

**THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
P O BOX 579
SEBASTOPOL CA 95473**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



www.uccseb.org

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September
2012



From Our Pastor

I wonder if the familiar phrase, “won the battle but lost the war,” could be applied to the “culture wars” of the late 20th century? The religious right, led by the likes of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, won many battles. They elected school board members and many other local officials. They successfully campaigned for congressional candidates. Science textbooks were challenged and changed, anti-abortion laws tightened, abstinence replaced education about contraception and a number of anti-gay marriage laws were passed. Such political power even gave leaders of the religious right unprecedented access to the White House. Yes, many battles were fought and won.

But it now appears that a heavy price was paid in the midst of those often bitter and divisive battles. An entire generation of young adults has been turned off by religion and the church. A number of surveys reveal that twenty and thirty-somethings increasingly view Christianity and the church as intolerant, judgmental, and hypocritical. These young people, rather than seeing the church as a place of love and acceptance, see it as divisive and mean-spirited, and uninterested in accepting diversity.

And all churches, including The Community Church of Sebastopol, are lumped together in this deepening dissatisfaction with church and Christianity. So the question facing us is...do we have a story to tell, a story of love and acceptance that sets us apart? Can we model an open and tolerant faith of extravagant welcome? Do we have something positive to offer our Sebastopol community? I believe we do. But how are people – individuals and families – going to know that?

As we “launch” into a new church program year, I believe that sharing our story, sharing who we are, will be a critical task facing us. Our new building has given us renewed visibility in our community. How do we build on that? People in this community and county are fed up with the divisive battles of the past. They long for a place, a space, where they can find a new, different and deeper connection with God and each other. Let us resolve to be that kind of place and let us think together about how we can let friends, neighbors and strangers know that they are welcome here!

Gene



www.UCCSEB.ORG

Have you seen our new, improved and very classy website?? The address remains the same, but everything else about the website has changed. Changes will continue with the website, including the addition of sermons on audio and the ability to accept donations online

and more!

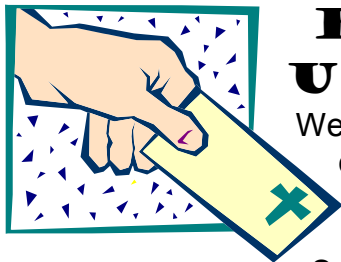
Right now you can opt to receive the newsletter online. Go to 'News & Events' and select 'Newsletters.' Right there you have the opportunity to read the newsletter online and **GO GREEN** and sign up for the online newsletter. Save paper, save postage and save money!

The new website includes lots of photos and we want more! Photos must be sharp and of high resolution. Call the office or send an email to office@uccseb.org for instructions on the best way to submit your photos.

Do you have ideas or comments about our website – we'd love to hear from you. You can respond via the website on our 'Contacts' page or on the phone at 823-2484 or in person.

The website has been a work in progress for a long while – it's finally here and we are very excited. Hope you are too!

Webmasters John Henel and Karin Seder



FINANCIAL UPDATE

We finished the month of July with an operating deficit of \$7,720, which actually represents a comeback from the deficits of a few months ago.

Seven month pledge and plate income were strong...ahead of projections, but use of facilities and Memorial Hall income lagged behind. We are actually under our projected operating expense totals for the year. So if our income remains strong, we will hopefully finish the year on a strong financial note.

September 2012 Sermons & Scripture

During the month of September, Rev. Nelson will be preaching on themes suggested by members of the congregation.

September 2 **FAITH AND/OR BELIEF**

What does it mean to have faith? And is faith related to what we believe? It could be that having faith in God is quite different from having beliefs about God.

Matthew 17: 14-21; John 3:16 Communion Rev. Nelson

September 9 LAUNCH SUNDAY

THE BELOVED

Just what does it mean to be a Christian, a follower of the way of Jesus? Does it mean being arrogant, narrow-minded and intolerant of those who disagree with us? Or does it mean simply, humbly accepting that, in spite of all our shortcomings and failures, we are accepted?

Romans 12 Rev. Nelson

Music groups return to worship, church school program begins, bubbles are launched and we all gather for a tail gate party barbeque following worship.

September 16 **PRAYER: IS ANYBODY LISTENING?**

Clearly Jesus was a man of prayer; Paul was a man of prayer. Every Sunday we gather and share prayer concerns and pray together. But does it make any difference?

