

April 2011



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

# The Window Newsletter

## Easter Events

The **Lenten series** for April will be the First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> and the Methodist church on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Maundy Thursday** service will be on Thursday April 21st. This service is a special time for our church family to join together at 6:00 for a potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall to symbolize the Last Supper of Jesus. We will also celebrate communion together remembering the Passover as well. This is a tradition from early times in the church and according to About.com, the word Maundy comes from the mandatum, which is from the

Latin word for "command". Maundy is a reference to the commands given to the disciples at the Last Supper: to love and serve one another with humility and to remember Jesus sacrifice on our behalf.

**Easter Sunday** starts with a wonderful Sunrise service at 6:30 am in the garden. Dress warmly. It is a time of inspiration as the sun comes up, welcoming all of us to Easter. If this will be your first time, this is a good time to welcome Easter. Afterward we will share a continental breakfast.

Later at 10:30 am will be our traditional **Easter service** in the sanctuary. Easter is the biggest celebration of the year and as is the tradition in our church,

everyone is invited to come wearing a very special Easter bonnet! This hat can be a favorite fishing or baseball hat, a wonderful creation that you are wanting to display, as simple or as decorated as one desires, even if only a flower in the hair or a tiara. We would love to have everyone, men, women and children wear something festive for Easter. If you forget there will be some options available for you on Easter. So prepare to celebrate.



A monthly publication of Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

- 900 Hodgson Street Eureka, Ca 95503
- (707) 445-5488
- Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor
- Ted Adams, Editor

# Pastor's View

## PASTOR'S VIEW

Our Lenten journey continues in this month of April, with each one of us being called to listen and respond to the God's nudges and leading. We are called to pay attention to our relationship with God and each other and to move into a time of reflection as we prepare for the renewal of life through the celebration of Easter.

My Lenten journey has been very different than anticipated, mainly because of the break-in of our home and the aftermath of the loss of computers, jewelry and financial information. Identity theft and the compromising of all your accounts is horrible and probably takes close to a year before you can feel secure and confident that things are okay (it has only been a month for us so we have a ways to go). I will grieve the loss of some of my jewelry that were gifts and family heirlooms. Granddaughter Tamra will not inherit the antique watch that has "Carlotta" engraved on the back that had belonged to my mother, then me, and was to be passed on to her and then others who might carry our name. Lots of other sentimental items are gone but all things that can be replaced and new memories made. As for my computers, that has been a real challenge for me as I have lost all of my documents, sermons, wedding and funeral services and financial information. The lesson to share with

all of you - **BE SURE TO BACK UP YOUR COMPUTERS.** That certainly would have saved me a lot of grief. All the new equipment comes with a whole new learning curve and the need to recreate things that I took for granted.

In light of all that, we decided to put a security alarm system into our home not so much for protection on belongings, but to give us some peace of mind when we are not there. Well, yesterday, when we arrived in Maui we learned that our alarm system had gone off in the early morning hours and no one is sure why - but it doesn't appear that anyone was trying to break into the house. I am very glad I wasn't home when it went off as I probably would have had a heart attack. So much for security and peace of mind. Between the alarm company, our son David and our cat-sitter Mj, I am confident all will be secure and fine.

On my way here I discovered an article on Mary Oliver and her poem, "The Journey". She is a Pulitzer Prize winner and America's best selling poet whose works include themes on the natural world, love, survival, gratitude and joy. She is a senior woman definitely still on the journey. Next I discovered an article on poet laureate M. W. Merwin who lived on the north shore of Maui and at 83 still writes and publishes poetry on trees, the forest, animals, the sky and all of nature. His poem

"Place" speaks of his love of trees and the journey of life.

Both of these authors reminded me that it was time to sit still, to look at the beauty around me and to drink in the beauty of God's world. The beautiful, colorful birds come visiting on our Lani and I can hear the cooing of the doves. I am reminded of the scripture passage that tells of God's love for the birds and even more so for each of us. As I ate breakfast this morning I watched some whales spouting, jumping and frolicking in the ocean and I realized even they know how to relax and play. I have some lessons to learn from those around me about letting go, relaxing and playing. Thank you for this time off when I can relax, reflect and renew my body and spirit.

