



ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 40/50 SCHOOL ST., POINT ARENA, CA 95468
JANUARY 2010 www.spcumc.org

The BEACON LITE: Only half the pages, published on odd-numbered months

Epiphany: Revealing, Radiating, Reminding



Epiphany is an unfamiliar word to many of us -- even to many Christians. Yet the word reveals a burst of light, imagination and awareness so needed in these times, by us all. So ... here are some phrases that may help it to make more sense:

- * a revealing of the presence of God;
- * the light of God radiating outward and inward;
- * a gift, a reminder that God is here.

Why does this word "epiphany" matter to Christ's church?

The time after Christmas is often a letdown within a secular, consumer-focused culture. But in the Christian "kin-dom," the story is different. Light expands into dark places. Newness appears in the midst of routine. Life bursts out of the expected deadness in the natural world. (CONT'D on page 3)

COMING EVENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

January 2: Stone Soup Saturday w/ free Music theory class

January 15: Kid's Night Out: MLK Jr. Remembrance Day
Kids 4-12 years. Supper and program 5:15 - 7:15 pm

January 25: Christian Women's Fellowship, Ft Bragg

January 30: No Blue Plate Special, 8-11 a.m. Biaggi Hall

February 5: Kid's Night Out: FEB Fellowship 5:15 -7:15 p.m.

February 14: Miguel Torrado Mary Star preaches at Worship

February 14 Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch 11:30 am

February 21 New Members received at Worship 1st Sun Lent

February 27 Blue Plate Special Breakfast returns 8-11 am

February 27 District Leadership Missions Event at
Temple UMC S.F.

March 6 Training Event at S. Reno: Five Practices of Fruitful
Congregations; at St. Paul's UMC, Reno. Join Pastor & Bill

An Important Time Together!

Celebration of Ministry &

Our All-Church Conference for 2010:

This Sunday January 3rd beginning at 10 a.m.

* At **10:00 a.m.** with a **potluck continental breakfast** in Biaggi Hall.

* **Songs of Praise will begin at 10:30 a.m.** as usual.

We will weave worship and our All-Church Conference celebration together as our District Superintendent Rev. Ben Silva-Netto joins us to convene and receive our celebrations, prayers, reports and election of lay leaders for 2010.



Sunday Mornings

beginning January 17, 9:09 a.m.

As we imagine ourselves into spiritually-centered lives and relationships, and incarnational ministry here in Mendonoma in Jesus' name, what gives you passion, vitality and energy, and where/ what are your personal growing edges? Join us as we share, witness and journey together!

Tuesday Eves

beginning January 12, 7:07 p.m

'Islam'

Beginning JANUARY 12 at 7:07-8:30 p.m.

at Ted & Connie Matz's home

38230 Old Stage Rd., Gualala.

YOU are invited to come learn and share together.
We encourage Carpools! Study leader: Jim Tackett

Wednesdays

beginning December 30, 10 a.m

'The Lives of Great Christians'

Wednesday Mornings: December 30 and

January 13, 27 and March 10th

10:00 -11:30 p.m. in Biaggi Hall

A video-supported walk w/ modern era Christians
Session 1: St. Francis of Assisi

LETTERS, Lately . . .

Thank you for every single card, postcard & prayer this year. I pray that you all have a blessed Christmas & beautiful New Year. ~ always, Caroline (serving at CA Dept. of Corrections in Chowchilla)

Dear St. Paul's Community UMC Thank you for giving me food, a night's stay in a motel and a bus ticket when I was traveling and stranded in Point Arena a couple years ago. I eventually found employment and saved enough to go back to school and now enroll in seminary. I am grateful for your helping hand and care. ~ Travis Henry, Chicago, IL

Christmas Greetings from our new home in Lacey, WA!

