

The Parishscope

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor



FELICITATIONS

Twice in the last year, people have expressed displeasure at something I said in worship. The first happened several months ago, when I stated that “All are welcome at this [communion]

table. It matters not what you believe – or what you don’t believe – you are welcome here. If you want to experience the radical love of Christ and the hospitable welcome of this fellowship, we invite you to join us in this feast...”

One woman – a first-time visitor – harrumphed, stood up (rather dramatically it seemed), and walked out. I was disappointed but not perturbed, for I believe that Jesus welcomed all people – regardless of age, sex, ethnic background, or religious preferences, *and* with all their certainties, their confusion, and their doubts. I was sorry that I could not share this vision of divine love with the visitor, but I understand that some people are uncomfortable with the notion of radical welcome and need the reassurance of knowing that some people (including them) are “in” while others are “out.”

The second happened last week when I was chatting over coffee with another first-time visitor. Though he was gracious, he said something that led me to believe that he was troubled by my use of God’s “kin-dom,” rather than “kingdom.” I perceived that he felt I was diminishing Jesus’ power and influence or the reality of salvation as it is commonly understood. And while that might be a reasonable supposition, nothing could be farther from the truth. And so some explanation might be helpful.

“Basileia” is the Greek term that is translated as “kingdom” in the New Testament, and it appears quite frequently. (I counted 154 verses.) All of the key New Testament writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John,

and Paul) use “kingdom of God” while Matthew alone uses the term “kingdom of heaven.”

That’s the easy part.

The hard part is identifying *when* and *where* the kingdom of God is – is it on earth in the here and now or somewhere else after we die? Read the many passages where “kingdom of God” appears. Sometimes the when/where that Jesus is talking about is clear, but often it’s not. And the problem for me and many others is that some people believe that the “kingdom of God” *only* refers to heaven and *only* happens after death. This would mean that the sole thrust of Jesus’ life and teaching was eternal salvation for individuals, effectively dismissing the importance of creating a more equitable and loving society here on earth.

Could this be true? Was Jesus *only* worried about whether certain individuals would get into heaven? Or was he equally (and perhaps even more) interested in fashioning a society that is equitable, loving, and just, where *all* people can thrive? When I take the message and example of Jesus as a totality, I believe that his is a “both-and” message where the “here-and-now” is equally or more important than the “then-and-there.”

In fact, I believe that the two are linked, and our success in living a Christ-centered, justice-driven life while on earth leads to salvation in heaven after death. Another way to think of it is this: kingdom is theoretical Christianity while kin-dom is applied Christianity. Think of them as steam and ice, both of which are water but in different guises.

In summary, then, kingdom and kin-dom are one and the same, except that the first emphasizes the power of God while the latter subtly reminds us the expectations God has set down for us. Living the kin-dom in the here-and-now creates the kingdom for all eternity. And so we sometimes use the term

“kin-dom” because it reminds us to be agents of grace and charity and workers for peace and justice. Then, and only then, are we likely to experience the kingdom where God reigns supreme!



GRIP UPDATE

The Richmond City Council passed a \$50,000 matching grant to support the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program’s homeless shelter, and the Mayors and Supervisors of West County agreed to work with the city and county councils on behalf of GRIP. So far so good, but there is still much work to be done. The situation at GRIP is especially dire because the Bay Area Rescue Mission will be moving to Antioch.

To stay abreast of future developments, please check out: <http://gripcommunity.org/action.html>.

Also, Felicity will be walking with the GRIP Harmony Walk on xx and is looking for sponsors and fellow walkers. Please think about joining in the walk and supporting GRIP’s efforts with your feet and your pocket books.



WORSHIP PLANNING

Do you like what we’re doing with worship these days? Do you *not* like what we’re doing? Do you have ideas for Advent and Christmas? If your answer to any of these questions was “yes,” then please join us for two events:

- October 16 at 10:00 – Worship planning meeting to discuss Advent and Christmas
- November 17 – All-day workshop on Vital Worship for Progressive Congregations.



FAITH CLUB BOOK REVIEW

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew: Three Women Search for Understanding has just come out in paperback and it has gotten excellent reviews. It’s by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner, three women who look at common issues from their different faith perspectives. Almost every taboo topic is explored on this engaging spiritual ride.”

Book study on “The Faith Club” begins in October – same day as Spirit and the Arts.

