

# The Neighbor

## The Orinda Community Church

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

September 2011



**A Special Congregational Meeting is called following worship on Sunday, October 9, 2011, for the purpose of voting whether to accept the Proposed Orinda Community Church Vision Statement**

interest in spirituality and spiritual community. We can learn how to appeal to “spiritual but not religious” people!

The adoption of an Orinda Community Church Vision Statement will pave the way for new ways of being church: progressive and visionary, flexibly structured and spiritually anchored, out-reaching and inclusive, missional and pastoral, grace-filled and joyful. Please come to the October 9<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, and help OCC take this next important step in the journey. May God’s grace, peace, and guidance be with us!

### Frankly Speaking...

I’d like to thank and congratulate our Re-envisioning Steering Committee for producing the eloquent and evocative two-part Vision Statement that will be offered to Orinda Community Church for a vote of acceptance at a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. [You can find a copy of the statement within.] While the committee should accept credit for the final form of the statement, they will be the first to remind me that the source and inspiration has always been provided by the congregation itself, through the series of “town hall” meetings that began over a year ago as well as numerous suggestions and ideas that have been offered by OCC members and friends.

This lengthy process of study and discernment has allowed us to recognize how profoundly the spiritual world has changed since our congregation’s last majoring re-structuring in the 1970s. The surrounding culture has evolved away from many of the assumptions that underlie our traditional ways of “being church.” Secularization, commercialization, recreation and sports have taken over Sunday morning. Religion itself – along with many other once valued and respected institutions – has acquired a negative connotation for many. These changes are impacting all churches and denominations, and yet, at the same time there has arisen a vital and thriving

*Frank*



**Final Draft for Comment and Suggested Improvements  
Orinda Community Church  
Vision Statement**

**WHO WE ARE (This is how we characterize 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 (We feel God is calling our congregation in these new directions)**

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

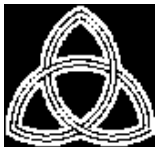
We envision a path of spiritual formation illuminated by faith, knowledge and practice.

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.

Re-envisioning Steering Committee  
September 13, 2011



## Circle of Life

**Elizabeth Wagner**, a member of Orinda Community Church since 2007, died August 11, 2011. A memorial service was held September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Brazilian Room in Tilden Park. May love and prayers rest with Elizabeth's broad circle of family and friends.

**Jeanette Raaka**, a member of Orinda Community Church since 1961, died September 4, 2011. Memorial plans are undetermined. Let the love and prayers of the church be with Carl, the family and friends.

**Hilda Snorradottir Lorensen** passed away August 9, 2011, at home in Davis, California, where she and her husband Lyman had lived for several years. She was 88 years old.

Before their move to Davis, Hilda and Lyman enjoyed active Church membership for 50 years. Hilda had a Master's degree in Library Science from U.C. Berkeley and worked as librarian at Martinez Junior High School. She also enjoyed managing many Church library projects. A native of Iceland, Hilda was Icelandic Consul for Northern California for several years. She loved music and was a soprano in the Orinda Women's Chorale.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Lyman; three children, Gudrun, Ingrid and Gilda; five grandchildren, Loa, Greta, Loren, Gavin and Rosa; and one great grandchild, Simon. A memorial service was held at the University Retirement Community in Davis. Donations can be made in her memory to: Yolo Hospice, P.O. Box 1014, Davis, CA 95617.



## CROP Walk this Sunday

Walk with us at 1 PM at **Civic Park in Walnut**

**Creek** this Sunday! The Contra Costa CROP Hunger Walk has two purposes: (1) to raise awareness about people around the world who must walk to find food, water, firewood, freedom and other necessities of life; and (2) to raise funds to help stop hunger wherever it exists. OCC will donate the proceeds to the Winter Nights Shelter program. For more information about the Contra Costa County CROP Walk visit: <http://www.crophungerwalks.org/contracosta>

## Mark your Calendar!

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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), and general merrymaking.

## Seniors Welcome!

You may have heard the sounds of "The Old Rugged Cross" wafting from Orinda Senior Village recently. These sounds were emanating from our lively **Senior Connection** gathering. After a summer hiatus, we met in the Orinda Senior Village Dining Room for a time of fellowship, singing, and study. It was fun!! We will be **meeting monthly (first Wednesday at 10am)** and invite all seniors to join us.



