

# The Neighbor

## The Orinda Community Church

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

*August 2011*



### **From the Adjunct Pastor...**

#### **Parish Callers -**

On the fourth Thursday of every month, there is a quiet gathering of folk who come to pray together. These Parish Callers of our church meet to share in the church work of pastoral care. They are dedicated to pray for, connect with, and visit church members and friends who are in need.

Pastoral care is at the heart of the work of the church. The Parish Callers - Mary Jo Durham, Joy Elkinton-Walker, Dorothy Ferguson, Melody Ferreira, Dorothy McIntire, Marge Rieger, Elva Rust, Betty Ann Williams, and Lee Cruise (Convener), and Pastor Frank Baldwin – are an essential and dedicated part of this pastoral care.

Each time that we meet, we learn of those in need in the life of our church and discuss their needs for pastoral care. Frank apprises us of many with needs, particularly those who have requested prayer during worship.

Many of our parish are home-bound. Through calls and visits, we keep connected with these folk who are unable to attend church activities. We are excited when we hear of those who have “graduated” from being home-bound and are once again able to attend.

The heart of our gathering is our time of prayer. We keep an ongoing prayer list of those with needs as well as a list of those families who have lost a loved one. Each person on our lists is named as we pray together.

Our gatherings are confidential, loving and spirit-filled. As we pray together, the presence of God’s loving spirit is palpable. This is indeed a grace-filled ministry.

### **Senior Connection**

We are warmed by the memories of our Summer Senior Luncheon! We think of the bright yellow flowers, the happy faces, the delicious lunch, the singing of the Vacation Bible School children, and even the silly jokes. What fun!

We are resuming our monthly gatherings for fellowship, song, and Bible study. For a time we will be meeting in the Cafeteria at Orinda Senior Village (Sept. 7, 10am). Future plans for our monthly gatherings are underway. I welcome your ideas for this very special Senior ministry.

### **Women Helping Women**

We have just completed our first year as a new group in the church. We serve women in need throughout the world. Having focused on needs of women in the Congo and Uganda and on homeless women through the Winter Nights program, we are already preparing for our service for the second year. We will gather on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 10am to begin that process. All women are encouraged to join us in this amazing journey.

These are some the ways in which I serve as Adjunct Pastor. What a blessing! I thank you for the privilege.

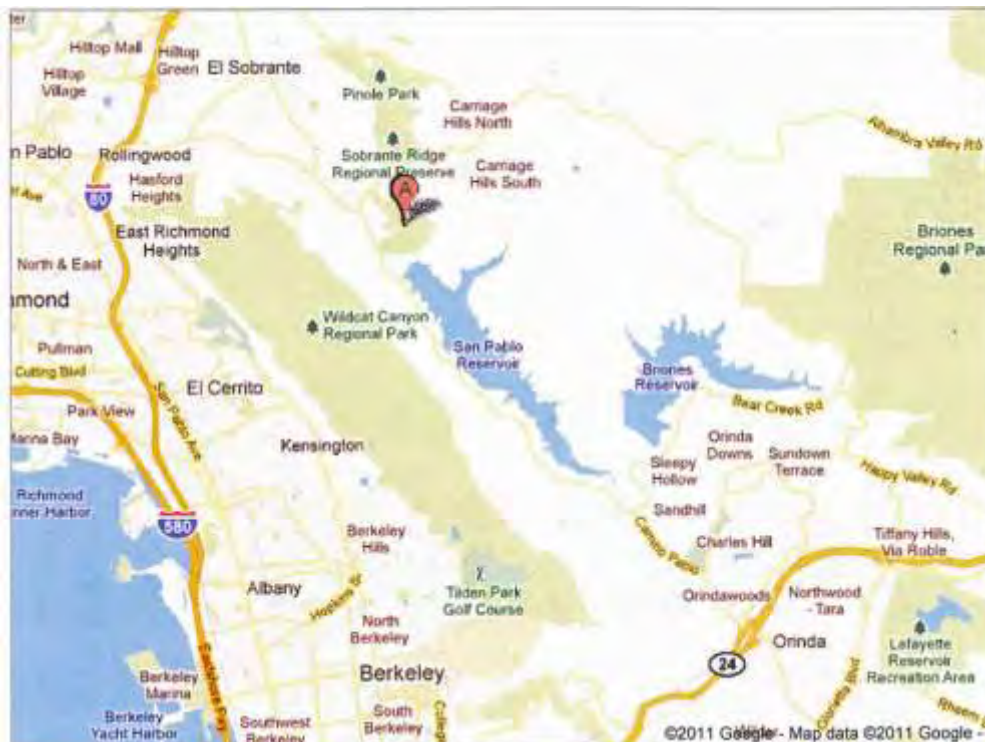
Lee Cruise

# OCC's Annual All-Church Picnic

*August 28 after worship*

At Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area/El Sobrante  
“Abbie Lane” picnic area (see map below)

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, salads and – new! – beer!  
Don't miss it!



