



THE IVY VINE

“An open mind and a devout spirit”

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER, 2011



IS ALMOST HERE!!!

Many of us are working hard to prepare for Oktoberfest, our major annual fundraiser. In case you haven't heard, it is OCTOBER 8. Please refer to the flier for the details.

If you are able and have not yet volunteered to help, please check out the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall or call Jean Craig 894-3762.

See you there!!!

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

by Marilyn Michelon

What do we call ourselves? How do we want our church to be known?

Many of us work hard to keep the historic building looking its best. We worry about what the ivy (actually Virginia creeper) is doing to the shingles, so occasionally it is cut back to the ground and shingles are replaced. Have you noticed? We trim, prune, mow, water, and plant to keep the grounds looking beautiful. So do we want to be known as the “Church of the Beautiful Shingles” or the “Ivy Church”?

We work together with fun and laughter, toil and sweat, to reach out to the community through the Food Pantry, Wallace House, the Thrift Shop, Oktoberfest, and gathering school supplies. So do we want to be known as the “Fun Church” or the “Caring and Outreach Church”?

Through worship filled with thoughtful messages, lovely and joyful music, Hug Alerts, and prayers, we minister to ourselves and any others. So do we want to be known as the “Church of the Great Music and Prayer” or the “Open and Affirming Church”?

How about proudly calling ourselves, The United Church of Christ in Cloverdale? Think about what that actually means. Doesn't it include all of the above and show our Christian belief? How do we want our church to be known? Maybe this is something we can discuss in the Cottage Groups.

Your tool for survival this month is a glue stick to remind us to stick with it and stick together and we can accomplish anything!

PEOPLE PAGE

O God, We lift up prayers for:

Health, Healing and Comfort:

Bert & Dominick DiNoto-Spence, Ginny Atwater,
Lori Serrano, Diane Sigala, Lew & Audrey Dick, Bob
Jordan, 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

10/5 Hilary Jones
10/6 Tia Minto
10/7 Robert Timm
10/9 Dolores Garrison
Viola Groves
Chris Matson
Mark Tharrington
10/10 Kelley Wise
10/12 Grace Dilley
10/14 Ginny Corzine
10/15 Glenna Hood
Paul Needels
Leslie Pendleton
10/22 Roy Domke Jr.
Jordan Hopkins
Darlene Reuser
10/23 Dominick DiNoto-Spence
10/24 Shelby Kennedy
10/25 Carolyn Thomas
10/28 Casey Tharrington
Sydney Wagner-Wilson
10/31 Amanda Matson
Mario Michelon
Dorothy Turner

Anniversaries

10/9 Norval & Grace Dilley
10/13 Orville & Ruth Anderson

Flowers

10/2 Available
10/9 Available
10/16 Available
10/23 Available
10/30 Available

Greeters

10/2 Available
10/9 Available
10/16 Available
10/23 Available
10/30 Available

Coffee Hour Hosts

10/2 Christian Education Board
10/9 Available
10/16 Available
10/23 Available
10/30 Dolly Garrison

Lay Readers

10/2 Nikki Lane
10/9 Mary Dixon
10/16 Holly Werner
10/23 Marilyn Michelon
10/30 Bob Timm

Counters

10/2 Nikki Lane & Richard Werner
10/9 Richard Werner & Polly Lile
10/16 Polly Lile & Rich Craig
10/23 Rich Craig & Terry Matlock
10/30 Terry Matlock & Art Jewett

Ushers

10/2 Richard Werner, Holly Werner
Jean Craig, Eddie Bentall
10/9 Bob Timm, Grace Dilley, Tom & Jean Clark
10/16 Mary Dixon, Laurie Kneeland
Jerry Huot, Art Jewett
10/23 Nikki Lane, Mike Shanahan,
Richard & Holly Werner
10/30 Jean Craig, Eddie Bentall
Bob Timm, Grace Dilley

Communion Servers

Barbara Goepel, Grace Dilley
Verna Fairbairn, Dolly Garrison

Communion Set up and Clean up

Madelyn Ketchum, Bette Jewett

The Ivy Vine is the newsletter of
United Church of Cloverdale,
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Sunday Worship 9:55 a.m.

