

February 2011

Peacemaker Award



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Window Newsletter

The Eureka Interfaith Fellowship will be holding an award ceremony for the 2011 Humboldt County Peacemaker Award on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church on 14th and I Streets in Eureka. This presentation has been made biennially to an individual or individuals since 1996 from the Andre Wagner Peace Trust, and has traditionally included a \$4000.00 honorarium. These individuals have done ex-

traordinary selfless service that has impacted and made a significant difference in the lives of us all.

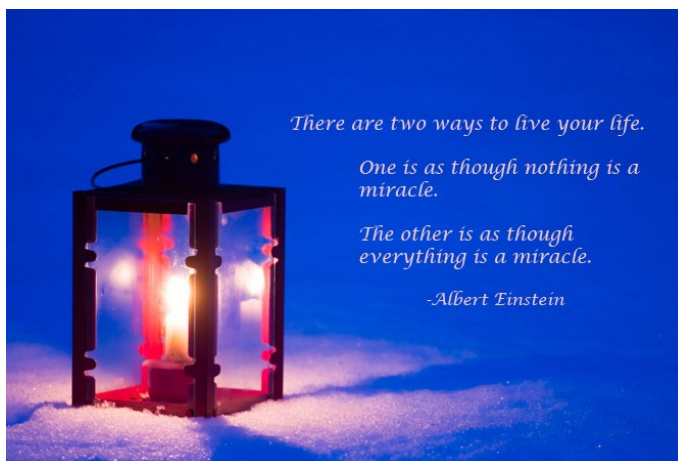
In previous years these recipients have included Betty Chinn and Rose Baker, Russell Shaddix, and Dr Samuel Oliner.

Each candidate was interviewed by members of the Eureka Interfaith Fellowship and those who are considered a winner will be honored at the February event for contributions to the quality of life in Humboldt County.

This year our very own Linda Shapeero has been nominated for her work on PFLG. Peace making is a main issue of support for our congregation, so come and honor those who have been nominated as peacemakers in our community.

Access Humboldt Channel 12 will be doing videotaped interviews with this year's recipients to run later this year.

Visit their website (www.accesshumboldt.net) to verify scheduling or to access archived interviews



There are two ways to live your life.

One is as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle.

-Albert Einstein



A monthly publication of Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Pastor's View

Micah 6:1-8; "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul"; to that commandment Jesus added: "and your neighbor as yourself."

February is the month when we focus on love - in our relationships, our congregation and our commitment to God. What does love mean in all those areas and how can we express or exemplify that love to each other and to our world?

First, it starts with loving God; not just a "sure, I love God", but the kind of love that leads a person to express that love through their commitment and service, which flows from the study of scripture. Love of God involves heart, head and soul and requires participation from all three areas of understanding. Leave any piece out and your love is incomplete. Micah reminds us that loving God has an emotional aspect to it along with an intellectual pursuit and being open to God's presence and guidance

This year's Earl Lectures, which I attended the last week in January, focused on the outward movement of that love into loving our neighbor. The focus was on Economic Justice, with the theme "Our Daily Bread" and brought our attention to the challenges that are being experienced by people as they strive to maintain and survive in these difficult economic times. For some the challenge is a matter of employment (lack of or under

employed, low or minimum wages), for some a lack of health care, for others the basics of housing and food. Some people are working three jobs and are barely making their payments and staying in their homes. It takes only a unplanned emergency to upend their stability.

It is clear that as a community of faith, the church needs to support people who are living through the challenges and injustices and to work for changes both at the local level and through the government. Fortunately there are several faith related organizations already in place that churches can work with and support in promoting change. I hope our Social Justice Ministry will raise our awareness of the challenges people are facing and of possibilities for participation in ways that will support people and bring changes in our society.

The church is called to bring the message of hope and this is certainly a time when it needs to be spoken and heard. We need to be able to listen to those in need, to offer support and help when it is appropriate and to always share the journey with prayers of support and healing. Being the people to walk the journey with you, listen to you, help you find the appropriate agencies or resources during difficult times is one way to love your neighbor. That is our calling.

