



Danielle Chamberlin directs the Handbell Choir of CCB in the introit *Glorioso* during worship on May 16.

The backstory of the gift of lovely handbells

First Congregational Church of Antioch has gifted CCB with a fantastic and incredibly valuable set of professional handbells. We asked Jane Fish of FCCA to tell us about the handbells and how they happened to make their way to CCB.

**By Jane Fish
FCCA Moderator**

Now that FCCA is in yet another transformative process, we find we need a permanent home for our lovely Memorial Gift

Handbells. How wonderful it has been for us to know our handbells have landed in such a loving space, where they are already in “play and performance” mode!

Thank you to Danielle Chamberlin, CCB vice-moderator and choir member, for communicating with us and driving the miles to pick up all the bells, the foam pads, table covers, music folders, and plaque with Kim’s name on it.

The CCB choir is under the directorship

of Elizabeth Mye. Danielle occasionally takes a turn to direct some of the handbell pieces.

As requested by CCB, here is the story of these memorial handbells...

Kim Greeff Zapata grew up in a musical family in Antioch. She was the youngest of four children born to Anne and Max Greeff in 1965. Max was a schoolteacher in Antioch, and Anne, after being mom at home

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Pastor says CCB has found its vision, its WHY!

By Pastor Liz

It has been a blessing to serve as your interim pastor over the last 15 months in a season of transitions and change, much more than any of us dreamed of.

I don’t know quite how to say how thankful I am for your welcome, for this journey with you, and for all that we have learned and become together, except to say I thank God for you, CCB.

Part of my role and responsibility as an interim pastor and participant observer is to share what I have come to see in my time among you that may be helpful/useful to you going forward.

Permit me to share that with you here

and to offer suggestions for moving ahead as a congregation of God’s people.

CCB’s vision for the future is to take a growing, more vigorous role in the lives and well-being of the wider community and to create opportunities for fellowship, support and spiritual enrichment to improve quality of life for members and the wider community.

The storying and visioning experiences we have undertaken together have come to the same conclusion about what matters most to this congregation. We took all the visions that were submitted and arranged them by affinity on a whiteboard in the

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An interpretation of the CCB vision: The church on the hill, reaching out to the community, gathering in for the community.

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation valuing everyone’s race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, class, physical and mental abilities.

Saving our environment one cleaning product at a time

By Linda Howard

Sitting in my refrigerator is a jar of yellowish liquid labeled “shoe polish.” Recently, when I had company over for dinner, I brought out the jar and poured some of the liquid on the salad. My guest, wide-eyed with incredulity, said, “I think I’ll pass on the salad tonight.”

I realized I had better explain the origin of my “salad dressing.”

One can make a variety of environmentally safe cleaning products using four items: baking soda, white vinegar, lemon juice and olive oil. The salad dressing/shoe polish recipe consisted of one part lemon juice combined with one part olive oil. This mixture of lemon juice and olive oil rubbed on leather shoes with a soft cloth results in a shiny, buffed look. If there is leftover lemon juice and olive oil (and as long as it is not contaminated by old shoe leather), add a few spices and Dijon mustard to make a tasty salad dressing.

The youth group has expressed interest in activities that promote a better and safer



For the past few weeks, Kendall House has been our videographer for live-streaming CCB worship services over Facebook. She’s become proficient at the techniques of using the Switcher program.



environment. Following along the lines of that interest, the group met on Zoom in May to make environmentally friendly cleaning products.

The teens along with a couple of adults merrily mixed up several concoctions of cleaning liquids, all made out of ingredients that were less harmful than commercially prepared products. Afterwards the liquids were poured into spray bottles and labeled.

In addition to making an all-purpose cleaning product, safe for most surfaces, they learned about other less caustic household items that can be used for cleaning purposes. Throwing baking soda and vinegar down the sink drain helps cleanout residue. It’s also entertaining watching the bubbly chemical reaction.

Rubbing a lemon on a wooden cutting board cuts down on germs and leaves a pleasant smell. Anything made out of copper has to be regularly shined now and then. Smearing ketchup on copper takes away the brown discoloration leaving a shiny surface.

The final cleaning activity was the most challenging and personal — dirty tennis shoes! If tennis shoes have white edges, they can get dirty after only a few outings. The teens, using an old toothbrush, applied “elbow grease,” and rubbed the rims of their tennis shoes with a mixture of baking soda and dish soap. It was satisfying to see the gleaming white results after the scrubbing.

To wrap up the meeting, the teens viewed a humorous mockumentary entitled “The Majestic Plastic Bag.” If you would like a funny but thought-provoking video about plastic bags and their devastating effect on the environment, click [here](#).

