

READER'S CIRCLE 2012
COMMUNITY CHURCH BOOK GROUP
KENYA PIONEERS

The Community Church Book Group will meet in the Fireside Room, on Monday afternoons from 2-4 and evenings from 7-8:30 in February, March and April, 2012. The Book Group is open to all, everyone is welcome. You may contact Rosemary Manchester at 823-3477 or r_manchester@comcast.net with any questions.

This series is designed to give you two accounts by European women of life in colonial Africa early in the last century, followed by stories (fiction) about contemporary life in Southern Africa. You will find the books in the public library, in bookstores new and used, and on line.

February 6: *OUT OF AFRICA* by Isak Dinesen

Monday, February 6 ☞ 2 - 4 pm in the Fireside Room and again from 7-8:30 PM in the Fireside Room.

A classic memoir of her life in early 20th century colonial Africa, published 1937. Dinesen, *aka* Baroness Karen Blixen, managed a coffee plantation in colonial Kenya, 1914 – 1931. You may have seen the movie.

Some of you have asked for more suggested readings. Here are other books by or about Isak Dinesen:

**Shadows on the Grass*, by Isak Dinesen, pub 1961

Isak Dinesen, Letters from Africa, pub 1981

**Isak Dinesen, the Life of a Story Teller*, by Judith Thurman, pub 1982 * indicates books readily available in the public library, bookstores and on line

March 5: *WEST WITH THE NIGHT* by Beryl Markham

A fine memoir of a pioneer aviatrix in East Africa in the early 20th century. Look for more information on this book in the February newsletter.

April 2: *THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY* by Alexander McCall Smith

Precious Ramotswa opens a detective agency in Gabarone, Botswana. This is the first of a series of books about the *No. 1 Detective Agency*, stories set in present-day Africa.

Sermons & Scripture

January 2012

January 1

The Rev. Brian Plaughter will preach. **Communion Sunday**

January 8 **THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**
I GOT A NAME

Christening...named in Christ. In a world of numbers, statistics and instant communication, what does it mean to have a name?

Mark 1: 4-11

Rev. Nelson

Reaffirmation of Baptism

January 15 **BODY WISDOM**

The Apostle Paul urges the Corinthians to “shun fornication” and focus on Christ. Fornication may not be a word we use much, if at all, but what might it mean to response our body – and all bodies – as “temples of the Holy Spirit”?

I Corinthians 6: 12 – 20

Rev. Nelson

January 22

Rev. Kristen DelMonte will preach.

January 29 **AS ONE WITH AUTHORITY**

People who encounter and hear Jesus speak of him as one with authority. Authority – not always a popular word. This text is an invitation to consider what – or who – has authority in our lives.

Mark 1: 21-28

Rev. Nelson

**Annual Meeting &
All-Church Luncheon following worship**

Between Women Between Women

Intergenerational Gathering
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012

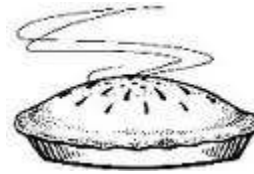
Continental Breakfast 8:40 AM Discussion 9-11 AM

We invite all women to join us on the **Second Saturday each month** in the Fireside Room for Between Women. Each meeting stands independently, our group is fluid, so whether you can attend every month or just occasionally, you are always welcomed by an intergenerational group of gals. We discuss, we share, we listen, we talk, we eat and we have FUN! Please mark your calendars and reserve the second Saturday of the month for ***Between Women***.

Are you new to the Community Church? Would you like to know more about Between Women? Or perhaps you have a friend you would like to bring to Between Women? ALL women are welcome! For more information, please contact Virginia Hughes at 823-1881 or Marie Cotton at 823-3375.

COPPERFIELD'S BOOKS & THE COMMUNITY CHURCH PRESENT
JANUARY 21 AT 7 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Living In The Light, Follow Your Inner Guidance
to Create a New Life and a New World
WITH **SHAKTI GAWAIN**

For over thirty years Shakti Gawain has given people clear and gentle guidance to create a new way of life — one in which we listen to our intuition and rely on it as a guiding force. In this inspiring evening in the sanctuary of the Community Church, Shakti will discuss the transformative power of bringing awareness to every part of ourselves, including our shadow side. She'll share simple yet powerful exercises for putting her timeless teachings and techniques to practical use in our daily lives. This event is free and open to everyone.



