

# The Parishscope

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor

## FELICITATIONS



Wow! ACC is becoming a happening place! The Board of Endowment Trustees agreed to the proposal from the Board of Christian Education to begin a

Christian Arts Ministry Program with the help of Michael Mansfield. We hope this will build on the wonderful work of Shanti, Linda Young, and Allan Essex (and many others) on the Peace Child summer arts camp. And then, we have an exciting new Minister-in-Training coming for the fall: Steve Foss is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at PSR and a bundle of energy and excitement. We'll have more to say about these activities elsewhere in this issue and next month. And for icing on the cake, the new carpet should be arriving sometime this month. So hold on to your hats – August is going to be a lively month and, with continued hard work and God's grace, that will just be the beginning of our renewal efforts.

In the meanwhile, we're spending much of our Sunday worship time looking at faith at work. This is a "where-the-rubber-hits-the-road" issue. Or, to look at it another way – what's your attitude on a Monday morning when you walk to the bus or start the car? Are you more likely to be singing "Take this job and shove it?" or whistling "Heigh ho, heigh ho, it's off to work we go," or is it something in between?

The purpose of church isn't to make us feel good for an hour every week, or to give us an excuse to visit with friends. Rather, it's to praise God and to empower us to take our faith to work – whether that work is a paid job or volunteer work or just being a better parent, grandparent, spouse, or friend.

We all know how easy it is to preach our values and how much harder it is to actually live them. We are all indebted to those who have agreed to share their

stories and their challenges. So far, the following individuals have agreed to talk about faith at work: Jan Kosel, Elena Caruthers, Ellie Powers, Ruth Robinson, and Kris Whitten. A few others have agreed tentatively, and there are still opportunities if you would like to share your story.

Whether or not you want to share your story, please consider how you might answer these questions that we've asked of those who are sharing their stories:

- Did you choose your vocation, or did it choose you? How did it happen? When did you know?
- How does your personal faith influence you at work?
- How do you understand the phrase: "doing God's work"?
- Many jobs will include some inherent decisions that are ethical ones, as opposed to financial or practical or moral or legal ones. If you have had occasion to rub up against decision making that involves ethical components, how have you addressed this?
- Do you feel that participation in church life has helped you arrive at ethical decisions?
- Have you had opportunities to share your faith with others at work?
- How has your faith enable you to deal with challenges you have experienced at work?
- Do you have a favorite character(s) or story(ies) in the Bible? What do they say to you? How do they help you stay faithful in your chosen profession?

I'm guessing that much of our satisfaction with our work depends on whether or not we feel God's presence in our professional life. This means taking our religious and ethical values in our homes and our offices. What do you think?



## Moderator's Musings

Jim Cottle

**Sanctuary Renovation:** The capital campaign is off to a strong start. As of Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>, roughly \$9,000 has been contributed to the program and an additional \$2,500 has been pledged. Endowment Trustees will match the first \$15,000 raised by the congregation so we are very close having \$30,000 for this program which has been an objective of ACC for almost five years. We encourage those who have not participated to step forward with their gifts. Total cost of the project, designed to strengthen the physical appeal of ACC to young families, is estimated at \$56,000. Several individuals have requested that giving be made possible through a pledge program and pledge cards are now available in the Social Hall after services and in the office. Please give!

**Welcome Michael Mansfield!!** Also on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Endowment Trustees approved a request to fund a Christian Arts Education Ministry program at ACC. Michael Mansfield, who preached twice recently and captivated members of the Youth Choir, will lead the charge and will work closely with Shanti, CE and Felicity. We feel extremely blessed to have someone with the enormous gifts and experience that Michael brings in theology and the arts. He will begin August 1<sup>st</sup> assisting with "Peace Child". Michael will preach the children's sermon 2+ times a month and the regular sermon every 4-6 weeks. A wealth of other programs and activities are envisioned (including adult dance classes for which Jeanette has already signed us up).

This two-year program is designed to breathe new life into our Sunday school, youth and adult programs. Over-night success is not to be expected but we know that at a minimum the next two years are going to be fun and a significant contribution will have been made to the ministry of the community. And if things go as hoped, the numbers of families with young children will rebound. The goal is to have this program continue indefinitely. Please welcome Michael when you next see him and polish up those old dancing shoes.

