

# November 2011



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

## The Window Newsletter

## November Events

### Prayer & Meditation Group

You are invited to gather in the Narthex on Nov. 15th, 1 pm, as we begin our prayer and meditation group. We will meet monthly for approximately an hour to offer prayers in many different forms. We will vary our prayer experience through the lighting of candles, centering on a scripture reading, silent meditation or guided meditation, spoken prayer or just holding the prayer space for all the situations and people that need God's presence, grace, mercy and love. All attending will be expected to adhere to confidentiality and respect for all prayer concerns. If learning about and experiencing new and varied

prayer forms is of interest to you, then join us on Nov. 15th, 1 pm.

### Stewardship Sunday - November 20

Sunday, November 20 will be **Stewardship Sunday**. This year's theme is "**Count Yourself Blessed.**" It is based on Luke 6:38

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion--packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing--will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return."*

Our financial pledging process is faith based where you give according to where your heart is. During the worship service, on November 20 you will be given an opportunity to make a financial pledge for next year.

In about two weeks you will receive a pledge card in the mail. You are encouraged to bring this card with you on Stewardship Sunday. Based on your pledges, fundraisers, and building rental fees, a budget for 2012 is prepared. With sufficient funding, we can meet our fixed financial obligations, continue our various spiritual enrichment programs and our community outreach programs. The proposed budget will be presented to you at the annual meeting in January. Over the next few weeks as you reflect and pray about how this church has aided you in your spiritual journey and the ways it has helped you grow in your faith.

By: Reginald Kennedy



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- Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor
- Ted Adams, Editor

# Pastor's View

## PASTOR'S VIEW

What does November bring us, besides falling leaves and colder weather? It is the end of the church year and the start of a new one, which seems a little out of step with the culture in which we live. That seems fitting since the Church is in the culture but not of the culture. So, we let go of the past and head into Advent which is a time of waiting and patience and the gift of birth and newness.

In the lectionary cycle there are three years of readings, A, B, and C. Year A has focused our readings and teachings in the Gospel of Matthew; Year B will take us to the Gospel of Mark. There are always parallel reading and teaching in the three cycles, but the understanding and presentation of the stories challenges us to be open to new insights and ideas. Since there is no Advent story in the Gospel of Mark, we will rely on the Gospel of Luke to tell us the story of the birth of Jesus.

As we head into November I am thinking that as a congregation we are finishing up several things and preparing ourselves to move forward into new activities and ideas. I have been back on board since the middle of Sept. and it has been important to catch up and finish up some of the work that had been started. As we know, Pastor Ron was a wonderful

idea man who blessed us with new ideas and growth. He left us with several things in process and it has been good to see many of them successfully completed or put in the hands of the appropriate ministries.

There are still many new challenges awaiting our attention and I believe we are ready to move forward with renewed energy and vitality. November is a bridge month - moving from the completion of previous activities into the wonder of new opportunities. Activities you might want to get on board with:

1. Stewardship. We have had two successful fall fundraisers that have stabilized our budget. Now it is time to put our whole selves into the budget for 2012.

2. Prayer and Meditation group called FOGG (Focus on God's Grace) will start in November. This group will meet once a month to practice the discipline of group and individual pray and to fulfill our call to pray for each other and ourselves.

3. The labyrinth is another style of prayer and meditation and we are well on our way to creating one on our property. The research is underway and hopefully we will soon have a workable plan to present to council.

4. ROW Study Group will read and discuss the book *Jesus and Buddha, The Parallel Sayings* by Marcus Borg. This study will encourage us to look for our connections with

other faith traditions. We might expand this study in the future to look at the Muslim, Jewish and Hindu traditions. To live in a world of peace, justice and acceptance requires that we gain an understanding of the people and faiths which share our world.

5. Youth Group Ministry. Watch for the creation of a monthly youth program.

Advent Retreat on Dec. 10th. This is a half day Saturday event that will recharge and refocus our attention and energy in the midst of the busyness of the Christmas Season.

Let us celebrate our congregation's blessings of this past year as we head into the newness of Advent and new activities. Put your whole self in and see what God shakes out!

Blessings, Pastor Carlotta

## Thanksgiving Sing

Our choir is singing in the Community Thanksgiving Sing on November 15th. This is where the choirs of the Eureka Interfaith Fellowship come to together for an evening of music and to give thanks. Our congregation members and the whole community is invited to gather for this evening of praise and thanks. It will begin at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Eureka.