**2012 IS OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BAKING PIES!!**

Forty years of making pies is monumental and the Apple Pie Committee would like celebrate with a commemorative Community Church of Sebastopol

Apple Cookbook!

The committee would like to collect recipes from members and friends of the Community Church with your favorite apple recipes. Do you have a favorite recipe for Apple Butter? or an award winning Apple Cake recipe? What about your grandmother's applesauce recipe? We would also like to collect pictures of years past and present making pies to put in the cookbook. Bring your recipes and pictures to the church office or email your recipes to Kathy Matthies at kathleenmatthies@yahoo.com. Add your name and phone number to your pictures and recipes so we can return your pictures safely and give you credit for your wonderful apple recipe. We plan on having the cookbooks ready for next year's Gravenstein Apple Fair – all proceeds will benefit our Camp Scholarship program.

Minister of Music, Brian Plaucher 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: _____

- ❖ Thank you to Dennis and Sharon Olson for preparing all the Christmas Eve beeswax candles.
- ❖ And to Dennis and Sharon's grandchildren for preparing all the congregational candles for use on Christmas Eve.
- ❖ Thank you to Jeff and Paula 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, Craig, Sonya, Chris and Elise for presenting the wonderful family Christmas Concert to benefit the Sr. High Mission Trip – what a fun evening!
- ❖ Thank you to Kathy Matthies and Susan Piernan and David Benefiel for all of our Advent and Christmas banners.
- ❖ Thank you to Kathy Bell for coordinating all our usher teams and acolytes for our three Christmas Eve services.
- ❖ Thank you to all our acolytes, ushers, greeters and musicians 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 Barbara Walton, Bobbie Johanson and Julie Seth-Morris for the office help. Greatly appreciated!
- ❖ Thank you to new members Mary & Jerry Coleman for hosting the carolers' pizza party at their home in Sebastopol



A Special Thank You

Thank you to such a wonderful church community for all your prayers, cards and heart-felt concern for my sister while she was ill and following her death in November. Judy was a big part of my life and your concern for her, as well as for myself and my family was very touching.

Karin Seder and family

Passages

Births

Announcing the birth of Victoria Anne Ingebarg Nelson on December 6, 2011 to parents Annie Nestor and Mark Nelson. Victoria weighed 8 lbs 7 oz was welcomed home by big brother Cassius. Susan Nestor is the proud Grandmother.

Amelia Harper Cassells was born on December 11, 2011 in Santa Rosa to Brandan and Breanne Cassells. Amelia weighed 8 lbs 2 oz and was welcomed home by big brother Jordan. Proud Grandparents are Larry and Robin Robert and Great Grandmother Patty Raney. Amelia carries the maiden name of her late Great Grandmother Novella Harper Robert.

Blessings and congratulations to all!

Deaths

Tom Whitson passed away on December 27, 2011. Tom was diagnosed with a brain tumor and worked to overcome multiple set backs following his surgery many months ago. Tom and his wife Barbara joined The Community Church in 2003. Tom served as a Trustee and lent his expertise to our church property committee for many years. No services are planned at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and all of Tom's family.

Welcome New Members

Stuart & Laurie Mitchell, daughter Charlotte

Todd Edwards &

Jerry & Mary Coleman

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Preschool-Second grade classes use the **Godly Play** curriculum. This is a wonderful curriculum that invites children to become aware of the Holy in our daily lives through creative story-telling of the Bible stories. Our children will be grouped together in three classes; Preschool & Kindergarteners, First & Second graders, Third, Fourth & Fifth graders. Each class will have teachers and helpers. Below is the January schedule:

Preschool & Kindergarten (Room #1)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
January 8	Epiphany	Jenna Evans
January 15	Parable of the Good Samaritan	Jenna Evans
January 22	Parable of the Good Sheperd	Jenna Evans
January 29	Parable of the Sower	Debbie McCallum

First & Second Grade (Choir Room)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
January 8	Epiphany	Laura Jame
January 15	Parable of the Good Samaritan	Laura Jame
January 22	Parable of the Good Sheperd	Laura Jame
January 29	Parable of the Sower	Laura Steyn

3rd-5th Grade: Coming just for you in January!

