

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

### ■ Sonoma county churches get ad grant

Seven UCC churches in the towns of Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Petaluma, Sonoma, Guerneville, Cloverdale and Kenwood together have received a Media with a Mission grant from the UCC to help pay for ads this fall and holiday season. These churches have cooperated in recent years in joint efforts, shared tables at Sonoma Pride events and a strong clergy group, and this month an ad supporting gay marriage (see Page B1).

**David Parks-Ramage**, pastor at **First Congregational UCC, Santa Rosa**, said, "Our efforts have been greatly helped by another grant that Santa Rosa received from the evangelism team of Local Church Ministries. It is hard for churches to come up with advertising money. Santa Rosa has been able to offer the bulk of the funds to fund our efforts."

"All churches contribute, and Santa Rosa makes up any difference. This is an example of your Strengthen the Church dollars at work. After we shared in the ad celebrating gay marriage, we got lots of positive feedback."

"It is nice to be known for who we are and well worth the price of the ad."

### ■ First Congregational UCC, San Jose, celebrates Pride and ONA

Thirty members and friends from **First Congregational UCC, San Jose**, marched June 13 in the

annual San Jose Pride parade. The church has been a major financial sponsor of the San Jose Pride festival for the last three years. This year's parade followed a mile-long route along the streets of downtown San Jose. The floats and participants were colorful and loud. The crowd lining the streets was enthusiastic and welcoming, with the exception of one "corner of hate," on which several religious groups gathered to protest the parade and the whole notion of homosexuals having a right to claim pride for themselves.

Rev. Nancy Peters recounts, "As the float from our church rounded this corner, the clash of beliefs was very clear, as a man with a bullhorn asked the marchers, 'How can you call yourselves a church if you accept homosexuality? Where does it say that God loves these sinners?'"

"One of our youngest walkers turned to the man and said, 'Have you even READ the Bible?' Our church is celebrating its 10th anniversary of being Open and Affirming, and we are proud to be part of San Jose Pride."

### ■ Kenwood UCC celebrates 120th anniversary

In 1888 Kenwood in Sonoma County was a boom town called Los Guilicos. Ten hearty souls out of a population of 500 decided the town needed a bit of salvation and founded the church.

On May 25 NCNC Conference Minister **Mary Susan Gast** visited and accepted a statement reaffirming that the church remains a member in full standing of the United Church of Christ, that Jesus Christ is head of the



Proud members of First Congregational UCC, San Jose marched in the city's Pride Parade and celebrated their tenth anniversary of being Open and Affirming.



Members and Friends of Community UCC, Kenwood, prepare to hang a giant banner on the front of the church to mark its 120th anniversary.

church and that it holds its sisters and brothers in communion and prayer. A \$500 loan granted for the parish house construction eight decades ago came from the Congregational Church Mission Society, a fund started from the

proceeds that were left over after the Amistad trial.

"Like many California churches we have mission beginnings. It was wonderful to understand our deep and rich heritage," said new pastor **Andrew Metcalfe**.

## SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

### Frank Beltran

retired Army chaplain, was honored in May as an outstanding alumnus of Silliman University in the Philippines.

### Adam Blons

is on sabbatical leave from First Congregational UCC, Berkeley.

### John Brooke

will celebrate 50 years in ministry at worship and a luncheon after at Congregational UCC, Belmont, on Aug. 24.

### Sally Brown

celebrated the 20th anniversary of her ordination June 22 at her home church, First Congregational UCC, Palo Alto.

**Congregational UCC, Elk Grove** voted to be an Open and Affirming congregation on June 8.

### Shelly Dieterle,

minister of campus life at First Congregational UCC, Berkeley married Jeff Kauffman May 17 in Berkeley. They expect a baby in September.

### Heather Dillashaw and

**Shannon Spencer**, associate pastors at First Congregational UCC, Santa Cruz

have resigned as of Aug. 31. Shannon has accepted a call to Asheville UCC in North Carolina.

### Melissa Gardner-McBride

was ordained by the Bay Association June 21 in a four-way covenant with the Department of Spirit Care, California Pacific Medical Center and her home church, Plymouth UCC, Oakland.