Luke 18: 1-8 Rev. Nelson

September 23 **SALVATION AND JUDGMENT**

Now there are a couple of heavy theological words – words that many of us would just as soon distance ourselves from? What might they mean for us today?

Luke 19: 1-10; Romans 8: 19-22 Rev. Nelson

September 30 **WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?**

Just who is this Jesus we are called to follow? What makes him the One and does our path of faith really need him?

Philippians 2: 1-12 Rev. Nelson

APPLE PIES EVENT REPORT

WE DID IT!



Another year, and another round of Apple Pies – this year and we made 1,685 Gravenstein apple pies to sell at both the Fair and from Memorial Hall. As soon as we have all the bills paid, we will have a net total to report and add to our camp scholarship fund. Our gross receipts are lower than in previous years, as was the case for all of the vendors at this year's fair, coming in around \$15,000. Thank you to all who helped and came back to help again after our pleas for more workers! **Great Job!**

If you have any feedback for our committee or if you have ideas, you can write a note and put it in the Apple Pie mailbox in the church office. There is always room for improvement. And if you would like to join the Apple Pie Committee (no meetings!) and have a leadership role next year email Kathy at kbell@santarosa.edu. This year we added shopping bags with our church logo for sale at the fair booth and they were a big hit.

Thanks again to our Pie Committee: Kathy Bell & Kathy Matthies – Co-Chair; Diane Krautner - Supply Manager; Lloyd Lerum - the Apple Guy; Ellen Stillman & Paula Berndt - Kitchen Supervisors; Harry Sullivan – Fair Booth Coordinator; Beth Larssen, Lori Babcock & Josephine Weigel - Fellowship Hall Supervisors; Bobby Johanson & Tami Hinckley - Memorial Hall Supervisors; Andy DelMonte - Head Baker. Thanks to all our peelers and pie makers, bakers and drivers – it takes everyone's help to make this event the success it is. Special thanks to Keith Blackstone for his help before, during and after this big event.

ADULT EDUCATION & COPPERFIELD'S SPEAKER SERIES

Coming this Fall, three exciting authors to speak at The Community Church! Exact dates have not yet been confirmed, but we have on the schedule: Jacob Needleman, Robert Green and Steven Johnson for October and November.

The speakers will present in the Sanctuary at 7 PM – dates to be confirmed. Watch for more information soon.

MUSIC



In September at church, we resume many of the regular activities that have had a summer hiatus. Music is no exception. After several summer months of varied and wonderful soloists and ensembles, we will return to rehearsals for our regular groups. Even if you have not enjoyed being part of one of these groups in the past, you are invited to consider joining one of them now.

MINISTRY

The Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:15, beginning August 30. An adult voice and a desire to sing are all that is needed to join. Stop by rehearsal on Thursday evenings or call Chancel Choir Director Brian Plaugher at 869-9120 or send an email to: brian.plaugher@gmail.com.



The Bell Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7 PM and usually performs in worship once a month. New ringers are always welcome. Karna can be reached at karnamarie@yahoo.com.

Our youngest group, the Children's Choir, is for kids ages 5 to 10. They rehearse most Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Choir Room. Co-Director Andy DelMonte and Jan Kahdeman can answer any questions you may have.

Vicki Reno is also hosting a Ukulele Group that meets in her home on regularly scheduled dates – contact Vicki VReno@comcast.net.

I am always interested in trying new expressions of music and changes to our musical mix are always possible. Please give me a call if you have any questions 869-9120 or send an email to: brian.plaugher@gmail.com.

Brian Plaugher, Minister of Music





**Launch Sunday Kick Off Party &
Kids Carnival**
SEPTEMBER 9

Launch Sunday

September 9th will be celebrated as our annual

LAUNCH SUNDAY in The Community Church, the day we “launch” our new program year. Choirs will return to worship, the fall church school program will begin and following worship we will celebrate with the traditional “launching” of bubbles.

This year, Launch Sunday is also the first Sunday of the NFL season. Since the first NFL Sunday will include a game between the San Francisco Forty-Niners and the Green Bay Packers – a game of interest to a few people in our church – we are going to have a TAILGATE PARTY after church. Barbeques will be set up in the parking lot by Memorial Hall, salad and drinks will be available, and there is even a CHILI COOK-OFF! We are asking for 5 different people to make a large crock pot of chili as a Fundraiser for the Sr. High Youth. You get to taste the chili and vote for your favorite by casting your dollars into their collection bucket.