Special guest teacher Beth Larssen will take us on a faith journey like no other. We will start in the beginning and end with our very special church. This is going to be so great that you will not want to miss it! See you on Sunday!

TRUSTEES & CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

In January, the Trustees will meet a week early – January 11th – in order to review the proposed church budget for 2012. The following week, January 18th, there will be a joint Trustees/Council meeting to vote on the budget and send it to the Annual Meeting on January 29th. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 PM and will meet in Room #4.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Again this year, the Adult Education Committee is planning an all church retreat at Camp Cazadero. This year's retreat will be February 3rd – 5th. We will gather at Caz on Friday for dinner and depart after breakfast and worship on Sunday. This is not a planning or task-oriented retreat – it is more a time to step away from tasks and join in a time of quiet reflection and sharing in a beautiful location.

This year's leader will once again be the Rev. Bethany Nelson. Bethany, a graduate of Pacific School of Religion, was ordained in The Community Church and now serves as an associate pastor at Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Tiburon. Bethany will lead us through the weekend with the theme: "Genesis and the Goodness of Creation." In her words, "As we rest and play in the beautiful setting of Camp Cazadero, we'll take some time to consider familiar – and not so familiar – stories about creation from the Book of Genesis, reflecting on our own relationship to creation and to our Creator God. We'll focus on various ways to celebrate the goodness of creation and on God's role of Creator in our lives."

The cost of the retreat will be \$90 per person and will include our facilitator, two nights lodging and five delicious meals. If you have not yet heard, beginning on January 1, John and Cynthia Diggs return to Caz as our camp managers. Their work in the kitchen gives new meaning to the concept of "camp" food.

Please contact the church office or fill out the registration form below to sign up for what promises to be a refreshing and growing weekend. Space is limited to just 25 adults.

Sign me (us) up for the All-Church Retreat. February 3-5 at Caz:

Name (s) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Enclose a check for \$90 per person, made out to The Community Church and mail to P.O. Box 579, Sebastopol, CA 95473. Call the office at 823-2484 with questions or office@uccseb.org.

January Birthdays!



- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Barbara Walton | 19 | Ernie Erler |
| 2 | Liz Robinson | | Frank Mayhew |
| 3 | Louise Hallberg | | Jeremy Felton |
| | Gary Gordon | | Eileen Ahvenainen |
| 4 | Tom Dilley | 20 | Ellie Wilson |
| | Sheila Hamm | | Karl Kachigan |
| | Brenna Hinckley | | Dylan Arendt |
| | Jansen Look | 21 | Stella Urton |
| 5 | Pat Dilley | | Steve Bradley |
| 6 | Marge Holland | | Riley Yaylian |
| | Diana Wilson | 22 | Cecil Crowe |
| | Margaret Ahvenainen | 23 | Glenda Dougherty |
| | Jesse Erdman | | Jane Rasmus |
| | Allison Kalemba | | Joanne Matson |
| | Hollace Archer | 24 | Chris Wagner |
| | Sharon Olson | | Jan MacDonald |
| | Susan Nestor | | Amy Van Leeuwen |
| 9 | Suzie Ross | 25 | Bill McMillon |
| | Ted Babcock | 26 | Mary Cunha |
| 11 | Madeline Felton | | Glenda Elvy |
| 12 | Virginia Hughes | | Paula Berndt |
| | Gail Thomas | 28 | Robert Feige |
| | Jim McLeod | | Garth Watson |
| | Kevin Kirsch | 29 | Martha Rowlands |
| 14 | Vicki Reno | | Bruce Petersilge |
| 15 | Julie Smith | | Joe Petersen |
| | Edythe Briggs | | Emily Davis |
| | Leddi Piccinotti | | Frank Jilka |
| 16 | Laurie Felciano | 30 | Gene Nelson |
| | Louise Wakefield | | Jordan Cassells |
| | Aidan Bragonier | | Alan Murakami |
| 17 | Rhonda Matheny | 31 | Harry Sullivan |
| | Tara Martinelli | | |



WELCOME KATHERINE COPENHAVER!
Katherine will be working with Denelle, Bookkeeper and Receiving Treasurer during the month of January to learn the job before Denelle leaves for parts unknown. Katherine comes to us with a wealth of bookkeeping and administrative skills and will also work one day a week in the church office, that part starting in February. Stop by and say hello and welcome Katherine to the Community Church staff.