This month's scriptures are all focused on Jesus teachings. They offer insights into how to deal with difficult situations and what it means to love and serve others. Come to worship as we explore how to love and serve.

May we live up to our calling to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Blessings,

Pastor Carlotta



Moderator

February 2011 Moderator's Message

"When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself.

Enter the silence.

Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions. Wait for hope to appear." Lamentations 3:28, 29

It is 2011 and First Congregational United Church of Christ has hope that this year will surpass 2010, which was an amazing year! We had an excellent Annual Meeting with good attendance and participation. Hope was buoyed by the good news found in the ministry and budget reports for 2010. God honored our leap of faith last year concerning the budget and the application for an equity loan from Cornerstone Foundation. We were granted the loan and many of our priority one projects were met, although we hit a few unexpected problems. One result of our innate frugality and the improvements and repairs was a substantial decrease in our PG&E bill, proving once again that old adage, "You have to spend

money to make (save) money."* At any rate, 2010 was a great year for us and we have hope that 2011 will continue to see us grow in the Spirit and as a family.

In the discussion during the "Coming Together" coffee house service, our strengths were recognized and a number of comments dealt with wanting to share the fellowship we experience with more people and "grow the family." As was also stated in the discussion, "We are the movers and shakers of the world and the dreamers of dreams." One dream was to consider adopting an immigrant family or a person without housing, helping them in as many ways as possible. Several spoke of thinking "outside the box" for ways to grow. The Vitality Task Force and the energy it has generated was seen as a positive factor in our 2010 outcomes.

So what are we hoping for? The council hopes to make it possible for Carlotta to take a

mini-sabbatical; Carlotta is actively seeking a summer intern; Ron Buford is researching the possibility of a grant so he can be with us all summer to assist Carlotta and our fellowship; we need to seek and apply for grants to furnish funds for the projects still waiting; we are discussing an on-line way for donations to the church (see adage* above); we need to consider the changes needed to be **The Place** for weddings (see adage* above); Vitality continues to plan for ways to "grow our family"; and, as always, we dream of warm water in the sacristy and bathroom and a remodeled kitchen. Let us consider the words In 1 John: 4:17 "God is love. There is no room in love for fear." So, as we share that love, let us move fearlessly into 2011 making this another year of prayer and hope". Happy New Year!
Sharolyn

Book Group

Our book of the month is "Mennonite in a Little Black Dress" by Rhoda Janzen. We will meet on Thursday, Feb. 24th, 7 p.m. at Pastor Carlotta's home, 1903 Buhne St. All those who love to read and discuss books are invited to participate in this group.

ROW meetings on Wednesday evenings at 5:45 p.m. in the Social Hall for a light dinner and study. Everyone is invited to join in these evenings of study and fellowship.

February 2nd – Lectionary Study – We will read and discuss the lectionary passages for the month of February

ROW

February 9th and 16th– the Marcus Borg study, The Emerging /Transforming Way, Chapter 10 of the book Jesus by Marcus Borg.

Christian Education

It has been an exciting year for our Children's ministry. The new Sunday School curriculum of Season of the Spirit Multi-Age for ages 5-12 was chosen for this year's for use in the Children's ministry. The children put on a wonderful Christmas presentation. The children are raising funds to give to Food for People food backpack program.

The children have also been involved with various works of art

using a variety of mediums. This year the children will continue to be involved in exploring various aspects of spirituality.

Continue to pray for our children as our Children's ministry seeks to assist our children to grow spiritually.

Taken from the annual report



Buildings and Grounds

In the annual report, the Buildings and Grounds committee noted the improvements to the church campus. Much has been done this past year, and with the new improvements made, this next year will be more energy efficient and environmentally efficient.

The Imagine Fund, funded by pledges from members of the congregation, will enable the church to make monthly payments on our

loan for the Buildings and Grounds Improvement Plan.

We look forward to continuing improvements on our campus, including the fence on the east property line. The Buildings and Grounds committee members, along with other members of the congregation will continue to seek to improve our campus over the next year.