Blessings,

Pastor Carlotta



### Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Easter is coming! A wonderful message, heart stirring music, and rejoicing by Christians around the world are part of the season. To get to Easter, though, we will have journeyed through Lent with its many reminders of Jesus' final journey. His deep love for God and humankind remind us that God's love has breadth and depth enough to include all of us.

This year I will miss celebrating with you. Instead I will be celebrating the entire Easter season in Oklahoma with my mother, Rita Wilson. It will be a different place, with a different climate and different landscapes, but the season's joy will be the same. While I am away, your questions about VANCO will be asked and answered, the lease with Woodside will be finalized, the new electrical box will be installed, the correct carpet will replace the one in the entry to the social hall, and the church facilities will be readied for Easter. You will celebrate the

sunrise service in front of the trees that always blossom at Easter, share in making the flowing cross, and enjoy that special fellowship we share. Even though I will miss you, I appreciate this opportunity to spend quality time with my mother.

In closing, may God's angels go before you as you go out into our world, blessed to be a blessing!

Sharolyn



Here is the list of the deacons phone and email numbers so that any of us can be accessed when a need arises.

Ted Adams 707-633-5226  
cell: 707-599-7562  
adam49ric@yahoo.com

Jim Falls cell: 707-299-8895  
mcentalz@humboldt1.com

Janet Foos 707-443-4215  
cell:707-845-7591  
janet.foos@gmail.com

Kathy Hanson 707-764-5519  
cell: 707-267-4238  
hansondoug@hotmail.com

Judie Norton 707-445-1791  
cell:707-703-9009  
jnorton@humboldt1.com

Libby Yee 707-443-6055  
l-yee@sbcglobal.net

Lois Willson 707-445-3726

## Book Group

This month the Book Group will be reading Little Bee by Chris Cleave. You will have a long time to read it because we won't meet again until April 14th @7:00 PM in Pastor Carlotta's comfortable home. So go find the book, settle down and enjoy reading. Then come meet with us as we discuss the book among many other interesting subjects.



# Buildings and Grounds

## Buildings and Grounds News

The Sunshine room is coming along. We put up two new shelves, and have been cleaning and organizing the room. Leslie is doing an amazing job. Check it out. We will add more shelving as our budget allows. When we get finished and have everything labeled, it will no longer be available as a "dumping space". Sorry, but the "B & G Queens" have spoken. We hope to see some dry weather in April so we can tend to the grounds. There are lots of outside projects waiting for our next Church Improvement Day.

### Projects for April:

A new electrical panel will be installed. Finally! The power will be

off all day on April 20th.

The Social Hall floors will be cleaned and waxed on Monday April 18th.

The carpet will be replaced in the Social Hall entry on Tuesday April 17th.

We will need lots of help after worship on April 16th as we will need to move everything off the floors in preparation for the floor cleaning crew.

Our next Church Improvement Day will be Saturday April 16th from 9:30 to 12:30. We have lots to do both inside and outside, so there's something for everyone. Please mark it on your calendars right now, and plan to attend. It's fun. REALLY! If you can't come and help but would like to be supportive, you can make a donation

to our shelf and storage container fund.

The next Buildings and Grounds committee will meet after worship on April 3rd.

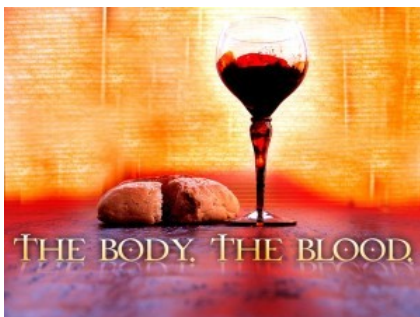
Happy Spring!

Doralee Smith, Chair



# Fellowship

Spring has officially sprung, and fellowship opportunities are blooming all around us. On April 3, we'll have our monthly birthday celebration. On April 21, we'll be hosting a potluck for Maundy Thursday.



On Easter morning, Fellowship will supply treats after the sunrise service and we'll have a special coffee hour after the 10:30 worship.

