

# *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

## Skyland Church Newsletter – February 2018

**Skyland Community Church**  
**10:30 Sunday Service**

**Rev. Stephen Glauz-Todrank**  
**Church phone: 408-353-1310**

### Minister's Reflection

Dear Skyland Friends,

As we settle into the new year, part of what we are doing as a church is continuing to study the program called reVision which helps churches to strengthen and focus their shared ministry. Please see the article by our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones, the best description so far of the program and how we might enact it here in our community. Daniel visited us last year and will be here again on the 11th to tell us more about the program and answer your questions. After that, the Council will discuss whether to recommend the program to our church. If they do, they will call a special congregational meeting so we can all make this big decision together.

I also want us to remember our dear friend, Barbara Wicht, who died recently. Our prayers are with her and her family and we will be gathering as a community to celebrate her life at 11 am on Saturday, February 17th. Please join us for that special service and a finger-food potluck reception to follow. Barbara grew up at Skyland Church and it was wonderful to have her back with us during these last few years.

With gratitude for the life we share, Stephen

### *Calendar*

<b>February 11</b>	Associate Conference Minister Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones will be worshipping with us and discussing the reVision program after service.
<b>February 14</b>	Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent)
<b>February 18</b>	Potluck Lunch after Church
<b>February 25</b> Noon to 1:30 pm	Women's Group after Church, Lower Whitaker. We will be discussing CREATIVITY. For those who are interested in learning more, we will be using Matthew Fox's book CREATIVITY: Where the Divine and Human Meet as the jumping off place for this time together. All women are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend.

### Note From Our Moderator

Hello friends,

The church council met on January 9, and most of the discussion centered on topics that were discussed in the Annual Meeting, which was held on January 28, including the treasurer's report, the 2018 slate of board and committee assignments, and the idea of changing the assignment of coffee hours to individual households rather than boards and committees. Another topic was the January 14 visit from our Conference Minister Diane Wiebel and her enthusiasm about the reVision program. The council also briefly talked about possible updates to our website, with the most exciting idea being the addition of an interactive calendar. Stay tuned for more information about that possibility.

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting. It was an engaged and thoughtful group. Gerry kindly posted the 2017 Annual Report on our website: <http://skylandchurch.com/more/>. So, if you didn't get a copy at the meeting, you may access it there.

Peace and light, Deana

### Missions Board Spotlight

**THANK YOU** from the **MISSION BOARD!** Our generous congregation has once again reached out to help support education for student scholarships around the world. The Mission Board raised \$2100 to be sent as direct aid to individuals identified directly by members of Skyland Community Church.

For many years we have supported two technical students in India, three high schoolers in Fiji, a middle school student and his family from Guatemala and most recently, one full time student in Tanzania. This mission work allows us to reach far and wide. Thank you.

Our mission work for February will include collecting warm winter items that will be distributed to our local community.

Please bring clean and lightly used: sleeping bags, coats, jackets, scarves, hats and gloves.

## Treasurer's Report - February 2018

Pledge and offering income for month of January met expectations, but offering income for our fiscal year to date is still \$5,686 less than projected based on annual budget. 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 me after service for these transactions. Here are our operating finances as of January 31 for our 2017-18 fiscal year.

Summary of Operating Finances					
		January 2018		Jun 1, 2017 to Jan 31	
	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	
Income	\$ 10,708	\$ 9,500	\$138,227	\$140,557	
Expenses	\$ 13,890	\$ 14,187	\$126,060	\$134,731	
Net	\$ (-3,182)	\$ (-4,687)	\$ 12,127	\$ 5,826	

Gerald J. Alonzo, Treasurer

<p><b>Altar Flowers</b> Altar flowers add color and beauty to our contemplations during worship service. There are several open Sundays in January and February. Please sign up on the new calendar in Whitaker Hall.</p>	<p><b>MEDITATION MOMENT</b> They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 Scofield Reference Bible</p>	<p>pink camellia brightens winter and heralds the advent of spring. -- haiku by John Hayes</p>
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reVision is a program that seeks to renew and strengthen churches, and support them as they participate in bringing about a more **just** and **generous** world. The reVision program aims to help Skyland Church draw a clear map to God's future for it through:

