

News from Live Oak – October, 2012

We Have a Mission Statement

It's been a long process (starting with the Listening Campaign, working with data from that, and then four different meetings). But at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 30, we had a final vote (with ten options) and we have chosen a statement that describes who we are and what we want to be known for. Ta-da. Here is our statement:

We create loving community through worship and service to others.

We are pleased we have a mission statement succinct enough and meaningful enough that every member and friend – including our children – will both understand our mission and be able to share it with others. As we have said before, this will not be written in stone. As we grow and change, our mission may well change. Many thanks to all the people who participated in this process, attending meetings, submitting suggestions, and supporting the process.

Adult Faith Development: On Faith & Reason – October 19

Veteran journalist Bill Moyer asks, “In a world where religion poisons some lives, but gives profound purpose to others, how do we learn to live together?” Join adult members and friends of Live Oak on the third Friday of the month to watch as Bill sits down with noted writers and thinkers from a wide spectrum of beliefs. These one-on-one conversations touch on the pressing issues in our world: increasing politicization of faith, the perceived gulf between science and religion, the tension between tolerance and free expression, and more.



This month (Oct. 19) we will hear from [Pema Chödrön](#), an American Buddhist nun and author whose teachings and writings on meditation have helped make Buddhism accessible to a broad Western audience.

"It isn't the things that happen to us in our lives that cause us to suffer, it's how we relate to the things that happen to us that causes us to suffer." --Pema Chödrön.

Join us at the home of David and Lisa Fry. Drop in for one session or come for them all. RSVP: lisafry@gmail.com. We gather at 7:30 p.m.

Living Beautifully with Uncertainty & Change, her latest book, was just released this week. She has written several best-sellers, including *Start Where You Are: A Guide to Compassionate Living*, *When Things Fall Apart*, and *Don't Bite the Hook*.

Small Group Ministry: Tuesday or Wednesday Night?

We currently have two Small Groups meeting regularly and making a difference in each others' lives. One of those groups now has openings for one or two new people. And we may have enough people to start a third group. Woo-hoo!

Here's some basic info on what Small Group Ministry (SGM) is. Members of an SGM group get to know one another and deepen their own spirituality by participating together in discussions of topics of universal human significance. The topics are intended to focus the group's attention on the things we have in common just by being human.

If you choose to be in an SGM group, you will be asked to make attendance at your meetings a priority. We also ask you to give the group a chance – attend for four sessions. In the experience of the congregations that have tried SGM, four meetings is what it takes to give the group a chance.

Do you want to join a group? We have several people hoping to help create a new group, perhaps meeting on Tuesday evening. And the Wednesday night group has room for another person or two. Email Lisa Fry (lisafry@gmail.com) or Darlene Pagano (dpagano@igc.org), if you are interested! And let us know which night works best for you.

Please reply ASAP. We hope to get a new group started quickly.

Upcoming Elections: Limitations for Churches

Religious organizations are allowed to encourage voting and to register voters. We can also share info and opinions on issues and propositions, but we may not endorse or promote candidates for office. That includes our Listserv, so please be careful about what you post there.

You may not be familiar with the UU Legislative Ministry (UULM) of California, an organization that does a lot of important work. You can view or download their [Propositions Comparison Chart](#) of recommendations on the November 2012 Propositions from good government, business, labor, civil rights and faith based organizations, including our companion non-partisan the UU Legislative Ministry Action Network, CA. And for more information about their positions, look here: [UULM Action Network's positions](#)

Potluck: Volunteer Opportunity

Please sign up to help with dishwashing for this week or an upcoming potluck. Check out our new dishwashing doodle at <http://doodle.com/p7pqdgnbzfs7wct>.

Harvest Festival at Alameda Point Collaborative

Alameda Point Collaborative has asked the Live Oak fellowship to take lead responsibility for the children's area of APC's Harvest Festival on Oct. 20. Please see the information below on different ways that you can be part of the fun both before and during the event.

Overview: Festival will be Saturday, Oct. 20, 11 am-3 pm, at The Farm portion of APC property (near APC's Ploughshares Nursery, 2701 Main St, Alameda, 94501).

- The top priority is to provide an opportunity for APC community members to come together in an environment that promotes active living and healthy food choices.
- Other priorities are to expose APC's work and environment to the larger East Bay community, and to give fund development staff and board members a way to connect with current and potential donors.
- Hope/expect to have 100 families from APC, which will include about 300 children/youth.

Live Oak's Children's area will include 4 or 5 activities, which may include: making and decorating rhythm shakers, bean bag toss, Plinko, kiddie pool with rubber ducks, face painting and/or "tattooing," relay race with potato on spoon, and penny toss. There will be lots of prizes: stickers, tattoos, pencils, etc.

There are opportunities to volunteer (preparation tasks) on Friday, October 19, too. For more information – and to volunteer for Friday or Saturday – please contact Kathryn Duke (kathryn.saenz.duke@gmail.com) or Nanci Armstrong-Temple (fraggle94@gmail.com).

Pacific Central District Leadership Day: Religious Leadership in Changing Times

Saturday, October 27, 2012 our district is offering an all-day workshop open to all. It will be held at the [UU Church of Berkeley](#). Cost is \$60.00, but Live Oak has some money set aside to help people with the cost. Use this link for more information and to register: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e6asi68c95e4001d&llr=mk4zlobab>.