

The Neighbor

The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 2011

OCC Adopts Vision Statement, begins forming Working Groups

On October 9, 2011, a Special Congregational Meeting of Orinda Community Church adopted a new Vision Statement proposed by the Re-envisioning Steering Committee. After Moderator Nancy Peterson called the meeting to order and an Opening Prayer by Pastor Frank Baldwin, Church Clerk Pro Tem Bev Finlayson declared a quorum present. The Steering Committee was introduced, and Chair Kurt Sunderbruch described the year long process of congregational study, dialogue, collaboration, and discernment that ultimately resulted in an eloquent statement of OCC's identity

and vision. Susan Russell then read the statement and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and discussed; the vote to approve the statement was unanimous. The Vision Statement will be used as a starting point and guide for the next steps of OCC's re-envisioning journey. In preparation for this next phase, Roger Samuelsen announced the forming of a number of intimate working groups that will meet to review our present programs, processes, practices and ministries with a view to imagining ways we might do some things in new and better ways that respond to the changes we have observed in our community, culture and congregation. A sign-up sheet is attached to this *Neighbor*, and every member and friend of OCC is encouraged to take part!

The Vision Statement of Orinda Community Church An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ Adopted October 9, 2011

WHO WE ARE (The heart and soul of OCC)

We are moved by the grace of God to walk together on life's journey, caring deeply for one another.

We offer stirring, thought-provoking worship in an atmosphere of diversity, spontaneity and gratitude. We are enriched by music and the arts.

We work to become active instruments of mercy and justice in the world. We are unafraid of change, challenge and controversy.

We cherish our children, and we know them each by name.

We are creative, resourceful and open-minded. We honor the beauty and integrity of God's creation. We have fun.

OUR VISION (What God is calling our church to be)

We aspire to a Christian faith that is authentic, adventurous and inclusive of all.

We envision a path of spiritual formation illuminated by faith, knowledge and practice.

We are called in these difficult and uncertain times to be people of peace and dauntless hope, relying on the spirit of Jesus in our midst.

We seek connection with others who are looking for a spiritual home. We reach out to doubters, explorers and people in crisis, respecting those of other faiths or no faith.

We are committed to love.

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Re-envisioning, Fall-Winter 2011-2012

Next Steps

Taking into account all we have learned thus far in our re-envisioning effort, and with the new Vision Statement as our guide, gather many ideas and design together a range of inspired and creative ways in which Orinda Community Church can change, thrive, meet the spiritual needs of people, and be an instrument of transformation in this constantly-evolving cultural and spiritual milieu where God is calling us.

Please check below if you might be interested in being involved with a Working Group in more of the following areas:

- Evangelism and Outreach
- Governance and Leadership
- Ministries of Justice and Mercy
- Resources and Facilities
- Spiritual Formation
- Worship Practices
- Another Area: _____

Name: _____

Not to be missed!

October 23 after worship A Journey with Mercy Ships



John Creech will give us insights on his trip with Mercy Ships to Africa last March. Mercy Ships is a global charity that has operated hospital ships in developing nations since 1978. Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the forgotten poor by mobilizing people and resources worldwide, and serving all people without regard for race, gender, or religion

October 30 after worship 3rd annual Oktoberfest



In the German tradition, we will come together for great food (along the lines of sausages, Kraut, pretzels, beer, fruit, Kuchen and Kaffee), music and general merrymaking.

Breakfast Group Considers Plans for the Future

The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group meets weekly at 7am for friendship, food, friendly conversation and study/discussion/action on current local, state, national topics of interest. Mostly, the group studies topics to inform ourselves and take action on them as individuals only, but occasionally we support items with money saved from the group breakfasts. In the recent past we hosted Ambassador Warren Clark) on his lectures on Palestine/Israel Peace Prospects throughout the Bay Area. Earlier we held sales of Palestinian wood products.

The group used to have 10 to 15 members to share cooking responsibilities and a wide variety of opinions, experiences, but has recently shrunk to 5 to 8 regulars. **We'd like** to expand the group, but have learned that 7am is too early for many, so we are interested in discovering if any church or community members would be interested in being part of an engaged, intellectually stimulating luncheon of friends meeting weekly (or monthly) on Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm or so. The group would determine programs and discussions led by one or more of us who searched out and prepared study or summary materials. Together we would prepare a simple luncheon each meeting for a \$3 or \$4 donation from those attending. Money collected over the cost of the luncheon, will be deposited in the group's holding account to be used for any action activities the group decided on.

