

Crystal Springs United Methodist Church



Spirit

Spring 2017

Pastor: Rev. Hee-Soon Kwon

Contributors: The People of Crystal Springs Church

Editor: Laura Johnson

Web Site: www.csumchurch.com

2145 Bunker Hill Drive

San Mateo, CA 94402

(650) 345-2381

E-mail: crystalspringsumc@gmail.com

Pastor's Corner

Prison Ministry Again

In Honor of Barbara & Dick Phillips

We celebrated the life of our dear friend, Barbara Phillips lately with her family and friends. I met Barbara when she was coming to church to worship with us, accompanied by Araceli, her caregiver, and then she became weaker and weaker, and finally bedridden. Some time ago I brought Pat Allen to visit Barbara. Pat was also a member of our church, who lived in an assistant care home. Both of them had memory problems. Somehow they communicated at different levels. They looked at each other, and laughed and laughed. They enjoyed each other. It was an incredible experience!

One day Araceli called me at midnight to let me know Barbara was having rough breaths. I know that the process of dying is a difficult one, with many fears and anxieties, but it is also a very mysterious and wondrous process. In dying, we pass through a narrow gate at the threshold between the known and the unknown. Her passage was done with dignity in this process because of her loving family and caregivers. It was also my privilege and sacred experience to vigil with Barbara, to sit together and pray together with her caregivers, Araceli, Bong, and Cecil until she died. We chose to join hands with her and to pray with her while she was dying, since we believed that dying is more than the physical body shutting down. I felt like helping her laboring to be born into heaven. It was absolutely sacred! She passed very peacefully and beautifully. We know that now she is one of the saints in glory, joining her beloved husband, Dick.

Susan, her daughter, shared with me about her parents' ministry, especially the prison ministry. You probably have good memories of how much both of them dedicated

themselves to the prison ministry, as well as our church ministry, for a long time. I never met Dick, but I have heard about him a lot and his ministry at our church, touching many people's lives.

The Juvenile home of San Mateo County is around the corner from our church. I wondered and prayed about how we can do this ministry again as Barbara and Dick did. Finally, I have connected with the chaplain of the facility, Hillcrest Chapel, and visited a couple of times and was inspired again. Thank you, Barbara and Dick! A few of our church people have also expressed their interests in this ministry. I am very excited about it. Let's try it again in the neighboring Juvenile home in honor of Barbara and Dick Phillips! Let's pray about it and participate in it.

Jesus continues to ask us, "When I was in prison, you visited me. . . ." (Matthew 25:36).

Hee Soon

Safe Harbor

An outreach program our church participates in is volunteering at Safe Harbor on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 5 to 6 p.m. We serve approximately 90 men and women a hot meal prepared by Samaritan House. The recipients, who are so appreciative, have jobs, but just aren't able to pay the high rents in this area. They can live at Safe Harbor for six months, longer if necessary.

This is a very rewarding, easy way to volunteer. It's preferable to have two or three people go each time. We meet at the church at 4:45 and return about 6:30, depending on traffic.

Call Linda Burnside if you'd like to help, 650-349-6917 or leburney@yahoo.com

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



Come Worship With Us!

Easter Plays, April 8th (Sat.) – 7:00 p.m.

*Reader's Theater: "I Am: The Jesus Incident" and "What Easter Means to Me"

Palm Sunday, April 9th (Sun.)– 10:00 a.m.

*Children's Program (Children will come in with palms.)

Maundy Thursday, April 13th (Thur.) – 6:30 p.m.

*Seder Meal (Pot Luck) with Chancel Drama & Tenebrae Service. Please join us for this powerful evening service where we remember Jesus's last meal with his friends in the Upper Room. (You may bring any simple meal or middle eastern flavored food: bread, salad, or drink to share.) After that, we will have a Tenebrae Service in the sanctuary.

Good Friday Vigil, April 14th (Friday) – Please come at anytime between 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*On this solemn day you may remember Jesus's death on the cross as an everlasting example of how God's love for us was literally 'to die for.' Please sign up when you come and sit in the presence of God at any time suggested and take pre-blessed Communion. Pastor Hee-Soon will be present the whole time.

Holy Saturday Prayer Breakfast, April 15th (Saturday)

Please bring some topics to pray about and breakfast food to share.

Easter Sunday, April 16th (Sunday) – 10:00 a.m. Happy Easter!

*Easter Special Music

*Children's Program (There will be a special Sunday School Easter program for the children.)

