

# The Parishscope

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor

## FELICITATIONS



If you have never lived within 100 yards of fledgling hawks, you may be unaware of their incessant and ear-splitting screeches for food.

When they are old enough to take flight (a month or so after birth), they take short hops to nearby trees squawking all the while. It's as though they're saying, "Mom, look at me – quick, quick – I'm flying, look at me." Screech, screech, screech...

Because of the incessant racket, many of my neighbors are delighted that the baby hawks have now flown the coop. It's been about a month since they finally left their nest across the 16<sup>th</sup> fairway, but I find that I miss them. I rather enjoyed their constant cries for food and attention, if only because they helped me appreciate my own (much quieter) children and reinforced the delights of parenting human (as opposed to hawk) babies.

And now the hawks are quiet. There's no more need to squawk for food. There's no more need to brag about the successful 50-foot hop to a nearby tree. There's no more need to screech in panic when a surprise thermal holds them aloft longer or drives them further than they planned. They are flying without thinking about it, celebrating life, strength, and the beauty of the canyon, watching, searching for food ... nearly always silently.

As I was ruminating about the joys and challenges of rearing hawk and human babies, I also realized that ACC is in the process of "parenting" a diverse brood of new ideas and new possibilities. The similarities between the fledging of children, hawks, and programs were reinforced when I came across a quote by Guillaume Apollinaire, the French poet:

*"Come to the edge," he said.*

*They said: "We are afraid."*

*"Come to the edge," he said.*

*They came. He pushed them and they flew.*

Since I don't know the context of the quote, I can't be sure who the "he" and the "we" are, but it seems to depict how change, fear, and growth are all intertwined. Our parents and teachers – or might it be God? – invites us to the edge, where we don't want to go. And then, suddenly we find that we can fly, and explore, and soar, in ways we never expected. As we ponder new ways of doing things – as individuals, as a church, as a community, as a country – we're always having to deal with the fear of change.

No one said it was going to be easy. What is the best use of limited resources? We're tired; there just aren't enough people to do what we want to do. There isn't enough money to do what we want to do. What's wrong with us – why can't we get new members? We squawk, "Mom, Dad – feed me, help me – now! Let me stay in my nice safe nest and have you bring me food on demand."

And then, just when we're most terrified, we find that we're out of the nest and our wings are flapping, and voila – we're flying! The success of the Peace Child arts camp, the possibilities that Michael and Steve offer, the new energy represented by the sanctuary redecorating – for better or for worse, we're airborne. We're still not sure that the wings and the winds are both strong enough to take us where we want to go, but we know that we have come to the edge and we are aloft. And it is wondrously exciting to flow with the strong thermals and view a terrain of possibility that we haven't seen for a long time.

Of course, the journey is a long one, and we've just begun. But the world sure does look gorgeous from our new vantage point of a few hundred feet up! And so we celebrate the months of squawking and feeding and preparation and good parenting, and we thank God for giving us wings.

Amen.

## ACC Women's Fellowship presents...



### An Indian dining experience to tantalize our taste buds...

Under the guidance of Lachu Moorjani, chef-owner of the acclaimed Ajanta Restaurant on Solano, we will have a hands-on

experience cooking a complete Indian dinner from one region in India. The dinner at the church will include an appetizer, main dish, side dish (vegetable), rice, Indian bread, and dessert. Groups will work separately to prepare one dish which will be shared by everyone.

**Date: Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**

**Cost: \$20 per person. Beverages sold separately.**

The Ajanta cookbook and spice box will be available for purchase.

**To make reservations call the church office at 526-9146 by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Questions? Call Linda Jones at 527-4835."

## Books on Tape, Anyone?



Felicity is looking to create a library of Books on CD (or tape) for shut-ins, and sight impaired members of the congregation. Please call the church office if you have something to donate.

