

THE GRAPEVINE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NAPA (707) 253-1411

www.napaumc.org

May 1, 2015



We are grateful to the Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church for their gracious invitation to worship in their church at the Corner of Brown and G Streets each Sunday and during the Advent Season.

Save the Date!
Annual Fun & Fellowship Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, May 31st at 8:30 am
Fireside Room at Seventh-day Adventist Church



The Hands and Feet of Christ at Napa First UMC

As part of *The Great Thanksgiving* liturgy wherein we consecrate the elements of bread and juice at communion, the following words are spoken as words of institution: “Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.” Thus we are reminded at the communion table that we are to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world today.

Over the years, many of us have experienced being the hands and feet of Christ as we’ve experienced servanthood by preparing and serving meals at *The Table* or welcoming and assisting guests at *The Mini-Thrift Shop*. More recently, we’ve added to our servanthood opportunities by launching three new initiatives. They are:

Napa Circles Initiative

On April 15th, an oral presentation was delivered in front of county commissioners who committed to a grant review of application for full funding for the Napa Circles: \$140,000 per year for three years starting July 1st. As we’ve journeyed toward this day, we’ve realized and celebrated many milestones. The County Director of the Economic Self-Sufficiency program joined our growing Guiding Coalition which governs Napa Circles. The Masons of Napa approved a grant for \$1,000 and have expressed interest in repeating that grant at a later time. An anonymous donation of \$5,000 became an opportunity for our congregation to successfully raise in excess of \$6,000 last October to match that grant. In late April and May, members of the Guiding Coalition and other volunteers have contracted with the County of Napa to offer the Poverty Simulation training to 100 employees over three sessions receiving \$1,500 per session. And, we received an Easter offering in excess of \$2,000 toward support of Napa Circles.

Eight Circle Leaders continue with their training begun in January and proceeding through May every Tuesday evening beginning with a shared dinner at 5:30 pm and class instruction at 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Meals are provided each week by members of our congregation as well as some volunteers from the community. Childcare is available for Circle Leaders with children usually numbering close to a dozen in our nursery. Please speak with Doug Cleveland to discover the many ways you can ***become the hands and feet of Christ*** through the Napa Circles Initiative.

eNERGy: The Napa Earthquake Recovery Group

Beginning in February, Napa First UMC joined efforts with UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) and other interested parties across Napa County in forming **eNERGy: The Napa Earthquake Recovery Group**. With the help of Phil Bandy, California Nevada Conference Director of Disaster Relief and Craig Patterson, Retired United Methodist clergy, treasurer of Napa-Solano Habitat for Humanity and member of Vallejo First UMC, Pastor Lee Neish and others have joined forces to begin addressing the 375 to 400 cases of earthquake damaged structures across Napa County which remained unaddressed following the adjudication of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's qualification process.

An original grant of \$100,000 issued from UMCOR allowed for the hiring and training of three local case managers as well as a supervisor to begin reviewing the roughly 1,500 intake forms remaining representing unmet needs. Our own Dan Grant, retired contractor, has begun to assist the case managers in assessing the damage remaining and the likely need for both skilled and volunteer labor, materials, and dollars necessary to meet those needs. Please speak with Pastor Lee Neish to discover the many ways you can ***become the hands and feet of Christ*** through eNERGy: The Napa Earthquake Recovery Group.

Next Steps in Addressing Homelessness

A series of meetings have been happening involving residents of Old Town who are our neighbors, downtown business owners, social service providers, the homeless and formerly homeless, and almost twenty interested members of Napa First UMC. The three most significant meetings have occurred on Thursday evening, April 9th and Tuesday evening, April 28th, with the final meeting happening on Wednesday evening, May 20th, all from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Napa County Library meeting room. Some of the common themes emerging from these discussions include the need for affordable housing, criminality and the need for increased public safety, drug and alcohol abuse, shelter space availability, issues surrounding the continued operation of The Hope Center on Napa First UMC's campus, lack of funding for and effectiveness of social services, governmental accountability, meal programs, mental health issues, training and education, impact on the local economy, effectiveness of law enforcement, the complexity of addressing homelessness, and the anti-social behaviors consistently observed in and around Triangle Park.

It's not too late to join in this thoughtful, perplexing and, at times, animated conversation. While it may not be for the faint of heart, it brings a great opportunity to learn and struggle with how to speak the truth in love. Please speak with Lay Leader Mark Andersen to discover the many ways you can ***become the hands and feet of Christ*** through engaging in these vital conversations with the diverse members of our community.

Most recently, a new and somewhat related conversation was begun by the Democrats of Napa Valley Club under the leadership of Napa First UMC member Conchita Marusich. A forum was conducted on Wednesday evening, April 22nd, again at the Napa County Library meeting room, under the title:

Napa: Where Are We Going?