"Spiritual Exercises"

Why Spiritual Exercises? What are Spiritual Exercises?

Spiritual Exercises are intentional disciplines that if practiced with regularity can enlarge and help us to enjoy the presence of God. Spiritual Exercises strengthen the soul just as physical exercise strengthens the body. Spiritual Exercises help us become more focused and aware of the God who is already here. In the Wesleyan tradition, spiritual discipline was also the main force. I believe that we will grow spiritually and transform if we practice them regularly.

Some time ago I searched and searched for something to guide and contribute to my journey of faith. These are some of spiritual exercises I love to practice and have been strengthened. So I have shared them to you from time to time for Crystal Springs family.

Spiritual Exercises are like a manual to teach how to play sports. If we don't practice, it does not effect at all. On this Lenten season I thought that it might be a good idea to pres-

ent them to you as a booklet so that you may practice them individually and as a group from this special season of Lent.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about any of these Spiritual Exercises, please contact me (Pastor Hee Soon, heesoon@gmail.com, 650-390-7036). I would love to accompany you with practicing them at any time. "Spiritual Exercises" Booklet is available at the church office.

**Blessings,
Pastor Hee Soon
March 1, 2017**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remain in me and I in him/her, she/he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15: 5)

"Train yourself godly" (1 Timothy. 4: 7)

Our journey of faith: To know Jesus more intimately, to love him more intensely, and to follow him more closely.

Welcome to Anastasia and Glen Campbell

Glen and Anastasia Campbell recently joined the church. They were attending a church in San Francisco and it was too far away, so they looked for a church that was closer to San Mateo. Glen had grown up attending Crystal Springs UMC so Glen and Anastasia decided to visit Crystal Springs UMC. During their first visit, they felt completely at home and thought the church was a place that they could grow spiritually. They had good first impressions of the church—the open-mindedness, the diversity; it was welcoming and they were blessed by Pastor Hee Soon.

Anastasia and Glen are both Bay Area natives. Anastasia grew up in San Jose and Glen grew up in San Mateo.

Anastasia is a 4th grade teacher at a private French-American School. She teaches all subjects in English. She has been teaching for 11 years. She is also working on a multiple-subject credential for teaching in the public school system at Notre Dame de Namur.

Glen is a precision machinist for high performance engines, such as race cars. He has been working for 20 years at the same company, Elgin Cams.

Some of Anastasia's hobbies are reading, listening to music, hiking and playing with her cat, Rico. Some of Glen's hobbies are playing music and racing race cars. Both Anastasia and Glen enjoy spending time with their family.

Glen and Anastasia met at a concert where Glen's band was playing at a music scene. They have five people in their family—Glen, Anastasia, Anastasia's father-in-law, Anastasia's sister-in-law and Anastasia's brother-in-law. They all live together on Forge Road in the Highlands.

A couple of things Anastasia would like people to know about

her that is interesting is: She went to Mills College in Oakland and received a BA in Psychology. Also, she was raised in the Episcopal Church. One thing Glen would like people to know about him that is interesting is: He attended Crystal Springs UMC growing up and it had strong influences in his life for his spiritual foundation.



Welcome to Ruthie Anderson

Ruthie Anderson came to Crystal Springs UMC because she is a Methodist. Her father was a Methodist minister. Also, what really brought her to Crystal Springs UMC was the really nice people she met.

She grew up in the Mid-West in states such as Oklahoma and Texas. Ruthie met her husband Bill in college through good friends. They married and moved to Oregon for ten years and then moved to the Bay Area.

Both Bill and Ruthie were teachers before they retired. Bill was a math teacher at Hillsdale High School and Ruthie was a Living Skills teacher at San Carlos High School and Sequoia High School. Ruthie loved teaching.

Ruthie's hobbies are watercolor painting, gardening, and sewing. She has three children and five grandchildren. Her children's names are Susie, Sally, and Sam. Susie lives in Washington State and was a teacher. Sally lives in Washington D.C and was a teacher. And, Sam lives in Paso Robles in California and was a contractor. They are all retired. Her granddaughter's names are: Natalie, Laura, Stephanie, Kelly, and Samantha. Something she would like people to know about her that is interesting is she loves being with

people and enjoys the companionship she has found at this church.





STEVE'S VIEW

What an amazing political year we had last year and it's still continuing. Not many thought that Trump would win, just Trump, his staff and Hillary's staff, although I doubt if they ever told that to their candidate. What a political junkie's dream.