## Faith and Politics



Christian leader Jim Wallis, author of *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, will speak about faith and politics at the First Congregational Church of

Berkeley on Monday, September 11 at 6:00 pm in an event co-sponsored by the Graduate Theological Union, the Sojourners organization, and the Beatitudes Society. The executive director and editor-in-chief of Sojourners, Wallis brings a progressive message that links personal values with public issues. Doors will open at 5:15 pm. Following his talk, books will be available for purchase and signing.

First Congregational Church of Berkeley is located at 2345 Channing Way in Berkeley, California 94704. For more information, contact David Myers at 510/649-2420 or [dmyers@gtu.edu](mailto:dmyers@gtu.edu).

## In Memoriam – Guy Colburn

Guy died peacefully on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, surrounded by his family. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm, followed by a reception and dinner in the social hall.

## Prayer Group Notice



The Tuesday Morning Prayer group that meets at 6:00am on Tuesdays at the Kelleys will not meet from September 5<sup>th</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The group will resume on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## NCNC UCC Forums for the Future

### Transformational Youth & Young Adult Ministry with Ken Brown



Associate for Youth and Young Adult Empowerment Office of Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC and Rev.

Da Vita D. McCallister Minister for Youth, Young Adults, and Outdoors Office of Local Church Ministries of the UCC.

September 16, 2006, 10am to 4pm, hosted by Congregational Church of San Mateo UCC and Kalavaria CCCSA UCC

This inspiring and informational day of worship and conversation will help us connect with others in youth ministry, identify exciting resources that can help your church, and discern God's call to our conference for youth ministry. Lunch will be provided.

Come if your church:

- wonders how to start a youth ministry
- wants to see its small youth program grow and thrive
- is ready for its long standing tradition of youth ministry to be transformed

Please RSVP to Joy Davis by calling the NCNC UCC Conference Office at 510-247-8995 or emailing her at [joy@nncucc.org](mailto:joy@nncucc.org).

Childcare and overnight hospitality available upon request. The forum is free of charge. A free-will offering will be available to help offset costs.

Congregational Church of San Mateo is located in the heart of San Mateo which is halfway between San Francisco and San Jose. The church's address is 225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo, California 94401. Call for directions 650/343-3694 or go to <http://www.ccsm-ucc.org/ccsm/directions.htm>

This forum is being sponsored by the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and the UCC Youth Leaders Network.



### Music Notes

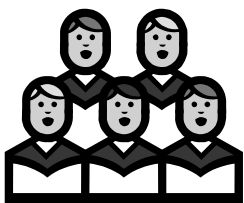
The Peace Child summer camp at the church on August 14-18 was truly exciting.

The expression, "it takes a village" was certainly the mood of the week with so many people from the church helping out. Linda Young spear-headed the initial work on script and art, with Allan Essex (Uncle Al) tending to any detail at all and building a special thrust stage (with help from friends). Kay Ligon, with help from Clavel Fender and friends organized the snack and lunch everyday. Sara Laferte, Jill Bryans, Jaima Roberts, and Steve Foss (Minister in training) were physically present to help activities flow - plus much more. Oscar Burdick and Maria Reeves played piano for the music rehearsals, Jim Young helped with cement for the props and Allan Gardiner made CD's for all the kids. Michael Mansfield (drama), Sieglinde (stage sets and art) and I (music) were truly supported in this effort for the church and the community. Many thanks to all the angels - mentioned above or others, not mentioned, who contributed to the Peace Child Project.

We still have two more rehearsals for PEACE CHILD before the performance on Sunday, September 17 at 3:00pm in the social hall of the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave, Kensington. Bring a friend and other kids.

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### Arlington Children's Choir

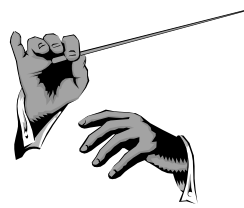


Rehearsals for the Arlington Children's Choir will begin on Tuesday September 19 at 4:00 - 5:45 for (Level II and III), Wednesday, September 20 at 4:00 - 5:15pm. (Level I)

Children 8 years and older are invited to participate. If you know a child that would be interested, please have them call me.

