



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



Sunday February 14th

This last Sunday of Epiphany season our Guest Speaker will be a favorite sojourner in faith, Catholic Deacon Miguel Torrado, of Mary Star of the Sea and his wife, Sonia. On this Valentine's Day Sunday, come share in the love of God with your community of faith and receive a message of hope, love and challenge for your life as a disciple of the Waymaker.

Sunday February 21

Join together as Pastor Tina leads us in a worship time stepping into the journey of Lent. Bring a key to symbolize your journey as we explore the theme: 'Open the Door'



130 Health Kits Wing
Their Way to UMCOR's
Salt Lake City Depot!

With thanks and gratitude for the leadership of Lay Leader Eunice Campbell spearheading an energized and faithful team of St. Paul's family and friends / hands and hearts, 130 health kits were compiled, packaged and packed over the past two 'Stone Soup Saturdays'.

Being a connectional-thinking Methodist, Eunice then contacted Lisa Riboli and collaborated on a shipping plan that allowed the precious cargo to leave Point Arena this week ! It's on its way to help those in great need in Haiti. To everyone who has already lent a hand, bought and/ or brought supplies, encouraged others or sent funds to UMCOR, for prayers and hope lifted up, Thank You All !



UMCOR in Haiti

While prayers were going out and support was readying for responsive action rescuing residents of Haiti following January 12th's earthquake, United Methodists globally were concerned for the lives of UM COR officials (United Methodist Commission Relief) and UM Volunteers in Mission teams already at work in Haiti from several parts of the U.S.

The Rev. Sam Dixon, executive Director of UMCOR and the Rev. Clinton Rabb, director of volunteers, were both discovered in the rubble of the Hotel Montana on the third day after the quake. Rev. Dixon died in the rubble before he could be rescued. While Rev. Rabb was rescued alive, he died in a Florida hospital days after being airlifted



out and surgery performed in the States. Both men were in Haiti to meet with the Methodist Church of Haiti and the IMA World Health officials planning collaboratively to undergird the continuing upgrade of health clinics in Haiti. Also trapped in the rubble was UMCOR consultant Rev. James Gulley and IMA vice-president (a Methodist layperson) Dr. Sarla Chand.

Their stories are told on numerous internet sites.

Jean Arwine, a member of a volunteer mission team from Highland Park UMC , Dallas, TX was working with her team at an eye clinic in the village of Petit Goave when the building gave way. Many were trapped in the rubble. Jean and four others from the Texas congregation did not survive. The Haitian Eye Clinic was founded in 1985 and a surgery building completed in 1999. Both are staffed by Haitian doctors supported in part by the UM Church and volunteers like Jean Arwine who provide special eye care weekly to persons in need.

Even as we keep people in Haiti in our prayers and we send more volunteers to help while also giving donations for relief, immediate and long term, let us also lift up aid workers and their families separated during this critical time of great need.

To volunteer to be part of the teams deploying from CA through the CalNevada UMCOR Volunteers in Mission, contact Pastor Tina Ballagh at St. Paul's Community UMC in Point Arena or go online and e-mail philb@calnevumc.org. The folks of St. Paul's are and will continue to be making up and sending Health Kits to our Salt Lake City- based UMCOR West Supply Depot.

'Thank You' to all of you who have already brought supplies and given time in preparing the health kit items for immediate deployment. We work weekly at each weekly Stone Soup Saturday from 10 a.m. -2 p.m.



(Turn to page 4)

Walking With Jesus Wrestling with Welcome

I believe, in this late January of 2010, that focusing on our specific strengths of **inviting, welcoming** and **becoming new friends** in faith will have the most positive impact on our common life here, as St. Paul's Community imagines and opens new, additional Doors of Welcome.

In these eight years walking with this congregation, I have laughed, cried, taught, listened, prayed, learned, and opened my life wider as my faith continues to grow into maturity. I've been tempted to pull back at times, but I've stayed forward- focused to experience firsthand new growth and deeper healing that can indeed follow after the pain of life's experiences of awareness, grieving and pruning.

I've grown from a mid-life pastoral leader with an empty nest, into the joys of parenting mid-*thirty-something* children, themselves now moving deeper and more committed in their own relationships and vocations. I am still human, flawed, growing in faith, grace, love and experience. I still feel welcome here.