APRIL 1 – PASTA LUNCH!

The Youth Pasta Lunch & Silent Auction is set for April 1st. Mark your calendars now and plan to join our youth for this very tasty fund raiser to benefit the Sr. High Youth 2012 Mission Trip.

Mark this on your calendar to make sure you plan for our
Family Camp! 2012 Dates:
August 31 & September 1-2 at Camp Caz

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief Counselors Harry & Susanna Simms are available to meet with you in the Fireside Room on Thursday evenings at 7PM as they facilitate a support group dealing with the pain of grief.

Please call Harry or Susanna at 829-7769 to make an appointment or if you have any questions.



Recycle Empty Ink Jet Cartridges

Leave your empty inkjet cartridges in the 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! Hundreds of dollars have been generated from your empty cartridges for this project. For a list of accepted empty cartridges, please see the list in the church office or call Karin in the office at 823-2484.

Lenten PERSONAL GROWTH CLASS

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 15 – MARCH 21

IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
with Gayle Madison

Theme: We will get to know our inner parts that protect and manage our lives, sometimes obscuring the flourishing of our Souls. (and whatever else comes up for you).

What: An Internal Family Systems (IFS) Personal Growth Group. To learn more about IFS check out the website at www.selfleadership.org.

When: Every Wednesday evening from 5-7PM. starting February 15 through March 21.

Where: Fireside Room at Community Church of Sebastopol.

Who: It is a group open to members and friends of the Community Church and the wider community.

Leader: Rev. Gayle Madison, UCC, is a Certified Pastoral Counselor and a Certified Internal Family Systems Therapist.

Fee: The fee is \$240 for 6 sessions payable all at once or weekly (\$40). (If the fee is a barrier to entry please email me).

Materials: Self Therapy: A Step-by-Step Guide to Creating Inner Wholeness Using IFS, A New, Cutting Edge Therapy by Jay Earley \$17.95. Optional: you may order it from Amazon.

Expectations: Everyone will learn to speak for their parts within the group setting and participate in one Self discovery session with Gayle.

Content: We will begin with a meditation. We will check-in speaking for our parts. Each week we will take turns having an opportunity to do individual work with our parts having Gayle guide us on a journey of self discovery.

Questions? Please contact Gayle at (415) 519-5931 or by email: gayleamadison@comcast.net.

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 29th, immediately following worship, we will hold our 122nd Annual Meeting in Memorial Hall. In addition to receiving our annual committee reports we will also adopt a new budget, elect officers for 2012 and receive the latest news on the building project. We will share a meal together – BBQ chicken and vegetarian pesto pasta, salad and bread. Please plan to join us on January 29 – childcare will be available.

All committee chairs need to turn in their annual report to the church office by January 17, 2012. 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.



Women's Bible Study The Women's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 11, at 10 AM in the Fireside Room with an introduction to the Gospel of John. The winter study will focus on reading and discussion of these texts and related books. The group will meet from 10-11:15 AM on January 11, 18 and 25. For any questions, please contact Muriel Weaver or the church office: office@uccseb.org.

Men's Bible Study will meet on Thursdays at 7:30 AM in the Fireside Room. We will conclude our study on the book by Marcus Borg, *Speaking Christian: How Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can Be Restored*. The group will meet on January 5, 12, 19, and 26 with Rev. Nelson leading the group. Please join us for lively discussion and conversation.



CIRCLE SERVICE

AN ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE
JANUARY 21 4-6PM FIRESIDE ROOM

Gather with us for Circle Service, a family-friendly casual worship where the focus is on community and conversation. This month join us for a discussion on family values and respect for others.

We will begin at 4 pm in the Fireside Room as we gather together for a community service project, discussion and activities for kids.

