

# The Chimes

## OUR TIME IN EDEN



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*February 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)

When it came time to plan "Faith and Science" month at Eden I was a bit perplexed. "Faith" is a topic I can understand but "science" is another story. In high school I made it through AP Biology with the help of a good lab partner. In college I opted for the science class everyone dubbed "physics for poets." As an adult my studies have concentrated in the humanities employing the scientific method only to help write a research proposal in graduate school. I wondered: what scientific knowledge could I possibly share with the community? Maybe I'd just work quietly until Lent when my knowledge could better serve here at Eden.

The one catch, I still had to write this cover story. After days of procrastination I'd finally decided to write about the biker blessing and my now infamous bike ride with the middle school group at WOW camp. That is, until I took a moment to reflect and realize that I'd actually run a "Faith and Science" program before. A children's program entitled "Caring for God's Creation" based on Genesis Chapter One in which God's first charge to Adam and Eve is to care for the earth.

I'll readily admit that I have never been an earth mother. As a child I detested dirt, sand, bugs, basically anything that had to do with spending time outside away from the controlled environment referred to as "indoor space." I refused to eat sandwiches on the beach unless they were pristinely kept on the blanket and I had more combined sick days during summer camp than the entire academic year. Yet as an adult I've grown to appreciate "outdoor space" in new ways. I may not be ready for camping but I went on a hike last weekend and regularly take walks in the redwoods. I can now spot the Big and Little Dippers and I'm excited to learn more about the constellations on our next "Eden Family" Outing to the Chabot Space and Science Center.

The theme of the upcoming Spirit-in-Action worship service is "Connected to Eden, our community, and our wider earth." I look forward to further exploring our relationship to God's magnificent creation with you during this service. To understand ways in which we've been entrusted to nurture our planet, not only through daily acts like recycling, but on a more global scale of planetary mindfulness and action. For we are all called, as were Adam and Eve, to not only respect the delicate balance of life on this planet but to maintain it for generations to come. Using an ever-growing amount of scientific knowledge we must take deliberate steps towards preserving life here in Eden, the life we were entrusted to preserve.

~Liz

### 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!

*A Souper Scientific Success*

Many thanks to the wonderful Souper Sunday presenters Nora Crans, Stephanie Spencer, and Bob Turner for sharing their gifts of scientific knowledge with the Eden community. After a delicious soup lunch, members of the community stayed to hear workshops on topics ranging from faith and medicine to missionaries and anthropology to the invention of electricity. Both Nora and Stephanie managed to keep their workshops engaging while keeping folks under control; Bob Turner, on the other hand, raised more than a few hairs. Thankfully everyone left without much of a shock!



**Bob Turner**



**Nora Crans Reflects**



**A Study in Anthropology with Stephanie Spencer**

*Do you ride two wheels?  
Bike & Biker Blessing*

Ride or bring your bike to church on **Sunday, February 8**, for a special blessing of the bikes and bikers in our congregation and wider community. This blessing will be led by our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, and will be held immediately following morning worship in the church plaza (archway area) at approximately 11:10 a.m. Sponsored by the Board of Church Ministries, Eden's "Bike and Biker Blessing" provides an opportunity to pray for the safety of all who ride two-wheeled conveyances, affirm the value of environmentally friendly transportation, and affirm the mission of Pathfinders, a local 12-step biker club.



**Kevin and Suzi**

*Calling all Foodies*

From the budget-busting duck dinners held during the Depression era to the gypsy cooking of the pre-renovation days to the elegant dining paired with Eden's service auctions, our wonderful Fellowship Committee has been having fun and stirring in the love at more church meals than anyone could count. Be part of a great Eden tradition, make new friends, and increase your popularity by becoming an occasional, or maybe even a regular coffee hour host/hostess. Warm, friendly on-the-job training led by Mary Graw will be provided for interested teens and adults in the Oliver Hall Kitchen on **Sunday, February 8**, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

**Upcoming  
"Faith and Science"  
Month Events at Eden**

- February 15** – Faith and Medicine Sermon
- February 22** – Spirit in Action Worship Service
- February 28** – Eden Family Outing to the Chabot Space and Science Center

**Save the Date –**

*Eden Church Dinner  
& Silent Auction*

**Saturday Evening  
March 21, 2009**

Save the date for the Eden Church Dinner & Silent Auction, Saturday, March 21, beginning at 5 p.m. The menu includes pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, apple-sauce, vegetable, rolls, and cake. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under, or \$40 per family. On March 8 and March 15 after worship, the Stewardship Committee will begin selling seats to the special dinner party events that have been donated by Eden members. Items to be auctioned at the dinner include a wide range of goods, services, and entertainment packages of interest to all ages.

*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 third Sunday of each month. We reserve the right to edit all materials submitted. Publisher: the Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister. Editor: Liz McKay, ESLO Coordinator.