Anyone interested in the Breakfast Group changing its meeting time to midday is asked to call Joy Elkinton-Walker (254-8754) or Betty Karplus (254-4970) to let us know your wishes. Meanwhile, as we assess interest in the proposed change, we will continue to meet Wednesday mornings at 7am for a variety of our interesting breakfast meals as well as open-ended spirited discussions. We invite any and all to join us.

Crop Walk A Success – Over \$800 Raised – 21 Walkers!



Community Church very well!

On a misty autumn day, some folks gathered acorns along the walking path in Walnut Creek. Some folks skate boarded and carried banners and wore rainbow flags. Some donned their tie-dyed OCC t-shirts. We ALL walked to banish hunger. We joined forces with the Contra Costa Interfaith Council for the Crop Walk. By walking 4.5 miles, friends and members of OCC raised over eight hundred dollars for the hungry in our midst. Some of the funds will be going to Winter Nights Shelter. Thanks especially to Kathy Kling and her family, Robin Weber, Margaret and Frank Baldwin, Leslie Moughty, Charlie, Eli, Matthew, **Tim and Leslie O'Brien, Karen Norris, Mike and Elisabeth Kersten, Susan and Ben Fish, and the Reed family.** You all represented Orinda

God Knows My Name -- Do YOU?

In the Learning Community the children have been singing a song called, "God Knows My Name."

God knows my name.

God knows my every thought.

God sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call.

Simple words. Profound ideas.

In our Vision Statement we say that we know our children by name. I find comfort knowing that God knows me (warts and all!) and my name. It also helps me feel warm when people know my name.

On that front, the children and I are working on a project that will help us get more familiar **with each others' names.** During the next few weeks, we'll be gathering photos of our friends and members of the OCC congregation. We'll mount the pictures on a poster board and display it in the narthex on Sunday mornings. I hope you will help us by letting me take a photo of you.

Additionally, we'll ask you to respond to three questions:

What is your favorite thing to do?

If you could make a bumper sticker to describe your faith, what would it say?

If you could make a bumper sticker to describe OCC, what would it say?

I think that this poster will help us get a quick glimpse of each other and it may help visitors to see how varied our interests are. Remember, God knows your name, and we want to know your name too!

Love, Leslie O

God Knows My Name -- Do you?



Sex and Church

These are two words you don't hear together very often. In a few months, Orinda Community Church will be launching our first ever *Our Whole Lives* sexuality curriculum for teens in 7th-9th grades. But, before we can do that WE NEED YOU! For the program to be successful, we need at least four adults to be trained as Our Whole Lives facilitators who would then commit to teaching the curriculum in the spring.



Who would be a good facilitator?

- ♥ Do you have a genuine interest in the lives our youth?
- ♥ Will you treat each teen with compassion, respect, and support?
- ♥ Do you want to help our teens develop healthy attitudes toward and make informed decisions about sex and sexuality?
- ♥ Are you able to talk about sex without running out of the room?
- ♥ Can you keep a straight face when asked an embarrassing question?
- ♥ Does your schedule allow you to commit a few hours most weeks starting the first week of February through the first week of June? (Only two facilitators are needed each week so you will have weeks off.)

If you answered YES! to these questions, or are willing to learn the last three in training, then you could be a fantastic facilitator! Now what?

1. Contact Pastoral Intern Leslie Moughty at lmoughty@yahoo.com or 425-223-9117 to express your interest or if you have any questions.
2. Attend the Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator training at the end of January at Pacific School of Religion. Cost is still being determined but will be approximately \$200-\$250. Scholarships through OCC may be available if needed. Exact dates and times of the training are also being finalized but will likely be Friday, January 27 – Sunday January 29, 2012.
3. If you are married or partnered, consider training and facilitating with your significant other. You get to spend time together and have fun making a difference in the lives of young people.

High School Student reflecting on OWL:

“Don't ever stop offering Our Whole Lives at church. I took it when I was in junior high and I think it saved my life. Every kid should see themselves the way Our Whole Lives sees them.”