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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 Wr'near Wilcox

The Role of Parables in Inner Work

I often find myself looking forward to the late summer and fall of the year when it comes to the gospel readings provided by our common lectionary, for the simple reason that it is within this season that we are directed to so many of the parables for which Jesus is well known.

I know that not everyone feels that way, of course. For many (and I suspect this was even more true during his life on earth), Jesus seems so obscure with his parables, and the question becomes "Why didn't he just say what he meant?" But truth be told, it is the very effort of teasing out the wisdom contained within his parables that makes it all the more worthwhile to work with them.

Indeed, it is not at all unlike working with our own dreams, if we make the time to do so: "Why that particular image or symbol?" we ask. And, if we dare, we do the inner work that breaks through our everyday thoughts to a fountainhead of wisdom.

In a recent Sunday worship service, as we were confronted with the seeming unfairness within the parable found in Matthew 20 of the "Workers in the Vineyard" during our Sacred Conversations time, I shared a poem and its image that I think can be helpful when working with the confusion we often feel in the wake of parables and dreams. The poem and the image it evokes are about a baseball pitcher. (It is October, after all, and before we know it will be World Series time again!)

Now, where Jesus was concerned, as well as those persons like the writers of the gospels who tell of his parables and teachings, it is important to recall that 1st century Palestine was under the constant threat of brutality from its Roman occupiers. He was, after all, executed by that regime, apparently for proclaiming "the good news of the reign of God," a rather radical alternative to that of the Caesars and their agents and soldiers. And the followers of Jesus' teachings were under constant threat from the oppressive Roman Empire through those three centuries following his crucifixion.

No wonder one as clever and insightful as Jesus housed his sayings in a certain obscurity making it possible only for "those with the ears to hear" to understand the radical alternative wisdom he brought.

So here is that marvelous poem, and I hope as you read it you may prosper from the image of Jesus pitching a "no-hitter" to the delight of his fans and to the consternation of his opponents. Perhaps you can even stretch yourself a little bit further and imagine your own dream psyches pitching you a few curveballs in your dreams, in hopes of making you better players on God's team!



PITCHER

*His art is eccentricity, his aim
How not to hit the mark he seems to aim at,
His passion how to avoid the obvious,
His technique how to vary the avoidance.
The others throw to be comprehended.
He throws to be a moment misunderstood.
Yet not too much. Not errant, arrant, wild,
But every seeming aberration willed.
Not to, yet still, still to communicate
Making the batter understand too late.*

ROBERT FRANCIS

Shalom,

Wr'near

STEWARDSHIP

by Carol Huot

The materials for the stewardship campaign from the UCC Conference includes a poster that says, "COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED." It also says between the lines, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38" Something for you to ponder for the next month or so.

Stewardship is not just about money, but about taking good care of something. We have so many good stewards in our church, I'm afraid to name them for fear I will leave someone out. Almost all I can think of are contributing of their time or talent in so many ways. It is amazing! Thank you for all you do.

WAYS TO SERVE

by Marilyn Michelin

Thanks to Barbara Goepel and her friend Terry, and Rich Craig, for their work in the sun assembling the new shed for Heaven's Closet.

Thanks to Polly Lile and her crew for providing a fun and delicious church picnic!

Thanks to Jilloni, our church Secretary. We missed her while she was on vacation and are even more appreciative now that she is back!

Thanks to Janice Timm for preparing & printing the bulletins in Jilloni's absence.

Thanks to Laurie Kneeland for making sure our church is represented with a brick in the Kleiser Park project.

Using imagination, ingenuity, and resourcefulness, each of us can contribute to the health, joy, and success of United Church. You are appreciated for all you do and all you give, whether it is great or small.

