

May 2011



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Window Newsletter

Pastor's View

Jesus lives again; earth can breath again - pass the love around. What a incredible gift God have given to all of us through the Easter resurrection story. From now until Pentecost, June 12th, is the Easter Season when we continue to celebrate God's gift of new life.

The good news of Easter came for our congregation as I have continued my conversation with Ron Buford and affirmed his plans to arrive here and be with us during my sabbatical time. Then, at a Clergy for Choice meeting at Planned Parenthood, I stated that we were looking for housing for him and a woman at the table said "I think I can help you with that as I have a studio apartment below my house that should fit that need." I went and looked at it and was amazed to discover what a perfect place it would be for Ron and that it is on

Humboldt Hill with a beautiful view of the north bay area; on a clear day you can see to Trinidad Head. Not only is it a beautiful apartment and setting, but all she asked for was money to cover the utilities - which makes it fit our budget restraints. The Spirit of God moves with us as we move into this exciting time of new opportunities and growth. Thanks be to God!

Included in this newsletter is the official letter of invitation I sent to Ron, inviting him to come and be my sabbatical replacement. I plan to be around, participating in discussions and planning, but not preaching and doing the everyday work of pastoring. My plans include putting my kitchen back together after a month renovation - also some time in Santa Rosa to upgrade my computer skills at the Apple Store workshops. July will include a visit from our exchange student from Vietnam, Anh, as well as grandchildren and

other family members and maybe a trip to Camp Cazadero during the Junior Camp week. August will include some extensive travel time with friends and then time to reconnect with Ron and the congregation as we prepare for the fall schedule and my return. Somewhere in all of that will be refreshing rest.

But first, there is the month of May with Mother's Day, a Book Swap and the annual meeting of our Northern California Nevada Conference and most importantly worship every Sunday as we continue to celebrate God's gift of new life for us and all creation.

This is an exciting time and a great opportunity for opening ourselves to experience something new that will prepare us to continue the journey ahead of giving service and bringing the "God is Still Speaking" message to our own lives and to our community.

Blessings,

Pastor Carlotta



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- (707) 445-5488
- Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor
- Ted Adams, Editor

Pastor's Invitation to Ron Buford

FIRST CONGREGATION UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

900 Hodgson St.

Eureka California, 95503

Rev. Carlotta J. Vallerga, Pastor

707-445-5488

April 27, 2011

To: Ron Buford

Re: Invitation for Sabbatical Ministry

Dear Ron;

After many conversations with you and with our Church Council and Congregation, we are pleased to officially invite you to serve our Eureka congregation for my summer sabbatical. We hope you will be able to arrive on or before May 29, 2011 for the Coffee House Worship service that the Deacons will be leading and that you will continue to serve our congregation through the Labor Day Weekend with your last Sunday of preaching to be Sept. 4, 2011.

During your three months here our expectations are that you will lead worship through preaching and officiating at the communion table, be available for funerals and any other needs that may arise. We hope you will teach at our ROW (Reflection on Wednesdays) for both the lectionary study and doing an adult study with

the congregation. Of course you will have the Deacons and Christian Education Committees to work with and give you support. We are especially delighted that your time here will give our Vitality Task Force more opportunities to meet with you to continue working on marketing and outreach into our community. Your visits to us in the past two years have enriched the life of this congregation and helped the leadership to build a stronger and more active congregation.

I am looking forward to your being here and freeing me to have some needed time for personal rest and reflection along with some travel time with my husband and friends. I will not be out of town the whole three months, so am looking forward to being involved in the some of the planning and strategy meetings; this will allow me to be present and participate, but you and the church leaders will be doing the work. I believe this will be a very healthy model and opportunity for all of us.

As for a financial package we are only able to offer housing for this three month period. We are working on securing a place that does not involve living with members of the congregation; we are seeking a small house or apartment that we hope will meet your needs. We hope you have personal income or

grants to meet your other expenses and maybe a few dinner invitations and invites to some of our wonderful local restaurants will ease your expenses.