We've also begun planning ahead for future events. Things to look forward to include: a Spring Cleaning Book Swap on May 15, our next Third Sunday of the Third Month - Papa Was a Bowling Stone - on June 19, and California Sunday on August 21. Look for details in future newsletters.

As a reminder, please sign up to supply treats for coffee hour. The Fellowship Ministry will help with coffee, juice, set up and dishes; we just need your treats. Finally, thank you for all who participated in our Fork Drive during March, and thank you to Buildings & Grounds for getting new shelving set up in the Sunshine Room. Phil Smith-Hanes

# Deacons

In this spring season of Easter and Resurrection glory, the deacons continue to seek to update areas of concern for better ministry to our community. We have appreciated all that Lois has been able to do for the church. In this time we seek to be able to see how best we can assist her in our ministry while at the same time recognizing the changes that life has brought her. It is certain that in life many times we have to confront change no matter how we endeavor to keep what we have.

The deacons are also sensitive for the need to better communicate and minister to our members. One way we have done this is posting the deacon's numbers for the phone members use, so things can be communicated to us.

On the serving schedule sign-up sheets, it has been good to see everyone participate in signing up

for areas they can serve in. The month of May sign-up sheet will include a coffeehouse sign-up. This is for bringing the food for each Sunday. Fellowship has generously stated that they will do all the set-up and food is the only thing they need for people to bring. The deacons feel that our members and friends who come to church each Sunday, can know that even if they are not able to or not feel up to serving in any of the areas of need, they at least can contribute in bringing something for coffeehouse. We want everyone to remember that whatever they contribute in food for the coffeehouse, no matter how simple or complex, is always appreciated by those who stay after worship. No one is better than someone else and we all have our place because God rewards even the little things that we do in serving others. The deacons will be putting out the safe church policy soon. We are also excited for our members to keep in

mind that we will have the "End of Life" materials in a few months. As springtime brings showers of blessings to us (and some running over cup blessings), yet the variety of beauty in the flowers and plants that surround us here in Humboldt county, the beauty of ministry that we can do for others and the challenges of life that bring good changes even in those events that seem to be bad, yet God provides and sustains us. This is also in our new flower arrangements which will be enhanced from time to time to keep the beauty of creation before us as we worship.

In the beauty of spring, may all our members and friends have a good Easter. Remember at this time, "The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed".

Ted Adams

## Treasurer's Corner

### Treasurer's Corner

*By Reg Kennedy*

This financial update covers the period January through February 2011.

	Total
income:	\$12,447.29
Total expenses:	\$14,636.75

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through February is \$9,246.00. This is 93% of the

expected pledge.

### Tables and chairs fund update.

There is \$47.05 in the fund.

### Imagine Building Fund 2010 up-

date. There is \$6,921.29 in this fund from your pledges and the monthly raffle.

A reminder...please make it clear

on your offering check or envelope what portion of your offering goes towards your annual pledge and what part goes towards your Imagine Building Fund pledge.

The complete financial statement is available for your review in the Church Office during normal office hours.

# Christian Education

The children have set off on a Lenten journey! Thanks go to Roberta Duggan for putting together beautiful Lenten boxes for the children. Inside the boxes are pages of activities, prayers, and scripture readings for each week of Lent. This is a wonderful way to guide the children along their Lenten journey at home.

The children will be leading our traditional palm parade on Palm Sunday. If you know of children and youth who would like to participate, please ask them to arrive fifteen minutes before the start of

worship on Palm Sunday.

In preparation for our Easter egg hunt, we have begun discussing the stuffing of Easter eggs. Donations of non-candy items such as stickers and small erasers would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate egg stuffers, please give them to one of the Christian Ed Ministry members (Roberta, Meredith, Debbie, or Katri), or drop them off at the church office.

Thinking ahead to summer, here are the camp dates for 2011. Scholarships are available!

July 10-16: (grades 7-9)	Caz Junior High
July 17-23: (grades 10-12)	Caz Senior High
July 24-28: 2-4)	Caz Kids (grades
July 24-30: (grades 5-6)	Caz Junior
July 24-30:	Tam Junior/ Junior High (grades 5-8)
July 31-Aug 6th: (grades 9-12)	Tam Senior High
Aug 12th-14th:	Caz Adult Spiritual Retreat (ages 18+)

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sharing Brings Joy to us, to others, to God.

