

July-August
2011



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

Window Newsletter

Pastor's View

Dear First Congregational UCC Family,

You have all been so gracious and hospitable since my arrival to Eureka. Your gifts, wonderful meals, love and concern have all touched my heart in ways that make me deeply grateful. You have opened your homes, hearts, and congregation to me as I work among you as your summer *stand-in* pastor for Pastor Carlotta. I say "stand-in" because there is truly no substitute for the incredibly gifted leadership of Pastor Carlotta. Thank you.

Before starting this journey with you, I loved you because of your fabulous Vitality Team work. But my love has grown even stronger after seeing the ways through all your teams such as Fellowship; Outreach; Deacons; Buildings and Grounds; and more, that you all work together and show how much you love your church, Pastor Carlotta, and one another. So much so, that it seems, I had not really loved you at all . . . until now. Your flexibility with the liturgy, weekly communion, the

Pentecost Birthday party, the Living the Questions Discussion Series and Maybelle's Church Cleanup Day have all been impressive.

So what's ahead for the rest of the summer?

Wednesday, July 6 at 6 pm - Participants in our 3-week *Living the Questions* (LTQ) series have extended LTQ another week and also plan to start again, **Wednesday, July 27**. It's an on-going discussion that you can join at any time.

Conference Sunday, July 17 at 10:30 am worship and special hymn sing. Ted Adams, Roberta Duggan, and Rafael Leon will each share their experiences at the Northern California Nevada Conference Annual Gathering.

Coffeehouse Sunday, July 31 at 10:30 am worship, held in Social Hall will continue its tradition of innovation as we welcome the incredible, folksy, bluesy singer Les Craig. Our deacons and other leaders will share communion at their tables, as we will all share with each other the story, "the buzz" about Jesus and the disciple's first communion as if it just happened last week.

Sunday, August 21 at 10:30 am worship is California Sunday with a special Backpack and Bike Blessing for members, neighbors, and friends of all ages.

Stay tuned for more info . . .

Meredith VandenBranden, Kim Pinches, and Katri Pitts will present exciting new projects that focus upon the needs of children, youth and families.

Discussions about a Labyrinth continue- - even some interest in naming it for Maybelle Luther.

Taking it to the streets. Emma Pinches and I will walk to houses on the blocks immediately surrounding our church, inviting our neighbors to upcoming events. Would you also like to join us? Have you considered that our great church might be a light under a bushel? Please come walk and welcome with us?

Well, my love for you has already grown so much even in this very short time as to make me feel as if I had not loved you before. I suspect that my love for you will continue to grow so that in the future, I will look back . . . and think I do not love you now.

Love and Blessings,

Ron



A monthly publication of Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Buildings and Grounds

News From Buildings and Grounds

Good News! At last the electrical improvements have been completed in the kitchen. We have a new sub panel, and five new outlets! Each outlet is on its own circuit, so we won't have to worry about overloading the circuits anymore.

The Maybell Luther Church Improvement Day on June 17th was very successful. We had ten adults and two children. We pruned, mowed, weeded, raked, and trimmed ivy. String trimming the back lot was a huge job. The grass was thigh high.

At one point we had four people string trimming and four people raking up the "hay crop". It was quite a sight. We took a dinner

break and had delicious pizza provided by Meredith, Eric, and Paul (from Smug's pizza). What a treat! Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who helped. We worked hard, but I think we also had some fun too. Maybell would be pleased and proud.

We plan to put in a French drain system in the preschool play yard this Summer or early Fall. We will need to raise around \$1,000.00 - 1,200.00 for materials. Our plan is to sell pavers (stepping stones). These pavers will be made on site and installed in the play yard (ideally after the French drain has been put in). The pavers can be personalized with the donor's name, handprint. Pavers could be in

memory or in honor of another person. We still have some research to do and some details to work out. We will have more information by mid-August. Due to the July 4th holiday weekend, Buildings and Grounds will not meet in July.

Our next meeting will be August 14th after worship.

The next Church Improvement "Work Party" will be Friday August 19th from 3:30 - 7:30.

We will take a break for snacks and dinner. I hope you can join us. There will be something for everyone to do.

