

October 2011



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

# The Window Newsletter

## Treat and Talent — Spaghetti Dinner

Come one ...come all! On Saturday, October 22, our social hall will again overflow with fun and excitement. It will be our annual Treat and Talent...our biggest social event and fundraiser of the year. It is time to invite family and friends. The evening will start with a superb spaghetti dinner, salad, garlic bread and desert. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 4-12 years old. The wee ones, 3 and under, are free. For tickets, contact the Resource Ministry team.

The treats and talents offered at the silent and Dutch auctions are many and varied. Some examples of things offered in the past are: din-

ing get-togethers with wonderful food and fellowship; classes in crocheting, beading, guitar, computers; useful services like gardening, hauling, painting, cleaning, babysitting; expert advice on many topics; handmade items such as quilts, sweaters, scarves, clothing, paintings; pictures, jewelry, wreathes; baskets of various goodies; and always a good number of very original offerings. There will surely be something tempting for you. Be thinking about what you would like to offer. In fact, if you own a business, consider donating an item to either auction; or if you know someone who does ask them if they would consider donating an item. If you have any questions on

the silent auction, contact Janet Foos.

For the Dutch auction, contact Doralee Smith.

There are many ways to help with this fun event shopping, setting up, serving, and clean up.

Opportunities to sign up to help are available every Sunday during coffee hour, be sure to sign-up to help.

**Our goal this year is \$6,750.00.**

See you there  
**October 22, 2011  
at 6:00 PM!**



A monthly publication of Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

- 900 Hodgson Street Eureka, Ca 95503
- (707) 445-5488
- Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor

## Pastor's View

Connecting and re-connecting - those are the stories and realities of our lives. The lectionary readings for the month of October all remind us of our faith connections through the early stories of the Exodus and the leadership of Moses and the gospel readings from Matthew and stories of Jesus ministry and the start of the Christian faith. Each time we hear the ancient stories we have the opportunity to re-connect with how God's presence was there in the ordinary lives of those faithful people of God.

As we return from vacations, family activities, sabbatical and weekends of fun in the sun, we discover again how good it is to be connected with church family and friends. It is good to hear the faith stories of our friends and family members as we affirm again how God journeys with us in our own lives and relationships.

I believe the mission of the church is to provide opportunities for people to connect with the God who loves us and travels with us through life. One of the ways we provide this opportunity is through worship; each Sunday morning we sing together, pray together, hear the scriptures read and interpreted, and then we join our lives together in fun, fellowship and service. What a wonderful church family we journey with in discovering the living and still speaking God!

During the summer months

when I was on Sabbatical, every ministry group was very active and supportive of Pastor Ron and you accomplished a great deal. So the question is where are we going from here.

This month's journey will certainly include our very own fundraiser, Treat and Talent. When we all jump on board with ticket sales and items for the silent auction and Dutch auction we will have a successful event that will stabilize our budget during these last months of the year. This event isn't just about money, it is that fun event that builds our friendships and strengthens our commitment to our congregation and each other.

There are many opportunities to strengthen and grow your faith in the months ahead. Come on Wed. evenings 6 p.m. to ROW Study Group. First meeting will be Oct. 12th when Sharolyn Hutton will join me in leading this group. Materials and schedule will be available at that first meeting.

You can also attend Lunch Bunch on October 12th or Women of Wisdom on Oct. 14th for a connection that can boost your openness to God's spirit among us. Book Group will meet on Oct. 25th to discuss two books, *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett and *Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. Interesting reading leads to good discussions.

There are two things I am hoping to get started on in the new future. The first is an outdoor labyrinth that will be dedicated to our

long time faithful member, Maybelle Luther. The labyrinth is an age old way of prayer and connecting with God. We are looking at possible places and layout styles and hope to develop a plan in the near future. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in accomplishing this wonderful dream.

I am also interested in starting a prayer group which would meet once a month in the Narthex. This prayer group would include various styles of praying including: lighting of candles, silent prayer, group spoken prayers, Scriptural prayers, praying the Psalms, guided meditation, walking prayer. Prayer can come in many different forms and this group would have the opportunity to explore the various styles. Please let me know if you are interested and what time of the day or evening would work best for you.

Connecting with God and each other is our theme for the month - may God's spirit lead us.

