



Whatever things are

Of Good Report

think on these things

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Barbara Strader

Editor

World Communion Sunday with Keneth October 5, 2008

The origins of World Communion Sunday are the subject of some good-natured debate. One story claims that, in the winter of 1935, a group of clergy in the U.S. called for a worldwide communion Sunday to focus on peace. The idea caught on and the Federal Council of Churches in the U.S. promoted it as an ongoing event. Another story claims that the event began through the efforts of Rev. Dr. Jesse M. Bader, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) leader and promoter of ecumenism, who envisioned all the churches of the world celebrating communion on the same day, as if we were all gathered around one big table.

This year we are privileged to share this special day with Keneth Kiyija. He will tell his personal story and describe the special needs of the orphans in Uganda, especially the children in Masaka who have lost their parents to AIDS. Keneth has begun a mission to serve these children, educate their families about clean water and health, and help them have a brighter future. Many of these children do not go to school because they cannot afford the fees. Keneth wants to find a way to dig a well for the village and give the children a basic education. Come hear his story and ask questions about Uganda and its people.

To get into the spirit of the occasion, we will sing African hymns, play the drums, and take communion together in celebration of our solidarity with Christians from around the world and especially in Uganda. Come and gather around the table at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 5th.

No on Prop 8

On Sunday September 21, the church made its support of marriage equality visible to patrons of the Fall Arts Festival and anyone else who happened to be passing our corner. We passed out material, answered questions, and offered a drink of cold water. We also received a lot of thank you's from people who spoke with us. Signs and banners made us hard to miss. We accomplished the aims of educating voters and of demonstrating the church's support of same-sex marriage.

Thank you to Betsy Bikle, Dora Ford, Jan Gellepis, Bob Harmon, Bob Larsen, and Claudia Lowder for staffing the table throughout the afternoon.

MOC and Mental Health Needs

The Marin Organizing Committee has 8 research action teams working to find and support solutions to serious community problems. Rose Taylor and I are members of the mental health team (chaired by Marjorie Walters of Kol Shofar) which focuses on mental health care options for people without insurance. Our team learned that there is a "little jewel of a program" that provides access to psychiatric care for the uninsured called MAPS (Marin Alliance for Psychiatric Services). Unfortunately MAPS does not have permanent funding. Originally funded by a planning grant from

MOC and Mental Health" continued on page 3.

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Support NIN Oct. 5

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ (UCC) that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. The Community Church will receive NIN offerings on **October 5, World Communion Sunday**. Checks may be made out to the "Community Church" and earmarked "NIN." Donation envelopes will be included in Sunday's Worship Bulletin for your convenience, or you may mail your check to the church office.

1. How are NIN funds shared with others?

Two-thirds of NIN supports program initiatives and direct grants offered by the UCC's JWM. Small but essential grants are made throughout the year to congregations and organizations engaged in community organizing, public policy advocacy, and direct service. Although grants are made to address a wide range of justice priorities, a significant portion of these grants are made to address issues of hunger and poverty.

One-third of NIN supports the work of the UCC's CAIM which is the voice for American Indians in the United Church of Christ. CAIM supports the work of local churches and their pastors; encour-

ages youth and young adults; supports persons preparing for Christian ministry; empowers American Indians who are members of non-Indian congregations; and advocates for justice on issues affecting American Indian life.

2. How are Neighbors in Need grants allocated?

Justice and Witness Ministries uses its portion of NIN for program initiatives and grant-making, so funds support grassroots advocacy and outreach efforts directly. Grant applications are reviewed regularly by ministry teams and decisions are made in keeping with funding guidelines and the availability of funds. Most grants are small and non-repeating. Careful attention is given to make sure that every NIN grant recipient reflects the UCC's vision of being a church of Jesus Christ that is multi-racial, multi-cultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all.

3. What American Indian tribes or nations are supported by Neighbors in Need?

Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches with the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Ho-Cak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Northern Nebraska. Today, there are 19 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban inter-tribal congregation in Minneapolis. In addition, there are more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations scattered in nearly every conference in the UCC. Your contributions to NIN directly impact the UCC's ability to support American Indian ministries and congregations.

The Community Church of Mill Valley

United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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Seminarian In-Care: James Christie
Director of Music: Esther Archer
Executive Editor: Barbara Strader
Facility Operations Manager: Aaron Young

Sunday Morning:

9:00 a.m. "The Unexpected Word" Class, Foster Room
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
Nursery Care for Infants & Toddlers, Nursery Program for Children in Preschool through Third Grade, Children gather in the Chapel
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Tamalpais Hall

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the California Endowment, MAPS needs a modest \$50,000 from the County to continue its work for another year. Members of the Marin Organizing Committee are working to convince county supervisors to support MAPS this year, and in the future.