Enjoy these beautiful Summer days.

Doralee Smith, Chair

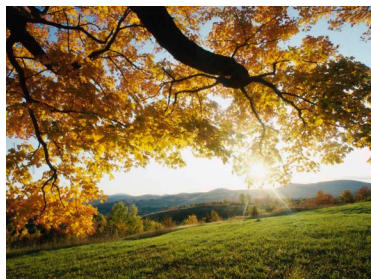
Fellowship

There are nine Sundays in July and August, which provides nine great opportunities for Fellowship! Our big event of the summer will be California Sunday on August 21. Once again we will be at Freshwater Park after worship. The Fellowship Ministry will provide hot dogs, veggie dogs and condiments. Bring a picnic side dish to share.

We'd like to thank our bowlers and spectators from the Papa Was a Bowling Stone event. We're think-

ing something outdoorsy for the next Third Sunday of the Third Month event on September 18; stay tuned for details!

Phil Smith-Hanes



Thank You

"Thank You" to artist Joan Rosko for the loan of her paintings, *Earth, Wind, Rain and Fire*. These are available for sale at \$400 per separate painting or \$1,200 for the set of four.



Moderator

July/August Moderator's Message

"I teach children and I go to church. That's just who I am." Maybelle Luther

Dear Friends,

What a tumultuous beginning to summer we have had. Just as we were welcoming Ron Buford to our fellowship, we lost a valued member. Maybelle Luther, died preparing to come to church for Ron's first Sunday, because that's "who she was". It is still difficult to see the front pew without her. I thank Dexter for his continued presence there. At a work day sometime ago, Maybelle told me of her belief that working together created a sense of unity among any group, and many of you showed that unity by your participation in the recent work day

in her honor. Thank you. There is also interest in creating a labyrinth in her memory, as she very much wanted us to have one to share with the entire community. You will be hearing more about this.

Thanks also go to Ron, who has already shared our lives in so many ways. He and the deacons have worked together to try new approaches in worship and all of us have benefitted from their work. In addition, Ron has been leading the "Living the Questions" study on Wednesday evenings. This is a study that is a good follow-up to the recent Marcus Borg study. We may continue with it in August. Additionally, Ron and Judie Norton have

worked on our newspaper articles and we have certainly gotten the word out about our church. Brochures are being updated and we have made a few changes in our method of greeting newcomers on Sunday morning.

July and August have many planned activities, so be sure to study the church calendar and make your plans accordingly. Personally, I continue to hope that the recent procedure (spinal block) will have a good effect and I can again participate in the work days. Thank you for your prayers for my health.

Invite a friend to church!

Sincerely,

Sharolyn

Resources Fundraiser

Save the date: NCRT fundraiser
September 17th 2011

On September 17th, North Coast Rep. is performing Sondheim's play "Into The Woods" and the Church has purchased the house. This means that to make this a successful fundraiser we need to sell tickets to the play for that night and we need to commit to attending. Tickets will be \$15.00 and we need to pack the house. Please tell your friends and family and co-workers, and anyone you can think of! We will have a reception afterwards and this presents a volunteer opportunity for those who would like

to prepare cookies or other light appetizers that can be served at the reception. We will also have a raffle during intermission so if you have something you think would be good for that let me know. Let Kim or Rafael know if you would

like some tickets to sell or have any other ideas to make this a great success.

Kathy Hanson



Christian Education

Summer Sunday's—The focus of Sunday School during the summer months is to create a setting in which the children can apply the lessons that they learned during the school year from the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. Through outdoor activities including sing-a-longs, team building games, ice-breakers, crafts, and nature exploration, the children have opportunities to get to know one another by interacting more. As they get to know more about each other, they will have opportunities to put into practice lessons they have learned about trust, kindness, gentleness, and respect. This is especially important for our multi-aged group, so that a mix of 2 to 12 year olds can learn and grow together. We still have openings for church members to sign up and lead Sunday School during the summer. If you have an interest that you would like to share with the chil-

dren in an outdoor and interactive setting, talk to Meredith, Katri, Roberta, or Debbie about it!

