THE COMMUNITY CHURCH P O BOX 579
SEBASTOPOL CA 95473

RETENT SERVICE REQUESTED

Epiphany



www.uccseb.org 707.823.2484

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From the Pastor

As I look ahead to the new year, I am reminded of a "Peanuts" cartoon. Charlie Brown is talking to Pig-Pen, as always covered with "the dust of countless ages." Charlie Brown says to him, "I think everyone admires your independent spirit, Pig-Pen. You have remained dirty when everyone else was clean."

"Oh, I've been independent all right," he says. "But lately it's been difficult. Times change... we all grow a little older each day. I'll tell you frankly, Charlie Brown... I'm scared!"

I believe I have some understanding of what he was feeling. In the year ahead, things are going to be changing in a big way for me and for this church that we love. And, like Pig Pen as he contemplates change, I'm just a little scared. I enter 2016 as your pastor; I will exit 2016 as your retired former pastor. Even as I write that sentence, there is a part of me that still can't quite believe it. Who will I be if I'm not the minister of The Community Church? What will this community of faith be when I am no longer a part of it? Considering where I have been every Christmas Eve since 1978, Christmas Eve 2016 should be interesting indeed! And I could say that about so many things. I am going to miss so much about our life together. Yes, I'm just a bit scared. And yet, also curious and excited about what comes next in my life. Clearly I am moving into what for me is undiscovered country where I need to be ready to embrace new possibilities, maybe even redefine myself.

And I'm thinking that is true for our church as well. I have often preached about a God who brings hopeful new beginnings from every ending, and that could very well be the theme for this year in the church. Ending a ministry of almost 38 years is no small thing. But neither is beginning new ministries with new people and new ideas. I see it already in the work of Lydia and Rachel – new approaches to Advent, fund-raising, the use of Facebook, Christian Education and pastoral care. I'm guessing that this dynamic community of faith will scarcely miss a beat when the new Senior Minister arrives.

Yes, we will share laughter and tears between now and the end of April. How can we not? We will do a lot of looking back. How can we not? Ah, but there is so much to look forward to. Do not fear... the best is yet to be.



January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (Fireside Room) 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry	28	29	30	31 7:00 PM Grief Group	1	2
3 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry	7 PM Search Committee 7:30 PM Gospel Singers	5	6 5:15 PM Handbell Choir	7 10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Executive 10:30 AM Women's Fellowship Meeting 12:00 PM Women's Fellowship Luncheon 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	8 10:00 AM UkeStars	9 11:30 AM Second Saturday Lunch
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Middle School Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth	7:00 PM Mission & Outreach PM Search Committee 7:30 PM Gospel Singers	12	13 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Trustees & Council Budget Meeting	14 6:30 PM Music & Worship Planning 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	Women's Retreat 10:00 AM UkeStars	16 Mid Winter Camp for Middle School Youth Women's Retreat
17 Mid Winter Camp for Middle School Youth Women's Retreat 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry	18 Mid Winter Camp for Middle School Youth 7 PM Search Committee 7:30 PM Gospel Singers	19	20 5:15 PM Handbell Choir	21 Women's Fellowship Circle Meetings 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	22 10:00 AM UkeStars	23
24 126th Annual Meeting New Members Received 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Middle School Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth	7 PM Search Committee 7:30 PM Gospel Singers	26	27 5:15 PM Handbell Choir	7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	10:00 AM UkeStars	30
31 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Middle School Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth	1 7 PM Search Committee 7:30 PM Gospel Singers	2	3 5:15 PM Handbell Choir	7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	5 10:00 AM UkeStars	6

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Join Grief Counselors Harry & Susanna Simms in the Fireside Room on Thursday evenings at 7PM as they facilitate a support group dealing with the



pain of grief. Losing a loved one, whether it be a recent loss, or from years past, can be difficult to process. Please call Harry or Susanna at 829-7769 if you have any questions. The group meets each Thursday at 7PM in the Fireside Room. There is no charge and the group is open to all.

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY MORNING CLASS CONTINUES

Please join us Sundays at 9:30 in the Fireside Room for coffee and to discuss the scripture chosen for the sermon. We will begin the discussion with a brief insight into the pastor's view of the passage and pose questions for the group. We will read the passage, discuss it, and then listen to the Sunday sermon with a little more insight and hear what the pastor has to say. You don't need to be a Bible scholar, just have the desire to delve into the Bible, one scripture at a time.

Baked Goods for Sunday Coffee Hour

We need to stock up with goodies to share during our Coffee



Hour! If you have cookies, cake or some kind of treat we can serve after church, please bring it by the church wrapped for the freezer and we can save it for next Sunday. Thanks!

