

# Little Brown Newsletter

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

MARCH 2008



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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

SERVE REFRESHMENTS - SRT INTERMISSION

### SUNDAY, MARCH 2

POTLUCK - THEME - IRISH

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### SUNDAY, MARCH 9

COUNCIL MEETING - FOLLOWING WORSHIP

### SUNDAY, MARCH 16

PALM SUNDAY

### THURSDAY, MARCH 20

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE (MAUNDY THURSDAY)  
SEDER DINNER 6:30 - BABBITT HALL

### FRIDAY, MARCH 21

GOOD FRIDAY - FREMONT UCC

### SUNDAY, MARCH 23

EASTER SERVICE 10:30  
EASTER EGG HUNT - SUNOL GLEN  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

## MINISTERS CORNER

The church uses weird and old fashion words to describe many of its major holidays. Those words help describe and define the mystery of our faith. They help convey limitlessness in our limited understanding particularly during this time of the events of the Passion or Holy Week.

Palm Sunday is the only event that actual word palm seems to make any sort of immediate sense. When Jesus was making his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the crowds gathered up what was lying around on the ground, palm fronds and waved them in their excitement.

The term Passion comes from the Latin term *passio*, to suffer. Passion is not just about emotions that are strong enough to move us to be changed. It is acknowledging the despair that Jesus felt; betrayed by a trusted friend and confidant, and subjected to a sham trial in front of the conquerors of the day --- imperial Rome. It is recognizing the physical pain he endured, being beaten badly by the Roman guards, and left to die on the cross. The cross was also a sign of witnessed suffering that the population was to take heed of carefully. Crucifixion was an execution method for criminals and enemies of the state meant as message of fair warning to the local populace not to be involved in any more trouble.

The word Maundy of Maundy Thursday also comes from the Latin word *mandatum* or command. The command is a direct one from Jesus who told the disciples 'to love one another as I have loved you'. On March 20th, we will gather for the Maundy Thursday Service. We will join in a simple supper that reflects the fellowship of the disciples and friends who gathered for what is now called the Last Supper and the genesis of our communion service. We will then begin a short Service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is a Latin word which means *the shadows*. In a quiet and moving way, we will follow Jesus into the shadows and suffering of his last days.

Scholars do not really know or agree on the original meaning of the word 'Good' of Good Friday. On the surface it makes no sense for it to be called "good" as it commemorates the day Jesus is put to death on the cross. The best explanation that I have seen is a derivation of Old English which comes the translation of God's Friday.

(CONTINUED)

(MINISTER'S CORNER ~ CONTINUED)

And finally, the word Easter of which there is actually much controversy as to its origin. Bede, a Christian scholar in the late 600's asserted that the word derived from the ancient Teutonic goddess of spring or the goddess of dawn Eostre. In Anglo-Saxon that translates into Eastre where our word for the direction east is derived from in the breaking of dawn. The word Easter is not mentioned in the Bible but the celebration of the risen Christ is very much a part of the ancient church.

Take the knowledge of words; suffering, commandments, shadows, dawn of new life and live into them this Holy Week. Let them help take you on your journey with God. And may God bless to your understanding the reading of the words.

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 the church, I will be picking up those messages every couple of days. If you call me on my cell phone, if 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](mailto:mpconant@comcast.net).

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER MARCH 7, 2008

WDP is an ecumenical movement of women of diverse backgrounds and religious traditions who come together on the first Friday of each March to pray. The first organized world day of prayer began Jan. 9, 1920 in Canada and on Feb. 20, 1920 in the United States.

There are 170 country-committees that participate and each year a different country is chosen to write the worship service and select the theme that all participants use. The women of Guyana have written this year's worship service and have selected the theme, "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding"

The WDP website, [www.wdpusa.org](http://www.wdpusa.org), states, "The women of Guyana invite us to rejoice with them at the astonishing natural beauty of Guyana. "Come with us as we acknowledge the Wisdom of God in the marvelous works of creation." The women of Guyana call upon wisdom as we join with them in rejoicing in God's inhabited world. Let us begin with Guyana.

Guyana, the "land of many waters," is located on the tip of South America on the Atlantic Ocean, nestled between Venezuela, Suriname and Brazil. Lakes, streams and mighty rivers intersect this land of lush rainforests and spectacular flora and fauna. Although geographically located on the South American continent, Guyana is culturally more closely linked to its Caribbean neighbors.

This year's theme, "God's Wisdom Provides Understanding," calls us to be aware of the concerns of young women and youth impacted by globalization, migration, unemployment and underemployment, violence against women and the impact of HIV and AIDS on their lives and livelihood. With new understandings provided by God's wisdom, we can learn more about the issues that surround globalization in Guyana."

## 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***

***March 9 & March 23***

***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: Contact –

[KLMatlock@earthlink.net](mailto:KLMatlock@earthlink.net)

## THE LEGEND OF SAINT PATRICK

One of the most recognized of saints, the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, is also the most mysterious. Folklore makes up for most of what cannot be verified. It is known however that he was born in Britain in the late fourth century and died on March 17 approximately 460 A.D.

His family was apparently not very religious but of great wealth. In fact, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irishmen who were trying to rob the family estate and they took him to Ireland where he remained in captivity for six years. Being in a foreign country, he became a sheep herder and during lonely nights turned to his faith for comfort. He eventually escaped and walked approximately 200 miles to the Irish coast and back to Britain.

