



# The Parishscope

Published by **Arlington Community Church**

52 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 94707

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www.acc-ucc.org

Volume 119 October 30, 2007

Pat McLaughlin, Editor

## FELICITATIONS



*By faith I mean a vision of good one cherishes and the enthusiasm that pushes one to seek its fulfillment regardless of obstacles. Faith is a dynamic*

*power that breaks the chain of routine and gives a new, fine turn to old commonplaces. Faith invigorates the will, enriches the affections and awakens a sense of creativeness. (Helen Keller, The Light of a Brighter Day)*

Is it true that you can't be a Christian unless you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? Are Orthodox and Reformed the Jewish equivalents of Roman Catholic and Protestants? Do Muslims really believe that the faithful will enjoy sexual orgies in heaven?

If you're not sure of the answers to these questions – or even if you are – you might enjoy the weekly get-togethers of the Faith Club Discussion Group, which meets Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 pm (concurrent with Spirit and the Arts for the children). In addition to reading *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner, we are exploring assumptions about religious belief using a series of fun exercises and discussions. Like the authors of the book, we hope to emerge from our gatherings with more clarity about our personal theology and also greater appreciation of different faiths. Every six weeks, we will join the children of "Spirit and the Arts" in a communal meal and fellowship

There are many different ways to explore our faith, and my guess is that there are as many variations of belief as there are individuals living on earth. There are tenets in our professed religion that we accept on face value (or the way our ministers, parents, and friends have told us). There are others that we

discount entirely, and still others that we might – or might not – believe, depending on a range of factors.

There are four possible answers for each of the questions that we discuss, there are four possible answers: 1) True; 2) False; 3) It Depends; and 4) I Don't Know. Very few answers are right or wrong. It is therefore appropriate that we are finding great variety in our responses and we expect that people will change their minds as we learn more.

Our purpose is to wrangle with our personal faith and also open our hearts and minds to the beautiful truths found in other faiths. All of us have stereotypes. Even if we think ourselves open-minded, chances are 100% that we've got negative opinions about some aspect of religion (our own or others). Additionally, very few of us are clear about what we believe, which means that we're not enjoying the "dynamic power" of faith that Helen Keller described.

Currently, we get together on Thursday evenings, but some people have expressed interest in meeting at a different time. Our hope is to expand the number of people and to attract more people outside of the church and of different faiths (or no faith). At that time, we will consider creating new groups.



**Save the Date: We will go Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 23rd, 6:00pm**

### IN MEMORIAM

There will be a memorial service for Carol Graves on Friday, November 2 at 2:00pm at Arlington Community Church.

**Note: The church office will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



## SPIRIT AND THE ARTS!

Michael Mansfield

Embracing World Traditions and Learning Universal Values - a weekly program of interfaith

worship, education, fun, and community for young people (ages 7-14) from 6:00-7:30 on Thursday evenings continues November 1 and 8 exploring Jewish Spirit and the Arts.

Activities include music, songs, dances, arts, dramas, and stories of kindness from the Jewish Spiritual Traditions. A parallel adult study group meets on Thursday evenings at the same time and will continue reading "The Faith Club." Both groups will join together for a joint celebration on Thursday November 15 at 6:00 for a potluck and celebration of Jewish Spirit and the Arts. All are welcome to be with us in this evening of interfaith and intergenerational fun and learning.

**October/November:** Jewish Spirit and the Arts

**November/December:** Christian Spirit and the Arts

**January:** Islamic Spirit and the Arts

**February:** Hindu Spirit and the Arts

**March:** Confucian/Taoist Spirit and the Arts

**April:** Buddhist Spirit and the Arts

**May:** African/Indigenous Spirit and the Arts

Contact Michael at [jeangarcon@aol.com](mailto:jeangarcon@aol.com) for ages 7-14.

Contact Felicity at [acc.felicity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acc.felicity@sbcglobal.net) for adults.



## WOMEN'S GROUP

On Thursday, November 8, Amy Gorman will be our guest speaker.