Children's Mission Project—During the school year, from December to June, the children took offering during Sunday School. Their goal was to collect \$125, enough to support one backpack for one year for the Food for People School Backpack program. By the end of the school year, the children had collected \$177! They look forward to presenting a check to Food for People in August on "Blessing of Bikes and Backpacks" Sunday. The children did such a great job with this mission project, that we think during the summer we can do more, and collect enough for two or more backpacks before the school year begins! More announcements on this mission will be coming soon.

VBS—First Congregational is exploring the idea of organizing a "God is

Still Speaking" Vacation Bible School program this summer. Pastor Ron has provided the church with a curriculum created as a joint project by three UCC congregations in Iowa and South Dakota. The program is designed with busy families in mind. Instead of being held during the day, it is held in the evening, from 7:00 – 9:00, for three consecutive evenings. Parents are invited to attend a workshop while children participate in activities, singing, learning, and an introduction to the meaning of our motto, "God is Still Speaking." Middle school and High school aged youth are invited to help as leaders. More announcements coming soon, but until then, help create a buzz about this program, expected to happen in mid-August.

--Meredith

Treasurer's Corner

Treasurer's Corner

By Reg Kennedy

This financial update covers the period January through May 2011.

Total income:	\$32,818.75
Total expenses:	\$38,906.63

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through May is \$24,966.75. This is 95% of the expected pledge.

Tables and chairs fund update. There is \$87.05 in the fund.

Imagine Building Fund 2010 update. There is \$5,439.63 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.

Whether at home or on the road, have a restful and safe summer.

Deacons

As a church family, it is with some pleasant surprises how much our church community has pulled together to welcome Ron Buford for our summer interim pastor. This has enabled Pastor Carlotta to have a much deserved Sabbatical rest. It has also given our church an opportunity to put into place some changes in how we do worship and other areas.

In remembering our nation's independence on July 4, it brings to mind how independent we all are who have embraced the gospel message of God's love in Christ. Especially as United Church of Christ members, the embrace of graceful and abundant living in Christ has enabled us to reach out to all types of individuals with this good news, and the message that "God is still speaking".

As your deacons have been very overwhelmed by the wonderful response of our members and

friends as we have embarked on this new summer adventure in worship, which has been different but exciting. The deacons have been working with Ron to insure good transitions to each part of our worship each Sunday. Even when events and glitches have appeared either before or during worship, everyone seemed to sense God speaking to us.

We as your deacons look forward to continuing to work with the church and Ron as our summer adventure in worship and church growth continues. Certainly, the deacons are engaged in some serious thinking, not only about what is planned for the future (God willing), but what are some things that we will have learned from our summer adventure.

During July and August, there are many events for our church. The discussions of some of them will also involve the deacons. We look

forward to, not only good things for the rest of our summer, but more important to what the future holds for our church community.

Remember to keep all of the leaders of our church in your prayers. Have a good summer as each of you embarks on vacations and outings. The future is exciting and God will speak to us as we think, ponder and see how God directs our church.

Ted Adams



Dates to Remember



August 21st

California Sunday

September 10th

Pride Parade

September 11th

Pastor Carlotta Returns

September 17th

NCRT Theatre Fundraiser

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:**

Ron Buford:
Tues, Wed. Thur.
10 a.m. till noon

Home: Available at
any time if needs
arise.

Christine:
Wed
5 PM - 8:30 PM

Kim
Tues & Thurs
10 am-12 pm

**Deacon of the
Month:
Rotating**

July 2011

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

31
Coffee-
house
Sunday



1 2

3 Rev Diana preaching Communion Birthday Sunday	4 Independence Day	5 MAC	6	7 Outreach 10:30 am Vitality 6 pm	8	9
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10	11 PFLAG 6:30 PM	12 Fellowship 6:30 pm Sandi's House	13	14	15	16
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17 NCNC Conference Report	18	19	20	21	22	23
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24 Deacons After Wor- ship	25	26	27	28	29	30
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July Lectionary

July 3

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Ps 45:10-17 or Song of Sol 2:8-13 or Zech 9:9-12; Ps 145:8-14; Rom 7:15-25a; Matt 11:16-19, 25-30
Chosen Journeys