### Skip Holliday

will complete his ministry at Hillcrest UCC, Pleasant Hill, and his 39 years in ministry, on Aug. 17. Bob Matthews will serve as acting senior minister.

**Jeff Hopson** (United Presbyterian) was called July 13 as designated term pastor at First Congregational UCC, Stockton.

### Tom Hunter,

former NCNC pastor, teacher, song writer and radio host

died June 20. See tribute on Page B8.

### Imani Community UCC, Sacramento

was welcomed as a church in care by the Sacramento Valley Association at the Conference Annual Meeting at Asilomar on May 16

### Erin King,

was installed June 22 as chaplain at Community Hospice, Modesto, in a four-way covenant with College Avenue Congregational UCC, Modesto, and the Mountain Valley Association.

### Light of the Soul UCC, Reno

was welcomed as a church in care by the Sacramento Valley Association at the Conference Annual Meeting at Asilomar on May 16.

### Ann Lougee

completed her ministry at Pilgrim UCC, Redding and retired on May 4.

### Carol Manahan,

associate Conference minister for Golden Gate Association North and Anni Jensen will marry Aug. 23 in El Sobrante

### Susan Meeter,

pastor at Mira Vista UCC, El Cerrito, and Barbara Cook were married in Martinez June 17.

### Jim Mitulski

was called as pastor of New Spirit UCC/MCC/DOC, Berkeley July 13.

### Lois Mueller

is on sabbatical until Oct. 5 from Pilgrim UCC, Oakland. Marjorie Wilkes, licensed minister, and staff at Pacific School of Religion, is her sabbatical replacement.

### Parkside Community UCC, Sacramento,

broke ground for its new sanctuary May 25

### Laura Rose

celebrated her fifth anniversary as pastor at First Congregational UCC, Alameda in July. She and Tina Koeberl will be married Aug. 16, Wendy Taylor officiating.

### Kay Sakaguchi

retired from United Japanese Congregational UCC/UMC, Clovis as of June 30.

Please note: August Golden Gate Association Board Meeting will be "cyber meetings" through email. Gathering in person, if necessary. Contact Faith Burgess <faithburgess@gmail.com>

### Aug. 7-8

APARRI 2008, The Asian Pacific American Religious Research Initiative at PSR. Keynote Aug. 7, Fumitaka Matsuoka. For more information and online registration, <www.pana.psr.edu>

### Aug. 14-16

National PAAM Convocation, Honolulu, HI. For more information, go to <www.paam-hi.org>

### Aug. 15

Committee on Ministry, Hillcrest Congregational UCC, Pleasant Hill; Section A: 8:30 a.m., Carmelle Knudsen, <carmelle.k@earthlink.net> and James Kosko <egcc\_pastor@yahoo.com>, co-chairs; Mary Evelyn Arnold, scheduler <mearnold@vom.com>. Section B: 9 a.m., Melinda V. McLain <revmelinda@earthlink.net> and Lois Mueller <revlois@sbcglobal.net>, co-chairs.

### Aug. 16

"Rhythm of Abundance" financial/spiritual health seminar with Ron Buford. 10 a.m. – noon, Imani Community UCC, 2100 J St, Sacramento. For more information, <www.ncncucc.org>

### Aug. 18

Monthly PAAM meeting. Check website for location, <www.paamncnc.com>

### Aug. 23

"Rhythm of Abundance" financial/spiritual health seminar with Ron Buford. 10 a.m. – noon, Congregational

See CALENDAR on Page B5

### Squaw Valley Chapel UCC, Olympic Valley,

voted April 29 to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

### Wendy Taylor,

retired UCC pastor and Ellen Sweetin, former chair of NCNC Board of Directors will be united in marriage Aug. 2, at Ladera UCC, Portola Valley, Wilma Reichard officiating. Wendy celebrates 20 years in ministry Aug. 24 at Congregational UCC, Belmont.

### Kirk Thomas

has been called as pastor at Kingsbury Community, UCC, Vernal, UT as of July 1. He will be ordained Oct. 18 at First Congregational UCC, San Francisco in their new sanctuary.

### Jim Truesdell

resigned as senior pastor from Pioneer Congregational, UCC, June 29.

### Wr'near Wilcox

began June 15 as designated term minister at Congregational UCC, Suisun-Fairfield.