

LBC'S SECOND ANNUAL TAX RELIEF FUND

"Receive a Gift – Give a Gift"

As an economic stimulus many of us will be receiving an "unexpected gift" some time in May, a special tax refund. We are giving LBC's members and friends and opportunity to give all or some of their "unexpected gift" back to the Little Brown Church, as many did last year when we raised over \$4000 to put back into our General Budget, in 2007. This special Tax Relief Fund helped our 2007 Budget tremendously, thanks to so many of you making this additional contribution. We would like to establish a Tax Relief Fund for 2008, but this year we have an added bonus....not only our many of us getting back our usual checks from the state or federal....but come May we will be getting back an additional check, one we were not counting on. We are asking everyone who may be interested in contributing an additional donation to LBC to consider giving a little or a lot of their "unexpected gift" to the Little Brown Church of Sunol. Your funds could be designated to go to LBC's General Fund or LBC's Deacon Fund.

(Deacon's Funds would be used to help for special needs for LBC's members/friends/congregation).

The choice would be yours, you would designate where you would like your additional gift to go on the memo part of your check....General Budget or Deacon Fund. You can put your check in the offering plate or in the mail.

With our tax refund coming in May, this is a great opportunity for all of us to give a little more to LBC. We receive a gift and we give a gift in return, and the Little Brown Church reaps the benefit...and we all feel good!!!!

Thank you so very much for considering the gift of giving, we here at the Little Brown Church appreciate all that you give, be it time, monetary, teaching, singing, weddings, grounds, Council, Sunday worship, Sunday ushers, you name it we appreciate it! Thank you all for all you do!

Blessings,
Lina Owsley
Stewardship Council Member



BENEFICIO 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

SPREAD THE LOVE

Strengthen the Church Sunday - May 11th

This will be a special offering to Strengthen the Church. Your gift to Strengthen the Church builds the UCC's future. From funding new congregations to invigorating existing ones, from fostering tomorrow's leaders to nurturing today's. Strengthen the Church grows our presence as a vibrant community of extravagant welcome. Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries and for the first time this year, The Still speaking Ministry. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here. God is Still Speaking. Please give generously on May 11th, thank you. (Courtesy Lina Owsley)

EXCITING PODCAST FOR EGBERT-CHAMBERS FAMILY

Pacific Crest Trail thru-hikers, Mary, Gary and Barbara are featured on their first podcast -- Steve Sergeant's "WildeBeat" program at www.wildebeat.net.

"We were interviewed in March during a hike in Sunol Regional Park, and the result is at the link below. Pretty exciting for us! The WildeBeat edition #135 is titled 'A Family Hike'. <http://www.wildebeat.net/shows/outings/E135.html> (Courtesy Barbara Egbert)

PORCUPINE MEATBALLS

1 ½ lb. ground beef
½ c. rice
1 tsp salt
½ tsp. black pepper
1 tbsp. minced onion
1 can tomato soup
½ c. water

Wash rice thoroughly; combine meat, rice, salt, pepper and onion. Shape into small balls. Heat soup and water in large sauce pan and drop in meatballs. Place cover on pan and cook 20 or 30 minutes.

I'm Sorry But God Said no.....

I asked God to take away my habit.
God said, No.
It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said, No.
His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary

I asked God to grant me patience.
God said, No.
Patience is a by product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.
God said, No.
I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.
God said, No.
Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
God said, No.
You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
God said, No.
I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.
God said...Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.
(Courtesy Helene Villarreal)

MOTHERS DAY BREAKFAST

On Mothers Day, May 11, we will have a breakfast/brunch from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in Babbit Hall (and the courtyard). Church is at its regular time 10:30. To those who have signed up to bring things - thank you.

If anyone would like to bring a dish to share (NO Mother's allowed to bring food or help in any way!) contact me, John Robertson at parishnurture@littlebrownchurchofsunol.com

THE LBC SUPPORTS THE WINTER RELIEF EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM

For the third consecutive year the LBC partnered with the UCC Niles Congregational Church in Fremont in support of the Tri-City Homeless Coalition's Winter Relief Emergency Shelter Program. The Tri-City Homeless Coalition operates the Sunrise Village Homeless Center in Fremont. They started the Winter Relief Program in 2001 out of concern for the many families during the upcoming cold, wet winter months that were on the waiting list to move into their shelter

The program provides for shelter in the fellowship halls of local faith communities on a rotating basis. This year the Niles UCC provided this valuable service in April, the last month of the program. Each evening the homeless families that are enrolled in the program were picked-up and dropped off at the Church. Niles UCC volunteers prepared dinner for them that night and breakfast in the morning. During the last week of April, LBC provided the sack lunches for the homeless families, who were on their own during the day-time. During that time these families received the same support services as those living in the shelter which included working with a case manager to begin to address the challenges that led to their homelessness.

