



Whatever things are

# Of Good Report

think on these things

Vol. 59, No. 2

January 22, 2010

Barbara Strader

Editor

## Organ to be Repaired!

Let the music soar! Congratulations CCMV, the call went out and you met the challenge. As a community we have achieved our \$16,000 goal to repair the blower for the beloved organ. As of this writing the call to Schoenstein & Co. to arrange for the repair has been made and the Easter music has been chosen.

A great big thank you to all those who donated. (Beth Arvidson, Meta Bare, Jack Bartlett, Betsy & Dan Bikle, Linda & Jamie Clever, John Eagleton, Bill Gerecke, Peggy & Paul Hewett, Ben Hulan & Lisa Filippi, Jacquie Hoffman, Buzz & Lydia Hull, Jane & Connie Kloh, Harriet Kostic, Verna Parino, Keith Phillips & Sue Blanchard, Judy Reneau, Jean Rhodes, Tamayo Sato, Carol & John Schmiedel, Marjorie Scott, Pam & Muncie Shortridge, Russ Wallace and Mike Webber.) For those of you who thought about donating but never quite got around to it, please do. We met our goal but everyone knows what can happen with repair projects (cost overrides, unexpected problems) and at this point we will need to use the full balance of the Organ Fund Reserves toward the project.

Please come look at the new poster Peter has created for the Tamalpais Hall to celebrate our achievement as a community. I am, personally, really excited to hear our special Easter music on the newly reinvigorated organ. How appropriate for the season. I also wish to thank the members of the Organ Task Force for their help and unwavering support, Barbara at the Church office and Mike Webber. We couldn't have done this with out you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

- Chris Bikle, Chair, Organ Task Force

## MOC House (at CCMV) Meeting

Please join us at **11:30 a.m. following worship this Sunday, January 24.** Those who attended the October 25th MOC Founding Convention will share their experiences and give feedback to all. Everyone from the congregation is invited. In addition to Convention feedback, Linda Xiques will give an update describing the research activities of the MOC Health Care Research Team. If time permits, you will receive a report on the activities of other MOC research groups. Keeping with MOC tradition, we will begin on time, end on time, and keep the meeting to no more than an hour-and-a-half. We'll also provide you with food to stay your hunger pangs. We look forward to seeing a generous number of you on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Earl Lectures

This year's Earl Lectures, held **January 26-28** at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, are free and open to the public. (Leadership Conference is \$125.) To register, or for more information, please see <http://www.psr.edu/earl-lectures-2010>.

This year's lectures will explore the increasingly popular phrase spiritual, but not religious.

*"Earl Lectures" continued on page 2.*

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“Earl Lectures” continued from page 1.

“Spiritual, but not religious” includes those who glean inspiration solely from nature and the physical world around them, as well as those who prefer to divorce themselves from institutional structures. The phrase also refers to some who are alienated from organized religion—refugees from a house of worship that has not accepted or affirmed them. “Spiritual but not religious” can also describe those who find church irrelevant or who prefer to worship in individual and private ways. Following is a summary of the Plenary Sessions: **Session I:** Jan. 26, 10 a.m., Matthew Fox, “From Religion to Spirituality—and Back Again?; **Session II:** Jan. 26, 3 p.m., Women’s Spirituality Panel; **Session III:** Jan. 27, 9:45 a.m., Melissa Wilcox, “A Spiritual Being Having a Human Experience: Gender, Sexuality and Religious Individualism”; **Session V:** Jan. 28, 9 a.m., Scotty McLennan, “Growing Up Spiritual or Religious?: A Developmental View.”

## Incredible Generosity



Giving to the UCC's Haiti earthquake response is shattering previous online rates, indicating a generous outpouring from across the United Church of Christ, church leaders say. Within six days of the disaster, a total of \$250,603 has been received from 2,366 online donors. That far exceeds a previous online giving record set in early 2005 when \$112,000 was raised at ucc.org over 23 days from a little more than 1,000 donors to aid victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami. To find out more, visit: <http://act.ucc.org/site/R?i=b3cziFAouXpxecfMHyGPqg>