Lifelong Learning Opportunities at OCC

Tuesday Night Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 7 pm in the church library and is led by Frank Baldwin. All are welcome!

Senior Connection resumes its monthly gathering for fellowship and Bible study. We will be meeting in the Dining Room of Orinda Senior Village at 10am on **Wednesday, November 2**. All Seniors are invited to attend.

OCC Theology Book Club Our next meeting will **November 21** at 7 pm in the church library. We are reading *The Heart of Democracy* by Parker Palmer.

Sanctuary Painting Project Report

In 2007 we painted the west/back side of the Sanctuary, and applied copper cladding to the fascia boards to provide a lifetime covering. In August 2011 we duplicated that project on the east/front of the Sanctuary. In addition we painted the Narthex exterior fascia and windows on the south and west sides, which were in bad shape. Following is a summary of the project.

For the painting portion we used the same contractor that we used on the west side-Thomas Mulliken Painting. For the copper cladding portion, we used Fidelity Roof Co.

For the copper cladding, we obtained two bids-one from Aker & Guerrero whom we used on the west side, and one from Fidelity Roof Co. We obtained two bids because Tom Seidman, who is our "go to" person for roofing projects, headed up the project for Aker & Guerrero in 2007 but has since relocated to Fidelity Roof Co. Fidelity submitted the better bid. Fidelity applied copper metal cladding to the fascia boards that form the "A" of the A frame Sanctuary. The copper cladding never needs painting or maintenance. Over the next 6 months, the copper will weather to a dark bronze/brown color the same as the copper on the west side and on Fellowship Hall. The fascia boards were surface prepared and painted by Mulliken before cladding, so the wood is well protected under the copper.

Cost of the project was \$17,852 for the Sanctuary, \$2,020 for the Narthex, \$19,872 Total. Funds were provided from the TUTH campaign of a number of years ago.

The Southeast facing walls endure harsh weather conditions. The stucco wall of the Sanctuary holds paint well. The wood fascia boards of the "A"

frame expand and contract, and do not weather well-thus the copper cladding.

The Sanctuary and Narthex windows will continue to need regular painting. Aside from replacing them, there was nothing we could do to avoid regular painting. They were reglazed, primed, and finish coated with two coats of high quality paint. In the future, we need to paint them every 6 to 7 years, before the paint deteriorates to the point where the windows need reglazing.

Because of the height of the Sanctuary, a man lift must be rented to paint and/or do maintenance. The man lift had an 80 foot boom. Heavy plywood was used under the tires of the man lift to protect the patio. Mulliken and Fidelity coordinated use of the man lift and transition from Mulliken painting to Fidelity for the cladding.

Top quality paint products were applied to all surfaces. Low luster paints rather than flat paint were used by Mulliken, as they last longer in the adverse Southeast facing conditions. Every attempt was made to maximize the benefit of the money spent, and to look at the long range value rather than a short term "fix".

In addition to the copper cladding, Fidelity provided at no charge the following: 1) cleaned the moss off the Narthex shingles; 2) reinstalled a few of the shingles on the Sanctuary north side that had come loose; 3) caulked the skylights on the north roof of Fellowship Hall and did a water test to remediate a roof leak in the TOPS portion of Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to Mulliken and Fidelity for a job well done. Their teams were very professional and great to work with.

Pete Hartdegen, Project Manager

Take a Look at these Family Friendly Events

October 23 - Teen Talk and Lunch with Leslie Moughty at Zamboni's right after church

October 30 - Kids take Halloween cards to OSV during Sunday School. Wear your Halloween costume!

November 1-11 - Mission One --

November 6 - Confirmation Class and Church Wide trip to City of Refuge & Grace Cathedral 11:30-4

November 18 - Confirmation Class fieldtrip to Temple Isaiah 6:30-9:00 p.m.

November 20 - Movie after Church "What Would Jesus Buy?"

November 27 - Women Helping Women Sunday - Bead Sale

December 4 - Advent Celebration 4-7

December 11 - Confirmation Sunday!