She is the author of *Aging Artfully: Profiles of 12 Visual and Performing Women Artists 85-105*. She will also present her film, *Still Kicking*, in which she interviews these special women.

Amy Gorman first became interested in aging as a young speech therapist working at V.A. Hospitals. Later, as a medical social worker, she witnessed the devastating effects of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. She founded *Kidshows* in 1982, a non-profit that introduces children to the arts, theater, music and dance. During her 18 years as Director, many professional performers shared their concerns about continuing to earn a living in their art forms as they aged. The book *Aging Artfully* is the synthesis of Ms. Gorman's experience working with aging and the arts.



## MUSIC NOTES

Shanti Moorjani

The October Mini Concert "Pilgrimage" was a full house, a unique concert.

The three remaining concerts this fall:

**November 2: *Ilustrio*** with clarinet, viola and piano. Maria Reeves will be at the piano performing with her group a Mozart "Trio" K. 498 in e-flat (Kegelstatt), Max Bruch's "Rumanische Melodie" Op. 83, and Alfred Uhl "Kleine Konzert"

**December 7:** The complete *Messiah* by G. F. Handel

**December 21:** A short opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Gian Carlo Menotti.

**All concerts will be at 7:30 pm \$15. at the door.**

I am looking for some help on the opera. I need a person to help with getting performers dressed (in their costumes) on the night of the performance and at the dress rehearsal (Dec. 16) 2 -6:30pm. I need one more person to help with props and stage related needs; helping singers get the right prop or set movements, etc. You don't have to find any props; we will have those all ready. Refreshments could use two more helpers.

Please call me, Shanti 843-7745 if you are interested. Most of all, tell people about the show. It would be great to have full, supportive audience on this Christmas event.

## UCC 50th Anniversary Draws to a Close



All Saints Sunday will be the official closing event of the UCC's 50th anniversary year. It's been an exciting 12 months filled with national and regional events, video productions, print materials and web connectivity.

Join us for the year-end All Saints Sunday webcast to be broadcast on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. (ET). This year's webcast will be hosted by the Rev. John H. Thomas, general minister and president, and offer a retrospective look at the anniversary year highlighting the phenomenal celebration at General Synod which attracted nearly 10,000 people to Hartford, Conn. We'll also be making a special announcement about a new way to access the amazing spirit we experienced at General Synod. Contact Felicity if you would like to view the webcast at her house.

## WORSHIP WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
1501 Mary Drive, Pleasanton  
We have a wonderful opportunity to learn about worship from one of the most highly regarded people in the business.

This hands-on workshop equips persons to work with their worship community to evaluate and enhance liturgy of any style. Some of the topics covered are:

- Nurturing Worship Teams
- Increasing Congregational Participation
- The "Politics" of Change
- Starting New Services
- Utilizing Music and Other Arts
- Worshipping with Imagination & Integrity

A lively reenactment of worship through the ages helps us to understand the fullness of our "tradition" and the implications for the future of our worship. Participants learn creative techniques and strategies to involve more persons in both worship and the design process through seasonal teams.

If you would like to participate, please call the church (526-9146) by Friday, November 9. All of us from ACC can go for the unbelievably low price of \$150 for the group.

This is a great opportunity to attend a one-day workshop with Dr. Marcia McFee, who has taught and wrote about worship planning for progressive churches in seminaries across the country. Several of us are planning to go – please join us!

## WEEKLY PEACE VIGIL

Jill Bryans



A small group of dedicated individuals has been gathering together in front of the church every Friday from 6:00 to 6:30pm to acknowledge and honor those killed during the week in Iraq. "Let There Be Peace on Earth" is played on the carillon and the tower bell is rung in memory of each of the dead. Then 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 gathering together for this moment has been a moving one, and we have been getting positive responses from people as they drive by including honks and thumbs up. It is the hope of the Board of Missions and Social Justice that this small gesture will help bring US troops home and end the military occupation of Iraq. **We invite you to join us in this vigil as we remember, pray, meditate, and witness.**

## GRIP DINNER SERVICE

Jill Bryans



The week of October 21 was ACC's week to provide dinner service at the GRIP Homeless Shelter in Richmond. The

Board of Missions extends a great big **THANK YOU** to the following individuals for volunteering: Vi and Jim Gallardo, Charlie and Clavel Fender, Jim and Linda Young, Janet Messman, Eloise Schmidt, Frank and Barbara Forbes, Felicity Wright, Galen Evans, Ruth Colburn, Toni Johnson, Jill Bryans, and Carol Lloyd.