*Buy Your Tickets Sunday to the Valentine's Luncheon*

Everyone is invited to the annual Valentine's luncheon to benefit Eden Church. Lunch will be served **Thursday, February 12**, at 12 noon. Musical entertainment will be provided by Eden's own Gayle Marie, a professional singer and voice and piano teacher in San Leandro. Gayle will also present Ginger, her miniature poodle, who will perform her dancing routine. Tickets are \$10 and are available in the church office. Please see Mary Graw for more information or if you'd like to help in the kitchen



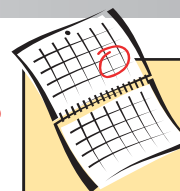
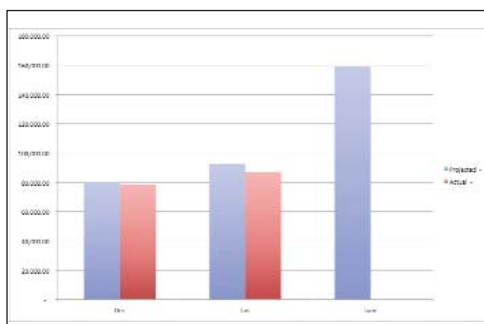
**Gayle Marie and Ginger**

*"Eden Family" Outing to the Chabot Space and Science Center*

The next "Eden Family" Outing will be on Saturday, February 28, from 5:30-9:30 PM. Everyone is invited to meet at the Chabot Space and Science Center to see the "Cosmic Voyage" IMAX movie, enjoy the exhibits, and go to the planetarium show, followed by a sky viewing from the three large telescopes. Cost of the prepaid group tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors over 65. Registration deadline is Wednesday, February 25. Parking at the center is free; carpools can be arranged. All children not attending with a parent or guardian will need a permission slip on file with Eden Church by the registration deadline. For financial assistance please see Pastor Arlene. For more information or to register please see Liz McKay or Joyce Livergood.

*Pledge Giving Mostly on Track through January 2009*

Even though the economy is uncertain, our congregation is following through on its pledged giving commitments. Through the end of January (7 months into the fiscal year), receipts would equal 58% of the pledge. As of January 31st, the pledges equal 55%. This means that pledges are only slightly behind an "even" giving pattern. However, in past years, being slightly behind in January has been the norm. If past giving patterns hold true, we will meet all commitments by June.



**Coming Attractions—  
Mark Your Calendars!**

- February 7**, NCNC UCC Identity Seminar 1: Ministry in the UCC
- February 12**, Valentine's Luncheon
- February 14-16**, NCNC Feb Camp Retreat for Sr. High Students
- February 22**, Spirit-In-Action Worship Service
- February 25**, Ash Wednesday Service
- February 28**, Eden Family Outing-Chabot Space & Science Center
- March 21**, NCNC UCC Identity Seminar 2: UCC History
- March 21**, Eden UCC Dinner & Silent Auction
- March 22**, Inquirers' Gathering
- March 29**, Potluck Sunday
- April 4**, All-Church Work Day
- April 5**, Palm Sunday; Baptism & New Members
- April 9**, Maundy Thursday Service
- April 10**, Good Friday Service
- April 12**, Easter
- May 3**, Souper Sunday
- May 9**, Spirit-In-Action: FESCO Shelter Shuffle
- May 16**, Youth Outing
- May 28**, NCNC UCC Identity Seminar 3: UCC Polity
- May 28-31**, NCNC UCC Annual Meeting @ Asilomar
- June 7**, Finale Sunday
- June 14**, Summer Celebration Begins
- June 14**, Inquirers' Gathering
- June 28**, Baptism & New Members
- July 5-11**, NCNC CIT Camp at Cazadero
- July 7-11**, NCNC Kids Camp (2-4) at Cazadero
- July 12-18**, NCNC Junior Hi Camp (7-9) at Cazadero
- July 18**, Spirit in Action Event
- July 19-25**, NCNC Junior Camp (5-6) at Cazadero
- July 26-August 1**, NCNC Senior Hi Camp (10-12) at Cazadero
- July 26-August 1**, NCNC Junior and Junior Hi Camp (5-8) at Tamarack
- August 2-8**, NCNC Senior Hi Camp (9-12) at Tamarack
- August 2-16**, FESCO Backpacks collection
- August 7-9**, NCNC Young Adult Retreat at Cazadero
- August 22**, Choir Retreat
- September 13**, Parent-Teacher Gathering
- September 19**, Spirit in Action Event
- September 20**, Open House Sunday; Church School Begins; Souper Sunday
- October 3**, NCNC UCC Identity Seminar 4: UCC Theology
- October 7-November 18**, Music Making at Midweek (Wednesdays)
- October 18**, Souper Sunday
- October 24**, Family Outing
- November 15**, Souper Sunday
- December 6**, Candlelight Carols
- December 9**, FESCO Luncheon

*Shopping List*



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

**February Needs:**

- Washable tempera paint
- Glitter glue
- Fruit snacks (for the nursery)
- Half and half creamer for Coffee Hour
- Thermal coffee cups (8 oz.) (Costco San Ramon has them)
- Birthday and anniversary cards with their envelopes
- Costco gift cards ("Cash" cards)

Please no Styrofoam anything (cups, plates, etc). See anyone who helped Save the Bay September 20 for an explanation.