Blessings, Pastor Carlotta

## Moderator

"Take time to be holy, speak oft with your God" are the opening words of an old hymn that has present day applications. October is here and it feels like we are back in full swing with our various organizations and activities, in addition to our jobs. Buildings and Grounds members have been busy with preparations for winter, the needs of Betty Chinn's program have increased in intensity as colder weather approaches, and Treat and Talent is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month, a fun fund-raising time that requires all of us to be involved. At a time with so many things needing our attention, we need to allocate our time wisely. (Perhaps I am the only one needing to do this?) When we are busiest, I believe that it is more important than ever to find time to be alone with time to pray and be in communion with our God. I wonder how each of us does that --- in the garden? on a hike in the woods? at the beach? in the kitchen? driving?

I will place a poster on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and each of us can write the way or ways we find time to be alone and time to pray.

Thanks to each of you who participated in our semi-annual meeting. We voted to use the VANCO on-line payment option for those wanting that service.

We also agreed to forward an application for a McLean Foundation grant to upgrade the sanctuary bathroom. On both of these items, time is needed to see the results, so "stay posted" and we will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Sharolyn L. Hutton, Moderator



## Falling into Fellowship

Now that the fall season is in full swing, remember that we are changing our Sunday coffee hours. October 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our "Special Sunday," featuring bigger treats and our monthly birthday/ anniversary cake. Oct. 9, 16 & 23 will be "Simple Sundays" for easy clean-up. If you've signed up to provide treats on a Simple Sunday, please check with Fellowship for details.

For October 30, we're planning a special "Hallowed Coffee House" event - details to be revealed in worship this month!

Phil Smith-Haynes



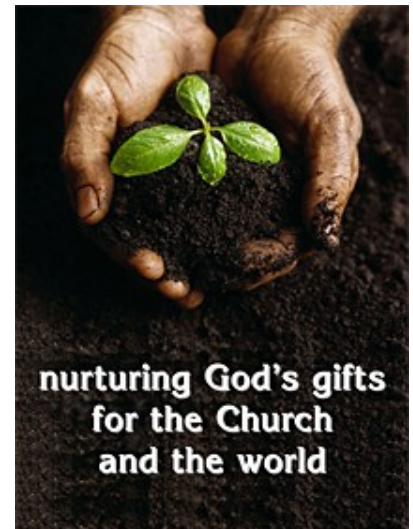
# Buildings and Grounds

Well, Fall is officially here. We have a number of projects that need to get done before Winter. At our last Church Improvement day, Dexter, Pete, and I worked on repairing and securing gates. Cane bolts were installed, cement was poured to hold the pipe stops, sticky gates were planed and primed. We hope to get a few more things done before the rains come.

Our next Church Improvement day will be on Saturday, Oct. 15th. We will start at 9:30. We will be getting everything spruced up for Treat and Talent night. There's a lot to do, so please come and join in on

the fun. We hope to see you there.

Peace be with you,  
Doralee Smith  
Buildings and Grounds Chair



# 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,. Extrava-gant Welcome. Changing Lives.” The Mission 1 initiative is part of the UCC's outreach to the communities of the churches in the UCC. Al-though the primary mission is to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice, which includes col-

lecting food for local food banks, raise online donations for Neighbors in Need, and write let-ters to Congress to address U.S. foreign assistance to be reformed to better serve the world's poor-est people, churches will be en-couraged to be creative in local mission projects such as food col-lection, 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 under-girding 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 Season of Creation was filled with engaging conversations in Sunday School about caring for the planet and all of the creatures that live on it. The topics of forests, land, wilderness, and water are topics that the children have a lot to say about, and these topics also reinforce the concept that there are many ways that anyone can make a difference no matter how small we are.

One way the children of First Congregational are already getting to make a difference is by collecting offering during Sunday School for some kind of cause. As many of you know, during the last school year, the children gave all of their offering to the Food for People Backpack program, collecting enough to sponsor at least one backpack for one child every weekend for one school year. This year, the new cause has not yet been selected, but the lessons during the Season of Creation have clearly had an influence on what the children

are considering for their offering. The children have been asked for their suggestions, and every idea had to do with helping animals or the environment in some way.

Parents, Grandparents, and Caretakers of our Children! Here is how the children's offering works: Throughout the week at home, children put loose change into a palm-sized cardstock box called a "Blessing Box." (If you don't have a blessing box or need a new one, let Meredith, Katri, Roberta or Debbie know). Each time a coin is added to the blessing box, encourage your child to say something that they are thankful for, or to say something about a way in which they are blessed. Each Sunday during Sunday School, the children empty their coins into the offering basket during our opening song. We say a few words to remind us of who or what we are collecting the offering for. If a child doesn't have offering or if a new child joins us, the Sunday School leaders always

have extra coins on hand so that no one will feel left out.