Taken from the annual report



Fellowship

2011: A New Year of Fellowship

The Fellowship Ministry would like to thank all of you for making 2010 such a great year. We'd especially like to thank Kim Pinches for all her hard work on Fellowship and helping us "newbies" transition into the group. Now that the new year is here, we're excited to welcome Pete Vallerga.

Thanks to all who contributed to our first potluck of the year, for "Called Together" coffee house Sunday. Our next event will be Birthday Sunday on February 6. We're also planning the Third Sunday of the Third Month fellowship event for March 20. Stay tuned for details!

Finally, we'd like to extend our prayers and best wishes to Fellowship Ministry member Mj Goble in her current health struggles. We hope she's soon able to join us again for great events in 2011. Submitted by Phil Smith-Hanes

Deacons

This has been a very wonderful and glorious year for the deacons. We are in the process of continuing to look into better ways to enhance worship and safety with the church. Many of us think of how simple things used to be, but in today's challenges, things have become more complicated. However, with the challenges have come unexpected pleasures, such as new ways of doing service in so many areas.

The deacons are looking forward to a more wonderful and exciting year. Memorial funds are being looked at for the best ways to utilize them for the members of our congregation. We are in the process of making a prayer chain for those in need as well as remembering and celebrating times of joy and love in people's lives.

We are looking into better use of our campus so that our community may be able to open up more for not only our members and

friends, but as a more welcoming presence in our community with our neighbors.

Looking out for others and enriching other's lives will always be a part of our church. The deacons continue to look for ways to better serve not only our church but to be open to new ideas as the Holy Spirit moves us in communicating to our neighbors and friends of God continuing to speak to us in love.

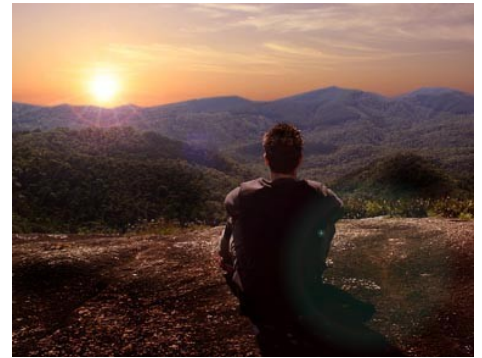
It is wonderful to hear comments and ideas from our members. We take seriously any items that come to our attention as the deacons decide on ways to enhance our growth in spiritual worship.

Guidelines will be coming out in the next months for our safety and end of life issues. The Sacristy is more useful for flower arrangements as we have been putting flower arrangements and other items for worship. It has been a good year to tweak these kinds of issues and in the coming year the deacons look forward to

tweak other areas so all of our members and friends will be able to enjoy our still speaking God.

We the deacons thank the congregation for your continued support and look forward to continuing to serve you. We also welcome the new deacons, Jim Fells and Kathy Hanson, to our ministry, and Pete Vallergera and Michelle-Casale Fell for their service as deacons over the last few years.

Submitted by Ted Adams



Treasurer's Corner

Treasurer's Corner

By Reg Kennedy

This financial update covers the period January through December 2010.

Total income:

\$88,546.42

Total expenses:

\$89,481.23

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through Decem-

ber is \$58,745.00. This is 98% of our expected pledge.

Tables and chairs fund update.

The total is now \$27.05.

Imagine Building Fund 2010 update.

There is \$6,259.97 in this fund from your pledges and the monthly raffle. We use this fund to repay the loan.

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 and in the 2010 Annual Report.