Our congregation is excited to have you join us for a summer of refreshing rest and renewed vitality.

Blessings, Carlotta Vallerga

IN EVERY
THING GIVE
THANKS; FOR
THIS IS GOD'S
WILL FOR YOU
IN CHRIST
JESUS.

Moderator

"Where am I?"

Today, as I write this, it is Easter. I am in Oklahoma and will attend the Federated Church this morning which includes UCC, but I will be thinking of our own service and missing you. This is a day we are all reminded again of Jesus journey to Jerusalem and the cross and of his spiritual presence with us today. I am also reminded that Jesus had a choice and that he was, by today's standards, quite young when he died. Every Sunday, we say, "wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." I am already twice the age of Jesus at his death age and still think of myself as young or at least young-ish! However, I have been on a journey these past weeks that has led me to ask, "Where am I on that journey?"

This past month I have observed my mother struggle with the impact of age on her body. Only a few years ago, she was taking meals to shut-ins, driving people to appointments, singing in the "Senior Choir" at

church and teaching Sunday School. Now, she drives herself to the Sonic drive-in for breakfast in her car, but can't climb the two steps to her front door. She does crypto quotes and beats me at Scrabble, but doesn't always remember which day it is. She has difficult choices to make in the coming months and I want to be supportive. We don't have a choice about aging, but I find myself asking, "Where am I on this journey?" I think I am too young to make the adjustments needed as we age, but am realizing that is not true. Our deacons continue to bring us helpful information about end-of life preparation, but I have finally realized, as many of you already have, that it is not the end of life that concerns me but getting there!

I take some consolation in Jesus' words, "For lo, I am with you always." I could add, "even as you age."

In Christ,
Sharolyn

P. S. 1. Did you know that the state of Oklahoma is not as old as our church? It became a state in 1907.

2. The Trail of Tears and the Chisholm Trail involve journeys into Oklahoma.

3. Many Oklahomans moved to California during the Dust Bowl days looking for work.

4. Okie is a derogatory name to many.

5. The soil in western Oklahoma is deep red.



Faithfully Walking

Our congregation has taken up the Faithfully Walking Challenge from March 1 to April 23 some 2300 miles as part of First Lady Michelle Obama' challenge. The first phase of the contest is done by mid June. Hopefully we can get everyone walking more – since walking regularly leads to good health. Folks

should let me know each week how many steps they have taken, or how far they have walked, how far jogged, or even just how much time spent in walking – I'll keep track and total it all up for our congregation. We have a great start so far. Janet Foos



Buildings and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds News

The big news from your Buildings and Grounds committee is that the electrical upgrades are nearly completed. We have a new electrical panel, and the weather head has been replaced and firmly secured to the roof. We can all rest much easier now that this work is finished. The next project is to replace the panel in the kitchen and add new outlets. Each new outlet will be on a separate circuit. The electrician is working on an estimate for this work. We are already over budget on the electrical work, so..... we'll see. It sure would be nice to get this done soon. I know that everyone is tired of tripping the breakers, but it was very im-

portant to get the other work done first.

Have you noticed our clean, shiny floors in the Social Hall? We also have a new rug in the entry way. It's the one we originally picked out. I think it looks great, and the darker color won't show the dirt as much. Let's wipe our feet and keep it looking nice as long as we can.

Enjoy this beautiful Spring weather!

Doralee



Treasurer's Corner

Reg
This financial update covers the period January through March 2011.

Total income: \$20,335.14

Total expenses: \$21,126.48

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through March is \$15,169.00. This is 102% of the expected pledge.

Tables and chairs fund up-

date. There is \$67.05 in the fund.

Imagine Building Fund 2010 update. There is \$6,949.35 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.



