

June/July 2016

Community Congregational Church UCC

The Bridge

WWW.CCCUCC.ORG
(707) 745-0674

Church Office Hours Tuesday—Thursday
10:00am to 2:00pm

Reverend Renie's Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday by appointment



Doers By Reverend Renie Stamm-Kirk

Have you ever met a “doer”? I know I have! They are the folks who silently step in and just do, they do need prompting or asking, nor do they need to take credit. Now do you know doers? This church was founded by doers, it's very existence is because of doers. People who move about in the background everyday, simply doing. Some go to our post office box and pick up our mail, some stay after worship and clean up the pews (you'd be surprise at what's left after church in the pews, hint, hint). Some doers take out the trash, some doers come by during the week to pull a weed or two, or three or more. We have doers who come and wash windows. Doers who come and water my garden and doers who come and plant my garden... we have doers who come and set up communion and doers who help fold bulletins when our office manager is out and doers who come and wash floors when they notice they're dirty... They don't ask, they don't come to me and say ... “so pastor what do you need me to do?” they simply see the need and step up. Recently the refrigerator was disgusting and I emerged from my office after meeting with

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Mark Your Calendar

7.2

First Saturday

7.3

Sunday Worship,
Communion

7.4—7pm

Fourth of July
Snacks and fire-
works

7.9

Second Saturday

7.17

Annual
Congregational
Meeting

7.19-8.2

Office Closed

Report on the Annual Conference

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By Dale Olm

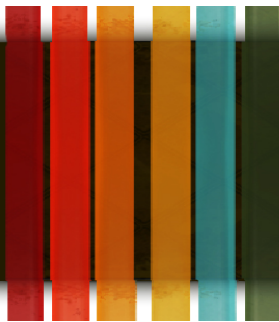
The Annual Gathering and business meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference was held at Sonoma State University from June 16 to 19, 2016. Our church was represented by delegates Barbara Hamm and Dale Olm. Highlights of the conference: The Rev. Mary Susan-Gast, of our congregation and former Conference Minister, was honored for her years of service as Conference Minister from 1997 to 2011, and was named Conference Minister Emerita. Jazz Gorilla had the privilege of providing the music for the service.

Barbara Hamm led morning Taize' services including one honoring those lost at the recent, tragic Orlando, Florida shooting. Those who died were also honored during the worship service on Friday night.

During the business meeting, Rev. Diane Weible, our current Conference Minister, acknowledged all the churches having significant anniversaries from 5 years to 150 years (us!).

Two resolutions were passed. One concerned recommending that the UCC declare itself welcoming to immigrants and migrants at the next Synod. The second was a position statement on gun control. The full texts for each resolution are available on the NCNC website (NCNCUCC.org).

The budget was reviewed and passed for the next fiscal year, which for the conference runs from January 1 to December 31, 2017. It was acknowledged that there may be a deficit if contributions to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) do not increase. There has been a steady decrease in OCWM contributions from member churches over the last several years. The past year has been the lowest. However, the conference changed its fiscal year from midyear to a calendar year. Our own OCWM contribution for our fiscal year did not fall into the conference's new fiscal year, and I suspect the same for other churches. This could account for the dip seen in contributions. Twenty percent of OCWM contributions go to the National Conference, 78% goes to our NCNC conference and 2% goes to our Bay Association.



"Heroes didn't leap tall buildings or stop bullets with an outstretched hand; they didn't wear boots and capes. They bled, and they bruised, and their superpowers were as simple as listening, or loving. Heroes were ordinary people who knew that even if their own lives were impossibly knotted, they could untangle someone else's. And maybe that one act could lead someone to rescue you right back." — Jodi Picoult, Second Glance

Article Continued ...

someone and found one of our members with their head in the fridge throwing out all the dead food...

"YIPEE" I exclaimed! We also have doers who do in another way, they give extra so that we can pay our staff so that they can do. We actually have folks who don't ever come to our church but give generously so we all can do and serve in our community.... So this month I just want to give a HUGE shout out to all the DOERS in the church THANK YOU!!! You all know who you are, I'm not going to embarrass you, keep up the amazing work, for those who aren't give it a try, I know you will find it rewarding, I do...

