

# The Chimes

## TEACHING CHILDREN, FEEDING DREAMS

Night has fallen. The meadow is dark except for the glow of a half-dozen Frisbees flying between voices hundreds of yards apart. Laughter punctuates the cool night air as you hear the kids reaching for the light. Adults gathered round the glow of the campfire watch, huddled together, singing songs from their childhood. Songs including the one by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young with the lyrics "Teach your children well . . . and feed them on your dreams."

It was the last night of Eden's Camp WOW!! (Wonders of the Watershed) where fifteen kids participated in a week-long journey exploring the watershed, going "back to nature," on a journey led primarily by Tom Fields Tyler and Russ Miller. That night the kids and their families are all gathered on Bort Meadow in Lake Chabot Park for a campout. Out of cell phone range everyone relaxes into the rhythm of nature as the fog rolls in obscuring the moon from sight.

Having spent part of the week with Camp WOW!! kids and their leaders, I was impressed by the commitment of everyone involved to engage in their activities. The kids hiked, biked, and even cleaned the tables and chairs in Oliver Hall with gusto, coming together as a community to learn about and serve their local community.

The kids also had many opportunities to share this experience with their community. Whether it be the Sunday night opening family BBQ, the pledges collected for their bike-a-thon, the Wednesday spent on Eden's campus, or the Friday campout, this was truly a journey with the village.

As the kids prepare to enter the school year I wonder how are we, as a community in Christ, going to hold them through their next journey. What are the ways in which Eden Church can support them as they enter a new classroom or a new school? One of those ways is through the FESCO backpack collection and backpack blessing. The backpacks we collect are for all children, and all children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, **August 16**, for a special blessing.

Beginning in September, many of the Camp WOW!! kids and a few others will also join in confirmation class led by Pastor Arlene. All kids who are entering 8th grade and higher and who have not yet participated in confirmation are welcome.

Then there is the opportunity to teach or assist in any of the church school classrooms. There are varieties of age ranges to choose from: the nursery, K-2, 3-5, 6-9, or 10-12. Curriculum is provided and learning is encouraged for all.

These are just a few of the ways we are prepared to support the kids, but there are others—other ways we can "teach [the] children well . . . and feed them on [our] dreams." So as you see the kids in church on Sunday morning, or visit with your own children or grandchildren, take a moment to reflect on the many ways you can help them on their walk. For it is my prayer that all children have the continued opportunity to find that light, especially in the dark.

~Liz



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*August 2009*

*Late Edition*

Eden UCC has been an Open and Affirming Church since 1995. We believe that all people are children of God; that persons of all ages, races, and sexual orientations are part of our increasingly diverse culture; and we welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of this church.

**Tel:** 510-582-9533

**Sunday Worship:**

10:00 a.m.

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday to Friday:

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

**Visit our church website:**

[www.edenucc.com](http://www.edenucc.com)

### Welcome to Eden!

Eden is a diverse and growing church. At Eden, people of all ages and backgrounds join together to grow spiritually, do good in the world, and develop healing and nurturing relationships.

At our church, you will not be told what to believe. We feel that the way we treat one another is more important than holding uniform beliefs. And, while the Bible is important to our faith, it is not the last word. We believe that **God is Still Speaking** through science, nature, personal experience, other faith traditions and more.

On Sunday mornings, our church services and kids' programs are open, friendly and innovative. Every week at Eden, you'll find all kinds of activities—retreats, yoga classes, service projects, music programs, labyrinth walks, study groups—to nurture mind, body, and spirit.

At Eden, we are on a journey together to understand and live God's truth for our lives. Come and join us on the journey. Check out our website. Give us a call. Come by and see us. We look forward to welcoming you!

*Save the Bay . . . and the Pacific Garbage Patch too!*

Many of you may have seen the article about the 'Pacific Garbage Patch' which appeared in the *Daily Review* on **August 4**. This is a mass of plastic trash double the size of Texas, floating 1000 miles off our California coast and just north of Hawaii. Billions of small particles of plastic float just beneath the ocean's surface, the mass shifting in size and location depending on the season and currents.

