

The Chimes

WAS JESUS A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER?

Community organizing is a systematic approach to addressing the root causes of social problems. It is a process by which people investigate and act together to change their communities and society.

Awareness about the role and influence of community organizing in the U.S. has grown tremendously in the past two years due to the effectiveness of the Obama campaign in implementing these practices in the 2008 Presidential campaign, and the interest that the President's success has stirred in others.

Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin, for example, decried the evils of community organizing late in her 2008 campaign in hopes of indicting the credentials of then Presidential candidate Obama. A few days later, Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers, introduced candidate Obama in Virginia, explaining that "Jesus Christ was a community organizer." Soon thereafter, Representative Steve Cohen from Memphis repeated Roberts' observation on the House floor, and added that "Pontius Pilate was a governor."

Conservative talk-radio host Glenn Beck announced last summer that he was determined to learn community organizing, and "beat them at their own game." The roll-out of his campaign was staged in Washington, D.C. last month on the anniversary of the Civil Rights March on Washington.

While I think it unwise to ascribe modern concepts to ancient figures, it is not lost on me that Jesus showed tremendous compassion for people whose interests were not well served by the principalities and powers of his day, and that he was perceived as a threat because of his capacity to catalyze the energies of the dispossessed.

I also think that community organizing practices can be hijacked for deleterious purposes. So we must proceed with caution, understand the values behind the practices, and learn how to employ them in ways that advance the mission of Christ.

To that end, Eden COR leaders will be offering learning experiences in the coming weeks designed to introduce members and friends to the philosophy and practices of community organizing, as employed by COR (Congregations Organizing for Renewal), the faith-based network of which Eden is a part.

We will explore these practices and increase our capacity to advocate for and achieve safer neighborhoods, stronger schools, immigration reform, and more access to affordable health care. The next learning opportunity is Eden COR Sunday, **Sept. 19**. See p. 3 for more information.

~Arlene



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 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

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!

So Long, Roni. Hello, Briauna

Eden bid a fond farewell to Roni Iles (center), our Lead Childcare Worker, on August 22. Roni, who has served Eden's children and community so well, began pre-med studies at St. Mary's University last month. Briauna Keller (left), a student at San Francisco State University, is Roni's successor in the Loving Arms Nursery. Briauna began working with us last month. Also pictured are Brenda Camacho, one of our Assistant Childcare workers (right), and one of Eden's youngest members.



Briauna and Brenda say Goodbye to Roni

Families, Church School Resumes Sept. 19

All families and church teachers are encouraged to attend an informational gathering about the upcoming year from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. following worship on Sunday, **Sept. 12**. Join us to meet our new and returning church school teachers, learn about curriculum plans and classroom assignments, and discuss how you can bring the lessons to life at home. Childcare and a light snack will be provided. Please see Mary Haro or Jenifer Miller for more information.

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 Jobst, ESLO Coordinator; Kathy Miller, Church Administrator



Welcome Pedro & Alejandra

Hola, Pedro & Alejandra

Pedro Ramos-Goycolea began his service as Eden's Minister In Training, for the 2010–2011 academic year, on Aug. 24. His goals at Eden include learning more about faith-based community organizing, worship planning and leadership, and preaching.

Pedro, and his spouse, Alejandra Rosas, were born in Sonora, Mexico. Both grew up and were educated there. Alejandra is from Obregon and Pedro is from Hermosillo. Alejandra has a bachelor's degree in business administration. Pedro's undergraduate degree is in accounting. Before coming to the U.S., Pedro and Alejandra worked in business and government offices in Senora. Pedro and Alejandra were married in Obregon in 2007. The couple is expecting their first child in Advent 2010.

In 2006 Pedro was invited to start a Hispanic church in Sahuarita, Arizona (located 30 miles south of Tucson.) This new church start was a partnership endeavor between the Disciples of Christ and the UCC. There Pedro learned about planting a new church, and was immersed in immigration issues on the U.S.–Mexico border.

Pedro began work as an interim minister in August of 2008 at the Good Shepherd UCC, in Sahuarita, which nested the new Hispanic church.