Thank you for helping the children as they make a difference again this year.

Submitted by Meredith VandenBranden



# 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:**  
 Morning  
 Tuesday & Thursday  
 Afternoon & Evening  
 Wednesday

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

**Christine:**  
 MWF  
 3:30 - 5:30

**Deacon of the  
 Month:**  
 Libby Yee

# October 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Going green after wor- ship	31					1
2 World Communion Sunday Bldgs & Grounds	3 Pastor Car- lotta at pastor's conference				4 MAC	5 Choir 7:30 pm
9	10 Pflag 6:30 PM	11	12 Lunch Bunch noon ROW Study 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13	14 WOW 1 pm	15 Church Improve- ment Day 9:30 to 12:00
16 Deacon's	17 Council 6:30	18	19 Row 6 pm Choir	20 Great American Shakeout	21 Treat & Talent set- up	22 Treat & Talent
23	24	25 Book Group 7 PM	26 Row 6 pm Choir	27	28	29

# October Lectionary

## October 2

Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19 or Ps 80:7-15; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46

*God's Loving Wisdom*

## October 9

Ex. 32:1-14; Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23 or Isa. 25:1-9; Ps. 23; Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22:1-14

*God Matters*

## October 16

Ex. 33:1-14; Ps. 99 or Isa. 45:1-7; Ps. 96:1-9, (10-13); I Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22

*Willing Relationships*

## October 23

Deut. 34:1-12; Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17 or

Lev. 19:1-2, 15-18; Ps. 1; I Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46

*God's Story, Our Stories*

## October 30

Josh. 3:7-17; Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37 or Mic. 3:5-12; Ps. 43; I Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

*God With Us*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/9 Roberta & Dennis Duggan

10/12 Emma Pinches

10/23 Judie Norton

10/24 Tom Schmidt



## Dates to Remember

**October 22, 2011**

Treat & Talent Night

**November 20, 2011**

Stewardship Sunday

## Book Group

Book Group is heading into the fall season with the recommendation of two books for the month of October. First is one written by Ann Patchett, *State of Wonder*. Patchett is the author of one of our favorite books, *Bel Canto*, and this one promises to be another good read. Second is *Paris Wife* by Paula McLain, a novel about the Paris years of Ernest Hemingway and his

first wife, Elizabeth Hadley Richardson. Copies of these books are already in circulation with our book group readers, but put your name on the list and Pastor Carlotta will get one to you as soon as it is available. Read one or both books in preparation for our meeting on October 25th, 7 p.m. at Pastor Carlotta's home.



## “Pathways to Health”

As part of our mission to minister to our spiritual as well as physical needs, Deacons and Council are excited about offering a "Pathways to Health" series of workshops at our church for congregational or community members who might be experiencing chronic health issues. These workshops are presented by the Humboldt County Community Health Alliance and will meet in 6 2-hour sessions and will be led by Cena Marino, a trained leader, in the Social Hall. According to the Health Alliance's website, "Our Pathways to Health is a free six-week workshop for those with chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol,

diabetes, obesity, chronic pain, heart conditions and others. The workshop is based on Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, which has been effectively changing lives for over 20 years worldwide. Participants find the evidence-based program to be very effective at helping them become more effective managers of their own health in a supportive and peer-led environment." Those who are interested can meet after worship on Sunday, Oct. 1 for more information and a planning meeting or call Libby at 443-6055. We need a minimum of 5 participants to run the program.



## Successful NCRT Fundraiser!

On September 17, we held our NCRT fundraiser buying the house for the play *Into the Woods*. Thanks to the combined efforts of many individuals, we were able to raise \$1,467.00. This also includes the raffle. A special thanks to Kim Pinches for organizing this fund-

raising event, and to all those individuals who sold tickets, donated items for the raffle, and provided items for the reception after the play.



## Into Your hands, O God

**Please keep the following people in prayer:** Howard & Lois Willson, Mj Goble, Janet & Glenn Griffith, David Adams, Doug Hanson, Richard Tolleson, Dennis Bawden, Marcus Powell and partner Ashley Pierce, Joanna, and our Congregation.