### **Friends and Family of Elizabeth Wagner,**

Elizabeth Wagner passed away silently in her sleep at 12:26 pm today, Thursday, August 11, with her three adult children, Ken, Carol, and Bruce at her side. Having her children with her in death was a wish that she expressed just before she began a rapid decline about eight days ago. Bruce's wife, Susannah, long a friend of Mother's, was also present. Elizabeth died free of pain and in her own home, which was as she wished. This culminated an eight month journey after her diagnosis of advanced, incurable lung cancer that had metastasized to bones in the hip. She was 88 years old. During her life she made many friends and extended help to numerous people. She accepted her fate with grace, courage, and humor.

We will be having a memorial for Elizabeth in Tilden Park on Saturday, September 3 at 11:30 AM. Please let us know if you plan on coming to the memorial, so that we can send you an invitation. This will also help us plan the event. Please RSVP to Ken at [davidwag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidwag@sbcglobal.net)

Thank you. With much love,  
Ken, Carol, and Bruce



### **Circle of Life**

**Anne and Dick Long** celebrated 50 years of married life in July.

**Jeff Crews** was ordained to the Christian Ministry July 17, 2011, at Orinda Community Church, United Church of Christ

**Robert Milligan**, a member of Orinda Community Church since 1956, died July 29, 2011. A memorial service was held at OCC on August 7. The love and prayers of the congregation are with Jeanne, the family and friends.

**Alyson Miller and Chris Jantze** were married Saturday, July 23, 2011 at the Flood Mansion in San Francisco, by Pastor Frank Baldwin.

**Lakai Andrew Baldwin and Jadyyn Quayn Baldwin** were baptized Monday, August 1, 2011, in the Pacific Ocean off Waikiki, Oahu, Hawaii, by their grandfather, Frank Baldwin.

### **Life Forum – Mary Grah**

Mary Grah, much beloved member of OCC, was to share her life journey with us at a Forum scheduled for ***Sunday, Sept. 11, after worship.***

When Mary passed away before she could present her forum, the Lifelong Learning and Spirituality Commission elected to keep her Forum time on our calendar as an opportunity for sharing vignettes and lessons learned by some of us who knew her.

We hope you can join in to hear, discuss, and share stories as we review the rich tapestry of Mary's life and contributions.



May Grah at OCC's Golden Luncheon, Spring 2010

### **Women Helping Women**

will be meeting on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 10am in the church library. All women are invited! We will be planning our services to women for the coming year. Contact Lee Cruise for more information, [lgcruise@mindspring.com](mailto:lgcruise@mindspring.com).

## Crews News

Greetings from the other coast! We are settling into our new house in North Haven, Connecticut after a wild and long journey across the country. I am always astonished at the geographic and human diversity of our great land. Traveling the American heartland as a gay couple always raises some eyebrows, but each time we travel across America there are fewer frowns and a few more smiles and kindred spirits. Change happens, even if slowly.

After seven days of hard driving, we can report that the wild American Pothole is thriving and everywhere abundant. Interestingly, the worst highways were, by far, on the toll roads of Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Sadly, the infrastructure of America is in very bad repair (even as the construction zones-- empty of any workers-- stretched on for hours everywhere!).

We were greeted in Hamden by 25+ church members who helped unload the truck into our new house. Of course, the high August temperature and humidity in Connecticut also showed up, but many hands made light(er) work. We have a few boxes left, and we are gaining ground daily.

Through it all, I was buoyed by memories of our time together, and particularly of my ordination celebration. Your love and hospitality shone through. I remember so vividly sitting in my ordination service surrounded by your love and gifts—certainly heaven on earth. I was completely awash in humble grace and gratitude—what a send off!

For those of you who come this way, we would love to host you in New England. The church office has our home and church addresses, so call and come stay with us! I will be starting my pastorate at Spring Glen Church mid-August as we plan for all the activities of the fall season. I will be held in your love and support as I make my new way on God's path. I send my prayers for your community of Christ, and ask for your prayers as we make a home in our new community of faith.

In Christ, whose ~~home~~ "home" is *everywhere*,

Jeff



Jeff Crews, Senior Pastor  
The Spring Glen Church  
1825 Whitney Road  
Hamden, CT 06517  
203.288.3381 x 11

Jeff and Bill  
85 River Road  
North Haven, CT 06473  
559.618.0997

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## Eyes of Love

By Dion

I look into people's eyes  
I open mine so others may look into me  
I have looked into your eyes  
You with eyes that bare your soul  
You with eyes that uplift others  
How could anyone with eyes to see  
looking both out and in  
not love one such as you?  
You will find in this life I know  
One for you whose eyes reflect  
as true friends now connect their eyes with yours  
Even brighter and deeper still  
will be the depth of gaze for the one for you  
In looking for friends or for a soulmate  
sometimes they or we might look away  
Do not be afraid  
I in looking into your eyes  
see my own Darkness and Light  
This I know - it is worth the pain  
For when the Light of eyes touch even briefly  
For when we close and reopen our eyes  
to let tears pass  
We learn to love the Light  
of our own eyes  
We learn to love all Light

{Copyright pending Dionysos Maskaleris}



**H**ey ya'll!

What a summer it has been. Two Vacation Bible School/Sonshine Camps with over 180 kids from all over the community. Two trips to People's Park to serve sandwiches to the homeless. Two trips to Fenton's. One Fishing Trip to the Lafayette Reservoir. One trip to Shelter Inc. to serve dinner. It was a whirlwind, but oh, so much fun. Thank you to those who joined in the activities. Each opportunity to be with you helped me learn more about each of you!!!