December 18 - Caroling at Orinda Convalescent Home at 1:00

December 23 - Delivering Sandwiches to the homeless at 3:00

December 24 - 5:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service

8th Year Winter Nights Opens

The eighth year of Winter Nights family shelter opened October 10th. By the end of the week, 7 families were in residence with 12 children, four school age and 9 preschoolers including a 3 week old baby, 22 people total. New sleeping bags with nametags attached were provided for each family by Br'nai Tilonal and Shell Ridge Community Church. It was expected that a new family of 8 would be joining the group soon making for a full house already as the cooler rainy season starts. It is clear that homelessness remains a problem in our area in these troubled financial times..

The families will come to Orinda this year in February (27th to March 12). They will be housed at night at Santa Maria Church, and we, at OCC, will be responsible for 14 evening meals during their 2 week stay. Elisabeth Kersten and Betty Karplus will be looking for volunteers to prepare and serve these dinners. Santa Maria will be looking for tutors and overnight volunteers as OCC has done in the past. It is expected that about \$1500 will be needed for food for the dinners. It would be nice to have some funds available to help individual families providing meals with these costs if they need it. Donations can be made with a check to OCC with a notation "Winter Nights." Other needs of the program at the moment is for BART cards for clients, gasoline cards for the van that delivers children and parents to the Oasis center for care during the day for preschoolers and parents, as well as support in job search or more permanent housing. Thank you for any support you can give.

Women Helping Women meets on Saturday **October 22** at 10am in the church library. All women are invited to join this journey of reaching out on behalf of women throughout the world.

Save the dates: Sunday, November 27: Bead Sale to benefit needy women of Uganda. Workshop on women's empowerment, particularly girls education programs.

Sunday, February 12: Wear Red Sunday for women's cardiac health. Workshop following worship.

Senior Connection meets the first Wednesday at 10am at Orinda Senior Village.

Next meeting: Wednesday November 2
Seniors! Join us for fellowship, singing, and Bible study.



Mission:1

11.1.11-11.11.11

That they may all be 1

ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice



ucc.org/mission1

Nov. 1-11, 2011

God is still speaking,  **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH'S MISSION ONE GOALS

You can help us reach our Mission One Goals!

1,111 HEALTHY FOOD ITEMS
111 LETTERS TO CONGRESS
111 GIFTS OF \$11.11
FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED
HUNGER PROJECTS
111 GIFTS OF \$11.11
FOR WEST AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF

Mission:1

11.1.11 - 11.11.11

Nov. 1-11, 2011 ... ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice.

This is Mission: 1

✓ In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.

✓ In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States; and \$111,111 FOR EAST AFRICA FAMINE RELIEF that will be shared through the UCC's disaster relief ministries.

✓ In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS TO CONGRESS asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign.

Start planning now to learn about food-related issues, advocate and raise money on behalf of the hungry, and share bread — and tuna, and peanut butter, and vegetables, and cereal — with our neighbors in need at home and abroad in order to more fully realize our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer, "That they may all be 1."

Organize your church's victory strategy. And plan to join in a national celebration of our campaign's success on Sunday, Nov. 13, in your church.

From Nov. 1-11, an online tote board at ucc.org will tally our collective count of foodstuffs, donations and letters — information we'll update and celebrate in real time together.

The world needs the distinct values, vision and voice of the United Church of Christ — Continuing Testament. Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.

This is Mission: 1

This is the United Church of Christ

ucc.org/mission1



WHAT YOU CAN DO!

START BRINGING YOUR FOOD ITEMS TO CHURCH -- FILL UP THOSE BARRELS

GO TO
UCC.ORG/MISSION1
TO LEARN MORE

ON 11/1/11 GO ONLINE AND MAKE YOUR GIFT TO EITHER NEIGHBORS IN NEED OR WEST AFRICAN FAMINE OR BRING YOUR GIFTS TO WORSHIP

USE A SAMPLE LETTER TO HAND WRITE TO YOUR HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS

Sample letter next page

Dear Sen. _____ or Rep. _____,

As Congress and the Super Committee work to **reduce our nation's deficits, I urge you to create** a circle of protection around programs for hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world.

The numbers are staggering. Millions of families in the United States continue to feel the effects of the recession—nearly one in six people in our country are poor. Around the world, nearly 1 billion people are hungry, and one child dies every 3.6 seconds from poverty, hunger, and preventable diseases. **This isn't the time for Congress to cut programs** that provide vital assistance to those in need.