Here's why MAPS' continued existence is so important. The once broad offerings of Marin's Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) have dwindled over the last 25 years. CMHS now is mandated to deal only with the severely mentally ill. People with less severe problems such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder can turn to 4 non-profit agencies for psychotherapy: Family Service Agency of Marin, Catholic Charities CYO, Community Institute for Psychotherapy, and Jewish Family and Children's Services. Sometimes, however, a therapist may decide a client needs medication as well as therapy to facilitate recovery—and medication requires a psychiatrist's prescription. The 4 non-profit agencies jointly created the MAPS program to provide this needed access to psychiatric services. Today two psychiatrists work part-time for MAPS, evaluating and diagnosing clients referred by the agencies. Close communication between psychiatrist and therapist means that follow-up treatment is coordinated and maximized.

The MAPS program, supported partially by Medical and sliding scale fees, is efficient and economical. Its modest annual budget of \$75,000 provides a great deal of help for ordinary people. People like Ann, a single mother so depressed that she found herself endangering her children. Or Jules, who, as an abandoned teenager, became a substance abuser. Now an adult, he's been clean and sober for two years, but his depressed moods, difficulty with stress, and chronic ADHD kept him isolated and lonely. A combination of therapy and appropriate medical treatment obtained through MAPS enabled both Ann and Jules to make positive changes in their lives. Ann has more energy and is less irritable with her children and is hopeful about future career goals. Jules' overall health has improved; he's better able to focus, is succeeding at a new job, and has reconnected with his long-estranged family.

Recognizing the value of MAPS, the Marin Organizing Committee is pushing for permanent funding for the program. Through our research, we learned that Marin Community Mental Health Services re-

ceived a recent windfall of unanticipated funds from the Mental Health Services Act (originally Prop. 63, "the millionaire's tax"). CMHS plans to put \$450,000 of this unexpected money into a reserve fund. MOC is urging county supervisors, in a series of individual briefings, to use \$50,000 of this to keep the MAPS program going another year. Ultimately grassroots support from may be needed to influence the supervisors' decision. We hope we can call on members of this church to help.

You can hear more about this and other issues of concern at a meeting on Sunday, October 19 during the coffee hour after the worship service.

Help Needed with MOC Commitment

Early in the year, the church board accepted an offer to match an individual pledge to pay half of the church's \$1,000 commitment to the Marin Organizing Committee (MOC) for calendar year 2008. The \$500 individual pledge has been paid to MOC. The board is asking church members to join it in raising the remaining \$500. Given the generous way in which members have responded to recent, larger requests for help, raising \$500 should not be difficult. We would like to pay the \$500 by the end of October, so gifts are needed now.

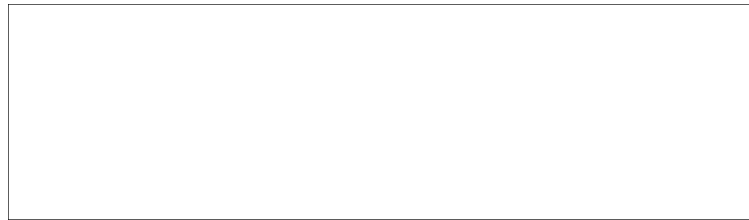
On May 8th, more than 600 people from Marin congregations packed the auditorium at San Raphael Catholic Church to show elected officials that MOC is for real and intends to have an impact on issues that affect Marin residents, especially those at the bottom of the social and economic ladder. MOC's success owes much to lead organizer, Sister Judy Donovan, and the skilled organizers who are assisting her. Like other professionals, they have to be paid for their skills. Funds also have to be paid to train local church leaders.

At the May 8th meeting, one of the members of the board of supervisors exclaimed that he had never seen churches so united and energized for effective important community problems. Along with other supervisors, he welcomed their involvement. The MOC effort has only begun. It needs to grow. With your help, it will. Please consider writing a check to the church now. Earmark it "MOC".
Thanks! - *The Church Board*

The Community Church of Mill Valley
United Church of Christ
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Upcoming Church Events

This Sunday

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Unexpected Word Discussion Class, Foster Room |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship
Child care in the Nursery |
| 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour, Tamalpais Hall; everyone welcome |

Coming

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| Wed. Oct. 1 | 11:45 a.m. | Men's Lunch, Moylan's, Novato |
| Thu. Oct. 2 | 11:45 a.m. | Lunch for Homeless, Westminster Pres |
| Sun. Oct. 5 | 10:00 a.m. | World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need Special Offering |
| Mon. Oct. 6 | 12 Noon | <i>Of Good Report</i> Newsletter Submission Deadline |
| Tue. Oct. 7 | 7:30 p.m. | Christian Life Team, Foster Room |