And just when you thought your head might stop spinning.....please mark your calendars for some upcoming family friendly events (partial list). Remember, at OCC, we define family in every way possible.

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## Mark Your Calendars!

<b>August 28</b>	<b>All- Church Picnic</b> at Kennedy Grove right after church
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Blessing of the School Year Service</b> (during worship)
<b>September 25</b>	<b>CROP Walk</b> to raise money for the hungry in our midst right after church. (The walk will be at Walnut Creek Civic Park. It is an easy walk and we had a blast last year!)
<b>October 1(Saturday)</b>	<b>Blessing of the Animals</b> (We've blessed lizards, dogs, cats, stuffed animals and pictures of animals at this fun service.)
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Advent Celebration</b> - Join us for this fun evening of crafts, carols and a potluck supper.

Other plans in the works--- confirmation class, Bible Buddy Bootcamp Night for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders, weekend overnight service project, Our Whole Lives Curriculum training. Email me at [ldarwinobrien@yahoo.com](mailto:ldarwinobrien@yahoo.com) if you have questions or suggestions.

Much love,

Leslie O'Brien



**REFLECTION CAFÉ** will take the rest of August off!  
We look forward to more early Sunday reflection  
and time together in September!

## Lifelong Learning Opportunities at OCC

**Tuesday Night Bible Study** meets Tuesday at 7 pm in the church library and is led by Frank Baldwin. The group will not meet on July 26 and through the month of August. Join us beginning **September 6<sup>th</sup>**!

**Senior Connection** resumes its monthly gathering for fellowship and Bible study. We will be meeting in the cafeteria of Orinda Senior Village at 10am on **Wednesday, September 7**. All Seniors are invited to attend.

**OCC Theology Book Club** Our next meeting will be **September 19** at 7 pm in the church library.

## *Reflections from OCC's Order of Worship*

*God is in the details.*

~ Ludwig Mies van der Rohe,  
German-born American architect

*From the promise to the deed is a full day's journey.*

~ Bulgarian Proverb

*I have a glove here in my hand. The glove cannot do anything by itself, but when my hand is in it, it can do many things. True, it is not the glove, but my hand in the glove that acts. We are gloves. It is the Holy Spirit in us who is the hand, who does the job. We have to make room for the hand so that every finger is filled.*

~ Corrie ten Boom

*Preach the Gospel by all means; if necessary, use words.*

~ Francis of Assisi, as cited by Jeff Crews

*Congratulations! Today is your day.  
You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!*

~ Dr. Seuss

OCC FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT, AUGUST 15, 2011

January - July 2011 Income/Expenses

Income	\$246,036
Expenses	\$201,655

The stewardship campaign for 2011 resulted in total pledges and gifts in the amount of \$317,802, which is \$31,138 over the budget amount. This amounts to about 111% of the pledge budget for 2011. No additional pledges were received during the past month.

If you are paying your 2011 pledge in installments, please plan on continuing installment payments on a regular basis throughout the year.

During the next couple of months, work will be done on the sanctuary. Painting, copper sheathing, and miscellaneous other work is being undertaken on the East side of the sanctuary and in selected other portions of the building. Also, electrical work involving the eight large sanctuary light fixtures will be done. Funds are available to pay for this work.

The Eden Housing proposal for the senior housing project at the old library site has been approved by the Orinda planning commission. The construction of a 10-car parking lot on the hillside below the sanctuary is being negotiated with Eden Housing and the City of Orinda. It will be on the agenda for the OCC Council meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> for discussion.

**Thank you to all for your faithful contributions!**

# September 2011

Worship at Orinda Community Church -  
Sundays 10 a.m.  
Fellowship 11:15 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <b>Labor Day</b>	6	7	8	9	10
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship	<b>Office closed</b> 10 Sewing Circle 11:30 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group 10 Senior Connection 12:30 Lifelong Learning Commission 7 Worship & Music Committee	4:30 Endowment Fund Board		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship 11:30 Life Forum: Mary Grah	10 Sewing Circle 11:30 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group 7 PM Pastoral Relations	7 PM Mission & Outreach Commission		10 Women helping Women
18 <b>Neighbor Deadline</b>	19	20	21 <b>Neighbor published</b>	22	23	24
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship 11:15 Congregational Meeting (tentative)	10 Sewing Circle 11:30 Staff meeting 7 Theology Book Club	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group	9:30 Parish Callers		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship <b>CROP WALK</b>	10 Sewing Circle 11:30 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group 7:30 PM Church Council			

Neighbor deadline: **September 18**. Please submit your articles to [office@orindachurch.org](mailto:office@orindachurch.org)  
All submissions subject to editing. Visit our website [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