The Jr. High Youth will present carnival games for the younger kids, all as a fundraiser for the Junior High Youth Group building furnishings.

For this gala event, you are asked to bring a dessert to share and to wear the colors of your favorite team. Join us for this day of celebration. This would also be a great Sunday to invite a friend or friends to worship.

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 a 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!



Women's Fellowship

September 20

The Executive Board meets at 10 AM in the Women's Fellowship Office and the general meeting will convene at 10:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Circle 2 Leader Elyse Mengle informs us that the program for the September 20 meeting will feature Diana Wilson, whose husband Edwin is the current president of the local Sebastopol Rotary Club, and attended the International Convention of Rotary Clubs in Bangkok, Thailand in June. We are going to be so fortunate to be the beneficiaries to hear of this extraordinary and intriguing experience from Diana. We hope everyone has plans to attend. A salad luncheon will follow at noon in Fellowship Hall hosted by Circle 2

September 27

The meeting of Circle 2 will be hosted by Elyse Mengle, and Circle 1 members are fortunate to be hosted by the lovely sisters Beverly and Natalie. Sounds like fun all around!

LET'S STAND UP FOR PEACE!

International Day of Peace

Friday, September 21

5:00-5:30 pm

Mission & Outreach invites you to Stand Up for Peace on the church lawn at Hwy 116. Signs, flags and banners will be available, or you may bring your own.



**OCTOBER 7 – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
BODY AND BLOOD?**

Early Christians were accused by some of cannibalism – eating a body and drinking blood. Just what are we doing when we gather around the communion table?

I CORINTHIANS 11: 23-26

COMMUNION

REV. NELSON

SEPTEMBER



- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Mary McMillon | | |
| | Scott Russell | | |
| | Adam Halleck | 17 | Calla Burton |
| 4 | Greg Davis | | Katy Nestor |
| 5 | Bill Godwin | | Christian Wilson |
| | Lorin McClendon | 18 | Marjorie Crump Shears |
| | Kris Stoll | | Heidi Zimmer |
| 6 | Brittany Robert | 19 | Reena Burton |
| 7 | Jane Huneke | 20 | Barbara Buckley |
| | Karna Dawson | | Max Hidalgo |
| 8 | Walt Taddeucci | 21 | Tyler Kalemba |
| | Catherine Reznik | | Quinn Halleck |
| 9 | Renee Murakami | 22 | Adrienne Sopinski |
| 10 | Gregg Yaylian | | Gregory Nichols |
| | Bill Haigwood | 23 | Carleen Madsen |
| | Michelle Bowman | | Mark Murakami |
| 11 | Mary Felton | 25 | Celeste Albin |
| 13 | Doug Reid | | Zoe Bachelor |
| | Kathy Bell | | Jim Furber Dobson |
| | Brandon Buckley-Cutting | | Andy Junge |
| 14 | Fran Rasmus | 26 | Alicia Petersen |
| | Troy Holland | | Drew Thomas |
| 15 | Jean Enos | 27 | Clifford Bright |
| | Bob Thomas | 29 | Edwin Wilson |
| 16 | Diana Taddeucci | | Jonah Knuth |
| | Josh Hovden | 30 | Carmen Yeager |



Between Women Between Women

Intergenerational Gathering
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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 you calendars and reserve the second Saturday of the month for ***Between Women***. Topics of discussion and details about each meeting will be posted soon

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 or Marie Cotton.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012

Between Women Between Women

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays in September at 10 AM to 11:15 AM in the Fireside Room beginning September 12. For any questions, contact the group facilitator Joanne Matson.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study will resume on Thursday, September 20, at 7:30 AM in the Fireside Room. All men of the church are invited to attend.

BUILDING UPDATE

"Like" us on FaceBook and keep up with the latest building progress and photos with Gene and Kristen! Check out: www.facebook.com/uccseb

Any questions you might have surrounding the new building project should be directed to Chris Dawson or Harry Polley as they will be in contact with Frank Hamilton, the on-site project manager for the contractor and our church liaison, John Henel.

We have a construction time-line posted in the church office and at this point we are about half-way through the building project. Driving by the church it is hard to miss the new building taking shape! You can also follow our progress on FaceBook or our church website: www.uccseb.org.