TRUSTEES

by Bob Timm

Exterior wall shingle replacement on the south side of the Fellowship Hall building continues. We thank Rich Craig for his leadership in this project, assisted by Richard Werner and Bob Serrano, as well as by others.

Concerning the structural problems in the southeast corner of the sanctuary, which have caused doors in the narthex to jam and plaster to crack, we're on the road to having a better diagnosis of the problem. A reputable soil scientist and a structural engineer whom we have contacted recommend taking soil core samples, and also making very precise measurements of building movement. These professional evaluations will cost approximately \$4,600 and will take a year to complete (because of the wet-dry annual cycle of rainfall). The Trustees will, at the September Council meeting, recommend moving forward with these evaluations. The resulting analyses will provide the basis for a solution... and they will allow us to estimate the cost of the remedy.

The Trustees continue to be grateful for the many volunteers who assist each month in cleaning the church facilities and maintaining landscaping. We're intending another yard clean-up morning following the Men's Breakfast, on Saturday Oct. 1. If you're able, please join us at the church at about 9:30 am to spend an hour or two on exterior or interior facilities maintenance activities.

DIACONATE

by Jean Clark

Ushering

Would you like to be an Usher? During the offering, the ushers pass the offering plate. About every four or five weeks the ushers pass the microphone during Announcements and Joys and Concerns. If you are interested in being an usher or have questions about ushering, call or email me at 894-0334 or tclark39@sbcglobal.net.

CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER

by Lavonne Blucher-Nameny



We're still wearing shorts and sandals. But it's not too early to start thinking about something you might want to give for Christmas. Come to the Fair Trade sale November 19 & 20. There will be a wonderful selection of items – your purchases will not only make recipients (or yourself) happy, but will also ensure that third-world artisans will receive a fair price for their creations.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

by Jerry Huot

Our church set a goal entering this church year to support several charities during the year. Soon we will be asking you to help support Neighbors in Need as one of this year's special offering. We will be soliciting donations from November 27th through December 18th 2011. The donations we receive will support the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, new updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebearers of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously.

MISSION & OUTREACH

by Barbara Goepel

September 11th was the first Sunday to contribute to Wallace House this year. We were fortunate to have Gloria Higgenson, Operation Manager, and Toby, a Wallace House client, to share during a Mission Moment. Gloria shared Toby's story and Toby explained how Wallace House has helped him. It made giving more meaningful to be able to meet a man who was helped by Wallace House, thanks partly by our contributions. Colleen Holbaum, Executive Director, will be our guest during the Mission Moment. Several individuals and a family were able to come to our Church Picnic on the 11th. I like to think of people living at Wallace House as our family too, our extended family.

A **YARD SALE** is scheduled for October 15th. If you have any donations, please call Barbara at 669-0445. Thank you for your help.

Heaven's Closet (Thrift Shop)

We finally have a beautiful new shed for the thrift shop, thanks to the people that helped in every way. Terry, a friend in Cloverdale, worked for 8 hours putting up the new shed. Marilyn Michelin and Rich Craig also helped. Terry donated his time as his commitment to help the Church. All we can do is say thank you, thank you, thank you. We value your friendship.

The Shop will have the **BAG SALE** Oct. 13th and 15th. The Yard Sale will be in conjunction with the Saturday Sale. Hope we see you soon in the shop.

FINANCE BOARD

by Andy Grose, Jean Craig & Jim Nameny

Finance Board Report for August,				
General Fund				
	Budget	Yr to Date Budget	Yr to Date Actual	Difference Actual - Bdgt
Income				
Pledged	\$71,820	\$47,880	\$46,580	-\$1,300
Other Income	\$41,585	\$27,723	\$27,063	-\$660
Total Income	\$113,405	\$75,603	\$73,643	-\$1,960
Expenses	\$113,406	\$75,604	\$71,683	-\$3,921
Excess (Shortage)	-\$1	-\$1	\$1,960	\$1,961

Income continues to exceed expenses, although at a narrower rate than previously reported. Contributions in the summer months tend to be lower, but typically pick up thereafter, so this is likely just a seasonal factor. At this point we can be optimistic, but cautious, about our current situation. We will have a much better feel for our 2011 performance, after the conclusion of Oktoberfest. This will be a critical factor for our finishing the year in the black.