# Moderator

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to reap." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 As we enter into the Thanksgiving season and the continued harvesting of fruits and vegetables, these two verses seem most appropriate. We, as a church, are reaping the rewards of all the efforts you have given to make Treat and Talent a success and to keep our buildings and grounds in good shape, as we prepare for the winter rains that are coming. This is the time of year that Kim Pinches, our Vice Moderator and Nominating Committee Chair, starts calling on people to determine our slate of officers for the coming year. Please be praying for the Spirit's leadership in this effort and be a willing respondent to her call.

I am writing this just before flying to Oklahoma again to visit my 87-year old mother. As our time together becomes more and more precious, I

plan to make the trip more frequently, as weather and finances permit. I am very aware of the truth of the above verses when I make these trips. As I consider some of the members of our fellowship who are dealing with aging issues, I look to them for guidance on my own aging. To our octogenarians, *"Thank you, for being an active part of our congregation and setting an example for us all"*.

So as I conclude this message, it seems fitting to share some other things for which I am thankful.

Thanks to:

the parents who bring their children to church so we can all enjoy their enthusiasm and willingness to participate;

those who teach our children in the Ark and during Children's Sermon;

the Fellowship members who have been so creative and hard-working this year;

the deacons who do so much for

our Sunday service and caring for our members;

those of you who share in the responsibilities on Sunday by ushering, reading Scripture, singing in the choir, greeting, etc.;

those of you with a handshake or a hug for others every Sunday morning;

the choir and the Pitts who bring us beautiful and inspiring music;

those of you who faithfully pray for each and every one of us;

our pastor, Carlotta Vallerga, who brings us words to ponder;

Christine Tomascheski, who works behind the scenes to "get things done"; and finally,

the wonderful members of the Vitality Task Force and the Church Council for all they do.

"Thanks be to God." *Sharolyn*



# Falling into Fellowship

Church is a social as well as a spiritual experience. The Fellowship Ministry exists to provide our congregation ways to build community with each other in a non-worship setting. The principal way we do this is through hosting weekly coffee hours after our Sunday services. One Sunday of each month (typically the first Sunday) is our "Special Sunday," at which

we honor those having birthdays and anniversaries during the month. Most of the remaining Sundays are "simple Sundays" where congregation members volunteer to provide finger foods and the Ministry provides coffee, tea and juice. We also sponsor special events throughout the year.

For November, our Special Sunday

will be on the 6th. The 13th, 20th & 27th will be simple Sundays, although there may be a little something extra for the first Sunday of Advent on the 27th - come and see what we come up with! Our next Fellowship Event will be on December 18, which will be "Popcorn Sunday." Check out the December newsletter for details! Phil Smith-Hanes

# Deacons

The Deacons have so much to be thankful for in how our ministry has benefited the members and friends of our church community. Especially as we see the children want to take part in the worship service. We are going to have an acolyte training session on Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> after worship with the children who are interested. Guidelines have been put together by Judie Norton and any parent interested in having their child be an acolyte, can speak with her. We are continuing to revise the directory and hope to be able to distribute them in the next few months.

End of Life issues have been coming together and look for more information after the New Year. Also Pathways to Health has had a good start and everyone who is participating is enjoying the information and discussions. Deacons will be passing out a list for sign-up to serve in the worship services on stewardship Sunday. This will enable the deacons to have an updated list of who would like to serve and the area(s) they would like to serve in. We thank all of those who have served over the past year. As we enter on this year's holiday season, the Deacons extend a desire that all may have a wonderful Thanksgiving

season. Remembering our still speaking God, it is good to also know that not only does God continue to speak to us, but that God also still speaks to us with joy and laughter. It is good to remember the privilege we all have to serve our wonderful God. We as your deacons are thankful for the ability to serve. Thank you church.

Ted Adams



# Mission 1

## “That they may all be 1”

The Mission 1 initiative for the first 11 days in November is the UCC plans for a coordinated mission campaign to gather 1 million food and household items for local food banks. In addition, the 5300 congregations will advocate for hunger related causes worldwide.

The UCC's overarching mission is : “Continuing Testament,. Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.” The Mission 1 initiative is part of the UCC's outreach to the communities of the churches in the UCC. Although the primary mission is to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice, which includes collecting food for local food banks,

raise online donations for Neighbors in Need, and write letters to Congress to address U.S. foreign assistance to be reformed to better serve the world's poorest people, churches will be encouraged to be creative in local mission projects such as food collection, donations, and finding ways to assist feeding the poor and hungry in the communities.

