



# Shell Ridge Community Church

*Quarterly Ridge Runner  
Newsletter (March – May)*



SPRINGTIME 2017

A Progressive Faith Community in the East Bay



### Immediate Opportunities

**TONIGHT: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** at Shell Ridge Community Church (6-7PM)

Come and go as you please. Contemplative Stations will be located throughout the campus.

**THIS SUNDAY (3/5/17)** Special Guest ABC-USA Missionary Mylinda Baits will be preaching. Come join us as we welcome Mylinda and here about her ministry.

## “Springtime Rain, Creepy Things, Hives, and All Things Unique” By, Rev. Carlton

Spring is upon us. Everywhere you look life is taking flight. Flowers are burgeoning, bugs are scurrying, and the hillsides are blanketed in deep green. People are out riding their bikes and jogging, children are walking to and fro from school, and even the Amazon Prime delivery folk and UBER drivers have an extra skip in their step. It is an exciting time. Perhaps nothing’s more thrilling though than thinking about these past 10 years of drought (of which I can only speak to a degree) in relation to this very wet winter. Surely, life as a whole is going to be a tad more radiant than in years past. More bugs will be digging, more birds will be chirping, more flowers will be unfolding, more trees will be stretching and the grass in all its pomp and



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Shell Ridge  
is jumping  
into the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century  
boldly.

## Strange and Exciting Things are Underway at Shell Ridge

Fewer things bring me more joy than seeing my grandmother (89) liking my posts on Facebook. Several years ago she decided that she wanted to share in our lives and see our lives unfold even if afar. She has not regretted it since.

Did you know that in a given minute each and every day 3,472+ images are uploaded to Pinterest; 2,500,00 pieces of content and comments are shared on Facebook, 204,000,000 emails are sent, and that there are over 4,000,000 Google search on average? Again, that is within a minutes time. Wild, huh? Further, did you know that of the world's 7.3 billion people, some 3+ billion actively and regularly use the internet? We live in exponential times and the tide has certainly turned as to how people are communicating with one another anymore.

The importance of Shell Ridge Community Church being a tech driven church cannot and must not be overstated. Such modes of

communication are reshaping how we communicate with one another. And understanding how they inform congregants, visitors, and stakeholders matters immensely.

That said, Shell Ridge will be offering a very important technologically minded forum on March 19<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1:00PM. During this time Pastor Jeremy will be highlighting the many modes of communication that SRCC is tied to, how SRCC members might access and share in communicating with one another on the internet, and how embracing new technologies will help in marketing and getting the word out there that SRCC is the most special of places. Time will also be set-aside at the end to coach folks on how to set-up and use their social media accounts.

Any questions? Contact Pastor Jeremy by either contacting the SRCC Church Office or emailing him at "shellridgepastor@gmail.com"



## OUR LENTEN SEASON March 2<sup>st</sup> thru April 13<sup>th</sup> (40 Days)

This year's Lenten Theme at SRCC:  
**"Key to the Beloved Community: Unlocking Our Shared Spirit"**

Over the next 40 or so days Shell Ridge Community Church will be embarking on a journey of self as well as collective introspection. Several events have been planned, in coordination with the Worship Team, to emphasize "unlocking our shared spirit," but in order for that to occur we will also be honing in on some of those keys that would us enable to do so. We all know that real growth starts within and then

This Lenten exploring both our God and, in turn, but we will also be time worshipping individual praxis.



works its way out. Season we will be relationships with with one another; spending some of our God through Years ago, Richard

J. Foster famously wrote a book entitled, "Celebrating the Disciplines," of which many of you will have heard of no doubt. That said, we a handful of those very disciplines will be emphasized each Sunday during the Sunday morning service. For example, on March 12<sup>th</sup> we will be exploring how studying is key to helping us understand God and one another. On April 6<sup>th</sup> we will delve into what worship is and the myriad of expressions that shape it and how it is also key to our individual and shared flourishing before God. (Logistically, 3/5 will be on "Prayer," 3/19 will be on Alignment," and 3/26 will be on "Service" for example. It should be a very interesting and insightful season. Please prepare your hearts and minds for a time of self and shared reflection before God and others also.

