

The Chimes



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 2009

Early 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

JUST A CLOSER WALK

A favorite hymn of my grandparents — maybe even of yours — was the traditional folk song, *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*. The refrain goes like this:

*Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

Over the years when we have sung this song at Eden, I have been transported back to chilly Saturday night Sunday School preparations with Grandma and hot summer worship services in Midwestern farming communities, where I have heard this old number performed at decibel levels that were rare for persons who knew that they were not musically gifted.

And yet my people hummed and sang with their whole hearts, because these words spoke profoundly of their yearning for companionship with Christ, and for holy lives that reflected the imprimatur of the divine.

I'm not sure whether this song still speaks to modern audiences, or if it is simply a nostalgic blast from the past. But one thing that I am sure of is that people in every generation crave the kind of companionship that is described in the refrain and the kind of divine guidance that we associate with a well-grounded spiritual life.

The season of Lent, which is now upon us, is God's invitation to claim the divine relationship that we so desire, and to gain the surer-footedness which comes with greater spiritual intention and attentiveness.

In a world where speed-dating is now a normative way to meet intimate companions, it is a blessing to know that it is not only we who long for a closer walk with God, but it is also God who longs for a closer walk with us.

Arlene

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!

Ash Wednesday Invitation

We start the journey into Lent Wednesday, **February 25** with our Ash Wednesday Service, beginning at 7 p.m. in Pioneer Chapel. The theme for this contemplative service is "Walking with God," and it will feature music played and accompanied on our newly restored Baldwin piano; scripture readings and prayer; and meditation on Christ's temptations and our own challenges to discern and pursue God's purposes amidst a cacophony of conflicting voices in our respective wildernesses. Worshipers may choose to receive the imposition of ashes and/or request a personal prayer from the worship leaders (or pass) at the close of the service. Members and friends of the San Lorenzo Community Church will be our special guests for this service. Children are welcome in worship, and childcare will be provided in our Loving Arms Nursery, which is located in the West Wing.

Where is Your Treasure?

We're going on a treasure hunt!!! No . . . we won't be digging holes around the church, searching for buried gold. Instead, we are searching for God's treasure!!

Scripture provides the map. For God, we are treasure!! "You are children of the Lord your God . . . It is you the Lord has chosen . . . to be his people, his treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). One of the gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. We tend God's treasure here in our congregation with the love and care we show each other through special meals, visiting the sick and shut-in, teaching Christian discipleship, and praying for each other. We are also invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation by participating in One Great Hour of Sharing.

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis smash

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communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we gently, persistently, and strongly care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure — our money, our time, our energy — decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives. We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure. And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises. Working with others, we realize that God reaches out to all of us. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). On March 1st, our treasure hunt begins. Eden's families will be given a treasure chest bank which will be collected during our One Great Hour of Sharing dedication service on **March 29**. May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Bike Blessing Makes a Big Impact!

The first annual bike blessing was held on Sunday, February 8, in the church plaza. The blessing followed Pastor Arlene's sermon entitled "Biker Jesus," and was attended by at least 30 motorcyclists in addition to 15 "other-wheeled vehicles" that took part in the blessing. Member Kevin Casey who is vice-president of Pathfinders, a clean and sober motorcycle club, requested the blessing to help keep folks safe on the road. When the national UCC office heard of the bike blessing they posted the story on their news page <http://www.ucc.org/news/blessing-of-the-bikes-gets.html>. Ride on Eden!



During these difficult economic times let's remember to continue our spirit of giving by contributing to the monthly FESCO (The Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) collection. On the first Sunday of the month please bring your non-perishable household goods to the church, including items such as toilet paper, bleach, canned soup, and juice. A full list of items to donate can be found in the church office. Our next donation date will be Sunday, **March 1**.



Blessing the Kids Bikes



Praying For Kevin and His Bike



Pastor Arlene and Prayer Team

*Valentine's Luncheon
a Sweet Success*

Over sixty people came to the delicious Valentine's luncheon on Thursday, February 12, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. Guests dined on chicken, fruit, and cake while enjoying a wonderful entertainment program by member Gayle Marie and her dancing dog, Ginger. Many thanks to all those who helped make the event the sweetest success!



Fellowship Crew



Ginger Meets and Greets



Sing-a-long

Welcome Marty Stoddard

We are pleased to announce the hire of the Interim Director of Music, Marty Stoddard. Marty is currently on the faculty at Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco, where she teaches and conducts the jazz and symphonic bands. She brings to Eden an impressive resume as a music educator, conductor, and composer of vocal and instrumental music, and a strong background in community and church music. Prior to coming to Eden and in addition to her several other professional commitments, Marty served as the music director for three other UCC congregations. To view her website and resume go to: <http://www.marthastoddard.com/>. Normally you will find Marty at Eden on Tuesday (or Wednesday) afternoons, Thursday afternoons and evenings, and Sunday mornings, and at other times as scheduled for special worship services, ensemble rehearsals, and choir events. Her church email is music@edenucc.com.