After three years of service with the new Hispanic church and Good Shepherd in Sahuarita, Pedro and Alejandra moved to Berkeley in the fall of 2009, where he began the M. Div. program at Pacific School of Religion.

Inquirer's Gathering

Are you new to Eden and interested in learning more about our ministry? If so, please join Pastor Arlene and other church leaders for a snack, conversation, and brief introduction to Eden Church, Sunday, **Oct. 3**, from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in the Norberg Room. Children are welcome to attend with their families, and childcare can be arranged. So that we can plan accordingly please let Pastor Arlene or one of the ushers know that you would like to attend.

Eden Choir News

Our choir resumes singing in worship on Sunday, **Sept. 12**. We will rehearse at 9 a.m. in the choir room. Also, please come join us for our Choir Kickoff Cover Dish Supper and Rehearsal on Monday, **Sept. 13**, at 6 p.m., in the Fireside Room. We will prepare music for the worship services as well as our Christmas musical offering of the Poulenc *Gloria*. The Eden Choir welcomes singers from 9th grade and up. There is no audition or musical requirement to join the choir, only an open mind and willing spirit!

38th Annual Castro Valley Fall Festival

Eden members and friends traveling to church by way of Castro Valley Boulevard next Sunday, **Sept. 12**, will want to plan a little extra commuting time to maneuver around the Fall Festival activities which will be held in the business district.



Congratulations, Liz and John!

On Aug. 29 Eden celebrated with Liz (McKay) and John Jobst, who were married on Sept. 4, in a small family ceremony in Piedmont. Suzie Hasselkuss and Shannon Whitney teamed up to coordinate the design and creation of a wedding quilt for the bridal couple, featuring custom artwork and photographs by members and friends of Eden Church.



The Malloys Design Quilt Blocks



Marie Plette

Performing Arts Concert Series Features Metropolitan Opera Soprano

Tickets are on sale and available during coffee hour (see Jacque Blake or Loris Coburn) or in the church office for our next recital in the Performing Arts Series Sunday, **Sept. 19**, at 3 p.m. Soprano Marie Plette, renowned in the major opera houses of North America and Europe for her compelling portrayals from Cio-Cio San in *Madame Butterfly* to Love Simpson in *Cold Sassy Tree* and the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, will perform. Her recent performances of *Madame Butterfly* prompted the New York Times to remark, "The opera did partake of the other unifying factor here: a star turn, by Marie Plette in the title role." Immediately after winning the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 1992, Ms. Plette was invited to make her Metropolitan Opera debut as the First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*. She has performed frequently with the company since then in roles including Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Gutrune in *Götterdämmerung*, and Kristina in the *Makropulos Case*. Some of her past season highlights included performances in the title role Iphigenia in *Tauris* with Seattle Opera; Larina in *Eugene Onegin* with Lyric Opera of Chicago; the title role in *Tosca* with Sacramento Opera; and Cio-Cio San in *Madame Butterfly* with San Francisco Opera, Sacramento Opera, and Michigan Opera Theatre. Come to hear a wonderful singer and support this month's beneficiary, "Save the Bay".

Monthly Labyrinth Walks to Nurture Your Spirit

Eden Church will offer a monthly guided labyrinth walk beginning on Friday, **Oct. 8**, at 7 p.m. This will be an opportunity to nurture yourself amidst the caring for, cooking for, and sharing your gifts for others. Come experience our beautiful labyrinth as a tool for releasing stress and replenishing your spirit. Use the labyrinth as a path to awareness that can help you move beyond your thought patterns and processes. A peaceful walk in the labyrinth can help you reconnect with the sacred essence that resides within. Join others and journey into the depths of your heart, and into the vast pool of your very own stillness. The wisdom of your soul awaits you. See Mary Haro or Jenifer Miller with questions.

ACTION Spirit-In-Action

Annual Save the Bay Day Next Weekend

Join the Eden Church group that will work on Saturday, **Sept. 18**, at Eden Landing Ecological Preserve to remove trash or invasive weeds from the tidal areas. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m. and then carpool to the preserve, as parking is limited. Afterwards we will return to Oliver Hall for lunch. Volunteers are also needed to set up, clean up, and/or bring a variety of food for the luncheon. Sign up in the church office today or speak with Jim Fryer.