*Furthermore, Carol Eklund is leading a Seven Week Lenten Study (starting today 3/1/17) here at SRCC, Wednesdays at 2PM onward, throughout the Lenten Season. The study will journey thru the book entitled "The Last Week" by, Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan If you are interested please contact Carol and let her know.*

## LENTEN EVENTS

### Special Ash Wednesday Service

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 from 6-7PM

Location: SRCC Campus

Note: Contemplative Stations

### Special Palm Sunday Service

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:30

Note: Palms provided for waving

### Maundy Thursday

Special Communion Service

April 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-8PM

Note: Light Communion Meal

### Special Easter Sunday Service

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:30AM

Note: Children's Easter Egg

Hunt at 9:30AM

...circumstance will remind that we were meant to flourish and that life giving water matters immensely.

Relatedly, I stood within inches of a worker bee buzzing around a flower today to see how close I could get without scaring it (or getting stung by it). But more than that, I wanted to see it up close—its eyes—its color—its hair—its glory. I watched with enthusiasm as he flew graciously from flower to flower. It must've just arrived to the bush at which I was standing nearby. I had just stepped outside the office to take a call and get in a bit of fresh air when all this occurred. Before it really started getting its legs wet—or all pollen'ed up—the worker bee landed on a stately bright green leaf freshly stretched from our recent rains. There he readied himself for the score. I watched on as he stretched his legs and preened himself like a bird or cat removing debris in order to ready themselves. I enjoyed watching it wiggle and comb about as it essentially cleared off his follicles for pollen collection.

Seconds lapsed, and in an instant it took to the nearest flower. Dancing gleefully, I watched on as he traipsed about the flower's pollen. It was like watching a child jumping excitedly in a puddle or ball house at Chuck E. Cheese. By the time the worker bee was done he was covered from head to toe in yellow pollen—a proud weight to bear I'm sure. I find it interesting that the worker bee spends his entire existence 'working' and gathering pollen; ultimately for the betterment and survival of the hive as a whole. His hours are unrelenting, the weight daunting, but he knows that his efforts are not in vein.

Everyone has something to offer; especially when it comes to flourishing alongside others. Jesus wanted it that way. There are workers, drones, and queens... and there are beekeepers, pooh bears out there, farmers markets, and us all wanting to share in this rare and beautiful thing called life. It is cyclical and we are all tied to one another—each uniquely wired.

The point is; our contributions need to be uniquely ours in order for all of us to flourish. Drones are too brawny to be spry worker types. There is nothing worse than filling roles for the sake of seeing them filled, flourishing in the wrong spot, and giving half-heartedly because of it.

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### Other Upcoming and Noteworthy Dates

#### IMPORTANT TRAININGS & EVENTS

*For those of you who are involved in ushering and/or interested in Worship Leading alongside Pastor Jeremy please be advised. Also, please note that we need folks to help with the upcoming churchwide workday.*

- 1 **Churchwide Work Day** has been scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9Am till Noon.  
Refreshments Provided
- 2 **'Usher Training Event'**  
Attn: all Ushers!!  
When? After the service on March 12<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1PM  
What: This will be a time of training and review.
- 3 **Attn: Worship Leaders**  
"Worship Leader Q&A"  
Following the April 2<sup>nd</sup> church service w/Pastor Jeremy (Noon-12:30) – Also, if interested please join us.

(Continued)

Disingenuousness is destructive—it is a cheap knock off at best. Offering up the real us is what frees all of us. There is but one you and you are exactly who God intended you to be. “For God created them...” adding, “The gifts [God] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [some to manage coffee carts, some to moderate, some to tidy up, some to oversee donations, some to give of their time, talent, and/or resources, some to sing, some to dance, some to come alongside and encourage quietly, some to welcome, and some to keep an eye on the dear little ones], [in order] to equip the saints for the work of ministry [for doing justly and loving neighbors, strangers, and even our enemies], for building up the body of Christ...” (Eph 4:11-12)

Like the hive and those drawn to it; we too have been drawn to Jesus’ sweet and savory gospel—called to love God and to love others also; and lead exemplified lives as those who’ve been truly changed by Christ’s Living and Loving Waters. May we glean bright green like those hillsides in and around the East Bay.

But moreover, and in the spirit of honoring ‘the least of these,’ may we make a buzz, share, and flourish alongside both human and non-human nature in kind. May we welcome everyone and everything big and small because everything matters to God. We all have something to offer of our unique selves. Question is, what does your offering look like these days? And I am not necessarily referring to resources; more so, I am referring to you freely being you given God’s want to set captive hearts free so that all might flourish.