NEW MEMBER MEETING SEPTEMBER 30

New members will be received into The Community Church on Sunday, October 14th during the worship service. On Sunday, September 30th, there will be an information/orientation meeting following worship for all those interested in finding out more about the Community Church and church membership. The meeting will be in the Fireside Room. Call the church office if you plan to attend at 823-2484 and also let us know if you need childcare. If you are unable attend the meeting on September 30 and are interested in church membership, or if you have any questions, please see Gene or Kristen or call the church office at 823-2484 to make other arrangements.

International Crafts Sale

October 7 in the Courtyard

Mission & Outreach will present our annual International Craft Sale in the courtyard after church on Sunday, October 7. Handcraft items from Third World artisans, distributed by Ten Thousand Villages, will be available for you to purchase. Ten Thousand Villages is an organization of the Mennonite Central Committee that pays artisans a fair market value for their wears that are sold by churches and other non-profit agencies. As a mission project, our Mission & Outreach Committee will sell the craft items and return all of the proceeds to Ten Thousand Villages. Please join us after church on October 7 to shop for these wonderful items for family friends, and yourself!



Name Tags?



Do you have your name tag? Do you wear your name tag? Do you need a name tag? 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, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate, leave it in the church office. Please print C L E A R L Y the first and last name you would like printed on your church name tag:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

READER'S CIRCLE COMMUNITY CHURCH BOOK GROUP

The Community Church Reader's Circle will meet again in this fall, on Monday afternoon and evenings on September 10, October 8 and November 12. The Book Group is open to all, everyone is welcome. You may contact Rosemary Manchester (r_manchester@comcast.net) or 707 823 3477 with any questions. Get a head start on your reading – here's the lineup for the fall:

- ◆ September 10: ***Crossing to Safety*** by Wallace Stegner
- ◆ October 8: ***My Antonia*** by Willa Cather
- ◆ November: 12 ***Hannah Coulter*** by Wendell Berry

The group meets in the Fireside Room from 2-4 pm and then for your convenience, the meeting is repeated at 7 pm, also in the Fireside Room.

These novels will pull you into the world of these three outstanding humanitarian writers, and I hope you will want to read more of their work.

The books are readily available in the Public Library, in bookstores new and used, and on line. Readers Circle is open to everyone, you don't need to be a member of Community Church - invite your friends to join the Circle. Meeting dates will be announced next month. For more information, contact Rosemary Manchester at R_manchester@comcast.net.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Join Grief Counselors Harry & Susanna Simms in the Fireside Room on Thursday evenings at 7 PM 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 contact Harry or Susanna at 829-7769 if you have any questions. The group meets Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. There is no charge and the group is open to all.



Passages

John Pruden, a member of The Community Church for more than 20 years, died on June 28. A private graveside service was held on July 3. Shirley Pruden, John's widow, has moved to Carlsbad, California to be closer to their daughter, who reports she is doing well.

MARRIAGE

Revs. Elena Larssen and Mark Pettis were married on August 4, 2012 at The Community Church of Sebastopol, officiated by Rev. Kent Gilbert and Rev. DaVita McCallister. Elena, who grew up in this church and was ordained in this church, is the daughter of proud parents Tom and Beth Larssen. The couple will reside in Morehead, Minnesota. Congratulations to the happy couple!

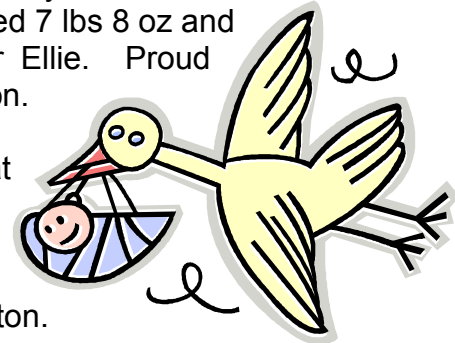
BIRTHS

Avery Holly Johanson was born on July 7, 2012 to Jeff and Ashley Johanson. Avery weighed 7 lbs 8 oz and was welcomed home by big sister Ellie. Proud grandma is our own Bobbie Johanson.

Elliott Orion Norton was born at home in Santa Rosa on August 6, 2012 to first-time parents Patrick and Kristine Norton. Elliott is the first grandchild for Eva and Dick Norton.