**Welcome Stephen Foss!!** The good news keeps coming. Stephen Foss, Jr. will be joining us also in August as our new MIT. Steve's early academic background was in public relations, he was the captain of his college tennis team and he expects to get his Masters of Divinity at PSR in '07. Steve's exuberance and PR skills will be most valuable. Please welcome Steve when you see him.

**Thanks to Gail Eastwood!!** We have been extremely fortunate to have Gail Eastwood with us this last year as our MIT. She has made a significant contribution to our growth strategy and assumed large portions of the preaching load on various occasions. Gail's husband, Wayne, has helped enhance our web-site. Gail will continue to be active at ACC next year.

### July Council Meeting:

Allan announced that 24+ children have signed up for this summer's "Peace Child", the play which will be directed by Shanti and Linda Young and produced in early September. This is a very exciting development for the youth arts program and we hope to build on this momentum in the fall under Michael Mansfield. Kudos to Allan Essex, Shanti, CE and all of those who recruited and covered the community with flyers.

Jaima will conduct further research into the probable community demand for the proposed Wednesday-after-school program. A large number of church members volunteered time and talent for this program.

Council approved the hiring of Michael Mansfield to guide the youth arts ministry program. (See above).

Jill and Elena provided an up-date on the sanctuary renovation effort. Pictures of the pews were passed around along with a sample of the carpet covering. An actual pew is expected to arrive and be available for testing soon. The fund raising effort is off to a good start (see above).

Efforts to enhance the supply of current info on our web-site continue.

Randy and Pat will be kicking the tires of a potential new information system.

Undesignated memorial funds (\$2,840) will be contributed to the Sanctuary Renovation campaign.

Council approved the selection of Steve Foss as new MIT (see above). Efforts are being made to check on the status of our request for matching funds.

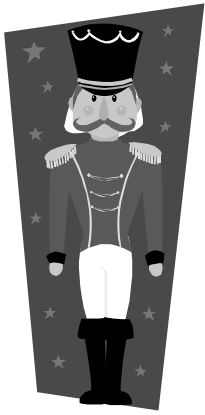
Felicity's pastoral review is well under way and results of the survey will be tallied and discussed with Felicity before the end of the month.

Procedures are being discussed to coordinate activity promotion with a single calendar to minimize slippage.

Ventilation of the sanctuary remains an issue.

Thoughts were presented on a possible reduction in the frequency of Parishscope mailings with no action taken at this time.

A letter was drafted expressing concern about the impact on the "Still Speaking" effort of recent internal political developments in the national UCC office.



**Early Notice -- December Holiday Luncheon**  
*“Season of Light”*

Yes, ACC, there will be a Christmas Bazaar in 2006. It is not too early (!) to think about where YOU might have fun supporting this year’s holiday luncheon and boutique.

The primary focus of this traditional ACC holiday event is to share the hospitality and spirit of the season with our local community. Under the sponsorship of the Women’s Fellowship, Linda Jones and Susan Yourd have volunteered to create the framework for a celebration of the “Season of Light”.

- Date: Saturday, December 2, 2006
- Hours: 11:00 am ~ 2:30 pm. Boutique opens: 11:00 am, Luncheon served: 12:00 Noon
- Luncheon reservations by calling the church office

Several critical jobs have volunteer ‘Chairs,’ i.e. ticket sales, publicity, Luncheon chefs, table decorations, and entertainment. If YOU would like to join the fun, please contact Linda (527-4835) or Susan (524-4782) for your choice of: Boutique coordination (there are plenty of crafters, just need someone(s) to keep tabs), Staffing/Servers for the Luncheon, a Set up/Clean up crew, and a point person for decorating the Social Hall (Linda and Susan have ideas that may help here). All areas can use help and inspiration!

As you can see, the basic framework for the Luncheon and Boutique is almost in place. Preliminary thinking is that any funds in excess of expenses will be

determined by the Women’s Fellowship – perhaps for kitchen utensils or like purpose. Plans will become more detailed after the WF meetings in September and October. Please think about what might be your own gift to make this community-wide event a success, and....

**Please save Saturday, December 2nd!!!**

**Any Writers Out There?**



Felicity is interested in starting a writer’s group if there are others out there who would like to work on their poetry or prose in a supportive, nurturing environment. It will be open to anyone – members of the congregation, neighbors, or friends. Please let Felicity or Christy know if you or someone you know are interested.

