



*Fairfax Community Church*  
***Interaction***  
*April 2009*

**Calendar of Events**

Date	Time	Event
		<b>Special Holy Week Events and Worship Services</b>
Sun. Apr. 5	10:30 a.m.	<b>Sunday Morning celebration.</b> Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday service. From celebration to contemplation we follow Jesus into Jerusalem.
Wed. Apr 8	7:00 p.m.	Ruth Schweitzer-Mordecai continues to lead us in <b>“Unleashing out Capacity to Love”</b> . Meeting in the chapel.
Thurs. Apr. 9	7:00 p.m.	<b>Maundy Thursday Service.</b> This will be an experiential “Emergent Worship” style service: through silence, scripture, movement and meditation, we will trace the spiritual path of Holy Week. Begins in the Sanctuary.
Sun. Apr. 12	10:30 a.m.	<b>Sunday Morning celebration.</b> EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION! Please bring flowers for our ‘flowering cross’.
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		After Easter, we will share a short series of services focusing on the Fairfax community and our place in it.
Sun. Apr. 19	10:30 a.m.	<b>Sunday Morning celebration.</b> An “Only in Fairfax” kinda church.
Sun. Apr. 26	10:30 a.m.	<b>Sunday Morning celebration.</b> Missional Ministry inside and out.
Sun. May 3	10:30 a.m.	<b>Sunday Morning celebration.</b> The “E” word
Thur . Apr 23		Deadline for May Interaction





## Pastor's Palette

I'm looking forward to sharing my first Holy Week with you all in Fairfax starting April 5th. We have had some wild and wonderful spiritual experiences this past Lent: from an uplifting "Ash-less" Wednesday service, deeply enriching small group experiences with Ruth Schweitzer-Mordecai, 13 different Jesus, some Atonement theology, lingering on love, and more by the time you get this newsletter. With this preparation I'm excited about what lay ahead for Easter. There are 4 spiritual experiences planned for you during this most holy week in the Christian church calendar. I hope you plan on attending all of them!

As this Newsletter is for the month of April, I want to tell what's coming up after this Lenten Season of personal spiritual development. We will step

out for three weeks after Easter to focus on our spiritual place as a church in the Fairfax community. This short series, beginning April 19<sup>th</sup>, will be a little like our examination of our history in that the focus was on us as a community.

We will be talking about several things: a little bit about the needs and changes of the town of Fairfax, the emerging worship movement and how we already embody much of these new styles of spiritual community, and our sense of outreach into our community. We will also look at emerging ideas of what it means to be church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many call this "Missional Ministry" the next phase of church identity. Part of this focus will be related to our interim work as a congregation (exploring who and what we are called to be in our future) and part of it will just be fun looking at "what's out there."

Blessings and Peace -

*Robert Shively*

Interim Minister



# RESURRECTION DAY

*New life never comes easy.*

*Nothing is born without effort and pain.*

*Easter's dawn is not the pastel water color  
of springtime's return.*

*Easter breaks with thundering upheaval,  
with the ocean's weight and salty power  
crashing over the bleak rockscape of our  
hiding places,*

*dissolving our fears with Holy Terror.*

*New life never comes easy.*

*Nothing is born without effort and pain.*

*This day we witness death itself*

*Giving way, giving birth, giving W I D E  
berth,*

*To Life.*

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April/May 2009

Submitted by Kathy Simmons



## **HOLY WEEK EVENTS AND SERVICES AT FCC**

Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am: Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday service.

From celebration to contemplation we follow Jesus into Jerusalem.

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 pm: meeting the Chapel.

Ruth Schweitzer-Mordecai continues to lead us in  
“Unleashing our Capacity to Love:”

Friday, April 10, 7:00 pm – Good Friday Service - beginning in the Sanctuary.

This will be an experiential “Emergent Worship” style service: through silence,  
scripture, movement and meditation we will trace the spiritual path of Holy Week.

Sunday, April 12, 10:30 am – Easter Sunday Celebration, in the Sanctuary.

# Radical Abundance

From our moderator Lynn Bauer:

*Some time ago, you may remember Pastor Sara making the startling assertion that she considered me (Lynn) to be a kind of prophet. If there is any truth to that, then prophets must be able to get the Word in writing, since that's where most of my inspire-ation seems to come from. —Well, that and our Sunday services and reflections, of course! I just read a thought-provoking article by David Korten who has written several illuminating books. I have quoted him before, I'm sure. This one is especially timely, and I hope you will read these excerpts and the related information at the end of it. I'd love to get your reactions, and if you'd like to read the entire article, let me know. Korten also launched a new book on the topic, one that may make for an interesting book study along the lines of "Getting a Grip."*

**David Korten speech at Trinity Wall Street Episcopal conference "Radical Abundance; A Theology of Sustainability." (Excerpts)**

"We are privileged to live at the most dangerous but also the most exciting moment of creative opportunity in the whole of the human experience. ... we are poised to shed our historical adolescence and move on to a new national maturity. We must declare our national independence from Wall Street and set about to build a new economy devoted to meeting the real needs of life.