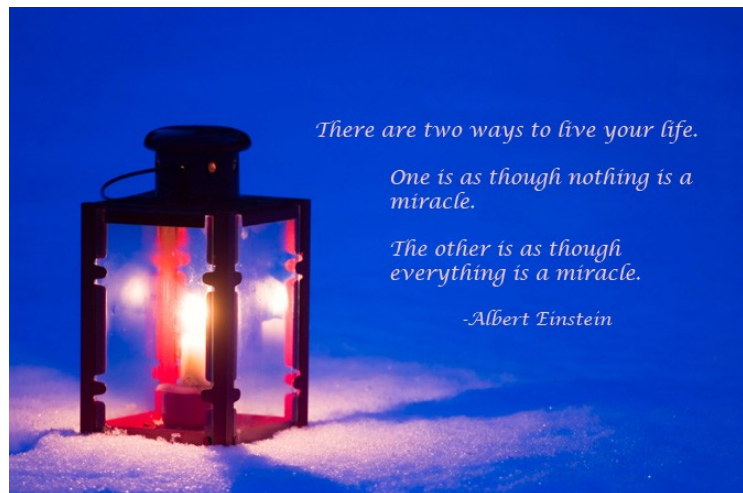
Sunday, April 3, 2011, will be our day to support One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). The Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ provides support to people in over 80 countries. When we each make a gift to the OGHS offering, we become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally.

The OGHS Partner Organizations include Church World Service, Foods Resource Bank, OikoCredit, and IMA World Health. They respond with relief and ongoing support for disasters, earthquakes, floods, refugees, health, education

and agriculture in Iowa, Haiti, Guatemala, Bolivia, Mozambique, Kenya, Chad, Serbia, Syria, Pakistan, Indonesia, and more!

Part of this donation will go for Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami relief this year.

For more information visit [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs)



# Walking

Get out your walking shoes! Our church is joining the UCC's Faithfully Walking Fitness challenge. We started Phase 1 on the challenge on March 1 and end on June 17. The goal of the United Church of Christ is to walk 600,000 miles during that time as a way to promote fitness. This is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative to reduce obesity in children. She has issued a challenge to faith and community organizations to get members walking a collective three million miles across the nation - and the UCC has pledged 600,000 of those miles.

We have pledged as a church to start walking! Please sign up to walk- even if you only walk 15

minutes a day. The goal is to improve health, and many studies have shown that walking can make a big difference. An easy way to keep track of your walking is through the use of a pedometer. These cost about \$10-20, with some clipping on your belt, or even fitting in a pocket. Our goal is to get each one of us walking at least 10,000 steps a week - which is five miles. If you need medical approval from your doctor to walk, be sure to check on it. Shape Up America says that if you don't have a pedometer, keep track of how long you walk. Ten minutes walking time is equal to about 1000 steps or a half mile.

So starting now, keep track of

how far you walk, or how long you walk, or use your pedometer. The nice thing about a pedometer is that it will track all the steps you take just walking around the house!

If you like to ride a bicycle, biking 3 miles is considered equal to 2000 steps. Jogging or running for a mile is equal to 4000 steps. And even moving your wheelchair for a mile is equal to 2000 steps! Each week you can e-mail your walking totals to me at [janet.foos@gmail.com](mailto:janet.foos@gmail.com)

So far we have a great start - after 3 weeks, we have already walked 607 miles - and that doesn't even include everyone! Let's get moving!



## Dates to remember

### **May 15th—Spring Book Swap**

This will be an opportunity to exchange old books for new. Fellowship will have more information in the next newsletter.

**Summer Camping**— Dates to be announced. Now is the time to start thinking about summer camp for the kids.

### **September 10— PRIDE Parade**

### **October 22nd—Treat and Talent**

Remember to start thinking about what you can contribute to this year's Treat and Talent. It has been outstanding the last few years and this year should be excellent as well. It is never too early to think about what each of us can

contribute to insure a great time.