In addition to addressing the food needs of others, there is a time to reflect on our oneness as a church which is the central theme undergirding the approach to Mission ! “That they all may be 1”.

Further information is on the UCC website <[ucc.org/mission1](http://ucc.org/mission1)>.



## Christian Education

The ARKS program is off to a great start this fall! The children have been studying Moses and exploring faith through song, story-telling, games, and art. The lessons on Moses provided opportunities to reflect on rules that help us live and learn and encourage acts of kindness.

The children have begun their "blessing box" offerings again this year. The children have decided to donate the money we collect to the Companion Animal Shelter in Arcata. The shelter does a lot of work in the community to provide education on animal-related topics. Some programs the money might go toward are: Spay/

Neuter Assistance, Pet Identification, Pet Adoption, Education, and Feral Cat Assistance. If you're interested in learning more about the Companion Animal Shelter, you can visit their website at:

<http://www.animal-foundation.org/>.

Katri Pitts

## Treasurer's Corner

### Treasurer's Corner

*By Reg Kennedy*

This financial update covers the period January through September 2011.

Total income: \$57,275.60

Total expenses: \$68,647.07

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through September is \$43,052.25. This is 91% of the expected pledge.

Tables and chairs fund update. The amount remains \$117.05 in the fund.

Imagine Building Fund 2010 update. There is \$7,311.30 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.

2011 Treat and Talent Fund Raiser update. The amount raised is \$6,507.54. This may not be the final total as more funds may still be received and all the expenses may not have been paid. Thanks again to all who helped with the fundraiser.

## "Doing It Green"

"Why soft paper is rough on forests"

A third of all North American songbirds breed in Canada's boreal forests, which also store prodigious amounts of carbon dioxide. Yet 5 acres of these forests are cut down EVERY MINUTE for newspapers, catalogs - and fluffy toilet pa-

per. Soft toilet paper requires pulp containing long wood fibers found only in virgin timber (from live trees). Please use products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or 100% recycled paper. If every household in the U.S.A. replaced a single roll of virgin fiber toilet papers with a roll

from 100 percent recycled paper, the wood saved would add up to 423,900 trees.

National Wildlife, August/September 2010 pp.16-17



**Church Office Hours:**

**Carlotta:**

Tues. & Thur.  
10 AM-12 PM  
Wed.  
Afternoon

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

**Christine:**  
**Wednesdays**  
4-8PM

**Deacon of the  
Month:**  
**Judie Norton**

# November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 MAC	2 ROW Lec- tionary 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	3	4 Pathways to Health 1:30 — 4:00 pm	5 Fall Back in Time @ 2:00 am Sunday Morning
6 Friend Raising ARC Chil- dren's Choir to sing	7 Vitality 6:30 pm	8 Christian Ed 5:45 pm Katri's Home	9 Lunch Bunch noon Babes ROW Study 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	10 Outreach 1 pm	11 Fellowship 2pm Pathways to Health 1:30 — 4:00 pm	12
13 Deacon's Meeting & Acolyte Training after wor- ship	14 PLAG 6:30 PM	15 Prayer Meditation 1 pm Community Thanks- giving sing 7 pm	16 ROW Study 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	17 Eureka Interfaith Fellowship in Narthex Noon	18 Pathways to Health 1:30 — 4:00 pm	19 Church Improve- ment Day 9:30 to 12:00
20 Stewardship Sunday Church Infor- mation/New Members Class after worship in Narthex	21 Council 6:30	22	23	24 <b>Thanks- giving</b>	25	26
27	28	29	30 Row Study 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	Dec 1 Book Group 7 pm		

# November Lectionary

## November 6

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7 or  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or  
Amos 5:18-24; Wisdom of Solomon  
6:17-20 or Ps 70; I Thess 4:13-18;  
Matt 25:1-13

*Ready to Shine*

## November 13

Judge 4:1-7; Ps 123 or Zeph 1:7, 12-

18; Ps 90:1-8 (9-11),12; I Thess 5:1-  
11; Matt 25:14-30

*Abundant Possibilities*

## November 20

Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 100; Ps  
95:1-7a; Eph 1:15-23; Matt 25:31-  
46

*Reign of Christ*

## November 27

Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; I Cor  
1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

*Longing*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/3 Bob Pillow  
11/3 Jennifer Schmidt  
11/3 Phil Smith-Hanes  
11/4 Robin Romo  
11/5 Doralee Smith  
11/9 Mary'I Atterbury  
11/15 Larry Pitts  
11/18 John Tomascheski  
11/21 Chris & Doralee Smith



## Into Your hands, O God

**Please keep the following people in prayer:**

Howard & Lois Willson, Mj Goble,  
Janet & Glenn Griffith,  
Doug Hanson, Richard Tolleson,  
Dennis Bawden, Ted Adams, David  
Adams, Rafael  
Leon, Marcus  
Powell and  
partner Ashley  
Pierce, Joanna,  
and our  
Congregation.