At this point, we are planning to meet on Thursdays from 6:00 – 7:30, but we can reconsider this time or even have two different sessions (one daytime, one evening) if there is interest.



SEAFARERS MINISTRY

Charlie Fender & Ilhami Karaca

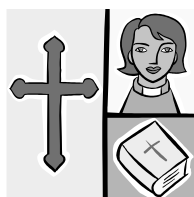
We hope you will participate as a Sponsor or a Stroller to help us raise funds to:

- Advocate for equal rights for seafarers from all countries coming into Bay Area ports. Many seafarers are unfairly denied shore leave because of tightened security.
- Provide worship and prayer on board ships.
- Provide transportation to seafarers for shopping and sightseeing.
- Help maintain the International Maritime Center as a welcoming place for seafarers where they can participate in recreation and keep in touch with their families.

Ilhami and Charlie will be signing up sponsors and strollers on Sunday

At 11:30 that day there will be a Korean Barbecue. If you came last year you know what a spread they put on - \$15 - reservations needed when you sign as a sponsor in the Fellowship Hall.

You’ll be glad you participated - car pooling is a good idea.



ECCLESIASTIC COUNCIL, A FUN THING TO DO.

We need 1-2 members of ACC to participate in an Ecclesiastical Council for Andrew Metcalf, an in-care student at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, who is seeking ordination. The Council will be in Alameda on October 16, and Felicity cannot participate because it conflicts with the GRIP Harmony Walk.

Talk to Helen Winters if you want to find out how much fun this is. After all, *you* get to put someone else on the hot seat, and ask them all of the really hard theological questions that you have no idea what the answer is! Because Andrew is the only candidate, it should be finished before noon.

Please let Felicity or Christy know if you are able to serve ACC and the UCC in this important effort.

OLD BURMA SHAVE SIGN

BROTHER SPEEDER
LET'S REHEARSE
ALL TOGETHER
GOOD MORNING, NURSE
Burma Shave



BOARD OF MISSION NEWS!

Linda Young

GRIP

On Sunday, September 16, a special offering was collected to benefit GRIP, the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program, which has been struggling with its new year-round responsibilities for operating the family homeless shelter and recently did not receive expected grants. The Board of Missions extends grateful thanks to all those who responded with their pocket books – we collected over one thousand dollars - \$1006 to be exact! Blessings on you all for your caring concern.

Also, the City of Richmond has voted a Matching grant of \$50,000 to help with the ongoing work of the Shelter. The budget crisis is diminishing considerably. Thanks to the ACC members and Felicity for coming out to public meetings.

ACC is serving dinners during the week of Oct. 21 – 27. If you have not yet signed up to help with an evening, please call Jill Bryans. Your Mission Board is sending \$700 to cover the food for the week. Souper Center Lunches continue as usual.



Kensington Parade - Oct. 14

ACC folks are invited to walk in the Kensington Parade. Anyone who likes may march

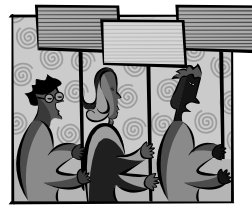
with the ACC Banner in this Kensington Community event. If you wish to ride to the Village and leave your car in the ACC lot, a few Mission Board people will be taking cars to the Village. Call Jim or Linda Young if you would like a ride. (Cars depart ACC at 12:00, and parade begins at 12:30) Mission Board is sponsoring a free Ice Cream Social after the KCC event. At 2:00, we'll enjoy ice cream and cookies along with music from our Peace Children and Children's Choir. If you wish to donate cookies to the Ice Cream Social, call Vi Gallardo.

- 12:00 Meet at ACC (or don't leave following worship). Cars from ACC will take folks to village start. Wear your ACC tee-shirts.
- 2:00 Join us for ice cream, cookies, and entertainment.



Peace Vigils every Friday at 6:00

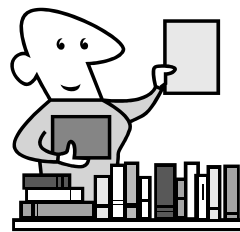
Every Friday at 6:00 Mission board is holding a short vigil in front of the church to acknowledge and honor those killed during the week in Iraq. We ring the tower bell for the dead and listen to "Let There Be Peace on Earth". Two weeks ago the names of 14 Americans were read, and last week there were 11. We read the names of the American dead, and acknowledge in silence all losses in Iraq. We pray using prayers from many faiths. The experience of being there together for this moment has been a moving one. Please come along if you are so inclined, and encourage neighbors and friends. The Kensington community is greeting us with honks, smiles and waves.



