



The Communicator Easter Season

2010

Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale

1112 Bernardo Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 ** 408-739-3285 * conglchurch@earthlink.net



Thoughts from the Pastor's Study

by Pastor Gen Heywood

Now on that first Easter, two disciples were on the road home. They were talking about the things that had happened, the suffering and death of Jesus as well as the seemingly hysterical accounts of the women who had been to the tomb. Things didn't happen as they believed that they should. They were shattered. And it was in their talking about Jesus that Jesus came to walk the journey with them (Luke 24:13-35).

The story of Cleopas and his wife's journey home gives us a promise that Jesus will be on this life's journey with us when we turn to God with longing hearts. Jesus walks with them and opens to them the scripture, teaching them things they had not understood. Their beliefs were shattered

and their faith was beginning to glow. They were entering into a deeper and fuller experience of the nature of God. God no longer is known as one who shows favoritism. God does not grant some healing and others sickness, God is with us on this life's journey. God is with us to experience life fully, whatever may come. Even God's own self would experience suffering and death - so will we. While we are limited in choosing what life will bring to us, we are free to choose how we will respond to what life dishes out.

As Cleopas and his wife arrive home, it is evening. They invite Jesus to come in, still not knowing that it is him. Another wonderful part of this story is the promise that Jesus will not force himself upon us. While there are some Christian brothers and sisters who try to force Jesus on others, Jesus would never force himself upon anyone. He enters our homes and our lives upon our free invitation.

And then it is in the most ordinary and everyday activity of sharing food that for a moment, Jesus is recognized. Just a glimpse and then he is gone. It is a mystery of our faith that God wants us to figure out how to live this way of Jesus. We are not to be dictated to or have our lives turned into a stage full of puppets. God sets before us the way of life. Now, it is up to us to have life and have it abundantly.

It is a precious gift of our faith that we are not captive to our past, the successes or the failures. We are new creations in Jesus. In this season after Easter, take time to talk with one another about this way of Jesus. When possible, come to Bible study on Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Welcome Jesus into your lives through prayer. And look for Jesus in the ordinary, even the mundane of life.

With Easter Joy,
Pastor Gen

**Join Pastor Gen in prayer
for our church**

Tuesday mornings from 9:00-9:30 am.
Take a few minutes for prayer wherever you are
to seek special guidance for our church.

Needed:

Sunday School Teachers and Assistants

If you think you could possibly help,
please speak with Pastor Gen!

Also Needed:

Additional Member for our Preschool Board

As we are moving forward towards the sale of our Preschool we could use more thinking caps and helping hands! If you have any questions, please speak to Christel, Markus, or Ina

From our Worship & Community Board:

1. A gathering on "**Exploring What It Means to Be UCC in Sunnyvale**" will be held on Sunday, April 18 after worship.
2. "**God Is Still Speaking**" in many **languages Project**: Our original pages have been removed from the windows and seem to be lost. We will do this again during the month of May. Starting May 2, "God Is Still Speaking" blank pages will be available. Please bring them back on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, with different written languages - one language per sheet. We will use them during Pentecost Sunday worship and display them in the narthex this time.
3. We need helping hands on **Sunday, May 16** right after worship to **remove the waterfall in the sanctuary.**



Join Us!

**INTERGENERATIONAL
DRUMMING CHOIR**



Drumming and Children's Choir
rehearse each Sunday at 10:10 AM with
Worship at 10:30 AM - and we welcome all to
join us at 10:10 AM.



Sunnyvale FISH,
our Food and Clothes Closet,
at this time especially asks for donations of

- peanut butter
- cheerios and
- tooth paste
- or money.

THANK YOU!



2010
Holy Week and Easter
in our Church



THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE **IN A NUTSHELL**

(From a Child's Perspective)

submitted by Maxine Eggerth

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one', but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden... Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah, came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then He gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of God's best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom always is saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.