Programs for hungry and poor people make up only a fraction of the federal budget, but they have a tremendous impact. The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit keep millions of families out of poverty, reward work, and promote economic mobility. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) has responded quickly and effectively to need, preventing an increase in the percentage of families struggling to put food on the table for three consecutive years.

International poverty-focused development assistance reduces the likelihood of conflict and strengthens our national security. Moreover, cuts to poverty-focused development assistance will restrict our ability to respond to humanitarian emergencies, such as the ongoing famine in the Horn of Africa.

We must do all we can to reduce the budget deficit but not on the backs of the most vulnerable people. As you consider deficit-reduction proposals, I ask you to take a balanced and fair approach and consider all areas of the budget, including revenues. Please form a circle of protection around funding for hungry and poor people at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

Your Name, Your Address

Save the Date!

The annual OCC weekend in
Yosemite will be
Friday afternoon,
May 18th to Sunday noon,
May 20th, 2012.

Have you checked out our Website www.orindachurch.org?

It is worth a visit and an opportunity to stay on top of what's going on at OCC. You find upcoming events, a preview of Sunday's service, sermons by OCC preachers (even in audio), a whole page about the re-envisioning process, an archive of past issues of The Neighbor, and new pictures that show that we do have fun together!

If you have not visited us on **Facebook** yet, please take a look by clicking [here](#) and "like" OCC!

OCC is now present at Patch.com, www.lamorinda.patch.com, where we will invite the wider community to forums, special events and worship services.

"Again I (we) are so grateful that OCC has allowed us to have a place for our meetings to take place. It is so wonderful to be a part of the miracles that take place in those rooms as the broken men who come through your doors get a chance for a new life and some actually exercise that option."

Member of AA Men's Group, meeting weekly at OCC.

OCC FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT, OCTOBER 15, 2011

January - September 2011 Income/Expenses

Income	\$287,773
Expenses	\$270,914

The stewardship campaign for 2011 produced total pledges and gifts in the amount of \$317,802. If you are paying your 2011 pledge in installments, please plan on continuing installment payments on a regular basis throughout the year.

OCC's stewardship season this year begins on October 16th. We will dedicate our pledge gifts on December 4th. As we have all experienced the past year, the overall financial situation in America and locally has caused each of us to rethink our financial priorities. For example, we could not afford an associate minister this past year, but reaffirmed our commitment to our youth, families, and our seniors through the part-time ministry of Leslie O'Biren and Lee Cruise. Costs involved with worship, music, facility maintenance and various programs continue to increase, but we have continued informational contact with the congregation through increased e-mails, website updates and regular luncheons held during the re-envisioning process.


Historically speaking, pledge income has been 80% of budget income, but in 2010 and 2011 it has been about 75%. This has required fundraising events and expense reduction. We need to increase our pledge-giving to match God's vision and our expectations for our church. The proposed budget for 2012 includes pledge income of \$318,830 and is augmented by increased facilities use and fundraising efforts.

Electrical work involving the eight large sanctuary light fixtures is being undertaken to repair and upgrade the fixtures, which will improve sanctuary lighting. Funds are available to pay for this work.

The Eden housing project at the old library site has been approved by the Orinda planning commission, and negotiations with Eden Housing and the City of Orinda for the proposed construction of a 10-car parking lot on the hillside below the sanctuary have been authorized by the OCC Council. Reports on such negotiations will be forthcoming.



NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group 10 Senior Connection 3:30 Lifelong Learning Com. 7 PM Worship & Music	7:30 PM Pastoral Relations		
6 	7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship	9:30 Children&Youth 10 Sewing Cir. 11 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group	4:30 Endowm. Fund 7 Mission& Outreach	Office closed	
13 Neighbor Deadline	14	15	16 Neighbor published	17	18	19
Holden High school Sunday 9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship	10 Sewing Circle 11 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group 7:30 Church Council	9:30 Parish Callers		
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
9:15 Green Day at Reflection Café 10 Worship	10 Sewing Cir. 11 Staff meeting 7 Theology Book Club	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group	Office closed	Office closed	
27 1. Advent	28	29	30			
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship 11:30 BeadsforLife Workshop and sale	10 Sewing Cir. 11 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group			

Next Neighbor deadline: **November 13**. Please submit your articles to office@orindachurch.org

All submissions subject to editing.

Visit our website www.orindachurch.org