

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
900 Hodgson Street, Eureka, CA 95503
(707) 445-5488
e-mail: EurekaUCC@att.net

*“An Inclusive, Open and Affirming, Loving
and Caring Community”*

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School during the worship hour
Nursery Care is available.

Rev. Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor

Pastor Carlotta's Office Hours:

Tuesdays – by appointment

Wednesdays & Thursdays

9:00 AM – 12 PM in the Church Office

Fridays working from home

Available at any time if needs arise

Christine Tomascheski, Office Manager

Tuesdays & Thursdays

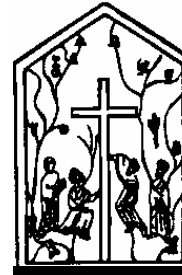
9 AM– 12 noon

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

**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Address label

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.



The Window Newsletter

A monthly publication of First Congregational United Church of Christ
900 Hodgson Street Eureka, CA 95503 (707) 445-5488

Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor

Libby Yee, Editor

May 2009

PENTECOST SUNDAY ON MAY 31



Fifty days after the Resurrection, the first Christians, most of them Jews, gathered to celebrate the Jewish harvest festival known as Pentecost.

At that gathering, something happened that was so awesome and indescribable that when writing about it, St. Luke could only use metaphors. A sound like the rush of a violent wind seemed to fill the entire house where they were meeting. Something like tongues of fire appeared among them — a tongue rested on each of them.

It was then that they “were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability” (Acts 2:4, NRSV). The crowd that gathered outside was amazed and perplexed. They wanted to know what it meant. Some observers thought it was a gathering of drunks.

But Peter interpreted it all correctly to anyone who would listen. He told of

Christ, his life, his mission, his death and his Resurrection. Most importantly, Peter explained that God had made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. The proof of that was the Resurrection.

Three thousand people were so moved by Peter's words that they were baptized that day and “devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42, NRSV).

“And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47, NRSV). The Church was born that day.

Come celebrate Pentecost Sunday, May 31, by wearing red.

MOTHER'S DAY POTLUCK

On Sunday, May 10, women will be treated by the men as they bring items for the Social Hour potluck. Thank you to all the men in our congregation!

PASTOR'S VIEW

The period of time after Jesus' resurrection was one of growth for the group that was to become the first group of Christians to be called a church. They grew each day and week until the day of Pentecost came and formed them into a powerful, effective group of believers that went out to spread Jesus' message and teachings. Pentecost brings us the image of power through wind and flames. The wind might move like a gentle breeze or move through like a mighty storm and the flames set off a glow that warms and reflects everything around. Those first believers had a unique experience that involved many, many people and changed the world.

As we prepare for the celebration of Pentecost on May 31st we need to prepare by gathering together and bringing more people in to join us. In looking at the attendance in the past several weeks it indicates that we are growing. We have been averaging over sixty in attendance. If we can keep that up, we will be ready for Pentecost and the celebration that will send us out into our community to spread the word of who we are.

In order to get the word out about who we are and our hundred and fifty years of ministry in this community, we are planning to do a big media blitz in August and September. This will include ads on TV, radio and in newspapers. This outreach will embrace the Stillspeaking campaign of our denomination and we are hoping to receive a Stillspeaking grant. It is exciting to envision and plan new ways of reaching out with our unique message of love and acceptance for all God's people.

As we are growing, we are experiencing a new surge of energy which energizes everyone. Like those early Christians we are on the move and the wind of the Spirit is blowing us in the directions we need to go.

Our congregation is growing in service projects, from the gathering of towels and supplies for Betty Chin, to the food items in the food basket, to the Heifer Llama project that our children are doing, to the vigil for Marriage Equality, to the service on the Vitality Task Force and the 150th Committee. All of that along with our ongoing church Ministries. May our service be a reflective glow that lights up our congregation and our community.

Blessings,



MAY Serving Schedule

Deacon of the Month: Michele Fell-Casale

May 3:

Greeter: Michele Fell-Casale

Reader: Lew Norton

Children's Sermon: The Pitts Family

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Stan Smith-Hanes, Phil

Smith-Hanes, Libby Yee, Howard Willson

Communion Servers: Lois Willson, Rafael Leon, Janet Foes, Judie Norton

May 10:

Greeter: Judie Norton

Reader: Fred Jewett, Jr.

Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt

Children's Sermon: Michele Fell-Casale

Ushers: Kim Pinches, Pete Vallerga

May 17:

Greeter: Michele Fell-Casale

Reader: Ted Adams

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Children's Sermon: Janet Foes

Ushers: Tom Schmidt, Rafael Leon

May 24th:

Greeter: Michele Fell-Casale

Reader: Sharolyn Hutton

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Children's Sermon: Roberta Duggan

Ushers: Dexter Luther, Ted Adams

May 31:

Greeter: Michele Fell-Casale

Reader: Judie Norton

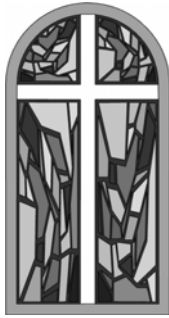
Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt

Children's Sermon: Ted Adams

Ushers: Pete Vallerga, Libby Yee



**Remember:
Scrip is the no cost to you
Fundraiser!
So don't go shopping without it!**



May Lectionary

May 3

Acts 4:5 –12 & Psalm 23, 1 John 3: 16-24 & John 10: 11-18

Enfolded by Love

May 10

Acts 8: 26-40 & Psalm 22: 25-31, 1 John 4: 7-21 & John 15: 1-8

Abiding in Love

May 17

Acts 10: 44-48 & Psalm 98, 1 John 5: 1-6 & John 15: 9-17

Friends Together

May 24

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 & Psalm 1, 1 John 5: 9-13 & John 17: 6-19

Guided in Prayer

May 31

Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezekiel 37: 1-14 & Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b, Romans 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21 & John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

Spirit for All



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 5/3 Dexter Luther
- 5/7 Tom Foos
- 5/7 Luella Garrett
- 5/11 Don Atterbury
- 5/13 ChrisSmith
- 5/16 John Griffith
- 5/16 Richard & Susan Whaley
- 5/23 Kyle Theuerkauf
- 5/25 Doug Hanson
- 5/25 Dillon Huber
- 5/26 Michele Fell
- 5/28 Lisa Rizer

The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labour for.

St Thomas More, 1478-1535

“The Journey Continues...”

The sun was warm but the wind was chill,
You know how it is with an April day
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You’re one month on in the middle of May.

But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you’re two months back in the middle of March . . .

Robert Frost

Last month in this spot, I spoke of journeys. Recently, I read this poem on one of those days Frost describes. It seemed perfect to share with you as our church is on its journey into the next 150 years. As we know, every journey requires a map and there are often mileposts guiding the way. A recent milepost for us was the presentation by Hospice of Humboldt as the first step in the Deacons’ continuing project dealing with “end-of-life issues.”

Another is the work being done by our children to raise funds for the purchase of llamas and chickens to give people in a far away land. With the help of their teachers, they have prepared waffles, put on a play, and used their artistic talents to design artwork for sale at a future date. Both projects are road signs to the future of our church.

Historical sites are part of many trips, and our 150th Anniversary Committee has been studying the church’s history. Our history guides us today in actions revolving around service to others and social justice issues. However, many important historical sites and visions have crumbled into disarray due to lack of guideposts or upkeep, an outcome we do not want to see happen to our buildings and grounds, which are aging. Decisions will need to be made in the near future about how to meet the needs of our facilities for our celebration in October, as well as for the coming years. We benefit today from the forward planning of the early founders and leaders of our church and want to do the same for the generations to come. Of course, repairs, refurbishing, and replanting require preparation, time, money and labor; but there is no ATM with an endless supply of those things. Your Church Council and the Vitality Task Force are looking at ways we can prepare for the future and continue the Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ’s journey into the next 150 years.

Many journeys involve detours, which take us “out of the way” on the road to our destination. There are those in our fellowship who are experiencing detours of pain and loss. Our “road-side-assistance” brings cards, calls
(continued on pg. 4)

and visits to refuel the spirit. Our rest areas and vista points lead us to prayer, study and fellowship with one another and communication with God's Spirit. Some off-road experiences are chosen, some are not. However, these adventures have the potential to bring us joy, new understanding or an unexpected sanctuary.

I had a serendipitous moment while on a week-end road trip with my daughter, Christina. We were visiting my other daughter, Lynn. She took us to a wonderful independent bookstore where we discovered "The Green Bible" which is printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper. What an inspiring edition to use as we plan the next 150 years! In the forward by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, he writes "...starting in Genesis, you will see that after God created birds, fish and animals he created humans to be his viceroys and to act "compassionately and gently" toward all forms of life. The future of our fragile, beautiful planet home is in our hands. As God's family, we are stewards of God's creation." I recently learned that there is an area of church property designated for outdoor worship. I am inspired to learn where exactly it is so we too can be stewards of God's creation. I depend on those of you with years of experience to guide those of us who are newcomers to this place and determine if it is a good sanctuary for the soul. I am looking forward to the coming weeks and months of our journey!

Sharolyn



Treasurer's Corner *By Reg Kennedy*

This financial update covers the period January through March 2009.

Total income: \$19,694.16

Total expenses: \$20,793.22

We are three months into our fiscal year and continue doing well.

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through March is \$12,453.00. This is 98% of our expected pledge for this period. We are every close to achieving 100% by the end of April.

Tables and chairs fund update. Through March 2009, total in this special on-going fundraiser is \$789.93.