	Minister of Music, Brian Plaugher requests that you take a few moments and jot down the titles of your favorite hymns to help with future worship planning. Please leave this in the collection plate or in the church office.
	Your Name:
	Favorite Hymns:
INISTER	

Sermons & Scripture January 2016 Epiphany Sunday

January 3

Lydia Mulkey will preach this Communion Sunday. Communion

January 10 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

WHEN WATER IS THICKER THAN BLOOD

For Jesus, baptism is a new beginning with a new identity. But not just him!

Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

Rev. Nelson

January 17

Our Minister of Music, Rev. Brian Plaugher, will preach this Sunday.

January 24

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

BURY THE PARISH?

In Jesus' first sermon, we hear him define his mission and his ministry. Times change, but the mission and ministry remain.

Luke 4:4 - 21

Annual Meeting

Rev. Nelson

January 31 JESUS IN TROUBLE...AGAIN!

If Jesus was such a sweet and loving guy, why did people get so upset with him?

Luke 4:21-30

Rev. Nelson



FINANCIAL U P D A T E

The good news is that we finished the month of November with a positive operating balance of \$465, very good news when you consider that we entered the month with an operating deficit of \$1761. Pledge,

plate and facilities income were all strong. We finished the month a little over a thousand dollars under our projected pledge revenue for 11 months, and plate revenue continued to exceed our projections. Hopefully a strong month in December financially will put us over our projections.

During November and into December, we were also off to strong start to our stewardship campaign. As of December 16th, we had received 96 operating pledges totaling \$223,249. That put us about \$21,000 ahead of where we were at the same time in 2014. We were still waiting to hear from a number of households, but again it has been a good beginning. The

again it has been a good beginning. The Trustees and Church Council will have a combined budget meeting on January 13th. It would be immensely helpful to have received as many pledges as possible by that date.



CHURCH COUNCIL & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Church Council and the Board of Trustees will hold a joint meeting on Wednesday, January 13, at 7 pm in the Media Room to finalize the 2016 budget.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children (age 6-11) are invited to choir practice on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Choir Room. The children will practice on January 10, 17, 24 and 31.



NEW MEMBERS

New members will be received into The Community Church on Sunday, January 24th on Annual Meeting Sunday, during the worship service. If you are interested in church membership or in learning more about the Community Church and church membership, please contact Rev. Nelson or call the church office 823-2484 ext.100 to schedule a time to meet with him.

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY MORNING CLASS CONTINUES

Please join us Sundays at 9:30 in the Fireside Room for coffee and to discuss the scripture chosen for the sermon. We will begin the discussion with a brief insight into the pastor's view of the passage and pose questions for the group. We will read the passage, discuss it, and then listen to the Sunday sermon with a little more insight and hear what the pastor has to say.

You don't need to be a Bible scholar, just have the desire to delve into the Bible, one scripture at a time. We hope you will join us.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Karna Roa and family have a new address: 19355 Brusk Court, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Same phone & email: 707-328-4905

karnamarie@yahoo.com



If you have a change of any sort – phone, email, or mailing address, please keep us up to date! Call the church office at 823-2484 or office@uccseb.org. Thanks!



SOUL PSALMS GOSPEL SINGING



The Soul Psalms Gospel Singers, led by Hosanna Bauer, will meet on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:45 PM in the Fireside Room (moving to the Chapel on the 2nd Monday of each month). Want to get your gospel on? Join Hosanna on Monday evenings and see what happens!

Contact Hosanna at 707-775-8967 or moonbeam@sonic.net.

MEN'S GROUP



The Men's Group will resume meeting on Wednesday mornings starting on January 6 in Faith Chapel at 9:30 am. For more information contact Steve Beck at 829-0314.

UKULELE GROUP MEETS ON FRIDAYS



The UkeStars will continue to meet on Fridays in the Fellowship Hall for their jam sessions and weekly practice from 10-11:30 AM. The UkeStars will not meet on January 1, but you can count on the UkeStars for all the other Fridays! For information please call Vicki Reno at 827-3668 or email at vreno@comcast.net.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays in January starting January 13 in the Fireside Room at 10 AM. Group leader Joanne Matson has prepared handouts as a study guide from the WOMEN'S Bible Study

book: *Exploring Women's Relationships in the Bible*. All women are invited to join the group. Questions? Please contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

To receive the monthly newsletter online, visit http://www.uccseb.org/Newsletters.php. **Go Green** and sign up for the online newsletter. Save paper, save postage and save money! Nice!

