



Volume 37 Issue 7

July 2018

Rev. Dr. Curran Reichert, Minister

Notes from the Pastor

Beloved Community,

I am excited to share an emerging vision for more and greater opportunities to embrace the Spirit's presence among and within us. I have been passionate about the work of Parker Palmer's Center for Courage and Renewal for more than a decade now and have longed for that work to find its way into the center of church life. I have introduced what Palmer calls *Circles of Trust*® on retreats and in small group settings, it even shows up in the Food for Thought quotes each week in the Sunday bulletin. But now we have a chance to see that work take root in our setting in a way that I pray will reach into us and beyond us.

An Opportunity for Deeper Living: Faye Orton Snyder and Kathy Cramer were pleased to host a half day retreat and conversation on Tuesday, June 19 with members of the council and team leaders about launching a Center for Deeper Living onsite at FCCS.

Rev. Faye Orton Snyder of Lafayette is an ordained Minister within The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She served the Lafayette Christian Church for over 25 years as the Associate and then Senior Pastor. While a Pastor she became a Facilitator for The Center for Courage and Renewal, an organization that has developed a process to support teachers, clergy and community leaders in joining their soul and role. It transformed her understanding of ministry.

Rev. Kathy Cramer is an ordained Minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) currently serving a non-denominational church in Bodega Bay. Ministry was a second career for Kathy after working for 30 years in the social work field in both direct service and management positions. She has been involved in the work of the Center for Courage and Renewal for the past 10 years as a participant and leader of Circles of Trust. In addition to her leadership in this area she also teaches Chi Gung and Tai Chi with the Napa Tai Chi club.

Faye and Kathy provided members of council and team chairs with an overview of their vision and passion for establishing a Center for Deeper Living here in beautiful Sonoma and invited the church leadership to experience the benefits of deep listening. Afterwards there was an open conversation about the possibilities of a collaboration with FCCS, bringing this work to the church as well as the larger community. It was a productive and encouraging conversation with exciting opportunities being discussed.

One area of interest identified by church leaders was aging. Faye and Kathy have recently been trained in a curriculum called the "Soul of Aging" and are interested in exploring how that curriculum might be beneficial to church and community members.

Faye and Kathy are in the initial stages of developing the Center. They have arranged for a retreat experience in mid-October to be held at the nearby Westerbeke Ranch and are excited about the possibilities of bringing the Soul of Aging curriculum to Sonoma. If you are drawn to learning more about this work, stay tuned for more information about upcoming opportunities.

May the blessings of Summer be yours,
Curran

FEELING CONNECTED THIS SUMMER

“Summer was on the way; Jem and I awaited it with impatience. Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots or trying to sleep in the tree house; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape; but most of all, summer was Dill.” – Harper Lee, [To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

I don't know what summer is for you. Maybe it's not cots, tree houses and dill, but perhaps it includes visits from and with family, catching up on leisure reading, harvesting your summer vegetables, traveling somewhere new, pruning your roses, or switching from a pinot to a cold sauvignon blanc.

For First Congregational Church, Sonoma, summer 2018 brings joyful engagement of faith exploration, a deepening commitment to our church family, discernment of our time and talents to broaden our covenant, new ways to care for our earth and the bees and butterflies that need our protection, support for our wider service mission, and the means to plan for campus improvements.

- *Weekly community engagement/ enrichment opportunities* have been organized by Pastor Curran and interested others for us and for friends who may be looking for something other than (or in addition to) church services. Offered at 4 p.m. the following days are:
2nd Friday = Taize Services; 3rd Sunday = Margo Biestman; 4th Sunday = Eve Decker
- *Caring Friends*, chaired by Jan Edwards, invites anyone interested to join in visiting members of the congregation who are house bound, recovering from surgery, or ill, to bring soup and/or a prayer or cheery word. Caring Friends is all of us, and not a separate committee! Please contact Jan if you can help visit others.
- The *Time and Talent* survey distributed by the Membership Outreach Committee and described elsewhere in this newsletter invites further opportunity for you to contribute to FCCS.
- We are thrilled by the *Endowment Committee's proposal process to use the payout from the endowment* that has resulted in funds awarded to improve the labyrinth and enhance the butterfly habitat, plan for improvements to the physical plant, and support the Social Action Team's commitment to end world hunger by providing funds for packaging 1500 meals in 2 hours with the Methodists in the fall.

On behalf of the lay leadership of FCCS, I wish you and yours a blessed summer. Is it possible that this summer might be, in Scout's words, your "best season?" I hope so!

CURRAN'S WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This is a reminder that in order to approximate a 40-hour work week, Reverend Curran does not work on Monday or Friday, unless it is an emergency or an unavoidably-scheduled meeting. She is not expected to return e-mail, text, or phone calls on Mondays or Fridays. All are welcome to make an appointment for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday and generally she is home but available to you while she is writing her sermon on Saturdays.

Of course she is with us on Sundays.

