

The Chimes

WALKING INTO THE LIGHT



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 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

The gray days of January always make me want to curl up underneath a blanket and wait it out until the sunny days of spring. As a college student in Minnesota I vividly remember the snowy winters, particularly the one where I couldn't feel my frozen feet for several months. I remember weather that feels hostile, like a bad cold that you can't seem to shake.

On days where I want to hug the heater, I try to remind myself that after winter solstice, this past year on December 21, the periods of daylight actually grow longer and the earth begins to warm. These growing hours of sunlight will eventually thaw the ground exposing the rebirth of all the seeds buried underneath the soil. To us in California, who have the benefit of greenery all year long, the expanse of plant life may not be much, but, after watching snowfall for months, the slightest sign of green can seem miraculous.

In our faith tradition this miracle of birth and re-birth is found in many places in scripture, most notably with the birth of Christ and later His resurrection. Yet what sustains us between the liturgical times when we celebrate these two events? To put it another way, what keeps us going through the dark days of January as we wait for the coming light?

Back in college I vividly remember an afternoon I was preparing to walk all the way across campus through a blizzard. As I was about to leave the comfort of a warm building, I bumped into a choir friend who happened to be from Jamaica. As she piled on her scarf, hat, and gloves I asked how she managed; how could she possibly move from such a lush tropical country to this snowy mess? Peering out at me through the tiny gap between her stripped scarf (which covered her nose) and her red hat (which covered her eyebrows), she laughed and said, "I just keep thinking that if I walk far enough I'll reach the ocean."

When we opened the door and the cool breeze barreled through our bodies, I watched her steps as she moved through the snow, her steps that were considerably lighter than mine. Rather than respond to the weather with the same tremendous force it pushed on us, she walked through it with patience. She took moments to pause and enjoy the falling white dust, to breathe, to rest, and then eventually to continue.

After our encounter I tried to view the cold in a new way. I never grew to love the wintry weather, but I grew to accept the fact that in order to have seasons of birth we must have periods rest. That in order to reach the ocean, the glorious sunlit beaches, sometimes we have to walk through a few clouds. As long as I keep in mind what's waiting for me at end of the road, the season, or even the day, there is a bit more spring in my steps as well.

~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!



Silent Night



Cast Photo



A Rooster for the Manager

Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and a crowd of Kings

On Christmas Eve the sanctuary at Eden was packed full of shepherds, sheep, kings, angels, and baby Jesus. Everyone had a great time participating in the "instant pageant," filling the manager scene throughout the service. With the close of "Silent Night" the room fell quiet with candlelight as we were reminded of the miraculous birth. Special thanks to all the kitchen helpers and the cookie bakers for filling our stomachs as we went home and waited for Santa!

New Year's Resolutions?

Do any of your New Year's resolutions include better health and fitness? If so, consider joining Yoga At Eden. Classes meet for one hour on Monday evening beginning at 7 p.m. in the Jensen Room. Our excellent instructor, Amanda Sharpe, is an experienced teacher who works well with all levels of expertise and physical ability. Prior to becoming a yoga instructor, Amada worked as a community-based physical therapist.

For Your Records

Giving statements for the 2008 calendar year and for the first half of the church's current fiscal year, 2008-2009, are available from our associate treasurer, Michael Stuber. Please see Michael after Sunday worship to pick up your statement, and to help the church save on postage.

ACTION "Oh the weather outside is..."

As we watch the cold winter weather from the comfort of warm homes, let us remember to give back to those who might not be as fortunate. On the first Sunday of the month please bring your non-perishable household goods in support of FESCO (The Family Emergency Shelter Coalition). A full list of items to donate can be found in the church office; it includes things like toilet paper, bleach, peanut butter, and juice. Let's extend the season of giving all year long and bring in an abundance of donations on Sunday, **February 1.**

Upcoming Potluck and Souper Sunday

Our next Potluck Sunday is this coming Sunday, January 11. There will be no formal program – just getting to know one another! Each member or family is asked to bring a dish to serve at least 8 people, assigned by last name: A-K Dessert; L-R Main Dish; S-Z Salad. Beverages will be provided by the Board of Church Ministries.

Then on Sunday, February 1 the Souper Sunday returns with food, fellowship, and workshops for the whole family. All are invited to participate; look for more information to come in your worship bulletin. As a reminder, welcome gifts will be presented to our visitors and prizes will be awarded for those who bring guests.

The Fellowship Committee is also calling for helpers in the kitchen on a regular basis – sign up on the "Helping Hands" worksheet in the church office.

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.

Seekers Resume

January 7 to begin the book *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles. Please see Pat Ball or Liz McKay if you'd like more information.

