



FINE LINES *Notes from Pastor Pam*

Dear ones,

As you know, I have been doing a lot of thinking lately about the subject, “what is church?” We’ve all talked – and we sing – about how “the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people!” Okay, so it is the people, and they are people gathered together ... why? Why do we gather? To know and worship God? Yes, yes, that’s good. But, isn’t the desire to know God at the heart of every religion (or almost ...?). So, what is the distinction called “Christian?” Well, we gather because we are people who have come to know God through Jesus Christ. We are people who seek to follow him. We find our meaning in him. But why do we need to gather? A lot of people object to “organized religion these days.” And a lot of people are going around talking about being “spiritual but not religious” these days. Why don’t we just do that?

The biblical answer is, Jesus told us, “Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20) Christians can’t be Christians alone. Christians must be in community to be Christians.

Many people in many churches attend worship services once a week and never get involved otherwise – “I am so busy!!” they say. Yet they miss out on one of the most important aspects of church life – being part of ... being embraced by ... and important to ... a loving community. A

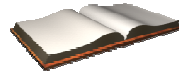
community that makes a difference in our world and in our lives! And I worry that our youth are not experiencing their churches as community. They see us treating church as one more item in the smorgasbord of activities to choose from. They don’t see church as essential in life – essential for friendship, essential for support, essential for being grounded in love. Which may be why they so often leave and don’t come back. It just doesn’t look that important to them because it didn’t look that important to us. And it isn’t just the kids, of course. Most “unchurched” adults simply do not know the blessing of not only “going to church,” but of “being part of a church.” They just don’t know.

I never used to think of myself as an “evangelist.” The word dredges up images of street corner preachers haranguing people about a kind of salvation I don’t believe in. But as we see more and more people who are lonely, for whom life has little meaning, people who are fearful and hateful, I keep thinking ... they just don’t know. Wouldn’t they want this if they knew? Not only don’t they know the truth about the gospel of Jesus Christ, they don’t know that there is a way to find it, and learn it, and live it – and in this way, to experience a truly blessed kind of salvation.

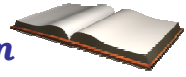
They don’t know. Let’s tell them ... okay? Let’s tell them.

Interested in Missions?

Missions is the church's work of being the hands of Christ in the world. We have had several requests from folks in our congregation to form a Missions team, to help us learn more about missions as well as to participate in missions (such as through UMVIM). If you are interested in participating in an Aptos Community UMC missions team, please let Pastor Pam know. She will organize a meeting during the first two weeks of September.



A New Study with Pastor Pam



Pastor Pam has been invited to share a new Adult Ed study over the next two months called, "Things I Wish Jesus Said." The study is a "work in progress" written by one of Pam's seminary friends, Barbara Nixon. Barbara indicated that it is not a Bible Study per se, but evokes lots of good "theological discussion." There will be no cost for books (Pam will receive the material by e-mail). Pam would like to offer the study on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM. (It will begin on September 14th and run for eight weeks.) Please let her know whether you would like to participate. (Please note: an adult Sunday School class – a real honest-to-goodness bible study – is in the works! Coming soon to a Sunday morning near you!)

Join in a Stewardship Conversation

Our annual ACUMC pledge campaign will take place in October this year. In anticipation, Pastor Pam will be inviting many of you to one of several Stewardship Conversations in September. We will not be talking about the needs of the church – programs or pledges. Rather, with an eye toward understanding stewardship as a spiritual endeavor, these conversations will be for the purpose of exchanging ideas about the relationship between faith and finances, God and money. Dates will be announced August 29th, with invitations to follow. Pastor Pam hopes you will join her for an enjoyable time together.



Estate Planning and Giving September 26th at 2:00 PM



As part of our on ongoing education for our congregation we have invited two lawyers from our district Methodist Foundation to give a presentation on the elements and benefits of effective estate planning with a portion of the presentation discussing planned giving to the church and other charities. This session will begin with a pot luck following the service on September 26th and will conclude around 2:00 PM.