On the other hand, politicians come and go, but nature keeps on chugging along. After many years of drought our prayers have been answered with an overload of water. Someone prayed too hard. Tons of water are flowing into the ocean because we need to protect our dams and we have no place to save it. Seems that we never gear up for problems we know will be upon us sooner or later. We have not built additional water storage areas and we haven't figured out how to use the excess to replace the aquifers we pumped dry during the drought.

No, we would rather worry about building a high speed railway, with its multitude of problems, that few will ride. Or put money in a variety of programs that have very vocal constituents to please special interests.

Water is basic. California being an agricultural producing state, we need to make good efficient use of our water resources. But we put all sorts of barriers in front of us saving the delta smelt rather than growing food for us.

A good thing about the rain is that it should slow the pine beetle destruction of our pine trees in the state. Millions have been lost, including many on our property in the mountains.

If I go to the window now, I'm met with a blast of white light. The plum in the backyard is very much in bloom. So is the one in the front yard, but it is not as concentrated as the back. Should be a very good fruit year. Time to start considering what to plant this year.

Those who read my columns know that I believe that usually solving problems and deciding courses of action is best when those affected by the results get to make the decisions. And when the problems are of a wider nature the leaders making the decisions should consult those affected by the results.

This holds with the church and UMC life as well. As you may recall, a year or so ago, the church (at least those interested in the decision) decided whether to stage "Vagina Monologues" or not. Such action is missing in our Annual Conference. Do you ever remember when the Conference called Crystal Springs and said, "Hey, what would you think, if we make this a priority next year or do you have a better idea for what we should be doing?" I don't either.

Worse, they don't seem to want our ideas when they intrude on what they want to do. Recently, I was disturbed with some action our new Bishop was taking. So I wrote her a letter explaining my point of view and suggested she get more input from her churches. No response, so I sent another letter complaining that she was ignoring views she didn't want to hear, and that she was following in her predecessors' footsteps in not replying to her constituents. Surprise! No reply.

At this point, I will need to wait until a face to face, perhaps at the Annual Conference in June.

As you can see, I am not a fan of how the Conference operates in terms of how it chooses its priorities. Nine years ago our church sent in a resolution to inject some responsibility into handing of the numerous resolutions that pass every year. It passed and required a yearly report on what happened to the various resolutions. A rudimentary report was completed maybe the first two years, then nothing. Of course, inquiries yielded no results. That was not important so it could be ignored.

In the scheme of things, does the Conference make any difference in our lives other than the things we need to do to supply churches with pastors? Probably very little. Does it impact the life in our country? Not too much. But we do pay for it.

There has got to be a better way.

—Steve Schlichter



Crystal Springs Players

I found two plays that look good if we want to do an Easter Play night. Each is about 20 minutes long and would require minimal staging and could be done as readers' theater. No memorizing. It could be done

Saturday, April 8. It could be done with 6-8 actors.

The hard part: We would need someone to direct. So if you are interested see Joy or Steve.

—Steve Schlichter

Support Group for Caregivers

Taking care of a family member is sometimes difficult. Communication with others that have had similar experience can help. Our support group meets every 3rd Monday at the Crystal Springs Church at the bottom of Bunker Hill Drive, 5:00–7:00 PM in the Fireside room. A caregiver is available to take care of your loved one while we talk. Our goal is to assist you in finding help, equipment and support.

In addition to the monthly meetings, we send information about available classes and helpful caregiving tips by e-mail.

Dianne Weitzel 867-729 kona_caves@juno.com



Little Dresses for Africa

The Third Thursday, 1–4 p.m.

Join Linda Litz to make dresses for children in Africa. You don't have to know how to sew to help.

Samaritan House needs: disposable diapers, baby food, nonperishable foods, personal hygiene products, toys, games, blankets, towels, used automobiles and trucks in good condition. Put food, etc. in the barrel in the Fireside Room.

