

March 2011

## Ash Wednesday and Lenten Series



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

# The Window Newsletter

The 40 days of Lent start with Ash Wednesday on March 9th. Together with First Christian church, we will have a pot luck supper in our Fellowship Hall at 6 pm, followed by a short but very meaningful worship service in our Sanctuary at 7 pm. If you haven't been to an Ash Wednesday service, plan to come this year. The service is a contemplative one. You have the opportunity to think of all your worries, things left undone, things you were sorry for, folks who are sick, etc. You may write that down on a small piece of paper or several, that you will then take up to burn in the firepot – giving all the worry and concerns over to God. It is a wonderful way to get us all started into Lent.

Pastor Carlotta will then lead in a time to place ashes on your forehead or your hand (as desired.)

The churches in the Eureka area will again gather together on each of the Wednesday evenings following Ash Wednesday to share a soup supper and a short meditation. Our church will host the first of these, on Wednesday, March 16th, in our Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. We will need at least 12 soups plus breads in order to have enough for everyone

who comes from all the other churches. Look for sign-up sheets on this Sunday' so that you can indicate your willingness to bring soup or bread on the 16th.

ROW, Reflection on Wednesday, with *not* occur during Lent. Instead, a group will be encouraged to go to the other churches on Wednesday evenings to share with them in soup and worship. Even if you travel alone to the other churches, you will know that there will be familiar faces from our church there.



A monthly publication of Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

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- Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor
- Ted Adams, Editor

## Pastor's View

### PASTOR'S VIEW THE WONDERFUL MONTH OF MARCH

There are several reasons that I think of March as a very special month. First it signals the time of moving forward into spring and we return to daylight savings time. The cold we are experiencing as we start the month should give way to warmer temperatures and longer days of sunlight. Of course I also love the month of March because it contains the celebrations of my birthday and Pete and my wedding anniversary.

The month of March also includes two of my favorite colors, purple and green. The green of St. Patrick's day and the green of spring. Our Fellowship Ministry will be helping us enjoy an Irish celebration with the Pot Luck of the Irish as they provide the corn beef & cabbage and all of us will bring all the trimmings. Purple is the color of Lent and will be enrich our sanctuary from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The color purple is a royal color that signals the return to God. The color is a reminder that Lent is the time for personal and communal reflection on making changes that will strengthen our relationship with God.

Lent is the time of starkness and simplicity. Some churches strip their sanctuary of all frills and unnecessary items so that when Easter comes and everything is brought back in, it

really feels like the gift of new life. Sometimes people visit churches and wonder why they seem so plain and are disappointed in the lack of beauty in the surroundings. Other congregations strip things from the Sanctuary during the closing hymn on Palm Sunday. All of this is done to symbolize the Lenten journey. And then comes Easter Sunday and everything is brought back along with lilies and other flowers as the people are invited to experience the transformation and the beauty of new life. What a wonderful way to symbolically tell the Easter story.

On March 9th we will start off the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday potluck and worship service. This is a true potluck when everyone just brings their favorite dish to share and somehow there is always a great variety from hot dishes to salads, dessert and bread. After dinner we will have a service of ashes and healing in the Sanctuary. The burning pot will once again be available for the burning of paper offerings of things we want to let go of or dedicate to God. The ashes are from last year's palm branches which were waved on Palm Sunday and then burned down to ashes for this year's service of ashes. Those who wish to receive the ashes can do so either on their forehead or wrist; the oil is added to the ashes to be the symbol of heal-

ing. The music of our choir will enrich this candlelight service

Scripture readings during this Lenten Journey will focus on some of our favorite Psalms and will include the stories of Abraham & Sarah and the Israelites journey through the desert. Their stories will nourish us through these weeks of reflection as we seek to find a renewed depth of soul and vitality. I hope you will journey through this Lenten season with your church family.

Blessings,

Pastor Carlotta



## Moderator

“March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb”, as the old saying goes. As I write this, there is still hail and snow along the back fence in my yard, yet the sun is shining brightly and warmly on the back porch. We don't yet know if March will go out as easily as a lamb, but hopefully we at First Congregational UCC will enter spring with our fellowship taking steps to good health. The UCC is encouraging its members to join First Lady Michelle Obama's walking for good health campaign. Janet Foos explained that 10,000 steps usually equal five miles. Many of you already exceed the five mile a day goal, so it will be fun to see how many steps we as a congregation take in a month. Remember to tabulate your steps and report them at the end of March, details will be announced.