What does it mean for us (and for me) in this time to be a 'safe place' and a 'growing' community? At the minimum, when I preach, I need to share my passion and opinions in ways that help people build their relationships with God and faith perspectives, not forcing them to agree with me.

To be a safe and growing church, all of us need to get out of God's way, to harness our tongues and to hold our cherished beliefs close and visible without pushing them on others. To be safe, inviting and truly welcoming, we need not only to enlarge our aisles, pathways and adapt our restroom and sanctuary for wheelchair and walker access and assisted hearing devices, but to enlarge our minds, hearts and expectations so that God has room to maneuver in, among and through us as we welcome more and more God's loved ones we have yet to meet.

Perhaps then, we can be truly ready to receive and welcome God's own beloved, begin to love them genuinely into wholeness and fullest potential. This is our challenge and our sacred work. Blessed be our year together ahead.

Joy in Christ,
Pastor Tina

May this place be fragrant with the presence of the Lord;
May this place overflow with the gratitude of God's people;
May the sounds of joy echo in this place;
May clouds of God's peace envelope us all;
here and in those who dwell worldwide.

Fill this community with a spirit of awesome hospitality
for all your loved ones, Lord. Amen.

KID'S NIGHT OUT!

Our
Friday evening Children's Fellowship
for those 4- 11 years
continues in February

We'll meet from 5:15 - 7:15 p.m. for
"an evening with a heart!"

FRIDAY

February 12th in Biaggi Hall
Parents are always welcome to join in!



FAIR TRADE CLOTHING

There is a catalogue that sells fair trade clothing called Fair Indigo. They guarantee that the workers who make the garments get a living wage. Check it out online at www.fairindigo.com.

Talk w/ Lena Bullamore as well as Nancy Epanchin about Fair Trade and how you can be part of a more just way of living in this world. ~ Pastor Tina

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & CHOCOLATES

*Not Just a Cup,
But a Just Cup*

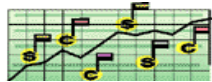
Enjoy Your Coffee !

Around the world, coffee, tea and fellowship come together where ever we share community. Often coffee is the centerpiece of celebrations, and other gatherings. As the second most heavily - traded commodity in the world, farmers can earn a fair price for their products and have equal access to affordable credit. You've been drinking Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee at Coffee Hour. Take time to reflect and consider how the choices you make affect more than just our own personal lives. We look forward to more opportunities to encourage you in thinking Fair-Trade as a way of just living practices for the sake

Look for Fair Trade
symbols to guide your
purchases



Finance Matters



We are doing our part: We use the resources we have been provided by you and others creatively and well, stretching them beyond ordinary lifetimes, often to the point where 'oars become toothpicks', as someone recently shared. And, we are letting you, our faith community, know where we are month by month.

Good people, simple technology, and limited supplies and personnel, we are living our faith with love, great hope and expectation. Only the Spirit is not limited.

What is important is to pray, and to act with risk-taking faith and joy in the Lord. And so we will.

Join us. I'm not talking about prayer as 'magical thinking' that steps around what needs to be engaged. For me praying and acting go hand in hand because prayer opens my perspective, awareness and my heart. The clutch of anxiety serves nothing.

When I pray I begin to see differently and am moved to respond in ways that aren't possible otherwise. Prayer changes things. At minimum, it changes the one who prays. It opens and aligns us with the purposes of God in our world, purposes which draw us out of narrow patterns of self-definition into deeper connection with our best selves and our strong calling to participate in what the living Spirit is already creating. ~Pastor Tina
Surprise! It's not all up to just one of us.

St. Paul's Monthly Financial Summary as of January 31, 2010	This Year (2010)	Year (2009)
Money Received Year to Date	9,810	4,683
Budgeted Receipts Year to Date	6,535	5,945
Excess Year to Date	3,276	(1,261)
Operational Expenses Year to Date	6,047	6,955
Budgeted Operational Expenses	5,749	5,975
Savings/(Over) Year to Date	(297)	(980)
Net at 1/31/10	2,978	2,241))
Budgeted Loss	(4,645)	(15,604)

Keep up the good start momentum!

UMCOR Haiti - 'We Will Rise':

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6FuvjBrlqq>

It will take time.
Be There. Be Hope.

