



# ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL / U.C.C.

## In This Issue

[Jim's Reflection](#)

[Service Sunday Projects.](#)

[Rudi Thomas Memorial Service](#)

[Trains of Thought by Sally Train](#)

[Financial update](#)

[Council Minutes](#)

[Children, Youth, Families](#)

### PLEASE VISIT:

[OCC Home Page](#)

[OCC Calendar](#)

[Listen to recent Sermons](#)

[Car Donations to OCC](#)

**Adult Sunday School**  
meets at 8:45 a.m. in the  
Fireside Room.



**Women's Spirituality**  
**"The Attitude of Gratitude"**  
**November 10 at 6:30 PM in**  
**Fireside Room**

At our November meeting we will talk about the Attitude of Gratitude, why it is a spiritual practice, and what value it has in our lives. We will explore ways to enhance our sense of gratitude, thankfulness, and joy. Together we will create a Gratitude Tree filled with reminders of all the blessings we have in our lives. Please join us for this time of thanksgiving, celebration, and heartfelt sharing.

Feel free to bring a little food and/ or a friend to this uplifting event.

## The Neighbor

November 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORINDA COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

### Jim's Reflection

I write this month's reflection on All Saints Day, and my mind and heart are flooded with the many who have passed on before me. They have left a deep impression on who I am, and a model for how I want to be.

As I think about my saints, a common denominator seems to be generosity. My saints were always willing to extend themselves for others, to give of their money and their time, to serve tirelessly. And part of the reason that they're my saints is that some of their generosity was directed toward me.

This past Sunday, as happens every year at our annual auction, I was amazed by the generosity of all of you. Amazing items were donated, generous bids were placed, and we look to well exceed our \$16,000 goal. There were also countless hours put in behind the scenes, and I offer special thanks to the leadership of Gwen McNeilus, Trudi Garland, Gail Mead, Elisabeth Kersten, Patti Grier, and Dave Hoppock. (Many, many others deserve thanks for their significant contributions as well, but I can't name everyone - so I hope grace will be extended)

Our auction was about raising money in a fun setting, so we can continue to meet our needs here at Orinda Community Church. This upcoming Sunday is **Service Sunday**, where we will attempt to work on projects that not only enhance our church ministry, but care for those in our greater community. On Sunday morning, plan to wear clothes you can work in, as there will be a variety of projects following our time of worship.

Finally, I'm happy to announce the three winners of the

Please note: We will not meet on the fourth Thursday of November because that falls on Thanksgiving Day.

### Senors Lunch

We will meet **November 14 at noon**. Please RSVP to [jim@orindachurch.org](mailto:jim@orindachurch.org) and bring \$5 for the lunch.

### Writers' Group

We usually meet the **first Thursday of each month, from 10-11:45** in the Library. Our November meeting will be on **November 17 at 10 am**. Writing can be a spiritual discipline, or just a chance to get some-thing off your chest! Each month we respond to a prompt and share the writings we've been working on.

### Men's Group

**Thursday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.**  
Location TBA

### Caring for the Caregiver

The group's next meeting is **December 3 at 10:00 am** in the Fireside Room

### Care Team Ministry



Each month, one of our four Care Teams here at O.C.C. are ready to offer support to other members of the congregation. If you could use a meal or visit, or know of someone who could use the same (or a word of encouragement or prayer), please contact Rev. Jim Brommers Bergquist, Rev. Sally Train, or the Care Team Leader for this month, Debbie Barnell.

### AMAZON SMILE

When you shop 'with a Smile', Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Orinda Community Church. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1322187> and support us every time you shop.

**Stay Connected**

Generosity Challenge. Each person will receive a \$250 grant, which we hope serves as seed money for various projects. Over the course of the next months, these folks will have a chance to report back during Moment for Mission.

Meg Nicholes - ESL Classes at Monteverde. Money will be used to help with English as a Second Language classes by providing copies of grammar books, workbooks, and subsidizing expenses. There is also discussion of expanding the program at Orinda Senior Village as well.

Tom and Karen Norris - Serenity House in Oakland. Money will help this agency, working on a shoestring budget, as they care for women fighting drugs, other addictions, and/or mental illness.