In March, we will also send a two-page essay to the denomination concerning how our activities have impacted the community for good. We are doing this in hopes

of winning a free trip for Pastor Carlotta to the national conference in Florida in July. To remember activities suitable for the essay, Janet, Carlotta and I sat down during coffee hour to brain storm what we have accomplished at First Congregational UCC since that first Ron Buford workshop two years ago. I was once again struck by how very much this fellowship does to demonstrate loving God and our neighbors. Jesus said the first commandment is to love God and the second is to love our neighbors, two commandments we strive to honor in a variety of ways.

Soon we will host the Ash Wednesday service and then the Lenten soup suppers will begin with the first being held at our church. I look forward to this time of worship with other community members during this special time in our church year.

May your March be filled with

the hope of spring!  
Sharolyn



## 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 @7:00P.M 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

Greetings From Your Buildings and Grounds Committee

Well, the weather has certainly been interesting lately. We have been very busy working, rain or shine.

It look like 2011 is going to be another productive year. We are happy to welcome Tom back on board, and are very please to have Leslie join us. Leslie has been busy cleaning and organizing the Sun shine room. Check it out. Thanks to everyone who showed up and helped last Saturday for our Church Improvement day.

We had some fun, and got a lot accomplished.

The big news this month is that the fence is nearing completion!! By the time you read this, we hope to have it finished. Over 250' of fencing including two large double gates, and four smaller walking gates have been constructed during the past six months. I want to thank everyone who helped with this project. Many people helped, and all of your efforts have been appreciated.

Special Kudos go to Tom Schmidt, who has been extremely generous with donations of his time, his equipment, and materials. Tom has spent many hours of hard labor, rain or shine.

Thanks Tom! We couldn't have done it without you. Thanks again to each and every one of you who helped, whether it was your time, your labor, a monetary donation, or your praises and encouraging words.

It all helps, believe me. Now, what's next?

Doralee Smith, Chair

FYI- Buildings and Grounds committee will meet in the Narthex after worship on March 6th

The next Church Improvement Day will be Saturday March 19th from 9:30 - 12:00

## Fellowship

### March shaping up to be full of fellowship opportunities

The Fellowship Ministry has a full month planned for March. Sunday the 6th will be our monthly celebration of birthdays and anniversaries. On Wednesday the 9th, we'll have the annual Ash Wednesday soup and bread potluck. The following Wednesday, March 16, our congregation will be hosting the Lenten Soup Series. Fellowship will be passing around sign-up sheets for soup and bread for the community.

Sunday, March 20, is the Third Sunday of the Third Month and our next big event. This time theme is **Potluck o' the Irish**. That's right, in honor of St. Patty's Day, Fellowship will be providing corned beef and members of the congregation are invited to bring a favorite potato-based dish to share.

Sunday the 27th will be our next Coffeehouse Sunday, so we'll be working on treats for that day as well. As you can see, there will be

plenty of opportunities to share fellowship during the month.

Finally, we are conducting a Spring Cleaning Fork Drive. Do you have some old, mismatched forks in your silverware drawer? If so, we could use 'em! For some reason, forks seem to be disappearing from the church kitchen. We have plenty of spoons and knives, but the fork drawer is running low. So please, bring a fork to church!

# Deacons

The deacons decided to put out a list each Sunday in the Social Hall of the next month's serving schedule needs. It has worked very well since most people know when they can serve and also less of a problem as people could then choose the days they could serve. Then any spaces left have been filled in. The list has been a big hit and it will be put out every Sunday for each month ahead.

Doing things a little differently, starting over, or doing something new is the theme of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten series as we look towards Easter. This is the time to look and think about the direction of our lives. In thinking about this time, the deacons have been busy on such things as the End of Life Seminar, new comers in learning about our church and the UCC, and worship services. As the deacons decide each month on items, one of those items we have decided on is to post our names and phone num-

bers in this newsletter so that each member and friend may have access to us if there is a need.