Marty Stoddard

A Special Thank You

Dear Wonderful Eden Community, We are deeply thankful for the love and support you have given to us in so many ways. Your prayers, cards, calls, hugs, food, and countless other kindnesses have been a great help and comfort to all of us. We are so fortunate to be part of such a loving community. With love and gratitude,
The Coburn Family

2009 Lenten Opportunities

- Ash Wednesday Service, Pioneer Chapel, Wednesday, **February 25**, 7 p.m.
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Introduced, Sunday, **March 1**, 10 a.m.
- Inquirers' Gathering, Sunday, **March 22**, 11:30 a.m.
- Prayer Group, Tuesday, **March 24**, Meditation Room, 7 p.m.
- Viewing and Facilitated Discussion of Asphalt Gospel, Friday, **March 27**, Norberg Room, 7 p.m.
- Choir Retreat, Saturday, **March 28**
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received, Sunday, **March 29**, 10 a.m.
- Potluck Luncheon, Sunday, **March 29**, 11:30 a.m.
- Palm Sunday Service, Sanctuary, Sunday, **April 5**, 10 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service, Pioneer Chapel, Thursday, **April 9**, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Labyrinth Walk, Courtyard, **April 10**, 6 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Service, **April 12**, 10 a.m.



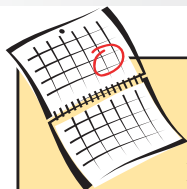
Shopping List

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

March Needs:

- Colored pencils
- Regular size crayons
- Glitter glue
- Fruit snacks (for the nursery)
- Quart and gallon Ziploc freezer bags
- Sturdy paper plates (6-7/8" & 8-1/2" & 10.5")
- 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.



**Coming Attractions—
Mark Your Calendars!**

- February 21**, Eden Family Outing
- February 22**, Spirit-In-Action Worship Service
- February 24**, Stewardship Committee Meeting
- February 25**, Ash Wednesday Service
- March 21**, Dinner & Auction
- March 22**, Inquirers' Gathering
- March 27**, Asphalt Gospel Film Viewing and Discussion
- March 28**, Choir Retreat
- March 29**, Potluck Sunday
- March 31**, Stewardship Committee Meeting
- 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
- April 26**, Spirit-in-Action: Retirement Community Visit
- 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 18**, Spirit In Action Event
- August 2-16**, FESCO Backpacks collection
- 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



Joys

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

Our **Biker Blessing**, on Sunday, February 8, was a blessing to us all, and the lead story on the United Church of Christ national and conference homepages: www.ucc.org and www.ncncc.org during the week of February 9. Many thanks to Kevin and Suzi Casey, Dereck Hill, the Eden Church Worship Team, and the Board of Church Ministries for their collaboration with this important ministry.

George Bowers, Holly Guier's father, whose lung cancer is in remission.

Eden Church sent three youth to the NCNC UCC **Feb Camp**, over Presidents' Weekend, including: Jeremy D'Anjou, Izzi Newey, and Kern Wallace. Many thanks to our parent drivers and to the congregation for ongoing support of our young people's participation in the UCC camps and conference ministries.

Kathleen Miller joined the Eden Staff as the full-time temporary church administrator this past month. Welcome, Kathy.

Martha Stoddard joined our staff this past month as part-time (15 hrs/wk) interim music director. Welcome, Marty.

The **Valentine's Luncheon** was a big success! Many thanks to our wonderful Fellowship Committee and their friends for providing a yummy lunch; to beautiful and talented Gayle Marie and her dancing dog, Ginger, for providing our fun entertainment; and to everyone who attended this budget-buster event in support of the mission and ministry of Eden Church.

Eden's own author and illustrator, **Jennifer Miller**, recently launched a new website featuring her literary and artistic work at <http://www.pufferbellypress.com/> Congratulations, Jennifer!

President Obama signed legislation on February 4, 2009, expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (**SCHIP**) to cover an additional 4 million uninsured children. This is a big win for PICO, COR, and many families and friends of Eden United Church of Christ.

Prayer Requests

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

For **Debby and Stephanie Andrade**, as Debby begins a new job-training program, and continues her employment search, and as the family continues 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 being treated for an infection on an out-patient basis.

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

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**. Bill died on Thursday, January 29. His memorial service was held at Eden Church on February 7, 2009.

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 hovering at heaven's gate. Michael is a friend of the Sherwood family.

For **the family and friends of Toni Maldonado**. Toni died on Saturday, February 7. Her committal service was February 13 at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Hayward, and her memorial service was held on Sunday, February 22 in Pioneer Chapel.