STEWARDSHIP

Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Prayers



Paula Schlichter, Jane Bolander, Lois Scott, Lillian Boyles, Chris, Florence Chan, Christopher Parker, Lexi Saelua, Samuelu Family, Becky Allen, Flints, Shari Sedam, Stuart Hoffman, David Campbell, Margaret Alley, Shoups, Lois Scott, Judy & Phillip Riedy & Family, Happy, Darlene MacDonald, Fehoko & Family, George Hobbs, Nancy Tamburello, Mike & Mary, Diane Musgrave, Loni Maama Jr., Priya & Johan, Frank Saelua, Gwendolyn Barnhart, Charlie G., Jim Morrissey, Don Diehl, Henri Rabb, Jen & Bill, Dick Algire, Jan Brase, Julie Duffy, Paul Nebel, Kurt & Family, Roberto Avila, Kate Musgrave, Scott & Deb, Dolores

Roscoe, Annie Jefferson, Amelia Landsman, Karen G., Laura Peterhans and the family of Mike Peterhans, Orecchia Family (Terry, William Sr., J.J., Johnny, William Jr.), Fergusons, Esther Kim, Bill, Carl, Middle East, Our Troops, Our Government, North Korea, Refugees, Syria, Turkey, France, Germany, Victims of Natural Disasters, the Immigrants.

Presence

(Attendance at church service)

11/6	60	12/25	53
11/13	38	1/1	47
11/20	46	1/8	40
11/27	56	1/15	56
12/4	55	1/22	47
12/11	67	1/29	53
12/18	46		

Please! Use the Buckets!

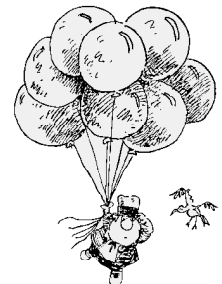
At each door at the end of each service, you'll find a small bucket (small so you can fill it!). The idea is to bring your pocket change to church to put into the buckets for Apportionments. While "small change" will in no way pay our Apportionments, it will go a long way toward reminding us of our share of Apportion-Meant for others.

Our Purpose

To be a caring Church family that nurtures creative spiritual growth within ourselves and the community.

March, April, May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mar. 2	CJ Nobs	Apr. 20	Conor Johnson
Mar. 5	Erica Wynne	Apr. 22	Emma Kurr
	Linda Burnside	Apr. 28	Wynona Seelua
Mar. 16	Jeffrey Madden	May 2	Kathleen Wynne
	Ineke Bolander	May 4	Sharon Garcia
Mar. 20	David Anton	May 12	Linda Litz
Mar. 22	Virginia Spinelli	May 29	Frankie Seelua
Mar. 24	Ingrid & Eric Humke (A)	Maay 30	Helen Kim
Mar. 27	Gloria & Andy Coltart (A)		Mele Veematahau
Apr. 6	Drew Madden		
Apr. 9	Gabrielle Wynne		
	Alexandria Seelua		
Apr. 11	Andy Coltart		
Apr. 14	Jenny Shearer		
Apr. 15	Carrie Branam Rutherford		
Apr. 18	Hong Ki Kim		
	Susana Pau		



Reflections on the Christmas Play

by Esther Kim

On December 17th, 2016, the church put on a Christmas play called “The Miracle of Love,” which included six short plays. The plays were all written by people from the church, including Steve Schlichter, Rex Castell, and Esther Kim. The titles of the plays were: “Christmas in a Coffee Shop,” “What is Christmas For,” “End of the Line Christmas,” “The Miracle of Love on Christmas Eve,” “Christmas Eve with the Christ Child” and “Shepherds and Angels.”

Also, there was carol singing, which included carols such as “Joy to the World,” “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” “White Christmas” and “O Holy Night.” Some of the actors were Sharon Garcia, Joe Garcia, Linda Litz, Andy Coltart, Kristin Myers, Kamron Garcia, Steve Schlichter, Rex Castell, Pete Shearer, Becky Cuthbert and Esther Kim.

This was the first time I ever wrote a play. I wrote “The Miracle of Love on Christmas Eve,” which was about a young girl named Stephanie who was dying from a heart attack on Christmas Eve. Her boyfriend, Alex, who is a marine, comes to the rescue. He flies from Korea to California to be with her. Alex holds Stephanie’s hand and just by his holding her hand, Stephanie begins to heal. Just by Alex’s love, Stephanie recovers from her heart attack. This is the miracle of love on Christmas Eve.

The actors in “The Miracle of Love on Christmas Eve” were Pete Shearer (Alex, the boyfriend), Rex Castell (Dr. Young, the doctor), and Esther Kim (Stephanie, the patient). This will be my second time performing in a play at the church with Crystal Springs Players. I enjoyed working with Pete and Rex. We practiced numerous times and I think we were excited about how the play turned out on the night of the performance.



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