Kendall and Bret Wasley welcomed their first child, a daughter, Dillon Ducotey Wasley, born on August 12, 2012 in Los Gatos. Mother and baby are home and doing fine. Dillon is the sixth grandchild for Chris and Lisa Dawson.

Blessing congratulations to all!





Thank you to everyone who helped with the picnic on July 1 – we had so much fun! O Thank you to Guy and Michelle Smith for not only the use of their lovely grounds,

but the wonderful decorations they shared with us from their daughter’s wedding the night before. O Thank you to Karin and Brad for the hand cranked ice cream. And thank you to our set up & take down crew Chris Wagner, Steve Beck and Joanne Feige and to everyone who pitched in. O A big thank you to the Sebastopol Community Band for the wonderful music. O Thank you to our volunteer gardeners – Harry Sullivan, Nancy Lee, Barbara Whitson, Bob Holland and Josephine Weigel and daughters Marquesa and Teresa who keep things spruced up and tidy and help make our campus so inviting, even in the midst of all the construction. O Thank you to Nancy Shimetz and Hosanna Bauer for volunteering to answer phones in the office during Karin’s vacation. O Thank you to our vacation Bible School volunteers – Denelle Tognozzi, Sara Margulis, Pat Dilley, Debbie McCallum and Andy DelMonte. O Thank you to our Summer Interest Center volunteers Kathy Bell, Debbie McCallum, Sara Margulis, Eva Norton, Peggy Hentschke, Vicki Reno, Paula Pearce, Dawson Bell, Nancy Lee, Jan Kahdeman, Suzanne Gordon, Stuart Mitchell and Garth Watson.

A Special Thank You . . .

On behalf of the James Murakami family, we would like to thank the members of The Community Church for the kindness shown during Jim’s illness and subsequent death. The many phone call, flowers and gifts of food that were received during his brief illness, as well as food for the memorial service, were most appreciated. Most of all, thank you for your prayer, support and love.
Margarette Murakami and Family

Glena Elvy sends her thanks and gratitude to all those who responded to Glenda’s need to get a “new-to-her” car after her trusty steed broke down on a trip to Sacramento. You will now see Glenda tooling around in a 91 Chrysler New Yorker, complete with all the bells and whistles! Many thanks to Donna Tappan for the connection and getting the parties together.



MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach will hold their regular monthly meeting on September 17 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room.

ADULT MISSION TRIP TO ALABAMA

Ten folks from the Community Church were in Alabama July 2-8, working with Habitat for Humanity helping to rebuild following last year’s tornados and storms that devastated much of Birmingham. Joyce Cox was the group leader with crew leaders Chris Dawson and Scott Carlson aided by Don Bartol, Alyssa Ott, Martin Peterson, Jane Huneke, Fran Rasmus, Gene Nelson, and Nancy Lee. Thank you for your service!

FEEDING OUR LOCAL HOMELESS

The second Saturday of each month, Mission & Outreach serves lunch in Memorial Hall to our neighbors in need. In addition to offering a hot meal, we also offer showers. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joyce Cox or Joanne Matson or the church office at 823-2484.



Did you know the Community Church also provides sack lunches each Friday to our homeless population? Sack lunches are offered out of the Christian church kitchen each day of the week, prepared by different churches and individuals. If you would like to help with this project, contact Chris Jenkins at 829-2230. If you are not available to help with preparations, your cash donations are also greatly appreciated.

CAMP CAZ WORK WEEKEND

OCTOBER 5-7

WORK HARD – PLAY HARDER

Saturday Night All-You-Can Eat Prime Rib Dinner
\$28 per adult * \$10 under 18 with a paying adult
Reservations required – limited to the first 50 people

415.860.9452 * scwarden50@aol.com

Jr. High Youth (grades 6-8)

September 2 – 5:30-8 PM BBQ at church

September 9 – 10 AM-1PM (or so) Launch Sunday
Fundraiser

September 16 – 4:30-6 PM Our first official meeting!

September 23 – 4:30-6 PM Boys in MH, Girls in
Fireside Room

September 30 – 4:30-6 PM Another great meeting
planned!

Sr. High Youth (grades 9-12)

September 3 5:30-8 PM BBQ at church

September 9 11 AM-1PM (or so) Launch Sunday
Fundraiser

September 16 6:30-8 PM Our first official meeting-
bring a friend

September 23 6:30-8 PM Pizza & Games Fireside
Room

September 30 6:30-8 PM Another great meeting
planned!