The principle balance on our Cornerstone Loan stands at \$156,384, with an additional \$27,000 in bonds outstanding. Significantly reducing this balance would provide an important financial step for our church.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

by Jean Craig

Contributions: 01/01/2011 to 08/31/2011

Fund Description	Pledged	Unpledged	Total
GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	39,667.30	6,525.82	46,193.12
Time & Talent	0.00	6,349.00	6,349.00
Yard Sale	0.00	1,451.95	1,451.95
Building Rental	0.00	2,489.20	2,489.20
Undesignated Memorials	0.00	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	1,701.88	1,701.88
United Methodist Trust Fund	0.00	6,789.87	6,789.87
Flowers	0.00	373.50	373.50
Substitute Musician	0.00	695.00	695.00
Camp Caz Donations	0.00	50.00	50.00
Camp Caz Fundraisers	0.00	701.65	701.65
Roundtable/Cookbooks	0.00	10.00	10.00
NCNCUCC Share	280.00	570.00	850.00
Food Pantry	0.00	409.45	409.45
One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	631.00	631.00
JrHi Yth Fundraisers	0.00	46.00	46.00
Heiffer	0.00	169.00	169.00
Mission & Outreach	0.00	775.00	775.00
Oktoberfest	0.00	45.00	45.00
Preservation&Restoration Chase	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Historical Photos	0.00	110.00	110.00
Council On Aging	0.00	291.00	291.00
Music Ministry	0.00	350.00	350.00
Building Maintenance Deposit	0.00	430.00	430.00
Tm&Tal tax deduct donation	0.00	240.00	240.00
Congregational Life	0.00	100.00	100.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	3,977.00	1,074.00	5,051.00
Thrift Shop Income	0.00	12,311.15	12,311.15
Totals	43,924.30	49,789.47	93,713.77
Non-Cash Contributions	0.00	2,754.77	2,754.77

Contribution Statements and Non Cash Contributions.

As a courtesy to the congregation, the Financial Secretary sends out quarterly statements for tax-deductible donations. The statements have been updated to reflect IRS guidelines with a statement "No goods or services were received in exchange for these contributions".

I would like to remind everyone that if you purchase supplies or equipment for the church, incur expenses for a service you provided for the church, or expenses from hosting a fund raising event, and do not want reimbursement, you may submit a blue Non Cash Contribution Form along with your receipts for your purchase or expenses incurred to the Financial Secretary. Forms will be in the Fellowship Hall and the Office. You may submit them to the church office or put them in the offering plate on Sunday. Thanks for your support.

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

BOB GOEPEL - interviewed by Bill Corzine

Bob was born in Oakland, California, and lived there through his high school years. Thereafter he worked in a machine shop for two years. On April 7, 1952, at the New Pilgrim Congregational Church, he married his one and only, Barbara. Bob entered the Air Force where, over a four-year stint, he was stationed for a year and a half in Japan (1954-55).

The military provided a technical education for Bob while he was with the security service in Japan, thus when he returned he went to work for IBM. He was there for 30 years, specializing in the maintenance and repair of computers. He was often sent to school to learn new systems during the era of electronic developments and was dispatched to such places as New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Texas and Florida. He finally retired on Feb. 1, 1987, but worked part-time for 2 years, finally retiring fully in 1989. Earlier in his and Barbara's lives, three sons were born, adding to the complexity and joy of their journey.

Bob and his family lived in Concord for 13 years, until 1973, then Santa Rosa. Sea Ranch was next until Dec. 2001, when they moved to Clover Springs in Cloverdale. Meanwhile, his mother had died at 62, and 6 months later his father, at age 64, died in a house fire. Bob's fortunes took a downward turn when in 1970 he fell off an extension ladder as he was starting to paint in his house. Injuries included a broken back with three fractured vertebrae. He was hospitalized for six weeks and was out of work for six months. Fortunately, IBM continued his salary. This was a most difficult period, and the disability has continued.