March in San Francisco

Coming up Oct 27 is a major Rally and March in San Francisco to protest the Iraq War. Please let members of the Mission

Board know if you are interested in marching or attending the rally and we will get information to you. We will hear soon where we can join with other UCC congregations so that we can "all together be One" in our voice. Times and location to gather will be announced soon.



BOOK TABLE

Helen Winters

I'm happy to announce that **Martha Colburn** (a trained librarian!) has agreed to do the Book Table selections and ordering from now on. It took no arm twisting at all! So, all book suggestions should be funneled to Martha from now on. I will be showing her the ropes in late September when I return from a 2-week vacation; therefore, we will see the next new shipment of books sometime in early October. Although Martha will still need a staff to actually put the books out and back on Sundays, and sell them, she plans to hold court around the Book Table (my phrase, not hers!) on Sundays, talk to the browsers and buyers, all in hopes of getting a line on what our readers are looking for these days. I think she will bring new life to the place. Any help that you experienced Book Table hands can give her will be appreciated I know.



SPIRIT AND THE ARTS!
Embracing World Traditions
Learning Universal Values

Michael Mansfield

A weekly program of interfaith worship, education, fun, and community for young people (ages 7-14) from 6:00-7:30 on Thursday evenings beginning October 11. Activities will include music, songs, dances, arts, dramas, and stories of kindness from many traditions. Learn ritual and spiritual practices and prayers and sacred texts from the great world religions. Through the arts, we will celebrate and remember our shared Spirit, as we learn together. A parallel adult study group will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30 and will read "The Faith Club." Both groups will join together for joint celebrations several times each semester.

- October/November: Jewish Spirit and the Arts
- November/December: Islamic Spirit and the Arts
- January: Buddhist Spirit and the Arts
- February: Hindu Spirit and the Arts
- March: Confucian/Taoist Spirit and the Arts
- April: African/Indigenous Spirit and the Arts
- May: Christian Spirit and the Arts

Join us for our free community kick-off Ice Cream Social at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 14, right after The Kensington Parade and Luncheon.

Contact Michael at jeangarcon@aol.com for ages 7-14.

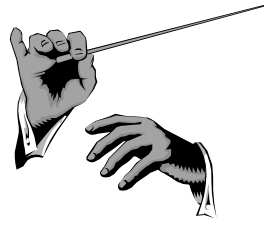
Contact Allan at abge@comcast.net for adults.

For further information, contact the church office at (510) 526-9146.



TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

On October 9th, the prayer group will resume its meetings at the Kelley's.



MINI CONCERT SERIES

Shanti Moorjani

The series begins in October through December with four exciting concerts for a series price of \$40.00, or individual

concerts at \$15.00 a ticket.

1. October 5 - Pilgrimage Music and art in celebration of the medieval pilgrimage and the Black Madonna. There will be a pre-concert lecture at 7:00pm.

2. November 2 Illustrio A trio of clarinet, viola, and piano will perform Mozart's Trio K. 498 in e-flat "Kegelstatt", Max's Bruch Op.83: Rumanische Melodie, Nocturne and Allegro vivace, ma non and Alfred Uhl's "Kleine Konzert". Maria Reeves who occasionally plays here at ACC is the pianist.

3. November 30 The complete **MESSIAH** by Handel performed with chorus and orchestra conducted by Andrew Chung **Bay Area Classical Harmonies (BACH)**.

(NOTE: This is not a "mini" concert.)

4. December 21 Amahl and the Night Visitor, a short opera by **Carlo Menotti**
This is a touching Christmas Story about giving and faith.

All concerts are on Friday nights beginning at 7:30pm. To have the series sent to you just call the church office at 526-9146 or send a check to ACC, 52 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707 with "Mini Concert Series" on it.

NEW ADDRESSES

Dorothele Fites

El Cerrito Royale, Room 328

6510 Gladys Ave.

El Cerrito, CA 94530

Cell 334-8348; Home 235-7593

Mary Jordan Sloan:

908 Vista Heights Road

El Cerrito 94530

(510) 215-9336

“Ready, Set, Grow”

an exciting program on church vitality
sponsored by the National Offices of the United
Church of Christ and
the Northern California/ Nevada Conference of the
United Church of Christ.

