



## First Congregational Church, UCC

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Ann and I were privileged to attend the UCC's 28th General Synod the first week of July in Tampa, FL. We saw some old friends (some of which were yours as well – Jim and Ann Beggs, Stuart and Gail Wells), and at the end of the week got to spend two days with our grandson and daughter-in-law.

General Synods are important events in the life of our church. I would covet for each of you the opportunity to attend one at least once in your life (and you're going to have a good chance to do that – see the end of this article!). While GS 28 didn't quite have the snap, crackle, and pop of GS 26 four years ago which celebrated our 50th anniversary (after all what could top Bill Moyers, Lynn Redgrave, and Barack Obama?!), it did take the pulse of the church in a way that demonstrated our on-going vitality and signs of hopefulness. The theme of Synod was "Imagine What's Possible", and that theme certainly got hit constantly by speaker after speaker.

Three new leaders for the church were elected: Mark Clark as Associate Executive Minister (replacing Edith Guffey), J. Bennett Guess as Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries (replacing Steve Sterner), and James Moos as Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries (replacing Cally Rogers-Witte). Geoffrey Black continues his outstanding work as our General Minister and President, as does Linda Jaramillo as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries. The Synod did approve (not without some dissension) the plan for unified governance of the UCC, which will streamline the work of the denomination. However, it postponed any decision on the frequency of General Synod meetings, so for the foreseeable future they will continue to meet every two years.

As always worship and music were highlights of Synod – with some modern innovations: at the opening worship congregants were invited to hold up their cell phones and "find a candle app on it", so that rather than candles there was the

light of thousands of cell phones, and as the worship leader said, “just let it emit some kind of light and God will understand”. (Ann got asked by a friend of hers who was one of the lead dancers for worship at Synod to participate with them in dancing the bread to the communion service.)

As has been the case since the 50th anniversary Synod in Hartford, CT, “Suncoast Saturday” was a time for many different workshops and cultural experiences, beginning with a keynote address from Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts Jr., who talked about the possibilities that could be imagined when people of faith seek to do what’s never been done before. This was followed by two extraordinary young brothers, Damien and Tourie Escobar, whose violin music ranged from classic to hip-hop – often at the same time (they are called “Nuttin’ But Stringz”).

A General Synod typically passes lots of resolutions, and this one was no different. In my mind, perhaps the most significant one was a resolution “Supporting International Human Rights Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender”. Refugees from countries in Africa and Central America spoke heartbreakingly about the persecution they had suffered and the need for the international community to put pressure on governments to insure that basic human rights are met. Nothing the UCC does ever passes unanimously <g>, but this resolution came close.

Now, here comes the pitch: General Synod 29 will be held in our own backyard: Long Beach, CA, June 28 through July 2, 2013! It will be hosted by our Southern California Nevada UCC conference. (One of the things that a host conference always does for a Synod is provide myriads

*On September 11 we will be commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11. During the prayer time there will be an opportunity for everyone in the congregation to offer their own prayers on this day that are heavy in our hearts.*

of cookies – so get your baking sheets ready now!) I do hope that you will put those dates (even though they are two years away) into your calendars now, and that many of us can plan to be present in Long Beach then.

It is good to be back. Ann and I look forward to seeing you on September Sundays.

Dave



## UCC Parish Outreach in Nashville, Tennessee

During the 2011 Summer the UCC Parish travelled to Nashville, Tennessee to assist with the flood relief efforts from the 2010 and 2011 flooding.

The week of July 10-16 was a rewarding one. Seven members of the UCC Parish worked side by side and with flood victims to help rebuild. Our tasks included rebuilding a house's foundation and installing a new ceramic tile floor in a water damaged dining room.

We stayed at Brookmeade Congregational Church UCC during our week's stay. The entire Congregation and staff were more than courteous and welcoming. They even cooked us a dinner on Thursday night to thank us for our help.

The UCC Parish is the organization that travelled the farthest to assist Nashville and is the only group that consisted of more than one UCC Church. The Pastor was so impressed that she is interested in starting a UCC Parish in the Nashville area.