This is a great opportunity to meet other families of the church and we hope you will join us. Meet us in the Fireside Room to start and then we conclude in Fellowship Hall with our potluck dinner. For more information please contact Kristen DelMonte at 823-2484 ext. 14.

PLEDGE UPDATE

This year as of 12/29/11

Total Households Pledging	106
Operating Fund Pledges	\$235,724

Last year as of 12/29/10

Total Households Pledging	121
Operating Fund Pledges	\$251,255

Pledge cards are available on the table in the Narthex. Please give prayerful thought to your financial support of the church for the coming year and send in your pledge card today!



Women's Fellowship

January 19

The regular meeting of all Women's Fellowship will be held at noon in Fellowship Hall with two special events – installation of officers for 2012 and a baby shower for Rev. Kristen DelMonte! New Circle groups for 2012 will also be announced at this meeting. A luncheon will follow, hosted by Circle. Please contact your Circle Leaders with any questions.



Thanks to YOU for your contributions to our Sock & Underwear Tree and the Shoe Box Ministry – we gathered 159 items off the tree (hats, socks, gloves, scarves, underwear) and delivered 84 Shoe Boxes filled with life's little necessities to give to both The Living Room and the Homeless Services Center. Your generosity has helped make Christmas brighter for those struggling this winter.

Mission & Outreach meets on the third Monday of the month, meeting next on January 16 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room.

FEEDING OUR LOCAL HOMELESS

On the second Saturday of each month, Mission & Outreach will serve lunch in Memorial Hall to our local homeless population. In addition to offering a hot meal, we also offer showers. 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
- ❖ Bring towels and washcloths to the church
- ❖ Bring travel/sample size toiletry items to the church
- ❖ Bring new or gently used socks

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 Gary Bachelor or the church office at 823-2484.

Sr. High Youth News January 2012

Senior High School PF Grades 9-12



January 1 No Meeting

January 8 6:30-8:00 PM Fireside Room
Dinner and Games Night! Let's get together!
It's been awhile since we have seen each other, let's re-group and have some fun!

January 15 6:30-8 PM Fireside Room

Centering our Lives...what are your hopes and dreams for the New Year? How can we stay focused and re-center our lives for this upcoming year?

January 20 (Friday) Warriors Game!
Information will be in the mail.



January 22 6:30-8 PM Fireside Room

Homeless dinner preparation meeting. Come and help us plan our meal for the following Saturday.

January 28 (Saturday)

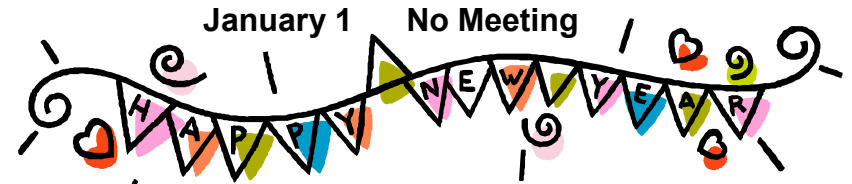
Volunteer at the Guerneville Homeless Shelter. We will start at the church and make dinner to take to the shelter.
Meeting time to be announced.

January 29 – No Meeting

Coming in February: February 18-20 FEBCAMP! Register online at www.ncncucc.org. Early bird cost is: \$180.00
Regular registration is: \$190.00. We will be carpooling to the event and we will need parent drivers!

Jr. High Youth News January 2012

Jr. High PF Grades 6th-8th



January 1 No Meeting

January 8 4:30-6:00 PM Fireside Room

Let's get together! It's been awhile since we have seen each other, let's re-group and have some fun!

January 15 4:30-6:00 PM Fireside Room

Centering our Lives...what are your hopes and dreams for the New Year? How can we stay focused and re-center our lives for this upcoming year

January 22 4:30-6 PM Fireside Room

Preparing for the Souper Bowl of Caring—what is it and why are we doing it?



January 27 (Friday) Warriors Game!
Watch for information coming your way.

January 29 No Meeting



Coming in February:

February 5: Souper Bowl of Caring after church on Sunday

February 12: Volunteering at the Catholic Worker from 2:30-5 on Sunday