

FAT TUESDAY WAFFLE DINNER

Featuring

DAVE'S "TO DIE FOR" WAFFLES

Hosted by the Youth Group

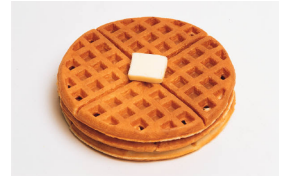
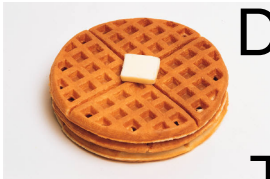
Tuesday Feb 21st, 6:00-7:30 PM.

Fellowship Hall

\$5.00 per person.

Dinner tickets available starting Sunday Feb 5th.

Call Holly Werner or Dave Fowler for more information.



Upcoming Piano Concert – Save the Date

Pianist, composer, & recording artist Spencer Brewer in concert at United Church

Friday, March 9 at 7:30 pm

(for more information on Spencer, go to www.spencerbrewer.com)

DIACONATE

by Jean Clark

Reverend. Wr'near is having a surgical procedure on February 17 and will be on medical leave from the 17th thru March 18. We are very lucky that we have several excellent substitute ministers who will fill in for him during those five weeks. They are:

February 19 - Carolyn Woodson

February 26 - Cyril Colonius

March 4 - Phil Hart

March 11 - Gayle Madison

March 18 – Carol Manahan



Please make them feel welcome at our church!

PEOPLE PAGE

O God, We lift up prayers for:

Health, Healing and Comfort:

Barbara Goepel, Dominick & Bert DiNoto-Spence,
Flossie Gallegos, Victoria Martineau

Our church's transition process

Please communicate your prayers of Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Care Needs to the Church Office. For urgent Pastoral Care needs, please contact Marilyn's home (894-2849) or Cell (236-0806) phone.

Birthdays

2/1 Bev Westenberg
2/2 Don Graddy
2/3 Mike Nixon
Dylan Tharrington
Grace Tharrington
2/5 Brianna Volper
Greta Volper
2/7 Colleen Tyler
2/9 Amy Lile
2/10 Jilloni Hopkins
2/11 Norval Dilley
Andrew Greene
2/12 Cyril Colonius
2/13 Doris Hedglin
2/16 Helen Sharp
2/19 Nick Tillman
2/24 Verna Fairbairn
2/26 Jacquelyn Bilbro
2/27 Victoria Martineau

Anniversaries

2/8 Jean & Tom Clark
2/16 Art & Bette Jewett
2/24 Kirk & Laurie Bilbro

Flowers

2/5 Tom & Jean Clark
2/12 Available
2/19 Art & Bette Jewett
2/26 Available

Greeters

2/5 Available
2/12 Available
2/19 Available
2/26 Available

Coffee Hour Hosts

2/5 Available
2/12 Mimi Domke
2/19 Available
2/26 Grace Dilley

Lay Readers

2/5 Holly Werner
2/12 Marilyn Michelin
2/19 Bob Timm
2/26 Tom Clark

Counters

2/5 Nikki Lane & Richard Werner
2/12 Richard Werner & Polly Lile
2/19 Polly Lile & Rich Craig
2/26 Rich Craig & Terry Matlock

Flowers

2/5 Tom & Jean Clark
2/12 available
2/19 Art & Bette Jewett
2/26 available

Ushers

2/5 Jean Craig, Eddie Bentall,
Bob Timm, Grace Dilley
2/12 Tom Clark, Jean Clark,
Mary Dixon, Laurie Kneeland
2/19 Jerry Huot, Art Jewett,
Nikki Lane, Flossie Gallegos
2/26 Richard Werner, Holly Werner,
Jean Craig, Eddie Bentall



The Ivy Vine is the newsletter of
United Church of Cloverdale,
439 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale, CA 95425
Ph: 707-894-2039, www.uccloverdale.org

Sunday Worship 9:55 a.m.

Minister: W. R. (Wr'near) Wilcox
clovepastor@sbcglobal.net
Minister of Music: Janice Timm
jtimm@sonic.net

Secretary: Jilloni Hopkins
uccoffice@sbcglobal.net

Editing: Bette & Art Jewett

Assembly & Distribution: Jilloni Hopkins,
Bob & Barbara Goepel, Ethel & Charlie Muttart

Editor's Note: Articles for the Ivy Vine should be submitted to artjewett@earthlink.net by the 15th of the month preceding the publication date.

