

Crystal Springs United Methodist Church



Spirit

February 2013

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2145 Bunker Hill Drive
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Mission Trip to Louisiana

November 10–November 17

Dear Members of Crystal Springs Methodist Church,

First of all, I must thank you again for all your generosity in supporting me “spiritually and financially,” so that I could take part in the Mission Trip to Slidell, Louisiana. It was such a beautiful and rewarding experience for the twenty five members from our District United Methodist Churches and very much for me! What a wonderful team of men and women, such energetic and wonderfully “spirited people” who bonded together and who together helped three families who had suffered when Hurricane Katrina and then Issac disrupted their lives and destroyed their houses and belongings.

For months, our team met, and were directed and inspired to fulfill the requirements so that we could be part of the “mission to Louisiana,” November 10 to November 17, 2012. Pastor Pam Kurtz, Pastor of Hope UMC in South San Francisco and Jim Smelker, a leader in the Hillsdale UMC Church directed our preparation. Thanks to both of them for their direction, spirit and guidance. These meetings helped us to bond as a group, plan fund raisers and prepare us spiritually, physically and mentally for the challenge and “mission trip” we were so blest to embark on. Of course, we were all directed to fill out lots of important paperwork: Medical, etc. “Such is life”! Right?

So after all the prayer, preparation, fundraising etc., we left SFO, very early in the morning. We had a stopover in Los Angeles and then headed to Louisiana. We arrived about twelve o’clock and it was a comfortable sunny day. I was so blest, as there were three wonderful members of our team that “just showered me with support, humor and friendship,” especially re. traveling. Was I ever lucky to have Jim, Mike, and Omer help me and I shall never

forget those great men! And I’m so very grateful for many of the women on the team who helped me somewhat with my daily needs and transporting me, etc. Thanks especially to Valu, Lesieli, and the rest!

After we arrived and collected baggage, Jim Smelker went to rent three vans. I was with Jim and we had quite a bit of time before we were expected at the Epworth Center. Jim knows the Slidell area very well as he had traveled there before. He took our group to view streets where houses still bear the scars of devastation and ruin. We saw some houses still boarded up and even saw signs on those houses that said “deceased,” regarding persons or pets. It was really sad to still see those images. Many homes in the Slidell area still in need of help!

Next our team, vans and all, ventured to our facility, the Epworth Center. The Epworth Center is located on the campus of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Slidell, Louisiana. It was completed in 2008 and houses hundreds of volunteers each year. You can Google Epworth and get a good look at the facilities where we stayed. It shows a good picture of our sleeping quarters, bathrooms, kitchen and dining and area for meetings, etc. The work “each of our teams” was assigned to was dependent on our skills and what kinds of needs the Center had during our visit. Prior to our assignments, one of the Construction Masters at Epworth Center called us together to discuss and assign our “construction projects” and thereafter every morning. The Center provided all the tools necessary to complete the projects assigned. We were already divided into three teams by our leaders, Pastor Pam and Jim, who by this time knew us pretty well, personalities, skills and all! Our team was divided into three groups and were sent to three locations. One group was sent to

(continued on page 2)

Caregiver Group Meets Monday, February 17

The Caregiver Support Group will meet in the Fireside room on Monday, February 17 at 5 p.m. This group meets every third Monday to help caregivers find help with meeting the needs of taking care of someone with an illness. We provide a helper to be with your loved one, in a nearby room, while you are in our discussion group. Handicapped parking is available up the hill beside our room.

—Dianne Weitzel

Little Dresses for Africa

Thursday, February 21, 1–4 p.m.

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



—Linda Litz

Sarah Crane Needs Room

My name is Sarah Crane. I am looking for a room to rent. Any leads you hear of call me at 650-430-7896 or email me at allthingswise@gmail.com

(Mission, from page 1)

a house where there were ten children and some of them were at home during the day, as they were quite young. They worked on flooring. Another group led by Craig, a professional painter and from Hope UMC were assigned to paint the inside of a house.

