

Tidings

The Newsletter of Woodside Road United Methodist Church
"We Seek God, Welcome All, Love and Serve our Neighbors"

2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA 94061

Phone: (650) 368-3376

Website: www.woodsideroadumc.org

Rev. Katie Goetz

e-mail: wrumc@prodigy.net

June/July 2016

August Tidings articles are due by July 15

August Tidings will be available July 31

Dear Friends,

I wrote to you last month about a number of the hopes, prayers, and dreams that were shared by the people who gathered together for Town Hall meetings in April. Those prayers for the future of Woodside Road UMC were for how we offer hospitality here on our campus and how we are in mission and ministry with our neighbors beyond the walls of the church building. They extended to how do we study God's Word and worship God more fully. In other words, our prayers for our lives together are deep and wide.

One of the hopes that was expressed at the Town Hall meetings was that we explore becoming a Reconciling Congregation. In the United Methodist Church, Reconciling Congregations are congregations that through prayerful study and discernment have made formal, public statements of inclusiveness and acceptance of people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Some of you may ask, "Why would we need to do this? We already say in our vision statement that we 'welcome all.' Isn't that enough?" As I see it, the problem is that officially our denomination still practices discrimination against our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer brothers and sisters. Because of our official stance, it falls to congregations to make prophetic, public statements that people are welcome regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Your California-Nevada Board of Ordained Ministry has also said that people seeking ordination in our Annual Conference will be considered for ordination regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity and the bishops of the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church (of which we are a part) have come out in support of GLBTQ clergy. So it's not just congregations making inclusive and welcoming statement.

The Reconciling Ministries Network (rmnetwork.org) is the unofficial United Methodist body that supports congregations in their process of becoming Reconciling Congregations. Amongst other work, the Network provides Bible studies, book recommendations, and other resources for congregations and communities discerning their calls to be inclusive of all people. As we enter into a time of discernment we will use these resources as well as local resources to learn, pray, discuss, and ask questions about what it would mean to become a Reconciling Congregation.

A small group of people have begun meeting to explore this possibility. We meet again to review resources and plan next steps on June 7th at 1pm. If you are interested in being part of this group (not so formal as to be called a committee) please come and join us. If you have questions between now and June 7th, don't hesitate to ask me. I'm happy to talk about how I see this discernment process moving forward. However, this is not my process. It is our shared process; I am just thankful to be on this journey with you.

Peace,





LEAVES

Leaves of trees come in a variety of shapes. There are even differences among leaves in same tree. Yet despite all their differences, all leaves have the same purpose: to make food for the tree, using water, light, and carbon dioxide. Without these three things the tree cannot grow or even survive. Your church is like a tree and its members are like leaves. Without their donations of time, talent and treasure, the church will suffer. However, with careful stewardship the church will flourish. A healthy church, like healthy tree, will benefit many. It can be a source of inspiration. Remember this as you decide how you provide your time, talent and resources to make your "tree" flourish.

-Howard Macway



Missionary Katherine Parker

Join us on Wednesday June 8th at 6:30pm as we meet Katherine Parker, United Methodist Missionary to

Nepal. Prior to serving in Nepal, Katherine served as a missionary in Cambodia, Japan, and here in the United States. She grew up here in Northern California, has degrees in biology from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA and Sacramento State. Her home church is Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church in Mill Valley.

We will gather in Watters Hall for dinner and for Katherine's presentation. If you are able to bring a pot of soup to share for dinner, please let Katie know (katiemgoetz@gmail.com or 650-260-3414).

Summer Picnics and Concerts

Katie invites you to her house for picnic potlucks this summer. On Wednesdays **June 29th**, **July 20th**, and **August 17th** we will gather at 5pm for a potluck dinner and then those who are interested can travel the 6 or so blocks (about a half mile walk) from Katie's house to Stafford Park for Music in the Park. The concerts in the park run from 6pm to 8pm, hence the early dinner hour. If you've never been to Music in the Park at Stafford Park these concerts run throughout the summer and are fun for people of all ages. (Katie's family doesn't actually sit and listen to the music. They run around on the playground. You are welcome to listen to music or be on the playground!) Katie lives at 9 Elwood Street, Redwood City (just off of Whipple Avenue) and Stafford Park is on Hopkins Avenue between King Street and Lowell.



JUNE

Shylah Danica Williams	June 3
Camille Taylor	June 3
Roger & Elaine Stern (A)	June 7
Anne & John Hinton (A)	June 8
Doris Bogart	June 15
Peggy Pagen-Quebec	June 16

JULY

Karen Ross	July 5
Jim Yoder	July 8
Liam Dumanske	July 8
John Dumanske	July 9
Gordon & Betty Kibbe (A)	July 11
Cheryl McGovern	July 11
Warren Dale	July 14
Michael Taylor	July 19
John & Lisa Hicks-Dumanske (A)	July 21
Cleo Jackson	July 25
Margret & Glen Christoffersen (A)	July 25
Stefanie Sillin	July 26
Diana Reddy	July 28
Rebecca Reddy	July 29

Adult Spiritual Formation

On Sunday June 5th we resume Adult Spiritual Formation after worship (we will meet June 5th, 19th, 26th, July 10th, and July 17th). Our focus will be Krista Tippett's book *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*. Each week we will focus on a different section -- Words, Flesh, Love, Faith, and Hope. It is not necessary to buy/read the book to participate. **All are welcome!**

June 12th is Education Sunday.

We will celebrate graduates (from kindergarten to graduate school) and our Sunday school teachers and youth leaders! Please let Katie (katiemgoetz@gmail.com) or Jane (janemday@earthlink.net) know of your graduates, yourself, your children, grandchildren, etc. and plan to stay for the BBQ afterwards. If you are able to help with set up, clean up, or by providing a dessert or salad you can also let Katie or Jane know (or sign up on the insert in the bulletin). Hamburgers and hotdogs will be grilled by our youth. If you want to bring your own meat to grill, you can do that as well!

Second Harvest

Food Donation Barrels are available in the narthex. Please bring your canned goods to share. During this season when school is not in session "kid friendly" foods are especially appreciated by families.

Work Day

June 4 is the next All Church Work Day. The work begins at 9am and ends at noon (following the Trustees meeting at 8am). All levels of ability are welcome. If you can't stay for the full three hours, come when you are available. Donuts and beverages provided for break time! This is a great opportunity to work alongside our brothers and sisters from Templo la Luz.

Coffee Fellowship Assignments Second Half of 2016

July - Triple S
August - Nurture & Senior Fellowship
September - Staff Parish
October - Thoburn Circle
November - Ad Council
December - Ad Council & Volunteers

It's Time to Update the Church Directory

The church directory will be updated in June. If there are any changes in contact information you would like made. Please call the church office at (650) 368-3376 or send an e-mail to wrumc@prodigy.net

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Liturgists for Second Half of 2016

July - Diana Reddy
August - Elaine Stern
September - Nita Petelo
October - Evelyn Berk
November - Doug Taylor
December - Carla Sillin