Last year Eden volunteers collected over a ton of trash at Eden Landing, where we discovered how much the quality of our beautiful Pacific Ocean is dependent upon the quality of our streams, wetlands, bay, and beaches here in California. We were astonished to find how the bay shore is covered with plastic. Since then we have all become much more thoughtful about our use of plastic, and we are devoted to the recycling effort. Our youth who attended camp "WOW!!" followed San Leandro Creek and discovered its importance in our area's ecological picture. Because Eden is so concerned about this threat to the environment, the Board of Community Ministries has again arranged for our members and guests to assist "Save the Bay" in protecting and restoring our wetland habitat and bay shore. Last year, 50 people participated – the largest of any Spirit-in-Action event. Families are welcome and all ages are encouraged to participate for an enriching day. Activities will include:

- Learning about this local salt pond and wetland habitat
- Removing non-native weeds
- Collecting native plant seeds
- Picking up trash along the shoreline
- Hands-on Bay education
- Enjoying the outdoors at a beautiful Bayside park with friends

Here are this year's details:

*Chimes* is a semi-monthly publication of Eden United Church of Christ. Proposed submissions should be sent to office@edenucc.com, or mailed or delivered to the church, by the first and third Sundays of each month. We reserve the right to edit all materials submitted. Publisher: the Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister. Chimes Staff: Liz McKay, ESLO Coordinator; Kathy Miller, Church Administrator

**Date:** Saturday, **September 12**, 2009

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Meet at Eden at 8:00 a.m. and carpool to site)

**Location:** Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

**Potluck:** Oliver Hall, following the event

All equipment, tools, gloves, and instructions are provided. No experience necessary! Please bring a hat and a light jacket; long pants are recommended, as is sunscreen. Wear closed-toed shoes to protect your feet. Bring your own water bottle, but water and granola bars will be provided. Binoculars and cameras are allowed as long as you take responsibility for them. Volunteers must be able to work the full three hours. Parents are expected to maintain responsibility for their children. While all sites have been scouted to ensure there are no hazards or unsafe conditions, Save the Bay leaders are certified in wilderness first aid and CPR and carry a first aid kit and cell phone in case of emergency. To join the fun and help Save the Bay and the Pacific Ocean, sign up now with Jacque Blake in Oliver Hall after worship, or send her an e-mail at prima\_diva@comcast.net. Be sure to include the name, e-mail, and phone number for each participant including any



**Volunteers Clean Up in 2008**



**What Have We Here?**

of your invited guests. Let's make this our biggest Spirit-in-Action event again this year!

*Start Spreading the News*

That the Eden Seekers will begin reading a new book on Wednesday, **August 19**, entitled *The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision for the Future of Christianity* by Eric Elnes. The book was written by Pastor Elnes after he coordinated the CrossWalk America effort to spread the message of progressive Christianity. At the end of the seven-week study the Seekers will watch the film, *Asphalt Gospel*, previously shown as part of our Lenten study here at Eden. For more information see Pat Ball or contact the church office. Hope you can join in the discussion!

*Bravo!*

Bravo and thank you to Eden's hardworking Music Director Search Committee who, with Cabinet's blessing, conducted the recent search for our new Music Director and presented Lee Steward to the congregation on Sunday, August 2. Lee comes to Eden with the unanimous support of the Music director Search Committee, the Chancel Choir, our pastor, and Cabinet. Members of the Music Director Search Committee included: Jacqueline Blake, chair; Loris Coburn, Suzie Hasselkuss, Steve Kinoshita, and the Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring.

*Baptism and the Reception of New Members*

At Eden Church and in our United Church of Christ tradition, we celebrate baptism with persons of every age from infants to elders. We welcome into membership youth, adults, and families who seek a deeper relationship with God in a caring community and a desire to make a difference in the lives of others. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Christian Baptism and receive new members next on Sunday, **September 13**, during morning worship. Please speak with our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, if you or someone dear to you would like to receive the Sacrament of Christian Baptism or be received into church membership.

## Immunizations Keep Us Well

Although few things in medicine work 100% of the time, vaccines are highly effective weapons against disease. They work in 85% to 99% of the cases!

Vaccines help make you immune to serious diseases without your getting sick first. They work by preparing the body to fight illness. Each immunization contains either a *dead* or a *weakened* germ (or part of it) that causes a particular disease. The body practices fighting the *disease* by making antibodies that fight the *germ*. Then if someone is exposed to the actual disease, the antibodies are already in place. The body is all ready to fight, and the person doesn't get sick.

Children need to be immunized when they are young because many diseases can strike at an early age, making the illness more serious. For example, half the children under six months old who get whooping cough must be hospitalized.

Today, we can protect children from 14 serious diseases: bacterial meningitis, chickenpox, diphtheria, the flu (especially important in light of the recent H1N1 concerns), German measles, hepatitis A,

hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pneumonia, polio, lockjaw, rotavirus, and whooping cough. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes a schedule of vaccine recommendations for each age group.) While some of these diseases are rare in the United States, they do exist in other parts of the world even today, so vaccines are still necessary.

Watching a child get a shot can be painful for a mom or dad. Keeping appointments can be troublesome. Communication presents a challenge for some. But vaccines keep our children healthy—making immunizations well worth the effort.

