



## Haitian Earthquake Inspires an Outpouring of Generosity Across United Church of Christ

Giving to the UCC's Haiti earthquake response is shattering previous [online giving](#) rates, indicating a generous outpouring from across the United Church of Christ, church leaders say.

Within six days of the disaster, a total of \$250,603 had been received from 2,366 online donors. That far exceeds a previous online giving record set in early 2005 when \$112,000 was raised at [ucc.org](#) over 23 days from a little more than 1,000 donors to aid victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

### Where Do Gifts Go?

Funds from these and previous donations are already flowing to mission partners in Haiti including \$20,000 to Church World Service for relief kits and \$5,000 to Interchurch Medical Assistance who will provide medicine and supplies to area clinics. Additional distributions will be made as relief and recovery efforts continue.

UCC funds are already flowing to mission partners in Haiti, including support for relief kits organized by Church World Service and funds for medicine and supplies for area clinics provided by Interchurch Medical Assistance. Funds have also been shared with Global Ministries for support of partners, the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH) and House of Hope. Additional distributions are being made as relief and recovery efforts continue.

### Logistics and Long-Term Help

"The logistics of getting into Haiti and finding an effective relief activity are very difficult," says Susan M. Sanders, the UCC's minister for global sharing of resources.. "World governments, humanitarian agencies and mission groups already stationed in Haiti are responding to needs as quickly as possible, and managing volunteers would only add to the complexity of their efforts."

Sanders reminds UCC supporters that while the church responds immediately at times of natural disasters, its commitment to recovery and rebuilding is long-term. "The UCC will be working in Haiti for many years to come, long after the media spotlight has turned elsewhere," she says. ♦

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## Have News to Share?

Here's how to share your important news with our community:

**Bulletin Announcements:** To request an announcement in the Sunday bulletin, please contact Donna Hanson in the Church Office at 619-284-1129 or email your request to [info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com). Please write out your announcement as you would like published. Note: Donna may edit to fit the announcement page. **Submit all bulletin notices by 4:30 PM Wednesday.**

**Chimes:** Write out your news. Chimes editor, Marg Stark, may edit for length or clarity. Send it to [margstark@aol.com](mailto:margstark@aol.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the following month's **Chimes**. ♦



### Kensington Community Church United Church of Christ

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**Sunday worship at 8:30 and  
10:00 a.m.  
All are welcome!**

## KCC Kids: Brighten Someone's Day & Join Us for a Cookie-Decorating Party

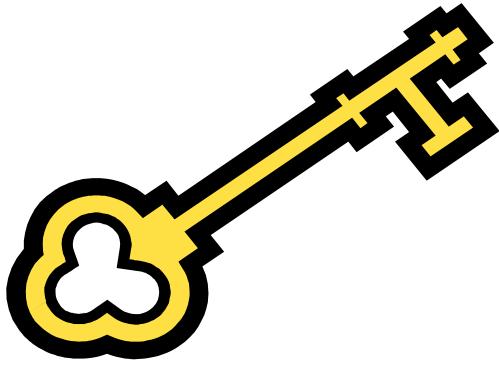


The KCC Religious Education Committee invites kids (and grown-ups) to join us for a Valentine's Day cookie-decorating party on Saturday, Feb. 13. Meet us in Lander Hall from 1-3 p.m. to decorate cookies to pass out to all our KCC friends on Valentine's Day. We'll supply the cookies, icing and sprinkles -- all you have to do is join the fun. ♦

## KCC Seniors: Enjoy Two for Tea!



The next Senior Luncheon, "Two For Tea," is Thursday, February 11 at 12 p.m. "Two For Tea" is in memory of Betty Craig, our well-loved Scottish member who passed away last summer (and willed a substantial gift to our church). Our terrific choir ensemble will be doing a musical program, and there will be a silent auctions of Betty's magnificent teacup collection. (Non-attendees will also be afforded an opportunity to bid.) ♦



## Safe Church Working Team Prepares Policy for Congregational Review

More than 50 KCC members have, over the course of three congregational meetings, shared their values, goals and hopes for a Safe Church policy. Last month's meeting was particularly insightful as Pilgrim UCC's Reverend Madison Shockley shared their church's experience with Safe Church, as they struggled with the presence of an identified sexual offender in their congregation.

Safe Church is the term used to describe policies established at many UCC churches to prevent abuse and safeguard the physical and emotional health of members, guests and staff. Among Pilgrim UCC's lessons which Reverend Shockley shared, were:

- **The prevalence of child sexual abuse.** One in four women, and one in six to eight men, experienced some form of abuse as a child, ranging from inappropriate touch to rape.
- **Known abusers v. unknown abusers:** A safe church must try to prevent abuse not just from those we can identify as abusers but from those who we cannot identify. Many children are abused by those they know, and sometimes by authority figures within schools and churches.
- **The difficulty of extending welcome to all:** Pilgrim struggled with and eventually granted a "covenant of limited access" to the individual in their midst who was a sex offender. He was invited to attend church, but only with a member escorting him, among other restrictions.