This forum was comprised of Napa County Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza and included panelists Terence Mulligan, President of the Napa Valley Community Foundation, Elba Gonzalez Mares, Health Services Manager with the Children's Health Initiative Napa County, Peter Mott, Napa City Councilmember, Matt Pope, Napa County Planning Commissioner, and G. Anthony Phillips, vice-President of the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council. In addition to Pastor Lee Neish, church members Bruce Ketron and Mike Robak were also in attendance. Issues were addressed primarily concerning the lack of affordable housing and the need for a minimum (livable) wage for Napa.

The following morning, I received a call from Napa County Supervisor Brad Wagenknecht who attended the last part of the meeting and noted my presence. He's interested in engaging some of our members and others across our community in identifying strategies which will result in locating land and funding for affordable housing as well as motivation for establishing a minimum (livable) wage. Please speak with Pastor Lee Neish to discover the many ways you can *become the hands and feet of Christ* through continuing this vital conversation toward establishing affordable housing and a livable wage.

Youth Group News

Our kids are having fun! Many thanks to Curtis Tinloy and Mike Robak!

If you are in middle or high school, come and see for yourself.

Each Sunday from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in the Kagawa Room



Sierra Service Project News

The 2015 SSP Team will head to Smith River on Sunday, July 12th-18th.

Please call Dianne at the church office to reserve your spot.

We will be housed at the Smith River United Methodist Church and Smith River Elementary School which are across the street from each other. Our cooks will prepare meals and we will eat at the church. We will be showering a few blocks away at the Smith River Baptist Church and some other locations around the town.

If you are interested in having this wonderful opportunity for service, acceptance, and faith deepening experience, please call Dianne at the church office so we can get you registered. (707-253-1411)

You will have the time of your life!!!

Revival!

Bridges District Conference
Saturday, May 16th from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
Vallejo First United Methodist Church

As we approach the midway point in our Sunday morning message series *Revival; Faith as John Wesley Lived It*, we have an extraordinary opportunity to experience a current-day revival in gathering with other United Methodists from across the Bridges District just down the road at Vallejo First UMC. On Saturday, May 16th, we'll engage in worship and fellowship, receive a briefing on what's coming up at Annual Conference Session in June, and select from a number of workshops including training sessions for Boards of Trustees and Committees on Staff-Parish Relations.

Several of us attended a prior revival at Community United Methodist Church in Fairfield last February and enjoyed an excellent time of worship and fellowship. This day promises to be a comparable experience and it's even closer!

Let's meet in the church parking lot at 8:45 so we can leave no later than 9:00 am. We'll carpool using the church van and other vehicles. Let's step into this new day together!



Builders

After getting a VIP tour of the church renovation, retrofitting, and progress, I feel very certain that our sanctuary is in the best hands that God has to provide. The Pullman Company people respect and appreciate our love of this special place and are working to rebuild our home with the same love that that has kept it standing for over 100 years. Continue to pray for their individual safety as they rebuild.

We as Builders will meet *May 9, Saturday, 12-2* in the Kagawa room for a potluck lunch or a \$5.00 donation. Our program will honor Mothers and we will celebrate our Mom's by remembering something that we still do, or say, that says, "My mom used to do that!" Or share a special Mom memory. I'm sure this will spark much lively conversation and some wonderful memories for us all. Invite a friend to join us and include someone you know that needs us as much as we need them! The secret's out, we have a lot of fellowship going on! Continue to build in faith, and fellowship as Builders of Napa FUMC, until we meet again.

Kay Neal, 224-8491, 479-8576 cell

Chix with Sticks

Kids of all ages 7-99 are welcome to join the Chix for some summer knitting and crocheting. We will provide needles, hooks, yarn, right hand knitting, left hand knitting, and crocheting! If you have supplies at home you may bring them, but we will have plenty for all! The **FREE** classes are open to all, church or non church attendees. Come to the Kagawa room *June 10, 17, and 24, from 10-12*. Get the kids started into something they can enjoy all summer long while being quiet and creative!



Are You in the Mood to Volunteer?

**We are looking for two additional *Ushers*
We'll ask you to work one Sunday per month**

***Home Visitors* – You may choose who you visit and when**

***Communion Preparers* – One of our long term preparers is ill
and one of them would love some help.**

We would also like a person to be on stand by to help when needed.