### August is National Immunization Awareness Month

**Prayer:** *God of love and life,  
I thank you for my children.  
Help me teach them how to take  
good care of themselves.  
Bless them with good health.  
Amen.*

### School's Almost in Session, Time to Buy Supplies for FESCO Kids

It's that time of year again: time to get ready for another year of classes. And while you're out shopping for school supplies, add a few extra to your pile for the kids at FESCO (the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition). Donations of children's scissors, notebooks, pencil packs, back packs, folders, rulers, and other school supplies will be accepted in the church office M-F and Sunday mornings through Sunday, **August 16**. For more information including a complete list of supply needs, stop by the office. With additional questions, contact Ed Reuling.

### Summertime Fun on an "Eden Family" Outing

Join your "Eden Family" for a picnic at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont on Saturday, **August 15**, from 11:30–2:30. Pack a lunch for you and your guest and meet us for a lazy summer day. Admission cost is \$2 for adults and seniors and \$1 for children between the ages 3–17—just pay at the park! The farm offers a variety of seasonal activities throughout the afternoon. Given these events, no recreational

### Change in Date for Choir Retreat: Saturday, August 29

Choir members, note the new date: Saturday, **August 29**, 9:00–2:00 p.m. New date, same fun-filled schedule!

equipment is allowed (such as Frisbees or footballs). For directions to the farm go to <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood>. As a reminder, all minors unaccompanied by a parent or guardian must have a completed Parent Permission & Medical /Liability Release Form to participate, and they may only ride with one of our Authorized Drivers. To sign up, arrange a ride, or for more information, please speak with Liz McKay.

### Calling All Kids!

We want to start the school year off right, so bring your backpack to church on Sunday, **August 16**, when we will have a special blessing of all of the school supplies donated to FESCO, and your backpacks as well. What a great way to carry the spirit of your church family with you throughout the year!



### Shopping List

Help Eden's Operating Budget by donating these much-needed supplies.

#### August Needs:

- Washable tempera paint
- Elmer's glue (large bottle for refills)
- Fruit snacks (for the nursery)
- Apple Juice
- Thermal coffee cups (8 oz.) (Costco San Ramon has them)
- Birthday and anniversary cards with their envelopes
- Gift cards to Costco, Safeway, or Trader Joe's for Coffee Hour creamer and Stewardship Committee

*Please no Styrofoam anything (cups, plates, etc). See anyone who helped Save the Bay for an explanation.*



### Birthday & Anniversaries

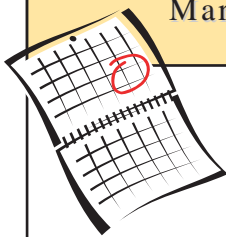
#### Mid-August–Mid-September Birthdays:

8/16 Peter Aloo, Arlene Nehring & Warren Mitchell; 8/17 Steve Kinoshita; 8/19 Heather Maldonado; 8/21 Narayah Aloo; 8/25 Bill Seevers; 8/26 Erica Haeseker; 8/29 John Livingston; 8/31 Clyde Nachand; 9/1 Cheryl Fields Tyler; 9/2 Blaine Cowick; 9/3 Ed Reuling; 9/4 Shirley Rule, Andrew Davis & Cody Rose; 9/5 Bob Jackson & Susan Whiting; 9/8 Glenna Zolling; 9/9 Tracy Maxfield; 9/10 Betty Norum; 9/11 Theresa Whittaker; 9/12 Virginia Seevers; 9/13 Shannon Vierra; 9/14 Suzi Casey.

#### Mid-August–Mid-September Anniversaries:

8/11 Lois & George Rusteika; 8/18 Terry & Steve Kinoshita; 8/22 Crystal & John Bulette; 8/24 Billie & Cliff Sherwood; 8/27 Mary & Frank Haro and Gladys & Jim Rego; 8/29 Lona & Jim Fryer.

**Coming Attractions—  
Mark Your Calendars!**



**August 2–16**, FESCO Backpacks collection  
**August 7–9**, NCNC Young Adult Retreat at Cazadero  
**August 15**, “Eden Family”