Health Care Reform: The Journey and Where We Are Today

Eden COR cordially invites you to join the Rev. Drew Nettinga at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, **Sept. 19**, in the Norberg Room, to learn about what these new policy changes mean for us at the local level. Drew has been involved with COR and the PICO network on health care efforts at the state and federal levels for a number of years. He has a compelling story that sheds light on the importance of organizing and why this is important for all of us who have a stake in a healthier community. Childcare will be provided in the West Wing from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Neighbors in Need Makes Another World Possible

On Sunday, **Oct. 3**, we will be accepting the annual Neighbors in Need offering. Please consider giving generously to this ministry, which is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects throughout the United States. A special offering envelope will be available for your gift on Sunday the 3rd; you may also mail or drop your offering off in the office. Be sure to indicate "Neighbors in Need" on your gift, and thank you for your generosity!

All-Church Safe Congregation Training

All members and friends, including children and youth, are invited to participate in Eden's All-Church Safe Congregation Training, Saturday, **Oct. 23**, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Rev. Kibbie Ruth, Executive Director of Kyros Ministries, will lead the training for adults; and staff members from Child Assault Prevention, Inc., will lead the training for children and youth. A morning snack and light lunch will be provided. Please register for this event by email to kathy@edenucc.com or by signing up in the church office by Sunday, Oct. 3. This training meets Eden's Safe Congregation training standards for persons who wish to become or continue as lead staff and lead volunteers with children, youth, dependent adults, and adults over the age of 64.

Animal Blessing! Planning Begins Now

The second annual Blessing of the Animals will be held on Saturday, **Oct. 16**, in the Eden Plaza at the corner of Grove and Birch. Invite your friends and their pets now, and plan to bring your own furry, feathered, or scaly companions to Eden between 10 a.m.–12 p.m. for their annual blessing. This is one of the most fun and successful events of the year to introduce new people to Eden. Please contact Stephanie Spencer now if you'd like to be part of the Blessing of the Animals—there is a wide range of support activities to line up, from making dog treats and setting up tables on Saturday morning, to inviting local veterinary and wildlife groups to participate. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon, based on the availability of persons interested in organizing this event.

Call to the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of Eden United Church of Christ will be held Sunday, **Nov. 14**, in the Sanctuary following morning worship, which begins at 10 a.m. This meeting is called by the Church Council in accordance with the Eden United Church of Christ bylaws. The agenda includes two items: 1) to receive a report from the Eden Area Foundation Board of Directors regarding the 2011 Eden Area Foundation grants, and 2) to receive a report from the Eden United Church of Christ Audit Committee regarding the 2009–2010 audit.

Date Change for Fall Bible Study Opportunity

Based on the feedback from the congregation-wide survey, Small Groups will be offered again from February–April 2011. In the meantime, if you're craving some adult education and reflection, join Pastor Arlene in conjunction with the Education and Spiritual Life Co-Chairs, Mary Haro and Jenifer Miller, on Saturday, **Nov. 20**, for a morning bible workshop. Arlene will lead participants in a study of the different Advent/Christmas stories in the gospels. Afterwards, stay for lunch and help prepare the church for the holidays by decorating with the Deacons. Pre-register for the event with Mary or Jenifer by Sunday, **Oct. 31**.



Shopping List

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

September Needs:

- Washable tempera paint
- Fruit snacks (for the nursery)
- Apple Juice
- Thermal coffee cups (8 oz.) (Costco San Ramon has them)
- Birthday and anniversary cards with their envelopes
- Fresh fruit and veggies for Sunday morning
- Gift cards to Costco, Safeway, or Trader Joe's for Coffee Hour

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

Upcoming Stewardship Events

Save the dates for the next member-sponsored events:

- **Wine and Cheese Tasting** on Saturday, **Oct. 9**, from 3–6 p.m. in the Lake Merritt district, hosted by the newlyweds, Liz and John Jobst.
- **Halloween Gathering** on Sunday, **Oct. 31**, at Michael and Garry's Basset Heaven, hosted by Michael Stuber.

