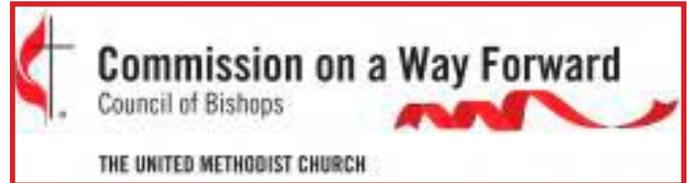


Boulder Creek United Methodist Church Mountain Messenger January, 2018



Our Vision

*“To illuminate the world with
God’s love by serving our
community as faithful followers
of Christ.”*



Bishop Minerva Carcaño has invited us to pray for the United Methodist Church and the Commission “On a Way Forward.” The strange dichotomy in our church is that LGBTQ people are “people of sacred worth” but they are denied the joy of marriage in the church and prohibited from ordination.

At our latest General Conference a Commission was set aside to bring a recommendation to resolve this quandry.

You can hear Bishop Carcaño invitation on this link:
<https://www.cnumc.org/weekdetails/10109125>

Our church in Boulder Creek is signed up to pray for this Commission and its important work on Thursday, Jan. 4, 4:30 - 5:00. Rev. Clyde will be in the Sanctuary and you are invited to join him in prayer and meditation during this important time of discernment.

There are people who, by work commitments or distance, are unable to be in the church building, but they will join us in spirit as they, too, pray for our church.

Remember, we have voted to be a Reconciling Congregation and we are open to all people, no matter their race, culture, national origin or sexual identification. Prayers for the Commission are a way we can live out our commitment to being an inclusive congregation.

Please take a few minutes on Thursday to join us in prayer, either in the sanctuary or in the place where you find yourself.

Christmas at BCUMC



Christmas Sunday (on Christmas Eve) was a time of joy. Finally, cards were sent, presents bought and plans for Christmas dinner were in place.

It was then that the people of God could gather to sing carols of faith, hear the familiar story again and share the joy of our faith.

Thanks to those who made our Christmas Eve Sunday ever more special by providing their gifts of music and the word.

More pictures of our Christmas Eve worship are available on page 5.



Did you make New Year's Resolutions?

Are you one of those who, years ago, resolved not to make New Year's Resolutions? Or do you still set goals for yourself? I wonder, if we compared our typical resolutions, would be quite similar? Something about weight, exercise, financial responsibility ... or maybe you are very unique.

The Apostle Paul said: "I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out" (Romans 7:18). We're not the first to fail to keep resolutions. Then Paul said: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

My high school motto was "rowing not drifting." I grew up in Venice, California, and our mascot was a gondolier. Rowing means that we are able to make decisions about our future. Ella Wheeler Wilcox said:

'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales,
That tells the way we go.

God bless you AND me that we might put our hands in the hand of our Creator and make the kind of future of which we want to be a part!

Blessings,

Rev. Clyde



Puerto Rican Methodists Find Strength in God Despite Massive Hurricane

By Thomas Kemper

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria wrecked the building of La Iglesia Metodista Peña de Horeb in Palo Seco, Puerto Rico, destroying the structure but not the church—the church being members of the community of faith who would rally to worship God in other space and minister to their neighbors. After the wind subsided, members crept into what was left of the gutted, roofless sanctuary to find a kind of miracle. The lectern stood upright and on it the Bible, open to Psalm 84, beginning: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!...my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God."

The hope, the strength of faith voiced in Psalm 84 became the anthem of Peña de Horeb as well as that of other Methodist congregations in the wake of one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit the island, a storm leaving millions without electric power for weeks.

As we prepared to leave Puerto Rico, Bishop Bickerton summed up his sense of optimism and concern for the future of the island and our work there. He praised the resilience of the people and his sense of the need for government to act more swiftly to restore power and infrastructure and pave the way for humanitarian organizations to do their jobs.

Your financial support of UMCOR allows volunteers to bring hope in these difficult situations. For more information check out: <http://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2017/december-/1221puerto-rican-methodists-find-strength-in-god-despite-massive-hurricane>

You Are Welcome Here!

As a Reconciling Congregation, we celebrate God's welcome to us and to all people, including any who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and their families. At Boulder Creek UMC your friendship is valued and safeguarded. You are accepted for who you are. **You have a home!**





A Word from Ted

BCUMC enjoyed a wonderful advent season this year. As unfortunate as Gabe's injury was, it meant that Herbie got the opportunity to fill in on Bass as Ted was playing Guitar. January will be a time of planning and seeking God's will as we prepare for 2018.

--Ted

Thanks to Ted for preaching on New Year's Eve Sunday, Dec. 31. Using John Wesley's Covenant Service was very meaningful to those who attended.





JOYS:

Gabe House fell and hurt his wrist. It made playing piano difficult, but he is out of the brace and doing much better.

Sunshine Johnson is recovering nicely after her corrective surgery. She is regaining her sense of humor.