My group of six or seven had the job of preparing the walls, etc. for painting and then painting the walls in OL and Gloria's house, not far from the Epworth Center. Their family's home was destroyed, first by Hurricane Katrina and then by Issac. OL, the man of the house, cried when he saw me coming. Being disabled as I am, he couldn't believe that I was there to help. Oh, believe it or not, I helped do sanding and painting and I must say, "I think that I did a good job!" The guys "inspected my work! It seemed that everyone on my team was so skilled and knowledgeable regarding the work that was ours to do. OL and Gloria are such beautiful people and they loved us and the work we were doing to help them eventually move back into their home that is so beautifully situated on two acres of land.

On one of the days that we were with them, Gloria decided to cook us a meal to say thanks, and "low and behold," she prepared a wonderful Louisiana dinner for us. We were able to share it outdoors in the sunshine around a picnic table. We had a very delicious baked ham, gumbo, red beans, jambalaya and we even had deli-

cious "Bread Pudding and a pecan pie that I couldn't resist!

All of us who helped OL and Gloria are invited back if we are ever in the area again. We were sad to leave these new friends of ours and I know we all were blest to be of help to them in their time of need. We'll not forget them!

At the Center, our day would open up with a "wonderful breakfast" and then "Morning prayer, before taking off to our assignments. The "breakfast crew" did a fantastic job of preparing all kinds of breakfast foods. I headed for the coffee first! After breakfast lunches were made, then we had Morning Prayer. At Morning Prayer several of the team members of our mission group were assigned to lead prayers and inspire others to join in. This helped us to focus and unite and ask blessings on our work and the people that we were blest to serve.

Our work day was from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm each day and we were free to use extra time to view New Orleans, which most of us did. We even went out and enjoyed eating dinner together.

After dinner, we would meet together in a Chapel and have Evening prayer. I and two other team members would lead the prayer. Before retiring for the night we would talk and share and pray for each other, for our Mission at Epworth together and for the people we were serving. Individuals would share thoughts about their feelings and experiences. We would sing and pray together and many individuals ended up feeling so alive and transformed by this "mission experience together. I must say, "it was such a "gift to hear the Tongan members sing!"

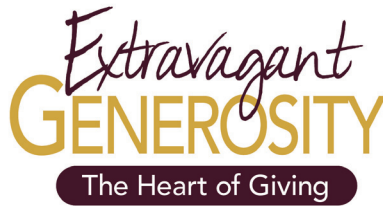
On our last evening before we departed Louisiana, we were all treated to "The Palm Court Cafe" on Decatur Street, New Orleans. The Palm Court is one of the most appealing in a rich bouillabaisse of New Orleans clubs offering Louisiana music. "Fine dining with live Jass!" You should have seen Pastor Pam dance! Wow! And the food was so delicious too!

Many feel that this "Mission experience will help to unite our churches in our Puma (Puma United Methodist Association) better and be a blessing that will help our churches to grow and work together in unity.

The Mission Trip to Louisiana was such a great experience and blessing for me.

Thanks again, Judy Riedy

We are planning to share our "mission experience soon. We are dividing into teams of three or four that will come to our Churches, using slides and narration so we can share with you our Mission and our wonderful experience in Louisiana.



Have you returned your Commitment Card?

If so, thank you. If not, please bring it to church in an envelope labeled “Commitment Card” or return it to the church attn: Teresa Chung, Financial Secretary, Crystal Springs Methodist Church, 2145 Bunker Hill Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402. It will be kept confidential.

As our *Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving* focus ends, we hope to hear from every church family. This helps assure confident church planning that ministries and outreach programs anticipated can be confirmed and fulfilled. All ministries our church implements are dependent on the generosity of God’s people. We are asking everyone who may still be in the process of thinking about how to respond, to try to finalize prayers and thoughts this week.

If you feel you cannot estimate your giving due to your situation or life circumstance, do not let that keep you from worship and fellowship with your loving congregation. God knows all about you, and in Christ, we all have great hope for the future. Consider returning a signed card without a specific amount, signifying your support of the church and your intent to keep the church in your prayers.

More copies will be available this Sunday as well, so you can fill it out when you come to church.