The estate planning portion will outline the elements which we should have in place to address financial and personal assets, our medical intentions for care and responsibilities for minors or other dependents. Having wills, trusts, powers of attorneys, and medical directives in place allows our desires to be executed in times of need and has the high potential of minimizing estate taxes. If you do not have these elements in place or you haven't revisited them in a while this session should be highly valuable.

The second portion of the session will outline planned giving to the church or other charitable organizations as part of your estate planning process. The portion will provide a Christian related outline for us to reflect on who and how we might consider helping others with gifts from our estates.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this informative session.

FINANCIAL REPORT – August 2010

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>Actual Monthly</i>	<i>Budgeted Monthly</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>Budgeted YTD</i>
Income	\$17,098	\$18,799	\$120,807	\$131,590
Expenses	\$16,936	\$19,016	\$135,050	\$143,906
Difference	\$ 162	(\$ 218)	(\$14,243)	(\$12,316)



Please bring your pledges up to date!!

Average Summer Attendance in Sunday Worship: 78



Worship in September

Sunday, September 5th

**Communion
Labor Day**



Text: Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

Theme: Work as worship

Sunday, September 12th

*This will be the beginning of
a five-week series on "The Five Practices
of Fruitful Congregations"*

Text: Matthew 25:31-40

Theme: Radical Hospitality

Sunday, September 19th

Text: Psalm 84

Theme: Passionate Worship



Sunday, September 26th

Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Theme: Intentional Faith Development

Special Administrative Council Meeting

A special Administrative Council meeting is being called on Wednesday, September 1st, starting at 5:30 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to allow our leaders to work together to discern our shared vision for 2011 and to identify specific priorities that we will work together to achieve. Committees will be asked to meet during the two weeks following the meeting to work on their own priorities, and to formulate budget requests for next year. The meeting may go as late as 8:30 PM. Pizza will be provided for dinner. Leaders, please make every effort to attend. (Our regular Ad Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15th, at 7:00 PM.)

**Wednesday,
September 1st at 5:30 PM**



Food Sort



Our next Food Sort at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville is Saturday, September 11th from 8:00 to 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 to meet at 8:00 AM. As usual, long pants and closed-toed shoes are required for working at the Food Bank.

Second Harvest Food Bank

*** Excerpt from Hunger in America 2010,
Santa Cruz County*

- 17,200 different people receive emergency food assistance from Second Harvest agencies every week (up from 12,000 in 2006).
- 45% of those served by the Food Bank are children, an increase from 39% in 2006.

Book Club Plans

Monday, September 20th

"Cutting for Stone"

by Abraham Verghese

Hosted by Kay Willcox



Upcoming Book

Monday, October 18th

"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. Any one is welcome to attend. Please contact Susan Weeks for more information.



YARD SALE – A HUGE SUCCESS!!

This is actually being written before August 28th, so we can't report dollar results, but with the wonderful crew of great volunteers – with everybody pitching in, how could it have been anything but spectacular? Thanks especially to Vicki Wasson, and to Marcia Burns who coordinated so much of the event while struggling with a feisty hip. Get some rest now, Marcia!



Thank You!

THANK YOU!

Write-Start Backpack Project for Homeless & Low-Income Students

On behalf of the 64 plus students in Santa Cruz County who will benefit from your generosity: THANK YOU!

Many of you donated binder paper, rulers, calculators, 2 inch binders, spiral notebooks, backpacks, colored pencils, regular pencils, crayons, or Spanish-English dictionaries to this year's project. Many of you donated money to this project. Many others donated time. TIME, TALENT, TREASURE all came together for a great cause.

Raising \$1,624 in cash was fantastic. It allowed us to fill in the gaps of the supplies that were already donated; it also allowed us to purchase 45 backpacks and all the school supplies necessary to fill them.

The best estimate of the total value of all the money and supplies donated comes to \$2,363.28.

Without the help of many individuals, this project would not have been successful. I want to thank David and Anne Scott for their help in inventorying all the supplies donated before we shopped. Anne Scott assisted with the big shopping we did for the 45 backpacks and supplies. Kathleen Hoaglund arrived early on August 14th so that we could set up the Fellowship Hall and arrange all the supplies before people arrived to pack the backpacks. Diane and Ken McElroy helped move all the filled backpacks to two vehicles and transport them to the County Office of Education in Santa Cruz.