## Book Group

BOOK GROUP - DECEMBER 1ST

Book group has chosen the  
book, *At Home, A short History of  
Private Life by Bill Bryson*, for this  
month's read. It promises to be a  
light , humorous look at the things  
that make up our homes and our  
lives and how they came to be the  
ordinary things of our lives. We  
will also continue our discussion of

the book for October, *State of  
Wonder* by Ann Patchett. Keep  
reading and join the group on Dec.  
1st , 7 p.m., for a great discussion,  
good company and a wonderful  
dessert.

**Recycle** for Church Account Gen-  
eral Fund. Bring to the Sunshine  
Room aluminum cans, bottles, jars  
and plastic marked "CA CASH RE-  
FUND" or "CA. CRV". You can also  
deliver to Eureka Transfer Station  
yourself. Remember to use church  
account #374.

# Serving in Worship for November

# Buildings and Grounds

**Deacon of the Month:** Judie Norton

**Sunday, November 6th:  
(Communion Sunday)**

Greeter: Sara Pillow, Michelle Fell-Casale

Reader: Phil Smith-Hanes

Children's Sermon: The Pitts Family

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Bill Shapeero, Linda Shapeero

Communion Servers: Rafael Leon, Doralee Smith, Roberta Duggan, Lois Willson

**Sunday, November 13th:**

Greeter: Pete Vallerga, Howard Willson

Reader: Lew Norton

Children's Sermon: Michelle Fell-Casale

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Sharolyn Hutton, Dexter Luther

**Sunday, November 20th:**

Greeter: Stan Smith-Hanes

Reader: Sharolyn Hutton

Children's Sermon: Ted Adams

Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt

Ushers: Rafael Leon, Janet Foos

**Sunday, November 27th:**

Greeter: Sara Pillow, Libby Yee

Reader: Fred Jewett

Children's Sermon: Roberta Duggan

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Pete Vallerga, Tom Schmidt



# 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: November 1 and December 6, from 4:45-5:45 p.m. helping serve supper for the residents and/or 6:30-7:30 p.m. helping with activities for children during parental meetings. To volunteer, contact Sara Pillow by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (October 30, December 6).



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

## ROW (Reflections on Wednesdays)

ROW Lectionary discussion is on Nov. 2nd. We will read and discuss the Old Testament, Epistle readings, and New Testament readings for the month of November. We will look for themes and continuity in the passages as we end the readings for Year A and prepare us for the start of Advent.

ROW Study. On Nov. 9th we will start a new study based on the book "Jesus and Buddha, The Parallels". A great deal of interest has been expressed in learning about other faith traditions and how our Christian faith shares common threads to the Buddhist, Islamic and Jewish traditions. We will start the discussion with the Christian and Buddhist faith traditions by using this book by Marcus Borg. This discussion group will meet Nov. 9th, 16th & 30th and will continue in January if more time is needed.

All ROW groups are on Wednesday evening at 6 pm in the Narthex. Bring a Brown Bag dinner

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## 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 nutri-

tion include:  
protein items  
canned meats  
chili/stew  
canned tuna  
grains, pasta, & rice  
soups  
breakfast cereals  
nutritional drinks  
boxed & canned juices  
beans  
canned fruits & veggies

Note: There is a can for monetary donations also. Outreach and Social Justice Ministry encourages everyone to donate locally to the Food for People Food Bank between November 1 and 11. November is the Sunday to bring your donations. We will turn in our total donations numbers to the U.C.C. Mission 1 project..

## Social Justice and Outreach Ministry

### Chinn's Shower Project

We have baskets in the Social Hall every Sunday to collect individual use toiletries and any size towels and washcloths. Her other projects need men's pants/jeans and sweat-shirts, clean yes, used OK.



PFLAG will be meeting on November 14th at 6:30 PM. Remember this group in your prayers. Though not a part of the church ministries, yet this group meets a real need of our LGBT community for support and caring.

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**FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

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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.