b>New Kitchen Frig purger – once a month</b>	<b>Dave Frazier</b> , Dan Frazier
<b>Handy Helper – once a week misc office help</b>	<b>Shannon Lindahl</b>
<b>Youth Room Tidier – once a week</b>	<b>Pat Carr</b>
<b>Bulletin Board Monitor: Maintain board</b>	<b>Ruth Landmann</b>
<b>Escrip Coordinator – Quarterly update drive</b>	<b>Netha Thacker</b>
<b>Coffee Picker-upper (semi-monthly)</b>	<b>Clyde Vaughn</b> , <b>Kay Willcox</b>
<b>Coffee Hour Cupboard organizer</b>	<b>Kathleen Hoaglund</b> , Keri Swenson
<b>Janitorial Closet organizer</b>	<b>Pam Wood</b>
<b>Sunday morning closers</b>	<b>Dick Allen</b> , Pam Wood, Susie Lewis, Keri Swenson
<b>Sunday morning openers</b>	<b>Jeff Favorite</b> , Roger Houston, Mohan Isaac
<b>Sweep Fellowship Hall once a week</b>	<b>Kay Willcox</b>
<b>Mop Fellowship Hall every other week</b>	<b>Forrest Willcox</b>
<b>Costco Shopping Elves</b>	Teresa Fehr, Pat Doolittle, Hazel Smith
<b>Special Mailing Stuffers</b>	<b>Diane McElroy</b> , Velma Greyell, Hazel Smith, Pat Doolittle, Dan Weeks
<b>Copy the Tide</b>	<b>Hazel Smith</b>
<b>Fold Tide</b>	<b>Velma Greyell</b> , Mary Ellen Rusch, Pat Doolittle
<b>Sanctuary tidier - once a week</b>	<b>Lee MacDonell</b> , Carolyn collins, Keri Swenson, Jean Williams
<b>Sanctuary Scrub Team – once a month</b>	<b>Jane &amp; Steve Green</b> , Bob Folker, Kathleen Hoaglund, Anita Little
<b>Vacuum offices every other week</b>	<b>Darin Dailey</b>
<b>Clean Bathrooms in Admin Building weekly</b>	<b>Mohan Isaac</b> , <b>Ken McElroy</b>

## ***IT'S TIME FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGAIN!***

One of the hallmarks of United Methodist life together is the gathering of lay persons and clergy for worship, business, study and - yes - visiting, on a yearly basis. John Wesley called it "Christian Conferencing." We call it Annual Conference, and the Annual Conference for our ... Annual Conference (that being the geographical area of Northern California and Nevada - same name, different thing - yeah, it's confusing) is coming up Wednesday, June 16-Saturday, June 19th in Sacramento. Now, Sacramento seems kind of far away, but don't let that fool you - much, much of what happens there will have an effect on us here in Aptos. Here are some of the things that will happen there:

-- We will decide whether or not to reorganize so that we have four districts rather than seven. That means reducing staff, closing offices, and giving even more responsibility to the Circuits of clergy that were formed this year. (By the way, there would be no more District offices. All staff work for the districts would happen out of the Conference Center.)

-- We will decide whether to bill churches directly for their pastors' pensions. (In recent years, these costs have been averaged and shared among all the churches.) For some churches, this may mean higher costs. For some, lower costs. Also, to date, this amount has been part of each church's apportionments. As a result of this legislation, they would be separated.

-- We will discuss whether to charge participants of Annual Conference a registration fee (in addition to housing costs, etc.) or continue to pay the \$85,000 cost of Annual Conference through apportionments. (Each church would pay the registration fee for its representatives.)

-- We will discuss requiring all churches to enter the internet age - with every church using e-mail, maintaining a website, and creating a communications coordinator position.

-- We will decide whether or not to close two churches.

-- We will debate numerous aspects of political issues ranging from immigration to homosexuality

-- We will ordain new pastors and say farewell to devoted ones who are retiring

-- We will hear from, and work with, the author of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, Bishop Richard Schnase. This book and related materials have become a popular blueprint for being compelling and ... well ... fruitful congregations!

All in all, 72 pieces of legislation, 4 worship services (including one where nearly 1,000 people will take communion together), breakfasts, lunches, dinners, workshops, meetings, countless reports and presentations (including one big budget discussion). All of it intended to empower us - including each United Methodist at home - to be the Church together. Pastor Pam and your Lay Representatives, Kathleen Hoaglund and Sheila Vaughn, as well as your retired Clyde Vaughn and Bob Blaney will be attending and participating in as much as they can. And, they'll give you a report when they get back. During the days of Conference, please keep them and all our Conference in your prayers.

## ***FINANCIAL REPORT – April 2010***

*In order for all of us to be aware of our financial health at Aptos Community UMC, we will publish a brief Financial Report in the Tide each month. The report will give the church's income and expenses in the previous full month, as compared with the budgeted amounts. Figures in parentheses indicate that we spent more than we received. Comparison of monthly and year to date actuals versus budget indicates how close to our annual plan we are.*

	<i>Monthly Actual</i>	<i>Monthly Budgeted</i>	<i>YTD* Actual</i>	<i>YTD* Budgeted</i>
Income	\$17,280	\$18,799	\$71,681	\$75,194
Expenses	\$17,895	\$20,300	\$80,781	\$86,057
Difference	(\$615)	(\$1,501)	(\$9,100)	(\$10,863)

The \$1,763 variance between our budgeted and actual positions year-to-date is not considered problematic at this point in the year.

\*YTD = Year to Date

Average Attendance in Sunday Worship

119

## ***CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE***

This year the Christian Social Concerns Committee has met monthly and focused on the following areas.

