

The Chimes

MOVING IN PRAYER

Working in the church building I have the benefit of spending time alone in the sanctuary. Occasionally I find myself sitting in a back pew, middle pew, or even the choir loft in conversation with God. In particular, there was a day when thoughts of grief and change were so overwhelming that I left my office to look upwards at the stained glass window, take a breath, and pray. My prayer began as many often do with a question as to "why," continued with me struggling to find gratitude, and ended with a curse word. Admittedly I surprised myself by the ending and waited awhile to see if the wrath of heaven (or that of my late grandmother) might come upon me. Instead what I received was a feeling of relief that my frustrations were uncovered and knowledge of acceptance from a loving God.

This Lenten season as we seek to take a closer walk with God, I wonder, how many of us are honest in our prayer life? Or are we too busy trying to stay polite, to keep things "tidy," when we talk to God? For those of us whose prayer life might be stuck on "auto pilot," Lent is a time when we are challenged to walk a different, less traveled path with God.

For God calls each of us not only to be grateful in our prayer life, but She allows us time to be heard and time to listen. For it was in those final moments of silence after my prayer that I heard Her message, Her calling me to release my burdens and continue. After a bit of contemplation I wearily rose and returned to my work. That day, my journey might have been tiring, but I knew there was still life to be lived, and in that, joy to be found. Frederick Buechner writes, "If you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are."

I would invite everyone to watch their feet this Lent season as you pray. Come to Eden during the week to spend time in the meditation room or (when we get a break from the rain) walk the labyrinth. At home maybe just set aside a time, twenty minutes a day, when you can go to a spare bedroom or walk around the block to be with God. Take time to listen, to escape from our fast-paced lifestyles and observe the sounds in your surroundings. Maybe God will stir a new calling in you, or lift the burdens that so many of us carry around.

Our inner life often demands the most attention when it feels neglected. During the season of Lent I'd encourage everyone to give our thoughts and feelings the space they deserve. To share them with God and in turn listen for Her concerns and bequests of you. Allow your feet to guide you in ways and to places you might not have otherwise traveled. Move in prayer to uncover all the many wondrous things you are and can become.

-Liz



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 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

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.

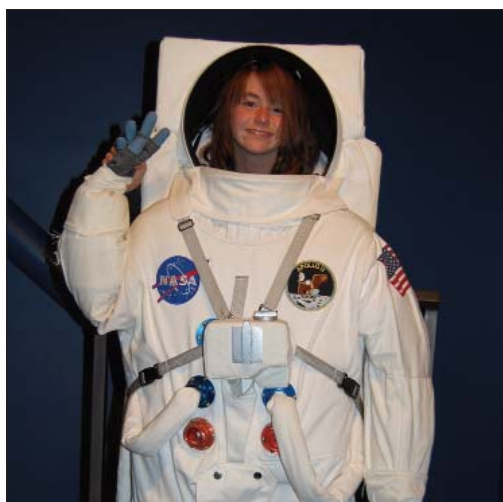
At Eden, we are on a journey together to understand and live God's truth for our lives. Come and join us on the journey. Check out our website. Give us a call. Come by and see us. We look forward to welcoming you!

An Out-Of-This-World Adventure: "Eden Family" Outing to Chabot

Over forty members of the "Eden Family" attended the outing to the Chabot Space and Science Center on Saturday, February 28. Participants ranged from seniors to Kindergarten students, each enjoying the many different types of activities the museum had to offer. From the IMAX movie to the planetarium show to the sky viewing from the telescopes, everyone was busy exploring our connection to the cosmos, continuing our "Faith and Science" explorations here at Eden. Thanks to Tom Fields Tyler and Joyce Livergood for helping to make the evening a success!



Eden at the Planetarium



Natalie Takes Flight

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.

Aloha, O Ka'ahumanu Alii Ahuhui Wahine

Aloha, O Ka'ahumanu Alii Ahuhui Wahine! The Wahine will join us for worship and sing the offertory this Sunday, March 8, 2009. The Wahine sing in celebration of Queen Ka'ahuanu's birthday which was March 17, 1776, and to honor the memory of their long-time member, Leina'ala Alesna, who was also a member of Eden Church. The Wahine sing under the direction of Blossom Kaleikau.