That's right! After saying for years we would never leave our home on the Sea Ranch, we now find ourselves living in Panorama, a retirement community near the state capital of Olympia. As one of our sons said, "If you are going to leave the most beautiful place on earth, you might as well move to the second most beautiful." ...Cont'd o

- * **Finance Matters!** For families, businesses ... and for churches, especially ours in this set apart place.
- * **St. Paul's Gualala Study Group** resumes Tuesday January 12
Our Topic will be "Islam"
- * **TRUSTEES will meet** Saturday January 16th at 12:30 p.m. in Biaggi Hall. Please join me.

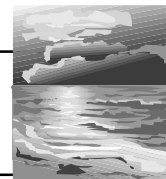
Please e-mail your prayer requests:

Ellen Buechner at
ellenbuechner@hotmail.com
or call 884-3607

If you need help from the Church
please call **Pastor Tina:**
882-2074

OUR FOUR-FOLD MISSION:

Excerpts from Pastor Tina's fourth sermon of the series this past October on United Methodism



At the heart of our faith is Christ's invitation to "come" as well as our marching orders to "go."

"Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest for your soul...Peace I give to you."

Jesus then says, "Now, go."

Go into the world to serve me", he says, by teaching and healing, by feeding hungry people and saving lives in a world longing for love, compassion and hope.

To bring this all together, in 2008, at the leading of our Bishops, the UM General Conference endorsed **four** areas of focus. They are a source of inspiration and an opportunity for discipleship for us all.

The first has to do with leadership for the church, lay and ordained. Identifying, nurturing, training future leadership for the work of the church. **The second**—opening doors for new people to become involved in the life of the church. I'm proud that our new Saturday 'Stone Soup' offering is an example of how a 143-year old congregation like ours can do something new in such a way as to open the doors for new folks to enter and discover all that it means to be loved and then to love God and serve one another, dialogue together and feed our neighbors with nourishing food of art, music conversation and of course...a 'soup and more' free lunch weekly... for body and soul.

The Third—as old as the Gospel and as Wesley's original model—being in ministry with the poor, especially in ways that protect and serve children. I work with folks daily and so do you who barely get by and need companioning support and hope. And **our fourth** missional focus—working with coalition partners—such as the Ford Foundation, Rotary, the UN Foundation, the Gates Foundation—to eradicate the diseases of poverty that are preventable, so as to save countless lives. We have participated in this one, too, through our support of the *Nothing But Nets* Campaign to stop the spread of malaria and locally with the blood bank, RCMS and Action Network.

Imagine yourself part of a global force of 14 million United Methodists working together to train leaders, to grow the church, to eliminate conditions of poverty, and to save lives. 14 million United Methodists united to keep the church strong now and into the future, that the mission of the church will be effective and transformational.

We are part of a movement that reaches deep into the heart of each believer and far enough to span the globe.
Love immense and unconfined. ~ Blessings, Tina

EPIPHANY Cont'd

Here is one example. It occurred in Zimbabwe, in the middle of July 1997. Barbara was traveling to the rural village of Bindura to preach and lead a workshop for lay preachers in that area. After worship, she said she was able to visit a children's village called S.O.S., one of several places in Zimbabwe where orphaned and "dumped" children (that's the word used by the African people there) are raised, schooled, and loved in small groups. They're presided over by local house mothers, most of whom are active United Methodists. They bring the children from the S.O.S. house to worship each Sunday.

"On the day of my arrival, I heard about a newborn infant who had been found in the weeds by a local police officer. He had heard her crying while he was walking home along the path outside the village. He took her to S.O.S. The women on staff determined that the baby was probably four days old and apparently unharmed. In the two weeks before I saw her, she had been fed, held, given a place to stay, and a name. The name she was given? Christiana.

I watched her napping on one Sunday afternoon. I realized that she was vulnerable and in one sense abandoned-- perhaps by a mother whose family would not accept the presence of a child with an unnamed father. But Christiana was also a gift -- to the community of people who were prepared to dedicate themselves to her well-being and to the pastor who supported the ongoing ministry of S.O.S."