Outing, Ardenwood Farms  
**August 19**, Calendaring Meeting  
**August 21–23**, NCNC Adult Spiritual Retreat at Cazadero  
**August 29**, Choir Retreat  
**September 12**, Spirit-in-Action: Save the Bay  
**September 13**, Parent–Teacher Gathering  
**September 20**, Open House Sunday; Church School Begins  
**October 3**, NCNC UCC Identity Seminar 4: UCC Theology  
**October 3**, Blessing of the Animals  
**October 4**, World Communion Sunday  
**October 18**, Souper Sunday  
**October 23–25**, UCC LGBT ONA Workshops  
**October 24**, “Eden Family” Outing  
**November 1**, All Saints Sunday  
**November 15**, Souper Sunday  
**December 6**, Inquirer’s Gathering  
**December 6**, Candlelight Carols  
**December 9**, FESCO Luncheon  
**December 13**, Baptism, Reception of New Members, Christmas Pageant & Happy Birthday Jesus  
**December 24**, Christmas Eve Service  
**March 12–13**, Confirmation Camp at Cazadero  
**December 27**, Moravian “Love Feast”  
**January 6**, Epiphany  
**February 17**, Ash Wednesday  
**March 12–13**, Confirmation Camp at Cazadero  
**March 28**, Palm Sunday  
**April 1**, Maundy Thursday, Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae  
**April 2**, Good Friday Labyrinth Walk  
**April 4**, Easter Sunday  
**April 22**, Earth Day  
**May 9**, Mother’s Day  
**May 23**, Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday  
**June 6**, Finale Sunday  
**June 20**, Father’s Day



*Joys*

We have **newcomers** in worship every Sunday.

**Mary Burroughs** is a great-grandmother! Welcome **Vincent Maximilian Shipman**, born July 21 to parents **Matt and Becca Shipman**.

Eden’s **Camp WOW!!** kids donated their gently used English-language children’s books to the **Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center**, and raised lots of money to buy new English and Spanish-language books for Tiburcio’s pediatric book give-away program. Our good neighbors are located at 22331

Mission Boulevard in Hayward, and can be found on the web at: <http://www.tvhc.org/index.htm>.

**Eden Middle School and Senior High Youth** attended **Camp Cazadero**, and the Eden Middle School Youth attended Camp WOW!! last month, and had a great time and were led by wonderful camp counselors and camp deans!

Our wonderful **Emmaus Team** is making regular visits to homebound members whose needs have been made known to the church.

**Ruth Schaap** is a great-grandmother again! **John and Nancy Gnagy** of Santa Barbara welcomed a baby boy, **Miles Alexander**, into the world on Wednesday, July 8. Congratulations to the whole Schaap clan!

Congratulations to the three youngest **Millers** who did very well on the STAR tests, and to all of our Eden scholars! We are so proud of you.

Eden is pleased to welcome to the East Bay and to the Eden Church family **Lee and Jessica Steward** and their daughters, Elizabeth (**Lizzy**), age 2 ½, and Leonora (**Nora**), age 4 mos.

Congratulations to the **Swanson family** on their latest expansion project! Scott’s daughter, Sarai, was married to Brian Kirkham, on Saturday, August 8, in Patterson. With this marriage, the Swansons have also added three more grandchildren to their family including, Zach, Samantha, and Ashley.

*Prayer Requests*

For **Todd Bove**, who is in the midst of a job search.

For **Kevin Casey**, who is in rehab recovering from cardiac bypass surgery and a major stroke incurred at the end of June. Contact the church office for mailing and visiting information.

For **Rindie Chase**, who has a return of cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. Rindie is a friend of the Payne family.

For **the Collier family**, who are searching for a different home to rent in the Hayward area.

For **Curtis Fuller**, who is being treated for a recurrence of cancer.

For **Wayne Derminasian**, who is experiencing some health challenges. Wayne is Robert Derminasian’s father.

For **Lucille Hood**, Cliff Sherwood’s cousin, who is suffering from complications of hip replacement surgery.

For **Diane Hurd**, a close friend of the Smith-Bove family, who is living with a recurrence of ovarian cancer.

For **Maureen**, Paul Prosseda’s roommate, who underwent surgery on August 5.

For **Angie Payne**, Steve Payne’s mother, who is in poor health.

For **Leo Pigott**, a neighbor of Mary Burroughs’s, who is having bladder cancer surgery at Stanford.

For the family and friends of **Ed Saenz**, who are experiencing several challenges.

For **Jan Richards**, Michael Foster’s mother, who is experiencing some health challenges.

For **Gordon Rozario**, Mary Joan Stone’s partner, who died on July 28, and whose memorial service was held in Pioneer Chapel on August 8.

For **Lori Woolman**, Mary Haro’s sister, who is being treated for Lyme disease.

Continued prayers for **Anita, Nick, Bryan, Richard**, and all in the armed services; and for peace and justice in the world.

And for **Carlton Alexander, Mary Babikoff, Mary Bernstein, Jim Burgess, Juanita Chavez, Ann Dodd, Regina Fischer, Susan Fivelstad, Allan Gardiner, Clyde Howell, Win Lockerby**, and **Helen Van Stone**.