



Little Brown Church of Sunol

United Church of Christ – Congregational

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February 2017

In this issue:

- February-April calendar
- Save the date for Mary and Robin
- Invitation to church conference
- Results of annual congregational meeting Jan. 22
- Upcoming shelter dinners

February-March-April Calendar

Ash Wednesday, March 1 -- Worship with our sister churches in Fremont

Palm Sunday, April 9 -- Worship at LBC

Maundy Thursday, April 13 -- Worship with our sister churches in Fremont

Good Friday, April 14 -- Worship with our sister churches in Fremont

Saturday, April 15 -- Conant-Spindler nuptials

Easter Sunday, April 16 -- Worship at LBC

Save the Date!

Mary Conant and Robin Spindler will be married on Saturday, April 15, in Berkeley. More details will appear in subsequent newsletters.

All members of Little Brown Church are invited, along with their spouses, significant others, and children. An exact number will be needed so please check your calendars. Information on how to RSVP will be included in a later newsletter.

Results of congregational meeting

At the Jan. 22 annual meeting of the Little Brown Church, members of the congregation discussed and accepted the budget for 2017; elected Susan Ewing-Haley, Helene Villarreal, and Kevin Matlock as council members-at-large; and heard reports from council members about activities in 2016.

Council Chair Allen Cook described the significant changes and improvements which have been made to our buildings.

He summarizes his report as follows:

As Little Brown Church council chairman and moderator, I would like to summarize the major projects accomplished this past year with help of many within the congregation and from the Sunol Business Guild, and local Sunolian, Darryl Hansen.

1. Babbitt Hall kitchen fluorescent light fixtures replaced with the help of Kevin Matlock and his friend, John Rigter.
2. We changed the usage of the parsonage house from a business to a residential rental. This required storing furniture and church office records, deep cleaning the parsonage, and making significant repairs as needed. This was all made possible through the help of Caren, Helene, Susan with her children Laura and Sean, her friend Ed, and with Landy and Allen and Margie.
3. Wilson Property Management was hired to oversee and manage the parsonage rental.
4. Contractors were hired for church restoration projects that encompassed lead abatement to the sanctuary and Babbitt Hall, painting of all church buildings including the sanctuary, Babbitt Hall, parsonage house with its rear deck, and Kirk House along with a storage building. Plus, the wrought iron gates and lamp posts were even painted.
5. Painting contractor Eduardo Martinez was able to repair a broken window frame and window on the parsonage using a vintage frame found under the church. This saved us significant cost.
6. A donation from Katharine Kloverstrom fully financed re-roofing the parsonage house, which was in dire need of a new roof.
7. Lastly, we hired a heating and air conditioning company to replace varmint-damaged air ducts beneath Babbitt Hall so that we now have heat in the hall.

I think this past year was one of significant work, well done by our small congregation and community.

Thank you all.

Allen Cook

Upcoming shelter dinners

Thank you to everyone who helped with the homeless shelter dinner on Sunday, January 29! We agreed to provide the dinner on very short notice, and presented the shelter residents with quite a feast: pulled pork sandwiches, barbecued chicken, peas and carrots, Brussels sprouts, and potato and macaroni salad. Helene brought two homemade cakes to go with the ice cream. Robin comes up with unique and tantalizing menus every time.

Upcoming dates are:

Monday, May 15

Monday, June 19

Tuesday, August 15

Invitation to our UCC conference's annual gathering

*Lord make me a channel of your disturbance.
Where there is apathy, let me provoke,
Where there is silence, may I be a voice.
Where there is too much comfort, and too little action, Grant disruption.
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, Grant me the willingness to listen.
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked . . .
When tradition speaks louder than need. . .
Disturb us, O Lord, Teach us to be radical.
Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it;
To be with as well as for the poor;
To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;
To touch the passion of Jesus in the Pain of those we meet;
To accept responsibility to be church.
Lord, make me a channel of your disturbance.
~Author Unknown*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is with great pleasure that I announce and invite you to attend the 2017 Annual Gathering of the Northern California Nevada Conference United Church of Christ, which will be held from June 15 to 18 at Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park, CA.

The theme this year is "Come Into Peace; Go Forth to Disrupt." Our theme has been inspired by the poem quoted above, often entitled the "Reverse St. Francis Prayer." As we struggle to understand what it is to be the People of God in this time and in this place, we find ourselves confronting issues of Peace and Disruption. How do we find peace within ourselves and our church communities in order to find the courage and strength to answer Jesus' call to go out and serve when it is not comfortable?

Our Scripture Texts are: Jeremiah 29:11 and Jeremiah 6:14:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV)

"They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace." (NIV).

These texts remind us that while Christ promises and enables peace and safety in our spirits, it is not enough to rest in this safety when there is no peace for many in the world. Keynote speakers Kristin Stoneking and Kazu Haga will help us explore these themes during a fabulous weekend of praise, worship, study, and fellowship. I hope and pray that you can join us.

See you June 15-18 at Sonoma State University!

Yours in Christ,

Roy Mosley

Moderator

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LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL

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