

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Churches sponsor prominent authors

Meet and hear profound contemporary thinkers — at your local church! This fall at least two NCNC churches offer public forums with the likes of Stephen Mitchell and Gary Dorrien.

First, Berkeley, has teamed up with Cody's Bookstore to host author events in their sanctuary with Penelope Duckworth, "Mary: The Imagination of Her Heart," Nov. 8; Stephen Mitchell, "Gilgamesh," Nov. 19; John Dominic Crossen, "In Search of Paul," Dec. 1; Marianne Williamson, "The Gift of Change," Dec. 9. For information, call Cody's at 510-845-7852.

"We have found that authors and bookstores are eager to work with churches on public forums about important new ideas," says **Shelley Dieterle**, program assistant at **First, Berkeley**. "We have gotten many visitors and new members from these events."

Congregational, San Mateo, is hosting Atlantic Monthly Editor Michael Curtis, "Faith and Fiction," Oct. 22, and Gary Dorrien, "American Liberal Religion," Dec. 3. Dorrien has spoken at Pacific School of Religion's Earl Lectures the past two years and is the foremost scholar of progressive religion in America. For more information on the San Mateo events, call 650-343-3694.

Please let The Pacific know well in advance of your events and we would gladly publicize them!

Churches reach out to Hmong, children

Many NCNC churches are observing the national 40 Days of Prayer for Children in anticipation of Children's Sabbath Oct. 24. And several are combining this national program with support of the Fresno area ministry of **Rev. Sophia DeWitt** and Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries on behalf of new Hmong refugees.

gies. **Congregational, Belmont**, and **St. John's, San Francisco**, invite members to light a candle each of the 40 days for children. **United, Hayward**, is using the first of the 40 Days for Children to hear DeWitt detail the need for school supplies for the Hmong kids. **Congregational Fellowship, Shingle Springs** is collecting household goods for the Hmong, and **First, Fresno; College Community Congregational, Fresno; and United Japanese, Clovis**, are all collecting personal items, money, mentors and of course prayers for these thousands of adults and children recently freed from years as displaced person in a Thailand temple compound.

Contact FIRM at 559-487-1500 or <www.firminc.org>

The ministry of toilets: Santa Cruz youth mission trip

Six youth and four adults from **First, Santa Cruz**, spend a week this summer in Cleveland working with Habitat for Humanity.

Youth Director **Virginia Kaufmann** wrote, "Each morning we loaded up our vans and met at the headquarters of the Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity. There we received our work assignments and were sent to various sites for the day.

"We did the bulk of our work at a hotel by the airport that was slated for demolition. Our job was to remove the fixtures from the rooms: toilets, sinks, light fixtures, shower curtains, etc.

"These donated items were then taken to Habitat's Re-Store, a large 'used hardware' store where they will be available for sale to the public.

"We also spent a day at two recently-built Habitat homes where we hauled trash and helped to prepare the site for landscaping.

"In addition to the work that we did, we were able to tour some of the neighborhoods where Habitat has been working. We met two very dynamic community leaders who shared their stories with us.

"We were part of a program



Making new friends while hauling toilets for Habitat for Humanity in Cleveland this summer were Nora Stewart (First, Santa Cruz), Katie Thompson, Jennie Vale and Megan Matthews (Ohio churches). Left: Also from Santa Cruz were Lillian Thomas and Dylan Los Huertos.

called Inward Bound, which is affiliated with Habitat for Humanity. We were housed at the historic Old Stone Church, which is located in the heart of downtown Cleveland.

"We also visited the UCC headquarters in Cleveland and met some interesting people there."

The Pacific welcomes accounts of mission trips and especially photos.

SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

Michele Bagby became Michele Bagby Allen when she married James Allen on June 26 in Sacramento.

Susan Myunghee Choi was ordained by the Bay Association at Berkeley Chinese Community Church on Aug. 29. She has a four-way covenant with BCCC, the Bay Association, and Good News Jail and Prison Ministry in Contra Costa County.

Jack Dawson was installed by the Mountain Valley Association as pastor at United Congregational

Christian, Lodi, Sept. 26, in an ordained ministerial partnership.

Sandra Hulse was hired as transitional senior minister by First, Palo Alto, as of Sept. 12.

Bill Kelly was ordained an Episcopal priest Sept. 18.

Elena Larssen was ordained Aug. 28 by the

Golden Gate Association at Community, Sebastopol. She has a four-way covenant with United Christian Campus Ministry at Stanford, the Santa Clara Association, and First, Palo Alto, where her installation service will be held Oct. 3.

Lu Parks was called as designated term minister for one year by Zion, Fresno, Aug. 21.

Parkside, Sacramento, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on Sept. 26

San Lorenzo Community Church will celebrate its 130th birthday on

Nov. 21. **United, Petaluma**, celebrates its 150th anniversary Oct. 2.

Mark Throckmorton was hired as interim minister at Congregational, Elk Grove, as of Aug. 16.

Faroo Wendt was ordained by the Golden Gate Association at First, Santa Rosa, on Aug. 21. He has been called as pastor at Fremont First Samoan formerly known as Fua Ole Sinapi, an in-care congregation.

Note on phone numbers: Now that the Pacific can be read on line (thank you Roger Straw, webmaster) we will only be publishing work phone number or email contacts. You can always contact the Conference office, 510-247-8990, <office@nncucc.org> for more information on any event.

Note on dates and candidates for ecclesiastical councils, ordinations and installations: By popular request we are trying to include advanced notice of dates and names for these important events. However because of our deadlines and the work of the Holy Spirit, we advise checking with the Association Moderator or Associate Conference Minister to confirm.

Oct. 3 United, Petaluma 150th Anniversary Celebration, 10 a.m., 707-763-2454.

Oct. 3 Installation of Rev. Elena Larssen to United Christian Campus Ministry, Stanford, First UCC, Palo Alto, 2 p.m. installing council, 3 p.m. service, 650-856-6662.

Oct. 6 Administration and Finance, 11:30-2:30, Conference office, David Bergman-Hill, 510-247-2028.

Oct. 7 Committee on Ministry, Section D, 5:30-9 p.m., Conference office, Deborah Streeter, 831-624-6072.

Oct. 8-9 Outdoor Ministries Committee annual planning retreat, Barbara Broadbent, 510-247-8996.

Oct. 8, 9, 10 Chocolate Festival, Congregational, Belmont, 650-593-4547.

Oct. 9 Board of Directors Executive Committee, Conference Office, Lora Pallatto, 510-247-8990.

Oct. 9 Bay Association Ecclesiastical Councils, Plymouth, Oakland for David Bergman-Hill (commissioned ministry).

Oct. 9 God is Still Speaking training, Petaluma UCC, see Page C4

October 15 Committee on Ministry, Sections A & B, Hillcrest Congregational UCC, Pleasant Hill. Section A: Penny Phillips, Chair; Mary Turner Gilliland, Scheduling. <mltg@aol.com>, Section B: Melinda McLain and Kevin Manz, chairs, Scheduling: Iris Moran, <ikmoran@pacbell.net>

Oct. 15-17 Women's Network Fall Retreat, Mercy Center, Burlingame, Anne Lowe Registrar, <annelowe@comcast.net>

Oct. 16 God is Still Speaking training, College Ave. Modesto, 9 a.m. - noon. See Page C4.

Oct. 23 God is Still Speaking training, Sierra Arden, Sacramento, 9 a.m. - noon. See Page C4.