



# The Parishscope

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor



## FELICITATIONS

The theme for the Annual Meeting in Asilomar was covenant, and so most of the speakers gave us insights on that theme. The emphasis on covenant is what separates us from many of our Christian brethren, for we emphasize covenant (the commitment we have to one another) over creedalism (believing in a specific set of beliefs, or using beliefs as a litmus test for salvation).

A systematic and thorough analysis was offered by Elizabeth Nordbeck, the keynote speaker, who is a well-known author and dean at Andover Newton Seminary. After introducing covenant as a “work-in-process,” she offered the following ten lessons on how the denomination as a whole needs healthy covenants. But it seems to me that these are useful benchmarks that we need to remember as we seek to re-energize the church, for these guidelines are important in how we work together generally and how we present ourselves to visitors and potential new members.

1. Covenant means “getting to know you.” We need to think of new and creative ways of doing this.
2. It concerns the health of entire body (both the denomination and the church). Individual ministers and members must be loving critics, but criticism without support is not healthy for anyone.
3. Covenant is about walking together first and having synchronous theological beliefs second. Our tendency is to be inclusive, but if we open our doors to everyone (regardless of their beliefs, actions, and values), then we lose our identity. We must have boundaries, though they must be capacious and permeable.
4. Apathy is as deadly as anger. Being welcoming of all means that we attract a lot of people from other denominations. Covenant requires that

people need to be committed to the health of the UCC.

5. It involves renewing and re-examining commitments periodically. Never discount the need for renewal, reconsideration, and refashioning.
6. Covenant is about the church, and not just individual relationships, and church is more than just an aggregate of individuals. Individuals forgot to ask “Who are we (the church?” preferring to ask “Who am I?”
7. Covenant demands that all of us communicate honestly with each other, which includes naming the difficulties with each other. It also means suspending for a moment, a tendencies to mistrust one another.
8. It requires mutual discovery of when it is appropriate to uphold tradition and when to break tradition. Covenant demand openness to new occasions and new duties.
9. It requires that we all share the burden of caring for the health of our churches, which calls for openness to new ideas and approaches, where feasible.
10. The biggest lesson of all: Covenant is about *us* not *me*. If one part isn’t healthy, then all of us are unhealthy.
11. As always, Asilomar was a wonderful experience, with inspiring worship and engaging workshops. I was especially taken by the seminars with Barbara Brown Zikmund, one of the great UCC historians and editor of the seven-volume work on UCC traditions. (Stop by my office if you want to see this wonderful series.) Unfortunately, the weather wasn’t the greatest, but we went there for mental and emotional (not physical) exercise, so it didn’t matter. I do hope that more ACC’ers will plan on coming next year, if only for one or two days. It’s a wonderful place for new ideas.



## Moderator's Musings

Council Meeting May 9, 2006

Jim Cottle

Church renewal progress report:

Helen summarized "dot" Sunday: the Congregation wishes to remain an intergenerational church: and the Congregation expressed a preference for a performing arts Sunday School program, the establishment of a Summer Performing Arts camp, and the creation of a Wednesday After-School club. The possible addition of Michael Mansfield as a paid leader for portions of this program and youth ministry was discussed. Details are still developing but an optimistic stance is warranted as Michael would be a huge and invaluable addition. Leaders of the small groups model, world hunger relief and ACC-run preschool programs were encouraged to continue researching these longer-term possibilities.

- Jill provided an update on sanctuary renewal including a request to the pew supplier for larger fabric samples. Endowment is providing matching funds of \$15,000 and total cost is estimated at \$56,000. A letter announcing the start of a Capital Campaign to raise the necessary additional funds will be prepared shortly.
- Progress is being made on the new ACC web-site and additional strategies to enrich and facilitate involvement were discussed.
- Research continues on selecting a centralized information systems with field visits planned for coming days.
- A potential minister-in-training has surfaced for the fall – limited details available.
- Council met with the leadership of Mira Vista for lunch in an effort to support friendship and mutual understanding. A wide range of topics was discussed including their probable need for space by the fall and ways to improve communication and exploration between our two congregations. It felt like a very encouraging first step.
- Progress was made via an internal meeting to iron-out continuing concerns regarding certain financial matters for Felicity and the housing issue will be addressed next. No Section D assistance is likely before the fall.
- A pastoral review survey and process timeline has been prepared by Ruth. (See Below).
- Efforts to improve publicity coordination between the Boards, Minister and Christy are progressing.