Five of the seven volunteers from the Parish were teenagers, and NONE of them complained the entire week. They were proud to help. Even though we arrived the hottest week of Nashville's summer (we landed while it was 95 degrees and 90% humidity) everyone gave 150% of themselves.

Our Conference Minister; Felix Villanueva, sent his praise and thanks for a job well done to the UCC Parish. UCC PARISH ROCKS!!

Russ Smethers



### FERN HACHEY

Fern Hachey died on July 19. She was 93 years old. Fern was an organist and church musician for 50 years and she always expressed her appreciation of our choir and dance choir and organ music. There will be a memorial for Fern during the January 8<sup>th</sup> worship service 2012.



# Our Youth During Summer Vacation



I was part of the Parish group that went to Nashville, Tennessee with 6 others for 1 week to help out flood victims from the 2010 flood.

The group helped out a woman whom had lived in her house since she was 3 years old. We installed a new tile floor in her dining room.

In another house just outside of Nashville, the flood water washed out part of the foundation of his house. We helped pour cement that became part of the new foundation to an add on room to the house.

It was very hot and humid in Nashville and the work was difficult but I enjoyed myself very much.

I also was able to attend week two (July 17<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>) of Pilgrim Pines. I was in the Junior High age group (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade). I participated in a lot of activities like, swimming, arts and crafts, and hiking. I made a lot of friends that I got to participate in all the activities with.

The counselors were very nice. My favorite in particular was Brandy. A new CIT (counselor in training). She was so nice to me and she was so understanding to everyone. I hope to come back next year and have so much fun again.

Kira Smethers

I spent two weeks at Pilgrim Pines Camp this year. Both weeks were amazing. The first week I attended, was to teach me to be a CIT (counselor in training). I learned so much about helping people and made some great lifetime friends. My counselors helped me in so many ways and so did the other CIT campers. My director, Natoia, was so helpful giving me great advice and helping with our training. Lakeisha, my main counselor, was able to give great advice and encourage us to do our best.



The second week at camp, I was a counselor for the mini's, (campers who are entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) the youngest group at the camp. I was their role model and helped guide them during their week's stay. I had such fun and felt so fulfilled helping the mini's learn more about God and enjoy their stay at camp. I would love to go back next year and help out again.

Amanda Patterson

The week I spent in Nashville was lots of fun and very fulfilling. We were able to help victims of the flood who had no one else to help them and who otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford the help that we provided.

We tiled a room in one lady's house for a few days which she appreciated very much. We also got to dig out a room in a house which had been completely flooded and then we poured concrete which was a new experience to me.



The church we stayed in was very nice and we all played games had a lot of fun together.

Donny Grandjean



I went to Nashville, Tennessee with the Parish to help the flood victims. I really didn't know a lot about how the flood of 2010 had devastated so much of Nashville and the surrounding areas before I went to help. I learned so much about how devastating a flood can be and how it can wipe out so much of peoples lives.

We stayed at a small UCC church and it was such a beautiful church. We were able to explore Nashville and visit some of the historic places like The Belle Meade Plantation.

In one of the houses that we were going to work at, we had to shovel out a big pile of dirt and debris from inside one of the rooms. After we cleaned it out a cement truck came and we helped pour part of the foundation to the room that the flood water had washed away.

In another house we tore out some carpet that the water had destroyed and put in a new tile floor. I really enjoyed myself and had tons of fun.

Samantha Patterson



"What makes you think he's just winging it?"

Thank you so much! Camp is my second home. It's not just something I look forward to every year but it's something I plan my year around!

My best childhood memories are from Pilgrim Pines. I always appreciate your letters and support!



Xoxox  
Carrie Orozco



I love every moment of camp! I even helped Harry Frink in his talent show act. It was an exciting week up at camp. Your cards and letters were greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting the youth campership that helped me have another amazing time at camp.

Casey Orozco

I loved camp because I saw my friends and I got to do high ropes for the first time. I had the best time I love my C.I.T's and my counselor. I was in the talent show and I enjoyed it. I hope to go back next year.