**Church Office  
Hours:**

**Carlotta:**  
Tues, Wed. Thur.  
10 a.m. till noon

**Home:** Available at  
any time if needs  
arise.

**Christine:**  
Mon & Wed  
3:30 - 5:30

**Kim**  
Tues & Thurs  
10 am-12 pm

**Deacon of the  
Month:  
Libby Yee**

# April 2011

**SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT**



1 2

3 Communion Pastor Diana Buildings and Grounds after worship	4	5 MAC Tai Chi Christian Ed 5:45	6 Lenten series 1st Pres 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	7	8	9 Wedding 2pm
--	---	--	--	---	---	---------------------

10 <b>Deacon's Meeting after worship</b> Harp Recital 3 pm	11 PFLAG 6:30 PM	12 Tai Chi Fellowship 6:30 pm	13 Soci/Jus/Out 1Pm Lenten series Methodist 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	14 Book Group 7 pm	15	16 Church Improve- ment Day 9:30— noon
---	------------------------	--	---	-----------------------------	----	---

17 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Palm Parade Worship 10:30	18 Council 6:30	19 Tai Chi	20 Electrical Wok-No Power Choir 7:30 pm	21 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Service 6 Pm	22	23
--	-----------------------	---------------	---	---	----	----

24 <b>Easter</b> Sunrise Ser- vice 6:30 am Traditional Service 10:30	25	26 Tai Chi	27 Choir 7:30 pm	28	29	30 Rhody Parade
--	----	---------------	------------------------	----	----	-----------------------

# April Lectionary

## April 3

I Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23; Eph. 5:8-14;  
John 9:1-41

*Restored*

## April 10

Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps 130; Rom. 8:6-11;  
John 11:1-45

*Breath of Hope*

## April 17

Ps. 118: 1-2, 19-29; Matt. 21:1-11;  
Isa. 50: 4-9a; Ps. 31: 9-16; Phil. 2:5-  
11; Matt. 26: 14-27: 66 or Matt. 27:  
11-54

*Palm/Passion Sunday*

## April 24

Acts 10: 34-43 or Jer. 31: 1-6; Ps.  
118: 1-2, 14-24; Col. 3: 1-4 or Acts

10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18 or Matt.  
28: 1-10

*Easter Sunday*

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

4/2 Ted Adams

4/4 Sarah Mathew

4/4 M.J. Goble & Charlotte Peters

4/6 David & Mary Wallaker

4/9 Janet Foos

4/9 Harry Garrett

4/22 Jim & Carol Wingo

4/25 Jonathan Walkley



# April Serving Schedule

**Deacon of the Month:** Libby Yee

**Sunday, April 03 (Communion Sunday)**

**Greeters:** Sara Pillow, Debbie Hart

**Reader:** Janet Foos

**Children's Sermon:** The Pitts

Family

**Acolyte:** Jennifer Schmidt

**Communion Servers:** Jim Falls,  
Judie Norton, Kim Pinches, Stan  
Smith-Hanes

**Ushers:** Doralee Smith, Lew  
Norton

**Sunday, April 10:**

**Greeters:** Sara Pillow, Rafael Leon

**Reader:** Ted Adams

**Children's Sermon:** Janet Foos

**Acolyte:** Emma Pinches

**Ushers:** Howard Willson, Pete  
Vallerga

**Sunday, April 17th:**

**Greeters:** Howard Willson, Linda  
Shapeero

**Reader:** Leslie Leach

**Children's Sermon:** Libby Yee

**Acolyte:** Jordan Schmidt

**Ushers:** Rafael Leon, Kim Pinches

**Sunday, April 24 (Easter Sunday):**

**Greeters:** Ted Adams, Janet  
Griffith

**Reader:** Phil Smith-Hanes

**Children's Sermon:** Kim Pinches

**Acolyte:** Emma Pinches

**Ushers:** Leslie Leach, Dexter  
Luther

Please call the deacon of the  
month if you are unable to serve  
on your scheduled day. Thank you.