NEW LIFE FOR YOUR OLD EYEGLASSES

Those old eyeglasses in your junk drawer are a great gift to someone in Mexico or South America through the *Lions In Sight* collection program. Just put the glasses in the collection box in the church entry and they will be processed and eventually reach an eye glass clinic to help someone improve their vision. Old hearing aids are also in demand.

Here is an opportunity to re-use and recycle at the same time as helping someone in need. If you have any questions about the eyeglass collection program, please ask Jerry Coleman.

125TH QUASQUICENTENNIAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Pick up your copy of the Pictorial Directory in the church office Monday-Thursday before 4 pm. The directory is complete with everyone's contact information and if you had your photo taken by LifeTouch, you get a free copy. You may also purchase copies for \$7 each.





Visit us at: https://www.facebook.com/uccseb and give us a thumbs up! Lydia keeps our facebook page fresh and up-to-date with something new each day. Check us out!

HELP WANTED: SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

Our Sunday morning childcare is looking for a few adults to serve as back up help – please see Fran Rasmus or Kathy Bell if you can help on occasion – or contact the church office at 823-2484.

MUSIC & WORSHIP PLANNING

The Music & Worship Planning Committee will meet at 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 14, in the Fireside Room.

Church Office

Rev. Nelson will be out of the office January 15-18 and be back in the office on January 19.

The church office will be closed on January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



month at the Habitat RESTORE at 1201 Piner Road that features a great assortment of items – you just never know what you might find for your next project!

THE GIFT OF CLEAN LAUNDRY!

Did you know our church provides a very basic service to our local neighbors in need – laundry vouchers! Your gift of \$5 provides a wash and dry for a large load of laundry at Wash Plus on Bodega Avenue. This is a much needed and much appreciated service, especially during the wet winter months.

Cash or checks marked "laundry" may be left in the collection plate or sent to the church office. What an easy and thoughtful way to help others! If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.

RECYCLE INKJET CARTRIDGES FOR HABITAT

Leave your empty inkjet cartridges in the green cardboard box in the church office and Mission & Outreach will be able to turn them into cash to help fund our pledge to Habitat for Humanity. Please bring the cartridges in a sealed plastic baggie and Mission & Outreach will take care of the rest. What could be easier!



Baptism

Callen Maglio Warner was baptized into the family of Christ during the worship service on December 13, officiated by Rev. Gene Nelson. We rejoice with parents Deidra and Chris Warner as Callen begins his walk in the Christian faith.

Memorial Service

Former Sebastopol resident and Community Church member Marcia (Myers) Safford passed away unexpectantly on November 18 at her home in Vancouver, Washington. Marcia was a member of our church choir and dedicated her time to transcribing sermons for Rev. Nelson. Her two sons, Grant and Scott were active in our church youth groups. A memorial service was held in Faith Chapel on December 19, officiated by Rev. Nelson. Our condolences to Grant and Scott and their families for the loss of their mother.

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT

Living Mindfully Through the Day with Rev. Bethany Nelson

SIGN UP NOW – ONLY 1 (full weekend) SPACE LEFT! Saturday Only options still available



Please plan on joining us for a wonderful weekend, in a relaxing setting with a fabulous facilitator!

Date: January 15-17, 2016

Location: Angela Center, Santa Rosa

Facilitator: Bethany Nelson

Theme: Living Mindfully Through the Day.

Registration forms are available in the church office, online at: http://www.uccseb.org/docs/2016.Womens.Retreat.Registration.pdf

Questions? Please contact Jane Huneke at 795-5451 or jhunkek1@att.net or Joyce Cox at 829-0750 or b-j-cox@att.net

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Search Committee continues to meet every Monday as we are now receiving applications for the Sr. Minister position. We are reviewing profiles and assimilating our interview list.



Much of what we do at this point is of a confidential nature – but we will keep you posted with pertinent news of the process.



The Church Council approved working with Goodwill Industries to provide a donation container in the

Danmar Street parking lot. There will be an attendant there, 8 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the container will be emptied each day. It will also be a source of income, providing \$300 - \$500 a month depending on volume of donations received. We will begin on a monthly trial basis and evaluate how it is going.



Name Tags?

If your name tag has come up missing, or you don't have a name tag, we'd like to get one for you! And

if you already have your name tag, please make a habit of clipping it on to help all of us remember your name!

To get a new or replacement name tag, print C L E A R L Y the first and last name you would like to see on your church name tag. Leave this request in the church office or collection plate:

First Name	 	 	
Last Name_		 	

Fact: Sunday Mornings are Volunteer Intensive Query: How Can You Share Your Time?