ST. PAUL'S Gualala-based Study Group

An ecumenical group
gathering



Jim Tackett facilitates the Tuesday evening gatherings. These video-supported sessions w/ discussion are held at 7:07 - 8:30 p.m. at the inviting home of Ted and Connie Matz, 38230 Old Stage Rd, Gualala. Carpooling is available from the north end.

The continuing topic for the group this winter is '**Islam**', presented by Professor John L. Esposito Questions? Call Jim Tackett at 785-1024.

or E-mail: JTackett@wildblue.net

SUNDAY MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Children at 10:30 a.m./ We all begin in Worship.

Sunday Mornings

beginning February 28 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 in a Wesleyan way!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail your request:

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

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

882-2074

Labyrinth



Labyrinth walking can provide a sense of calm that is conducive to meditation, self-exploration and prayer. Though the labyrinth is thousands of years old, these ancient patterns still speak to us today. I believe our culture is so steeped in rapid stimulation, information and technology that we are yearning for places for quiet introspection and release. Labyrinths provide that well of solace where we can go to drink deeply.

What is Ash Wednesday All About?



The imposition of ashes can and should be related to baptism. Just as in baptism all who are baptized receive the laying on of hands and the sign of the cross placed upon their foreheads with oil or water; so here on Ash Wednesday, all receive the sign of the cross in exactly the same place.

If the basic connections to water and oil and the ashes are clear, the ashes simply make visible to all what probably could not be seen by most in baptism -- that we live our lives openly under the sign of the cross. The cross is our "brand." While the ashes remind us we will all die (children do understand this point, and it does not usually scare them), the form of the ashes as the sign of the cross says we belong to Christ; and as such in these days ahead, we will try to live that out as fully as we can -- in confession, self-examination and renewal, even as we lead others to make a similar commitment journeying with Jesus to the cross and beyond.

Our Next BEACON Edition

Your contributions are needed in to us by:
February 16th. Several people are involved

in the **BEACON** process.

Please start preparing now
what you will contribute.

Everyone is a potential contributor!!

~ Thanks

In Case of an Emergency in Pastor's Tina's absence:

Our St. Paul's Lay Leaders:

Eunice Campbell: 882-1640

Jim Tackett: 785-1024

Worship Leaders for February

February 7 - Frances Buentjen

February 14 - Mimi Dallas

February 21 - Liz Elstun

February 28 - You??



"A sign of God is that we are led
to a place we did not intend to go."

~ Anonymous

Why is Easter a different date each year?
Do you know the reason?



Lent begins this year on **February 17th**
Ash Wednesday February 17

The First Sunday of Lent February 21
10:30 a.m.

the **six Sundays** continue to April 4

Gospel Sunday w/ the Love Choir 10:30 am.

Palm Sunday March 28, 2010 10:30 a.m.

Good Friday Service & Soup Luncheon:
St. Aloysius & St Paul's Churches; **Noon to 3 pm**

Good Friday Evening Tenebrae Service
7 - 8:15 p.m.

Sunday April 4th

Easter Morning Worship Celebration
10:30 a.m.

Bring fresh and potted flowers.

Plan to enjoy a time of musical praise,
drama and fellowship.

Arrive early, stay for the Easter egg hunt and
'St. Paul's Annual Easter Portrait'

Celebrate the Risen Christ!

April 11th: Music Sunday & Art Display
Plan to enter your art display!



The Beacon is Online

In an effort to be better stewards of our resources, the Church newsletter (and prior editions) are available on our St. Paul's church website, www.spcumc.org.

BIRTHDAYS

- February 12 Sarah Collier. Michael Ballagh Jauregui
- February 16 Nicole Collier
- February 18 Jack Rasmussen
- February 22 Jim Bold
- February 24 Lucile Mason
- February 25 Sophia Swan
- February 28 Lori Barton

ANNIVERSARIES

February 14 Steve & Maggie Bowles

Authentic gifts of love that touch real lives this Valentines' Day may be just as simple as these:

† **Knit or crochet caps/beanies for newborn babies.** We have had a special request and this is an ongoing opportunity. They will be sent off to Mary Mober's friend serving in India. For more information speak to Pastor Tina asap. She has yarn to share!

† **Health kits destined for folks of Haiti** through our **UMCOR** Warehouse West in Salt Lake City, Utah.