Elizabeth Kurr, Finance Chair

<p>Crystal Springs United Methodist Church</p>	<p>Estimate of Financial Giving for 2013</p>	<p>Service Opportunities</p>
	<p>\$ _____ 12-MONTH TOTAL</p>	<p>I would like to serve CSUMC by:</p>
<p>Estimate of Giving</p>	<p>Anticipated schedule and amount:</p>	<p>Preparing for Worship (setup, decorations, etc) ___</p>
<p>Due November 11, 2012</p>	<p>\$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly</p>	<p>Assisting on Sunday (greeting, flowers, scripture, etc) ___</p>
	<p>Contact Information:</p>	<p>Fellowship ___</p>
	<p>Name(s): _____</p>	<p>Sunday School ___</p>
	<p>Address: _____</p>	<p>Contacting visitors/members ___</p>
	<p>Phone: _____</p>	<p>Maintaining buildings/grounds ___</p>
	<p>Email: _____</p>	<p>Bible Study/Prayer ___</p>
		<p>Drama/Music ___</p>
		<p>Other: _____</p>

Peninsula United Methodist Association of Churches

Mardi Gras Dinner Fundraiser for Volunteers in Mission

Saturday, February 2, 6– 8 p.m.

Tickets \$20 (\$10 is tax deductible)

For tickets, see your local church office or call 650-583-1702



Buffet Dinner

Meat & Seafood Gumbo

Meat Jambalaya

Salad

Red Beans & Rice

Southern Cornbread

Bread Pudding

Music, Stories & Video Presentations

San Bruno UMC

560 El Camino Real, San Bruno, CA; (at El Camino Real & Hwy 380)

Parking on the street and in the rear of the church

650-583-1702

Helping Rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast
Next Mission Trip – November 2013

Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

An Interfaith Story of Courage and Compassion

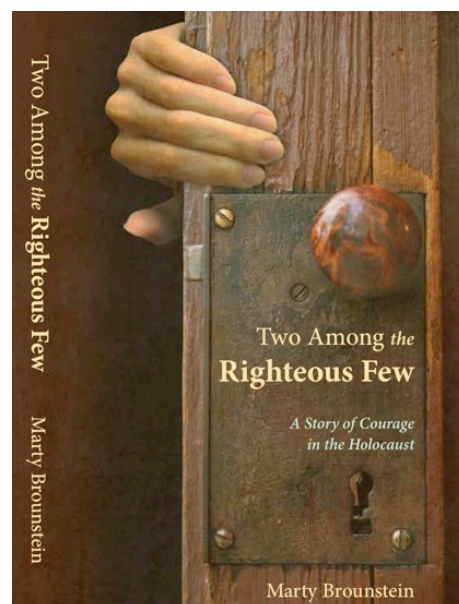
Come hear an engaging presentation by Bay Area author Marty Brounstein on his book

Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust.

It is a remarkable true story of interfaith compassion, courage, and rescue, involving a Christian couple in the Netherlands who saved the lives of at least two dozen Jews during World War II and the Holocaust.

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2145 Bunker Hill Drive
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Tickets: \$10 for a mission project





STEVE'S VIEW

Here we are in the new year and nothing much has changed. The presidency hasn't changed, Congress is the same, the economy still sputters, our debt continues to rise, and the world remains dangerous with no sign of heading in a more peaceful direction. There are few signs that anything will change in the immediate future.

Our culture has continued to coarsen. Look at a lot of the mainstay entertainment that comes our way, listen to the language of a lot of young people, listen to the words of rappers and on and on.

Now, I realize that every older generation looks at down at the younger generation. Being of the former, I can attest to some of those feelings. However, there are problems in the world that beg our attention.

What can we do? We don't run the government. We barely have time to get everything done in our lives as it is. How can we solve the problems in Iran or with the Israel-Palestine dispute, etc.

Well, there are a number of things we can do. First of all, we need to be informed about the problems of the day. The internet makes gathering information much easier than before. Once we have information, we can then make good political choices in the voting booth. We can then keep them accountable.