Vanessa Smith - Super Stars Literacy. SSL is a K-2 reading comprehension program for low-income students at seven public schools in and around Oakland. SSL also hosts regular Family Engagement Nights where parents and caregivers learn about literacy and social/emotional development of their kids. Many of the parents and caregivers don't speak English so SSL must hire translators to contact the families, both for invitations and day of supports) in many languages, including Karen, Spanish, Vietnamese and Farsi. \$250 will cover the cost of translators for several of these parent engagement events.

The fourth \$250 grant will go toward buying supplies and materials for this weekend's Service Sunday, helping us support the ministries of various shelters, and the work of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing.

I am grateful for the generosity of you, the members and friends of Orinda Community Church. We are called to be people of change, who help transform the world as God would desire. Thank you again and again for your deep commitment to this task!

Jim

### Service Sunday Projects

will include Chop & Chat cooking, landscaping, the Migration Art Wall, planting, sorting of supplies for shelters and Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, serving at Shelter Inc., and much more. (If interested in serving at Shelter Inc., please email or call Jim at [jim@orindachurch.org](mailto:jim@orindachurch.org) or 781.296.6240. The group will be done around 1:30/2)

**Rudi Thomas Memorial Service -  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m.**

 Like us on Facebook

 Forward to a Friend

If you would be willing to provide a snack or dessert, or help with the reception, please email Lani Shepp ([Lshepp@icloud.com](mailto:Lshepp@icloud.com)).

### **Trains of Thought** by Sally Train, Assistant Minister

As Thanksgiving approaches, our thoughts turn to the practice of gratitude. As I reflect on the things I am thankful for, first and foremost is my new position as Assistant Minister here at Orinda Community Church. What a blessing it is! What a joy!

Just as I was feeling called to return to parish ministry after a long break, Pastor Jim invited me to have a talk. We began the first of many conversations that eventually led to my being offered the job of Assistant Minister - a position that is perfect for me. I am always amazed at the way Spirit works in our lives. The timing could not have been better.

In the last two months, I have enjoyed every moment of getting to know the wonderful people in this congregation. As I have gotten involved in more of the activities of the church, my admiration for this congregation keeps growing. You do some very powerful ministries here! It is a privilege and a joy to be an integral part of it all. As time passes, I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Here is my preliminary and abbreviated gratitude list. I Am Thankful For:

- Pastor Jim and his leadership
- Kelsey with whom I have the privilege of leading Women's Spirituality
- The Wonderful Women who come and make Women's Spirituality so rich
- Nancy Thursby and the ding-a-lings in the Bell Choir
- Dagmar who is always there to answer my questions
- David who is willing play the music I love when I request it
- Dion who is always willing to help when I need it
- Lani and her cohorts who always make sure the altar is beautiful
- Elizabeth and Lee who serve on the Board for Holden High - a ministry near and dear to my heart
- Every member of this church

#### **FINANCIAL CORNER**

Pledge income for October was \$30,473. Thank you

for keeping pledges up to date. Last Sunday's Oktoberfest was also a great success as a Fun-raiser with over 90 people attending. Our goal was \$16,000, and it looks like we will surpass this. More to come...

**Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
Wednesday, October 26 2016**

[read here](#)

**Children & Youth**



**Youth November Schedule**

6 | Service Sunday (youth help with service projects)

12-13 | Fall Youth Event!

13 | Club 345

19 | Movie: "The Edge of Seventeen" @ 1pm

20 | "Juvi" - guest speaker Lesha Roth from Contra Costa's juvenile hall  
MS & HS 11:30-1

27 | "Gratitude"  
MS & HS 11:30-1

**REGISTER NOW:**

**Fall Youth Event!**

1pm Sat. Nov 12 - 11:15am Sun. Nov 13  
First Congregational Church of San Jose

Join us for this year's Fall Youth Event! This year we are exploring, "A Sense of the Sacred". How do we know and praise God using all our body through sight, sound, taste, smell, touch, and more?

Cost: \$35

To register online, contact [Kelsey](#).

**ADVENT CELEBRATION**

Dec. 4, 5-7pm

Join us for crafts, dinner, carols, and community!  
Suggested donation: \$5

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Children's Ministry:**

**Club 345**

Nov. 13, 5:30-7pm

All 3rd-5th graders are welcome to join Kelsey in the Fellowship Hall for fun, ministry, and games! Dinner is provided.

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