# Go, God. Go!



Blessing of the Animals  
Celebration and Service  
Saturday, October 8, 3:00  
Orinda Community Church  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
[www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

Bring all animals - (We've done lizards, dogs, cats and stuffed animals) - for this special, fun, family service.

## Little Fox

by Dion

Last night a little fox came and visited me.  
I sat on my porch as just a few feet away the fox and I looked at each other.  
Then the fox started to eat the cherries that had fallen beneath the wild cherry tree.  
Little fox what an unexpected gift - you are welcome by my front door.  
You are so brave - right by me eating the fruit the world offers us.  
You teach me little fox of what is precious.  
You search for the cherries - as I search to be loved.  
Oh little fox - as you wander the nights of your life you tame my longing.  
You teach me how to find sustenance where it is - all around me waiting for us.  
Just visiting me once - never to see each other again - your being is still with me.  
The cherries feed your body as the images of your life feed my soul.  
The poems within us and around us are unexpected moments to enjoy.  
Thank you little fox for touching me just for the one moment.  
Thank you for the poem of my life and the poem of your life - touching.  
Be the poems of the love in you and go live your life little fox.  
May we all find cherries to delight us and foxes to tame us.  
Even if it is for one moment in the night of our life that we know love.

{Copyright pending Dionysos Maskaleris}



## Neighbors in Need (NIN)

is a special mission offering of the 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 offering will be received **October 2** during worship. Online donations can be made at [www.ucc.org/nin/](http://www.ucc.org/nin/)

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## OCC NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**Join 66 other OCC members and sign up with eScrip!  
You can earn \$150 annually for the church.**

Sign up online. It's quick and easy!

eScrip works with merchant partners to contribute to organizations like ours each time you show – at no cost to you!

- 1.Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
- 2.Click on “sign-up”
- 3.Follow the instructions to register your Safeway card and, if you wish, your existing credit/debit cards.

**Or**

Sign up at church!

Bring your Safeway card with you on **September 25**. Linda Moeller, our eScrip Coordinator, will help you sign up online after morning worship.

Questions? Contact Linda Moeller at 925-930-8875.



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**The Foodbank of Solano and Contra Costa County thanks the Orinda Community Church for the recent donation of 69 pounds of food.**

**A barrel for your non-perishable donations is located in the narthex.**

## Thoughts from your Pastoral Intern Liz Armstrong

I visited a friend last week in Lafayette. The last time we had been together was some time in June. At that time, about seven workers were tearing up her front yard, digging, laying rock and pipe, and it was a complete mess. I had to gingerly make my way to her front door. Last week, as I pulled up to her house, I was absolutely amazed at the gorgeous transition that greeted me.

There were flowers of every hue lining a curving walk way and bordering a deep green lawn. The moment I stepped out of my car, I saw my friend's lovely personality emanating from this colorful, inviting and peaceful new landscape.

When I complimented her and raved about the beauty and the transition, she said, "Everything you see is a result of what's underneath. It's all in the deep wide trenching and the care taken to be sure that all the plants are adequately nurtured." "It's all in the trenching....." Of course it is, and that is in some way what I have been about and continue to be about in this last year of seminary. Trenching, and trenching...deep and wide; preparing the ground underneath, so that wherever God calls, I will be prepared in my faith and my experience to adequately nurture myself and all whom I serve.

You are all in my prayers of gratitude and blessing. May you rest in health and peace-assured of God's presence.

*Liz*



### Women Helping Women

At our last meeting, **Women Helping Women** heard a presentation from PINCC, a voluntary organization seeking to prevent and treat cervical cancer in underserved women throughout the world. Liz Armstrong, one of our Pastoral Interns, plans to volunteer in Mysore, India for this program. Cervical cancer is a completely preventable disease, yet is a serious threat to life to women in developing countries.

**Women Helping Women** are planning another Bead Sale to support the bead industry of impoverished women in Uganda. In addition, we will offer a workshop on BeadforLife educational programs for young girls from the Kampala ghetto in Uganda. A portion of the proceeds from the Bead Sale will be donated to these educational programs.  
**Save the date: Bead Sale/ Workshop Sunday November 27 following worship.**

**REFLECTION CAFÉ** is open again! Come for pastries, coffee, and early Sunday reflection at 9:15 in the Agape Learning Center.