- Small group work
- Daily devotions
- "Summit" meeting points
- Online training resources
- Yearlong coaching and partnership with the Associate Conference Minister

reVision strives to deepen Skyland Church's faith, and its relationships to each other and to the broader community, and will involve the whole congregation. An intentional period beginning with **small groups** of 10 or fewer people meeting together seven times over a period of 90 days. During that time, group members explore **spiritual practices**, read a **book in common** (*Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass), and engage in **important conversations** with each other:

- Getting to know one another
- Discerning our gifts
- Identifying our neighbors
- Understanding our community
- Listening to God's call
- Letting go of what needs to be left behind

After the first 90 days, the congregation comes together for the **Convergence Summit**, bringing together the interests and energy from the small groups. This is a time to identify the gifts and passions of the congregation and identify **intersections** between those and the wider community. Asking yourself, "**What does this inspire us to do?**" is the main question of the Convergence Summit, which launches a period of planning new initiatives and creating proposals for action.

People gathering around what interests them most is the movement out of the Convergence Summit, leading to another 60 day period of intentional work creating implementation plans for each of these new ideas. This leads to the **Action Summit**, and the congregation together decides on which new initiatives move forward and which ones get put on hold for the time being. Then, the **implementation phase** continues as the congregation moves into its new-and-updated vision.

### Frequently Anticipated Questions

*Q: How is reVision different from other programs?*

A: The Center for Progressive Renewal created reVision from a skilled and diverse set of practitioners, theorists, and experts. These included local church pastors, certificated human development professionals, organizational design academics, and other specialized individuals skilled in social development in both secular and sacred settings. reVision 'goes further' than some other programs in its unique balance of spiritual formation, congregational empowerment, and ongoing external coaching support across a period of one year. The Northern California Nevada Conference has purchased a bulk set of site licenses for reVision in local settings, allowing us to leverage your OCWM funds to offer this outstanding suite of resources and staff support at a lower fee than reVision on its own.

*Q: Who is involved in reVision?*

A: Everyone is involved, but to different degrees. A leadership team, including your pastor and key lay leaders, serve to 'keep the ball rolling' in the program. These individuals receive regular and ongoing coaching to be empowered in their critical leadership role.

Small group leaders (two per group) are trained by the leadership team to facilitate deep, meaningful conversations that help to reveal the deepest passions and yearnings of the congregation – while there are only a few small group leaders, it is hoped that as many people as possible in the congregation will participate in a small group. Following the Convergence Summit, action teams will form around people’s particular passions and yearnings and choose their own leaders, who will have an additional leadership role in this particular phase. Again, following the Action Summit, implementation teams (which may be pre-existing structural groups, if a change to the church structure is not proposed – such as deacons, Christian Education board members, etc) will be formed as the next step of leadership to implement the new initiatives, programs, or other attributes of this newly-revised vision for the congregation. Coaching and training happens throughout the process, including a mix of leadership team empowerment, external facilitation, and a host of resources available from the Center for Progressive Renewal.

*Q: Who or what is a coach/coaching?*

A: Coaching is a form of development in which a skilled professional (the coach) supports an individual or group in achieving a particular goal by providing training and guidance. Coaching presumes that the answers to questions or the solutions to challenges we face are already within us, waiting to be identified, explored, and activated. It is a process of empowerment, not simply instruction; through powerful questions and identification of resources, your leadership team and other leaders throughout the reVision process will discover the energetic recharge that occurs through coaching! *All three Conference ministers have completed training and are in the process of securing their certification as professional coaches, allowing us to bring this opportunity to reVision and broader support of Conference ministries.*

*Q: How long is reVision?*

A: A lifetime! It is a turning toward the new vision God is casting in your community. Including time for planning and support during early implementation, the entire program lasts one year.