

## DIVING INTO THE DEEP

### May we be merged into your Great Light: NCNC prayers in times of joy and sorrow

(From Rev. David McCracken's final message on the occasion of his retirement from First, Sonoma.)

*Give us joy* as we await the great changes that come to all of us. May we be merged each day more firmly into your Great Light, as the wavering flame of a candle is finally caught up into the sun, until all the strings that bind us in this life are untied. Then we can move on, free and unencumbered, in the Great Change that waits for all who have shared this earth pilgrimage.

Each of us, fashioned from the dust of the earth, is nevertheless the very glory of God. What we have experienced together no power on earth can take from us. Not only our experiences and all we have done, but the quiet witness of a faithful people, living by the precepts of Jesus Christ, are as much apart of the journey as any words from the pulpit or service can ever be. We can only be grateful for the wonder of life we share with one another with all its infinite possibilities and wondrous gifts.

(Plymouth, Oakland, hosted An Interfaith Blessing of the Labor and Love of Educators for the Oakland Coalition of Congregations Sept. 12. Rev. Lois Mueller gave this prayer of blessing for educators:)

*May the labor and love* that you invest in your vocation return to bless you.

May you hold fiercely to your vision and calling that each child is unique and precious.

May you always remember your highest purpose in the sacred vocation of education.

May we all gather as a people to weave a community in which each child might learn, grow and flourish.

And may you always, always know that our prayers and blessing go with you.

(Community, Clarksburg's Rev. Dennis Montzingo's nephew Matt was killed this summer in a car accident. Age 25, newly engaged, serving in the Air Force, he was, writes Montzingo, "a young man of deep faith who knew Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and entrusted his life and eternal life to the Lord. The following prayer was written by Matt in his Bible and shared at the memorial celebration of his life and testimonial to the glory of God. I share it as a witness to a life lived in faith to the Lord.")

*Life is here* for a second. Tomorrow will bring something new. When you die, there will be eternity. God promises ultimate peace, hope, happiness, fullness. So today, don't worry, work hard, love, laugh, be honest, help others. Pretty soon life here will run out. It's important to do these things. If life doesn't feel fulfilled, complete or at peace, it's because it's not. But eventually it will be. Worship God!

### A contemporary Lord's Prayer

College Community Congregational, Fresno's confirmation class (Sommer Earl, Megan Fazio, Jennifer Garth and Tommy Garth) were invited to put the Lord's Prayer in contemporary language. Try praying these words!

*God who surrounds us,*

Your name is holy.

May you be in charge of the earth,

may your will be done.

Give us what we need and

forgive the mistakes we make

as we forgive the mistakes of others.

Help us make good decisions.

You rule and you're cool.

Amen



### Ladera, Portola Valley cross transmits power

*Editor's note: Ladera, Portola Valley, celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. At its founding, many of the church's members were associated with Stanford and the then-nascent telecommunications industry of Silicon Valley. Ann Ingebritsen and Joann Hansen tell this story of the marriage of science and religion in the creation of the sanctuary cross.*

The year after the church was built, Frank Coale thought of using S-band wave guide to create a cross for the sanctuary. Myrl Stearns got the material from Varian Associates, and they welded the copper pieces together with a silver copper alloy.

S-band wave guide is normally used for transmission of microwave power, carrying televi-

sion, telephone and, most importantly, radar signals. Through some strange combination of circumstances — act of God or what you will — its properties were discovered just before the attempted invasion of Britain during World War II, at a time when functional radar was desperately needed to ward off the German onslaught. The wave guide transmitted power from the ground stations to the antennas which put out the signals for detection of enemy aircraft from 50 to 100 miles away. It could also be used to detect the periscopes of prowling submarines for up to 10 miles.

The wave guide transmits power with no loss of energy. Perhaps our cross can remind us of the similarity in the transmission of God's love to us through prayer.

### Association gatherings set throughout NCNC

The Sacramento Valley Association meets Saturday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Community, Clarksburg. Keynote speaker Rev. Mark Throckmorton will speak on "The Power of Prayer" and workshops on various styles of prayer will be offered by Stephen Hamilton, Susan Hamilton, Gerry Paulsen, Susan Mix and Dennis Montzingo. Register at (916) 744-1422.

The Bay Association meets Sunday, Nov. 7 at Eden, Hayward from 5 – 8 p.m. for business and a presentation by Tony Lewis and others from our Conference who have been trained on how churches can best welcome visi-

tors after the "God is Still Speaking" national TV ads run in our market during Advent. Contact Moderator Rod Yee at 510-548-5259.

The Golden Gate Association meets Saturday Nov. 13 at First, Sonoma.

An article on the program, "Spirituality and Sustainability" appears on Page C1.

The Santa Clara (Oct. 3, Palo Alto, Oct. 31, Carmel) and Mountain Valley Associations (Sept. 26, Lodi) will have informal meetings this fall during installations of new pastors. (See Calendar and Seasons, Page C7)