

September
2011



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Window Newsletter

Welcome Back



Pastor Carlotta returns from her sabbatical on September 11th. Come and worship with her and Pastor Ron as he returns the church keys to Pastor Carlotta. A special fellowship social follows the worship service.



A monthly publication of Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Thank You Ron

Thank you Ron for being with us this summer while Pastor Carlotta was on Sabbatical. We as a church community thank you for giving us some things to think about and to reflect on. We all have experienced new ideas and ways of doing worship. Certainly being able to reach out to our neighbors is important and with some new ideas and rethinking of who we are, there is certainly much to consider, reflect on and pray about.

This next year will enable our church

community to use the ideas and concerns that you have enabled us to think about. Each ministry will be working on how each of us can serve our God so that those we reach out to will know that "God is still speaking" with love, joy and laughter..

We all desire for you much success in the future. We all look forward to hearing how God is using you in your future ministry to others.

Keep in touch with us and we look forward to seeing you again in the

future as the Lord opens the door for you.



Things of Note

Buildings and grounds is working on the semi-annual report for September 25, 2011 and will bring items of interest. Much has been happening on our church campus this past year and Doralee has been very busy.

A Special September

Normally, the first Sunday of each month is our birthday/anniversary celebration. And the third Sunday of each third month is a special Fellowship event. But this month the Fellowship Ministry is focusing our efforts on the second Sunday, Sept. 11.

Sept. 11 will be Pastor Ron's last day with us and Rev. Carlotta's first day back. To celebrate this occasion, we are rolling all our celebrations and remembrances (including birthdays and anniversaries) into one special celebration: All-American Sunday. We will be en-

joying cake, ice cream and a few other star-spangled treats for our coffee hour.

We will have our "normal" coffee hours on Sept. 4, 18 and 25. Beginning in October, however, we are making a change: only one Special Sunday each month will focus on substantial treats. On the other weeks, we'll be enjoying light snacks like cookies and crackers. As part of our renewed focus on going green, this will cut down on the amount of dishwashing and laundry needed for those Simple Sundays.

Pastor Carlotta is looking forward to returning to us. She will be working with each of the ministries to think and pray about, as well as reflect on the ideas Ron has given to us over this past summer in regards to worship and outreach to our neighbors. Ron is also looking forward to seeing our church community become more inviting to the community we live in and to our neighbors so we can reflect how God is continuing to speak to us all. He will be releasing a special Thank you newsletter that will include his farewell report.

Moderator

God-speed, Ron! We send you on with our love, our thanks and our prayers.

It is so hard to realize summer is drawing to a close and we are "gearing up" for our fall activities. We have tried new things, reviewed some of our traditional ways of doing things, and had a mixture of sorrow and joy this summer. Soon, we will say good-bye to Pastor Ron Buford and thank him for challenging us to rethink our ways of conducting church services and activities. At the same time, we will welcome the return of Carlotta Vallerga from her well-deserved summer sabbatical and look forward to her sharing of insights gained during this time of personal reflection.

On September 23 immediately after the service, there will be a brief (?) semi-annual meeting. As a congregational type of church, each of us has a voice in the decisions made at First Congregational United Church of Christ. One item for the meeting will be the recommendation by the

church council that we begin participating with the God Is Still Speaking on-line giving program. Your input and vote on this will be appreciated. In addition, there will be a report on the church council's input for the recent Local Church Needs Assessment from our Northern California Nevada Conference (NCNC) office. Our treasurer, Reginald Kennedy, will provide budget highlights and Doralee Smith and I will have an update on the progress of our grant application to the McLean Foundation.

September means it will not be long before the nominating committee will begin creating a slate of officers for the 2012 year. Please consider the way(s) you hope to be involved at church in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Sharolyn L. Hutton, Moderator

The Comma Book

After much thought and research, the Comma Book will be available for anyone to download for free on the website. It can be used as an e-book or to print your own copy. Be aware that it is copyrighted. Thank you for your patience as I have tried to see the best way to put this book out.

THE LITTLE COMMA THAT COULD



By Ted Adams

Faithfully Walking

Hi Church Family –

We have walked almost 3500 miles since we started our Faithfully Walking Challenge with the UCC on March 1. The first leg of the challenge is over in mid-June – let's see if we can walk 5000 miles by then! Either see me at church to let me know how many steps you walked,

how far you walked, or how many miles you walked or ran, and I will keep the totals. Of course you may also e-mail your walking by replying to this e-mail.