River-rafting trip planned for youth Saturday, June 26

By Lea Mavroudis

We have exciting news! We are planning a whitewater rafting trip for youth in June. On Saturday, June 26, we plan to make a day trip from CCB to go rafting along the South Fork of the American River.

We’ll leave CCB around 7:30 a.m. to arrive at Lotus (in the Sierra foothills a bit east of Folsom).

After a short orientation where we will meet our guides, we will raft 13 miles of the American River over class II and III rapids through rocky gorges and rolling Sierra foothills.

We will be treated to a riverside picnic lunch. Then we’ll finish in the late afternoon and take a short van ride back to our starting point, where we’ll hop in our cars to drive back to Belmont, stopping for dinner along the way home.

Please RSVP with the number of youth and adults who would like to go, by June 6, so we can reserve our spots.

The minimum age for this trip is 8 years old. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

We are also seeking chaperones and drivers so, parents, please tell us if you can help.

The church will purchase tickets for everyone because we will get a group discount. The cost will be about \$165 per person if you would like to make a donation to CCB to offset the cost of the trip. (Please specify youth programs in the memo line of your check).

More details on what to bring will come in a later email, but Covid safety will require us to have a face covering for times when we’re indoors and social distancing is not possible (for example, the van ride back to the starting point).

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to join us!

CCB music program will get a June restart



Continued from Page One

Caz Chorale, led by Mike Venturino, provided music for Pentecost Sunday.

By Elizabeth Mye
CCB Music Director

I have just returned to in-person service now that my family and I are fully vaccinated. Jeffrey returned May 30.

So, now that we are back, I am very happy to announce that we will be re-starting Sanctuary choir practice. I've missed you all so very much.

Our first Sanctuary Choir rehearsal will begin Thursday, June 3, at 7:30 pm in the church Dining Room. Our first full choir Sunday is planned for June 13. Although we usually take the summer off, we decided to jump into our choir season now as we have missed singing together for far too long.

Because we are not out of the woods on this pandemic, we are requiring choir members to be fully vaccinated. We will also be singing with masks. I know this is not ideal; however, the aerosols from singing are still of concern so we need to remain cautious for now.

With the re-opening June 15 and limiting of restrictions, I am certainly hoping we will be able to sing without masks soon. However, Maura Whitmore has purchased very breathable masks for choir members. Thank you, Maura!

I am working on the music schedule through the end of August. If you are interested in playing or singing a solo, please let me know!

Also, let me hear what kind of music you'd like to sing or to hear us singing. We're looking for a mix of old favorites and contemporary pieces.

In the meantime, I would really love to know if you are planning to come back to sing in choir. It will help me plan.

And I do want to thank Mike Venturino for jumping in to re-start our singing with the Caz Chorale! Great job everyone!

Handbells

Continued from Page One

with the kids, worked as a classroom aide in Oakley.

Kim was a wonderful musician, singing in the Music Masters at Antioch High and playing the piano for Jazz Band. She and her sister Tina worked in the nursery at FCCA every Sunday morning for three years.

Kim attended Sacramento State University where she obtained a general ed degree with a minor in music.

Kim married the love of her life, Jim Zapata, in 1990. Their marriage traversed onto rocky shores when Kim had to deal with a health challenge that flared and was not able to be treated to a space of healing. She died in 1991, after being married for 14 months. Everyone agrees she was the most beautiful person, inside and out, with a radiant smile.

Her husband Jim purchased and donated the handbells to FCCA as a Memorial Gift honoring Kim. He relayed that her favorite movie of all time was "It's a Wonderful

Life". Kim's favorite part of that movie was when Zuzu, George Bailey's youngest daughter, explains that a ringing bell on the Christmas Tree means that an angel has gotten its wings. (The angel was Clarence, who was sent by God to help George see the validity of his life.) Jim wanted the handbells to be played, in Kim's Honor, knowing that with every ring, somewhere, an angel gets its wings.

We at FCCA have enjoyed many years of Kim's bells being played in our worship services, and now we appreciate that they are being played at CCB, knowing you have her plaque displayed and are sharing some beautiful handbell music with your congregation and community.

We look forward to following your services on your Facebook live-stream and hopefully in person as well, with a visit here and there.

Thank you, CCB, for utilizing this gift and honoring Kim Greeff Zapata's memory and sharing lovely music within your church space and community.

We appreciate you!

We expect to be adding hymn-singing back into our worship on June 20.

We will still be masked for a while to measure our comfort level.

Let us know how you feel about singing without masks.

We will keep some chairs on the veranda for those who aren't comfortable in the Sanctuary if we're singing.

To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).

Vision

Continued from Page One

Dining Room.