The Diaconate Board needs your assistance in filling sixteen positions *every* Sunday. (This does not include Sunday School.) Your gift of time will be a valuable contribution to the warm, welcoming climate of our church. Please consider this an opportunity to put your faith in action and serve the Lord and our Church.

Please complete the following form and drop it in the offering plate or in the church office. We'll add you to the calendar for the dates you have indicated.

Name:
Phone: Email
I am able to help Sundays on:
Jan 3 Jan 10 Jan 17 Jan 24 Jan 31
Feb 7 Feb 14 Feb 21 Feb 28
Mar 6 Mar 13 Mar 20
Mar 27 - Easter Sunday : 9 am 11 am
On the Sundays indicated above, I could:
be an usher
be the head usher for a Sunday
greet at the front door
be a Lay Reader
drive people to church in my car
call on shut-ins be an Acolyte (Children 7-14)
help with Communion set up help with Coffee Hour
I can also help with memorial receptions on occasion
with new members and be a New Member Shepherd

Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦

- Thank you to Kathy Matthies, Kathy Bell, Mary McMillon, Sara Margulis and especially Rachel Knuth for creating the best Advent Event ever!
- Thank you to Joanne Matson and Janet Minton for the extra office help - greatly appreciated!
- Thank you to Doris Rowe for quietly coming in each week to ready the pews for Sunday.
- Thank you to Dennis and Sharon Olson for preparing all the Christmas Eve beeswax and congregational candles.
- Thank you to Jeff Pierce and Ernie Erler for picking up and placing our poinsettias on display and thank you to all who delivered poinsettias to our church families.
- Thank you to Lizann, Darryl, and friends for presenting the wonderful family Christmas Concert to benefit our youth programs here at the church.
- Thank you to Kathy Matthies for all of our Advent and Christmas banners.
- Thank you to Kathy Bell for coordinating our Christmas Eve ushers and greeters, while still recovering from knee surgery.
- Thank you to Gail Thomas for making the arrangements for all of our beautiful Christmas greens.
- Thank you to all our acolytes, ushers, greeters and musical leaders – Keith, Brian, Karna, Sara and Darryl for making our Christmas Eve services so special.
- Thank you to the Committee for Mission & Outreach for spearheading our Christmas collections for the needy – you inspire us!
- Thank you to Sara, Lydia, Rachel and all the parents for your help with the Christmas Eve Pageant – the children were adorable and we had so many children involved – wonderful!
- Thank you to the 6th grade classes at Hillcrest Middle School for their participation in our Shoebox Ministry – they filled and wrapped 30 boxes for the Homeless Services Center!
- Thank you to Joyce, Bobbie, Joanne, Ellen and Nancy for covering the office while Karin was on vacation.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer for committees and boards at The Community Church. Please give prayerful consideration as to where you would like to serve in the year 2016.

- Adult Education Committee: Plans classes, workshops, Bible studies for adults
- Board of Christian Education: Responsible to guide and support Sunday Children's Ministries. Also works on special events, such as the Advent Event.
- Memorial & Endowment: Manages funds given as endowments and memorials; plans educational events for the congregation and community.
- Mission & Outreach: Concerned with meeting human needs in the local community, the nation and the world; presents educational programs and projects.
- Nominating Committee: Responsible for obtaining persons to serve the church on boards and committees.
- Personnel Committee: Establishes and maintains personnel policies; meets with church staff; addresses personnel issues.
- Board of Trustees: Responsible for care and custody of the property and financial affairs of the church.
- Youth Committee: Support group for the youth groups and their advisors. Responsible for finding and training youth leaders
- Diaconate: Help coordinate Sunday morning volunteers and act as church liaison during memorial services.

Please consider me for the following Board or Committee:

Name		
Phone Number		

Please complete and return to the church office. Thank you.

January Birthdays!

- 1 Barbara Walton
- 3 Louise Hallberg
 Gary Gordon
- 4 Tom Dilley
 Sheila Hamm
 Brenna Hinckley
 Jansen Look
- 5 Pat Dilley Marian McDonald
- 6 Marge Holland Diana Wilson Margaret Ahvenainen Allison Kalemba
- 7 Garrett Lamm
- 8 Hollace Archer Sharon Olson Susan Nestor
- 9 Suzie RossTed Babcock
- 11 Madeline FeltonJosh Margulis
- 12 Virginia Hughes
 Gail Thomas
 Jim McLeod
- 14 Vicki Reno
- 15 Julie SmithEdythe BriggsLeddi Piccinotti
- 16 Laurie Felciano Louise Wakefield Aidan Bragonier