Teachers* to help with the children and *Adult Group Leaders

***Earthquake Workers* to help UMCOR with their work**

***Hosts and Greeters* – for those of you who are friendly and inviting**

***This group also needs a coordinator to make schedules**

***Van Drivers*- You'll be asked to drive once a month**

***Circles Initiative Allies* – Our first group is ready to graduate to
the next phase. We need two allies for each family. We need you
as soon as possible!**

**Please call the church office with your questions or to volunteer.
We'll be grateful for your service, you will make new friends,
and we can pretty much assure you that volunteering
will give you the warm fuzzies!**

Earthquake Update from Missionary Katherine Parker in Nepal

We just received this communication from our Board of Global Ministries Missionary Katherine Parker who, directly following her last visit with us at Napa First almost two years ago, left to undertake her new assignment in Nepal. She writes about her experience with the recent earthquake:

Yesterday in Nepal we experienced a 45+second, 7.8 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter half way between Pokhara and Kathmandu. I am safe and well in Pokhara at a gathering with other UMN (United Mission to Nepal) missionaries. There has been minimal damage here but we continue to feel the aftershocks. All UMN staff have been accounted for and are well. UMN core response team is attempting to return to Kathmandu but I will stay here until at least Monday and maybe longer. Road conditions are not good.

I've been in touch with some friends in Kathmandu. Most slept outside last night. Some have experienced injury (a grandmother with a broken leg) and destruction of their homes. Panic and anxiety is being experienced by many in the city. There are older, taller and denser buildings there and thus more destruction. But I'm not sure of the full extent of the situation. We are also concerned for our friends in rural regions outside of the Kathmandu valley where there are more un-mortared stone and brick buildings. Reports of damage and loss of life are coming in from our partners in Dhading, but poor roads are hampering initial connection.

Thank you for the outpouring of concern for the people of Nepal and your prayers in this unfolding situation.

Your sister in service for Christ,

Katherine Parker

The road from Pokhara to Kathmandu is reported as damaged but open. INF has offered their land rover for key UMN staff to try to return to Kathmandu today. UMN has been in touch with the hospital in Lamjung, which is not as badly damaged as initial reports indicated. The missionary doctor and family there are anticipating an influx of people as people begin to move again. UMN doctors from Tansen have been made available to this hospital as well as the western regional hospital.

The main response of UMN will focus on Dhading. Plans for this are in very initial stages. Donations to the UMN Advance Number can support this. UMN will also make their staff available for partners who are leading response efforts in Kathmandu. To donate, please send your gift by check through Napa First UMC earmarked for either:

- Advance #3021568 Integrated Community Development Program of UMN
- Advance #15187Z Salary support for Katherine Parker

or go to www.advancinghope.org for online giving.

Prayer Requests:

- There is still anxiety that this will trigger another quake on one of Nepal's other two fault lines and for more 5+ aftershocks that will further destabilize buildings. Please pray Psalm 46 for the assurance of God's continued presence and protection.
- Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and those who have lost their shelter either temporarily or permanently. Please pray for those sleeping outside that the weather will hold stable and it won't rain.

- Water shortages are always a problem in Kathmandu, please pray that the water supply will be sufficient and uncontaminated (reports of “rust colored” water have been made). Please pray that the temporary outdoor living will not lead to a cholera outbreak.
- Please pray for our response team traveling to Kathmandu and for UMN staff as we implement our emergency response plan that we will be able to help.
- Please pray for the teenage children of several missionary colleagues who are in Kathmandu and separated from the rest of their family here in Pokhara and for other families who are separated from loved ones.
- Please pray for calm and release from fear as the aftershocks continue.



May UMW dates - All are WELCOME

May 7 - Exec meeting - Conference room - 9:30 a.m.

A Call to Prayer & Self Denial envelopes to chairs

12 - Susanna Wesley Circle - 7:30 p.m. - member's home

14 - Newton/Riddell Circle – 10 a.m. Conference Room

14 - Lillian Wallace Circle – 1:30 p.m. – member's home

17 - Sarah Crosby Circle – 8:30 a.m. SdA Church



Circles Initiative Update

We have eight Circle Leaders who will graduate from training classes on May 1st. They are now ready to begin work with their two Allies each. BUT... We need more Allies to volunteer to partner with them. Each family needs two allies.

We will have an Ally Training Class this coming Saturday, May 2nd from 9-3 in the Asbury Room at FUMC. Please consider this opportunity to help these families accomplish their plan to get themselves out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. Please call Barb Thompson at 707-853-0283 if this is a volunteer opportunity that talks to your heart.

Helping Hands

by Sally Hunter

The purpose of these articles is to acquaint the congregation with the wonderful work our volunteers do to support our church. For the past couple of years, one of the busiest groups has been and continues to be the Catch Team. Below is an article by Liz Marks who was the original organizer of the team. I found it fascinating and informative. I think you will too.