Thanks – and happy walking!
Janet



Deacons

News from the Deacons' Ministry

It has been an interesting summer, with the changes that have been going on. Every ministry has contributed much toward assisting Ron to minister to us. Sometimes it has been difficult and not always worked out the way everyone would have liked, but then as we all know the best laid plans

The deacons however have much to consider about worship as we work through the ideas that Ron has presented to us. Our worship services have given some new thought to all of us as to the meaning of worship. Certainly to be open to new ideas and ways of doing worship, will help all of us to reflect on how God speaks to us in Jesus Christ. We can certainly thank Ron for giving us some new ideas about worship and church

ministry.

As we welcome Pastor Carlotta's return to us, the deacons will be addressing these new ideas of ministry and worship with her. This will include reflection on how changes to our worship and ministry will assist us all to grow spiritually. The deacons have also continued to work on issues such as church safety and end of life. These issues are important to our community to insure that we have a safe haven for reflection on personal and spiritual issues as well as to be available for those who come to the end of life. More information will be forthcoming as to when these will be presented to the church.

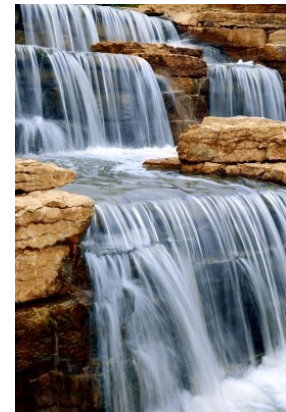
In all of this, the deacons wish to thank everyone for allowing Ron to change the way we have worship and to allow new ideas to be pre-

sented. Although not everyone agreed with what was happening from time to time, yet it was good to see a different view of worship. With the church, the deacons wish to express to Ron our thanks for his visit to us and for giving us much to think about.

Pastor Carlotta

"WELCOME BACK"

Ted Adams



Treasurer's Corner

Treasurer's Corner

By Reg Kennedy

This financial update covers the period January through July 2011.
Total income: \$44,446.92
Total expenses: \$53,579.57

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through July is \$33,851.75. This is 92% of the expected pledge.

Tables and chairs fund update.
There is \$87.05 in the fund.

Imagine Building Fund 2010 update.

There is \$6,397.23 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.



Electronic Giving — UCCE-giving® or Still Speaking Money®

A Congregational meeting is scheduled to be held after the worship service on September 25. At this meeting, one of the items to be voted on is whether or not we want to have electronic giving as an optional method to donate or make an offering to our church.

Our electronic giving will be through Vanco Services, LLC.

Vanco Services is the financial technology company chosen by the United Church of Christ as a partner in offering UCC electronic giving.

Vanco provides secure, cost-effective electronic giving solutions to more than 10,000 churches.

Information provided to Vanco Services is kept strictly confidential and is never sold, rented or given away.

There are four ways to give electronically:

- 1.) Direct Debit (ACH) – electronic transfers at only 25¢ per transaction.
- 2.) Credit/Debit Card
- 3.) Online giving
- 4.) Texting donations

For more information on electronic giving can be found on the UCC Web site: <http://www.ucc.org/stewardship/electronic-giving/>

A power point presentation can be downloaded and then viewed at

<http://www.uccfiles.com/ppt/UCCegivingauto.ppt>

The following "Frequently Asked Questions" were copied from the UCC Web Site.

Q: How is it automatic?

A: Once you authorize the transfer, your specified contribution is electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to your church's account. Your church may also offer the option of giving by credit or debit card or by texting.

Q: My church asks us for an annual pledge of financial support. Is this the same thing?

A: You'll still make a pledge. Electronic giving just helps you fulfill it! For those who don't practice pledging, giving electronically still works.

Q: What are the advantages?

A: It saves you time and effort and your church benefits from more stable contribution levels.

Q: When will my contribution be deducted from my account?

A: On the date(s) you specify on your authorization form.

Q: If I do not write checks, how do I balance my checkbook?

A: Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.

Q: Without a cancelled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?

A: Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transfers. It is your proof of contribu-

tion. Of course, your church will continue to provide a giving statement.

Q: Is electronic funds transfer risky?

A: Electronic contribution is less risky than a check contribution. It cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed. It has an extremely high rate of accuracy.

Q: What if I change banks or accounts?

A: Just complete a new authorization form.

Q: How much does this cost?

A: It costs you nothing and it saves you time.

Q: What if I try UCCE-giving® and don't like it, or need to change it for any reason?

A: You can cancel or change your authorization by notifying your church at any time. But, once you've enjoyed the benefits, we doubt you'll want to go back.

Q: How do I sign up for UCCE-giving®?

A: It's easy! Complete and sign the authorization form provided by your church, then return it to your church office.