This advance can only be achieved through the co-leadership of religious institutions ...by rededication to the nation's founding ideals of universal liberty and justice, as well as to the core teachings of the world's great religions.

Many problems confront us, but they ultimately come down to two defining issues. One is our wanton destruction of God's creation. The second is the unjust division of what remains of that abundance between the profligate and desperate in our society. Both are crimes against

God. Both are crimes against ourselves. Both are by our own collective hand.

We face a choice: We can accept the status quo of an economic system devoted to the worship of money and the pursuit of individual greed. Or we can create a new economy devoted to the service of life. [The good news is...] The world we must now create, if we are to survive as a species, is the world we want—the world our brains are wired to create, and the world that religious prophets down through the ages have sought to inspire us to create; [a world of] caring, cooperation and service.

How do we cast out the moneychangers from the temple of life? My answer: through the power of conversation and a new story. ...every movement for transformational social change begins with a conversation. ...It is essential to our collective future that our religious institutions refashion themselves as centers of spiritual inquiry and community-building."

*And, right here in our congregation we have begun that conversation—about our values and how this financial crisis is affecting our families and communities. We will be widening and deepening the conversation as we gather May 17<sup>th</sup> with respected economists and thinkers at the Northern California Economic Conference, sponsored by the Marin Organizing Committee. This will be a unique opportunity to put our heads together to look at the national economic picture and connect it to what's happening in our own lives, AND it will help us develop a 'new story' and new means to change the status quo so that it aligns more closely with our personal and Christian values. Please see the following flyer for this event, and plan to be part of the solution. This is MOC's only planned public action until next fall and our Founding Convention.*

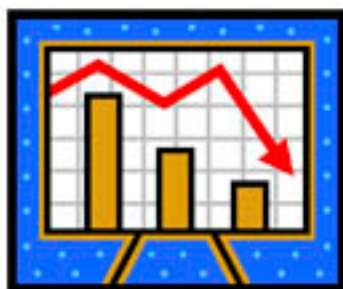


"We have the power to turn this world around for the sake of ourselves, our children, and Creation's grand journey." —David Korten

## Northern California Economic Conference

### "Reclaiming our Voice; Speaking for the Public Good"

Sunday, May 17, 2:00 – 6:00, First Presbyterian, San Rafael



Together with local and national economists, we will share, learn and reflect:

- How did we get into this economic mess?
- How are we affected personally as well as in our communities, state and nation?
- What do our traditions say about the economy and how we make financial decisions?
- What can we do together to move forward and make a difference in these challenging times

*This will be an opportunity to wrestle with these and related questions and stories in large-group sessions as well as in Interactive small-group workshops led by:*

- Dr. Dowell Myers, Professor of Urban Planning and Demography, USC
- Dr. Paul Osterman, Dean, Sloan School of Management, MIT
- Stephen Levy, Director, Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy
- Scott Graves, Senior Policy Analyst, California Budget Project
- Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director, Just Congregations, Union for Reform Judaism

**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, 1510 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., San Rafael, CA**

**Tim Garthwaite submitted the following story that he wrote for “Tell Our Life Stories”.**

## **A CLOSE SHAVE**

My parents both had very curly hair, which I inherited. In 1945, when I was nine, I took the train from Berkeley to my cousin’s farm near LA where I spent the summer outdoors in the sun tending the chickens and riding their horse.....bareback! I only came indoors for meals.

When I came back home, I stepped off the train in Berkeley in a bright orange T shirt and huaraches that I found at a Farmers Market ... and no hair. My mother yelled “Where are your curls?”

On the farm, ya know, you do most every thing yourself. My cousin shaved her boys hair...mine too. For a week my mother complained about my hair and also said that she thought that something had DIED in my room. She was right.

My leather sandals were not cured.

The next summer I returned to my cousin’s farm on one condition.  
Well.....

Maybe two!



## Fairfax Community Church UCC

### Core Council Meeting

February 15, 2009

A meeting of the Core Council of the Fairfax Community Church was convened by Moderator Lynn Bauer on February 15, 2009, at 12:05 p.m. Reverend Robert Shively, Dean Hanson, Nancy Hanson, ToniMarie Lehmann and Council members Lynn Bauer, Chris Figari, Warren Uhte, LaVerne Uhte and Kathleen Hale were present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Shively. Lynn then welcomed LaVerne Uhte to the Council as the newly elected member-at-large, and thanked Dean and Nancy Hanson and ToniMarie Lehmann for joining the meeting to present recent developments and proposals for building use and improvement.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the minutes of the January 11 Council Meeting and the January 18 Congregational Meeting be approved.***

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS/BUILDING USE

Exterior Painting. Nancy Hanson had emailed to all Council members a detailed bid submitted by Sam Case for painting and repairs, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Following an email vote by Council members, Sam began the work and discovered additional repairs needed. After a review of the budget by Dean Hanson and a lengthy discussion,

***It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that Sam Case be authorized to do all of the work proposed in his bid, including the additional repairs required, and that payment for the labor and supplies be made from the Building Improvement Fund.***

Carpet Cleaning. Nancy Hanson reported on the condition of the Church carpets and the estimates she had received for their cleaning. It was agreed to authorize Nancy to hire North Bay Carpet Cleaners for the cleaning of all the Church carpets as soon as possible.