**1. Healthcare Education and Advocacy:** educate ourselves and the congregation on the healthcare issues in Santa Cruz County and national healthcare plans. Our goal is to develop a program of education and advocacy for the congregation by September 30, 2010.

**2. Appropriate Response for the ACUMC to the Issues of Poverty and Homelessness in the Hispanic Migrant Population of Santa Cruz County:** after consultation with Faris Sabbah (Pajaro Valley School District Migrant Education Project), Clara Clarenbach (Salud Para La Gente), and Steve Bontadelle (local grower), the committee is exploring joining the Communities Organized for Relation Power in Action (COPA). COPA is a program founded in 2003 in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties to address gang prevention, economic opportunities, and education, concentrating on after school and youth activates. We are also investigating the No Other Way (NOW) Teen Center in Watsonville and seeking new ways for the congregation to support the homeless shelter. We also plan to investigate tutoring opportunities in local schools and organize an evening or after church outreach educational program.

**3. Emergency Preparedness:** we are co-sponsoring an emergency preparedness potluck with the United Methodist Men after church on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Current membership includes Bob Blaney, Marcia Burns, Pam Fine, DeAnne Hart, Pharis Harvey, Kathleen Hoaglund, Roger Houston, Ruth Landmann and Clyde Vaughn.

## ***WIN A RESERVED CHURCH PARKING PLACE!***

At our recent fabulous Bee Sunday service, the Grand Prize winner of a reserved parking place was our favorite lady in purple, Velma Greyell. Velma has graciously offered to donate the space back to the church to use as a fundraising opportunity. When asked which of the areas of the church the millions of dollars expected from this endeavor should support, Velma chose the Choral Music Fund, because she receives such joy from the music Susie chooses for the choir and Velma loves to hear Susie sing. Way to go, Susie!

The reserved spot allows our winning "Bee of the Year" to arrive just in the nick of time for church on Sunday mornings and not worry about finding a place on the street and then walking up the hill. Think of the peace of mind you'll have, not to mention how little wear-and-tear your shoes will receive when you can park in the first spot closest to the ramp entrance. And remember, this isn't for the calendar year, this spot will be yours until our next Bee Sunday, sometime next spring!

We will hold a silent auction for this amazing prize. The auction will end at 1pm, Sunday June 6. The opening bid should be \$25 (or more). Bids can be emailed or phoned in anytime between now and then to the church office. We will update, via email, those in the bidding pool each time the bid is raised. If you don't have an email address, you can phone in for updates beginning June 1.

Bid high, bid often, and remember to thank both Susie for her fabulous musical leadership and Velma for her generosity in sharing her good fortune.



## Worship in June



### **Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Communion**

Text: 1 Kings 7: 8-24

Theme: Compassion for All

### **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

Text: 1 Kings 21: 1-20

Theme: God of Justice

### **Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Don Baldwin will do his John Wesley presentation

### **Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Text: TBA

Theme: Annual Conference Report



## Book Club

June 21<sup>st</sup>

“Gilead” by Marilyn Robinson

Hosted by Laurel Blaney &

Reviewed By Elsie



July 19<sup>th</sup>

“Leeward Cottage” by Beth Gutcheon

meeting details to be announced later

## I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!

All you kids or those young at heart,  
keep July 11 open. We will be having our  
annual Super Tasty Ice Cream Social!

## June Calendar of Events

### **Special Meetings & Events**

#### **Bells**

Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 PM

#### **Pastor Pam's Book Study**

Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 PM

#### **Christian Social Concerns**

Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

#### **Personal Finance Workshop**

Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

#### **Pastor Pam's Book Study**

Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

#### **United Methodist Men**

Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM

#### **Trustees**

Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

#### **Finance Team**

Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

### **Weekly Meetings**

#### **Alive Now**

Tuesday's at 10:00 AM (1, 8, 15, 22 & 29)

## Memorial for Mary Sparks

*Mary Sparks, a beloved member of the congregation for many years, passed away on Thursday, May 20th. Her daughter Cathy was at her side. A memorial service may take place at a future date, we'll let you know.*



## The Power of Prayer

Please keep in your prayers this month: **Sue Sampson on the loss of her brother Kendall. Ken Cook's dad Gil, Joyce and Glenn Pearce on the loss of their nephew Roy, Allyson Cook's Grandpa Bill, Suzanne McCourt on the loss of her mom Tita, Holly Ota's dad, Margaret W's mom, Gary W's mom, Carol Frazier, Dossie Perkins, Peggy Roll, Ruth Breizy's brother Joe.**

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 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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **June Birthdays**

3	Norman Campbell
4	Beth Hall
	Robbie Swenson
5	Amanda Beach
7	Georgia Mackh
9	Murray Lewis
	Buzz Little
13	Ted Showalter
18	John Baird
19	Riana Baade
	Alan Penzotti
20	Carol Adams
22	Ron Albo
23	Chloe Jot
24	Audrey Aaron
26	Helen Greene
	Bobby Langhorne

29	Carol Frazier
30	Pat Nofrey

### **June Anniversaries**

4	Suzanne & Dan McCourt
6	Susan & Dan Weeks
8	Diane & Ken McElroy
	Pam & Dick Wood
9	Trish & Mark Hucklebridge
11	Ruthie & Cliff Nichols
16	Marty & Jon Fiorovich
20	Holly & Zane Ota
21	Peggy & Kenny Kaysen
23	Pam & Ron Albo
24	Kathy & Rick Corcoran
26	Elsie & Ron Staley
27	Paula & Tom LaHue
29	Riana & Jeff Baade
30	Roberta & Roger Houston