# Annual Gathering 2011

The NCNC Annual Gathering for 2011 will be held this year at the Hotel Sofitel San Francisco Bay at Redwood Shores.

It was decided by the Conference Council and the Annual Gathering Planning Team to consider other sites for the annual meeting and they decided to move the annual meeting to the Sofitel Hotel. This new site will be less expensive and have more opportunities for commuters, optional meals and flexible attendance.

There will be no extra charge to hold the meetings at the Sofitel. The Hotel is located at the former site of Marine World Africa USA directly on a bay lagoon full of jellyfish. There are many walking trails and nature opportunities as well. With this new site, registration will include some meals and other meals will be optional. People will

be encouraged to stay at the Sofitel but there are other less expensive hotels near by.

The overall theme will be "Mandates of the Gospel" with a planned continuation on the conversation on race. The Team hopes that this new site will entice new folks to come and participate who have never been able to come before. It is also hoped that trying this new option will be a way to be open to the Spirit.

The dates for the Annual Gathering are May 19-22, 2011



## Outreach and Social Justice

PFLAG will be meeting at 6:30 PM on Monday, April 11 for a regular meeting in our Fellowship Hall.

The Ministry of Outreach and Social Justice Meets Tuesday, April 13 at 1p.m. in Pastor Carlotta's Office.

### CHINN SHOWER PROJECT

We have baskets in the Social Hall every Sunday to collect individual use toiletries and any size towels and washrags.



# MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

# Scrip

MAC :The Multiple Assistance Center at 2413 2nd St., Eureka, serves families with children, in transition from homelessness, under the Redwood Community Action Agency. Our congregation provides volunteers the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month: Tuesday March 1 AND TUESDAY April 5 from 4:45-5:45 p.m. helping serve supper for the residents. Maybelle does need volunteers to serve and to help with the children. To volunteer, contact

Maybelle Luther the Sunday before



( February 27 and April 3).

Remember that Scrip is available each Sunday and is the **no-cost to you Fundraiser!**

- Abruzzi
- Wildberries Market
- Ramone's Bakery
- Shafer's Ace Hardware
- Moonstone Grill
- Co-op
- Murphy's Market
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Plaza Grill
- McDonald's

## FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Our Food Basket in the Narthex is donated every month to Food for People at the Food Bank of Humboldt County, which served 71,445 qualifying at-risk people during 2010, through 17 food pantries in Humboldt County, and addresses root causes of hunger. First Congregational UCC Eureka donated \$2,534.85 during 2010 plus 12 full baskets of non-perishable items. Last year Food for People received

30 % of their budget from Federal Contracts, so 70% of their budget was from local donations and grants.

Non perishable foods that will provide the maximum nutrition include:

protein items, canned meats, chili/stew, peanut butter  
canned tuna, grains, pasta, & rice  
soups, breakfast cereals  
nutritional drinks, boxed & canned

juices, beans

Note: There is a can for monetary donations also.

One suggestion is if you use items that many stores have on sale for 2 for 1 price, or a discount on a second or third item, one can buy or get the extra item and donate to the food bank.

**March Donations from 3' x 3' basket:** \$206 & 72 items.

## Into Your Hands, O God

**Prayer List:** Rafael on the loss of his mother, Doug Hanson, Mj Goble, Lois and Howard Willson, Phil Smith-Hanes on the loss of his aunt, Bev Hanes Bill Shapeero, Neva and Joe Sobolik, Dennis Bawden, Henry Willey, Stan Smith-Hanes as he goes in for surgery.



Eureka First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
900 Hodgson Street  
Eureka, CA 95503

**FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

---

## **The Window Newsletter**

**Eureka First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

900 Hodgson Street  
Eureka CA 95503  
707-445-5488

E-mail: [eurekaucc@att.net](mailto:eurekaucc@att.net)

[www.eurekaucc.org](http://www.eurekaucc.org)

At First Congregational United Church of Christ we gather to worship God. We know ourselves as a Christian community through worship, learning, fellowship, and service. As part of the Body of Christ, we seek to express, receive, and share spiritual wholeness, strengthen our knowledge of God's love for us and for all people, cherish individuality, and to be aware of and respond to the needs of all God's people.