Spirit-In-Action

Everyone is invited to a special worship service on **Sunday, February 22** at 10 a.m. sponsored by the Board of Community Ministries. This service will focus on "Connectedness to Eden, our community, and our wider earth." Join the Board in this more contemporary style worship service to hear reflections on some of the outreach events the past year, view a slideshow, listen to a meditation about our planet, and fill your spirit as Eden prepares for another year of social justice activities.



*Birthday & Anniversaries*

**Mid-February—Mid-March Birthdays:**

- 2/16 **Jamison Rose;**
- 2/17 **Elma Wagle;**
- 2/20 **Jerry Crans;**
- 2/21 **Nora Crans & Mike King;**
- 2/23 **Ruth Jenkins;**
- 2/24 **Maryellen Lentz;**
- 2/28 **Christopher Baucox-Jordan;**
- 3/1 **Jeremy D'Anjou;**
- 3/3 **Keith Smith;**
- 3/4 **Carlene O'Keefe & Jessica Stanley;**
- 3/6 **Brenda Loreman;**
- 3/9 **Robert DerMinasian & Michael Stuber;**
- 3/10 **Michael Alexandre & Jan Bass;**
- 3/11 **Sally Kusalo & John Wagle;**
- 3/12 **Melissa Phillips;**
- 3/13 **Liz McKay;**
- 3/14 **Marilyn Knipe**

**Mid-February—Mid-March Anniversaries:**

- 3/5 **Kay and Ted Crosby**
- 3/15 **Suzi and Kevin Casey**



*Joys*

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

We are looking forward to welcoming our biker friends near and far to the Bike and Biker blessing, this coming Sunday, February 8, immediately after worship on the plaza.

We are sending three of our youth to the NCNC UCC **Feb Camp.**

**Martha Stoddard** has accepted our offer to serve as part-time (15 hrs./wk.) interim music director. Marty begins her ministry with us this week!

*Prayer Requests*

Please let Arlene know of any updates or new concerns.

For **Carlton Alexander**, who is the son of Debby Andrade, brother of Stephanie, and grandson of Kay Crosby.

For **Debby and Stephanie Andrade**, who are experiencing some challenges at this time. Debby is in a job search and the family is in a housing search. Alternate housing is needed March 1, preferably in the Fremont-Newark area.

For **Phyllis Anderson**, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

For **Anne-Marie Baucox-Jordan**, who is home from the hospital and recovering from an infection.

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

For **George Bowers**, Holly Guier's father, who has had a recurrence of lung cancer.

For **Keith Boyer**, who is living with cancer.

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

For **the family of Bill Coburn**, who died on Thursday, January 29, and whose memorial service was held here at Eden on February 7, 2009.

For **Dan Downing**, who was diagnosed with liver cancer, and who is awaiting a transplant. Dan is a friend of the Smith-Bove family.

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

For **Allen Gardiner**, who is at Life House in Castro Valley recovering from a stroke incurred on October 13, 2008. Cards and visitors are welcome at 20259 Lake Chabot Road Castro Valley, CA 94546.

For **Margaret and Jan Gardiner**, Allen Gardiner's mother and sister, as they cope with life transitions.

For **John Gonzales** and all who are living with cancer.

For **Lucille Hood**, Cliff Sherwood's cousin, who is experiencing more challenges.

For **Michael Jenkins**, who is living with pancreatic cancer. Michael is a friend of the Sherwood family.

For **Toni Maldonado**, who has been a patient at Eden Hospital, where she is receiving palliative care.

For **Barbara Perry**, who had surgery on January 7 to remove a nonmalignant brain tumor.

For **Ed and Pam Reuling**, who are "frequent fliers" on the orthopedic surgery ward.

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

For **Dino Tomassi**, who is in poor health. Dino is a friend of the Casey family.

For **Neil Upchurch**, who is living with liver disease. Neil is Pat Payne's co-worker.

For members and friends who are experiencing infertility and for those in the early stages of pregnancy.

For **Audrey Wood**, who is anticipating laparoscopic knee surgery in the near future.

Continued prayers for **Mary Babikoff; Liston Bascom; Mary Bernstein; Keith Boyer; Jim Burgess; Juanita Chavez; Connie; Ann Dodd; Regina Fischer; Susan Fivelstad; Clyde Howell; Gayle Kreutzfeld; Helen Van Stone, Nancy Wallace; and Joy Youngs.**