

Little Brown Newsletter

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

Summer 2008



Sunday Services: 10:30
Sunday school and child care are provided.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 20

YOUTH POOL PARTY @ KWA POOL

JULY 27

FREMONT ROTARY CLUB'S CHILI COOK-OFF
SADDLERACK 11 AM – 5 PM

JULY 29

COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 PM

AUGUST 23

2ND LBC ECYCLING EVENT
SUNOL GLEN SCHOOL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

REV. MARY'S INSTALLATION 4PM

MINISTERS CORNER

In a mailing from the conference minister to all authorized ministers in northern California recently Mary Susan Gast stated, "When we say in our church that God is love, we mean it." She was referring to the recent California Supreme Court ruling having to do with the marriage. This past week, the leadership of the Little Brown Church sent out a press release announcing two pieces of information; the first being my recent call to the church and the second a statement on our marriage ministry. The press release concerning the ruling stated, "*The Little Brown Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation since 1998, which welcome into the full life and ministry of the church persons of all sexual orientations. In our past wedding ministry we have celebrated commitment ceremonies as well as legal marriages. In light of the recent California Supreme Court decision, Little Brown Church affirms with pride the right of all people to legally marry.*"

Because of our Open and Affirming stance for the last ten years, very little will change in our wedding ministry from the standpoint of the congregation. We recognized quite a while ago that the God of love does not impose barriers to love between two people and neither should the church. The barrier that has been demolished is a justice issue of equal rights under the civil law. When an ordained minister signs a marriage certificate, they are acting as an agent of the state, not as a minister of the congregation. Steve and I are both delighted to be able to have the opportunity after June 17th to affirm the love of God by signing marriage certificates for all who want to marry at Little Brown Church.

The ability to express the love of God comes in many forms, most recently when we served dinner at Sunrise Village, the homeless shelter in Fremont. The guests were so grateful for our summer barbeque menu and home made cobblers. My deepest thanks to all of you who organized, baked and served that hospitable meal with love.

May Little Brown Church and all its members and friends continue to be a witness to God's love each and every day.

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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, it 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.

INSTALLATION OF REV. MARY P. CONANT

Mary's installation will be September 28th at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon. The Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast will be the preacher.



BENEFICO COFFEE

A NOTE FROM THE PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The LBC Pastor/Staff/Congregation Relations Committee of the LBC of Sunol is a standing committee that seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor, (staff) and members of the congregation. The committee serves in two primary ways: as an advisory group to the pastor and as support for the pastor's leadership. As an advisory group the committee shares ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor. As support for the pastor, the committee interprets roles, functions, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

Constructive and caring communication in an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust is essential to the work of the committee. This committee is the congregation's fundamental support group for the pastor. It builds the framework in which conflict can be dealt with creatively. Its goals are the professional growth and well-being of the pastor and the promotion of mutual ministry between the pastor and the congregation.

The basic reason for sustaining open and healthy pastor-people relationships through the work of this committee is to enhance the effectiveness of the church's mission. The nurture of the pastor by this committee not only brings about a wholesome and healthy congregation but also creates a climate in which the spiritual life and mission of the people are strengthened.

The current committee members are David Dogan, Deverie Lautenschlager and John Robertson.

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

THE LBC PROVIDES DINNER AT THE FREMONT SHELTER

On Sunday evening June 8, several LBC members and friends contributed to providing dinner for residents at the Tri-City Homeless Coalition's (TCHC) Sunrise Village Homeless Center in Fremont. The meal consisted of freshly barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs with homemade salads and desserts. This year at this time there were only 55 residents there which is a good sign. The shelter provides transitional housing while the TCHC organization assists low-income, unhoused persons to secure stable, supportive housing elsewhere. While living at the shelter, families receive support services which include working with a case manager to begin to address the challenges that led to their homelessness.

This year the LBC volunteers to prepare and serve the dinner were the Robertson family, the Morris-Brown family, the O'Conner family, the Conant-Spindler family, the Egbert/Chambers family, Bonnie Feltrop and Caren Foster. Several others contributed salads and desserts and/or helped pay for the expenses.
(Courtesy David Dogan)

~~PICTURES TO FOLLOW NEXT NEWSLETTER~~

Make Prayer a Part of Every Day

by Marilyn Morgan Helleberg, Kearney, Nebraska

1. Make a prayer covenant. Sit down with your Friend Jesus and ask Him to help you set a realistic prayer goal. It's better to start with one prayer period a day, adding more after daily prayer becomes an established habit.

2. Schedule prayer time into your day. Find the time that's best for you so that God gets the best of you — when you're most alert.