Q: How will I participate in the offering of gifts during worship?

A: Your church may give you offering envelopes with a box to check if your contribution was made electronically, or special slips to put in the offering plate.

Reg Kennedy

Treat and Talent Spaghetti Dinner Set For October 22

Save the date! Our annual fall fundraiser, **Treat and Talent** and spaghetti dinner, will be held **Saturday, October 22**. The Resource Ministry has begun planning for this event. So now is the time to consider what you would like to offer as a treat or talent for the silent auction. There have been a myriad of offerings over the years; such as baby quilts, handyman services, food baskets, gardening expertise, computer and software expertise, potted plants, wreaths, and dinners offered at people's homes. Later this month, forms will be available for you to describe what your donated item or service will be. Our goal this year is \$6,750.00. Last year we raised 6,844.95 exceeding the goal of

\$6,000.00. This fundraiser takes a commitment from the entire membership to be successful. There will be opportunities for you to help with the social hall set-up, cooking, or serving the spaghetti dinner.

We will again be selling tickets for this event. Remember, this is our number one fundraiser and has always proved to be one our most enjoyable gatherings.



“Into The Woods”

Saturday, September 17th

The play “Into The Woods” by Stephen Sondheim will be staged at the North Coast Repertory Theatre at 300 5th street in Eureka. The church has purchased the house that night which means we keep the profits from the ticket sales from the show on the 17th. This is an important fundraiser for us so full participation from the congregation is needed. What do I mean by that? Well, I mean come to the show, bring your friends and neighbors and take some tickets to sell. We also need volunteers to bring goodies for the reception, such as cookies and other finger

food snacks. I'm also looking for raffle items for a raffle during intermission, perhaps a gift basket, bottle of wine, or gift certificates. If you own a business or regularly trade at stores where you feel comfortable requesting a gift certificate donation I will provide you with a donation letter including our Church non-profit number.

Into the Woods is a musical that was awarded many Tony awards when first staged on Broadway. The story centers on a baker and his wife who are cursed with childlessness by the witch next door, they embark on a quest for special

objects required to break the spell. This musical begins as a lively irreverent fantasy and becomes a moving lesson about community responsibility and the stories we tell our children.

Please plan on attending this event and bring your friends. The resources Ministry is counting on your support. See Kim Pinches after worship or email her at kimpinches@yahoo.com or call at 707-502-4914 to let her know how you can help, to buy tickets or to take some to sell.

Christian Education

Thanks to everyone who has led the children in activities this summer! They have had lots of fun singing, playing games, making crafts, and creating artwork together!

School is starting up again, and the Christian Education ministry is preparing to dive into our curriculum for 2011-2012. We have opted to stay with the curriculum we chose last year, "Seasons of the Spirit". This is a multi-age curriculum

which addresses the needs of children at a wide range of developmental levels. If you are interested in leading or assisting in Sunday school, please don't hesitate to speak with one of the Christian Ed members (Roberta, Meredith, Debbie, or Katri). Our fall curriculum begins September 4th.

Katri Pitts



Birthdays and Anniversaries

9/1 Howard Willson
9/16 Debbie Hart
9/24 Jade Olivia Falls
9/24 Mary Huber Wallaker
9/25 Sam Murray
9/26 Sarah & Allen Mathew
9/26 Richard Whaley
9/28 Dennis Duggan
9/28 Jeanne D. Vallerga
9/29 Roberta Duggan



Looking Ahead

September 10 — PRIDE Parade

September 17th — "Into the Woods" play at North Coast Rep sponsored by the church

September 25th — Semi-Annual Meeting in Social Hall Coffeehouse Sunday

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:

Pastor Carlotta:
Tues, Wed. Thur.
10 a.m. till noon

Home: Available at any time if needs arise.

Christine:
Wed
5 pm—8:30 pm

Kim
Tues & Thurs
10 am-12 pm

Deacon of the Month:
Jim Falls

September 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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				1	2	3
4	5	6 Tai Chi 3 PM MAC	7 Outreach 1 PM @Stan's ROW Study 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	8 Vitality 6:30 PM	9	10 Pride Festival 11:30 AM
11 Pastor Carlotta Returns	12 PFLAG 6:30 PM	13 Tai Chi 3 PM	14 ROW Study 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	15	16	17 Church Improve- ment Day 9:30 to Noon AA
18	19 Council 6:30 PM	20 Tai Chi 3 PM	21 ROW Study 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	22	23	24
25 Coffee- house Sunday Semi- Annual Meeting	26	27 Tai Chi 3PM	28 ROW Study 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	29	30	

