

Little Brown Newsletter

Little Brown Church of Sunol ~ United Church of Christ, Congregational

Fall 2008



Sunday Services: 10:30
Sunday school and childcare are provided.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 23 – Following Worship
Annual Thanksgiving Feast**

**November 30 – The First Sunday in
Advent~Decorate the Church after
services**

**December 7 - Advent Festival (right
after church potluck)**

**December 14 - 4 PM Christmas
Caroling and Chili**

**December 17 - Wrap Night for Adopt a
Family**

**December 21 - Christmas Sunday
Service**

**December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
7:30 Lessons and Carols**

MINISTERS CORNER

It has been rough the last couple of weeks to get up each morning and turn on the news. What more can happen to the financial markets? Will the stock market tumble even more or just be wildly volatile? Will the international credit crunch ease never mind any personal crunch we might be experiencing? Will the pension plan or 401K be there when needed? With even the experts confused and in disarray and our ability to foretell the future somewhat limited, no concrete answers seem to be available.

So what do we do? First of all, we need to take a collective deep breath. Then we have to ask ourselves --- what really matters in our life? Of course financial health and well being are vital to our families and the stability of our nation's economy. But what in our interpersonal lives have we truly lost? Yes, we may have lost the ability to command as many goods and services as might have liked. But we have not lost being in relationship with God and with one another. That is what really matters --- love.

The commandment to love is the basis of all the world's major religions. We try to represent that love in the church through our community life together. We try to do it by following the greatest commandment as taught to us by Jesus of Nazareth; *"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."* The second is this, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* We try to do it by feeding the homeless at Sunrise Village in Fremont in the end of October. We try to do it by supporting our Adopt-A-Family program during Advent which provides a Christmas blessing for our neighbors among us so that they may have a brighter holiday season. We do it by opening our doors each and every Sunday inviting and welcoming all as we seek to be in meaningful relationship with God and neighbor.

More than ever before, we may need each other this season. Life may never be exactly the same after this particular economic crisis. But with the love of friends and family surrounding us, and the love of God sustaining us, we will see our way through. And for that --- thanks be to God. Faithfully, Mary

If anyone would like to reach me for any reason, feel free to get in touch with me in whatever manner is most convenient. If you call me on my cell phone and I don't answer right away, I will get back to you very shortly. That number is 510-866-3167. Feel free to leave an email on the church email or my personal email at mpconant@comcast.net.

AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

I've never made a fortune, and it's probably too late now. But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough. But I've got loving ones all around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin. But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So Lord, help me not to gripe, about the tough rows I have hoed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough. I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads. Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Author Unknown

(Courtesy Caren Foster)

COUNCIL POSITION OPEN

The Little Brown Church's Council makes all the very important decision that affects all of its members. Have you ever wondered how the utilities are paid? Who decides what songs are going to be played every Sunday? What the kids will be taught in Sunday School? Now is your chance to find out the inner workings of the church. There are several 2 year term positions on our church's council which need to be filled, such as; Treasurer, Youth and Children, Stewardship, Spirituality, and Christian Social Concerns. Please contact Mike Brown, Council Chairperson.



BENEFICO COFFEE

***FOR YOUR PLEASURE AND
FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR THE FARMERS!!!!***

Landy White is our coffee representative for ***Beneficio Coffee***. You can contact him if you are interested in purchasing Beneficio Coffee. Remember your support means Social and Economic Justice resulting in a better life for the small coffee farmers and dollars back to our organization for outreach and giving...just let him know if you would like to order some coffee....and thank you!!!!



DRUMMING

***Come join us for Drumming
6:30 PM-7:30 PM***

Come experience the joy and freedom of drumming from the heart. Bring your own drums or other musical instruments or use ours. All are welcome and No experience necessary! Through drumming, we will free our natural creativity and potential for a deep connection...with ourselves, each other and our Spirit. Rhythm is our birthright, and drumming can awaken us to powerful feelings that have long been bound and submerged by the trappings of daily life.

For more information including dates:

Contact - KLMatlock@earthlink.net

A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP

On Sunday morning, October 19, 2008, my grandson, Nicolaus James Owsley was baptized here at the Little Brown Church of Sunol...a new life in the Christian faith begins!

This big event in his life got me to thinking about *new beginnings, new life, new hope, rejuvenation!* It's time for the Little Brown Church to rejuvenate, time for our church members and friends to begin to think of what they get from the Little Brown Church and how they can give back to the Little Brown Church in 2008!

Our Stewardship Campaign begins November 2nd and continues until November 23rd, when we will have our Stewardship Sunday/Thanksgiving Feast.

We have been blessed this year with our Designated Minister, Mary Conant, who came to us at the beginning of 2008. This has brought stability to the Little Brown Church, we know Pastor Mary will be here on Sundays now and that is good!

We have such a wonderful congregation of members and friends here at LBC, we are truly blessed. Please come join us as we enter into our Stewardship month and continue into Advent in December. This is always such a wonderful time to get back into church.