But after having a dream in which an Angel told him to return to Ireland as a missionary, he studied for 15 years before being ordained as a priest. Patrick was then sent to Ireland to begin converting the Irish. After arriving in Ireland, Patrick chose to incorporate native traditional beliefs with Christianity. One example is the Celtic cross. The Irish believe the sun to be a powerful symbol; therefore, Patrick superimposed a circle, which represents the sun, onto the Christian cross to create what we now call the Celtic cross.

St. Patrick's Day is traditionally celebrated as a religious holiday in Ireland but it was not until March 17, 1762 that the very first St. Patrick's Day parade was held; not in Ireland but New York City. After serving the English Military, Irish soldiers marched through the streets, playing music and celebrating their heritage.

Another symbol of Ireland is the shamrock. It is considered a sacred plant which represents the rebirth of spring.

## MUSTARD GLAZED CORNED BEEF

1 corned beef brisket, about 7 to 8 pounds  
2 onions, peeled, quartered  
2 bay leaves  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
1 clove garlic, halved  
3 whole cloves

### *Mustard Glaze:*

1/2 cup dark corn syrup  
1 tablespoon prepared mustard

Put corned beef in a large Dutch oven or soup kettle; add water to cover. Add onion wedges, bay leaves, salt, pepper, garlic, and whole cloves. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for about 4 hours, or until corned beef is tender. Remove corned beef from cooking liquid; refrigerate until next day.

Make glaze for corned beef. In a small saucepan combine corn syrup and mustard. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer for about 8 minutes, stirring a few times. Let cool.

Trim excess fat from corned beef; place on rack in a broiler pan. Brush corned beef with glaze and broil about 5 inches from heat for 10 minutes, brushing corned beef several times with glaze. Corned beef recipe serves 10 to 12.

## LBC HISTORICAL FACTS

- The church filed its Articles of Incorporation on June 1885 as the "Congregational Church of Sunol Glen".
- Thomas F. Bachelder deeded the land the church sits to The Congregational Church of Sunol Glen on July 8, 1885 for \$1.00
- In 1954, movies were shown in the social hall every Friday night.

## LITTLE BROWN WISH LIST

- Do you have a slightly used computer you would just love to donate to the church? If so, we would greatly appreciate it!
- Lilies for Easter Sunday

# CHINESE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

We should all stick to (in no particular order)!

1. Take a 10-30 minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.
2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
3. Try to get enough sleep.
4. When you wake up in the morning complete the following statement, "My purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_ today."
5. Live with the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm, and Empathy.
6. Watch more movies, play more games and read more books than you did in 2007.
7. Make time for prayer.
8. Spend more time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6..
7. Make time for prayer.
8. Spend more time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.
9. Dream more while you are awake.
10. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
11. Drink green tea and plenty of water. Eat blueberries, wild Alaskan salmon, broccoli, almonds & walnuts.
12. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
13. Clear your clutter from your house, your car, your desk.
14. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
15. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
16. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out charge card.
17. Smile and laugh more.
18. Life isn't always fair, but it's still good.
19. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
20. Don't take yourself so seriously.
21. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
22. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
23. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
24. Burn the candles, use the nice bed sheets, don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
27. Forgive everyone for everything.
28. What other people think of you is none of your business.
29. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
30. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
31. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will. Stay in touch.
32. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
33. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
34. The best is yet to come.
35. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
36. Do the right thing!
37. Call your family often. Keep in touch with them.
38. Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements: "I am thankful for \_\_\_\_." Today I accomplished \_\_\_\_.
39. Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.
40. Enjoy the ride. Remember that this is not Disney World and you certainly don't want a fast pass. You only have one ride through life so make the most of it and enjoy the ride.

Submitted by: Caren Foster

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

United Church of Christ News:  
(Courtesy [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org))

Lent is a time for travel: an inward spiritual journey that can help us remember what is really important in our lives. For centuries, Christians have used the season from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday as an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and personal renewal.

Our online community at [i.UCC.org](http://i.UCC.org) can help you during this journey. Our "Still Speaking Devotional for Lent" is an opt-in newsletter that will deliver a free Bible reading and meditation every morning. Our "Lenten Kit" offers practical ideas on how you can adapt ancient spiritual practices for your personal use. And, as always, our forums and real-time Prayer Chapel give you the opportunity to interact with others as we walk together through this holy season.

[Subscribe to the free email Daily Devotional for Lent](#)  
▶ [Download the "Lenten Kit"](#) [PDF]

Our local Northern California - Nevada Conference info can be viewed at:  
[www.ncnuc.org](http://www.ncnuc.org).

Our local Bay Association info can be viewed at [www.bayassociation.org](http://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

## THANK YOU TO:

**John Robertson** for the wonderful Valentines Day Dinner & Movie.

**Steve Hinerman** and **Erna Wiemer** for graciously hosting all the weddings that take place at the church every month.

All the "angels" who do so much to make the Little Brown Church so special for everyone.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

3 – AMANDA FOSTER

8 - SARA BROWN

10 – JOHN ROBERTSON

22 – THELMA MURCH

31 – ED VILLARREAL

## PRAYER CORNER:

COMING SOON.....

**Little Brown Church of Sunol**  
**141 Kilcare Road**  
**Sunol, CA 94586925-862-2004**  
**[www.littlebrownchurch.com](http://www.littlebrownchurch.com)**