Tickets for each event are \$15, and are on sale now. Spaces are limited so buy yours today. See a member of the Stewardship Team for more information: Holly Bowers Guier, Esther Jorgensen, Brenda Loreman (Chair), Michael Stuber, or Pepper Swanson.

Take a Lookilu and See What's New:



www.edenucc.com





Happy Birthday, John!

Eden Celebrates John's 95th

Mindful that one of the biblical names for God is "Ancient of Days," Eden Church proudly celebrates birthdays with members and friends, especially those who are 90 years old or older.

On Sunday, Aug. 22, Carole and Joan Livingston, John Livingston's daughters, brought their father's 95th birthday celebration to the Eden campus. The congregation greeted John with a rousing round of "Happy Birthday" accompanied by Loris Coburn on the Swain & Kates pipe organ. The Livingstons hosted coffee hour and provided an elegant table and birthday cake for all.

If you'd like to host coffee hour in celebration of a loved one's birthday or anniversary, please contact Lona Fryer, Carol Price, or the church office.

The "Early Bird" Gets the Room

As Eden Church continues to grow, an increasing number of church and rental events are being held on our campus. As a result, rooms are reserved further and further in advance and availability cannot always be guaranteed. To ensure a room is available when you wish, be sure to plan ahead. Contact Kathy Miller to book your event on the Eden Church master calendar.

To reserve a room for your board or committee meeting, musical rehearsal, art project, exercise club, small group, and the like, contact Kathy Miller, Church Administrator, at kathy@edenucc.com or 510-582-9533.

Meeting and event space is also available for rent on the Eden campus. Numerous friends and members of the congregation regularly rent space on our campus for special events such as civic meetings, club functions, weddings, memorials, birthday and anniversary parties, reunions, and more. Contact Kathy for a price quote for individual events, and to discuss reduced rates for "frequent fliers."



Coming Attractions— Mark Your Calendars!

- September 12**, Parent-Teacher Gathering
- September 13**, Eden Choir resumes rehearsals
- September 18**, Spirit-in-Action, Save the Bay
- September 19**, Church School 2010–2011 Classes Begin, Fifth Grade Bible Distribution
- September 19**, Eden-Cherryland COR Policy Briefing: Healthcare Reform
- September 19**, Performing Arts Concert Series, "Art for Goodness Sake," features Marie Plette singing a "Green" Recital: Songs/Arias about 'Nature'. The concert beneficiary is "Save the Bay".
- September 26**, Homecoming Sunday
- October 3**, World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need Offering
- October 3**, Inquirer's Gathering
- October 3**, Labyrinth Introduction
- October 8**, Labyrinth Walk
- October 9**, Liz & John's Wine & Cheese Tasting, Member-Sponsored Fundraiser
- October 10**, Usher and Greeter Training
- October 15**, Eden Single Women's Group
- October 16**, Animal Blessing
- October 17**, Baptism & Reception of New Members, New Member Photographs
- October 23**, Safe Congregation Training
- October 31**, Michael Stuber's Spooky Halloween Member-Sponsored Fundraiser
- November 5**, Labyrinth Walk
- November 7**, Holiday Bazaar
- November 14**, Congregational Meeting (EAF Grants Report)
- November 20**, Bible Workshop
- November 20**, Sanctuary Holiday Decorating Party
- November 21**, Performing Arts Series, "Art for Goodness Sake," features internationally acclaimed Greek Pianist, Charis Dimaras
- November 25–26**, Eden Church Office closed
- December 3**, Labyrinth Walk
- December 5**, Eden Choir presents the Poulenc *Gloria* during our worship service with soprano, Jessica House Steward
- December 5**, Inquirer's Gathering
- December 8**, FESCO Luncheon
- December 11**, Senior High Christmas Caroling Party
- December 12**, Christmas Pageant, Happy Birthday Jesus Party
- December 19**, Lessons & Carols Worship
- December 24**, Christmas Eve Service