July 10

Gen 25:19-34; Ps 119:105-112 or Isa 55:10-13; Ps 65:(1-8), 9-13;

Rom 8:1-11; Matt 13: 1-9, 18-23
A House Divided

July 17

Gen 28:10-19a; Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24 or Isa 44:6-8; Ps 86:11-17; Rom 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43
Place of Blessing

July 24

Gen 29:15-28; Ps 105:1-11, 45b or

Ps 128 or I Kings 3:5-12; Ps 119:129-136; Rom 8:26-39; Matt 13:31-33, 44-52

Weaving the Future

July 31

Gen 32:22-31; Ps 17:1-7, 15 or Isa 55:1-5; Ps 145:8-8, 14-21; Rom 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21

Face to Face

Birthdays & Anniversaries

7/3 Mj Goble

7/24 Stan & Phil Smith-Hanes



7/12 Meg Walkley

7/27 Sandi Little

7/20 Nancy Soncrant

7/28 John Waller

July Serving Schedule

Deacon of the month:

Kathy and Roberta will be doing the Children's sermons in December.

July 3rd--Communion Sunday

Deacon: Judie Norton

Greeters: Sharolyn Hutton, Mary Bawden

Reader: Janet Foos

Children's Sermon: Pitts Family

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Reg Kennedy, Fred Jewett

Communion Servers: Judie Norton, Sandi Little, Fred Jewett, Phil Smith-Hanes

Sunday, July 10

Greeters: Stan Smith-Hanes,

Rafael Leon

Reader: Kim Pinches

Children's Sermon: Debbie Hart

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Phil Smith-Hanes, Tom Schmidt

Coffeehouse: Sharolyn Hutton + Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday, July 17

Deacon: Janet Foos

Greeters: Judie Norton, Janet Griffith

Reader: Phil Smith-Hanes

Children's Sermon: Ted Adams

Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt

Ushers: Rafael Leon, Kim Pinches

Coffeehouse: Stan & Phil Smith-Hanes

Sunday, July 24

Deacon: Kathy Hanson

Greeters: Kim Pinches, Stan Smith-

Haynes

Reader: Sharolyn Hutton

Children's Sermon: Janet Foos

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Jim Falls, Dexter Luther

Coffeehouse:

Sunday July 31st: Coffeehouse

Deacon: Ted Adams

Greeters: Janet Foos, Lois Willson

Children's Sermon: Roberta

Duggan

Reader: Ted Adams

Ushers: Doralee Smith, Sharolyn Hutton

Coffeehouse: Deacons

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



Church Office Hours:

Ron Buford:
Tues, Wed. Thur.
10 a.m. till noon

Home: Available at any time if needs arise.

Christine:
Wed
5 PM - 8:30 PM

Kim
Tues & Thurs
10 am-12 pm

Deacon of the Month:
Ted Adams

August 2011

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4 5 6
MAC

7 8 9 10 11 12 13
Communion
Birthday
Sunday

14 15 16 17 18 19 20
Buildings and
Grounds after Wor-
ship PFLAG
6:30 PM
Council
6:30

21 22 23 24 25 26 27
California
Sunday

28 29 30 31



August Lectionary

August 7

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b or I Kings 19:9-18; Ps 85:8-13; Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

When All Seems Lost

August 14

Gen 45:1-15; Ps 133 or Isa 56:1; Ps 67; Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:

(10-20), 21-28

Bold Moves

August 21

Ex 1:8-2:10; Ps 124 or Isa 51:6-8; Ps 138; Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20

Be Transformed

August 28

Ex 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b or Jer 15:15-21; Ps 26: 1-8; Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28

Spirit-filled Living

Birthdays and Anniversaries

8/2 David & Meg Walkley

8/4 Fred Jewett, Jr.