- **A Mission of Education:** Pilgrim now considers it their mission to educate other churches about Safe Church. They share what they learned with churches and organizations nationwide.

How blessed we were, as a congregation and working group, to hear Reverend Shockley's insights. With this in mind, along with the many case studies we've discussed in congregational meetings, the Safe Church working team began preparing a draft policy for the KCC congregation to review.

The working team will present the main points of the draft policy at the January congregational meeting, and distribute the policy to our members for review. The draft will be emailed to congregation members, and copies will be available in Lander Hall.

This is a living document, the outgrowth of our meetings with the congregation, as well as our own research. To prepare to draft it, the working team attended two Safe Church orientations and read policies from many other churches. We've consulted California law and insurance policies.

### What We Need From YOU

We urge you to consider our draft policy prayerfully, and let us know if the guidelines we've prepared, sit well with you.

Ask yourselves if the policy...

- Better protects our church, and particularly our youth, from the threat of abuse?
- Represents the love and abundant welcome we want to extend, balanced with common sense precautions and judgment?
- Is appropriate to our church and in keeping with the values and hopes that inspired it?

Feel free to speak to any of the Safe Church working group members: Jodi Cleesattle, Dean Hansen-Tarbox, Michiko Lindsey, Jim O'Donnell, Ross Putnam, Cathy Stephenson, Marg Stark, or Rich Wayman. We're eager to hear from you.

--Marg Stark, *Chair*, Safe Church working group ♦

## A Moment with Our Moderator

As I am writing this, San Diego is experiencing a strong winter rain storm. It's supposedly a 100 year storm, since more rain will come in a five day period than will come in any other five day period for the next 100 years.

The storm reminds me how powerful God is. It also reminds me that God's presence is everywhere. During KCC's interim period, God is present and powerful. In this time, church members develop their vision for the future of our congregation. In my role I'm involved in a lot of discussions about "what it means to be a part of KCC." I look forward to these discussions with fellow KCC members as God's presence is so clearly evident. The discussions help me in my spiritual journey.

God calls us to be spiritual and to pray. God also calls us to *take action*. I believe that the action God calls us to during the interim time is to speak about our beliefs and listen to others.

### Could God Be Calling You to Meetings?!

All of us are busy and meetings are hard to make time to attend. But the action to which I believe we are called, also involves meetings – setting aside time to talk and listen, and participate in a dialogue with your church community. The more people that attend the meetings, the better the final product!

The series of previously held congregational meetings helped the Safe Church working team decide what to include in a first draft of the policy. The Open and Affirming (ONA) process will be starting soon. We can't have a truly representative vision unless each of us communicates our individual beliefs. Everyone's participation is requested and encouraged.

--Rich Wayman, *Moderator* ♦



## Preschool Update: Sea Life and Valentines

In January, our four-year-olds went on a field trip to Sea World. The 4's spent a week leading up to the trip learning about sea life. We followed up with more about sea creatures, after visiting the ever popular home of Shamu. We had lots of fun and thankfully escaped the rains for the morning hours.

This month brings fun celebrations of valentine parties with special treats & goodies along with oodles of cutting paper valentines, paste, scissors, along with the use of white, pink & red paint. The school will be off to celebrate Presidents' Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> & the 15<sup>th</sup>. This month of February pales when compared with the busy months ahead as we approach spring. The first of March brings parent/teacher conferences followed with Fall Registration. At that time, we will be enrolling all our returning families, after which we go to our wait list to fill in the spots.

--Connie Cleland, *Director* ♦



## A Message from Our Interim Minister

As I write this article, we are in the midst of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18 – 25). The idea of institutionalizing a global week of prayer specifically for Christian unity has been around at least, since 1878. You can learn more about this history by going to <http://ecumenism.net/wpcu/history.htm>

How wonderful it would be to broaden the scope and make it inclusive of each day of the year. Then, I'd suggest we pray not only for Christian unity, but that we include pleas that all faiths, all people, might be in prayer and find more common ground. Thirdly I suggest that we pray for unity of all sorts – well beyond the bounds of faith practice.

There are, of course, encouraging signs of unity. The worldwide effort to join together to bring stabilization to Haiti is one powerful example. Doctors and Counselors without Borders is another. The list of humanity relief world-wide is in itself long, thank God. From all sorts of faith and religious outreach organizations, to the secular, such as the Red Cross, or even political, such as the United Nations' efforts in peacekeeping.

We could spend several pages listing other examples of how people and organization of all stripes support one another - International Habitat for

Humanity comes to mind. These groups add to the numbers of folk who contribute to a policy and practice of building unity throughout the world.

So again, as we at KCC move into this new year and new decade, let us dedicate ourselves to working for unity at every level of our society. And, learn about, expand and solidify ways we can all work together. Let us devote ourselves not only to our own prayer life, but to hearing the prayers of others.

We can start by listening to the hearts of each other here--in Kensington Community Church as we move forward into the interim time. As we continue writing policy for Safe Church and exploring the Open and Affirming process, we are given two blessed opportunities to hear the concerns, the hopes, the dreams, the visions of our sisters and brothers. Whether we have the exact same viewpoints is not the central issue, how we actively listen and allow for diversity in the unity is the call of Christ upon our living out our faith.

