

The Chimes



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 2010

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

A CONFIRMATION OF FAITH

On May 19, 1991, I was confirmed at Trinity Episcopal Church in Princeton, New Jersey. Twelve years old at the time, I was more interested in being done with confirmation class than actually becoming a member of the congregation. All of my grandparents flew in for the special occasion, and I still have the "sailor dress" that my mother made me wear, a strong point of contention in our relationship as I would have preferred to wear jeans and a tee shirt despite the presence of the Bishop at the ceremony.

I struggled with confirmation class for a number of reasons, namely trying to understand how a loving and just God could allow for such acts of violence and disruption in the utopia that He created. Yes, the God I studied was a He. It was He who I remember drawing a picture of in one of the classes, living among the clouds with a long white beard; He who seemed so unreachable, so disconnected, from my life and the realities of being a pre-teen.

Since September, I have had the benefit of working with the confirmation class at Eden. I have experienced what a difference twenty years, a cross-country journey, a denomination change, and a dedicated pastor make in shaping a progressive curriculum. Through the varied experiences the kids have participated in they have learned to see God in all of Her many forms and in all of the ways She works in the world. They are learning to hold the good with the bad and understand that together they are the body of Christ capable of making the biggest difference of all.

Confirmation is defined as welcoming a baptized person into full membership of the church. Within the United Church of Christ this commitment on the part of the individual and the congregation is not to be taken lightly, as once these young people are confirmed they have full voting privileges at congregational meetings. Interestingly, I learned about this practice from the church directory, as inside you will see some of our previous confirmands pictured separately from their families to indicate their status as full members. The level of this commitment is why Pastor Arlene has waited until kids were in eighth grade or above, as opposed to my own experience in sixth grade, to start the year-long faith formation program.

Having spent a considerable amount of time with the class over the course of this academic year I can say with confidence that the kids who will choose to be confirmed on Sunday, **May 23**, will do so freely and without the misconceptions I carried throughout my own experience. At the culmination of their year they lead us in worship by singing; serving as liturgists, greeters, and ushers; and preaching the sermon. Following this special service the Board of Church Ministries will host a reception in celebration of the confirmands and their families, and all that they have achieved. All are welcome to celebrate as we welcome these young people to full partnership within the congregation.

~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!

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation at Eden Church is a nine-month faith formation program led by our pastor and adult advisers in which youth in grades 8–12 participate in classes, worship services, projects, and retreats which introduce them to the basics of Christian faith and life in the Christian community. The program culminates this year on Pentecost Sunday, **May 23**, with students making a choice about whether to participate in the rite of confirmation, by affirming their baptism and joining Eden Church. Confirmands will also sing, and serve as liturgists, greeters and ushers, and preach the sermon. The Board of Church Ministries will host a special reception following morning worship in celebration of the confirmands and their families, and all that they have achieved. Confirmands are encouraged to invite their families and friends to worship on May 23, and to the reception that will follow.

Upcoming Confirmation Events

- ◆ Friday, **May 7**, 5:30 pm, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Supper & Class (Suzie, Suzi Casey & Debby Andrade)
 - Prepare Church School Lessons (Arlene, Liz, Pepper)
- ◆ Sunday, **May 9**, 9:30–11:15 a.m., Mother’s Day, Bring-Your-Mother to Church & Help Teach Church School (Liz)
- ◆ Sunday, **May 16**, 10:00–10:20 a.m., Stewardship Sunday, Participate in Time & Talent Survey (Arlene & Pepper)
 - 10:20–11:30 a.m., Mid-High Church School (Patty Cowick & Tylers)
 - 10:20–11:30 a.m., Senior High Church School (Michael Stuber)
 - 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Stewardship Lunch
- ◆ Friday, **May 21**, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Supper & Class (Suzie, Jenifer Aguilar & TBD)
 - Prepare for Confirmation Sunday, 6:00–7:30 p.m. (Arlene, Pepper & Liz)
- ◆ Sunday, **May 23**, 9:30–11:30 a.m., Pentecost/Confirmation Service (Arlene, Worship Team, BCM)
 - 11:30 a.m.–12:00 noon, Confirmation Reception (BCM)

Be A Hero

Registrations are now being received by the Northern California Nevada Conference (NCNC) UCC for summer camps. Go to www.ncncc.org to learn about the full range of camping opportunities offered by our conference for children entering the second grade through adults, and for information about counselor-in-training opportunities. The NCNC UCC sponsors programs at Camp Cazadero and Camp Tamarack in Northern California. Scholarships are available through Eden Church and the NCNC UCC. Please see Pastor Arlene before the early bird deadlines if you or your child would like to apply for a campership.