Deacons

News from the Deacons' Ministry

As we reflect and are renewed by the mystery and hope experienced from our recent services of the Easter season – Maundy Thursday, Sunrise Service, and Easter—we look forward to a “new” year full of peace, joy, and love that we witness in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Now the work and life of corporate worship begins as we move into May and June, anticipating Pastor Carlotta’s sabbatical from May 22 through June and also the month of August. Deacons want to support Pastor Carlotta’s much-deserved sabbatical with adequate preparation so we look forward to planning some exciting and new services while she is gone. We are excited and honored that Ron Buford will be preaching for us this summer as our guest preacher and the deacons will be assisting him as he ministers to us. And, although Pastor Carlotta will not be preaching, she will still be available for consultation and guidance as the deacons and other committees assist Ron in serving us in ministry this summer.

The exciting news about the apartment is just the way God works in mysterious ways to supply all we need. We were all looking and praying for a place for Ron, but it seemed to be difficult. However God opens the door at the right time and now we can move forward to enjoy this summer as

Pastor Carlotta enjoys a much desired and needed refreshing sabbatical.

When we were thinking (with some trepidation) about the Pastor’s sabbatical, Stan sent us a link to the UCC website, <http://www.ucc.org/news/pastors-sabbatical-spurs.html>, (which you may want to explore) and an article that describes one church’s innovative plan for dealing with their pastor’s sabbatical. The First Congregational UCC in Mason City, Iowa instituted a series of “self serve” Sundays while their minister was away and found that not only did they solve the problem of pulpit supply but by participating and leading in creative services, the congregation found themselves enriched.

"I believe that this experience is full of potential as the congregation has the opportunity to not only think outside the box, but also to reflect on what elements make worship relevant, fulfilling and transformative," she [one of the planning members] says. "We are all called to be disciples. By utilizing the gifts in the congregation, our church gets to rediscover the gifts for ministry within. That excites me."

As the Deacons pray and plan for Pastor Carlotta’s sabbatical, we, as a congregation, will all have the opportunity to work with Ron in worship and assistance with ministry. This will give us all an opportu-

nity to be the hands and heart of God’s work in our church. It has been a very exciting time to see how we could give Pastor Carlotta a sabbatical. In moving forward we are all encouraged to see how God continues to speak to us in the life of our congregation. This indeed will be a very blessed summer. Praise be to God.

Libby Yee



Christian Education

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 leading 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!

As we approach the end of the school year, we'd like to remind families that the ARK pro-

gram will run through the summer. The summer is a wonderful time to share something special with our youth. Some ideas are singing campfire songs or exploring nature-based art activities. If you might be interested in leading our children on summer Sundays, please let Meredith know.

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

July 10-16: Caz Junior High (grades 7-9)
July 17-23: Caz Senior High (grades 10-12)

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

Katri Pitts

Fellowship

Fellowship flowering in May

With five Sundays, there will plenty of opportunities for food, fun and fellowship this month. It all starts on May 1, with our monthly celebration of birthdays. Then on May 8, the men of the congregation will host the coffee hour in honor of Mother's Day. On May 15, please join us for our Spring Cleaning Book Swap (see below). Following a "regular" Sunday on May 22, we'll have our next Coffeehouse Sunday on May 29!

Spring Cleaning Book

Swap: Please bring used books that you'd like to trade with others in the congregation. Fellowship will have tables set up to display the books. Please bring books that might be of interest to others, in

reasonable condition; we don't have room to store lots of extras that we have to find homes for after the event.

Looking ahead: Remember, polish up your bowling shoes and refine that form. On Sunday, June 19th, after the women of the congregation return the favor and host coffee hour in honor of Father's Day, the Fellowship Ministry will sponsor our Third Sunday of the Third Month fellowship event, *Papa was a Bowling Stone*. More details in next month's newsletter.

Even further ahead: As you're planning your summer vacation, remember to be in town on August 21 for California Sunday.

FALLEN

BUT NEVER
FORGOTTEN

Announcements

Now that Henry Willey has moved to Silvercrest he can no longer walk to Church on Sundays. If you are able to help him out with transportation to Church please call or email him at healthwellness1@live.com or call him at 444-0167 Thank you very much.