The image/metaphor of CCB's logo — the tree with branches spreading out and gathering in grew out of the storying we did earlier. We discovered that the details of the several visions submitted took the same shape on the whiteboard (see photo).

This vision is both clear and open enough to live into with purpose and direction. The specific details (who, what, how, when, where) will emerge as CCB lives together with intention and discovers over time what can be done with who you are and what you bring.

Oh, yes, and as CCB discovers what the Holy Spirit gives you the ability to do (Acts 2:4).

As you have heard me say often enough, your vision is what you work out as you go along, trying different things, as life (broadly construed) happens and you learn and make kin-dom of God sense of things, between meals (sacraments).

This is how Jesus did it. It's low-tech, high-touch, organic and sustainable (as in, 2,000+ years old) because it is alive in the ecosystem that supports abundant life.

Jesus often used this mediating metaphor "the kin-dom of God is like," and we've been living into that vision ever since. For CCB, it is the tree.

I am confident that our process and vision capture well what is essentially true about this church, who you are and may become. You have enough insight and information now to write a congregational profile and a pastoral leadership scheme.

The number of congregation members to participate in these explorations of the future — storying and visioning — was limited to a few in a year when we were required to observe protocols of social distancing. Even in these conditions, we might have hoped for more.

Even under the circumstances, however, I believe enough voices have been heard and stories told to get an authentic reading.

Moreover, I believe that the right people showed up, we started and finished when we could, and we have done the only thing that could be done. The choice of those who did not participate must be honored.



Visioning whiteboard shows how ideas can be folded into the larger view.

It should be noted, also, that CCB's teens showed up and played an important role in our learning about CCB. Their future is what you hope to serve.

Congratulations and celebrations are in order. The commitment of a faithful few ("the Tireless Twelve"), however, has been extraordinary. It is their commitment and sacrifice over these months that have brought us to this moment. They should know how much CCB depends upon their leadership and feel our gratitude, early and often.

As we come out of lockdown and can gather in person more freely, I pray that more members and friends of CCB will follow their example.

You must know that the vein of leadership gifts, talents, and resources of all kinds in this congregation is deep — it is an embarrassment of riches — and is, no doubt, deeper than I know.

A Wonder Question: What would it take to turn the talents, commitment and resources of CCB loose on the world "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God" — to be a Micah 6 church?

Suggestions, near term (by end of Summer)

- Begin to draw up job descriptions for a new leadership scheme that will serve this forward motion. By taking on that task, you will soon see what questions must be answered and how well your scheme will serve your future leadership needs.

This may be where you divide the responsibilities of a pastor and staff in a way that stewards your needs and resources.

- Write your congregational profile using what you have learned in these last months to describe the current reality of this congregation and community, and how CCB envisions continuing in ministry in this setting. The profile will raise any remaining questions about CCB's future and will drive members toward finding answers and solutions.

- Commit to creating a safe and hospitable space for decision-making, and shared rituals (practice) for growing in those practices. CCB must have a safe place in which to raise questions or to speak the truth of one's life and heart out loud or to discern how God calls CCB to partner in co-creating the future.

The three capacities to develop are:

- Learn to SEE the reality (ecosystem) you're in together (the good, the bad, the painful);

- Learn to TALK about what you see together and explore possibilities; and

- Learn to ACT together to make the difference you want to make in the world, learning from what you've done to know what/how to do what's next.

There are many resources available for this work.

Specific recommendations about what to look for in your next pastoral leadership are available, should you wish to see them.

To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).

NCNC votes to sell beloved Camp Cazadero property

For more than 30 years, CCB enjoyed Family Camp at Camp Cazadero near the Russian River. We sent our kids to church camp there, and among them was Sarah Fernald who writes about the painful decision to sell the camp.

By Sarah Fernald

The Northern California Nevada Conference held a special meeting May 22 on Zoom to discuss and vote on what to do with our Camp Cazadero property. It was attended by almost 100 delegates.

The final vote, after a limited discussion, was 78% in favor, 21% opposed and 1% abstaining to move ahead with selling Camp Caz for \$4 million to a young organization called [Shelterwood Collective](#), based in Oakland (not the one with the same name in Seattle, Wash.)

I, as your Caz Alumni representative, voted to oppose the immediate sale until more research was done and until we had a written agreement with Shelterwood that we as a conference, will still maintain our rights to use the property for Youth and Family camping; as was recommended as an amendment or as a new agreement by some of my fellow Caz Alumni delegates.

The Zoom format was extremely frustrating. It was not set up as an interactive meeting but as a webinar, where only those running the meeting could speak freely at any time and the rest of us had to write in the Q&A box and then our comments were filtered and answered by the leaders.

