



Little Brown Church of Sunol

United Church of Christ – Congregational

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February 2020

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February-March Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 1 ... 1 p.m., memorial service for Susan Ewing Haley at LBC

Sunday, Feb. 2 ... Souper Bowl of Caring

Wednesday, Feb. 26 ... Ash Wednesday

Saturday, March 14 ... LBC hosts refreshments for Sunol Repertory Theater

Souper Bowl of Caring

Every year, Little Brown Church joins thousands of churches and other groups nationwide on Super Bowl Sunday to collect money to feed the hungry. The idea is to contribute a small sum roughly equal to the value of the snacks you'll eat while watching the game. All of the money goes directly to local charities which serve the poor, and we get to decide exactly where we'll donate the cash. Over the years, more than \$150 million has been collected and donated in America this way. Please empty your coin purses this Sunday and join the effort.

Ash Wednesday

A joint Ash Wednesday service for area UCC churches will be held on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Niles Discovery Church in Fremont. The church is located at 36600 Niles Blvd., just south of Nursery Avenue between Niles and Mission boulevards.

SRT Refreshments

Little Brown Church will provide refreshments at the Sunol Repertory Theater performance on Saturday, March 14, at Sunol Glen School. Please sign up at church to bring beverages, baked goods, berries, or other finger food. Or you can just reply to this newsletter. We also need people to set up the refreshments between 7 and 8 p.m. and serve the refreshments at about 9 p.m.

This is a good opportunity to meet the community and make a little money from donations. Our own Robin Spindler has a major role in this year's play, a melodrama titled *The Treasure of Shiver River*. Be sure to catch one of the performances held every Friday and Saturday, March 7-28.

Annual Meeting Report

Little Brown Church's annual congregational meeting was held Sunday, Jan. 26. Following the call to order and the invocation, Church Council Chairman Allen Cook gave his report (see below). Landy White presented the treasurer's report and the proposed budget for this year. Barbara Egbert moved to approve the budget, seconded by Helene Villarreal. The budget was unanimously approved. The current council members will continue in their roles: Allen Cook, chairman; Landy White, treasurer; Kevin Matlock, buildings and grounds; Helene Villarreal, member at-large; and Pastor Mary Conant. Following brief discussion, Landy White moved to adjourn, seconded by Mary Chambers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Report from Church Council Chair Allen Cook

This is my fifth year on the council ... and it remains an enjoyable experience. So far, having quarterly, instead of monthly, church council meetings seems to work fine.

Once again, many thanks to our members who continue to support the church by giving of themselves throughout the year. First, a thank you to Barbara Egbert for her work publishing the monthly church newsletter. Second, to Joe Villarreal for stepping in for Mike Brown to keep our church website active and giving it a much needed "facelift." Third, to Susan Ewing Haley and Barbara for sharing the role playing organ and piano. Also, thanks to Helene Villarreal for her gardening skills around church grounds. Finally, to Robin Spindler for coordinating our church's involvement with shelter dinners at Sunrise Village. And, in general, thank you all for your support of Little Brown Church.

As my part in the church council, I would like to report on the general state of building and grounds for Kevin Matlock. This past summer and fall came with an unusual issue. Frogs had invaded the bathrooms of both rentals. They seem to make their way inside through the bathroom plumbing or vents. Wilson Property Management added screens over the rooftop vents which seemed to slow them down, but additional help from a plumbing service finally did the trick. Or, the frogs have just gone into hibernation. Wilson Property Management also cleaned out the units' gutters of leaves and debris.

Last summer, Landy White and I spent a Saturday clearing out the old metal shed, storing garden tools and other items in the new shed. Significant trash was hauled off to the Pleasanton

Garbage Transfer Station. In August, Babbitt Hall bathroom door hardware strikers required some serious adjustment to permit them to actually lock. In October or so, Helene arranged for the repair of our landscaping drip system around the parsonage and sanctuary.

Other items of note: Little Brown Church's website was updated with a new format, look, and style thanks to Joe Villareal and his "webmaster" skills. From time to time over this past year we were blessed with visits from Ray Mendonca where he shared his musical talent in our Sunday services. On October 20, Little Brown Church, after many years as caretaker for Ruth Trimmingham's paintings depicting Sunol's history, returned them to the Niles Canyon Railway. In years past, the NCR and Ted Buttner funded the restoration and framing of these wonderful paintings.

Open projects for church restoration or maintenance:

- a) Babbitt Hall is sinking at the northwest corner and needs to be lifted with specialty house-lifting jacks. This is a big project.
- b) The linoleum flooring in Babbitt Hall needs replacing once the hall is releveled.
- c) We still need to get the phone line functioning for Little Brown Church.
- d) The paint on the outside of the sanctuary needs touching up at the board seams.
- e) We need to add railroad ties as a barrier where a bridge used to cross Sinbad Creek.

In summary, the past year was a quiet and less challenging year when compared to previous ones. However, we do have open maintenance and restoration projects that need to be addressed. Hopefully this new year will see progress in these endeavors.

Blessings to all,
Allen Cook

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LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL

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