PASTOR'S PAGE

by The Reverend Wr'near Wilcox

It seems a bit strange, writing this month's article in mid-January, barely two weeks into the season of Epiphany, and nonetheless looking forward to February's transition into Lent. Yet I realize that by the time most of you will end up reading this, the church will have held its third Public Forum since my arrival in late 2010, and once again held an Annual Congregational Meeting, in which reports of the activities and outcomes from 2011 were read; officers, committee and board members elected for 2012; and a budget for this coming year voted upon.

Unfortunately, you will have to wait until next month's issue to hear more about those significant events (if you were not there - unless, of course, you ask someone who was), but that reality frees me up to say a bit about another kind of transition than the one I usually talk about in this column, namely that transition between Epiphany and Lent to which I have already alluded: Epiphany, of course, is characterized essentially by the "opening of our eyes," and the ability to see clearly, perhaps for the first time, something we had not noticed or known before. In the gospel of Mark, we read, Jesus has an Epiphany in which the Voice of God pronounced him to be the "beloved Son" in whom God was "well pleased," and "immediately" the listener of that Gospel is invited to follow Jesus on his way, which begins with a time in the wilderness of temptation for 40 days.

"Forty days and forty nights" is not just a beloved rhythm and blues song, I need not remind you, but rather a reminder of an important period of time, somehow symbolized by that number 40, necessary for the accomplishment of some important objective. (Think about the 40 days Noah and the survivors of the Flood spend in the Ark, or the 40 years Moses and the Israelites wander in the wilderness, for example.) So it need not surprise anyone, though it may be an epiphany to some, that the season of Lent consists precisely of 40 days (not counting the Sundays) that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. (Doubters will doubtless consult their calendars to be convinced, so I provide you with those two dates – Feb. 22nd and April 8th.)

In many churches, it has been traditional to offer "Lenten studies" during that transition time, and this year we are indeed fortunate to be offering such a series, led by Dr. Paul Needels, whose background in education and theology has become known to a few fortunate ones who attended his Lenten and Advent study groups last year. I am personally very excited by the text and subject matter which he will be leading you in exploring in this series, namely *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, co-authored by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. As Barbara Brown Taylor (well-known UCC pastor, writer and educator herself) has said, "It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this volume for students of the Bible, especially those who mean to follow the Prince of Peace." (Note that meeting times for this study series are yet to be determined – See Paul for details.)

I add my own heart-felt endorsement to the study of this book (which will be available to the first 15 persons requesting it for a discounted \$11), having used it in my home church (the Fairfield/Suisun UCC) three years ago, and having heard and read both Borg and Crossan many times. (I took two courses from Borg during my freshman year of seminary – a highlight of my four years at Pacific School of Religion.)

May your season of Lent be characterized by what you gain through what you sacrifice.

Wr'near

TRUSTEES' REPORT

by Bob Timm

The Trustees are grateful for all who participated in the church clean-up activity on Saturday, January 7, both indoors and outdoors. During 2012, the Trustees will advertise and coordinate twice-monthly clean-up days, which will fall on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. [February's dates will be Saturdays **Feb. 4** and **Feb. 18.**] Anyone who's available to wield a broom, rake, window squeegee, sponge, dust cloth, or vacuum cleaner is invited to pitch in and brighten up a small corner of United Church's property!

We continue to work toward finding the causes, as well as solutions, for the structural settling taking place in the narthex and throughout the southeast corner of the sanctuary.

Early in the year, we will be reviewing church rental policies and pricing, in an effort to optimize our community's use of our kitchen, fellowship hall, and other facilities. This will require additional volunteer labor to promote and supervise such building rentals, and all who are willing to assist should contact Bob Timm, Richard Werner, Laurie Kneeland, or Rich Craig.

Those who are rotating off board or committees and no longer need their church keys are reminded to turn these in, so that they can be re-issued to newly elected officers and board members as needed

MISSION & OUTREACH

by Lavonne Blucher Nameny

I'm writing this on January 10, for a February newsletter. But I want to get it in early, to give our intrepid editors time to fit the Ivy Vine into their very busy personal lives this month. So I'm suspecting that by the time you read this, it will be old news.