† **A Visit to Equinox** to visit Margarette, Fritz, or walk outside with Ellen.

† **A Visit to the Piper Ranch** to spend time with Jean Piper!

Save the Date!

College Grads More Likely to Keep Faith

Contrary to popular opinion that college ends a young person's faith, a new study from the University of Texas at Austin indicates that college graduates are far more likely to maintain their religious beliefs and practices into early adulthood than those who never attend college. Researchers found the four-year college students and graduates are least likely to neglect church attendance, less likely to say religion is less important in their lives, and less likely to abandon it altogether. Those who do not pursue a degree are the most likely to leave religion behind.

St. Paul's Community prepares the **S.COAST SENIOR CENTER SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER - FRIDAY, JULY 23rd**

3:30 -7:30 p.m. Set-up, cook, serve & clean-up

Thanks For Helping Us Help Others!

One of the reaching out ministries of St. Paul's is to the South Coast Senior Center. We provide year-round volunteer workers in a variety of serving ways: publishing the newsletter, providing music, decorating tables, selling tickets, working the Country Breakfasts. providing items for gift baskets, offering friendship and caring connections for the Senior Center and the lives of other seniors'. Wow! That's quite a Gift of Love. Thank You All!

As St. Paul's Community, we collectively provide, cook, and serve a great Fundraising Spaghetti Dinner each year, sometimes *with* the partnering assistance of another congregation. Working side by side, getting better acquainted is fun *and* a blessing. For all of you who enable us to be an active supporter of coast area seniors, *Thanks!!* After all, many of us are "area seniors"! It's a gift that keeps on giving! And ...

It takes a big commitment with real teamwork to provide a successful event! This year we have just recently said 'YES' to providing **the Friday JULY 23rd pasta dinner!** Stay tuned for details along the way **and ... Mark Your Calendar!**



February 2010

St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																															
	<i>1</i> 5:00 PM -6:00 PM Yoga	<i>2</i> 8:00 AM -12:00 PM PALS 7:07 PM -8:30 PM Gualala Study Group 7:30 PM -9:00 PM AA in Biaggi	<i>3</i> 8:00 AM -12:00 PM PALS 6:00 PM Music Lessons	<i>4</i> 8:00 AM -12:00 PM PALS 10:30 AM -11:30 AM Young At Heart 4:00 PM -5:00 PM Yoga Pastor @ Ukiah UMC	<i>5</i> 6:00 PM -8:30 PM Piano Lessons	<i>6</i> 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Stone Soup Saturday Biaggi Hall																																																																																																															
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**Get Ready Early in March ...
to SPRING AHEAD!**

Daylight Savings time returns!

We'll remind you again, but look to Sunday
March 14th as that day in 2010!

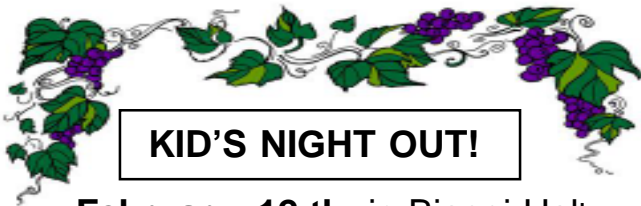
And while you're paying attention,
February has 28 days this year!

Stone Soup Saturday is
Saturday February 6, 13 and 20,

LOCATION: Biaggi Hall

TIME: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SIGN UP via Liz Elstun or
on the entry way clipboard, to cook, bake, host or be
the resident artist or musician



February 12th in Biaggi Hall

Parents are always welcome to join in!

**St. Paul's Community
United Methodist Church**

P.O. Box 25

Pt. Arena, CA 95468

www.spcumc.org



Postmaster:

Address Service Requested

**NEXT BLUE PLATE
SPECIAL**



*Home-cooked
Breakfast!*

**FEBRUARY 27th
Saturday: MARCH 27th
8 ~ 11 a.m.**

A Labor of Love & A Place of
Connections for Others

Connectional Staff of Golden Gate District
Superintendent Rev. Ben Silva-Netto
Administrative Assistant, Bruce Pettit
415-504-7200
e-mail: ggdist@aol.com
website: www.goldenmuc.org
California Nevada Conference
Bishop Warner Brown, Jr.
bishop@calnevumc.org
Phone: 916-374-1510

FEBRUARY

2010