



CONGREGATIONAL TIMES

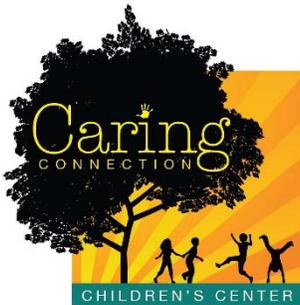
Newsletter of EGCCUCC



Volume 1, Issue 9

October 2014

Caring Connection Children's Center is Coming!



Caring Connection Children's Center is coming to Elk Grove Congregational Church, UCC! We are proud to announce that our church will be their 3rd campus, and is projected to open on January 5th, 2015. Owner Julie Jenkins Sathe and Site Director Nancy Danel are delighted to join our community. Caring Connection's first location opened in 1996 in West Sacramento, and a 2nd campus opened in 2013 in Midtown Sacramento.



As Elk Grove families search for the perfect fit for their preschool needs, you may wonder what will set Caring Connection Children's Center apart from all the others. It will be clear when you see their creative program, warm staff, and Natural Playscape. In addition, the heart of the Caring Connection program is the Enlightened Discipline philosophy (Julie is the author of the book *Enlightened Discipline*).

What is a Natural Playscape?

Nature is dirty and full of opportunities to learn through discovery. They will bring into the existing play yard more of that nature experience! Too often, young children spend many hours of their days at tables and in front of technology (like TVs)... but not at Caring Connection!

They create an environment where learning and growing happen under the trees and in the rocks, as much as in the classroom. This includes learning science in the mud-pie kitchen, understanding music and rhythm in the sound garden, learning sorting and categorizing in the beach, and balancing and using leverage in the wandering dry creek. Whether scouting sea glass or stacking logs,

(continued on Page 2)

In this issue:

- *Caring Connection Children's Center, Page 1*
- *Bunco, Page 2*
- *Co-Moderator's Corner, Page 3*
- *CROP Walk, Page 4*
- *Upcoming Events, Page 4*



Dinner and Bunco

For October Supper Club on Friday, October 24th from 6 – 9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



We are bringing back the Baked-Potato and Salad Bar! There will be lots of yummy toppings available to garnish your plate.

Following dinner, we'll play the entertaining Bunco Dice Game (it's a very easy game that takes about three minutes to learn.) This is a great way to mingle with everyone at the event. Game snacks and dessert will also be provided.

RSVP Required

Because dinner is being provided, you must pay in advance to reserve a spot. Invite your friends and family to join the fun. The deadline to reserve your spot is Sunday, October 19th. See Barbara Russell or Steven Hurley to sign up.

Price includes Dinner and the Game

\$15 per adult, and \$10 per youth. Bunco is appropriate for ages 12 and up.

Prizes

You have the chance to win one of three \$10 gift card prizes.



Listening Visits Continue

Did you notice on the new Bulletin Board for Revitalization in the Fellowship Hall that a majority of our members said that they would welcome a telephone call or in-home visit from a church leader? Continuing through the next few weeks as a part of our new Stewardship committee, George Baladjay (our former two-term Moderator) will be calling all members to see if they are interested in a "Listening Visit" with him. Once again, the purpose is NOT to twist your arm about money! It is to hear directly from you about what you love about our church, and where you want EGCCUCC to

go from here as we plan our future. You'll have the chance to express your concerns, dislikes, or areas you'd like to see refined. And anything you share will be in confidence. It is George's hope, and that of the whole committee, that this process will bring us closer together, strengthening our ties to EGCCUCC and one another, and give us all a deeper understanding of what our personal roles are within the larger body of our church family. We hope you'll be comfortable enough to give a visit a try. Call George at (916) 667-9010 to schedule your appointment.

Council Happenings

- A licensing agreement has been signed with Caring Connection Children's Center. Jim Addlesperger is working on a list of projects that need to be completed before the school can open. He could use some help from members of the congregation. Please contact him to volunteer.
- A new fence will be installed in the playground area. It was suggested and hoped that one of the Eagle Scout candidates in our Boy Scout Troop might take it as a project.
- The Finance Committee has begun work on the 2015 budget.
- The copier in the office is 11 years old, and it is hard to find parts for it. It will be replaced with a newer (3 year old) copier.
- Efforts are being made to pay off the SMUD loan. Once this is done, the monthly payment will be applied to the roof loan so that it can be paid down faster.
- The Marshallese congregation may be moving to a new facility in the next few months.

Caring Connection (continued from Page 1)

developing motor skills on tree stumps or by scooping sand or stacking rocks, the Caring Connection's Natural Playscape has added immeasurably to the learning style that comes naturally to young children. All of this healthy activity is paired with healthy, wholesome meals that are cooked on-site. They look forward to the new partnership with Elk Grove Congregational Church, UCC as they continue to grow.