Plumbing Problem. ToniMarie reported that she had called Mason Plumbing, requesting that they look at the leaking urinal and other plumbing problems, make an assessment of all the plumbing needs and submit a bid for any work that needs to be done.

Cleaning Service. Nancy Hanson reported that, because of the increase in billings from our present cleaning service for labor and supplies, she has asked ToniMarie to get a review from them on actual work done and supplies used. In order to compare their charges with those of other cleaning services, she has asked Manuel Gomez to walk through and give an estimate of what his company would charge. She is awaiting a call from him.

Stove. Lynn Bauer reported that a stove (newer than the one we now have) had been offered to the Church by one of the tenants. She discussed the matter with the DayCaring staff, who said that they loved the old stove, and it was therefore agreed to decline the offer.

Maintenance Tasks. A list of maintenance task descriptions was distributed, and Chris Figari said she would ask Bob Figari to prepare a calendar of the tasks required and a sign-up sheet for volunteers. It was agreed that each volunteer would report to ToniMarie upon the completion of his/her task and that any task not completed would be referred back to the Council.

Office B Rental. ToniMarie had earlier emailed a Building Use Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, in which she reported that Mitchel Berman and Beto Borges from UDV had proposed painting and replacing the carpet in Office B and renting it for \$250. They expressed concern about the insecure double doors at the side of the Narthex and offered to assess them and help with any repairs and/or replacement. They will make a firm decision after inspection by their other members on February 14. Council members agreed that the proposal should be accepted, and also agreed to providing a child-safe space heater and working together with them to see that the doors are made secure.

Reduced Rental Fees for FCC Friends. ToniMarie asked for clarification of the resolution passed in January regarding a 25% discount to be given to members and friends whose programs further the ministry of the Church. It was agreed that all members should be given the discount and that any questions regarding "friends whose programs further the ministry of the Church," can be referred to the Council for a decision.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Shively reported (1) that he would assume responsibility for seeing that all doors are locked after the services; (2) that he and Nancy Hanson had worked out a system of communication to assure that pastoral care needs are covered; (3) that he would lead an Ash Wednesday service on February 25 focusing on *Unleashing the Compassion Within Us* (with classes on the same subject to be led by Ruth Schweitzer-Mordecai on the following six Wednesdays or Thursdays); and (4) that he would be attending three house meetings during February.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Warren distributed the Treasurer's Report for January, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of the minutes located in the Church office. He mentioned that the costs for repair of the photocopier in the office were unusually high (\$1,188.13). Rev. Shively said the repairman had made repairs twice during the month, but that he will ask the secretary to review the bill to determine if the amount is correct.

### **MOC REPORT**

Lynn reported that a leadership action meeting would be held on February 24 at the San Francisco School of Theology in San Anselmo, that house meetings would be held during March and April, and that an Economic Summit would be held on May 17.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Change in Secretarial Staff. Lynn announced that Molly Barnett had resigned as Church Secretary and would be leaving at the end of February. She will be replaced by ToniMarie Lehmann.

Church Profile. Chris Figari agreed to help prepare a questionnaire for all members to be used in writing the Church Profile. Rev. Carol Manahan of the Golden Gate Association of the Conference will be asked to email a sample questionnaire.

Use of Sanctuary as Shelter for Homeless. Rev. Shively said he had received a request from CCC in Tiburon to use the Church's sanctuary as a shelter for the homeless on Monday nights for twelve weeks. Food, transportation and staff would be provided by CCC. There were many questions yet to be answered, including the availability of the sanctuary and the provision of insurance, and a final decision could not be made until all questions were answered.

Pledges to Marin Interfaith Council and Marin Organizing Committee. As our annual budget provides for \$1,200 to be used for outreach and social action, after discussion,

***It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that \$150 be donated to the Marin Interfaith Council and \$1,200 be donated to the Marin Organizing Committee, with \$1,050 of that amount to come from the Budget and \$150 to come from individual donations.***

NCNC Yearbook Report. Lynn said the form from the NCNC requesting information had not yet been completed. Because in its current form the report must be done manually, Warren will try to scan the form onto the computer to simplify the process. Lynn also asked Warren to provide the financial information requested on the form.

Grand Council Meeting. It was agreed to hold a Grand Council meeting on April 26 for the purpose of reporting on the house meetings and the results of the questionnaire.

Evaluation of Annual Meeting Council members agreed that merging the worship service with the Annual Meeting had been very successful and had resulted in a beautiful (and shorter) meeting.

Membership Rolls. It was agreed to table a review and revision of the membership rolls until the next Council Meeting.

Reconfiguration of Offices. Following a suggestion that the pastor's office be switched to another office in order to provide more rental income for its use, it was agreed that such a switch would not be practical and that no reconfiguration of offices should be done.

## **ADJOURNMENT: NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next regular meetings will be held on March 15 and April 19.

Kathleen Hale, Clerk