If anyone would like to assist Ron Buford with gift cards for groceries or eating out, you can bring them by the church office or give them to any of the deacons and we will make sure Ron receives them. This will help Ron with his board and will give us all an opportunity to assist him as he is staying here with us. If anyone would like to invite him for a home-cooked meal, I am sure that

would be appreciated as well.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

5/3 Dexter Luther

5/28 Lisa Rizer

5/7 Tom Foos

5/10 Sara Pillow

5/13 Chris Smith

5/16 John Griffith

5/23 Kyle Theuerkauf

5/25 Doug Hanson

5/26 Michele Fell-Casale



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.

August 21st—California Sunday

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:
Kathy Hanson

May 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion Resources	2	3 MAC Tai Chi	4 ROW Lectionary 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day Men do Coffee hour	9 PFLAG 6:30 PM	10 Tai Chi Christian Ed 5:45 Katri's	11 EIF noon Hospice Choir 7:30 pm	12	13	14 Fellowship Meeting 4 pm
15 Book swap after worship	16 Council 6:30 pm	17 Tai Chi	18 Choir 7:30 pm	19 Hall use 5-9 pm NCNC Annual Gathering through the 22nd	20	21
22 Pastor Carlotta off Sharolyn Preaches	23	24 Tai Chi	25 Choir 7:30 pm	26	27	28
29 Veteran's Day Deacon's Coffeeshouse Sunday Pastor Carlotta off	30	31 Tai Chi				

May Lectionary

May 1

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16; I Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Body Language

May 8

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19; I Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Breaking Bread

May 15

Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23; I Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Powerful Witness

May 22

Acts 7:55-60; Ps 31:1-5, 15-16; I Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Enduring Witness

May 29

Acts 17:22-31; Ps 66:8-20; I Pet 3:13-22; John 14; 15-21

Witness of Love

May Serving Schedule

Deacon of the Month: Kathy Hanson

Sunday, May 1 (Communion Sunday)

Greeters: Sara Pillow, Pete Vallerga

Reader: Fred Jewett

Children's Sermon: The Pitts Family

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Communion Servers: Janet Foos, Judie Norton, Roberta Duggan, Doralee Smith

Ushers: Dexter Luther, Kim Pinches

Coffee Hour: Fellowship

Sunday, May 8

Greeters: Rafael Leon, Janet Griffith

Reader: Phil Smith-Hanes

Children's Sermon: Janet Foos

Acolyte: Jenifer Schmidt

Ushers: Lew Norton, Tom Schmidt

Coffee Hour: Men (Mother's Day)

Sunday, May 15:

Greeters: Howard Willson, Linda Shapeero

Reader: Kim Pinches

Children's Sermon: Roberta Duggan

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Ted Adams, Jim Falls

Coffee Hour: Mona Conner, Patty Larsen

Sunday, May 22:

Greeters: Pete Vallerga, Lois Willson

Reader: Lew Norton

Children's Sermon: Michelle Fel-Casale

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Leslie Leach, Howard Willson

Coffee Hour:

Sunday May 29 (Coffee House Sunday)

Greeters: Janet Foos, Lois Willson

Reader: Kim Pinches

Children's Sermon: Ted Adams

Acolyte: Jenifer Schmidt

Ushers: Rafael Leon, Phil Smith-

Hanes

Coffee Hour: Deacons

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 "Rooted in Love -- the Fullness of God" 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



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
mcfenzal@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

Outreach and Social Justice

PFLAG will be meeting at 6:30 PM on Monday, May 9 for a regular meeting in our Fellowship Hall.

CHINN SHOWER PROJECT

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



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 1st Tuesday of each month: Tuesday May 3 and Tuesday June 7 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



(May 1 and June 5).

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: Doug Hanson, Mj Goble, Lois and Howard Willson, Neva and Joe Sobolik, Dennis Bawden, Henry Willey, Stan Smith-Hanes as he recovers from his surgery.



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**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**

The Window Newsletter

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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.