3. Establish a regular place for prayer. By doing this, when you enter that special room and sit in that same chair, your mind automatically begins to tune in to the Lord. It should be a place where you can be alone, without being interrupted.

4. Minimize distractions. Take the phone off the hook or ask whoever's home to take calls. If you can't find a quiet place to pray, buy a pair of earplugs. They worked for me!

5. Shorten instead of skipping. On those days when you absolutely cannot get in your full prayer time, you can at least offer an abbreviated prayer. Five minutes with the Lord are better than no time at all. Just be sure you shorten only on the days when that's the only alternative to skipping prayer.

6. Keep a prayer diary. It takes just minutes to record the date and any insights that come to you from your time with the Lord, I like to note specific prayer requests and people I've prayed for. When I look back through my diary, I'm always amazed at the number of prayers the Lord has answered, the surprising ways He has done it, the steady movement of His Spirit in my life.

7. Find a prayer partner who is committed to God and will join you in regular prayer. Agree on a daily time. My friend Carol and I meet periodically to pray; on days between, we signal each other with one ring on the telephone when it's prayer time.

8. Give thanks for your dry, inarticulate periods in prayer. Remind yourself, whenever you feel a dryness, that this is precisely the time when the Lord is working behind the scenes to prepare you to come closer to Him!

The above article originally appeared in [Guideposts magazine](#).

June Birthdays:

June 17 Linda Fellers
June 20 Jonathan Dogan
June 25 Jovan Beard
June 30 Zouri Zale

July Birthdays:

June 27 Joseph Villarreal

August Birthdays:

August 2 Samantha Morris
August 2 Eva Hathcox
August 11 Brianna Mohr
August 16 Victoria Christian
August 23 Patrick Foster
August 26 Landy White
August 26 David Gallia
August 27 John Agapen

Wedding Anniversaries:

Eva & Steve Hathcox	July 10
Lesly & Terry Mohr	July 19
Beth & Roger Pratt	August 23
Helene & Ed Villarreal	August 31

Website Update

Little Brown Church is blessed to have one of our members, Denise Gallia, devote her time and talents to the updating of our website. The new website address is <http://www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org> and we hope it will benefit our members, as well as be a wonderful opportunity to introduce ourselves to those in search of a church family.

The council would like to encourage all internet-inclined members to check out the new website and provide us with some feedback. The home page welcomes all to our website and our church. Our Mission Statement and Open & Affirming statement are provided. Mary's newsletter messages are posted. You can access information on our past and current stewardship efforts. There is a special page just for our wedding ministry. We have a Youth page we're working on and a donation page which gives information on how you can support the church while shopping on line. On the Contact Us page, members and potential members can communicate with Mary and the council via email with questions, concerns or kudos. There is a calendar to access information on upcoming events. There is also access to the UCC website for a look at the wider church. There is even a photo history page courtesy of Victoria Christian. We are looking forward to personalizing the website with current photos of our church family. There's so much involved in this process and Denise has made it her goal to get us up to date and keep us relevant and available to the wider community.

A truly important gift of this website is as an excellent outreach tool to the wider community to let them know who we are at the Little Brown Church and to welcome them to visit and feel the peace and power of fellowship in Christ with us.

The website is a work in progress and we welcome your comments and are eager to hear what you like and what you'd like to see added. Please check it out today!

(Courtesy Caren Foster)

LET'S KEEP INFORMED ~ WITH OUR WIDER CHURCH

Help get the UCC's ads back on TV!

The United Church of Christ has been through some media challenges in the last few months... Now **it's our turn** to speak.

Help us air Steeples to a national audience.

Between now and **September 1**, we need to raise **\$350,000** - that's a **weekly goal of \$50,000**. We need you, your church, your family and friends to show the abundant spirit that is the United Church of Christ.

We need 1,000 UCC members and supporters to give just \$50 by week's end in order to meet our goal!

You know the ad. The one with the little girl playing the Steeple game... "Here is the church... here is the steeple... open the door... and see **all the people...**" We plan to **bring this message of unity, welcome and hope to millions of people this fall.**

We can do it, but we have to do it together. **Give a little or give a lot. But give.**

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."
Matthew 10:40-42

Be God's welcome. **Bring Steeples to the peoples.**

Sincerely,



The Rev. John H. Thomas
General Minister and
President
United Church of Christ

The Rev. Felix Carrion
Stillspeaking Ministry
Coordinator
United Church of Christ

P.S. Haven't seen the ad yet? **Click here to view it now.**

(Courtesy www.ucc.org)

Our local Bay Association info
can be viewed at
www.bayassociation.org.

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: Lesly Mohr
Youth & Children: Sherry O'Connor
Scribe: Open

Pastoral Relations Committee Members:

David Dogan, Deverie Lautenschlager and John Robertson