# 2010 UCC Prayer Calendar

United Church of Christ’s *Calendar of Prayer* contains stories from across the United States and from around the world that illustrate the depth and breadth of the mission outreach of the United Church of Christ. Globally, that outreach is done in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the common witness of Global Ministries. There are stories that reflect the rich diversity of our denomination as well. They are stories of local congregations, individuals, and faith communities from around the world that speak to the one church, the one body of Christ. We give thanks for the support that you have given to the church through your gifts of time, talents, and treasures. We give you thanks for your generous support of the special offerings of the church, as well as your support of Our Church's Wider Mission without which many of these ministries would not take place or be heard. To view and print the calendar: <http://www.ucc.org/worship/calendar/>



## January Birthdays

 January 24	Brian Viall
 January 27	Muncie Shortridge
 January 28	Teresa Main

**The Community Church of Mill Valley**  
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Pastor: Pam Shortridge  
Minister Emeritus: Jack Bartlett  
Parish Associate of Mission: Dora Ford  
Minister in Covenant: Jacquie Hoffman  
Seminarian In-Care: Arn Lou Mutia  
Seminarian In-Care: James Christie  
Director of Music: Esther Archer  
Executive Editor: Barbara Strader  
Facility Operations Manager: Aaron Young

Sunday Morning:  
9:00 a.m. “The Unexpected Word” Class, Foster Room  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
Nursery Care for Infants & Toddlers, Nursery Program for Children in Preschool through Third Grade, Children gather in the Chapel  
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Tamalpais Hall

*Of Good Report* is published on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Deadline for submissions is the previous Monday at noon.



# Loving the Earth for Lent

“Of all the seasons of the Christian’s pilgrimage, Lent has probably been most abused. It has in certain times and places become a period of excessive introspection, empty abstinence from tidbits of affluence, and the enjoyment of the gloom of self-denial.”

**On February 17—Ash Wednesday—Lent begins.**

If Lent is a pilgrimage or a journey, what is our destination?

Some say that Lent is a journey home, even if it is to a place we have never been. It is a physical journey in which new discoveries are made, new insights gained, and greater depths explored. It is a path that leads to oneness with God through union with ourselves, our neighbors, and creation. It is a bringing together of the life of the Spirit and the realities of the human condition.

This year we will “observe Lent” by taking a journey home to earth—the only home we will ever know.

With each breath and each mouthful of food, whenever we make love, witness the miracle of birth, or bury a loved one, our spirits engage with our physical selves. Every time we stick our head out the window to scrutinize the weather, thrill to the sudden glimpse of a cardinal’s scarlet plumage, or throw ourselves with gleeful abandon into the ocean’s stinging immensity, we engage with that encompassing reality that we may think of as nature, the earth, or the environment.

Our home is in very serious trouble. Every time we hear the evening news, pick up a magazine in a doctor’s office, or scan the Internet, there is more bad news about the planet we call home. We humans are damaging the earth at an unprecedented rate. Unfortunately the heavy drumbeat of our planet’s environmental crisis can produce a kind of paralysis often expressed in either angry denial or heartbroken despair, but serious religious life demands that we look at stuff most of us would prefer not to. We must grapple with our own carelessness and call ourselves to account, acknowledging “God’s purpose for us is to love and to live in harmony with all that [God] made. All of creation and all generations to come are our neighbors.” The good news is that we are not alone. God’s Spirit fills the cosmos. Although we must admit that we will not be able to fix everything, we each have a contribution to make. We know that our home is a holy place and that life itself is a sacred gift. To sustain life on earth we need to be better informed about the things we do that endanger our planet, discover the tools that are available to help us change our ways, and reconnect to the beauty and wonder of nature.

This Lent we will work together toward a “Greener” faith. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and especially at our adult faith retreat we will look for what we need to soothe our troubled spirits and rouse our energies to heal the earth. Throughout Lent we will honor the traditional practices of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—in new ways that will help us transform our lives in order to become more faithful lovers of the earth.

- Pam Shortridge

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United Church of Christ  
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## Upcoming Church Events

### Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (Newcomers welcome)  
9:00 a.m. The Bible: Viewed and Re-viewed with Pam Shortridge.  
Tamalpais Hall. A conversation open to all.  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
Child care for children 4 and under, Nursery  
10:15 a.m. Children's Program for children Kindergarten through 3rd Grade, Tam Hall  
11:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Tamalpais Hall  
All are welcome.  
11:30 a.m. Marin Organizing Committee House Meeting; Snacks will be served.