8/5 Aurora Pitts

8/8 Jim Falls & Laura McEwen

8/12 Don & Mary'l Atterbury

8/14 David Wallaker

8/15 Kim Pinches

8/18 Lew Norton

8/26 Leslie Leach

8/29 Lew & Judie Norton

8/30 Glenn & Janet Griffith



August Serving Schedule

Deacon of the month: Ted Adams Sunday, August 7 (Communion Sunday)

Greeters: Judie Norton, Howard Willson

Reader: Jim Falls

Children's Sermon: Katri and Larry

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Communion Servers: Doralee

Smith, Rafael Leon, Roberta

Duggan, Lois Wilson

Ushers: Lew Norton, Judie Norton

Coffeehouse: Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday, August 14

Greeters: Kim Pinches, Mary

Bawden

Reader: Fred Jewett

Children's Sermon: Michele Fell-

Casale

Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt

Ushers: Cameron Cartwright, Phil Smith-Hanes

Coffeehouse: Ted Adams, Rafael Leon

Sunday, August 21

Greeters: Judie Norton, Rafael Leon

Reader: Leslie Leach

Children's Sermon: Kim Pinches

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Cameron Cartwright, Michele Fell-Casale

Coffeehouse: California Sunday

Sunday, August 28

Greeters: Sara Pillow, Sandy Levy

Reader: Phil Smith-Hanes

Children's Sermon: Lois Wilson

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Bill Shapeero, Linda Shapeero

Coffeehouse:

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



PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

1st Congregational UCC, Eureka will once again have a decorated p/u truck in this years Pride Parade on Saturday Sept. 10th. Volunteers for parade are needed for the following-

1. 1 or 2 people with good layout abilities to help Sara Pillow with constructing the signs for the truck.
2. Someone to drive the truck from the church to the parade set up area, and in the parade.
3. People to decorate the truck in preparation for the parade. They would need to meet the truck at 11:00 am at site.
4. Four people are needed to spot the corners of the truck (for safety reasons) during the parade. They could also pass out literature during the frequent

stops.

5. Others to walk in parade to represent the church (adults, kids)
6. Someone to dismantle signage and carefully fold or roll them up if needed so they can be used again.
7. Truck and signage needs to be taken back to the church. Signage should be put back in Sunshine room.

We will have a booth/tent at the festival. Volunteers for the festival are needed for the following-

1. Tent and church info supplies, table and chairs taken to Halvorson Park to designated location.
2. At least 3 people to set up tent.
3. People to staff the booth from 12 noon to 5:00 pm (in shifts).
4. We will have baskets for drop off

donations of towels and individual size toiletries and clean men's jeans and sweatshirts for Betty Chin's Shower Project.

5. People to dismantle tent and take everything back to the church.

Please sign up to volunteer during Coffee Hours in July and August or Call Sara Pillow 443-3209 for more info.



Pflag

Pflag will be meeting at 6:30 PM on Monday, July 11 and Monday August 8 in our Fellowship Hall. Remember this group in your prayers.
From Sara Pillow



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SCRIP

MAC : In honor of Maybelle Luther, we are continuing with our participation at the MAC on the 1st Tuesday of each month.(July 5th, Aug, 2nd, Sept. 4th)

2-3 volunteers are needed at 4:45 to serve the meal for the evening. Volunteers are needed at 6:30 for help with children and youth while the parents are in a meeting.

To volunteer, please contact Sara Pillow 443-3209

WANTED: Spirit filled people with a passion for Social Justice in the world and Outreach for Church growth. If you fit this description, we have a place for you. Please contact Stan at 269-9418 or email swspdh@yahoo.com . All are welcome.



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 serves 12,000 qualifying at-risk people each month through 12 community food programs, and addresses the root causes of hunger. Financial support includes 32% from governmental and 68% from donations. 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
canned fruits & veggies
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.

Into Your Hands, O God

Prayer List: Janet Griffith, Stan Smith-Hanes, Doug Hanson, Neva and Joe Sobolik, Richard Tolleson, Lois and Howard Wilson, The Crichton Family, Dennis Bawden, Kinara Erickson, Pastor Carlotta on sabbatical, Ron Buford. Those serving in the military, our elected officials,

and those recovering from natural disasters close at home and abroad.



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**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**

The Window Newsletter

**Eureka First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

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E-mail: eurekaucc@att.net

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.