UCC special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing: our total for this offering was \$517.00

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



Beyond Llamas

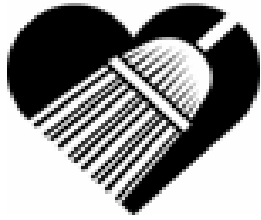
*By Meg Walkley for
Christian Education*

In these economic times, we don't have to look far for families in need of extra support. So, after the two llamas and the flock of chickens are purchased for families in South America through the Heifer project, we would like to direct the remaining proceeds of the "Light Up a Life with a Llama" campaign to local efforts such as the Food Bank or Betty Chinn's outreach. We will be discussing this with the participating children and finalizing this decision in the next few weeks.

The last opportunity to contribute to the campaign will be on Sunday, May 31st. Christian Education will be hosting a "Beyond Llamas Art Sale," with pieces from some of the children and adults in our church family available for a donation. You

can help in two ways: 1) If you are an artistic/crafty sort of person, donate an original piece for our sale. Please get the piece to Meg or Sandi by Sunday, May 29th, so we can prepare the "suggested donation" list. 2) If you like art, bring some extra dollars with you on the 31st to acquire a new piece.

Summer Sundays are just around the corner and Christian Education will be planning how to keep the children connected to their faith journeys as they head off to camps, vacations and other activities. Let us know if you have any ideas. We have awesome children in our congregation. Please be sure to let them know how much you appreciate them!



GRANNY'S ATTIC SALE

By Doralee Smith

It's time to scour those closets and cupboards for antiques and collectibles for our Granny's Attic sale to be held on **June 6th**. We will need lots of help, so please mark the date and plan to be there. Items needed are: antique furniture, china, glassware, vintage kitchen utensils, linens, books, and much more. Kim and Doralee will assist you on the following drop-off dates: **May 16th from 9:30-12:00 and May 17th after worship**. Other times can be arranged by appointment. Please do not leave anything at church without checking with Kim or Doralee first. This is a fun event, and there is potential to turn unused treasures into \$\$ for our treasury. More details to follow.

150TH ANNIVERSARY

Anniversary plans are moving along. We have booked gospel artist Marsha Stevens to sing during the weekend. Watch for details and check our website. We are also offering T-shirts for sale with logo and we are offering the chance to purchase memorial plaques for our memorial wall piece designed to commemorate this milestone for our church.

Please see Kim for details and see the T-shirt form in this newsletter. T-shirt order deadline is early June. The anniversary committee is working hard and I'm very thankful for their efforts.

Blessings,

Kim Pinches

BUILDING & GROUNDS

By Doralee Smith, chair

The B & G committee has been clearing brush in preparation to extend the pipe that drains below the Social Hall. We plan to complete this job in the coming month. Also, Bill, Libby, Tom, Fred, and Maybelle worked diligently on the grounds last Saturday (hope I didn't forget anyone). Thanks, the garden looks great.

We received the pest report, and it seems we have unwelcome company in our Sanctuary building. We have two kinds of termites, powder post beetles, and ants. There is also some structural damage that will need to be taken care of. We are going to have the rest of the buildings inspected so that we will have a complete picture of all the work that is needed. More on this next month.



**Into
your
hands,
O God**

Please keep the following people in prayer: Sharolyn and family Linda Shapeero, Libby Yee's parents, Susan Whaley and family, Mary Huber Wallaker's parents, Enisha Clark, Elsa Clark, Pat Ritacco (Janet Fooks' sister), Sherman Juster (friend of Bill Shapeero), Peg Senimore, Grace Copper (Mary Bawden's aunt), Harry and Luella Garrett and the Ministry of the Deacons.

FREE TAI CHI INTRODUCTION CLASS FOR MEMBERS OF 1ST CONGREGATIONAL

Learn some simple, gentle movements to improve balance, flexibility, strength, and mobility.

Date: Thursday, May 14th



Time: 7 PM

Place: Social Hall



MAY 2009

Every Sunday at First Congregational Church:
 Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School during the worship hour September – June
 Coffee Hour following worship.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Church Office Hours: Carlotta: Tuesdays by appointment. Wednesdays & Thursdays 9-12 in the Church Office. Fridays from Home. Available at any time if needs arise. Christine: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-12 in the Church Office				1	2
3 Ministry meetings	4	5 Book Group 7:00 PM Pastor Carlotta's MAC 5- 8 PM Tai Chi 3:30 PM	6 Lunch Bunch Lectionary Study ROW 6 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM	7	8	9 Vitality Task Force 9:30 AM
10 MEN DO COFFEE HOUR — MOTHER'S DAY	11  Mother's Day	12 Tai Chi 3:30 PM	13 YARNERS Choir Practice 7:30 PM	14 Tai Chi Demo 7 PM Social Hall	15 	16 Church Improve- ment Day 9:30 – 12:00
17 End of Life Planning Ministry meetings as needed	18	19 Tai Chi 3:30 PM	20 Lunch Bunch Choir Practice 7:30 PM	21 COUNCIL MEETING 6 PM SOCIAL HALL	22	23
24 31 COFFEE HOUSE SUN. PENTECOST SUN- DAY	25 Memorial Day	26 Tai Chi 3:30 PM	27 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	28 Pastor Carlotta at Asilomar.....	29 	30  Pray for Peace