Where is the church's role in dealing with these problems? Surely we have a role. But having attended a number of Annual Conferences I have my doubts that we are exerting the kind of influence that we need to actually solve any of the problems. Oh, we send aid to Africa and help with churches there, but is that what is really needed at this time? Supporting churches is nice, but what Africa really needs is political stability and economic development. Why aren't we involved in these areas? Have we gone to Iran to help solve that problem? No, but we sure have things to say about the gay issues, gun control, etc. Those are easy.

I know this has been a common theme of mine. Unfortunately, the church is still heading in an irrelevant direction in the country. We are losing people, as are many other denominations.

What can CSUMC do to help with the important issues of the day? Not sure that I know, but perhaps we ought to address the issues along with the normal ones of making sure we have money to pay the bills.

—Steve Schlichter

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.

Children of Abraham—"Miracles"

Richard L. Shafer

Recently, I was invited to a party to celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication. I knew a little about Hanukkah. Gifts are exchanged and contributions made to the poor. On the first evening, one candle is lighted in a special eight-branched candelabrum called a menorah or hanukkiyah. Beginning on the second night, one candle is added every night until the total reaches eight on the last night. The candles are lighted by a separate candle called a shamash.

The invitation said we'd retell the Hanukkah story, so I wanted to review its history. According to <http://www.kcls.org/answers/question.cfm?questionID=1890>,

"The two books of Maccabees in the Apocrypha tell the story of Hanukkah. In 165 B.C., after a three-year struggle led by Judah Maccabee, the Jews in Judea defeated the Syrian tyrant Antiochus IV. They held festivals in the temple in Jerusalem, and dedicated it to God.

"According to the Talmud, when the Jews cleaned the Temple of Syrian idols, they found only one small cruse of oil with which to light their holy lamps. But miraculously, the cruse provided them with oil for eight days."

Hanukkah celebrates this miracle of the oil, and the miracle of defeating the Syrians against great odds. The invitation I received also mentioned that we might play the dreidel game, with the four-sided spinning top. I wanted to investigate that too. In an article which begins, "On Hanukkah we recognize the miracle of nature," Rabbi Ephraim Nisenbaum (http://www.aish.com/h/c/b/Why_Dreidel.html) begins to explain the part the dreidel plays in the celebration by writing,

"A miracle is a break from the natural routine." Some believe that God's hand guides everything in the world. Often, though we are so distracted by our routine that we don't notice. He says, "'Nature'" is really nothing more than the breathtaking beauty and symmetry of God's Creation becoming routine."

OK. A miracle breaks the routine. The break draws our attention to God's control over all areas of life – even the natural. "...Hanukkah reflects the lull in the war [against the Syrian Antiochus IV], when the Jews had a chance to stop and consider the Divine assistance rendered during their lop-sided battles—something they had not appreciated in the midst of war." Ah! Another miracle—Divine assistance.

Next, Nisenbaum explains that the four Hebrew letters nun, gimmel, heh, and shin, representing the words nes gadol haya sham, "A great miracle happened there," are written on the sides of the dreidel, one on each side. Then he continues, "While the dreidel spins, the letters disappear in a blur and are visible only when coming to a stop. The dreidel represents how we—immersed in the dizzying hustle-bustle of daily routine—cannot see the miracles regularly happening all around. Only when we stop to reflect are our eyes opened to the miracles that were there the whole time."

You can find the "rules" for game played with the dreidel at http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Hanukkah/At_Home/Dreidel/How_To_Play.shtml

Each of our Abrahamic traditions has its own miracles which we celebrate. I invite you -- I urge you -- to stop often during this New Year and look for those miracles which are always around you.

