



Countdown!
46 days
 First Service
 June 7th

the Bridge

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Transitions & Transformation.

and the beauty of cooking with Heat!

Fire it up! The Squirrel Creek Kitchen (hey, that's a great name for a bar & grill) works! Well, at least the stove does - the other things are coming right along though, and man is it gettin' CLEAN!

As for transformation, a Big Thanks to Alec and team for fixing up ALL THOSE CHAIRS that might have been discarded (with full support from the 'Board chairperson' - jokes, anyone?). We can always use more help, so please lend your skills and GET INVOLVED.

In this issue, we address some thoughts on the transition with a piece by Janet Dunstan, getting the new building ready for occupancy, and a request for capturing all of what's going on from a historical perspective (thanks Ruth).

As always, send in your ideas, suggestions, and the like - contact us at TheBridge@UUGrassValley.org - we look forward to hearing from YOU!

So once again - Sit back, relax, and enjoy...



Imagine Transformation

by Janet Dunstan

IMAGINE the possibilities in having 6 acres with space for concerts, dinners, an outside play area for children, a fire pit on Solstice, and a labyrinth for meditation. After 30 years, the excitement of moving into a new home has been rekindled! Our hopes and dreams are transforming us yet again, and we notice that transformation is not only rejuvenating but also daunting.

With our steady increase in attendance, membership, and ministry programs, we are recognizing the confinement of our once 'new' nest and feeling the urge to spread our fledgling wings. In December, we took the 'leap of faith' into the air, trusting that the strength of our wings would hold us up and we could fly!

For years a favorite topic of discussion has been UUCM membership growth. Some of us are pro-growth and some are not. Some say, "Yes, let us welcome all seekers". Some say, "I like being part of a small community and don't really want to grow larger." I can't help wondering what George and I would have done if UUCM had not been welcoming. What if there was no space for us to sit on Sundays, or room for us to participate in any activities like Soul Matters, humanist discussion group, art, writing, meditation, justice, or book groups? What if the door was "closed" to us because UUCM had enough members? Maybe we could have been put on a membership waiting list.

We have talked of opportunities for having more community-wide events at UUCM: concerts, workshops, social events, and sharing our space with our local non-profit partners. There is the reality of space limitations like a dual purpose sanctuary & social hall that cannot accommodate congregation-wide events and small community-wide events. Some of our members are limited to having access to only one floor and are unable to visit the minister's office, Kid's Connection, or any event on the second floor. Having community-wide events at Church Street also limit the participation of those who struggle with stairs, or those trying to find a parking space.

When faced with a crowded sanctuary, the first solution that comes to mind is having a second Sunday morning service. Then there is the issue of being divided between "early service people" and "late service people"; and what do we do about Kids Connection and hospitality? What happens when still more people come? Have a third service? A fourth service?

IMAGINE if we saw continued growth as an opportunity to spawn another UU church in Nevada City, Alta Sierra, or even Yuba County? Might we be willing to be a parent, nurturing and supporting our fledgling, enjoying a larger family, and raising our child to adulthood?

Sometimes growth is inevitable and with growth, there is always transformation. Moving to a larger space will transform us in a variety of ways both as individuals and as a community. Could the possibility of being a parent change our perspective and conversation about growth?

Volunteer Corner

Are You *Spontaneous* or Planned?

If you are of either personality, I have perfect volunteer opportunities for you! There is one as soon as this Friday or one scheduled as far out as the last day of April, and more to come! So get your calendar's out, or not, and come help get the Squirrel Creek building, our new home, all ready for our First Service on June 7th, "only" FORTY-SIX days away!

There are light fixtures to clean inside and out (except the one with the baby bird!), windows to wash inside and out, switch plates and vent covers to be reinstalled, vacuuming to be done, only 2 more bathrooms to be cleaned (calling all Bathroom Fairies!) and more...

AND you can CHOOSE what you would like to do. Don't want to climb a ladder or push a vacuum or clean a bathroom, not to worry, there is SOMETHING for EVERYONE. You can even hand a light bulb to the electrician on the ladder! Doesn't get easier than that!

Here are the Cleaning Days so far. Mark your calendars or just show up. To coin a UU phrase, "Everyone One is Welcome"!

April 24th, Friday 1-4

April 26th, Sunday 1-4

April 28th, Tuesday 8-11 and/or 12-3

April 30th, Thursday 9-12

Please bring these if you have, and if not, I will have some for you:

Rubber gloves, bucket, large sponge, rags, towels, Flat nosed and Phillip's screwdrivers
Thank you in advance for your service.
And who knows, you may make a new friend on the other side of that spotlessly clean window!

Laurie Bell

Volunteer Coordinator

PS: For the "Planner Folks" please RSVP at volunteer@uugrassvalley.org or call or text me at 530.798.3200



From our UUCM Historian

The historian Ruth Edwards would appreciate any photos being taken at Squirrel Creek during the remodel process to be delivered to Siobhan via the website.

Go to the UUCM website for members and look for "Upload Photos and Videos". Click on the link and do a 'drag and drop' to send the photos to Siobhan.

Thank you,
Ruth Edwards

VOLUNTEER !

Facilities Planning Committee Update

Imagine, if you will, a cold, dark, dreary, dirty church. Go right ahead and imagine it, because you're not going to see it - not at Squirrel Creek, anyway. The painting in the Admin and Family ministry areas is done, and looks great, so bright and cheerful. The old stained carpet has been removed, and the floors are currently being prepared for the new flooring to be installed. They look pretty rough at the moment, but the flooring will be much nicer to live on when it is done.

A lot of excellent attention is going into upgrading the lighting in these areas. Many of the fluorescents were burnt out or missing, and the rest were living on borrowed time. All of them are being replaced with much more cost-efficient, longer-lasting, and brighter LEDs. After much consideration, it was decided to leave the existing fixtures, and simply re-lamp them, saving a great deal of money.

The chancel area of the sanctuary is getting a new look, which will allow arrangements and displays at the front, as well as the large new monitor. Another small, but very important change to the chancel is the addition of handrails to the four sets of steps up onto it. These stairs, though only 3 steps, were pretty tricky and the new handrails will be a great safety feature.

The kitchen has been getting a lot of attention, cleaning, organizing, and making sure everything works correctly. Outstanding (if somewhat grubby) efforts.

An item that has not been mentioned much is the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC). Not because nobody's paying attention to it, but because it is perhaps the most complicated system in the church. Nobody wants to come to a church that is too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter, and it is our understanding that former occupants have been none too comfortable. But we are also designing and planning it with cost-consciousness in mind. This means not only designing it with managing today's costs, but also thinking ahead to possible remodeling of the church, and how today's HVAC will work with that.

Much of this is being done by contractors, but more and more work is being done by volunteers. It's not only a great help to the congregation, but it's a really wonderful way to get to know other members of the church. Give Laurie Bell a call, why dontcha?

Alec MacLean

[Send your suggestions NOW!](#)

[Questions? What would you like to know?](#)



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