### One Body with Many Members (1 Cor. 12)

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves<sup>[a]</sup> or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts,<sup>[b]</sup> yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,<sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

## NOTICE TO LFTK CONGREGATIONS

Let's Feed the KIDS and Food for Thought want to thank you for all you have done for the last 3 years to help with Winter and Spring Breaks in the Richmond Schools. Not only have we been able to feed many kids and their families, but we have become interfaith friends working together for a good common cause. THANK YOU!!

We have made a decision that we want to share with you. We have decided to not do Spring Break in 2017, but focus our efforts on enlarging the scope of the Winter Break in December. We have set a goal of adding 3 new schools (exceeding this goal would be wonderful too). With Winter Break we have been able to provide food for 2 weeks, rather than 1 week for Spring Break; and also more schools presently are able to cooperate with Winter Break than Spring Break.

We look forward to accomplishing even more in December 2017 and working together with you and your congregation. Please pass the word.

Let's start the Peanut Butter drive for next December 2017. We will need even more than the 150 jars we collected for 2016.

The Pittsburg Family Center Project will continue at the end of each month providing the Family Market. Diapers sizes 3, 4 & 5 are needed each month.



### ABWM Salad Luncheon

Save the date! Thursday, April 13 the American Baptist Women's Ministries will have a salad luncheon at 11:30 in the patio room. Board members will be providing the salads.

New officers will be elected and installed. The budget for the coming year will be approved. We'll update you when the program is confirmed.

This is always a delightful time of fellowship, so please plan to join us. For more info, call Darby Lockett at 954-7522

# Spring Cleaning PARTY!!!!!!

**Where:** SRCC

**When:** March 11, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 AM





MAILING ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 6324  
Concord, CA 94524  
www.foodbankccs.org  
Federal Tax ID# 94-2418054

CONCORD LOCATION:  
4010 Nelson Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520  
P: (925) 676-7543  
F: (925) 671-7933

FAIRFIELD LOCATION:  
2339 Courage Drive, Suite F  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
P: (707) 421-9777  
F: (707) 421-0205



Dear Community Partner,

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and our partner agencies are a community-based network that provides food to people in need, no matter what their legal status. Working with our partner agencies, government organizations and the philanthropic community, we make food available to people through the community agencies we serve and the direct food distributions we operate.

Unfortunately, the current political climate has caused confusion and fear for the people we serve, especially in immigrant communities. I ask your help in making the community aware that as a private non-profit organization, the Food Bank is not obligated to report the legal status of anyone we serve and will not share personal information with immigration authorities. We track the number of people we serve so we can inform the community about hunger, but we will never share the names of the people who receive food from our organization.

The Food Bank also conducts outreach to enroll more people in the CalFresh program, our nation's most effective response to hunger. When the Food Bank's CalFresh outreach staff provides application assistance, we send that information to the appropriate county department. At this point, no changes have been made to the CalFresh program's structure or eligibility criteria. If people have questions about their eligibility, we encourage them to contact the Food Bank directly.

We continue to serve over 190,000 people each month who need food assistance. We are concerned that rumors and misperceptions are preventing people from getting the help they need. It is important people understand we respect their privacy as we help them get the food assistance their family needs. The Food Bank is part of a community that cares for each other. Please help us fight hunger in service of our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Sly".

Larry Sly  
Executive Director

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

### March Birthdays:

|           |          |        |
|-----------|----------|--------|
| Carlton   | Jeremy   | 1-Mar  |
| Colombu   | Susan    | 2-Mar  |
| Bishop    | Maria    | 5-Mar  |
| Carlton   | Sara     | 6-Mar  |
| Duran     | Katy     | 9-Mar  |
| Carter    | Cynthia  | 12-Mar |
| Kershaw   | Verna    | 18-Mar |
| Borbridge | Kate     | 23-Mar |
| Sedar     | Victoria | 24-Mar |
| Granquist | Margaret | 25-Mar |
| McLaren   | Sean     | 26-Mar |
| Michelson | Marilyn  | 28-Mar |
| Duran     | Richard  | 29-Mar |
| Kim       | Eeyeon   | 30-Mar |