This year the LBC volunteers were Barbara Egbert, Mary Chambers, Mike Brown, Becca Brown, Katharine Kloverstrom, Margie Cook, Victoria Christian, John Beard and David Dogan. Several others helped pay for the expenses. (Courtesy David Dogan)



Marjorie Cook and Katharine Kloverstrom delivering

TENTS OF HOPE

The Little Brown Church joined several other UCC congregations on Saturday, April 4 to paint a tent to bring awareness the humanitarian catastrophe in Darfur. Congregations across the country are painting tents to inform and encourage actions by the citizens and policy makers at the local, state, and federal level. Little Brown Church members Becca Brown, Sara Brown, Cathy Morris, and Mike Brown joined other southern Alameda church members to paint a canvas tent with a mural indicating the solidarity of the Bay Area people with the people of Darfur, linked across a sunlit and star spattered sky. A rural pastoral scene from rural Darfur complemented a scene showing natural features of the Bay Area and its ethnic diversity. The tent will be erected on the West Capitol steps in Sacramento on 4/24/2008 and on the Washington DC Capitol Mall in November. (Courtesy Mike Brown)

(For more information go to www.tentsofhope.org)

LITTLE BROWN WISH LIST

- We are in need of volunteers to bring communion bread, please email Lesly if you are able to help. leslymohr@yahoo.com.
- We need one person to be "in charge" of coordinating supplies. That only means someone to check our "inventory" (e.g. kitchen supplies, Sunday school supplies, etc.) and request people to donate (there is a list of people who are willing to shop and donate supplies). We simply need one individual to coordinate and ensure we're stocked. Wouldn't it be awful if we had no communion wine or coffee???

LEARN HOW TO PRAY BY NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

Prayer is one of the greatest skills in the world. It is a mechanism over which spiritual power flows from God into the daily lives of human beings.

Astonishingly, prayer illuminates problems, lifts weights, overcomes obstacles, restores health, and brings many astounding results. As in any skill, one must learn, step-by-step, the formula to open the circuit and receive this power.

1. What should you say when you pray?

Just talk to God as a child would talk to a father whom he loves and with whom he feels in harmony. Tell the Lord everything that is on your mind and in your heart.

2. Talk to the Lord in simple everyday speech.

Do not use an exaggerated formal speech. You would not talk to your father that way, and He is your Heavenly Father. In public prayer, it is perhaps proper to address God more formally. But in personal, private prayer you might, for example, say "You" to God rather than "Thou." This does not diminish respect for Him but serves to make the relationship more natural.

3. Tell God what you want.

Tell Him you would like to have it if He thinks it is good for you. But also say and mean it, that you will leave it to Him to decide, and you will accept His decision as best for you and others involved. If you do this regularly it will be possible for God to give you the wonderful things that you should have. It is frightening, the marvelous things we miss because we insist upon something else, something only a fraction as fine as He wants to give us.

4. Practice praying during the day.

For example, talk to God as you drive your car. If you had a friend with you, you would talk to him or her, would you not? Then imagine the Lord is there, for He is, and just talk to Him about everything. If you are waiting for a bus, talk with Him. But at night, when you go to bed, I recommend that you kneel by the bed and pray. However, if this has been your custom and if it has become merely a formality, get into bed, relax and then pray.

5. Words are not always necessary when you pray.

Think how good God is, how kindly, and that He is by your side guiding you and watching over you

6. Try helping others by your prayers.

Pray for the troubled or the ill. Pray for your loved ones, for people you do not like, and for those who have not treated you well. It will do more for you to pray for those you resent than for those you love. If you doubt this, try it for six months and see what happens.

Prayer is an emanation of power. Select some person who may be a problem to you and shoot prayers at him. Conceive of yourself as surrounding him with healthy prayers, goodwill, and faith. I have seen the most astounding, almost unbelievable, results.

7. Do not make all your prayers into the form of asking God for something.

Let your prayer consist of all the wonderful things that have happened to you. Name them, thank God for them and make that your whole prayer. You will soon find that these prayers of thanksgiving grow longer and longer, and you will have more and more things for which to thank God.

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

1 ST	SUE DANIELS
8 TH	MEGAN HUELFER
16 TH	CHRIS MORRIS KEITH OWSLEY
21 ST	DANIKA BEARD
24 TH	GETTY AGAPEN
29 TH	KATIE VILLARREAL

***Celebrating Wedding Bliss on
May 20 is Victoria and
Graham Barnes - Happy
Anniversary to you both!***

LET'S KEEP INFORMED ~ WITH OUR WIDER CHURCH

The following letter was printed in the New York Times:

Much has been said about the United Church of Christ in recent weeks, much of it hurtful for many in our country, including members of Trinity UCC in Chicago. That is why we are eager to share the broad and diverse story of the United Church of Christ, one that we celebrate.

With all Christians, we rest in God's amazing grace and hear God's voice in the words of Scripture. Yet, the UCC is unique to some because we do not require uniformity of belief. We are a church of open ideas, extravagant welcome and evangelical courage. Our passion for democracy extends to both government and church, where decision-making rests within each congregation. We support liberty in our pulpits, just as we affirm the individual conscience of our 1.2-million members to agree, disagree and wrestle with life's biggest questions in a spirit of love.

Our story is this nation's story. We are the people of the Mayflower. More than 600 of our 5,700 congregations were formed before 1776. Eleven signers of the Declaration of Independence were members of UCC predecessor bodies.

As early abolitionists, we came to the aid of the Amistad captives and founded hundreds of schools across the South after the Civil War. We were the first mainline church to ordain an African-American (1785), a woman (1853) and an openly gay pastor (1972). We were also the first to form a foreign mission society (1810). Our multi-ethnic membership includes persons from every immigrant group, as well as native peoples and descendants of freed slaves.

Our unity is not dependent upon uniform agreement, but in our shared allegiance to Jesus Christ. Ours is a risk-taking church, because ours is a risk-taking God.

God is still speaking, ®
(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**

LBC Newsletter written & edited by Victoria Christian. Monthly deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of each month. Please submit any articles or questions to vkalikiano@aol.com.

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