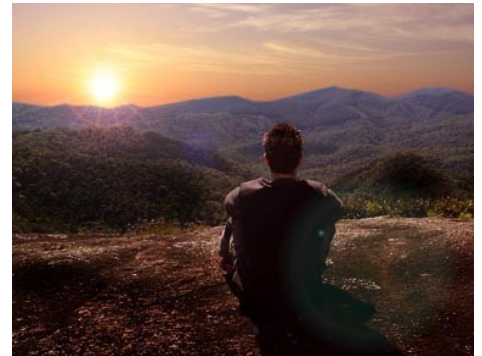
We also are involved in making our outreach to members and those in need of our prayers better. We want to be available for the times of need as well as for times of celebration. Good times are as important as times of need to praise and glorify God in our celebrations.

The deacons will be hosting the first Soup Supper on March 16 at 6:00 in the Social Hall for the beginning of the Lenten series. There will be a need for 12 soups and breads. We will be putting out a list for the next few Sundays to sign up for bringing soup or bread. This is a good time to look forward to this time of worship with other community churches in the church year.

As we all reflect on this Lenten season, let us all give thanks to God for what has been done for us in Jesus Christ. Certainly we all have different ways of doing this in many areas.

But we can all think and pray for how we can let God use us to help each other and just listen in silence to what God has to speak to us about.

Ted Adams



## Treasurer's Corner

### Treasurer's Corner

*By Reg Kennedy*

This financial update covers the period January 2011.

Total income: \$7,449.29  
Total expenses: \$7,173.01

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through January is \$5,041.00. This is 96% of the

expected pledge.

Tables and chairs fund update. The total remains \$27.05.

Imagine Building Fund 2010 update. There is \$6,930.29 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.

# Christian Education

This past month Christian Education elected a new chair person: Roberta Duggan. We would like to thank Meredith Vandenberg for all of her hard work in the role of chairperson, and thank Roberta for stepping into this role for the new year. We also are happy to welcome Debbie Hart to the Christian Education Ministry!

The children are making good progress toward their goal of buying a back pack for a needy child through the Food for People program. Each week the children bring in "Blessing Boxes" filled

with change to offer during their ARK time. The children share blessings they have received as they offer their change, and it is proving to be a wonderful, tangible way for them to both make a difference in our community and give thanks for all that they have themselves.

The Christian Ed Ministry would like to welcome members of the congregation who are interested in working with our youth to come and observe our ARK program. Observing will help more people become comfortable lead-

ing in ARK and will provide continuity for the children. If you would like to be a leader or just attend to observe or assist, please let Roberta, Meredith, Katri, or Debbie know!

Katri Pitts

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

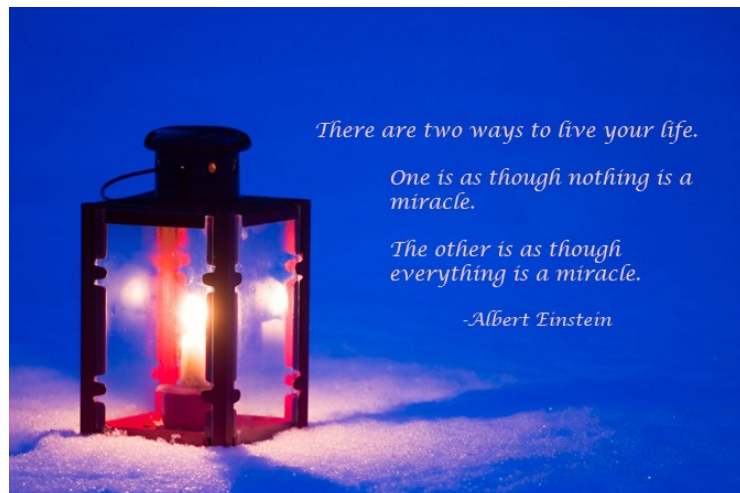
Sharing Brings Joy to us, to others, to God.

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!

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



## Deacon's Phone Numbers

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 mcenfalz@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



## 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.



years 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.