Bob and his family attended the Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill for a time, then the Methodist Church in Concord, before moving to Cloverdale. Among their travels they often went to Hawaii, the first time being on their 25th wedding anniversary. Their three sons live as follows: David in Logan, Utah; Jim in Grass Valley; and Steve in Santa Rosa. They have 10 grandchildren and 2 (plus one on the way) great grandchildren.

Bob enjoys reading, sports, and watching favorite teams on TV. Presently, he opens and closes the Thrift Shop on Thursdays and Saturdays, keeps track of the money, and helps get the Ivy Vine ready to mail. Through these and other activities Bob stays engaged with other people, sharing of himself in helpful ways as needed. I hope you will have a chance to get to know this gentle, even-tempered and sometimes shy man.

Next Month, Bob will report on Lew Dick

TRANSITION STEERING TEAM

by Art Jewett

The August 27th Forum held in Fellowship Hall was great success. We were 61 strong, committed members and friends working together exploring our experiences, values, strengths, perceptions and hopes for the church's future, while bonding together. Energy and enthusiasm was high as we looked forward to individual "cottage group" meeting during late September and October.

TST had their seventh meeting on Saturday, September 17th, at Bob Timm's home. As is our practice, we started with a meditation, checked in with each other about what significant things were happening in our personal lives, discussed the results of the Forum and questions which arose from that experience, and the next steps for the cottage groups.

If you have not yet expressed an interest in being in a cottage group, it is not too late. Just speak with Pastor Wr'near, or one of the TST members; Bill Lambert, Art Jewett, Lavonne Blucher-Nameny, Bob Timm, Polly Lile, Marilyn Michelon, Tom Clark, or Richard Werner.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 1

8:00 am, Men's Breakfast - Star Restaurant
Trustees Meeting - Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Diaconate Meeting - Conf. Room

10:00 am Christian Ed Mtg - Youth Rms

Sunday, October 2

10:00 am, Worship (World Communion) and
Water Blessing)

4:30 pm, Youth Group Meeting - Youth Rms

Tuesday, October 4

11:00 am, Mission & Outreach Mtg - Conf. Rm

Thursday, October 6

10:00 am, Congregational Life - Conf Room

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 8

2:00 pm, Oktoberfest - City Plaza

Sunday, October 9

10:00 am, Worship, Cyril Colonious preaching,
(Solidarity, Pennies) - Sanctuary

Monday, October 10

7:00 pm, Finance Meeting - Conf. Room

Wednesday, October 12

9:00 am, Project Linus - Lile Home

Thursday, October 13

10:00 am, Thrift Shop Bag Sale

7:30 pm, No Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 15

10:00 am, Thrift Shop Bag and Yard Sale

Sunday, October 16

10:00 am, Stewardship Service, Elizabeth
McDougal pianist - Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 19

8:30 am, Women's Breakfast - Star
Restaurant

7:00 pm, Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 20

7:30 pm, No Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 23

10:00 am, Worship Service - Sanctuary

Thursday, October 27

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 30

10:00 am, Worship Service - Sanctuary



Church/Child Humor

Finding one of her students making faces at others on the playground, Ms. Smith, the Sunday School teacher stopped to gently reprove the child. Smiling sweetly, said, "Bobby, when I was a child, I was told that if I made ugly faces, it would freeze and I would stay like that."

Bobby looked up and replied, "Well, Ms. Smith, you can't say you weren't warned."



A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"



A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"



After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I'll have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit and listen."

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Oktoberfest**
- 1 Stewardship**
- 3 Parables & Pitchers**
- 4 Trustees**
- 5 Christmas in November**
- 5 Neighbors in Need**
- 9 Getting To Know: Bob Goepel**

NEWS FLASH!!!

At a Congregational Meeting on September 18 to consider a By-Law revision, the thirty three members present voted unanimously to change the number of people on the nominating committee from 3 to 5.