STEWARDSHIP
Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Prayers



Helen Kim, Laura Johnson, Pat Allen, Ivoni Maama, Paula Schlichter, Rogers Family, Ferguson Family, Mike Riedy, Pat Leake, Christina Brown, John Hauser, William Orecchia, Sunny Hong, Sarah Crane, CJ Nobs, Stoddard family, Gretchen Hinders, Nancy Matthews, Sally Streeter, Russ Brown, Lois Scott, Ken Fortich, Barbara Phillips, Helen and Doug Snowden, Kathy Ross and Family, Nancy Cecil and Family, Kate Musgrave, Kathy Chichester, Uncle Bob Hord and Family, Nancy Tamburello, Neil, Victor, Clint, Sharon, Keira and Jace Endocott, Greg and Katie Shields, Tyke Glaser, Bryce, Carolyn Humbel, Juan Walker, Arlene Salt, Elisa, Kira, Lorraine Trombino, Bob Eaton, Family of Earl Blake, Charlie, Dan Alfano, Nel Jordan, Carl and Ann, Ann Thomas and family, The Barrons, Dr. Lowe, Olivia, Bryce Vaysberg, Esther Kim, Paul Gonzalez, Linda and Eric Bickel, Our Troops, Our Government.

Finances

The total cash recieved during 2012 was \$155,846.30.
Total cash paid out was \$147,305.99.

Presence

(Attendance at church service)

1/6	42
1/13	48
1/20	35

Please! Use the Buckets!

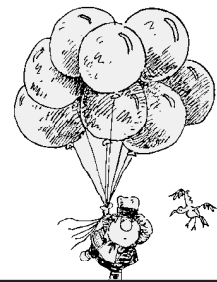
At each door at the end of each service, you'll find a small bucket (small so you can fill it!). The idea is to bring your pocket change to church to put into the buckets for Apportionments. While "small change" will in no way pay our Apportionments, it will go a long way toward reminding us of our share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

Our Purpose

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

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Feb. 1	Cheryl Pierson	Feb. 21	Bryan Schultz
Feb. 9	Roland Bunch	Feb. 24	Matthew Horton
Feb. 10	Angela Bunch	Feb. 24	Victoria Taylor
Feb. 18	Joy Eaton	Feb. 27	Bob Franklin
Feb. 20	Becky Allen	Feb. 29	Marsi & Jeff Riley (A)



February 2013



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>3 10:00 a.m. 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Meditation Workshop - 2</p>	<p>4 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Meditation</p>	<p>5 9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer Meditation 7:00 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>6 7:30 p.m. GGRO</p>	<p>7 6:00 p.m. PUMA Meeting 7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>8 7:00 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Lectio Divina</p>	<p>9 9:00 a.m. Prayer Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Church Work Day 6:00 p.m. VIM Fundraising Dinner (San Bruno UMC)</p>
<p>10 10:00 a.m. Last Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Meditation Workshop - 3</p>	<p>11 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Meditation</p>	<p>12 9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer Meditation 7:00 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>13 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m. GGRO Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 4:45 p.m. Volunteer for Safe Harbor 7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>15 *Newsletter Deadline 7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>16 3:00 p.m. GGRO Concert</p>
<p>17 10:00 a.m. 1st Sunday in Lent 11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>18 5:00 p.m. Care Giver Support Group 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Meditation</p>	<p>19 9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer Meditation 7:00 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Making Little Dresses for Africa 6:30 p.m. Trustee Meeting 7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>22 7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 10:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday in Lent 11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>25 9:30 a.m. Volunteer for Second Harvest 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Meditation</p>	<p>26 9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer Meditation 7:00 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>27 7:00 p.m. AdBoard Meeting 7:30 p.m. GGRO</p>	<p>28 7:00 p.m. AA</p>	<p>*3/9/2013 PUMA Music Festival at Half Moon Bay 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p>	

The Golden Gate Radio Orchestra Presents

“I’M IN LOVE AGAIN”-A MUSICAL VALENTINE

Saturday February 16, 2013 @ 3:00 PM

Crystal Springs UMC, 2145 Bunker Hill Drive, San Mateo

Maestro Steven Reading

Vocalists — Joy Eaton & Eric Ribeiro

Special Guests: The One Great City Duo

Tickets: \$15

See <http://www.radiorch.org/schedule.html> or buy at the door

Information: 650-871-7464

CRYSTAL SPRINGS

United Methodist Church

2145 Bunker Hill Drive

San Mateo, CA 94402

February 2013