Mission and Outreach is considering the special offerings and projects we want to recommend to the congregation for 2012. As we consider these missions, we keep in mind the overall mission of our church:

- to worship God;
- to study and teach the message of Jesus;
- to live in community within our own church, sharing our joys, sorrows, and thankfulness;
- **to find ways of bringing compassion, justice, change, and harmony to our world by prayer, feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, and ministering to both young and old in our community with our music, word, and action;**
- to open our family of faith to people of every race, gender, sexual orientation, and place of national origin;
- to keep an open mind and a devout spirit.

We hope these mission efforts will echo the sentiment of a song we often sing "...and they will know we are Christians by our love ..." And we are taking advantage of the Public Forum ("What Shall We Be?") on January 21, which will give us an idea of the projects/missions we all as a congregation feel strongly about and want to support.

So I hope by the time you read this, we will have recommended projects that reflect the visions of the entire congregation.

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

by Marilyn Michelon

February, it seems to me, is even shorter than it's 29 days- (leap year, this year.) It is packed with important days and events and new beginnings.

Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate our love for each other, send a card, give a hug or (at our house) a box of chocolates.

The Cloverdale Citrus Fair brings a chance to work side by side in community with friends and neighbors. That is always rewarding and fun.

Here at United Church, our newly elected boards and officers will be meeting and planning for the year to come. All members will be choosing ways they can help move us on our journey through activities, events and fundraisers. In 2012 our church focus is shifting from our history and where we have been to who we are and what we want to be. We are starting a new year, along with the beginning of Chinese New Year -also in February.

Oh yes, and Lent begins on February 22nd. Whew, February is short but packs a punch and keeps us busy!

See you at the Citrus Fair and Parade!

“Without the human community one single human being cannot survive.” The Dalai Lama, b. 1935

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by Holly Werner, CE Chair

YOUTH GROUP

FAT TUESDAY WAFFLE DINNER

Back by popular demand!! The youth group is holding a Waffle Dinner Fundraiser on Tuesday February 21st, “Fat Tuesday”, from 6:00 - 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.

We will be serving Dave’s “to die for” waffles with a variety of topping selections.

Those of you who attended last year’s dinner will remember just how delicious the waffles are! Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available starting Feb. 5th.

FEBRUARY CAMP

Our conference’s winter retreat for high schoolers, Feb Camp, is being held on the weekend of the 18th - 20th of this month. This retreat is always held at Monte Toyon, a retreat center in the redwoods of Aptos, Ca.

Youth group meets the following dates in February: 5th, 12th & 26th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School teachers for February are Mimi Domke (thru 2/12) and Diane DeVerte (2/19 - 3/18).

We are still looking for a donation of a large white board for the Sunday school classroom. The old one doesn’t erase very well anymore.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD meets on Monday, Feb. 6th. at 4:00 PM. We meet in the Sunday School room.

FINANCE BOARD

by Andy Grose, Jean Craig & Jim Nameny

Finance Board Report for December,				
General Fund				
	Budget	Yr to Date Budget	Yr to Date Actual	Difference Actual - Bdgt
Income				
Pledged	\$71,920	\$71,920	\$69,207	-\$2,713
Other Income	\$41,485	\$41,485	\$39,232	-\$2,253
Total Income	\$113,405	\$113,405	\$108,439	-\$4,966
Expenses	\$113,406	\$113,406	\$108,440	-\$4,966
Excess (Shortage)	-\$1	-\$1	-\$1	\$0

We have ended 2011 with a balanced budget, and met our target of \$4,000 for Conference dues.

Although our income came in \$5,000 under budget, this was matched by an equal reduction in expenses, due to Wr'near taking time off for his operation, but especially because of the careful eye that our boards and committees kept on expenses.

Our expenses would have been significantly higher, had it not been for the generous offers of "in kind" contributions by our members. Please let Jean Craig know, whenever you incur these, not only for tax deduction purposes, but also so that we gain full transparency of the church's real expenses.

On the income side we were down a bit in Contributions (\$2,700), Fundraisers (\$2,400), and the Thrift Shop (\$1,600), offset by above-budget performance in our building-use income (\$1,500).