CROP WALK 2010

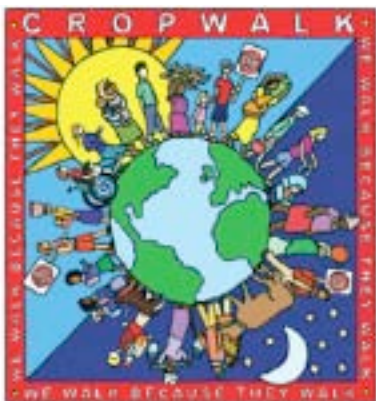
You Can Make a Difference

by Bonnie Harvey

You can make a difference in the life of someone in need. The 33rd Annual Bay Area CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, April 25. We will begin at 1:30 at Hoover Middle School in San Jose. You can get sponsors (including yourself) and walk or you can sponsor someone else.

CROP Hunger Walk funds are used to support long-term development efforts in more than 80 countries. These funds also provide assistance to alleviate the impact of disasters and refugee situations. Twenty-five percent of the funds from the Bay Area CROP Hunger Walk are donated locally to Sacred Heart Community Service and to Second Harvest Food Bank. Through Second Harvest, food is gifted to the FISH program that is based at our church.

Our church has a long history of participation with significant dollar donations to CROP walk. If you would like to walk, get a packet from me (Bonnie Harvey) after church either April 11 or 18. If you want to donate, see anyone who is walking. Walkers will get their picture taken at the start of the walk. That picture and a report of money contributed will be in the next Communicator.



CREST Award for our Faith in Action Men's Rotating Shelter!

The Faith in Action Rotating Shelter Board got a letter from Cupertino Mayor Kris Wang with the following message:

April 2, 2010

Dear Faith in Action Board,

Congratulations! Your organization has been nominated and selected to receive the city of Cupertino's 2010 CREST Awards. This award honors individuals and/or organizations that have made outstanding volunteer contributions to the community. (CREST stand for 'Cupertino Recognizes Extra Steps Taken.')

This year's awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 27th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue. We hope very much to see you and your guests at the event.

Your commitment and dedication represent the very best Cupertino has to offer. On behalf of the city of Cupertino, I would like to congratulate you again on receiving the CREST Award.

Sincerely,
Mayor Kris Wang"

And a Note from Mary Ellen Hennig, Chairperson of Faith in Action Rotating Shelter Volunteer Board:

Just a note: You do not have to live or work in the city of Cupertino to receive this award – it is recognizing work done for the Cupertino community. So, all our members from Sunnyvale, Saratoga, and other areas – you are very much part of this award!

From the City of Cupertino website: CREST is "awarded to individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the city of Cupertino"... and that's YOU!!!)

May God bless us all,
and bless and guide us in the work we are doing for our brothers in need!

“Living Buddha, Living Christ”
by Thich Nhat Hanh



*Thich Nhat Hanh in Vught, The Netherlands, 2006
(picture from Wikipedia)*

A Five-Week Adult Book Study for

**The Congregational Community Church
of Sunnyvale**

Wednesday Nights
May 5 – June 2, 2010,
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Study leader: Mei Wang

Thomas Merton mentions that Thich Nhat Hanh is “more my brother than many who are nearer to me in race and nationality, because he and I see things in exactly the same way.”

In a lucid, meditative prose, Thich Nhat Hanh explores the crossroads of compassion and holiness at which the two traditions meet, and reawakens our understanding of both.



Recipe Corner

This Month :

From Terry Shoup’s Kitchen

– Farmer’s Casserole –

**As Served for Easter Breakfast and
Lunch in Shephard Hall**

Layer the ingredients in a baking dish the night before, then cover and refrigerate. In the morning, pop the casserole into the oven about an hour before serving.

- 3 cups frozen shredded hash brown potatoes
- 3/4 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese with jalapeno peppers or shredded cheddar cheese (3 oz.)
- 1 cup diced fully cooked ham or Canadian bacon
- 1/4 cup sliced green onion
- 4 beaten eggs or 1 cup frozen egg product
- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk or evaporated skim milk (1 1/2 cups)
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/8 tsp. salt

Grease a 2-quart square baking dish. Arrange potatoes evenly in the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle with cheese, ham and green onion.