The Catch Team by Liz Marks

The Catch Team is a group of people who are dedicated to seeing our local church grow. At first we were named the Growth and Outreach Committee. We decided to change our name to Catch because it was more fun and it related directly to the passage in the Bible about Jesus fishing for people instead of fish. We started with four strategies.

1. **Become Relentlessly Outward Focused.** This is probably the most difficult of all the strategies because it means that we as a congregation need to shift our culture and thinking. We used ourselves as examples of how to be outward focused. We invited friends to church and invited outsiders to our dinner groups and small groups. We invited children from outside (Cope Family Center) to our Vacation Bible School. Lee talked a lot about being outwardly focused on Sundays and we showed people how to do it. Thanks to all of you, since 2012, there has been a big shift. Many new people have enjoyed getting to know us and many have stayed.
2. **Make Visitors Feel Welcome.** Without even realizing it, Sunday morning has always been a time to talk to our long time church friends and get the “411”. However, when someone new came in, they felt like an outsider. People were more interested in their friends than meeting anyone new. The Catch team took some direct action to switch this up. We started a Welcome Table in our fellowship hall. We put the table very close to the entrance of the room as possible. We were on the lookout for all visitors and stopped then to welcome them and see if they wanted to give us their contact information. Second, we refreshed the training for all our hosts and ushers. Again we would look for visitors and prioritize our time talking to them. We learned how to greet folks in an easy-going manner. We redesigned the attendance registration pads to make it easier for visitors to fill out. We made sure that every visitor who gave us their contact information received an

email, phone call or personal note that same week thanking them for coming.

3. **Attract People in our Community.** This is all about getting new feet through our doors. We all know once they come and see us they will love us. This involves redoing our “front door” to the community. The front door is our website. We are in the process of working with a graphic designer to implement a new logo for our unique Methodist congregations. We will still keep and use the UMC Emblem (Cross & Flame), but we need something more relevant and contemporary for younger families, young adults and our youth. We are also designing a survey specifically for 18-40 year olds to see what their spiritual needs are within their community. This survey will be used to help implement programs for them. Once this is complete (Approximately June-July 2015), we will design a specific marketing campaign (social media, print, etc.) for that audience to roll out in conjunction with moving back into our beloved sanctuary. This will be ongoing to keep the interest level high in our community that we are a haven for grace given freely.
4. **Connect and Follow Up with Visitors.** It’s very important to feel wanted when you come to a new church. The Catch Team takes all the data from Sunday and inputs it into our membership software. We can track visitors and see if they have attended a minimum of three times. At that point we make personal contact with them and see if they want to join. Since we have started actively pursuing folks who appear to be interested, we have received forty one new members.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Catch Team and all the other volunteers that help with our overall strategies especially the hosts and ushers. Thank you to Mark Eckhout, Jean Hasser, Pat Hitchcock, Sally Archambault, Preston Shackelford, Burke Owens, Sally Hunter, Jo Neish, Lee Neish, Dianne Mahler, Jan Amoroso, Bill Pramuk, Loie Whitmer and Jan Geren. Thanks too to our newly formed Marketing Plan subcommittee, Anna Cox, Rachel Archambault, Keith Calara, Natalie Barnard, Christian Jackson, Holly Zacccone, and Brooke Eikenberry. Most importantly, thanks to all of you for welcoming folks who walk in our door to find love and support.



First United Methodist Church
625 Randolph Street
Napa, California 94559
(707) 253-1411

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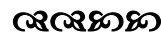
Our Mission Statement is to build a loving community inviting people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sunday Traditional Worship Service: 9:30 am
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Fusion Contemporary Worship Experience: 11:00 am
Seventh-day Adventist Chapel
Corner of Brown and G Streets, Napa

Monday Silent Meditation Group—5:30 pm—FUMC Nursery
Friday Labyrinth Meditation Walk—Noon - FUMC

Adult Bible Study Group—10:45 am—Young Adult Room, S-d A Church
GRAPE Express—3 years through 5th grade—9:30-S-d A Church
Youth Group meets on Sundays in our Bonner Building

Visit us on Facebook—Napa First United Methodist Church
www.napaumc.org—707-253-1411—email—secretary@napaumc.org



Pastor: *Rev. Lee Neish* Lay Leaders: *Barbara Thompson & Mark Andersen*
Lay Speaker: *Michael Herzog* Office Manager: *Dianne Mahler*
Director of Music: *Jan Lanterman* Organist: *Harold Julander*
Director of Cathedral Choir: *Jan Lanterman* Director of Bonner Bells: *Diane Levorsen*

First United Methodist Church ~625 Randolph St.~ Napa 94559~ (707)253-1411
Since the earthquake we worship at the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Brown and G Sts.

Please worship with us there each Sunday morning.

website: www.napaumc.org

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