

News from Live Oak – April, 2011

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Budget Review, Check Out a Possible New Worship Space

Join us on Saturday, May 7, for a congregational meeting. This is an important gathering because we'll review and approve the budget for the next fiscal year. In addition, we will learn more about the innovative Listening Campaign and Mission Discernment process planned for May & June.



In addition, this will be an opportunity for you to see a space that might be a good one for Live Oak to select for our next church home. Having made a commitment, as a congregation, to being wheelchair accessible and wanting better religious education space for our children, plus some outdoor space for the kids and grown-ups, we appointed a team to look at alternate

locations for us to rent. This is a space we are considering. Of course, we want as many people as possible to participate in this decision, by seeing and experiencing the space, and providing us with feedback. To that end, we will also “test” the acoustics of the hall through both congregational singing and listening to our choir.

So, please join us in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara, Alameda. The church is the large brick building (with a prominent A-frame portion) on the corner of Grand St. and Santa Clara, just 2 blocks from our current location.

All members and friends are welcome to attend congregational meetings and participate in discussions, but only members may vote.

Please let us know if you are coming to the meeting. It will help us plan refreshments, number of chairs to set up, copies of documents, etc. This promises to be another community-building, engaging meeting. We hope you'll be there.

Sign Up for Small Group Ministry

It looks like we have enough interest to form three new Small Group Ministry (SGM) groups. If you took the survey and indicated interest in SGM (and provided your name), you will receive an email invitation to one of the three groups listed below. Others are welcome to join one of these three groups as well. Just send an email to the address listed for the particular group you want to be in.

- **New Daytime (Thursday or Friday) Group:** Email Gini Irving (giniirving@sbcglobal.net) to sign up for this group – or for more information about it. Gini and Sally Kennedy will co-facilitate this group, which will meet either Thursdays or Fridays, depending on the decision of those signing up.
- **Wednesday Evening Group:** Email Ruby Reay (rurubux@hotmail.com) to sign up for this group – or for more information. Facilitator yet to be named.
- **Friday Evening Group:** Email Ruby Reay (rurubux@hotmail.com) to sign up for this group – or for more information. Facilitator yet to be named.



Not Sure What This Is All About?

Small Group Ministry is intentional lay-led small groups that seek to deepen and expand the spirituality and connection of the members. Groups of 6-10 people agree to meet over the next year on a regular schedule of either once or twice a month. These meetings will take place in homes.

Gatherings are generally 90-minutes long and facilitated by one (or revolving) leaders. Sessions have a simple format that includes an opening reading, a check-in, a time for exploration and discussion, and a closing. Themes are chosen to help the group members get to know themselves and each other more deeply.

Listen to One Another: Design Our Future

“Perhaps one of the most precious and powerful gifts we can give another person is to really listen to them, to listen with quiet, fascinated attention, with our whole being, fully present. ... Something quite wonderful occurs when we are listened to fully.”

We invite each of you to be listened to – and, in turn, to listen to others. Click (or paste into a browser) the link below. It takes you to a Doodle to help us select dates for three meetings where we will listen to one another as a group – as well as in dyads.

<http://doodle.com/r6ppy7vxekvtarc>

Listening – and keeping a record of what is said – is the first step in our mission discernment process. Who are we? And who do we want to be? What’s important to us? What impact would we like to have on our neighbors, our community, our world?

We hope that every Live Oak member and friend will take the time to listen and to share their thoughts so we can design our future together.

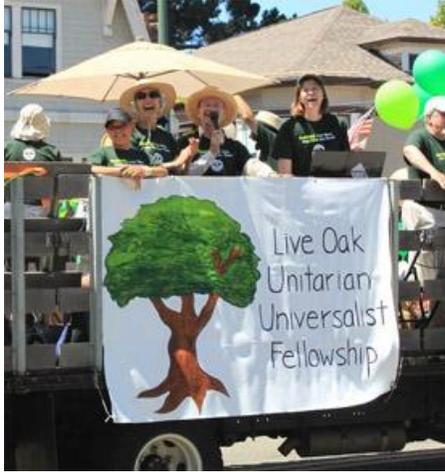


Big Changes in Children’s Religious Education at Live Oak

Reena Burton, the woman we hired to be our ¼-time Director of Religious Education, unfortunately, had to resign the position after only one month with us. Her fiancée has not found work, so when Reena was offered full-time employment, she felt she needed to take it.

But the good news is that our very own Kate Hand feels called to run the program and teach (as Laura Prickett has done for almost two years!). We are so grateful to Kate for stepping up to take over this position.

We – and our children – surely have been blessed that Laura gave so much of herself to initiate the program, find good curricula, and spend every worship Sunday with our children. Please be sure to heartily thank Laura for all she has done. And don’t forget to offer your support to Kate as she takes over this very important role in our community. Volunteers of this caliber and commitment are truly a blessing!



Save the Date: July 4th!

Celebrate the 4th of July with Live Oak again this year. Kate Hand will again coordinate having a Live Oak “float” in the Alameda July 4th Parade. Our choir members will sing their way along the parade route on a flatbed truck decorated with signs, streamers, and balloons. This was a lot of work – but even more fun!

This is a great outreach effort for us. This is just one of the ways we hope to make Alamedans more aware of our faith community. Be there – with your Live Oak t-shirts and spirit! More details to come. But keep the date open! You

won't want to miss this.

In Praise of Music!

Members of the Live Oak choir are joining the San Francisco congregation's choir to perform "*In Praise of Music*," a lovely, neo-Romantic work by American composer David Conte. We are delighted to be collaborating with our friends across the bay, and know that friends and members of Live Oak will enjoy the performances! We will perform the piece at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco's service at 11:00 a.m. on May 1, and at the Live Oak service at 4:00 p.m. on May 15.

Game Night: May 21!

Saturday, May 21 (6:00 p.m.) join the adults, children, and youth of Live Oak for another round of game-playing and camaraderie. We'll gather in the cottage behind The Home of Truth (1300 Grand St., Alameda) for a quick meal (more to come on that) and fun and laughter. All are welcome.

SAVE DATE: And then come again on Saturday, June 25 (6:00 p.m.) for yet another evening of fun and games. Join us for both -- or whichever one works for your schedule! See you there.