## 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 through the month of September. Join us beginning **October 11<sup>th</sup>**!

**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, October 5**. All Seniors are invited to attend.

**OCC Theology Book Club** Our next meeting will be **October 17** at 7 pm in the church library.

## Feed your passion for ministry at Church Day!

The next Church Day will be **Saturday, October 1, 2011, at United Congregational Christian Church in Lodi**. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The program for the day will begin at 9:15 a.m. and end at 3:30. (Come early and enjoy fellowship and refreshments!)



Church Day is a twice yearly event unique to the Northern California Nevada Conference UCC. Its purpose is to bring together lay persons and authorized ministers to learn, share and grow in fellowship and leadership ability. Our conference theme: *Rhythm of Abundance: Worshipping, Connecting, Learning, Serving and Giving* provides a structure for the wide range of experiences offered at Church Day.

In addition to workshops on various topics, two other programs are offered in conjunction with Church Day. Attendees of all Church Day happenings gather at Noon for a delicious lunch and fellowship. On October 1, interested persons may participate in an Identity Seminar on UCC Theologies. Join Church Day attendees at 9:15 for morning gathering and worship. The Seminar is in session 10:15 a.m. – 3 p.m. with a lunch break. Authorized ministers may fulfill the continuing education requirement for Boundary Training on Church Day. On October 1, the Advanced Boundary Training course meeting the 6-hour renewal of the requirement will be held from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (An authorized minister must have taken the Basic Boundary Training Course in order to renew fulfillment of the requirement in the advanced course.) Church Day participants may choose two 1 ½ hour workshops to attend during the day. Workshops scheduled to be are:

- Envisioning NCNC's Future with Design Thinking
- What Faith Community Nursing Can Do for Your Congregation
- A Taste of Theological Education for Everyone
- Ministry to Our Veterans and Their Families
- 2 Workshops on InterPlay:
  - Secrets for Effective Church Groups
  - Four Energies of Whole and Balanced Leaders.
- Effective Church Websites

Go to <http://www.ncnuc.org/>, click on "Happenings" and scroll down to "Church Day" for updates and to register for Church Day. Youth and adults may register online for Church Day, the Identity Seminar and Advanced Boundary Training, as well as for child care (ages 0-12 years). For additional information contact Barbara Broadbent, Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development, at 510-247-8996, or [bbroadbent@ncnuc.org](mailto:bbroadbent@ncnuc.org)

# Annual All-Church Picnic August 2011



**...and celebrating Pastor Frank's 40 years  
in Ministry**



A STATUS REPORT TO ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Regarding the Senior Housing to be built on the Old Library Site  
September, 2011

**The Congregation is invited to an on-site informational meeting on the proposed parking lot, immediately after worship, Sunday, October 16, 2011**

The Orinda Planning Commission has recently approved construction of 77 units of rent-assisted Senior Housing on the old Orinda Library site at the foot of Irwin Way. The facility, to be built and operated by Eden Housing, Inc., will be similar to Orinda Senior Village but approximately one-half the size. Planning for this project has been underway for nearly four years. Pastor Frank Baldwin was a member of the City committee that selected Eden Housing from among a number of qualified builders. Eden Housing has been eager to engage the community and especially the immediate neighbors – Orinda Community Church, Orinda Senior Village, The Orinda Preschool and Holden High School – in the planning process. Four public meetings bearing on the project have been held here at the Church during the past two years.

Because the design necessitated by the economical scale of the senior housing facility will eliminate the old library parking lot heavily used by visitors to Orinda Community Park, the City has required Eden Housing to provide alternate parking elsewhere to mitigate this loss. Such parking being unavailable elsewhere, the Church has been asked to lease space on our lower hillside sufficient to park 10 cars. These spaces will be used only by Community Park users, not by Senior Housing residents, visitors or staff. Eden Housing will build the new parking with appropriate lighting and drainage. A sidewalk will be constructed on the north side of Irwin Way connecting the new parking area, the existing parking lot used by Holden High School, and the crosswalks at Irwin Way and Orinda Way. In addition to resurfacing and re-striping the Holden lot, Eden will re-landscape the lower hillside in cooperation with OCC, including removing several of the large dying pines adjacent to Irwin Way. The new parking lot will be maintained by the City of Orinda.