## Deacon's

Starting a new year is so interesting, whether it comes in the fall or the winter. Certainly, school starts seem to always leave a sense of excitement then tiredness after the excitement wears off.

As your deacons, we have accomplished much in the way of safety and appreciate the vote of confidence in the safety church report. We will continue to update the congregation as needed. It is certainly true that things change in so many ways and catch us unaware from time to time. This is certainly true in all of our lives.

In continuing to insure the most advantageous and best way of stewardship of what we have on our campus, the deacons are desirous of our church's efforts to be green. We look forward to assisting our members and friends to have a "green" campus. We invite and

urge anyone with ideas to attend the green meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot attend you can always bring your ideas to any of the deacons or council members.

Along with being green, certainly we want to insure a healthy lifestyle for all of us. "Pathways to Health" is a good program and the deacons encourage all who can to be participants in this program.

Along with this is the challenge of End of Life issues. We will be able to have this information to the congregation in the next few months.

Treat and Talent is a good fundraiser for our church. The deacons encourage us all to invite whomever we can to participate. Building friendships and community spirit is a part of this.

It is important for us as deacons to minister to the best of our ability to insure that the spiritual needs of our members and friends are met in worship and in the support of Pastor Carlotta. To this end, over the next year, the deacons will continue to look to enhance the worship experiences of our members, to be available for the needs of our community, and to pray for our members. Along with the other ministries, the deacons will seek the best ways for our church to reach out to our community. The deacons continue to ask for the prayers of our members and friends as we continue to minister and serve.

## Treasurer's Corner

This financial update covers the period January through August 2011.

Total income: \$47,979.84

Total expenses: \$62,430.07

### Pledge update:

The pledge amount received through August is \$37,032.25.

This is 88% of the expected pledge.

### Tables and chairs fund update

There is \$117.05 in the fund.

Imagine Building Fund 2010 update. There is \$6,851.00 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.

At the semi-annual meeting, on September 15, you approved an electronic giving program as an optional method for you to give offerings, gifts and donations to the church. More information on how to sign up will be available in a few weeks.

*By Reg Kennedy*

# Serving in Worship for October

**Deacon of the Month:**  
Libby Yee

**Sunday, October 2nd  
(Communion Sunday)**

Greeter: Judie Norton,  
Stan Smith-Haynes  
Reader: Jim Falls  
Children's Sermon:  
The Pitts Family  
Acolyte: Emma Pinches  
Ushers: Dexter Luther,  
Leon Rafael  
Communion Servers:  
Sharolyn Hutton, Janet Foos,  
Kim Pinches, Pete Vallerga

**Sunday, October 9th:**

Greeter: Sara Pillow,  
Howard Willson  
Reader: Janet Foos

Children's Sermon:  
Meredith VandenBranden  
Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt  
Ushers: Reg Kennedy, Tom Schmidt

**Sunday, October 16th:**

Greeter: Kim Pinches, Sandy Little  
Reader: Jim Falls  
Children's Sermon: Lois Willson  
Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt  
Ushers: Fred Jewett, Lew Norton

**Sunday, October 23rd:**

Greeter: Mary Bawden,  
Rafael Leon  
Reader: Sharolyn Hutton  
Children's Sermon: Kim Pinches  
Acolyte: Emma Pinches  
Ushers: Libby Yee, Doralee Smith

**Sunday, October 30th:**

Greeter: Janet Griffith,  
Judie Norton  
Reader: Ted Adams  
Children's Sermon:  
Michele Fell-Casale  
Ushers: Kim Pinches,  
Howard Willson



## 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: October 4 and November 1, 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

2, November 30).



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

# Announcements

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

## Neighbors in Need

Sunday, October 2 is the date for this year's Neighbors in Need offering, one of our 5 for 5 offerings to

support Our Church's Wider mission. One third of Neighbors in Need offering goes to support the United Church of Christ's Council for American Indian Ministries, the other two-thirds is used by UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, their justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on October 12th noon at Babes.

## WOW

Women of Wisdom will meet at 1 p.m. at Gallagher's in Old Town 2nd and C Street.



# 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.

September donation: 45# (78 units)  
no money given this month.

# 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.



PFALG will be meeting on October 10 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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**Phone: 707-445-5488**

**Email: [eurekaucc@att.net](mailto:eurekaucc@att.net)**

**Website: [www.eurekaucc.org](http://www.eurekaucc.org)**

At Eureka 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.