### October 22nd—Treat and Talent

Remember to start thinking about what you can contribute to this



**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:**  
**Judie Norton**

# March 2011

**SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT**

| 6   | 7                | 8                | 9  | 10                               | 11 | 12                                   |
|---|------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| Communion<br>Sunday<br>Buildings<br>and Grounds<br>after<br>worship |                  |                  | Ash<br>Wednesday<br>6 pm<br>Choir<br>7:30 pm                             | Fellowship<br>Sandi's<br>6:30 pm |    |                                      |
| 13  | 14               | 15               | 16   | 17                               | 18 | 19                                   |
| <b>Deacon's<br/>Meeting<br/>after<br/>worship</b>                   | PFLAG<br>6:30 PM | Outreach<br>1 pm | Lunch Bunch<br>noon<br>Community<br>Lenten<br>series<br>Choir 7:30<br>pm |                                  |    | Church<br>Improve-<br>ment Day<br>AA |
| 20  | 21               | 22               | 23   | 24                               | 25 | 26                                   |
| St. Patrick's<br>Day Potluck  | Council<br>6:30  |                  | Community<br>Lenten<br>Series<br>6 pm<br>Choir<br>7:30 pm                | Book<br>Group<br>7 pm            |    |                                      |
| 27  | 28               | 29               | 30   | 31                               |    |                                      |
| Coffee<br>House<br>Sunday<br>Deacons<br>Directed                    |                  |                  | Community<br>Lenten<br>Series<br>6 pm<br>Choir<br>7:30 pm                |                                  |    |                                      |

# February Lectionary

## March 6

Ex 24:12-18; Ps 2 or Ps 99; 2 Pet 1:16-21; Matt 17:1-9

*Dazzling Reign*

## March 13

Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

*Abundant Grace*

## March 20

Gen 12:1-4a; Ps 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-9

*Bold Blessing*

## March 27

Ex 17:1-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

*Thirsty Voices*



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

|      |                          |      |                   |
|------|--------------------------|------|-------------------|
| 3/1  | Jim Falls                | 3/14 | Carlotta Vallerga |
| 3/1  | Sharolyn Hutton          | 3/17 | William Shapeero  |
| 3/1  | Linda Shapeero           | 3/20 | Henry Wiley       |
| 3/4  | Mara Hernandez           | 3/24 | Glenn Griffith    |
| 3/7  | Howard & Lois Willson    | 3/31 | Helena Griffith   |
| 3/10 | Pete & Carlotta Vallerga | 3/31 | Maybelle Luther   |



# March Serving Schedule

**Deacon of the Month:** Judie Norton

## Sunday, March 6th (Communion Sunday)

**Greeters:** Michelle Fell-Casale, Tom Schmidt  
**Reader:** Sharolyn Hutton  
**Children's Sermon:** The Pitts Family  
**Acolyte:** Jennifer Schmidt  
**Communion Servers:** Janet Foos, Rafael Leon, Jim Falls, Lois Willson  
**Ushers:** Cameron Cartwright, Phil Smith-Hanes

## Sunday, March 13th:

**Greeters:** Sara Pillow, Howard Willson  
**Reader:** Leslie Leach  
**Children's Sermon:** Michele Fell-Casale  
**Acolyte:** Emma Pinches  
**Ushers:** Jim Falls, Dexter Luther

## Sunday, March 20th:

**Greeters:** Rafael Leon, Stan Smith-Hanes  
**Reader:** Jim Falls  
**Children's Sermon:** Ted Adams  
**Acolyte:** Jordan Schmidt  
**Ushers:** Sharolyn Hutton, Cam-

eron Cartwright

## Sunday, March 27th:

**Greeters:** Sara Pillow, Mary Bawden  
**Reader:** Janet Griffith  
**Children's Sermon:** Roberta Duggan  
**Acolyte:** Emma Pinches  
**Ushers:** Leslie Leach, Howard Willson  
 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, March 14 for a regular meeting in our Fellowship Hall.

The Ministry of Outreach and Social Justice Meets Tuesday, March 15 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.

## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at noon at Babe's in Cutten on the first and third Wednesdays: March 2 and 16. We are reading together Stillspeaking Bible Study after sharing pizza or your order...to 1:30 pm at the latest.



# 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



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.

## Into Your Hands, O God

**Prayer List:** Rafael's mother, Doug Hanson, Mj Goble, Nancy Soncrant, Lois and Howard Willson, Dennis Bawden, Joe Sobolik



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**FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

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United Church of Christ**

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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.