### April Birthdays:

|          |             |        |
|----------|-------------|--------|
| Foust    | Jackie      | 1-Apr  |
| Jennings | Irene       | 1-Apr  |
| Davidson | Elliot      | 2-Apr  |
| Adams    | Matthew     | 6-Apr  |
| Watson   | Heather     | 6-Apr  |
| Morrison | Maximillion | 9-Apr  |
| Foust    | Travis      | 20-Apr |
| Murphy   | Michael     | 20-Apr |
| Foust    | Haley       | 30-Apr |
| Navolio  | Annelies    | 30-Apr |



### May Birthdays:

|            |         |        |
|------------|---------|--------|
| Tun        | William | 1-May  |
| Morrison   | Cameron | 2-May  |
| Carlton    | Avery   | 4-May  |
| Alton      | Vern    | 5-May  |
| Dahlstrom  | Jackie  | 6-May  |
| Vance      | Dorothy | 8-May  |
| Smith      | Nancy   | 9-May  |
| Fuentes    | William | 11-May |
| Crawford   | Dede    | 13-May |
| Woodward   | Avaril  | 14-May |
| Clarkson   | Barbara | 15-May |
| Kearins    | Kathy   | 15-May |
| Wellington | Kay     | 16-May |
| Condie     | Barbara | 21-May |
| Wolfe      | Muriel  | 23-May |
| Heagle     | Jonah   | 26-May |
| Hindes     | Andi    | 27-May |
| Loth       | Ramona  | 31-May |



## CHURCHWIDE LOGISTICS & REMINDERS

Please refer to the church website ([www.shellridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.shellridgecommunitychurch.org)) from now on concerning the ushers schedule, communion helpers schedule, monthly Adult Forum agenda/curriculum, children/youth programming, and church related policies and procedures. Also, please refer to the SRCC website's calendar often for facility room use schedules (for SRCC proper [green] as well as guests [red]), event dates, meeting times, and general listings. (Note: Rest assured that your full names will not be made public; just your first names and the first initial of your last name.)

Also, as you will have recently noticed we experimented with the 'announcement time' and it was quickly realized that it would probably be best to leave our announcement time for the beginning of the service. Like before, we would simply ask that you keep your announcements short and sit toward the front if you plan on providing one. Furthermore, please keep in mind that announcements at SRCC are more times than not listed in the Midweek Updates and Bulletin Inserts several weeks beforehand, listed in the Ridge Runner, are on the Website (under "Events"), scrolling on the Powerpoint before the church service (a new feature), and are annotated on the churchwide calendar. We take great care in making sure that your featured event is broadly promoted.



As you will have noticed we have a new 4K Hi-Def Smart TV up and running up on the corner of the choir alcove to the left of the stage. It is tucked away just enough and yet still visible to everyone. It is intended to replace the projection unit and screen that SRCC has been using for years, thus freeing up the beautiful stain glass in the front of the sanctuary for all to enjoy. Having it up and running creates tremendous opportunities for all of the events that we do here at Shell Ridge Community Church. As mentioned, it enables us to highlight key and upcoming events via Powerpoint/Prezi, display complimentary images and screen shots that enliven the worship experience, live stream music, show inspirational videos, display photo albums, and even live stream with others via Skype or other platforms. Imagine sharing in a worship service with another faith community on the other side of the world? A good way to think about the Smart TV is this; imagine having a computer on the wall with the World Wide Web at your fingertips. Having this feature will undoubtedly add a lot to our time together.

# Come grow with us!

Shell Ridge Community Church never ceases to amaze. We have seen visitors consistently coming to our church services throughout 2017 thus far and we would like you to consider one of two things as traction continues to take shape. Firstly, would you prayerfully consider coming and worshipping alongside us consistently (or perhaps all over again) as we embrace new and exciting programs, culturally relevant events, justice driven outreach, and inclusive worship? Secondly, if that were not a possibility would you consider spreading the word on our behalf and recommending us to others also? You could do so by referring a friend or neighbor our way, following us on Facebook (or other social media platforms), and/or simply letting folks know what we've been up to per these Ridge Runners. Again, it is an exciting time in the life of Shell Ridge. Will you do what you can? We sure would appreciate the boost.



Shell Ridge Community Church – Ridge Runner

Springtime Edition

## Shell Ridge Community Church

200 La Casa Via

Walnut Creek, CA, 94598

925-935-3250

[www.shellridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.shellridgecommunitychurch.org)