Safe Congregation Training Opportunity

American Heart Association training for Adult, Infant, and Child CPR and First Aid will be offered at Eden Church on Tuesday, **June 8**, and Thursday, **June 10**, from 6–9:30 p.m. at a significantly reduced cost of just \$20. Spaces are limited. Please see Liz McKay, liz@edenucc.com, to register or for more information.

“Kitchen Angels” Wanted

If you have a taste for good cookies consider joining a team of Eden “kitchen angels” to host Sunday Fellowship Hour. Two to three “kitchen angels” are needed to set up and take down the coffee hour each Sunday and to welcome longtime members and friends and newcomers to Eden Church. Feel free to ask any of the Board of Church Ministries members (Suzie Hasselkuss, Mary Haro, Jan Bass, Stephanie Spencer, and Holly Bowers Guier) during coffee hour on Sundays for a kitchen tour, and become an Eden “kitchen angel.”

Spirit-In-Action



FESCO Shelter Shuffle Walk-a-Thon

Be a part of Team Eden UCC at the 13th annual FESCO Shelter Shuffle on Saturday, **May 15**. Register online at www.firstgiving.com/fesco or stop by the church office to pick up a paper registration form. You can participate as a walker, runner, pet guardian, or bench warmer. This energetic morning event is filled with live music, food, raffles, and an award ceremony following the one- to three-mile walk/run along the San Francisco Bay. Raise just \$100 and get a free T-shirt. Make plans today to arrive by 9 a.m. for an opening prayer led by Pam Reuling, followed by a lovely morning at the San Leandro Marina, talking and walking with friends. For further information contact Ed and Pam Reuling.

Join the Spring Choir!

Come, bring a friend, and join the spring choir! Every Sunday this spring we meet at 8:45 a.m. in the choir room to prepare songs from our new hymnal supplement, SING! Prayer & Praise. During Sunday services, we will lead the congregational worship and teach these contemporary praise songs. This is a great time for fun and fellowship. All are welcome (9th grade and up) to sing with our choir.

Take a Lookilu and See What’s New:



www.edenucc.com

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

Big Trees are Growing in the Eden Forest

"Big Trees" is the theme for the annual giving campaign this year. Our theme is a metaphor for the Giant Sequoias that grace Coastal California, and the Oaks of Lebanon depicted in the Bible—both express the strength and beauty of our faith community, which plays a vital, interdependent role in the ecosystem in which we are planted. Every member at Eden plays a distinct role in our forest, and every gift matters. This year's campaign is underway and culminates with a picnic celebration in Oliver Hall on Sunday, **May 16**, when we celebrate the vital gifts that every member and friend contributes to the well-being of our Eden forest. A special effort is being made this year to encourage every household to return commitment cards and Time & Talent surveys by Sunday, May 16, indicating members' and friends' intentions to contribute time, talent, and treasure for the coming year. To reward early pledge commitments this year, during fellowship hour the Stewardship Committee will draw the names of four lucky members or families who have made their pledges on or before Sunday, May 9 and 16.



Fred Wins Stewardship Prize



Lia Makes a Big Tree

Biblical Self Defense Workshop & Training

Too often, the religious right misuses a few passages from the Bible to justify the oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Church people may not know how to respond to the misuse of these texts, other than to assert, "God loves everybody." What do these texts really mean? What are their contexts? How can you respond with knowledge of these biblical texts and conviction of biblical authority? Attend a Biblical Self Defense workshop from Friday, **June 4**–Sunday, **June 6**, at Niles Congregational UCC, and by studying the so-called "clobber passages" learn how to talk about and train others. Not only will you complete the entire workshop, created by the Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns, but using supplemental videos and discussion and practice teaching time you will be equipped to speak informatively to others in a variety of settings. This event is primarily designed for laity and clergy in the United Church of Christ; however, all are welcome regardless of faith tradition or secular affiliation. Pre-registration and advance preparation are required. Go to www.ncncucc.org, then click on "Happenings," then "Biblical Self Defense" for details. For additional information about this event, contact Barbara J. Broadbent, Associate Conference Minister for Education Ministries, bbroadbent@ncncucc.org or 510-247-8996.