- Efforts are underway to determine the sources and probable intended usage – if possible - of non-designated memorial funds.
- Allan Gardiner is researching the possible addition of more advanced video equipment. He is also trying to solve the ventilation problem at the front of the sanctuary.
- Kevin Omi has become an In-Care member of ACC as he continues his ministerial education at PSR.
- Gayle Essex has volunteered to provide a blood pressure monitor for those interested in testing after church on Sundays.
- Thanks to Clyde for all his landscaping work, to Kay for providing food for the Mira Vista lunch, to Helen for leading the church renewal program, and to everyone else who strives mightily to keep our church functioning and relevant.



## Pastoral Evaluation Process

It is time for and Felicity has requested a pastoral review. The purpose is to provide input on how ACC views Felicity's strengths, gifts and areas needing improvement. Ruth has prepared a review form based upon Felicity's Letter-of-Call and input from the Conference. Council approved the questions and time-line. Evaluation forms will be mailed to the Congregation, Boards, Chairs, Staff, and Felicity later this month. Volunteers are needed to aggregate the data and work with Felicity's pastoral relations committee in late June to summarize results. Please give this evaluation the time and attention it deserves.



## Father's Day Service

On Sunday, June 18, Rev. Wendy Taylor will join us and speak about her ministry in the Pescadero area. Her ministry offers hospitality and relief from loneliness to farm field laborers far from their families. Gifts of welcome bags, bikes, blankets, and beans are all symbols of love and care that go along with other services: counseling, story telling, referrals to job and health services."

## UCC Forums for the Future



The first of our Conference-wide Forums for the Future will be held at Pioneer Congregational UCC, Sacramento, from 10-4, Saturday, June 17. To

register for the event, contact John Castro by email [castro.j@comcast.net](mailto:castro.j@comcast.net), phone: 916 920 9803, or letter: 1674 River City Way, Sacramento CA 95833. Give him the name(s) and contact information of the people you are registering for the Forum, along with the name and location of the church they belong to. If you need overnight accommodations, let John know and he will make arrangements with church members in Sacramento.

The first Forum will focus on our identity as members of the United Church of Christ. Ron Buford and Rev. Donna Schaper of the national staff of the "God Is Still Speaking" initiative will be present to provide inspiration and information. You will have the opportunity to take part in small groups to address questions such as, "What IS the UCC Anyway, and What Does it Mean to be a Member of the UCC?" "How Do We Welcome New Members to Our Church?" "How Has 'God Is Still Speaking' Affected Us?" "How Will Christian Education Change As Un-Churched People Join Our Church?"

Plans for Forums 2-5 are shaping up. Please note the date change for forum 2.

- Forum 2--Youth & Young Adult Ministries--September 16, 2006, location to be determined
- Forum 3--Church Formation & Transformation--November 4, 2006, College Avenue UCC, Modesto
- Forum 4--Faithful Witness for Justice & Peace--February 10, 2007, First Congregational UCC, San Jose
- Forum 5--Stewardship, Bequests, Financial Planning to Make the Dreams Real--Faith Community UCC & First Congregational UCC, Oakland

Check the Conference website for updates.



## ACC Women's Group

"Put on your pearls, it's tea time for girls."  
ACC Women's Fellowship invites you to a  
TEA AND DOLLHOUSE TOUR  
hosted by Barbara Forbes  
38 Ardmore Road in Kensington  
Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>  
2pm to 4pm

Please call the church office by Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, to sign up for this lovely tea. Barbara has generously offered to open her home and to provide all the refreshments. Don't miss this special gift to the women of ACC.



## Welcome!

## Witness Our Welcome (WOW)

Celebrate God's Inclusive Love, Welcoming God's Children of All Sexual Orientations at the fifth annual Interfaith Worship Celebration on Saturday, June 10 at 7:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville."

## Church Family Events

**Kathlyn and Alexa Alford** will be dancing in El Cerrito High School's last dance production for the 2005-2006 school year. The dance program will be held at Contra Costa College's Knox Center for the Performing Arts on June 1st and June 2nd at 8:00PM. If interested in attending, call Marilyn at 510 237-2836.



**Kathlyn** will be attending UCLA in September, 2006.

Congratulations Kathlyn (Ed.)



## STROKE

### IDENTIFICATION:

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) and just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food - while she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening. Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00pm, Ingrid passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this...

*A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.*

### RECOGNIZING A STROKE

*Thank God for the sense to remember the "3" steps, STR. Read and Learn!*

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- **S** Ask the individual to **SMILE**.
- **T** Ask the person to **TALK** to **SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE** (Coherently) [i.e. It is sunny out today.]
- **R** Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.