Orinda Community Church has been open to this proposal for at least three good reasons:

- 1) Homelessness and affordable housing are (and have long been) a major mission effort of our church, as witnessed by the construction of Orinda Senior Village in the 1980s, our support for Contra Costa Interfaith Housing since the 1990s, and our annual involvement in the Winter Nights Family Homeless Shelter for the past seven years.
- 2) As an emerging “green church” we have an interest in promoting community access and use of our beautiful local park and its facilities for rest and recreation, music, drama, and children’s play.
- 3) The new parking puts an under-appreciated corner of our campus to a tangible use benefiting the entire community, while providing a number of needed site improvements in the process.

The Church Council has authorized further negotiations with Eden Housing and the City of Orinda leading to a lease agreement embodying the commitments and values summarized above.

**Proposed Parking Area for Orinda Community Park Visitors,  
to be built by Eden Housing in conjunction with new Senior Housing,  
on property leased from Orinda Community Church.**

*77 Assisted Senior Housing Units  
will be built on the site of the old Orinda Library*

OCC's Fellowship Hall and  
Sanctuary are located up here.



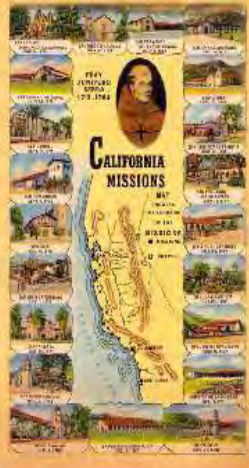
**THE NEW PARKING AREA IS AT THE LOWER LEFT OF THE SITE MAP.  
Orinda Way crosses at the bottom of the map; Irwin Way ascends vertically up the middle.**



Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble

# The Mission Project

The Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE) is performing a series of benefit concerts in California missions to raise money for further restoration of these buildings, which are such an important part of California's history. The concerts will include Renaissance and Baroque music from New Spain (Latin America), which provided a basis for the music composed and performed in the California missions.



**Saturday, September 17 at 7:30 PM**  
Mission San José, 43300 Mission Road,  
Fremont, CA 94539

**Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 PM**  
Mission Dolores, Dolores & 16th Streets  
San Francisco, CA 94114

**Sunday, October 2 at 3:00 PM**  
Mission San Rafael, 1104 5th Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

General \$20 Students / Seniors \$10  
NO ADVANCE TICKET SALES

Music composed by Cristóbal Morales, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Francisco Guerrero, Sebastián Durón, José de Torres, Francisco Capillas, Francisco Escalada, Hernando Franco, Juan Gutierrez de Padilla, Juan García Zéspedes, and Juan de Aranjó.

Guest artists: Joyce Johnson-Hamilton - cornetto, trumpet, & recorder; Shirley Hunt - viola da gamba  
Howard Kadis - vihuela & archlute; Mary Prout - viola da gamba; Aaron Westman - violin, viola

Cindy Beitmen - director

A full listing of our concert tour & program can be found at [www.wavewomen.org](http://www.wavewomen.org)



**INSPIRING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES. ENDING HOMELESSNESS.**

For 25 years, SHELTER, Inc. has successfully prevented and ended homelessness for thousands of Contra Costa families, over 175,000 men, women and children. To celebrate this milestone, SHELTER, Inc. is hosting a 25th anniversary celebration dinner at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette on **Saturday, October 15, 2011 starting at 6:00pm.** The evening will include speaker Steve Lopez, Los Angeles Times columnist who wrote the book turned movie, *The Soloist*, as well as highlights of SHELTER, Inc.'s 25 years of serving Contra Costa County. For more information or to make a reservation, check out the website at [www.shelterincofcc.org](http://www.shelterincofcc.org) or contact Elaine at (925) 957-7566. Cost is \$100/person. Special thanks to Contra Costa County's faith communities who have supported SHELTER, Inc. significantly over the years. SHELTER, Inc.-Inspiring Change. Rebuilding Lives. Ending Homelessness.