Tom and His Redwood Tree

Join the Conversation

Since the day of Pentecost there have been conversations about how the church should be organized for mission. Eden is no stranger to these conversations. The last time that we had a heart-to-heart about organizational design was ten years ago, when church leaders realized that a congregation of 140 could not support an organizational structure designed for a membership ten times that size. A discernment and re-visioning process led to the development of the 1997 Bylaws. Times have changed and so has Eden Church. So the time is right to ponder anew whether there may be a better way to organize ourselves for mission. Cabinet and the Boards of Church Ministries, Community Ministries, and Trustees have begun to participate in this organizational design conversation, and now is asking the membership to join this conversation beginning Sunday, **May 16**, at 11:45 a.m. After the Stewardship celebration in Oliver Hall, join Cabinet members in the Norberg Room for an overview of the reasons this topic is surfacing now, and to contribute your input and support to this perennial discernment process.



Shopping List

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

May Needs:

- Photocopy paper, 8 1/2" x 11" and 11" x 17"
- Washable tempera paint
- Fruit snacks (for the nursery)
- Apple Juice
- Thermal coffee cups (8 oz.) (Costco San Ramon has them)
- Fresh fruit and veggies for Sunday mornings
- 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.



Jessica House Steward

*Performing Arts Concert
Benefits Girls Inc.*

Tickets are on sale in the church office during the week and at lunch in Oliver Hall today for the next recital in the Performing Arts Series featuring Soprano Jessica House Steward. The concert takes place on Sunday, **May 16**, at 3 p.m. in the main sanctuary. Jessica will be performing the "Four Last Songs" by Richard Strauss, "Siete Canciones" by Manuel de Falla, a Mozart concert aria, and songs by Samuel Barber. Proceeds from this concert benefit Girls Incorporated of Alameda County.

Girls Incorporated inspires girls from underserved communities to reach their potential and become role models for the next generation. Their proven programs for girls K-12 cover every aspect of development. Girls improve their study habits, sharpen their intellectual curiosity, find their voice, and learn to "take positive risks". They uncover their aptitude for math and science and hone their computer skills. Girls Incorporated's school-based programs also promote healthy lifestyles and cover critical health issues in age-appropriate ways. If a girl needs help, Girls Incorporated's Pathways Counseling Center is there for her and her family. They make it fun for every girl to grow strong, smart, and bold.

Korean-American soprano Jessica House Steward has performed throughout the United States and internationally in opera, concert, and recital. Ms. House Steward made her Carnegie Hall recital debut singing world premiere vocal works of composer Gerald Busby. She collaborated with world-renowned pianist Kenneth Merrill on a vocal recital at Greenfield Recital Hall in New York City. For three years, Ms. House Steward performed with John Wustman in his Schubert Song Recital Series. She has also given recitals at the Neues Residenz and St. Mark's Kapelle in Salzburg, Austria, and at All Souls Episcopal Church in Okinawa, Japan. Among many honors, Ms. House Steward received the Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council and performance awards from the National Opera Association, The National Society of Arts and Letters, Los Angeles Opera Buffs, Leni Fe Bland Foundation, Theodore Presser Foundation, and Santa Barbara Music Club. Ms. House Steward holds degrees in vocal performance from University of Illinois, Texas Tech University, and Manhattan School of Music.

Bravo! Thank You!

Help us celebrate our 2010 graduates as well as Eden's many church school teachers, nursery volunteers, and musicians by giving them a round of applause on Sunday, **June 6**. Following our Communion service there will be a time of recognition in Oliver Hall. Beverages and cake will be provided by the Board of Church Ministries. Come and help us recognize the many talented people in our community.

*Children's Summer Celebration
Classes Begin June 13*

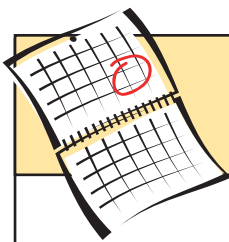
Our Summer Celebration program for kids completing Kindergarten through fifth grade begins Sunday, **June 13**. This summer we'll continue with our *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum following the lectionary. Safe Congregation screened volunteers are needed to help teach or assist in the classroom and help in the nursery. See Liz McKay if you're interested in working with either of these ministries.