In addition to these people, there were others who also donated supplies and helped with the backpack packing. To everyone who helped in any way, I'm deeply grateful.

Again, on behalf of the homeless and low-income students in Santa Cruz County: Thank You!

Ruth Landmann, Church and Society Committee





The Power of Prayer

Please keep in your prayers this month: **Nancy Moody's dad Willy, John Dodson on the loss of his son Mark, Dossie & Carl Perkins on the loss of their grandson, Michele Rossi's young friend Emilie, Ruthie Nichol's nephew Brett Ditler, Deb Eaton's friend Robin Rose, Judith Shook, Fern Lindahl, Jeane Kelley, Jane Hull Harvey, and 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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays

4 Cindy Jackson
 Elsie Staley
 5 Spencer Cook
 6 Sara Rossi
 7 Fern Lindahl
 8 Andy Lewis
 9 Caroline Carney
 11 Mary Ellen Rusch
 12 Dossie Perkins
 13 Linda Theiring
 Jim Williamson
 14 Jim Hilgren
 15 Tom Adams
 Wally Ingram
 16 Jonathon Treffkorn
 20 Jacquie Henzie
 Zackary Jot
 22 Lorie Ingram
 25 Pam Albo
 Jan Jackson

26 Marty Nichols
 Riley Nichols
 30 Judy Cottingham
 Bill Fennell

September Anniversaries

2 Lorie & Wally Ingram
 Georgia & Charlie Mackh
 7 Jane & Steve Green
 8 Teresa & Skip Fehr
 Connie & Bill Moore
 18 Susan Cooper & Lan Dyson
 Dossie & Carl Perkins
 30 Michele & Dan Rossi





*"By all these lovely tokens
 September days are here,
 With summer's best of weather
 And autumn's best of cheer."*



~ Helen Hunt Jackson, "September," 1830-1885

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.)

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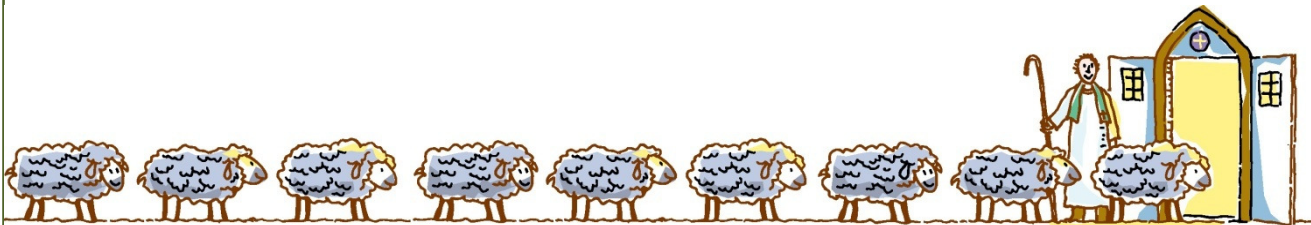
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Aptos Community United Methodist Church

“The Church Worth Finding”

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: (831) 688-2210

www.aptosumc.org



Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM

Church School at 10:30 AM

Child Care Available 10:15 – 11:45 AM

ARE YOU READY TO SCRAMBLE?

New “Scrambles” are forming now. These social groups, open to all, usually include potluck dinners, restaurant outings, or gatherings planned by the groups. We meet in groups of 8 to 12. If your home cannot accommodate this number, you can arrange to meet at church or a restaurant.

Scrambles are a way of getting to know each other better in small group settings. For newcomers in particular, this is a great way to get to know more people. Couples, singles, young, old: all are welcome!

If you’re interested, please fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate or get it to the office. If you have questions, please call Kay Willcox at 684-2184 or Susan Weeks at 475-1099.

SCRAMBLE SIGN UP

(Place in offering plate)

Name(s): _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Can you host 10-12 people in your home?

_____ Yes _____ No



Getting to Know You