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, and who are on the mend!

For **Angie Rivera-Garcia**, who is a friend of the Casey family.

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 **Audrey Wood**, who is home recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery.

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

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; and Nancy Wallace**

March 2009

Duty Roster

March	1	8	15	22	29
Liturgical Season	First Sunday in Lent	Second Sunday in Lent	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent
Scripture	Gen 9:8-17; Ps 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mk 1:9-15	Gen 17:1-16; Ps 22:23-31; Rom 4:13-25; Mk 9:14-29	Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19; 1 Cor 1:18-25; Jn 2:13-22	Num 21:4-9; Ps 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph 2:1-10 ; Jn 3:14-21	Jer 31:31-34; Ps 119:9-16; Heb 5:5-10; Jn 12:20-26
Preacher	Arlene Nehring	Arlene Nehring	Arlene Nehring	Pepper Swanson	Arlene Nehring
Liturgist	Brenda Loreman	Lisa Pemberton	Michael Foster	Susan Whiting or Cheryl Fields Tyler	Michael Stuber
Children's Time	Liz McKay	Pepper Swanson	Pepper Swanson	Arlene Nehring	Pepper Swanson
Loving Arms Nursery	Angelica Johnson & Roni Iles	Angelica Johnson & Roni Iles	Angelica Johnson & Roni Iles	Angelica Johnson & Roni Iles	Angelica Johnson & Roni Iles
Sunday School	Brent & Holly Guier (K-5); Cheryl & Tom Fields Tyler & Patty Cowick (6-8); 9-12 in worship	Todd Bove & Keith Smith (K-5); Cheryl & Tom Fields Tyler & Patty Cowick (6-8); Bill D'Anjou (9-12)	John Hasselkuss & Liz McKay (K-5); Cheryl & Tom Fields Tyler & Patty Cowick (6-8); Michael Stuber (9-12)	Todd Bove & Keith Smith (K-5); Cheryl & Tom Fields Tyler & Patty Cowick (6-8); Jan Bass (9-12)	Sally & Bill D'Anjou (K-5); Cheryl & Tom Fields Tyler & Patty Cowick (6-8); Jan Bass (9-12)
Office	Audrey Wood	Barbara Lateer	Ann Newey	Ruth Jenkins	Esther Jorgensen
Greeters	John Hasselkuss & Debby Andrade	Blane, Patty, Russell, & James Cowick	Alliene Turner & Betsy Lauchstedt	Pat Ball & Suzie Casey	Suzie Casey
Ushers	Todd Bove, Herb Graw, Pat Payne, & Michael Stuber	Kay Crosby, Ann Newey, Billie Sherwood, & Ted Wallis	Scott Swanson, Bob Turner, Susan Whiting, & Audrey Wood	Peggy Apperson, Bill D'Anjou, Sr., Kevin Casey, & Frank Jenkins	Michael Stuber, Ted Wallis, Scott Swanson, & Kevin Casey
Other/After Worship	Deacons & FESCO Offerings; <i>Chimes</i> submissions due	'O Ka'ahumanu Alii Ahuhui Wahine'; BCoM Meeting	<i>Chimes</i> submissions due	Inquirers' Gathering	OGHS Offering Received; Potluck Sunday

K-5th grade children should be picked up from their classroom immediately following worship. Middle and high school students will join their families in Oliver Hall at 11:30 AM. Nursery care is available at any time during worship for children age five and younger.

March 2009

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Communion</i> <i>Chimes</i> <i>Deadline</i> <i>FESCO</i> <i>Collection</i>	2 7 Yoga	3 12:30 Staff Mtg. 2 Worship Planning 7 Cabinet Mtg.	4 10 Seekers	5 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 11 Auction Presale 11:30 Community Ministries Meeting	9 7 Yoga	10 2 Worship Planning 6 Trustees Mtg.	11 10 Seekers 7 BCM Meeting	12 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 <i>Chimes</i> <i>Deadline</i> 11 Auction Presale	16 7 Yoga	17 11 Triangle Staff Mtg. 12 Square Staff Mtg 2 Worship Planning 7 Eden COR	18 10 Seekers 7 Reiki	19 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20	21 5 Dinner & Auction
22 11:30 Inquirers' Gathering	23 7 Yoga	24 2 Worship Planning	25 10 Seekers	26 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	27 7 <i>Asphalt Gospel</i> Film Viewing and Discussion	28 Choir Retreat
29 <i>Potluck</i> <i>Sunday and</i> <i>"One Great</i> <i>Hour of</i> <i>Sharing"</i> <i>Offering</i> <i>Received</i>	30 7 Yoga	31 2 Worship Planning 7 Stewardship Committee				