

Go Tell It on the Mountain

November 2016 Newsletter

Skyland Community Church

Rev. Stephen Glauz-Todrank

10:30 Sunday Service

Church phone: 408-353-1310

*Al Feuerbach Joins
Track/Field Hall of
Fame in N.Y. Nov. 3*



Al competing in Europe, 1978

Al Feuerbach will be inducted into the USA National Track and Field Hall of Fame in New York City on Thursday Nov. 3.

A world class shot-putter, Al competed internationally for 13 years. He set the world record of 21.82 meters (71'7") for the 16-pound shot on May 5, 1973, and was on three U.S. Olympic teams. He won the Pan American Games gold medal in 1971. He was also a seven-time AAU champion, and a national champion in Olympic-style weightlifting.

Al lived and trained at first in San Jose, and then at his Santa Cruz Mountain home.

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Minister's Column



White Privilege Discussion After Service Nov. 20

Racism is one of the great blights on our society - one of the deepest wounds in our country's history and in our continuing life together.

The United Church of Christ has developed an excellent curriculum for adults to begin to address issues of racism. It is called "White Privilege: Let's Talk." I introduced the concept of white privilege in my sermon on Oct. 23, a recording of which you may find on our website.

While most of us would recoil at the thought that we might be racist, the curriculum helps us to see that the systems that make up our society - such as economic, legal, educational, law-enforcement, environmental and others - are set up to privilege white people and put people of color at a disadvantage.

Because this is such an important issue, I am planning a series of discussions using the curriculum, the first on Nov. 20, after worship in the lower level of Whitaker Hall. We will use the first part of the curriculum, pp. 1-29. If you would like to participate, please send me an email (sglauztodrank@gmail.com) and I will send you a copy.

Please join me in thinking about your spiritual autobiography told in terms of race, and think of one story from that to share in our discussion time together.

In November, we are prompted in many ways to think of reasons to be thankful. I am thankful that the UCC has produced such an excellent way for us to address uncomfortable issues together, in the hope that we may take part in healing for ourselves and for all.

Altar Flowers

Sign-ups for altar flowers in November are complete. Some Sundays in December are not yet covered, so please consider signing up on the calendar in Whitaker Hall.



Mexican sage lures ravenous hummingbirds --this diner's never closed

- haiku by John Heyes

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Meditation Moment



For we are his workmanship,
created
by Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained
that we should walk in them.

*Ephesians 2:10
King James Bible*

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After this month's discussion, we will return to this issue in the new year. Please come and bring a friend!

With thanks and blessings to all,

Stephen

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Welcoming, Recruiting New Skyland Members

One of the things I admire about Skyland is that it's small enough for people to truly walk alongside one another in the spiritual path. Your love for each other forms a sturdy roof, under which new members from the mountain community can find warmth and shelter.

However, research shows that when someone visits a church, they usually do not come back for a second visit, either because the new experience is unfamiliar and overwhelming, or because they can't yet see a clear way to contribute to the group. Yet they are visiting because of a longing that has grown stronger than their fears. We can honor their courage by taking some risks of our own: asking deep personal questions, and inviting them to serve right away. I saw this firsthand as I preached during a downpour on Oct. 30, with my local family members in the pews, visiting you for the first time.

Rev. Tracy Barnowe, a UCC minister in the East Bay, is an expert in church visitor retention. She counsels church members to ask visitors the following questions. (You may have heard these questions in the skit I performed with my husband Marcus about a new visitor named Zaccheaus.)

During worship or coffee hour:

Is this your first time visiting with us?

Have you received a visitor card?

Our minister would like to meet with you for a conversation to get to know you better, and to answer any questions you may have. How would you feel about that?

During a follow-up meeting (which requires contact information to arrange; remember, they probably will not come back for a second visit on their own initiative):

Did you grow up in a faith tradition?

What brings you the greatest joy?

What did you think of the worship service?

Do you have any questions for me before we part?



-- Chelsea Page



Come join us the second Tuesday of the month (Nov. 8) at 10:30 a.m. at Mary Ellen McTamaneys home.

Come and see what we are up to.

Nancy Jo Lopp
Mary Ellen McTamaneys
Co-leaders

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Updated Skyland Directory Available Soon; Cost is \$5

Skyland Church
Directory
2017-2018



This is the cover of our new Directory. It will be available this month in Whitaker Hall, at a cost of \$5.00.

-- Nancy Jo Lopp

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Mission Board Spotlight

As part of our ongoing support of the Davenport Resource Service Center, there will be a special collection on Sunday, November 13. Like last years', the funds collected will be contributed to the Center's annual Thanksgiving potluck lunch for seniors.

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NOTE from your treasurer:

Final Harvest Festival results: Net donations minus expenses amounted to \$18,373 - a record, or very close. It was a big success, both to our community and our finances.

Pledge income is almost matching commitments. If you are able, please attempt to keep your pledge gifts current.

Thanks to Emile Mooser's hard work preparing fund-raising dinners, we have received gifts of \$8,225 to support the Rainbow Orphanage in Cambodia. About half has already been sent to the orphanage, and the rest will be sent when one additional check is received.

We are now able to accept credit card payments for pledge, general and special offerings if that is more convenient than check or cash. See either Jan or myself after service for these transactions.

Here are our operating finances for October 2016 as of Oct. 31.

	October 2016		Jun 1, 2016 to Oct. 31	
	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned
Income	\$17,485	\$ 13,131	\$ 99,125	\$ 93,885
Expenses	\$13,491	\$ 13,480	\$ 76,167	\$ 77,649
Net	\$ 3,994	\$ (-349)	\$ 22,958	\$ 16,236

-- Gerald J. Alonzo

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