September Lectionary

September 4

Ex. 12:1-14; Ps 149 or Ezek. 33:7-11; Ps. 119:33-40; Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18: 15-20

First Sunday (Acts 17:22-28)

September 11

Ex.14:19-31; Ps. 114 or Ex. 15:16-11, 20-21 or Gen. 50:15-21; Ps. 103: (1-7), 8-13; Rom. 14: 1-2;

Matt. 18: 21-35

Land Sunday (Ps. 139:7-12)

September 18

Ex. 16:2-15; Ps. 105:1-6; Ps. 37-45 or Ps. 145:1-8; Jon. 3:10-4:11; Phil. 1:21-30; Matt. 20:1-16

Wilderness/Outback Sunday (Rom. 8:18-27)

September 25

Ex. 17:1-7; Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16 or Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32; Ps. 25:1-9; Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32

River Sunday (Rev. 22:1-5)

September Serving Schedule

Deacon of the Month: Jim Falls

Sunday, September 4

Greeters: Sara Pillow, Mary Bawden

Reader: Michelle Fell-Casale

Children's Sermon: The Pitts Family

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Communion Servers: Fred Jewett, Phil Smith-Hanes, Dexter Luther, Lois Willson

Ushers: Cameron Cartwright, Lew Norton

Sunday, September 11:

Greeters: Sara Pillow, Howard Willson

Reader: Sharolyn Hutton

Children's Sermon: Meredith Vandenberg

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Bill Shapeero, Linda Shapeero

Sunday, September 18:

Greeters: Michelle Fell-Casale, Stan Smith-Hanes

Reader: Kim Pinches

Children's Sermon: Roberta Duggan

Acolyte: Jenifer Schmidt

Ushers: Leslie Leach, Tom Schmidt

Sunday September 25

Greeters: Sara Pillow, Judie Norton

Reader: Pete Vallerga

Children's Sermon: Janet Foos

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Phil Smith-Hanes, Doralee Smith

Please call the deacon of the month if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day. Thank you.

Coffeehouse to be provided by Fellowship.

List of Deacons phones and email in the event you would need to contact them.

Ted Adams

Home: 707-633-5226

Cell: 707-599-7562

adam49ric@yahoo.com

Jim Falls

Cell: 707-299-8895

mccenfalz@humboldt1.com

Janet Foos

Home: 707-443-4215

Cell:707-845-7591

janet.foos@gmail.com

Kathy Hanson

Home:707-764-5519

Cell: 707-267-4238

hansondoug@hotmail.com

Judie Norton

Home: 707-445-1791

Cell:707-703-9009

jnorton@humboldt1.com

Libby Yee

Cell: 707-443-6055

l-yee@sbcglobal.net

Lois Willson

Home: 707-445-3726

Outreach and Social Justice Ministry

PFLAG monthly meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 12th in the Social Hall. If you can please come and help us as we help others. If you can't come, please remember us in prayer.



Pride Festival Saturday, September 10

Parade from Go Fish, Commercial and Waterfront (First). Participants should be there at 11:30 a.m. The route is to H on First, right turn, left on 2nd to L, left to Halverson Part. Check our out church booth at the Festival, which goes on to 5 p.m. Sign-up to help in our Social Hall, for parading and/or tabling.

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.

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.

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 commu-nities 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 let-ters to Congress to address U.S. foreign assistance to be reformed to better serve the world's poorest people, churches will be encour-

aged to be creative in local mission projects such as food collection, donations, and finding ways to as-sist 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>.



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 September 6th and Tuesday October 4th from 4:45-5:45 p.m. helping serve supper from 4:45-5:45 pm and helping with child support from 6:20-7:30 pm.

To volunteer, contact Sara Pillow or Stan Smith-Hanes the Sunday before September 4 and October 2

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, etc.

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 the price of 1, or a discount on a second or third item, one can buy or get the extra item and donate to the food bank.

Donations for July & August:

July \$210.00 and 50 units.

August \$200 and 125 units.

Into Your Hands, O God

Prayer List: Stan Smith-Hanes, Doug Hanson, Lois and Howard Willson, Neva and Joe Sobolik, Mj Goble, Janet Foos, Pastor Christine Tomascheski, Janet & Glenn Griffith, Sarah Pillow, Henry Willey, Richard Tollefson, The Crichton Family, Dennis Bawden, Kimara Erickson, Sharolyn Hutton, Ron Bu-

ford, Pastor Carlotta as she returns to minister to our church community. Those serving in the military, our elected officials, and those recovering from natural disasters close at home and abroad.



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**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**

The Window Newsletter

**Eureka First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

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E-mail: eurekaucc@att.net

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.