*Call to the 145th
Annual Meeting*

The 145th Annual Meeting of Eden United Church of Christ has been called by Cabinet for Sunday, **June 27**. The meeting will be held in Oliver Hall following morning worship, which begins at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. This meeting is called by Cabinet in accordance with the Eden United Church of Christ bylaws. Agenda items include the following:

- To receive the 2009-2010 Annual Report
- To receive a preliminary 2009-2010 year-end financial report
- To receive and act on the proposed operating budget for 2010-2011
- To receive and act on the slate of officers and board and committee members for 2010-2011
- To recognize elected leaders who are completing terms of service
- To act on a proposal from Cabinet to adopt for a period of up to two years, an experimental governance model, which would reduce the number of elected positions required to conduct official church business; streamline administrative and financial functions; and free up more people for participation in church programs
- To install officers and board and committee members who are beginning terms of service
- To act on any other business that is properly brought before the meeting.

A snack for all ages will be provided between worship and the meeting in Oliver Hall. Childcare and a children's activity will be provided during the meeting for infants, toddlers, and youth who have not yet been confirmed. Please see Liz McKay regarding childcare arrangements.



**Coming Attractions—
Mark Your Calendars!**

May 9, Mother's Day, Baptism & Reception of New Members, New Member Photographs
May 13-16, NCNC Annual Meeting
May 15, Spirit-in-Action, FESCO Shelter Shuffle
May 16, Stewardship Sunday
May 16, Congregational Conversation on Organizational Design
May 16, Performing Arts Series features Soprano Jessica House Steward performing songs by Mozart, de Falla, Strauss, and Barber
May 23, Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday
May 31, Eden Church Office Closed
June 1, Eden Area Foundation, letters of intent due for 2011 grant cycle
June 6, Bravo! Sunday
 June 13, Summer Celebration Classes Begin
June 13, Inquirer's Gathering
June 20, Father's Day
June 20, Performing Arts Series features Bass, Daniel Cole performing songs by Caldara, Schubert and Tosti
June 27, Eden United Church of Christ, Congregational Annual Meeting
July 5, Eden Church Office Closed
July 6-10, Western Regional Youth Event in Montana
July 11-17, NCNC Junior Camp at Caz
July 13-17, NCNC Kids Camp at Caz
July 16, Spirit-in-Action, Habitat for Humanity
July 25-31, NCNC Junior High Camp at Caz
July 25-31, NCNC Senior High Camp at Tam

August 1-7, NCNC Senior High Camp at Caz
August 1-7, NCNC Junior/Junior High Camp at Tam
August 13-15, NCNC Adult Spiritual Retreat at Caz
September 1, Eden Area Foundation, full grant proposals due for 2011 grant cycle
September 6, Eden Church Office closed
September 18, Spirit-in-Action, Save the Bay
September 19, Performing Arts Series featuring Metropolitan Opera Soprano, Marie Plette
October 3, World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need
October 3, Inquirer's Gathering
October 17, Potluck Sunday, Baptism & Reception of New Members, New Member Photographs
October 29, Halloween Concert
November 6-7, Holiday Bazaar
November 14, Congregational Meeting
November 21, Performing Arts Series features Internationally Acclaimed Greek Pianist, Charis Dimaras
November 25-26, Eden Church Office closed
December 5, Community Messiah
December 8, FESCO Luncheon
December 11, Mid-High Christmas Caroling Party
December 12, Christmas Pageant, Happy Birthday Jesus Party
December 19, Lessons & Carols Worship
December 24, Christmas Eve Service
December 25, Eden Church Office closed
December 27, Eden Church Office closed

Cherryland Stakeholders' Meeting

Sponsored by Supervisor Nate Miley

Eden United Church of Christ Oliver Hall
 Thursday, **May 13**, 2010
 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

This is an opportunity to discuss and review progress on improving the quality of life for Cherryland and the adjacent Hayward community.

Children are welcome to attend and remain with their families throughout the gathering. Childcare will not be provided.