### NOTE:

*Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out their tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke. If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately!! and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.*



## Enjoy

From Chris & Dave Rider

Dave's aunt sent this to us and we had a good laugh and wanted to share it - enjoy!

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills  
 If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
 If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,  
 If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,  
 If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,  
 If you can overlook when people take things out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong,  
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,  
 If you can face the world without lies and deceit,  
 If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
 If you can relax without liquor,  
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
 If you can do all these things,  
 Then you are probably the family dog.

## Christian One-Liners

(From Maria McLaughlin)

Don't let your worries get the best of you, remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

**Peace starts with a smile.**

# **PEACE CHILD**

**A MUSICAL ARTS THEATER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AGES 7-13  
August 14 -August 18, 2006**

**At Arlington Community Church,  
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, California  
(510-526-9146)**

**The Arts Ministry of Arlington Community Church is a program serving the children of the Kensington area. It welcomes children of all faiths to learn to express in creative and interactive ways their hopes and aspirations for themselves and for the world.**

***Peace Child* is a musical about creating peace in our world and our leaders holding a vision for peaceful solutions to our world challenges.**

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## **Peace Child Registration Form**

**Please register my child(ren): (registration deadline, June 23)**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Registration fee and materials cost: \$50/child  
(Enclose check payable to Arlington Community Church)  
Deadline: June 23, 2006**

**Dates: Monday, August 14 - Friday, August 18  
Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm**

**There will be two follow up rehearsals on September 9 & 16  
The production will be presented on Sunday, September 17.**

**Production Director: Shanti Moorjani, Children's Choir Director  
Arlington Community Church, Kensington**

**For answers to other questions, please call  
Arlington Community Church,  
Office Hours T- F 10-3pm; (510) 526-9146**



## ACC Calendar – June 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>2</b> 8:00 PM WAVE Mini Concert	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warmup 10:00 AM Worship ( At Mira Vista )  6:00 PM Music and Meditation Service	<b>5</b> 7:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Deacons Meet	<b>6</b> 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 3:30 PM *Children's Choir	<b>7</b> PARISHSCOPE 3:30 PM *Children's Choir 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM Women's Tea
<b>11</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warmup 10:00 AM Worship (Sn) 11:30 AM Knitting Ministry 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>12</b> 7:45 PM Bell Choir	<b>13</b> 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Duplic. Bridge 3:30 PM *Children's Choir 7:30 PM Church Council(FR)	<b>14</b> Flag Day 3:30 PM *Children's Choir 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM Children's Choir Concert
<b>18</b> Father's Day 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warmup 10:00 AM Worship (Sn) 2:00 PM Vocal Recital 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>19</b> 7:45 PM Bell Choir	<b>20</b> SOUPER CENTER 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 3:30 PM *Children's Choir 7:30 PM Chr. Ed.	<b>21</b> PARISHSCOPE 3:30 PM *Children's Choir 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>23</b> 6:00 PM Bridge Potluck & Play(SH)	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warmup 10:00 AM Worship (Sn) 11:30 AM Missions 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>26</b> 7:45 PM Bell Choir	<b>27</b> 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 3:30 PM *Children's Choir 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>28</b> 3:30 PM *Children's Choir 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>30</b> 8:00 PM B.A.C.H Mini Concert	

# Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ  
52 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94707

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## The Parishscope

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SUNDAY, JUNE 4	SUNDAY, JUNE 11	SUNDAY, JUNE 18
8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School  Pentecost – At Mira Vista UCC  6:00pm Music and Meditation	8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School  Michael Mansfield preaching  6:00pm Meditation (Fireside)	Father's Day  8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School  Rev. Wendy Taylor  6:00pm Meditation (Fireside)

\*\*\*THE NEXT DEADLINE IS JUNE 7TH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE\*\*\*

[Send *Parishscope* email to: [pat@patricia-mclaughlin.net](mailto:pat@patricia-mclaughlin.net)]

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, June 2	8:00pm	Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE)
Sunday, June 4	10:00am	Pentecost Service at Mira Vista, UCC
Sunday, June 4	6:00pm	Music and Meditation at ACC
Saturday, June 10	2:00pm	Women's Tea Party at Barbara Forbes
Saturday, June 17	7:00pm	Children's Choir Concert
Sunday, June 18	2:00pm	Young People Vocal Recital
Tuesday, June 20	10:00am	Souper Center
Friday, June 30	8:00pm	Mini Concert-Bay Area Classical Harmonies