-Elizabeth Griego, Moderator

Endowment Fund Makes First-Ever Grant

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce a grant of \$4,250 to the Earth Care Committee for their Labyrinth and Butterfly Garden Project. Look for details in the Earth Care Committee section below. We expect to announce two additional grants later this summer. These are the first grants made from Endowment Fund income, and are made in accordance with the fund's purpose: to "enhance the ministry and mission of our church." The Endowment Fund Committee is Katherine Fulton, Alan Kelchner, and Keith Ridenhour.

Earth Care Committee Receives Endowment Fund Committee Grant to Upgrade FCCS Labyrinth

Our church's uninviting, weed-infested labyrinth begs to be made much more sustainable to minimize annual maintenance. Also, by greatly improving the labyrinth's aesthetic appeal, and integrating it with the adjacent new Monarch butterfly habitat garden, this area of our FCCS campus will create an inviting and soul nourishing "outdoor sanctuary." The Endowment Fund Committee has awarded a one-time grant of \$4,250 to Earth Care Committee's request to rehabilitate and upgrade the labyrinth. John Donnelly, Cindy Lindh, and Joan Howarth prepared the funding request for the Committee. The FCCS labyrinth was created in 2004 to honor the retirement of Rev. David McCracken.

Got an hour? Come to the church parking lot on **Saturdays from 12 – 1 p.m.** to help distribute food with the Redwood Empire Food Bank. It's fun!

Our Team has decided to become a **Friend through Friends Afuerta (Friends Outside)** to someone who is in a detention center for immigrants. It is a program with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and Freedom for Immigrants which connects volunteers with immigrants in detention. Many detained immigrants face isolation as a consequence of their unjust incarceration, separation from family, and the potential of indefinite and prolonged detention. You can help be a community of support with those incarcerated. What is the commitment to be a Friend? 1) Write at least once a month to an immigrant in detention that you will be matched with; 2) Make a monthly (\$15 or more) to their commissary account for personal needs. If 12 of us chose one month a year, we could sponsor one person. If 24 of us are interested, we could sponsor two people! Or???? So many possibilities! Contact Janice Mattison at janicemattison@gmail.com with any questions.

The Thrift Shop is closed for the month of July, re-opening Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018.

The workroom will be closed completely the first week in July, and then volunteers will start cleaning and restocking the shop.

Donations will be accepted again beginning Monday, July 16.

If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Dunn-Serota at patriciads@comcast.net.

Thanks to all who help make the shop successful — those who donate, those who volunteer, and those who shop!



Thank you to all of our wonderful Fellowship Teams. You are an awesome and responsible bunch. Here is the calendar for covering the Sundays in July and August:

JULY

- 1 Team Five: David and Susan Berry, Lory and Eugene Campagna, Mary Beth Halsey
- 8 Team Six: Janet Engelbrecht, Elizabeth Palmer, Lori Barron, Dotty Abbott, Marge Evans, Susan Harris
- 15 Team Seven: Cozette Shenks, Kit Conforti, Kathy Jewell, Joan Brady, Lori Anderson, Cheryl Franzini-Pegan
- 22 Team Eight: Joan Howarth, Nancy Ladd, Jan Edwards, Alan and Susan Kelchner
- 29 Team One: Ellen LaBruce, Janice Mattison, Janet Volkman, Sara and John Donnelly

AUGUST

- 5 Team Two: Alexanne Bassett, Pat Noel, Randy and Linda States, Gitte Cochrane
- 12 Team Three: Margie Mitchell, Bev Pearson, Bill Hutchinson, Kim Pack, Elizabeth and Bob Griego
- 19 Team Four: Patricia Henley, Taras and Diane Lumiere, Kathleen Gray, Jackie Steuer
- 26 Team Five: David and Susan Berry, Lory and Eugene Campagna, Mary Beth Halsey

Napkins, anyone? Hospitality is hoping to track down cloth napkins. We used to have two giant bags full and now we have one. Our assumption is that people have taken them home to wash and then lost track. Take a look around your house and if you find them, please return them - that would be wonderful. Otherwise, if you are finding cotton napkins that you no longer need and can donate, that would be wonderful, too. Please just drop them off in the Community Room or to Angela in the church office.

Church Community Engagement Survey (aka Time and Talent Survey)

The Membership Committee wants to thank everyone who has turned in their Time and Talent Survey. We look forward to hearing from many more of you. This survey lists the many activities that our church has going on where you might enjoy participating. By completing this survey, we will be sure to contact you and keep you informed of opportunities to join us in our various activities.

The online link is: www.surveymonkey.com/r/8L667N6

You may pick up a hard copy of the survey in the Sanctuary or in the church office. When complete, please turn it in to the office or during Sunday services. **We hope to have all responses back by June 30.** If you have any questions please contact Cathy Webber at cathyjwebber@gmail.com.



One of the greatest joys in being part of the FCCS community is experiencing the joy that comes when people step up to lend a hand when there is a problem. Many thanks to Eugene and Lory, and Ev and Louise for getting our field mowed for the 4th of July when our previous arrangement fell through. Your commitment to this church is appreciated! And so is yours, Lori Anderson, who is heading the 4th of July team volunteering in the hot sun to raise money for the Church by providing parking! Thank you to all who are working for us on the 4th!