If you have not attended LBC recently, we would love to see your smiling face again, and I'm sure you've missed Thelma's hugs on Sundays! We look forward to seeing you, please come and join us for a Sunday soon, *you'll be glad you did!*

Come join us this Sunday leading into our Stewardship Campaign and our Stewardship Sunday, November 23rd, be there to help as we eagerly step into the planning for 2008!

Thank you all so very much for your time,
Lina Owsley, Stewardship – Council Member

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

TWAS THE NIGHT OF THANKSGIVING, I JUST
COULDN'T SLEEP, I TRIED COUNTING
BACKWARDS, I TRIED COUNTING SHEEP.

THE LEFTOVERS BECKONED - THE DARK MEAT
AND WHITE, BUT I FOUGHT THE TEMPTATION
WITH ALL OF MY MIGHT.

TOSSING AND TURNING WITH ANTICIPATION,
THE THOUGHT OF A SNACK BECAME
INFATUATION.

SO, I RACED TO THE KITCHEN, FLUNG OPEN THE
DOOR, AND GAZED AT THE FRIDGE, FULL OF
GOODIES GALORE.

I GOBBLED UP TURKEY AND BUTTERED
POTATOES, PICKLES AND CARROTS, BEANS AND
TOMATOES.

I FELT MYSELF SWELLING SO PLUMP AND SO
ROUND, 'TIL ALL OF A SUDDEN, I ROSE OFF THE
GROUND.

I CRASHED THROUGH THE CEILING, FLOATING
INTO THE SKY, WITH A MOUTHFUL OF PUDDING
AND A HANDFUL OF PIE.

BUT I MANAGED TO YELL AS I SOARED PAST THE
TREES, HAPPY EATING TO ALL - PASS THE
CRANBERRIES, PLEASE.

MAY YOUR STUFFING BE TASTY, MAY YOUR
TURKEY BE PLUMP. MAY YOUR POTATOES 'N
GRAVY HAVE NARY A LUMP.

MAY YOUR YAMS BE DELICIOUS, MAY YOUR PIES
TAKE THE PRIZE, MAY YOUR THANKSGIVING
DINNER STAY OFF YOUR THIGHS!!

MAY YOUR THANKSGIVING Truly BE BLESSED!! .

(Courtesy Caren Foster)

**~LET'S KEEP INFORMED ~
WITH OUR WIDER CHURCH**

United Church of Christ website:

www.ucc.org

Bay Association website:

www.bayassociation.org



**PUMPKIN POUND CAKE
w/CREAM CHEESE ICING**

Cake:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 4 eggs
- 1-tablespoon cinnamon
- 1-cup oil
- 1/4-teaspoon salt
- 2 cups pumpkin (16 oz can)

Cream Cheese Icing:

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1-teaspoon vanilla
- 1 box confectioner's sugar
- 1 stick butter

CAKE DIRECTIONS:

Mix ingredients well. Grease tube or Bundt pan and bake 1 hour and 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool completely and frost.

ICING DIRECTIONS:

Let cheese and butter soften and mix with sugar and vanilla and spread on cake.

Council Members:

Buildings & Grounds: Roger Pratt

Christian Social Concerns: David Dogan

Council Chair: Mike Brown

Evangelism: Caren Foster

Parish Nurturer: John Robertson

Pastor: Mary Conant

Spirituality: Victoria Christian

Stewardship: Lina Owsley

Treasurer: Landy White

Worship & Arts: Open

Youth & Children: Sherry O'Connor

Scribe: Open

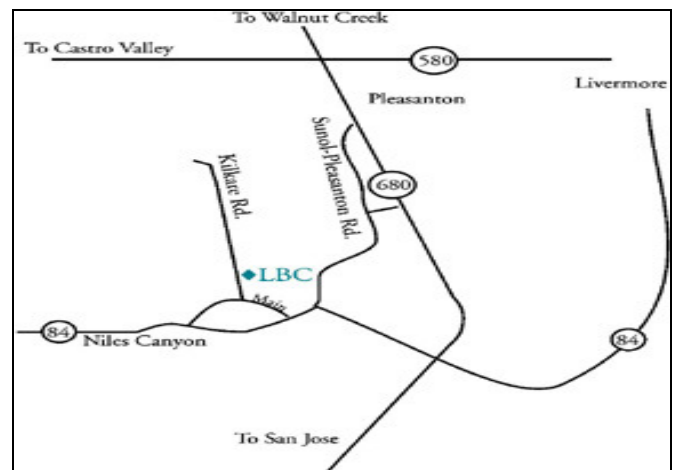
Pastoral Relations Committee Members:

David Dogan, Deverie Lautenschlager and John Robertson

All church related articles, announcements, inspirational messages or recipes are welcome.

Please email Victoria Christian:

aroundsunol@aol.com



Little Brown Church of Sunol

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