In a medium mixing bowl combine eggs, milk, pepper, and salt. Pour egg mixture over potato mixture in dish. (The dish may be covered and refrigerated at this point for several hours or overnight.) Bake, uncovered, in a 350 degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes (or 55 to 60 minutes if made ahead and chilled) or till center appears set.

Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Makes 6 servings.

Menu suggestion: Serve with melon wedges, strawberries and orange sections.

(adapted from “Better Homes and Gardens”, Feb. 1996)



Looking Ahead

- Please Mark Your Calendars!

From our NCNC UCC

Santa Clara Association:

SUNDAY, APRIL 18th @ 2:00 pm

Ecclesiastical Council,

Installation Council & Worship Service

First Congregational Church, San Jose

We are called to gather as a greater church body to consider, affirm, recognize and celebrate those called to ordained ministry among us. All clergy and lay members of the Association are invited to attend the the Ecclesiastical Council of Jennifer Fargo Lathrop and the Installation Council and Worship Service for Rev. T'Shala Oliveri.

Times:

2 pm: Jennifer Fargo Lathrop's Ecclesiastical Council

3:30 pm: Rev. T'Shala Olivieri's Installation Council

4:30 pm: T'Shala's Installation Worship Service

Please come bring your listening ear and thoughtful questions to these two councils. Clergy are asked to come prepared to robe for T'Shala's Installation Worship Service.



33rd Bay Area

CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, April 25, 2010

1:00 pm Registration, 1:30 pm Walk

Hoover Middle School 1635 Park Ave,
San Jose

*If you'd like to participate or have any questions,
please talk to Bonnie!*



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

CROP Hunger Walks are multi-generational events
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE BLOCK &
AROUND THE WORLD!



SPRING TEA PARTY

" When Grandma was Stylin' "

presented by

our Women's Fellowship

SUNDAY, April 25, 2010

at 1:00 PM

Spring hats and gloves are optional!

- \$12 donation per adult requested -

Fundraiser to benefit local and global charities



UCC NCNC

Annual Gathering at Asilomar

May 13-16, 2010

(Members of our church attending this year:

Pastor Gen, Mary Ruth, Darryl and Ina)

Communicator Deadline

*Deadline for the Pentecost edition of our Communicator is
Friday, May 7, 2010.*

*We accept submissions of texts, photos & graphics at our
office, 1112 S. Bernardo Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 or via e-
mail (conglchurch@earthlink.net).*

Office Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Gabriel's Trumpet



10:30 AM for Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School
Children's Sunday School begins after "Children's Time" with the Pastor
11:30 AM - Fellowship (approximate time)
Chapel for Preschoolers Wednesday mornings 10:00 - 10:30 AM. Come join us!

Easter Season 2010 *Calendar*

Worship & Fellowship
Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
(nursery & childcare provided)

Adult Bible Study, Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal, Wednesdays at 7:45 PM and Sundays at 9:30 AM
Children's Choir and Drum Choir, Sundays at 10:10 AM

Sunday, April 18

After Worship:

Exploring What It Means to Be UCC in Sunnyvale - Orientation for Prospective New Members

Wednesday, April 21, 11 AM

Women's Fellowship Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 4 PM

Finance & Personnel Board Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 4:30 PM

Pre-School Board Meeting

Sunday, April 25

After Worship:

"When Grandma Was Stylin' "

Spring Tea *presented by Women's Fellowship*

CROP WALK

Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 PM

Church Council Meeting

Monday, May 3, 7-9 PM

UUPS hosts League of Women's Voters in Chapel - all invited!

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day

12:30:

Worship & Community Board Meeting

Sunday, May 16

Last Sunday of Easter

After Worship:

Taking Down Easter Water Fall