The upcoming series of "Ready, Set, Grow!" events will offer specific and in-depth approaches to church growth, renewal, and vitality, in our wonderful UCC style. The series consists of four different parts. Part 1 will be offered on 5 different dates at 5 different locations throughout the Conference, and will focus on knowing yourself, knowing who you are as a congregation, called together by God, and forming a team for getting the good word out about your church.

Plan to send a team [pastor plus 2-3 lay persons] to one of these identical Part 1 trainings, each of which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on a Saturday:

- October 6 at Eden UCC in Hayward
- October 13 at Parkside Community UCC in Sacramento.

There is no charge for the training, and no need to register in advance. For more information contact Associate Conference Minister Rodney Yee at 510-222-6634 or ryee@ncnucucc.org, or check out the materials on congregational vitality at www.ncnucucc.org/Congregational%20Vitality/RSG%20Workshops.pdf and www.uccvitality.org.

BAY ASSOCIATION MEETING

**You are invited and encouraged to attend
the Fall Meeting of the Bay Association
of the United Church of Christ (NCNC-UCC)
to be held at Arlington Community Church, in
Kensington**

**Sunday October 28th
Registration opens at 5:00 p.m.
Quorum check & business program: 5:30**

**The program for the Fall meeting is
“What's new about the New Sanctuary
Movement?”**

Don't miss this great event!



GRIP HARMONY WALK
The 21st Annual GRIP Harmony Walk to End Hunger will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at 9 AM at Kennedy Park, on the corner of South 41st Street and Cutting Boulevard in Richmond. Join family and friends and raise money and awareness to fight

hunger in the greater Richmond community. You may download Harmony Walk registration and sponsorship forms at www.gripcommunity.org/action. This event will be followed by the annual "Super Saturday" Family Festival from 11am to 3pm, also at Kennedy Park. This free family fun festival features a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, jumpers and slides, and more! Tell your friends, neighbors and coworkers!



CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS

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.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the
middle of the road, and the back of the church.

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

If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to
pray for the one it has.

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he
is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up
and permanently set.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain
anonymous.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Peace starts with a smile.

ACC Calendar - October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:30 PM Women's Fitness	2	3 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	4 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	5 8:00 PM Mini Concert - Pilgrimage	6 9:00 AM GRIP Harmony Walk
7 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship	8 Columbus Day 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:00 PM Deacon's Meet	9 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Duplic. Bridge 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Church Council(FR)	10 4:00 PM Children Choir Open House 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	11 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:00 PM Spirit and the Arts Youth 6:30 PM Women's Potluck & Program(SH)	12	13
14 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Knitting Ministry 2:00 PM Ice Cream Social	15 4:30 PM Women's Fitness	16 SOUPER CENTER 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:00 AM Worship Planning	17 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	18 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:00 PM Spirit and the Arts Youth	19	20
21 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship	22 4:30 PM Women's Fitness	23 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 7:00 PM Trustees	24 PARISHSCOPE 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	25 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:00 PM Spirit and the Arts Youth	26 6:00 PM Bridge Potluck & Play(SH)	27
28 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Missions 5:00 PM Bay Assn. Meet	29 4:30 PM Women's Fitness	30 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	31 Halloween 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse			

Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ
 52 Arlington Avenue
 Kensington, CA 94707

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SUNDAY, October 7	SUNDAY, October 14	SUNDAY, October 21	SUNDAY, October 28
8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Felicity Wright & Jeff Munnis Preaching World Wide Communion NIN Offering	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship Michael Mansfield Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Felicity Wright Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship Jeff Munnis Preaching

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 24TH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OCTOBER 30TH ISSUE

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, October 5	8:00pm	Mini Concert - Pilgrimage
Sunday, October 7	10:00am	Neighbors in Need Offering
Thursday, October 11	6:00pm	Faith Book Club
Thursday, October 11	6:00pm	Spirit & the Arts Youth Meeting
Thursday, October 11	6:30pm	Women's Group
Saturday, October 13	9:00am	GRIP Harmony Walk
Sunday, October 14	12:00pm, 2:00pm	Kensington Parade/Ice Cream Social
Tuesday, October 16	10:00am	Souper Center
Friday, October 26	6:00pm	Bridge Night
Sunday, October 28	5:00pm	Bay Assn. Meeting