If you need more information, please contact [CynthiaD@shelterincofcc.org](mailto:CynthiaD@shelterincofcc.org). Thanks for your help!

## Common Hope Reception

All are invited to a gathering of Common Hope sponsors and supporters on **Saturday, October 1, from 4 to 6 p.m.** at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley. Renato Westby, Director of Program Development, is traveling from Guatemala to tell us about Common Hope's exciting new School Partnership Program. And Shari Blindt, Common Hope's Executive Director, will update us about the organization's latest accomplishments and plans. The program will start at 4:30 p.m. and a donation of \$10/person at the door is suggested to help defray expenses of the event. Feel free to contact Roger Samuelson or Lani Shepp for more details.

## Hertz Concert Hall, on the Berkeley campus

### Wednesday, September 28

NOON CONCERT: UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA -

\*\*\*\*\*FREE!!\*\*\*\*\* David Milnes, conductor  
Ligeti: /Lontano/  
Korngold: Violin Concerto, Ernest Yen, soloist

### Friday/Saturday, September 30 & October 1, 8pm,

\$15 general/\$10 seniors, UCB faculty/staff, non-UCB students, disabled, groups 10+/  
UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
David Milnes, conductor  
Ligeti: /Lontano/ Schumann: Symphony No. 2  
Korngold: Violin Concerto, Ernest Yen, soloist



Worship at Orinda  
Community Church

Sundays 10 AM  
Fellowship Hour 11:15AM

## OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship	10 Sewing Circle 11 Staff meeting		7 Breakfast Group 10 Senior Connection 12:30 Lifelong Learning Com.			3 Blessings of the Animals Service 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship 11:15 Congregational Meeting	10 Sewing Circle 11 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group 7 PM Pastoral Relations			
16 <i>Neighbor Deadline</i>	17	18	19 Neighbor published	20	21	22
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship 11:30 Informational Meeting re.: proposed Parking Lot	10 Sewing Circle 11 Staff meeting 7 Theology Book Club	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group			10 Women helping Women
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship 11:30 Forum: Mercy Ships	10 Sewing Circle 11 Staff meeting	7 PM Bible Study	7 Breakfast Group 7:30 PM Church Council	9:30 Parish Callers		
30	31 Halloween					
9:15 Reflection Café open 10 Worship 11:15 Oktoberfest	10 Sewing Circle 11 Staff meeting					

Next Neighbor deadline: **October 16**. 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)



# UCC's 'Mission:1' goals expanded to include \$111,111 church-wide appeal for East Africa famine relief

Written by staff reports  
August 29, 2011

Mission:1, the United Church of Christ's nationwide 11-day campaign in early November to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice, is being expanded to include a church-wide appeal to raise more than \$111,111 to aid famine-stricken Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia.

"The devastating reports of drought and famine in East Africa have caused many of our congregations to urge that a new goal be added to Mission:1, one that specifically addresses the crisis that is taking place in Somalia," said the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, the UCC's general minister and president. "This is why we have decided to double our financial goals, something that is both ambitious and doable given the enthusiasm that is building across the church for Mission:1."

The new goal comes as an addition to earlier stated goals, which include raising \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need hunger-related ministries, writing 11,111 letters to Congress in support of a more-effective U.S. foreign aid program, and collecting more than 1 million items of healthy food for local pantries across the United States. During the Nov. 1-11 timeframe, the UCC's homepage at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) will be converted into an online tote board where individuals and churches can make donations, report their progress, and track the denomination's collective successes in real time.

Under the new plan, all monetary gifts made to "Mission:1" during the 11-day push will be divided equally between the UCC's East Africa famine appeal and Neighbors in Need hunger-related ministries. The new goal is to raise more than \$111,111 for each.

The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, executive minister for the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries and a member of the denomination's five-person Collegium of Officers, said the crisis in East Africa demands a strong UCC response.

"It would be irresponsible for our justice-minded, global-mission church to ignore the famine crisis in Africa as an essential component of what we are trying to achieve together through Mission:1," Jaramillo said. "We also want to ensure that the Neighbors in Need advocacy dollars collected during Mission:1 will address globalization policy issues as they relate to hunger everywhere."