Birthday & Anniversaries

Mid-May to Mid-June Birthdays

5/17 **Sam Jarvis**;
 5/19 **Stephanie Spencer** and **Dustin Rose**; 5/20 **Celia Romero**;
 5/21 **Jim Fryer**;
 5/22 **Herb Graw** and **Scott Swanson**; 5/24 **Barbara Fitch** and **Natalie Guier**; 5/25 **James Cowick**, **Lewis Fernandez**, and **Brent Guier**;
 5/27 **Paul Prosseda**; 5/29 **Mike McCarthy**; 5/30 **Bill D'Anjou Sr.**;
 6/2 **Cindy Keune**; 6/5 **Rene Castle** and **Adam Turner**;
 6/6 **Dereck Hill**; 6/7 **Angelina Collier** and **Lizzy Steward**;
 6/12 **Lucille Lorge**; 6/13 **Jaime Romero**; 6/14 **Lisa Pemberton**;
 6/15 **Maya Fields Tyler**, **Sage Fields Tyler**, and **Jim Williams**.

Mid-May to Mid-June Anniversaries

5/19 **Melissa & Jim Phillips**;
 5/21 **Tracy & Harold Maxfield**;
 5/26 **Susan DuPree & Hollis Bascom**;
 6/9 **Denys Bjork & Erik Nelson**;
 6/13 **Pat & Steve Payne**.



Joys

The Stewardship Committee is grateful that pledge cards and time & talent cards for 2010-2010 are already coming in. **Big Thanks** for supporting our Big Trees campaign!

Congratulations to **Dr. Angelina Crans Yoon**, who is graduating from the University of Southern California on Sunday, May 16! Dr. Crans Yoon is the daughter of Nora and Jerry Crans.

Congratulations to **Richard Graw** and **Leslie Best** who were married at Redlands University, in Redlands, California, Saturday, April 24. Richard is the son of Mary and Herb Graw.

Congratulations to **Jan Holmgren**, who was honored by Girls Incorporated of Alameda County with the Smart Award at their annual Strong, Smart & Bold Luncheon last month.

Congratulations to **Carolyn Nachand** and **Brian Boddy**, who will be married in Hawaii on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Carolyn is the daughter of Sandra Nachand and the late Clyde Nachand.

Congratulations also to **Laura Jensen** and **Jon Allbin**, who will be married on May 8, 2010, at Murietta's Well in Livermore. Laura is Frank Jensen's daughter.

Prayer Requests

For our students, teachers, staff, administration, board members, and volunteers who work together for the good of our schools and communities.

For **Gene Bass**, Jan Bass' father, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

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

For **Doretta Brown**, who had surgery a week ago.

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

For **Robert DerMinasian**, whose father, Wayne, died on Sunday, April 11, in Fresno, CA. A memorial service for Wayne was held in Fresno, on Friday, April 16.

For **Curtis Fuller**, who is living with cancer.

For **Dr. Joel Garcia**, CEO of Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, who had a stroke on Friday, April 23. Joel is now at the Kaiser Rehabilitation Center in Vallejo. Notes and cards can be sent directly to him at: Kaiser Rehabilitation Center, 975 Sereno Dr., Vallejo, CA 94589, or at Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, c/o Monica Salgado, Executive Assistant, 33255 9th Street, Union City, CA 94587. Joel is talking and walking, which are good signs for a full recovery.

For **Elizabeth Graw**, who is recovering from knee surgery.

For **Susan Henson**, a friend of Susan MacDonald's, who is in the midst of a lengthy recovery process from bacterial meningitis.

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

For **Betsy Lauchstedt**, who returned home recently after a series of hospitalizations and a long stay at the Health Center at Baywood Court.

For **the family of Jo McLellan**. Jo died Wednesday, April 21, at Eden Medical Center. Her memorial service was held Monday, April 26, at Eden Church.

For **Hans Mohring**, who underwent surgery on Jan. 21 to remove a malignant tumor. Hans is a very good friend of the Smith-Bove family.

For **Jim Schmidt**, who is in the midst of radiation treatments. Jim is a friend of Susan DuPree's.

For **Jenny Shaw**, of Jenny's Café, as she continues chemotherapy and radiation treatments for breast cancer.

For **Dave Wallace**, who is looking for full-time employment and developing a math tutoring business.

For **Lori Woolman**, Mary Haro's sister, who is continuing treatment for Lyme disease and related back pain.

For **persons and families** who are seeking housing and employment, for all who are grieving the death of a loved one, and for those who are experiencing pain associated with these and other losses.

Continued prayers for **Anita, Bryan, Justin, Mel, Nick, 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, Allen Gardiner, Clyde Howell, Angie Payne, and Zachary Sherwood**.