

# *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

## Skyland Church Newsletter – May 2018

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

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

### **Message from Stephen**

Dear Skyland Friends,

Those on our mailing list already know, but others may not, that I have decided to retire on June 24th. I have enjoyed so much my 27 years of ministry with you and others at Skyland Church, but I believe it is the right time to depart so that you can flourish in company with new leadership.

What you may not yet know is that our choir director, Margretta Dollard, is retiring from her duties also, after serving even longer in her role. It is very unusual for a church to go so long without staff changes and I want to urge you not to worry.

There are processes already underway, guided by our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones, to make an orderly transition to an Interim minister to serve during the time when a search committee for the new minister can gather and do its work.

There will also be a search underway shortly for a new choir director. Please be open to change and patient with each other and the process of embarking on a new adventure.

There will be a party to celebrate together on June 17th. I hope you will be able to join us.

May God nurture and support us all through this time of endings and new beginnings.

Blessings to you always, Stephen

### *Calendar*

<b>May 6</b>	10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service. Missions Board Meeting after Service.
<b>May 8</b>	Skyland Church Women's Group Meeting. Lectio Divina practice.
<b>May 13</b>	Mother's Day 10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service. Deacons Meeting after Service. Trustees Meeting after Service.
<b>May 20</b>	10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service. Potluck after Service.
<b>May 22</b>	7 p.m. Church Council meeting
<b>May 27</b>	Memorial Day 10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service.

### **Church Council Spotlight**

The Council met with our Associate Conference Minister Daniel Ross-Jones on Thursday, April 26, to discuss the process of finding a new minister. He presented an overview of the processes for finding both an interim minister and, later, a settled ("permanent") minister.

The first process, in which we find an interim minister, is fairly simple.

A small group will assemble a job description for posting, review applications, and select an interim minister who will be with us for the period of time before we find a settled minister. Daniel will assist in this process.

Daniel felt that the reVision and ministerial search processes would be complementary to one another, and he looks forward to guiding us through both. Randy McCalla is in the process of combining notes taken during the meeting so these can be distributed to the congregation. In addition, Daniel left a packet of documents about various aspects of the search process, and we are working on making those available to you online or in print, as well.

One reference that might be helpful for understanding the guidelines for Stephen and for us, the congregation, during this transition can be found here: <http://uccfiles.com/pdf/Departure-Ethics.pdf>.

During the Council meeting on April 29, Jackie Seymour, Nancy Jo Lopp, and Gina Adams volunteered to work on the process of finding an interim minister, with Stephen offering to help them with the job description. There may be one or two others selected to round out this committee.

The Council also discussed the possibility of there being a period of time after Stephen has retired when we do not

yet have an interim minister. The Deacons will consider the options for providing Sunday services, home visits, and other supports until an interim minister is hired.

Our next African Library collection is ongoing, with many quality books coming from our local schools.

The communications committee is looking into getting a good wi-fi hub for the sanctuary to facilitate streaming of our services and other events.

The next Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 22 at 7 p.m., since meetings or holidays already occupy the Sundays in May.

We are currently in the pledge drive time of our fiscal year, so if you haven't sent in your pledge card for next year, please do so by mail or place it in the offering tray. The congregational budget meeting will be held June 10 immediately after the service to approve the budget for next year.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Church Council.

Thanks! Deana

### Missions Board Delivers!

Davenport Resources Center	Warm clothing, canned goods, and toiletries were delivered to the Davenport Resources Center on March 26.	
Feeding our school	We bring snacks to our local schools: granola bars, fruit cups, drinks, etc. <u>No peanuts please.</u>	Contact: Jeremy Cole
Africa Library Project	We will be adopting a primary community library in Sierra Leone. Please start collecting books for preschool- 8th grade and put them downstairs in the Skyland Church room with the copier. Donation boxes have been added to the local schools.  We will be packing the boxes in June and July on T/Ths, starting June 19th. We'll need lots of help! For more info see: <a href="http://www.africanlibraryproject.org">http://www.africanlibraryproject.org</a>	Contact: Cindy Siwajek
Local Support	Mental Health Community Action Network in Santa Cruz helps those transitioning into homes. We are collecting socks, coats and sleeping bags. <u>If anyone has a diaper-changing table we are still looking for one.</u>	Contact: Shannon Edwards

### Treasurer's Report - April 2018

Pledge income for our fiscal year through April is \$1,439 above my best expectation of commitments, but Offering income continues far less than our financial plan, -\$8,403 for our fiscal year to date. However, our significantly reduced expenses result in a net of +\$2,388 fiscal year to date.

Gifts of \$2,550 have been received in memory of Harold Hoyt. Family requested these gifts be sent to Heifer Project International, Harold's favorite charity. Funds have been sent in memory of Harold Hoyt.

Donations of \$1,240 were received to help our friends in Fiji recover from recent disastrous hurricanes. Per instructions from our member Connie Durant who lives in Hawaii, funds have been wired to Orisi Matai in Fiji.

At our last Council meeting it was agreed to pay the balance on our Earthquake loan. The balance of \$5,125.75 has been paid in full. A recent donation of \$5,000 to our Facility Improvement Fund was used for this payment.

Remember to renew your pledge for next fiscal year, June 2018 through May 2019. Please consider increasing your commitment if possible.

It still appears we will end our fiscal year with a small surplus in net operating finances.

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

Our operating finances as of April 25 for our 2017-18 fiscal year:

Summary of Operating Finances				
	April 2018		Jun 1, 2017 to Apr 25	
	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned
Income	\$ 9,077	\$ 9,350	\$165,747	\$170,357
Expenses	\$ 9,666	\$ 9,373	\$165,502	\$176,006
Net	\$ -237	-23	\$ 245	\$ -5,649

Gerald J. Alonzo, Treasurer

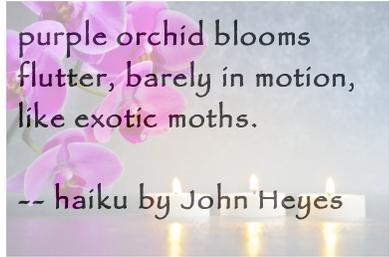
## Flowers for the Altar

Several Sundays are open for floral gifts in both February and March. Please sign up on the calendar in Whitaker Hall.

## MEDITATION MOMENT

Have courage for the great sorrows of  
life and  
patience for the small ones; and when  
you have  
laboriously accomplished your daily  
task, go to  
sleep in peace.....God is awake.

Victor Hugo



purple orchid blooms  
flutter, barely in motion,  
like exotic moths.

-- haiku by John Heyes