John Beisner has had excellent news about his PSA test. He will have regular check-ups for the next year.

CONCERNS:

Bob Belzer has been at Dominican hospitals for some tests, including a biopsy. He has yet to get the results. We keep him and **Diana** in our prayers.

Ron Perry continues to undergo chemo therapy and is dealing with the after effects. His tumor markers are down, but he has lost significant weight. We keep Ron and his family in our love and prayers. To keep in touch with his progress check out: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ronperry>.

We continue to pray for rain ... gentle rain, but enough to continue to heal our drought-stricken earth.

As always we pray for our first responders as they deal with fallen trees, mud slides and other life-threatening issues. They put their lives on the line for us every day.

For our **shut-ins** who are unable to be in church because of age or illness. Our prayers are with them.

If you have joys or concerns and desire prayer, please contact Linda Lininger, our prayer coordinator, LindaLinCA@aol.com, the Pastor or the church office with your request.



Thanks to all who made Christmas at BCUMC extra special.

A Christmas party, church decorations, worship, music and refreshments ...

THANK YOU!

Maggie Barr has been chosen to be President of the Women's Council of Realtors, Santa Cruz County. Obviously the Council has made an excellent choice.



Jean Rivero, a member of our church, sends Christmas greetings from her home in Virginia. She will turn 98 on Jan. 19!

Her address is:
Holly Manor at the Woodland,
Room 149,
2003 Cobb St.
Farmville VA,
23901



January Birthdays

- 5 Frank Golding
- Meghan Chiechi
- 11 Carly Adams
- Bob Taylor
- 13 Laura Devine
- 19 Jean Rivero
- 23 Tony Chiechi
- 25 Daniel Robert Gripkey (2008)
- 30 Diane Hutchinson



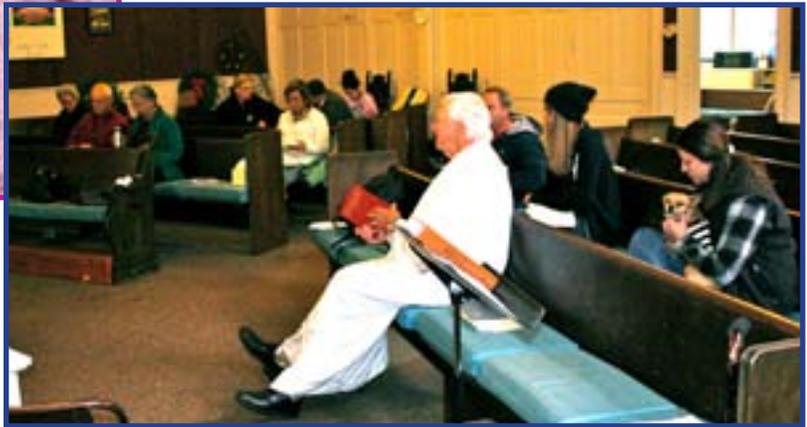
January Anniversaries

January 16, 1994

Clyde & Sheila Vaughn

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like to have it added, please send your information to the office:
bcumc@bcumc.com*

Christmas Sunday at BCUMC



Calendar



Jan. 4, 4:30 - 5:00, a time to pray for the United Methodist Church and the commission on **"Finding A Way Forward."** We will meet in the Sanctuary.

Jan. 7, Epiphany Sunday, Rev. Clyde, "Savior of the World" Matthew 2:1-12, **Communion and Sacrament of Baptism**

Leadership Team (after worship)

Jan. 14, Worship led by Gabe House, John 1:43-51

Jan. 21, Worship led by Gabe House, Mark 1:14-21

Jan. 28, Worship led by Gabe House, Mark 1:22-28

Feb. 4, , Rev. Clyde, "All Things to All People"

I Corinthians 9:16-23, **Communion**

Sundays, **Choir Practice:** 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Sundays - Youth breakfast, 9:00 a.m. with Bible Discussion

Our website is up and running!

Check it out at

www.bcumc.com.

Thank you to **Gabe House** for the hard work to create and maintain our website. It's a great tool to help people know more about our church.

Website



The February Mountain Messenger deadline for information will be Sunday, Jan. 28.

Boulder Creek United Methodist Church

Church office: 831.338.6232

Web: <http://bcumc.com>

Join us on Facebook, friend us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BoulderCreek-CAUnitedMethodistChurch>

Pastor: Rev. Clyde Vaughn: 831.662.8908

Cell: 831.212.1052

Children's Ministry Director: Ted Bond
831.419.0241

Church Administrator & Bookkeeper:
Gina Billington 831.246.0394

Prayer Chain, please contact the pastor, or the prayer chain coordinator, Linda Lininger, LindaLinCA@aol.com, if you wish prayers for family members or friends.

Worship Leadership

Ministers: People of the parish

Music Director: Gabriel House

January, 2018 Mountain Messenger

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www.bcumc.com

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