**Please Check Your Bookshelves**



About 18 months ago, Felicity bought and distributed several copies of a book *How to Revive Your Mainline Congregation*. We really need them back, so please double-check and return them to the office if you find one stranded and lonely on one of your bookshelves. Thank you.

**Louise Rowland's New Address**

Louise Rowland  
12877 Sylva Lane, Apt. 211  
Sonora, CA 95370

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON PARISHSCOPE**

The ACC council desires your input on the question of whether or not to change the frequency of the *Parishscope* from every two weeks to once a month.

The reasons for making the change include the cost of postage, the cost of paper, staff time, a desire to mitigate global warming by reducing the use of natural resources, and confusion about deadlines.

The reasons for keeping the current schedule are to keep all people (especially those who do not have computer access) informed and mindful of ACC activities.

So, we’re asking your vote on the following proposal:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I support the change of frequency to once a month. I understand that a weekly summary of news and upcoming activities will be distributed by e-mail and made available on Sundays.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I want to keep the *Parishscope* distribution schedule as it currently is.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please add your comments on the reverse side*

# CHRISTIAN ARTS EDUCATION MINISTRY

Jim Cottle, Felicity Wright, and Michael Mansfield

July 6, 2006

**Mission Statement:** Since the desire for a Christian Arts Education Ministry arose as the top priority from the Spring 2006 Discernment Process at Arlington Community Church, we seek a quarter-time Christian Arts Education Minister (CAEM) to help us co-create such a program. The Christian Arts Education Ministry would seek to accomplish faith formation in our community through a wide variety of approaches including: religious education modules; social justice outreach opportunities; adult faith formation components; theater classes; dance classes; productions and companies springing from these classes; after-school resources and opportunities; community festival days; collaborative events and spiritual mini-series; community meals; family worship and special liturgical celebrations; ritual

classes and trainings for the entire church; and other things yet to be imagined or determined.

All activities of this Christian Arts Education Ministry are understood as vital, contributing parts of the fulfillment of our mission at Arlington Community Church to serve the human and spiritual needs of the local area, and by so doing, bring the Good News to the church, to Kensington, and beyond. This ministry will be initiated as a two-year pilot project, with hopes that it will expand as the program naturally develops. The part-time Christian Arts Education Minister will report directly to Reverend Felicity Wright. The CAEM will join the existing Christian Arts Education Ministry Team (Pastor, Minister-in-Training, Director of Music, and the Board of Christian Education).

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**Comments on Parishscope:**

## ACC Calendar - August 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys)	<b>2</b> 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship 3:00pm Peace Child Orientation 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 7:30 PM Church Council(FR) 7:30pm – Chr. Educ.	<b>9</b> 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Knitting Ministry 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>14</b> Peace Child, Musical Arts Theater Camp	<b>15</b> Peace Child, Musical Arts Theater Camp SOUPER CENTER 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys)	<b>16</b> Peace Child, Musical Arts Theater Camp 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>17</b> Peace Child, Musical Arts Theater Camp 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>18</b> Peace Child, Musical Arts Theater Camp	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>21</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation	<b>22</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>23</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation Parishscope 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>24</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>25</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation 6:00 PM Bridge Potluck & Play(SH)	<b>26</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation
<b>27</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Missions 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>28</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation	<b>29</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation 6:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys)	<b>30</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>31</b> Sanctuary Carpet Installation Souper Center 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)		

# Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ  
52 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94707

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<b>SUNDAY, July 30</b>	<b>SUNDAY, August 6</b>	<b>SUNDAY, August 13</b>
8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School Taizé Service 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship in the Social Hall & Sunday School Ruth Robinson Preaching 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School Rev. Felicity Wright, preaching 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing
<b>SUNDAY, August 20</b>	<b>SUNDAY, August 27</b>	<b>SUNDAY, September 3</b>
8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School Felicity Wright Preaching (Blessing of the Animals) 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School Kris Whitten Preaching 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School To Be Announced 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing

\*\*\*THE NEXT DEADLINE IS AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> FOR PUBLICATION IN THE AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE\*\*\*

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

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Peace Child Theater Arts Program</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00am</b>	<b>Souper Center</b>
<b>Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – Thursday, August 31<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sanctuary Carpeting</b>
<b>Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm</b>	<b>Bridge Social and Play</b>
<b>Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00am</b>	<b>Souper Center</b>