Birthday & Anniversaries

Mid-September to Mid-October Birthdays

9/16 **Curtis Fuller**; 9/19 **Lorene Kiger** and **Erik Nelson**; 9/21 **Shawn Stoddard-Nunez**; 9/24 **Vai Day, Velva Jones, Esther Jorgensen, and Jenna-Marie Moniz**; 9/25 **Stephanie Cartwright** and **Nadiezhdha Pereira**; 9/26 **Rogelio Stoddard-Nunez**; 9/30 **Athena Guy Malloy** and **Dennis Mills**; 10/4 **Mary Roth**; 10/6 **Susan DuPree**; 10/7 **Jacque Blake**; 10/9 **Karri Michell**; 10/13 **Bill Jarvis, Ryan Miller, and Mary Joan Stone**; 10/14 **Dan Livesay**; and 10/15 **Manuel Inverno**.

Mid-September to Mid-October Anniversaries

9/19 **Barbara & Ted Wallis**; 9/30 **Lia & Bill Jarvis**; 10/4 **Ruth & Frank Jenkins**; 10/8 **Athena & Chris Malloy**; 10/11 **Arlene Nehring & Stephanie Spencer**; and 10/12 **Laura & Mike King**.





Joys

Welcome to Eden, **Herman Barahona**, our new Eden-Cherryland COR Community Organizer. **Eden Church is 145 years young!**

Congratulations to the newlyweds, **Liz and John Jobst**, who were married September 4 in a small family wedding in Piedmont! Congratulations and all the best wishes in your life together!

Welcome to our new members: the **Rev. Drew Nettinga**, and **Susan (Susie) and Russell (Russ) Newman**, who joined Eden Church on Sunday, August 29.

Welcome to Eden, **Pedro Ramos-Goycolea** and **Alejandra Rosas**. Pedro is a second-year student at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and our new Minister In Training. Their first "official" Sunday was August 29.

Billie Sherwood's nephew and his wife, **Mathew and Ruth Perkins**, welcomed their first child, Blake Anderson Perkins, to the world on Monday, August 23.

Zachary Sherwood is doing wonderfully well, and is back at school and playing soccer! The Sherwood family thanks you all for your prayers.

Congratulations to **Michelle and Erik Thom**, who welcomed their second child, Kathryn Ann, into the world, Friday, August 20. Kathryn, Mom and Dad, and big brother Collin are home and doing well. Sandy Nachand is Kathryn's "Nana."

Barbara Wallis is home from rehab at Hayward Hills, and back to church.

Prayer Requests

For the family and friends of **Mary Babikoff**, who died Sunday, August 22. Mary was Barbara Lee Jackson's sister-in-law.

For **Todd Bove** and **Keith Smith**, who are in the midst of job searches.

For **Dovetta Brown**, who is undergoing radiation treatments at this time. Dovetta is a friend of Pat Payne's.

For **Scott Carey**, whose father died recently.

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

For **Gloria Dowdell**, Keith Smith-Bove's cousin, who is undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer.

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

For the family and friends of **Betty Heller**, who died recently. Betty was a dear friend of Pam Winthers.

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

For **Lorene Kiger**, who is in the midst of a job search.

For **Sally Kusalo**, who is recovering from surgery to repair an eye injury and a broken orbital bone that she incurred on August 22.

For **Evelyn McKay**, Liz McKay's paternal grandmother, who is struggling with a number of serious infections.

For **Beverly Schwains**, who is dealing with some health challenges at this time.

Traveling mercies and safe travels and restful vacations for the **Sherwood family**, and all who are on the road, rails, and in the air this summer.

For **Erica Tovar and her family**, who are suffering from bronchitis. Erica is also recovering from knee surgery. Erica is Jennifer Aguilar's cousin.

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

For **Elliana Wright**, Will Matthews' god-daughter, who was suddenly stricken with kidney failure and is on dialysis.

Continued prayers for **Anita, Bryan, Justin, Mel, Nick, and Richard**; for all who are affected by sexual and domestic violence; for all who are in the armed services; for missionaries and ministers around the globe; and for peace and justice in the world.

And for **Carlton Alexander, Mary Bernstein, Jim Burgess, Juanita Chavez, Ann Dodd, Regina Fischer, Allen Gardiner, Clyde Howell, and Angie Payne**.