In the end, we are all children of this creation. And we are all dependent – in our church, our community, our country and, as well, the world. We are dependent one upon the other for simple survival. We are dependent on every other person and every aspect of creation for making possible the dream expressed in our scripture: "that they may all be one." (John 17:21)  
Blessings,  
Paula ♦



## KCC Yells Oopah!

Be sure to save Sat., February 27, for an all-church **Greek Night**—an extraordinary evening of Greek food and Greek style line dancing. The fun spans from 5:30 PM to 8:30 p.m.. All ages are invited and welcomed! More details to come! ♦



**UCC Partnership:  
1st Annual Spring Fling  
Saturday, March 20, 2010  
12:00-4:00pm**

**(Lunch will be available at 1:00pm)  
United Church of Christ La Mesa  
5940 Kelton St., La Mesa, CA 92942**

We invite you to wear your favorite hat or decorate an old one. Prizes for the most original, funniest, and most beautiful. Please bring your favorite game to share or teach. There will be plenty of fellowship, fun, prizes and surprises. A Special Gift to the church that has the most women attending! Come and bring a friend. ♦

**Souper Bowl of Caring,  
Sunday, February 7**

Once again, on Super Bowl Sunday, our youth will be collecting funds for our Uptown Faith Community food program. This year we will also collect canned and other non-perishable food.

Please bring your food donations to the church sanctuary on February 7th and look for kids with soup kettles to collect your donations (cash or check) following the services. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with one youth group, the youth of America have raised more than \$60 million for food banks and soup kitchens across our nation. Everything collected stays within each church's own community. ♦

**Kensington Concert Series  
presents**

**“Café Music”**

by Paul Schoenfield  
and other appealing trios!

**Sunday, February 28, 5 p.m.  
Kensington Café  
4141 Adams Avenue  
(80 seats)**

**Featuring Kensington Trio**

Natalka Kytasty, *Violin*  
Yuri Kytasty, *Cello*  
Ronald Morebello, Piano. ♦

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**Need Transportation but  
Can't Take the City Bus?**

MTS (ADARide) Van Transport may be able to help. It's a red and white van; you may have seen it around. It costs \$4.50 each way.

Church member, Jennifer Brimhall, has volunteered to provide information and to host an after-church meeting to help all those who may be interested, in signing up. You can sign up on the Internet at the meeting, or take paperwork home to return to Jennifer another day.

Please call Jennifer at 619.823.7704 to let her know you are interested. ♦

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**Ash Wednesday Service –  
UCC Partnership Churches  
Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m.**

University City United Church, UCC  
2877 Governor Drive, San Diego, CA 92122  
Coffee/Tea: 6:30                      Service: 7:00

Rev. Paula J. Elizabeth will be preaching.



## In Our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Kathleen Andrews

Brian Brewster

Charlotte Frank

Diane Guerra

Jim Langford

Janice Minor

Jean Skripek

Joyce Stark

Marilyn Tarbox

Barbara Underwood

Tennie Wiggins

Janis Wilson

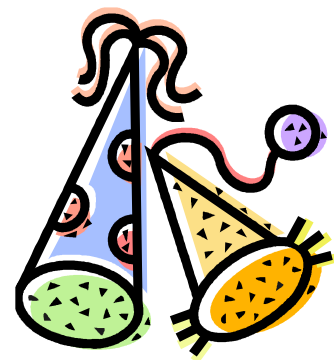
Helen Witton

and the family and friends of

Mildred York. ♦

## February Birthdays

- 8 Beth Guepin  
9 Susan Gutierrez  
11 Debra Dupree  
Jackie Trischman  
12 Margaret Nielsen  
13 Laura Gutierrez  
16 Alicia Chaffee,  
Drew Naismith  
Mary Ann Schroeder  
21 Arlene Elkins  
23 Mary Gutierrez,  
Francesca McWay,  
Doris Sims  
24 Carol Ceriani  
27 Brynna Hall  
28 Wayne Bowlby,  
Carolyn Davis ♦



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

GIVING OPPORTUNITY: SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY  
PLACE: BACK OF SANCTUARY AND LANDER HALL  
WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, AFTER BOTH SERVICES.  
BRING MONETARY OR CANNED GOOD DONATION  
AND HELP FEED THOSE IN NEED.

SENIOR LUNCHEON: TWO FOR TEA  
PLACE: LANDER HALL  
WHEN: FEBRUARY 11, 12 NOON  
ENJOY A MUSICAL PROGRAM AND  
AN AUCTION OF BETTY CRAIG'S TEA CUP COLLECTION

FUN FOR KIDS: VALENTINE COOKIE DECORATING  
WHERE: LANDER HALL  
WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY AND ENJOY THE VALENTINE'S FUN.

FELLOWSHIP, GREAT FOOD AND DANCE: GREEK NIGHT AT KCC  
PLACE: LANDER HALL  
WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 5:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

SEE THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR  
AT [WWW.KENSINGTONUCC.COM](http://WWW.KENSINGTONUCC.COM)