With Love & Gratitude,

Pastor Renie



Animals in the Bible

By Carlene Coury



Yes. This is a hedgehog. Now that I have your attention, have you ever wondered about the various animals in the Bible? I have, and to that end, I thought it would be fun to write a column that explores many folks' favorite topic: animals. Hopefully, you'll find these tidbits not only informative but fun. To help flesh out these columns, I will, at times, rely on secondary sources and, of course, the Bible. You may even wish to begin some sleuthing of your own on this topic. Let's begin.

Question: Do you believe that God communicates with animals? I certainly do. I think most animals are actually much wiser than many humans realize, but God already knows this. Case in point, have you ever stopped to consider how Noah got all those animals on the ark in the first place? Just the magnitude of such an undertaking would have been mind-boggling to contemplate let alone enact. But, in Genesis, it tells us that God did not command Noah to gather every species (male and female) of animal and

bring them to the ark. Noah was simply to *receive* them. Therefore, it would seem logical that the animals were following, or being attracted, by another's command: God's. Before the flood began, the animals "went into the ark to Noah" (Gen. 7:9). How was such a feat possible without God's directive? The only logical explanation: God commanded them to enter the ark. After all, God made all the animals; so naturally, God communicated with them as well. But, let me offer this final note. God's form of animal communication may be unlike the way we interact with our pets. But, it would be difficult to deny that such interactions between God and animals do not exist. Until next time....

*Celebrating 150
years of being
"That Church"*



Music Matters

By Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music

With Easter and Pentecost behind us, we have left the high holy days and proceeded into the long stretch in the liturgical calendar sometimes referred to as ordinary time, though some of what we do in this church could well be called extraordinary: our extravagant welcome and our working to feed and serve those who need our help. These are not things to be taken for granted, as they do not happen everywhere nor automatically. We are intentional in our welcome. We are intentional in our service. And it takes the whole church to support this effort. What might you do, what might CCC do to continue to serve in extraordinary ways? Come lend your effort to that of others in this church who continue to serve month after month, and continue your presence in worship during this ordinary time.

The Sanctuary Choir will be singing throughout the month of June and blessing the congregation with its traditional "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" before it takes a well-deserved rest during the months of July and August. Service in the choir demands quite a commitment of its members, each of whom essentially gives one night a week for ten months of the year to work together on music that we hope will bless the hearts of those who hear it. It certainly blesses those of us who make the music. Fewer churches offer a fully functioning choir, and sometimes those who do must rely only on early Sunday morning rehearsals. I am so grateful for each member of our choir and the commitment of each one to making music that will bless, restore, heal, and bring joy to the hearts of worshipers here at CCC. When you see a choir member, take a moment to tell that person you appreciate his or her service to the choir and to the church. And if you'd like to join us, please do. Rehearsals will begin again in late August.

In July and August, various vocal/instrumental soloists or groups will assist with music in worship.

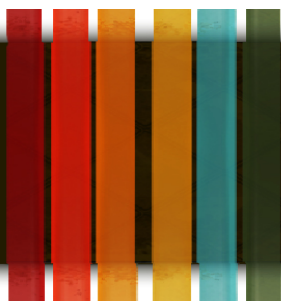
On our June 5th anniversary Sunday, we are singing for the first time in worship my commissioned hymn, "The Church Was Born Among the Poor," which will enlist quite a few instrumentalists as well. This same Sunday is also the 20th anniversary of my call to music ministry at CCC. I have found deep fulfillment in my ministry here and delight in serving with all the vocalists and instrumentalists—quite numerous for a small church!—and pray that it has served the church well. It hardly seems possible that two decades have passed since I arrived, perhaps proving the truth of the adage, "Time flies when you're having fun." And, yes, it is fun—the preparation, the rehearsals, the choir, the congregational singing, the delight in playing our wonderful grand piano. The Sunday morning service blends all of this into one harmonious whole for me: church music is what I do.