Earl Lectures 2009:

January 27-29

"Behold... a New Thing: Emerging Expressions of Faithfulness"

Each January, the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) hosts the annual Earl Lectures and Pastoral Conference in Berkeley. This year the three-day event will give an opportunity for participants to experience and critically reflect on the new forms of spirituality and worship associated with the "emerging church." The program is open to people in ministry and the general public; see the PSR website for more information, including a schedule of events and a registration form. www.psr.edu

Senior High School Students Feb Camp is Next Month!

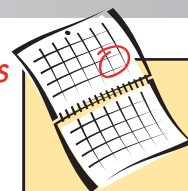
Calling all Senior High School students: You're invited to attend Feb Camp at Monte Toyon, sponsored by the UCC Northern California Nevada Conference (NCNC). From **Saturday, February 14-Monday, February 16**, head to camp in Aptos for a weekend filled with outdoor activities and a chance to make new friends. Camp cost is \$175. Scholarship money is available by talking to Pastor Arlene. For more information about camp or to register, contact Liz McKay, liz@edenucc.com.

February Valentine's Day Luncheon Moved to Thursday, February 12

Everyone is invited to the annual Valentine's Day luncheon to benefit the church operating budget. Come on Thursday, **February 12**, at 12 noon, to share in a delicious meal and enjoy musical entertainment provided by Eden's own Gayle Marie. Gayle Marie is a professional singer, voice and piano teacher. She will also present Ginger, a miniature poodle, who does dog dancing routines. Tickets are \$10 and will be available soon in the church office or during coffee hour. Please see Mary Graw for more information.



Gayle Marie and Ginger



**Coming Attractions—
Mark Your Calendars!**

- January 11**, Potluck Sunday
- January 17-19**, NCNC Mid-Winter Retreat for Jr. High Students
- February 1**, Souper Sunday
- February 7**, Spirit-In-Action: Convalescent Home
- February 12**, Valentine Luncheon*
- February 14-16**, NCNC Feb Camp Retreat for Sr. High Students
- February 21**, Eden Family Outing
- February 22**, Spirit-In-Action Worship Service
- February 25**, Ash Wednesday Service
- March 21**, Dinner & 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: Shelter Shuffle
- May 16**, Youth Outing
- 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 7**, Labor Day
- September 13**, Parent-Teacher Gathering
- September 19**, Spirit in Action Event
- September 20**, Open House Sunday; Church School Begins; Souper Sunday
- 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
- December 13**, Christmas Pageant & Happy Birthday Jesus
- December 24**, Christmas Eve Service



Shopping List

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

January Needs:

- Washable tempera paint
- Glitter glue
- Fruit snacks (for the nursery)
- Sturdy paper plates (6-7/8" & 8-1/2" & 10-1/2")
- 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.



Joys

For the **newcomers** we have in worship every Sunday.

For **Lee Sorensen**, Bob's brother, who is home after a long hospitalization.

For all who contributed to the **Christmas Offering**. Contributions received thus far total \$3,743.76.

For **Barbara Ryken and crew** who took down and stored our Christmas decorations.

For our **Middle School Youth and Leaders** who are attending the NCNC UCC Midwinter over MLK weekend.

For **our many wonderful volunteers** who have stepped forward to help staff the church office while our search for a new Church Administrator commences, and for those who continue to assist with church mailings.



Birthday & Anniversaries

Mid-January—Mid-February Birthdays:

1/16 **Ellen Johnson;**
 1/17 **Quinn Malloy;**
 1/19 **Lona Fryer;**
 1/20 **Peter Villapudua;**
 1/22 **Tabitha Aloo, Nate Blake & Becki Wilson;**
 1/24 **Pat Ball;**
 1/26 **Tori Miller;**
 1/28 **Beulah Brookes & Sally D'Anjou;**
 1/29 **Alliene Turner;**
 2/5 **Rene Castle;**
 2/6 **Pepper Swanson;**
 2/11 **Todd Bove;**
 2/15 **Billy D'Anjou Jr.**

Mid-January—Mid-February Anniversaries:

1/21/1989
Alliene and Bob Turner
 1/22/1955
Jacque and Nate Blake

Prayer Requests

Please let Arlene know of any updates or new concerns.

For **Allison Bascom**, Susan DuPree's stepdaughter, who is living with chronic health problems.

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

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 **Clarence England**, Sally D'anjou's brother, who is a patient at St. Rose hospital recovering from a heart attack.

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

For **Allen Gardiner**, who is in rehab at Laurel Gove recovering from a stroke.

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 recovering from her sixth hip replacement surgery.

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

For **Toni Maldonado**, Heather Maldonado's mother and Sally D'Anjou's sister.

For **the family of Eileen Miller**, Russ and Jenifer Miller's sister in-law, who died recently after a short illness.

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

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

For **Noel and Robin Salter**, who are experiencing some challenges at this time.

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; Nancy Wallace;** and **Joy Youngs.**