We will really be looking to get our fundraiser organizers in place, as soon as possible. New faces are welcome, as we are open to all new ideas. Thanks so much to those who gave their efforts to make our programs a success this past your. I think that those organizers would tell anyone, that despite the hard work, it was a rewarding and fun experience, featuring lots of camaraderie and teamwork.

Did you know that the Thrift Shop is our second largest source of income? And speaking of camaraderie and teamwork, our group of loyal Thrift Shop workers display much of the best that our church has to offer. They could use more volunteers to fill out their schedule, and any offer of help, even one day per month, is appreciated. So, please drop by the Thrift Shop, see what goes on there, and volunteer to "become a Thriftee".

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

by Jean Craig

The full year contributions report is included in the 2011 Annual Report available at the Annual Meeting on January 29 after church or at the church office thereafter.

We have lots of German Sausages in our freezer and would like have a close out sale at \$2.00 each. Please contact the Craigs 894-3762 if you would like to purchase some. They are a fantastic addition to Tuscan Style white bean soup, minestrone, or chili.

Please let Jean Craig know if you would like to receive your contribution statement by e-mail. This would save paper and postage. Just contact me by e-mail rjcraigfam@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, February 2

10:00 am, Congregational Life - Conf Room

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 4

8:00 am, Men's Breakfast - Star Restaurant

8:30 am, Trustees Meeting - Fellowship Hall

9:30 am, Diaconate meeting - Conf Room

Sunday, February 5

9:55 am, Communion Service - Sanctuary

4:30 pm, Youth Group Meeting - Youth Rms

Monday, February 6

4:00 pm, Christian Education - Youth Rms

Tuesday, February 7

11:00 am, Mission & Outreach - Conf Rm

Wednesday, February 8

9:00 am, Project Linus – Location TBD

Thursday, February 9

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 12

9:55 am, Sunday Worship - Sanctuary

4:30 pm, Youth Group - Youth Rooms

Monday, February 13

7:30 pm, Finance Meeting - Conf Room

Tuesday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 15

8:30 am, Women's Breakfast – Zini's Diner

7:00 pm, Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 16

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 19

9:55 am, Sunday Worship (Pennies) –

Sanctuary

4:30 pm, Youth Group - Youth Rooms

Thursday, February 23

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsals - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 26

9:55 am, Sunday Worship - Sanctuary

4:30 pm, Youth Group Meeting - Youth Rms

WAYS TO SERVE

by Marilyn Michelon

1. Sign up for helping on a Sunday Morning—greeting, ushering, teaching Sunday School, bringing flowers, serving coffee hour, serving communion, being a lay reader. As my grandmother used to say, “many hands make light work.”
2. Help with the cleaning of the church buildings on the first and third Saturdays at 10:00am. Just show up when you can and it will be much appreciated.
3. Starting on the first Thursday in February (2nd) the Celebration Choir starts weekly practice for the Spring. This is a great time for you to join in and become a part of the choir family. If you have always wanted to, give it a try, now is a good time.

EXTREME THANKS go to all of you for your many contributions to United Church during the year of 2011. You are the BEST!



GETTING TO KNOW US, (an exploration of who we are)

Marilyn Michelin – (interviewed by David Ziegenhagen)

Talking with Marilyn Michelin about her life story is like opening a history book and discovering it is too fascinating to put down. To start, she is as native a Californian as one can find. Born in Redding, she grew up in Weaverville and Paradise. (Not many of us can say we found Paradise before passing on!) Chico also has an important place in her life, because she graduated from both Chico High School and Chico State College, where she earned her BA in psychology.

And although not a native Cloverdalian, Marilyn and her husband, Mario, have lived here in same house for 51 years, which most would argue counts as having native roots. She says that she and Mario are happy to live “in a small, friendly town where we have developed many friendships and are becoming a couple of old timers.” Marilyn and Mario, both career teachers, have three adult children, all born here, as well as six grandchildren.

Marilyn says one reason she likes the United Church of Christ is because it “is inclusive and affirming of everyone, regardless of their beliefs, background or orientation.” In more than 49 years in the church she has served on most of the boards and in most offices, including twice as Moderator, as well as the Sunday School, Choir, Women’s Fellowship, in the Thrift Shop and in many other ways.

Speaking of family and her church, as well as her life in Cloverdale, Marilyn says, “How great that is!” We all agree.

Thanks, Marilyn!