- 17 Rhonda Matheny
- 19 Ernie Erler Frank Mayhew Jeremy Felton Eileen Ahvenainen 20 Ellie Wilson
- Karl Kachigan
 Dylan Arendt
 Tori McNamara
 Benjy Margulis
 Steve Bradley
 Riley Yaylian
 - 22 Cecil Crowe
 - 23 Jane Rasmus
 Joanne Matson
 - 24 Chris Wagner
 Jan MacDonald
 Amy Van Leeuwen
 - 25 Bill McMillon
 - 26 Glenda Elvy Paula Berndt
 - 28 Robert Feige Garth Watson
 - 29 Martha Rowlands Bruce Petersilge Emily Davis
 - 30 Gene Nelson Jordan Cassells Alan Murakami
 - 31 Harry Sullivan



All women of the church are invited to participate in Women's Fellowship. Our regular meetings and programs are held on the first Thursday of the month and our smaller circle meetings are on the third Thursday.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday, January 7. We will meet in Faith Chapel at 10:30 AM for a business meeting and installation of our new board members. A potluck luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall. Please come to welcome our new board members and to learn about some of our program plans for the New Year.

Circles 1 and 2 will meet at 1:00 on Thursday, January 21, in Fellowship Hall. Call Chris Jenkins, 829-2230 or Norma Watson, 827-3372 for more information.



126TH ANNUAL MEETING.

The 126th Annual Meeting of The Community Church of Sebastopol will be on Sunday, January 24th, immediately



following worship in the church sanctuary. This will be a significant meeting and your attendance is encouraged. In addition to receiving our annual committee reports, elect new officers, adopt a budget for

2016, we will also take a vote to call Lydia Mulkey as our Associate Pastor. Childcare will be available.

All committee chairs need to turn in their annual report to the church office by January 14, 2015. Please call the church office – 823-2484 – if you have any questions or would like to see copies of previous reports to help you get started.









MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach has changed their meeting night and will now meet on the 2nd Monday of the month. Their next meeting will be on Monday, January 11 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room.

Christmas Ministries

The Sock & Underwear Tree collected 240 items that were delivered to those in need at Crossing Jordan, a shelter for women and children; 114 shoeboxes, filled with goodies for homeless men, were delivered to the Homeless Services Center in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support providing for our neighbors in need.

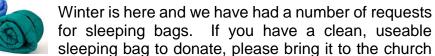
SATURDAY TABLE

On the second Saturday of each month, Mission & Outreach serves lunch in Fellowship Hall to our local homeless population. In addition to offering a hot meal, we also offer showers, laundry vouchers and bus passes. If you would like to contribute to this effort, there are several ways to help:

- Cash and check can be made out to the Community Church and designated for the homeless lunch
- Soaps, shampoos and conditioner in sample or motel sizes
- Thick tube socks, sweat shirts, jackets, etc.
- Men's walking/athletic shoes or boots
- Tarps, rain ponchos, back packs
- Disposable razors and shaving cream
- ** Packaged toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Hand sanitizer, Chapstick, insect repellent and sun screen

Clothing items to do not have to be new, but they must be usable and clean. Look for the collection bin in the church entry to drop off your donations. Monetary donations should be left in the church office. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249or the church office at 823-2484.





office and we will see that it gets put to good use. Thank you!

Sr. High School PF Grades 9-12

Middle School PF Grades 6-8

January 2016!!



January 10 – Youth Lounge Back to Youth Group **Epiphany Party**

Cake • Crafts • Games 4 PM Middle School Hang Out **★** 4:30 -6 PM Meeting

6 PM High School Hang Out ★ 6:30 -8 PM Meeting

January 16-18 Mid-Winter Camp for Middle School Youth at Sempervirens, Boulder Creek. Register online:

https://ncncucc.org/mid-winter-camp-2016-youth-regstration/ And be sure to let Lydia know you plan to attend so we save room in the van for you!

January 17 – No Youth Group

January 24 - Youth Lounge **Messy Worship Night!!**

Wear something that can get messy - real messy - as we enjoy some messy prayer stations.

4 -4:30 PM Middle School Hang Out * 4:30 -6 PM Meeting 6 PM High School Hang Out * 6:30 -8 PM Meeting

> January 31 - Youth Lounge Labyrinth Night

Make a labyrinth - walk a labyrinth

4 PM Middle School Hang Out * 4:30 -6 PM Meeting 6 PM High School Hang Out * 6:30 -8 PM Meeting

Sr. High Youth - make plans for Feb Camp coming up soon, February 13-15, 2016. Watch for registration info.