843-7745 (Shanti)

### Mini Concert Series



The fifth season for the **Mini Concert Series** will begin at the Arlington Community Church in September. The concerts are design to be diverse, affordable and a relaxing way to end a busy week of work. The arts ministry at the church seeks to help support our talented Bay Area artists. Buying a reduced priced series subscription not only saves you money, but takes better care of our artists.

#### Here are the fall concerts:

**September 29** Broceliande - Celtic, Medieval, and Renaissance Music

**October 20** Macina Sol - Latin Jazz Quartet with Javier Navaretti

**November 3** Oak, Ash, and Thorn -Traditional acapella with British Isle flavor

**December 8** Bella Musica - Berkeley choir conducted by Arlene Sagen

All concerts are on Friday nights at 8:00, at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington. The four concert series is \$36.00 and tickets can be sent to you by calling 526-9146. This is our fifth year of concerts, thanks to all of you who have supported the program.

Is there anyone who would be able to take charge of the refreshments that follow the concerts? I personally do not have time this year to take it on.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Musical Opportunities at the Arlington Community Church:

#### Adults:

**Chancel Choir: Rehearsals Wednesday night 7:30 -9:00pm** (Begins September 13)

**Bell Choir: Rehearsals Monday night 7:45 -9:00pm** (Begins September 11)

#### Children:

**Peace Singers Rehearse Sundays from 11:15 - 11:45** (Begins September 10)

All children 7yrs. and up welcome

**Bell Ringers Rehearse on Wednesday 2:30 to 3:30** (Begins September 20)

Appropriate for ages 8 and above. Free.



### A New Music Opportunity! The Arlington Musicmakers!

Amateur musicians, all levels, – come to a demonstration meeting on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm where Carolyn Margrete will begin to form an adult music group playing

music together for our own enjoyment, perhaps ultimately to perform. It will be based on keyboards, with the hope that guitar, flute, or other instrumentalists will join in the fun. This meeting will be free, a small fee may be suggested later.



Dear ACC,

Thank you for the amazing welcome into your community of faith. It seems like something bigger-than-the-both-of-us had a hand in shaping the events of the last few months. I'm still impressed with your prayers

from that first Sunday back in April when I had been recruited to preach. Several of you stood that day and asked that God "send children to be a part of our community". I just spent last week with 20 young people and many of you working on Peace Child at ACC.

I had been youth minister at 2 churches up until 2001. At that point, I decided to take a break from the officially designated role of minister. I had been a high school teacher, religious education coordinator, and youth minister at 5 churches and schools for 18 years at that point. I had directed and traveled with youth choirs and youth theater companies for years in San Francisco, St. Louis, Berkeley, Honduras, and London.

I have worked for 3 religious education publishers as a writer, editor, and speaker, helping produce 3 curriculums for children, youth, and adults, including most recently, *Seasons of the Spirit*. I have taught teachers and youth ministers and religious educators for 18 years nationally and internationally. Retreats and workshops, with youth and adults, are still part of my freelance work.

I have been graduate faculty at Pacific School of Religion for 6 years, Holy Names University for 2 years, New College of California for 2 years, Naropa University Oakland for 8 years, University of Creation Spirituality for 7 years, and Wisdom University for 2 years. I have been faculty at Chabot College for the last 7 years, teaching acting and dance, and directing shows. I taught dance at UC Berkeley for 2 years and at St. Louis University for 7 years. I continue to teach at Wisdom University several weeks during the year and work on 5 or 6 dissertations each year with students there. All of this work has been about the integration of dance, theater, spirituality, and justice-making, or more simply, art that has faith and does justice.

I have worked in missions in Mexico, Honduras, Belize, Kenya, and Wyoming. I have traveled and taught throughout the United States, United Kingdom, France, Hungary, Greece, German, Israel, Tanzania, Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the USSR. I have performed in London, Amsterdam,

and across the United States. My activism has focused on runaway youth, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, cancer, GBLTQ equality, women's equality, men's equality, environmental concerns, and the arts.