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:
Ted Adams

February 2011

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | 1 MAC | 2 Lunch Bunch Noon ROW Lec- tionary 5:45 pm Choir 7:30 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 Vitality 6 pm AA Social Hall 8:30 to 12:30 |
| 6 Ron Buford preaching Commun- ion Sunday | 7 | 8 | 9 ROW Study Chapter 10 5:45 pm Choir 7:30 pm | 10 Outreach Noon Fellowship 6:30 pm | 11 Buildings and Grounds | 12 |
| 13 Deacon's Meeting after worship | 14 PFLAG 6:30 PM | 15 Peace- maker's Award 7pm | 16 Lunch Bunch noon Choir 7:30 pm | 17 | 18 WOW 1 pm | 19 Church Improve- ment Day AA |
| 20 | 21 Council 6:30 | 22 | 23 Choir 7:30 pm | 24 Book Group 7 pm | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |



February Lectionary

February 6

Isa 58:1-9a, (9b-12); Ps 112:1-9 (10); I Cor 2:1-12, (13-16); Matt 5:13-20

Restoring Beauty

February 13

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

From the Heart

February 20

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

Expanding Boundaries

February 27

Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131; I Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Putting Love First



Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------|-----------------------|------|--------------------|
| 2/4 | Mona Conner | 2/9 | Mary Bawden | 2/18 | Neva Sobolik |
| 2/5 | Ted & June Speier | 2/13 | Christine Tomascheski | 2/22 | Diana Renner-Noyes |
| 2/6 | Zoe Helton | 2/14 | Pete Vallerga | 2/25 | Claire Seidell |
| 2/7 | Janet Griffith | 2/15 | Reg Kennedy | 2/27 | Amy Ziegler |
| 2/8 | June Speier | 2/15 | David Walkley | | |
| 2/8 | Rafael Leon | 2/18 | Joe & Neva Sobolik | | |

February Serving Schedule

Deacon of the Month: Ted Adams

Sunday, February 6th (Communion Sunday)

Greeters: Leslie Leach, Mary Bawden

Reader: Jim Falls

Children's Sermon: The Pitts Family

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Communion Servers: Michele Fell-Casale, Judie Norton, Janet Foos, Rafael Leon

Ushers: Dexter Luther, Doralee Smith

Sunday, February 13th:

Greeters: Michele Fell-Casale, Sharolyn Hutton

Reader: Janet Foos

Children's Sermon: Meredith Vandenberg

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Pete Vallerga, Fred Jewett

Sunday, February 20th:

Greeters: Judie Norton, Sara Pillow

Reader: Fred Jewett, Jr.

Children's Sermon: Kim Pinches

Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt

Ushers: Sharolyn Hutton, Tom Schmidt

Sunday, February 27th:

Greeters: Howard Willson, Leslie Leach

Reader: Michele Fell-Casale

Children's Sermon: Janet Foos

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Rafael Leon, Phil Smith-Hanes

Please call Michele Fell-Casale at 442-7872 or 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 "Mandates of the Gospel" 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



Outreach and Social Justice

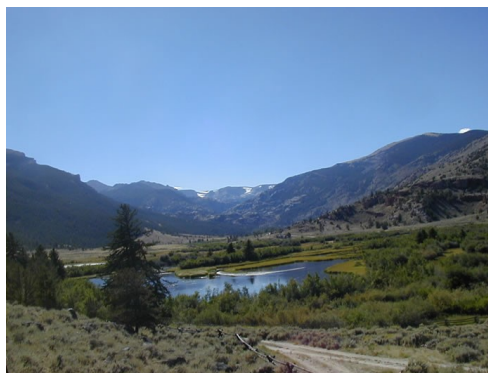
Pflag will be meeting at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 14 for a regular meeting in our Fellowship Hall.

The Outreach and Social Justice Ministry will meet at noon on Thursday, February 10, in the Narthex.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at noon at Babe's in Cutten on the first and third Wednesdays: February 2 and 16.



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 1st Tuesday of each month: Tuesday February 1 AND TUESDAY March 1 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 (January 30 and February 27).



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-

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

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

canned fruits & veggies

December items: 245 + \$280
January items: 97 + \$220

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.

Into Your Hands, O God

Prayer List: Rafael's mother, Doug Hanson, Mike Mooreland, Mary Huber Wallaker's parents, Mj Goble, Christine, Jan Waller



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**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**

The Window Newsletter

**Eureka First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

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Eureka CA 95503
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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.