Thank you so much for supporting campership. Your cards and letters were great! I had the best time ever!

Caitlin Orozco





### Anita Stark

Anita is continuing to have health problem, she also fell last week getting out of bed.

### Steven Stark

Anita's son is having neck problem and may need surgery.

### LaRue Knauss

LaRue is having continuing health problems.

### Sam Donovan

Sam is still recovering from temporal arteritis.



# Grandparents Day

(Thoughts taken from papers written by a class of 8 year old)

A grandmother is a lady who has no little children of her own.  
She likes other people.

A grandfather is a man grandmother.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there when we come to visit.

They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run.

It is good if they drive us to the store and have lots of quarters.

When they take us for walks, they show us things like pretty leaves & caterpillars.  
They show us and talk to us about the colors of flowers & also don't step on cracks.

They don't say, "Hurry up."

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out of their mouths.

They have to answer questions like "why isn't god married?"

When they read to us, they don't skip and don't mind if we ask for the same story again.

They know we should have snack-time before bedtime and they say prayers with us  
every time, and kiss us goodnight even though we have been bad.

Finances	July	2011
Contributions	\$3,050.10	\$29,086.95
Building Usage	\$1,770.00	\$66,350.71
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,820.10</b>	<b>\$95,738.54</b>
Operation & Administration	\$41.85	\$3,263.54
Utilities	\$597.71	\$6,515.66
Building & Grounds	\$185.00	\$7,421.10
Salaries	\$6,689.53	\$46,445.65
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,514.06</b>	<b>\$63,645.46</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-\$2457.05</b>	<b>32,093.08</b>



### Liturgists

- Sept 4<sup>th</sup> Al Horkay
- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Suzanne Rayno
- Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Don Schmiedel
- Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Ray Sitkiewicz

## September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Pinochle	3
4 Congregators	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11 Patriots Day Leadership Sunday	12	13	14	15	16 Pantry	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 First Day of Autumn	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September 7 Donny Grandjean  
 September 11 Jane Grandjean  
 September 23 John Frogue  
 September 28 Ardell Zobrist  
 September 28 Gloria Foster  
 September 29 Dave Pomeroy



September 7 Ann & Dave Pomeroy  
 September 12 Ann & Jim Beggs  
 September 16 Alice & Tom Berley



<b>Sunday</b>	9:00am 10:30am 10:50am 11:30am 12:00pm 2:30pm 8:00pm	FCC Adult Education FCC Services Youth Education FCC Coffee Hour Samoan Service Iglesia Service Romanian Service
<b>Monday</b>	9am -12pm 6:00pm	FCC Office Samoan (hall)
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30pm 6:30pm	Samoan (hall) Iglesia (sanctuary)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9am -12pm 7:00pm	FCC Office Iglesia (sanctuary)
<b>Thursday</b>	9:30am 7:00pm 8:00pm	Bread +Thrift shop FCC Choir (sanctuary) Romanian (hall)
<b>Friday</b>	9am -12pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	FCC Office Samoan (hall) Iglesia (sanctuary)
<b>Saturday</b>	6:00am 12:00pm	Samoan (hall) FCC Cleaning

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**September Issue 2011**  
**Return Service Requested**

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## Sunday Schedule

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Adult Education	9:00 AM
Sunday Service	10:30 AM
Youth & Nursery	10:50 AM
Coffee & Fellowship	11:30 AM

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## Tuesday's 9am Breakfast

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Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Denny's on W. Charleston
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bonanza Lounge
Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	Arizona Charlie's Decatur
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	The Cannery on Craig Rd.

**SEPTEMBER**

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## Other Happenings

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Pinochle	September 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Congregators	September 4 <sup>th</sup>
Labor Day	September 5 <sup>th</sup>
Patriots Day	September 11 <sup>th</sup>
Grandparents Day	September 11 <sup>th</sup>
Food Pantry	September 16 <sup>th</sup>
First day of Autumn	September 23 <sup>rd</sup>