Nancy Danel, who will be the On-Site Director, is amazing! She will create this new location from the

ground up, along with Julie Jenkins Sathe in concert with the EGCCUCC Council. Nancy has been in the early childhood field for over 25 years. She and Julie worked together when Enlightened Discipline was still in its infancy. Nancy attended elementary through high school in Elk Grove, and is delighted to come back to create the best vision for children in early care and education, right here at our facility! Let's welcome Nancy, Julie, and all of the kids with our heartfelt love!

Co-Moderator's Corner by Roger Tinsman

Travel Thoughts

I know you are expecting wisdom from Dick Ober in this edition, but I volunteered to submit this while he focuses on Mary Lou's recuperation. I know you will join me in wishing all the best future health and strength to them both!

As many of you know, I am on vacation in Germany. And while I am here, I have visited many large stone churches (like what is shown in the photo to the right of this article), and some were built in the year 1200 or earlier! What this says to me is many-faceted, and I am learning a few lessons that I think apply to our little church as well:

- Buildings are not the church. As beautiful as any church may be, carved from stone or built of cinder-block, it is the people...the congregation and God's work through it, that really are the church.
- Traditions change. These churches were the center of life when they were built – supposedly sacred and holy places to be revered. Now they are tourist sites and monuments. But the love of God is still visible

in the works that the members do – often posted with photos on bulletin boards, where those who are interested in more than stones can see.

- Divisions come and go, but truth and hard work live on. Wars were fought (like the Thirty Years' War) over whether Catholics or Protestants should be in control. But in the end, those divisions must seem so foolish and limiting to our God who is beyond our petty focus. Embracing the vast diversity of God's creation seems so much more productive, and in line with his love.

I hope everyone has had a chance to read the Revitalization Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall with the congregational survey results! I think they show us as a vital, living church that is embracing our future, and is open to growth and change. Let's keep working hard to make our little church as welcoming and prosperous as it can possibly be, so when a visitor sees us, they will see God at work! Amen.



Pledges are Up For 2015!

Currently, both the number of individual pledges and the total dollar amount pledged for 2015 is well up over last year, and there is still one week to go for our September Stewardship Pledge Drive! As of Sunday, September 21st, we had received pledges up 30% over the amount received during the entire drive of 2014. Congratulations to everyone! We

all benefit from the diligent work of the Stewardship Committee and all who give, whether through money, prayer, or time!

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to submit your pledge, please do so as soon as possible, knowing that it will contribute to our congregation's brighter future!



Volunteer Spotlight

Almost a year to the date that Montessori left our facility, we were contacted by Caring Connection Children's Center based on an advertisement we put on Craigslist. Jim Addlesperger and others had worked for the last year to prepare the stage. And in the end, a small group of members held open houses, negotiated terms, and refined license agreements until early in September when Julie Jenkins Sathe signed the agreement!

So, our spotlight this month is focused on the following individuals
(continued on Page 4)

Volunteer Spotlight

(continued from Page 3)

who worked tirelessly behind the scenes right up to the end to get this to happen. A big **Thank You** goes out to:

Jim Knapp
Pastor James Kosko
Doris Loughner
Dick Ober



Sacramento CROP Hunger Walk

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



What is the CROP Hunger Walk? It's the original charitable walking event in the United States, and is sponsored by Church World Service. Church World Service is passionate about ensuring sustainable access to proper,

nutritious food, supporting more than 2,200 local hunger-fighting groups across the United States. Join the 145,000 walkers around the country to help end hunger locally and abroad!

This year's Sacramento CROP Hunger Walk is on Sunday, October 12th at 2 p.m. Interested in participating? Please see George Baladjay for more information.

Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars for the following October events.

Thursday, October 2 nd	<i>Just Food</i> Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, October 7 th	Fundraising Dinner at <i>Baja Fresh</i>
Sunday, October 12 th	CROP Walk Sacramento, 2 p.m.
Sunday, October 12 th & 26 th	Communion Sundays
Saturday, October 18 th	Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m. SVA Association Gathering, Sierra-Arden, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, October 20 th	Fundraising Dinner at <i>Logan's Roadhouse</i>
Friday, October 24 th	Supper Club and Bunco Evening (see article on page 2)

Save
the
Date

October Birthdays and Anniversaries – Why not send a card?

October 13th – Glenda and John Feraud, October 14th – Jamie Ross,
October 15th – Betty Wilson, October 18th – Sonny Goree
October 30th – Rick Owens



EGCCUCC September 2014



Like us on facebook!

ELK GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9624 MELROSE AVENUE
ELK GROVE, CA 95624



ELK GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

9624 Melrose Avenue, Elk Grove, CA 95624

www.elkgroveucc.org

Office phone: (916) 685-4825 and e-mail: egccucc@yahoo.com

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday-Friday (please call ahead, just in case)

Sunday Choir Practice: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Circle, Knitting Ministry: 11:00 a.m.

Thursday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.