## UCC ONLINE



God  
is still  
speaking,

The national UCC is offering some amazing on-line resources that will help all of us in our spiritual journeys. I encourage you to take a look and also to share them with others (even those who are not religious or members of the UCC).

- [www.i.ucc.org](http://www.i.ucc.org) -- This is an on-line prayer group and Bible study. You can sign up for Bible meditations, study the lectionary texts, and participate in daily chapel. The on-line chapel is at 6:00 pm every day of the year -- an ideal resource for those who are home-bound or just need some worship time after a busy day.
- [www.uccvitality.org](http://www.uccvitality.org) -- The Church Vitality website, with links to surveys, on-line forums, success stories from other churches, and materials from the Stillspeaking and Ready, Set, Grow campaigns.
- [www.ucc.org/50](http://www.ucc.org/50) -- This will be a website and podcast on the celebration to end our Jubilee Year (50th birthday). It will be aired at 4:00 pm on Sunday, Nov. 4 (All Saints' Day) and will feature highlights from the General Synod. If there is a group of people that might be interested, we will do a group showing and informal tea at Felicity's house.

**Also Note:** The United Church of Christ National Disaster Ministries office is working with our UCC Southern California, Nevada Conference and ecumenically, is seeking \$100,000 to assist with long term recovery for victims of the Southern California fires. These funds should be directed to the One Great Hour of Sharing special fund, Emergency USA, marked for 2007 California wildfires.

## ALL CHURCH LUNCHEON AND MEETING

Ruth Robinson

Please bring your pledge card, a salad to share, and thoughtful ideas to church on Sunday, November 11. This will be a different kind of Stewardship Sunday, and here are the plans:

- 10-11am **Worship and Blessing of Pledges & the ones who are pledging.** Co-moderators Elena and Ruth leading worship that day.
- 11:30 **Luncheon** in the social hall. Desserts, breads and drinks provided. Please bring some sort of salad to share.
- Noon – 2pm **2007 Review and 2008 Planning** – this will be a lively and interactive meeting designed to assist the Church Council and Boards with your ideas for directions in the new year.

Through our discussions at the planning meeting, we'll have a better perspective on activities and direction for 2008. These plans will inform the boards and council for developing budgets and programs.

Please plan to attend. It is a short period of time, but we'll make the best of it.

## THE PAPER TAPESTRIES

Jill Bryan

It was exactly 10 years ago that we did the retreat to cut the tapestries. The "FALLING LEAVES" tapestries are the ones that have been hung in the past, with the fall colors in back of the tapestries. There are two other tapestries that have only been hung once - right after the retreat. They are "ROOTS, TRUNK, BRANCHES" and "NEW LEAVES" - they have a green background and these are the ones I have in mind to hang in the sanctuary during our green/kindness theme. The scriptures that Alice Helen used for "roots, trunk and branches" were: Isaiah 11: 1 - 10 "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruits...", Isaiah 61: 1-3 "Oaks of righteousness", Ezekiel 17: 1-10, and 22-24 (allegory of vine/tree), Ephesians 3: 16-19 (rooted in love), and John 15: 1-8 ("I am the vine, you are the branches"). The scriptures for "new leaves" were Proverbs 11: 28 "Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves". Genesis 8: 1 new leaves as a sign of hope (Noah and dove), and Job 14: 7-9 "There is hope for a tree, it is cut down, that it will sprout again...and put forth branches like a young plant." - using leaves as a symbol of renewal.

## DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING!

(From UCC Stewardship Devotionals)

My grandfather, prone to grave utterances as if delivering the Commandments, often admonished me as a teenager on a hot summer day, "Don't just sit there. Do something!" This was usually prompted by my greater attraction to the shade of the front porch, an ideal place for reading, than to doing something worthwhile. Doing something worthwhile meant not just mowing the lawn but besieging the neighbors to let me mow theirs so I could earn more "money for college" and "become responsible."

A kindly soul as well as realistic, my grandfather had a familiar point. But sometimes the word we need to hear is "Don't just do something. Sit there!" Staying busy is not necessarily being responsible and making progress. "One's action ought to come out of an achieved stillness: not be a mere rushing on" (D.H. Lawrence). Scripture says, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

There's a big difference between simply believing in God and knowing God. Many of us can't remember a time when we didn't in some sense believe in God. But that can be like believing in love without loving.

You can know God in worship. You can know God in prayer. You can know God in the Bible. You can know God in people. You can know God in justice and compassion. You can know God in the generosity you receive, and share.

But this knowledge is not an instant message. And it's not always clear. We must come at it with the same imagination required to appreciate many a masterpiece of art and literature. This is not like information we quickly Google! It takes time. It takes our own stillness and a willingness to learn more, look again, and listen more carefully.

How much of my time is spent rushing on? What about my giving?



## BRIDGE GROUP

The November Bridge Night will be held Nov.. 16<sup>th</sup>, a week before Thanksgiving.

A new player joined our group in October. Galen Evans, Felicity's son, played with us and proceeded to take home first place! Nice going, Galen! Hope to see you often.

## ACC Calendar November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:00 PM Youth Spirit & Arts	<b>2</b> 2:00 PM Memorial Service – Carol Graves 6:00 PM Peace Vigil 7:30 PM Mini Concert - Illustrio	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship	<b>5</b> 4:00 PM Children's Choir 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>6</b> ELECTION DAY 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:30 PM Women's Potluck & Program(SH) 6:00 PM Youth Spirit & Arts	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Peace Vigil	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Veteran's Day 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Knitting Ministry	<b>12</b> 4:00 PM Children's Choir 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:00 PM Deacon's Meet 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Duplic. Bridge 7:30 PM Church Council(FR)	<b>14</b> 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:30 PM Men's Dinner 6:00 PM Youth Spirit & Arts	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Bridge Potluck & Play(SH) 6:00 PM Peace Vigil	<b>17</b> 8:30 AM Worship Workshop
<b>18</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship	<b>19</b> 4:00 PM Children's Choir 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>20</b> SOUPER CENTER 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys)	<b>21</b> PARISHSCOPE 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	<b>22</b> THANKSGIVING DAY Church Office Closed	<b>23</b> Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Peace Vigil	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Missions	<b>26</b> 4:00 PM Children's Choir 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>27</b> 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>28</b> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	<b>29</b> SOUPER CENTER 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:00 PM Youth Spirit & Arts 8:30 PM	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Peace Vigil	

# Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ  
52 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94707

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## The Parishscope

«AddressBlock»

SUNDAY, November 4	SUNDAY, November 11	SUNDAY, November 18	SUNDAY, November 25
8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship  Felicity Wright Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship  Ruth Robinson and Elena Caruthers, Worship Leaders	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship  Felicity Wright or Jeff Munnis Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship  Felicity Wright or Jeff Munnis Preaching

\*\*\*THE NEXT DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE\*\*\*

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

SPECIAL EVENTS		
Friday, November 2	7:30pm	Mini Concert – Illustrio
Thursday, November 8	6:30pm	Women's Group
Sunday, November 11	11:30am	Stewardship Luncheon
Friday, November 16	6:00pm	Bridge Night
Saturday, November 17	8:30am	Worship Workshop in Pleasanton
Tuesday, November 20	10:00am	Souper Center
Thursday, November 29	10:00am	Souper Center