### This Week

- Tue.-Thu., Jan. 26-28, Earl Lectures and Pastoral Conference, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.  
Theme: Spiritual but Not Religious: Chasing the Divine.  
(Plenary Session Lectures are free and open to the public.)  
See [www.psr.edu/files-psr/EL2010schedule3.4.pdf](http://www.psr.edu/files-psr/EL2010schedule3.4.pdf) for a copy of the schedule.)  
Pam Shortridge will attend all 3 days.  
Tue., Jan. 26, Dinner for Women's Shelter at First Methodist Church in San Rafael  
Wed., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors, Fireside Room

### Coming

- Sun., Jan. 31, Fifth Sunday Worship, The Redwoods  
Wed., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. Christian Life Team, Fireside Room Presbyterian Church  
Fri., Feb. 5, 12 Noon Registration Deadline for *Toward a Greener Faith* Adult Retreat  
at Enchanted Hills Camp



**Toward a **Greener** Faith:  
Loving the Earth for Lent**

**You are invited  
to the  
Adult Faith Retreat  
February 19-20, 2010  
at  
Enchanted Hills Camp**

**“God loves the earth fully.  
By loving one another and every sentient being  
—even the rocks who cry out—  
we love God.**

**In this love we are called to resist the poisoning of peoples and earth.”**

**— Karen Baker-Fletcher**

# Toward a **Greener** Faith: Loving the Earth for Lent

*Annual Adult Faith Retreat*

*February 19-20, 2010*

## Where?

**Enchanted Hills Camp.** Located above the Napa Valley in a wooded coastal environment, 20 minutes from the town of Napa at 3410 Mt. Veeder Road. Travel time from Mill Valley is approximately 1¼ to 1½ hours. The camp is fully accessible and is managed by United Camps, Conferences and Retreats.

Lodging is in heated lakeside cabins with rooms for two, real beds, and an adjoining bathroom. We meet in the Kiva, a large private room. Delicious meals—made with adult tastes and appetites in mind—are served in the Dining Hall.

## When?

**6:30 p.m., Friday, February 19, to 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20.** The retreat begins in the Kiva at 6:30 p.m. on Friday; supper is at 7 p.m. You may check in as early as 5 and enjoy a walk by the lake or a short hike along one of the trails, take a nap, or enjoy some coffee in the Kiva. The retreat ends Saturday at 2 p.m. Please plan to stay for the full time.

## Cost?

The cost for lodging, 3 meals, and materials is **\$95 per person.** (Partial scholarships up to \$50 are available. Please note on your registration the amount of help you need, then enclose what you can afford to pay.)

## Who?

All adults are welcome. The camp accommodates all ages, singles & couples, and people with limited mobility.

Facilitators: Pam Shortridge, Pastor, and Carol Manahan, Associate Conference Minister.

Carol completed an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Environmental Ethics and Biblical Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in 2006. In addition to her work with the churches of the Golden Gate Association, she teaches part time at California College of the Arts. Her focus is on environmental ethics and biblical studies with a particular interest in agriculture. She and her spouse Anni Jensen have created a drought-tolerant ornamental garden and organic food garden of fruit trees, berries, and vegetables around their Richmond home.

**What? Study, story-telling, reflection, discussion, meditation, and hands-on exploration & discovery....**

*"This is our vision—a beloved creation of raucous diversity and extravagant beauty, a web of life knit together by the Spirit of God who infuses every cell. It is a deeply religious vision, and yet it can easily be translated into the language of the public sphere. Doing justice, promoting equity, ensuring freedom, and conserving nature are the social dimensions of loving our neighbors as ourselves." — Janet L. Parker, Christian ethicist and pastor of Rock Spring Congregational UCC*

**Registration for Adult Faith Retreat, Feb. 19-20, 2010  
(Deadline for registrations is 12 noon, Friday, Feb. 5.)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Up to \$50 per person)

*Deduct requested scholarship from the full cost (\$95).*

**Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_** *Make checks payable to Community Church. Note "Adult Retreat."*