I have taught dance in the Bay Area grade schools for the last 12 years though an arts organization called LEAP -- Learning through Education and Arts Project. I continue to do this two mornings a week this fall, probably more mornings in the spring.

Each afternoon I work at the University of California at Berkeley in the Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies Department as the undergraduate student administrator for 300 actors and dancers. I am beginning my 5th year in this position.

Randy Sweringen, Alumni Director and Major Gifts Officer at Pacific School of Religion, and I have been together nearly 7 years, partnered/married 4 times: California Domestic Partnership, San Francisco Marriage, PSR Wedding, and Canadian Marriage. Three of the four are holding firm.

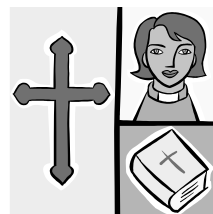
So it seems my interest consistently remains at the intersection of education, theater, and worship that does justice. My question is -- are all three, really, the same thing deep-down? It seems like ACC is interested in exploring this same question too in some way by asking, "What is Education Arts Ministry?" I look forward to hearing much more about your dreams and visions, and together, discover what we can do to find the holy child you've prayed for to arrive in every person that walks through the doors at ACC this coming year.

Blessings on your fall as we begin to harvest what you have sown.

May this autumn be filled with deep peace.

Michael Mansfield

### A New Role for Alexandra Childs



Rev. Alexandra Childs, a much-loved member of the extended ACC family, has left her position as acting pastor of Skyline Community Church. Although we are saddened by this news, we are thrilled that she will take on a temporary position developing the liturgy and worship design for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UCC at the General Synod to be held in Hartford next June. So if you didn't have a reason for going to the Synod, you sure do now. What a thrill this will be for everyone present!

## ACC Calendar September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>4</b> Labor Day	<b>5</b> No Prayer Group (Kelleys) 7:30 Christian Ed.	<b>6</b> 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM Peace Child Rehearsal
<b>10</b> Solano Stroll 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 11:15 AM Peace Singers 11:30 AM Knitting Ministry 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>11</b> 7:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearse 7:00 PM Deacon's Meet	<b>12</b> No Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Duplic. Bridge 7:30 PM Church Council(FR)	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Women's Potluck & Program(SH)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Peace Child Rehearsal 4:00 PM Guy Colburn Memorial
<b>17</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Peace Child 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>18</b> 7:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearse	<b>19</b> No Prayer Group (Kelleys) SOUPER CENTER 7:30 PM Musicmakers	<b>20</b> PARISHSCOPE 2:30 PM Bell Ringers 4:00 PM Children's Choir 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:30 PM Men's Dinner	<b>22</b> 6:00 PM Bridge Potluck & Play(SH)	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Missions 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	<b>25</b> 7:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearse	<b>26</b> No Prayer Group (Kelleys) 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM Bell Ringers 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	<b>29</b> 8:00 PM Mini Concert-Broceliande	<b>30</b>

# Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ  
52 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94707

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## The Parishscope

««AddressBlock»»

<b>SUNDAY, September 3</b>	<b>SUNDAY, September 10</b>	<b>SUNDAY, September 17</b>
8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am – Felicity: World Trade Center Memories 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am – Worship & Sunday School Michael Mansfield/ Steve Foss preaching 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study & Discussion 10:00am - Worship & Sunday School Bill McKinney, President of PSR, Preaching 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing

**\*\*\*THE NEXT DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE\*\*\***  
[Send *Parishscope* email to: [pat@patricia-mclaughlin.net](mailto:pat@patricia-mclaughlin.net)]

<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b>		
<b>Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Guy Colburn Memorial &amp; Reception</b>
<b>Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Women's India Dinner at the Church</b>
<b>Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Peace Child Program</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Souper Center</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Musicmakers Demo meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Men's Dinner</b>
<b>Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Mini Concert - Broceliande</b>