Until her retirement, Leina'ala Alesna was an employee of the federal government. She was also a kumu hula, musician, and composer; and the mother of six, grandmother of twenty, and great-grandmother of six. Leina'ala's son, Randall Kau'i Alesna, is a Hayward resident, a long-time friend of Eden Church, and the artistic director for Na Hawaii 'O Kaleponi.

Queen Ka'ahumanu, for whom the choir is named, was the favorite wife and most trusted advisor of King Kamehameha I. After the death of Ka'ahukmanu, Ka'ahumanu declared herself kuhina nui, or co-ruler, with the new king, Likeliko. She persuaded King Likeliko to break the "kapus," or taboos, of native religion, including those forbidding wives to share the meal table with their husbands. Considered Hawai'i's first feminist, Ka'ahumanu guided the islands in a period of major transition.

Ka'ahumanu was baptized by Congregational missionaries and encouraged her subjects to do the same. Kawaiaha'o Church is affiliated today with the United Church of Christ and was originally commissioned by the Queen and frequented by the Kamehameha and Kalakaua dynasties.

The Wahine's offertory, "Kaulana Nā Pua" ("Famous Are the Flowers") was composed by Ellen Keho'ohiwaokalani Wright Predergast in protest of the Queen's overthrow and the annexation of the Hawai'ian Islands by the United States. The song is still popular in Hawai'i today, although it is not clear how many non-natives are aware of the song's historical significance or the profound antipathy to U.S. annexation in its words.

2009 Lenten Opportunities

- Seekers begin Jesus for the Non-Religious, Wednesday, **March 11**, 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**, 7 p.m.
- Choir Retreat, Saturday, **March 28**, 2 p.m.
- 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.

Eden Church is pleased to welcome the O Ka'ahumanu Alii Ahuhui Wahine and their guests, and extends our deep appreciation to the choir for their important efforts to preserve native Hawai'ian culture.

Eden Church Dinner & Silent Auction

The Eden Church Dinner & Silent Auction will be held Saturday, **March 21**, beginning at 5 p.m. The menu includes pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, vegetable, rolls, and cake. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under, or \$40 per family, and can be purchased from any member of the Stewardship Committee (Holly Guier, Bill Jarvis, Esther Jorgensen, Billie Sherwood, and Michael Stuber). 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.

March Potluck Sunday: Come and Share a Meal

Once again, the entire congregation is invited to share in the potluck and fellowship planned for Sunday, **March 29**, after worship. 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: T–Z Dessert; A–M Main Dish; N–S Salad. Beverages will be provided by the Board of Church Ministries. The Fellowship Committee is also calling for helpers in the kitchen on a regular basis—sign up on the “Helping Hands” sheet in the church office.

Baptism and Membership at Eden Church

Are you new to Eden? Are you curious about us, or maybe even considering baptism or church membership? If so, the Inquirer’s Gatherings was designed especially for you. These occasions provide Eden leaders with an opportunity to extend a special welcome to newcomers and to provide introductory

information about our mission and ministry. Come as you are. You’re welcome here.

The next Inquirer’s Gathering will be held on Sunday, **March 22**, beginning at 11:30. Childcare and a snack will be provided. Please let our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, or one of our hostesses, Brenda Loreman or Mary Haro, know of your plans to attend so that we may provide ample childcare, refreshments, and handouts.

At Eden Church and in the United Church of Christ, 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. Come as you are. You’re welcome here.

Join Seekers on their Lenten Journey

On Wednesday, **March 11**, at 10 a.m., Seekers will begin reading *Jesus for the Non-Religious* by John Shelby Spong. The Seekers have previously read *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* by Spong, and will begin their Lenten journey with his more current work. In *Jesus*, Spong explores his “deep commitment to Jesus” and his “deep alienation from the traditional symbols” that surround Christ. Copies of the book are readily available for purchase from local bookstores. Please see Pat Ball or Liz McKay for more information.

Walking in Faith: Viewing and Facilitated Discussion of the Film, “Asphalt Gospel”

Come to church on Friday, **March 27**, at 7 p.m. and bring an appetite for faith and popcorn as we view the film, *Asphalt Gospel*. The documentary is about six people who walked from Phoenix to Washington, D.C., stopping to talk to people across the country about their progressive Christian faith. After the movie there will be a discussion with one of the participants in the walk, Meighan Pritchard, now a second-year in the Masters of Divinity



Spirit-In-Action

Many thanks to the members and friends who “connected” at the February 22 Spirit-in-Action worship service. For those who did not get a chance to fill out a green card, indicating your interest in the various service projects, please see a member of the Board of Community Ministries. The Board would also like to extend a special thanks to those “working hands” who helped make the worship service possible. May we continue to work together in the upcoming program year.

program at the Pacific School of Religion. We will discuss the themes of the film, among them the struggle among us to articulate our faith, supporting our Lenten theme of trying to walk more closely with God. Childcare will be provided; see Liz McKay for more information.