My hymn, "O God, Bestow Your Love and Care," took first place in a competition sponsored by the Macalester Plymouth United Church of St. Paul, MN, through the Hymn Society. Each year's contest concerns a matter of social justice, and the 2015 theme called for a hymn that "celebrates language of love, inclusiveness, commitment, and the love God has for the union of all people regardless of gender."

Jazz Gorilla will be accompanying the June 16 opening night service of Annual Gathering at Sonoma State University, a special privilege for us as the Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast, former Conference Minister and CCC member, will be preaching and will be honored for her years of service to the Conference.

Special thanks is due to Deborah Shanks for having taken care of musical duties during my absence for surgery. I am grateful for both her willingness to serve and her competence in doing so. Thank you, Deborah! And to the choir, enjoy the rest of the summer, until we start rehearsals to sing for our Homecoming Sunday in September. May the Lord bless you and keep you!

I want to also thank the church for the gorgeous stole presented to me at the 150th anniversary service, which was also my 20th anniversary of music ministry at CCC. I am grateful for the love it represents, and I am also grateful for the opportunity to be doing music ministry here. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music.



Handbell Bootcamp Starting Soon!

What: A chance to try out handbells and handchimes without making a commitment for weekly rehearsals.

No experience needed; just come and have fun.

Who: Anybody 6th grade to adult

When: Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:15pm starting June 21st.

Where: Fellowship Hall

A minimum of 4 students are needed to start class, with a commitment to attend at least 5 to 8 classes.

How do I start? Let Leslie Lessenger know you are coming (751-0289 or lh1@lessenger.net) and fill out the form in the office. A donation of \$10 is requested for gloves and music.



Worship Update

By Bruce Smith

A lot has happened in Worship Services since the last newsletter. Following Easter and Holy Humor Sunday, we moved into the Stewardship Campaign. This saw Rev. Renie, Rev. Mary Susan Gast and Bruce Smith each emphasizing the importance and need for giving. The emphasis each Sunday was a little different from what the Bible says about giving to why the church today needs our gifts to what each of us gains by giving. The stewardship campaign ended just in time for Pentecost Sunday. And what a Pentecost Sunday it was. Our youth planned and participated in our Pentecost Service. It was full of music, dance and moving messages. Hearing our youth speak from their hearts sharing their personal messages was both moving and eye-opening. We all took a piece of them with us as we left the sanctuary. Thank you to Kyle Daffern, Natalie Daffern, Karyna Mitchell, Audrey Benton, Lydia Benton, Meadow Thomas, Autumn Thomas and Hanna Hendrickson for providing us with a thought provoking Pentecost service and for showing us what amazing and talented youth we have in our church.

Now as we turn to summer, don't think that Worship will slow down. The choir may stop singing, but they will be replaced by talented soloists and duets. There will be a new sermon series based on the book, "Not In God's Name" and a book study to go with it. So, as you make your summer plans, write us in the calendar.



Fandango!

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On May 21st we held our Fandango at the Camel Barn Museum. This was our 150th Anniversary Party and party we did!! Some of you came in period costumes which just added so much to our celebration. With a DJ to provide music for square dancing and line dancing, the dance floor was full of guests of all ages. Thank you Leslie Lessenger for making this happen.

There were exhibits brought by Jim Lessenger to show the history of our church as well as a slide show prepared by Pastor Renie.

The food was spectacular! Laura Pyles was our BBQ Master for the day cooking ribs, chicken, sausage, hotdogs and tri-tips. Many of our lucky attendees acquired a sample rib on their way in just to whet their appetite. The rest of the food was all potluck. We started with a big table of appetizers. When the BBQ was ready we moved on to the multiple tables of salads, side dishes and desserts. Looking down the long row of tables I had to stop and just take it all in. Amazing!! Thank you all who brought food to share and all who came to share food.

Special thanks to our committee who made this all come together: Jim and Leslie Lessenger, Laura Pyles, Dale Olm, Shelby Riddle, Nancy Gilman and Pastor Renie.