During the short discussion, various delegates voiced concerns about the selling agreement not including a contract which would guarantee our rights to use/rent Camp Caz during the usual summer season.

Several of us suggested that given Shelterwood's obvious interest and paying far above our asking price, it seemed likely they would be open to that addition to the sales terms. However, others were worried that the sale would then not go through.

The other issue brought up was the question of how the \$4 million would be allocated and spent by the conference? Would



Vesper Point at Camp Cazadero

it go to Youth and Outdoor Ministries? The leaders of the meeting stated that that had not been decided and that those interested in that should attend Annual Meeting on Oct. 2.

After the final vote, Melinda Henning suggested that we could go to Shelterwood with a Memorandum of Understanding after the sale and ask them if they would be willing to enter into that kind of agreement with us, saying the conference continues to have the right to the use/rent of Camp Caz.

It would not be required, but it would be presented by us as a friendly agreement between our conference and their organization. This suggestion was discussed and then voted on. It passed with 93% approval.

There have been and will continue to be a lot of emotions around this decision by the conference. I am one of thousands who have attended and loved Caz and felt that I was made into the person I am because of my experiences at Camp Caz.

There are many of us who are extremely saddened by this turn of events. I spoke with Brian Wetzel, longtime Caz advocate and volunteer and my friend from Caz for the past 33 years. He and I agree, as do many of our fellow alumni, that the best we can do now is to build a positive and collaborative relationship with Shelterwood Collective so that we may continue to be able to be part of

Family Camp will return July 16-18 to Monte Toyon; sign up right away

By Henry Altorfer

Family Camp is returning to Monte Toyon July 16-18, and we've again booked Cary Lodge.

Only an hour away in Aptos, Monte Toyon UCC Campgrounds are beautiful and peaceful. We arrive after dinner on Friday in time for the first campfire and stay through lunch on Sunday, after a simple celebration of the sacred in the chapel.

We have a second campfire on Saturday.

In between we are off the clock and able to enjoy one another as in no other environment. The hiking is fantastic!

Check out the slide show on the CCB [website](#) for photos from 2019.

Adults are \$150 per person and children 6 to 12 are \$90. Children under 6 are free. Scholarships are available for everyone who asks Pastor Liz in confidence.

To register (as early as possible, please), send your name and the number of kids in each category to Lea at Office@CCBelmont.org. Pop a check made out to CCB (with Family Camp on the memo line) in the mail to cover the cost. Invite your friends as well!

Additionally we may rent the climbing wall on Saturday morning from 9-11 a.m. Children 9 and older are welcome on the climbing wall with parental permission.

Camp Cazadero in this new chapter.

What can you do? Please keep Caz and the Shelterwood Collective in your prayers, and help the conference as we move forward to look at new ways to have youth and adult involvement in camping at Caz in the future. Want to volunteer or send your kids/teens/grandkids to camp this summer? To learn more, click here:

A farewell ceremony will be held at Caz on June 12 for all who are interested. Thanks to all those who have worked so hard to keep Caz and Tam alive all these years. Caz definitely changed my life forever for the better, and the lives of so many others.

To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).



Peninsula Multifaith Coalition presents:
A Summer of "Good Trouble"

DAYS OF ADVOCACY IN HONOR OF JOHN LEWIS

Wednesday, June 30th at 7:00 pm
Book Discussion of "March: Book 1"
by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell
Zoom Event

Save
the
Dates

Saturday, July 17th at 7:30 pm
Discussion and Showing of
the Movie "Good Trouble"
LDS Church Parking Lot, Foster City

Sunday, August 15th, 1:00-3:00 pm
Multifaith Gathering. Prayer Service,
Poster Making, Anti-Racism March
Central Park, San Mateo

"When you see something that is not right, not
fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to
say something; you have to do something."



To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).



Samaritan House made an urgent request for diapers and pull-ups. CCB came through and brought approximately 15 packages of diapers in various sizes. They were delivered to the Samaritan House last week. Good deeds can be as small as a swift diaper delivery. If you are looking to help those in need in our community, Samaritan House welcomes donations. It's easy to drive by and deliver without getting out of your car. The address is 4031 Pacific Blvd., San Mateo. The phone number is (650) 341-4081

Walking group to restart on June 6!

Join Steve Chamberlin and other CCB walkers at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the parking lot of Redwood Shores Library. They'll explore the easy, paved bike trail along Belmont Slough. Dogs on leashes are welcome.

July/August Messenger deadline will be Monday, June 28



We're updating the CCB Directory and we need your input now.

If you have changed any of your contact information (address, phone numbers or email addresses), please email Lea at office@ccbelmont.org by June 1. The new directory will be in PDF format. If you want a printed copy, contact Lea.

To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).