One Great Hour of Sharing – Share Your Treasure

In the spirit of the Lenten season, we are invited to share God’s treasures by participating in One Great Hour of Sharing. By sharing some of our earthly treasure — our money, our time, our energy — 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.

On March 1st, Eden’s families were 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.



Shopping List

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

March Needs:

- Washable tempera paint
- Elmer’s glue (large bottle for refills)
- Fruit snacks (for the nursery)
- Apple Juice
- Gift Cards (Safeway for Trader Joe’s) for Coffee Hour creamer
- 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!**

- March 21, NCNC UCC Identity Seminar 2: UCC History
- March 21, Eden Dinner & Auction
- March 22, Inquirer's Gathering
- March 24, Prayer Group
- March 27, Asphalt Gospel Film Viewing and Discussion
- March 28, Choir Retreat
- March 29, Potluck Sunday
- 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 Event at Baywood Court
- May 2, Eden Family Outing
- May 3, Souper Sunday
- May 16, Spirit-in-Action: FESCO Shelter Shuffle
- 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, Inquirer's Gathering
- June 17-18, CPR/First Aid Training
- June 28, Baptism & New Members
- July 5-11, NCNC CIT Camp at Cazadero
- July 7-11, NCNC Kids Camp (2nd-4th) at Cazadero
- July 12-18, NCNC Junior Hi Camp (7th-9th) at Cazadero
- July 18, Spirit-in-Action Event
- July 19-25, NCNC Junior Camp (5th-6th) at Cazadero
- July 26-August 1, NCNC Senior Hi Camp (10th-12th) at Cazadero
- July 26-August 1, NCNC Junior and Junior Hi Camp (5th-8th) at Tamarack
- August 2-8, NCNC Senior Hi Camp (9th-12th) at Tamarack
- August 2-16, FESCO Backpacks collection
- August 7-9, NCNC Young Adult Retreat at Cazadero
- August 22, Choir Retreat



Joys

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

Barbara Perry is home and doing very well following surgery on January 7 to remove a nonmalignant brain tumor.

Over 40 people attended Eden's **Family Outing** to Chabot Space and Science Center on Saturday, February 28.

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**, 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 today, preferably in the Fremont-Newark area.

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

For **Keith Boyer**, who is living with cancer, and who is facing more challenges.

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 **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 the family and friends of **Michael Jenkins**. Michael died last week.

For **Everett Lewis**, who has been a patient at St. Regis this past week.

For **the family and friends of Toni Maldonado**. Toni died on Saturday, February 7, and her memorial was held on Sunday, February 22.

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 **Lee Sorensen**, who is a patient at Valley Point in Castro Valley, and who is slated for kidney surgery at Stanford. Lee is Bob Sorensen's brother.

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.

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



Birthday & Anniversaries

Mid-March—Mid-April Birthdays:

- 3/16 **Anne-Marie Baucox-Jordan & Dan Apperson**; 3/17 **Suzanne Fry and Patty Cowick**;
- 3/18 **Win Lockerby and Raven Moniz**; 3/19 **Jackson Phillips**; 3/20 **Laura King**; 3/22 **Jared Smith-Bove**;
- 3/23 **Jessie Payne**; 3/24 **Loris Coburn & Ann McClure Newey**; 3/25 **Angela Strauss**;
- 3/27 **John Hasselkuss**; 3/28 **Marla Bacina & Genevieve Nelson**; 3/31 **Cal Rule & Lauren Smith-Bove**;
- 4/1 **Saphroanh Faingainuku**; 4/4 **Anne Christensen**; 4/6 **Vera Dickie, Crystal Bulette & Katherine Kelly**;
- 4/7 **Gladys Rego**; 4/8 **Karen Madaras**; 4/9 **Willow Moniz**; 4/15 **Marilyn Shatzen**

Mid-March—Mid-April Anniversaries:

- 3/30 **Dan and Peggy Apperson**; 4/15 **Tom and Cheryl Fields Tyler**