And even to this visitor from the United States who saw the power of God in this little one's young life, Christiana is a reminder that in the eyes of God, every child is sacred -- in Bethlehem, in Kansas City, L.A., in Bindura, Zimbabwe.

Where are there epiphanies awaiting your attention? Watch and listen! I guarantee that you will find them.

~ Pastor Tina

Media Shout Worship Presentation 2010 Class to Start in January >>>>>>>>

A New 2010 Phone Directory to be Published & Available in February.

Please report any changes to address, e-mail or phone listings in writing as soon as possible to Pastor Tina or to Liz Elstun. (Birthdays, too!)

Do we have your birthday/anniversary?
(Month & date only.)

**Connectional Staff of N. Golden Gate District
Superintendent Rev. Ben Silva-Netto**

Administrative Assistant, Bruce Pettit
415-504-7200

e-mail: Goldengatet@aol.com
website: www.goldenmuc.org

**California Nevada Conference
Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.**
bishop@calnevumc.org
Phone: 916-374-1510

A class is beginning Saturdays January 23 and 30 at 10:30 a.m. to teach a core of at least 2 others how we operate and how we create the Sunday media Worship visuals. We are looking for lay persons willing to be equipped and empowered for this specialized ministry.

We will begin the training with the basics and the questions that will arise. This is an essential team for times when Jim and / or Bill will be away or unavailable in 2010.

Bill has a laptop computer that has the Media Shout software already installed. It can be loaned out on an 'as needed' basis' to learn the how-to's and get necessary practice.

Call Bill (at 882-1675 or e-mail me at: bballagh@yahoo.com asap.

P.S. A rocket science degree is NOT necessary to learn! Your willingness is vital to St. Paul's.



BIRTHDAYS

1-3 Kathy Titus
1-18 Diane Johnson
1-18 Jo Majorana
1-20 Millie Davis
1-21 Steve Jarvis
1-25 Jeff Gyving

ANNIVERSARIES

1-4 Buzz & Carol Hofer
1-8 Pastor Tina & Bill
1-12 Frank & Irene Terlouw
1-17 Wallace & Kathy Titus

Prayers are an important ministry of St. Paul's.

What if some of you gathered weekly as a small group to prayer together intentionally and specifically? If this idea touches your heart, speak with me Sunday.

~Tina

**An Important & Special Time!
Celebration of Ministry & All-Church
Conference This Coming Sunday
January 3rd at 10 a.m.**

Join in a **Sunday morning of celebration** beginning at **10:00 a.m.** with a potluck continental breakfast in Biaggi Hall.

Songs of Praise will begin at 10:30 a.m. as usual. We will weave worship and our All-Church Conference celebration together as our District Superintendent Rev. Ben Silva-Netto joins us to convene and receive our celebrations, prayers, reports and election of lay leaders for 2010.

During worship Pastor Tina will serve Communion. Our offertory will include a photo slideshow of our SPCUMC's highlights from the year.

Please set this upcoming date and time aside and make every effort to join together with our whole Church family and District Superintendent as we lift up our mission and ministries here on the Mendonoma coast.

There is no Blue Plate Special scheduled until February 2010

**St. Paul's Community
United Methodist Church**
P.O. Box 25
Pt. Arena, CA 95468
www.spcumc.org



*Postmaster:
Address Service Requested*



KID'S NIGHT OUT

Friday Evening

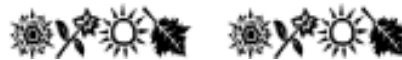
January 15th 5:15-7:15 P.M.

in Biaggi Hall

Children's Fellowship for ages 4-12

Parents are always welcome

Supper & music; storytelling & art





**BLUE PLATE
SPECIAL**
*Home-cooked
Breakfast!*
Saturday, February 27th
8:00a.m.~11:00 a.m.
Breakfast by donation

Evangelism and Fellowship 'rolled into fun' and a great meal /community fellowship time. If you haven't helped put one on, join in: Guys and gals of all ages.