- Elizabeth Griego

Butterfly Garden Update

Bees are buzzing in the perennial garden. Two species of butterflies are darting about. Wildflowers are flowering and 100 milkweed plants are standing tall at four inches in the Vallejo Home milkweed patch just beyond the designated butterfly habitat. Hopes are high that monarch butterflies will find our “rest stop” and “diner” during their migration especially after much ado about milkweed from various starts.



A temporary fence will be strung around the butterfly garden and milkweed patch to offer protection from foot traffic during the Fourth of July. Our garden is in the queue to receive more permanent fencing materials later this summer. Hopefully, volunteers will get it strung, while an educational kiosk will be set in place, along with metal sculptures depicting the butterflies' life cycle.



“Ms. Frizzle with her Magic School Bus” and even “Pope Francis” paid a quick visit to the garden to offer their praise and benediction over this sacred paradise. The butterfly garden is being referred to as an educational and demonstration garden. The mission is to inspire others to create something similar on an even larger or smaller scale to prevent the monarch butterflies from facing extinction. The garden, in fact, serves to help all pollinators which are in need of help. While planting your own gardens, stand by to become monarch foster parents!

- Cindy Lindh

Summer Godly Play Schedule

Sundays 10:30-11:45 a.m.



On the following days, we will be offering the full Godly Play program. **On all other Sundays**, we will have art supplies and a kid’s “pillow space” set up in the back of the Sanctuary if your child would like to move a bit or reflect creatively along with the service.

July 29: Godly Play

August 19: Godly Play

September 9: Godly Play Kick-Off for the new school year and back to our regular weekly schedule.

Contact: Rev. Katie Morrison (510)684-8800, teacherkatiemo@gmail.com

CAMP CAZ

September 28 – 30

The name Cazadero brings up many visions for those of us lucky to have attended: long walks in the grassland and forest – sometimes relaxed, sometimes adventurous. Lots of relaxation with friends – no meals to cook, no chores > three great meals a day > crafts > Secret Buddies > Bad Hair contest > kids moving free and safe.

Then there is Vesper Point, one of the most beautiful “chapels” that most of us have ever seen: worshiping with the forest, the canyons, the birds. September 28 – 30 is our weekend this year.



Please register soon and join us. You may print out a registration form by clicking [here](#), or pick up a form in the Sanctuary or the church office. Partial scholarships are available in limited supply.

- Linda States

FOURTH • OF • JULY
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE



We are so grateful to those of you who have faithfully worked at this event for years, and we hope you will do so again. Can you fill these gaps?

July 3	8-10 a.m.	Two people are needed to help lay out the spaces.
July 4	7-9 p.m.	One parking attendant is needed.

To volunteer, contact Lori Anderson at lorirenee1618@outlook.com, 707-974-5780. See you on the 4th!

- Lori Anderson

Garen and Dianne Patterson's "Drop-in Delta 70's Funk Dance Birthday (70's) Housewarming Reunion Bash"

Sunday, July 15 / 1-6 p.m. / 500 S. 4th Street, Rio Vista

From Garen: An invitation from Garen and Dianne

- * Come in 70's attire (if you will...it's optional); or even as a 70's celeb!!
- * We'll have food and drink. Bring more if you wish
- * We have cool house and air condish!
- * No RSVP required! No tedious paper work!

Garen-teed fun! Dianne to see you! (dyin'...get it?) xo...the Delta Cats (Garen-337-2313, Dianne-738-7000)

Kathy and Veda "Renewal of Vows"

Sunday, July 29 / Noon to 2 p.m. / Sanctuary and Burlingame Hall

From Kathy and Veda: SAVE THE DATE! Kathy and Veda invite the congregation to join them after worship to celebrate 40 years of togetherness and 10 years of marriage. Renewal of vows in the Sanctuary followed by food and fun in Burlingame Hall. Please RSVP by July 7 if you plan to attend (aanestad@sonic.net or 707-935-6690). God bless Edie Windsor, may she rest in peace.

Bill and Jane "Reception of Celebration"

Sunday, August 18 / after 10:30 worship service / Burlingame Hall

From Jane and Bill: This is an invitation from Bill and Jane to ALL of you! We will be married in our backyard in front of our children and grandchildren on Saturday, August 18. Happy, happy day! We invite you to a Reception of Celebration on the following day, Sunday August 19, right after church in Burlingame Hall. Start time . . . around 11:45 depending on the length of the church service. Concluding time tbd . . . depending on variables too numerous to count.

There will be food and libations and a big old wedding cake (Woo Hoo!). This will also be an opportunity to introduce our church family to our blood family, including five grandchildren under three years of age . . . all of them above average.

No need to RSVP. We will just assume that y'all will come to celebrate with us unless you are in Tasmania or Tanzania or some other distant location.

With happiness, joy, resolve, commitment, faith, hope, and . . . love, we invite you to share in this wonderful time with us. Please come.

Jane and Bill

August Grapevine submissions will be
accepted until noon on
Thursday, July 26.



**Happy
July
Birthday!**

3 – Barbara Nelson
6 – Muriel Tang
8 – Garen Patterson
9 – George Percival
22 – Florence Porter

*If you know of a birthday that isn't listed,
please let Angela know.*

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