



Cal Aggie Christian Association
FALL 2009

In the House

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. . . As Christians

BY REV. KRISTIN STONEKING,
DIRECTOR & CAMPUS MINISTER

Perhaps the proudest aspects of the CA House tradition are these: our history of action on behalf of oppressed and marginalized persons, our willingness to take on difficult or unpopular issues, and our penchant for being on the cutting edge of movements that are eventually embraced as mainstream.

We have been engaged in these activities, always, as Christians, because when we looked at the life of Christ and sought to emulate it, the challenges we took on seemed like the faithful path. And though these activities have been a manifestation of who we are as Christians and grounded in Christian tradition and theology, I believe that we haven't always made the motivation for our work explicit.

That is to question, for example, when we worked with Cesar Chavez, in what ways did we make it clear that we were responding to Jesus' call to "pay [the laborers] what is right" (Matthew 20:4)? And how did we proclaim that we sought to further, as the current Body of Christ, the truth of his pronouncement that he had come to set at liberty all who are oppressed and bring good news to the poor (Luke 4:18)? And how do we now articulate that our work with the Student Farm on campus allows us to live out our belief in Christ as the ground of creation as well



as to participate in its redemptive healing as the Body of Christ?

Ironically, while many Christian communities are criticized for not "walking their talk," CA House has never faced this evaluation. But, I wonder, have we "talked our talk?"

While I believe we have done a faithful job of living out the example of Christ, I think it has been less comfortable for us to proclaim that this particular way of living faithfully is life-giving for us, and could be life-transforming for many. This way of life is the way of Christ. It is the way

of a people who believe in a God with us, in the person of Jesus, who calls us all into relationship. It is the way of a people who witness to a God who was born as one of us in humility, and awakens us to an order based on love and forgiveness. It is the way

"There is no doubt that what persons have found here is of God and potentially transformative to a world in need."

of the Christian.

Interestingly, as Christians in a multifaith

("...As Christians" continued on next page)



("...As Christians" continued from front page)

environment here at CA House, and in a pluralistic environment on campus, we are led back into this work. It is the foundational work of evangelism, this ability to know and proclaim how we are changed by the grace of God in Christ, and how it leads us into action that gives our lives meaning and joy. Though the idea of evangelism is something progressive Christians have often shied away from, sharing our good news is a Christian imperative. There is no doubt that what persons have found here is of God and potentially transformative to a world in need. But ours is a different form of the Christian life than we often hear proclaimed in our culture, and our challenge is to help each student find and own the salvific truth of the Christian story in all its inclusivity, love, hospitality and calling for justice and peace.

Now that the focus on developing our property for the Multifaith Living Community is complete, we must focus on the foundational pieces of our Christian identity. To this end, I will be leading a Bible study that will take students through 80% of the Bible during the course of the academic year; we will be forming students into small covenant groups so that they may assist one another with the four areas of their covenant: faith, community, social justice and simplicity of lifestyle; and through worship, we will be focusing on the historic and modern creeds of our Christian tradition.

I believe that for CA House to fulfill the totality of its mission and possibility, we must be about both the walking and the talking. The story we have to tell is indeed good news to a world divided and in pain. It is not an exclusive story, but one that honors others' experience of salvation and community, while not limiting our own. What we have known through CA House and communities like it is a gift we have to offer to others. I look forward to engaging with our community, and particularly our students, around how we own our identity and invite others into that communion. ✎

Evangelism

BY MEREDITH JACKSON,
COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

I heard a sermon once about the crocodile-infested waters of evangelism. John Thomas, the outgoing President and General Minister of the UCC, explained to us that as Christians, it is our duty to wade into the sometimes dangerous water and preach the gospel. It is our duty to go out and tell others what we love about our church, our community, and our ministry. The same is true for CA House.

Here, we could be content to stand on the shores and celebrate the good news that we have found on Russell Boulevard. It is easy to find contentment in the good friends and caring circles that make up our ministry - and we could stop there. We could become complacent in our happiness, and forget that we must also go out into the world and extend this faith, hope, and love to others.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

This is our challenge. Having celebrated the one-year anniversary of our newest program, the Multifaith Living Community, CA House has once again redefined who we are and how we come to be in fellowship. Each of us is now challenged to wade into the water of every day life and find within us the courage to share our experience with others.

*Wade in the water
Wade in the water, children
Wade in the water
God's gonna trouble the water*

When people ask me what I do, it's always a bit hard to answer. I try the explanation of 'campus ministry' first. Some



know what that is, but most people nod politely with a wrinkle of concentration in their eyes. So I tell them that I work with students to explore what faith and community can mean in this world. I begin to tell them about Wednesday dinners and Monday worship and special programs like the Interfaith Progressive Dinner. I tell them that I try to provide a space at the University where students can explore the holy—both inside of themselves and in the light of others.

Somewhere in this explanation I start to get nervous. After all, I am wading into the waters, and sharing my faith and my work with others is sure to surface some crocodiles. Some people will ask me straightforward questions, while others will dig deeper to try and find a glimmer of meaning for themselves in what I do. I'm never sure what to expect. I can never be sure what crocodiles lurk in the waters of my own evangelism.

Oh no. I said it.

Evangelism.

That is, at its essence, what sharing my story is all about. I know that there is a light in the world and that light brings

("Evangelism" continued page 4)

Five Fun Ways to Share Your Faith

BY JEN MACWAY,
STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER



Since starting work at CA House this past year, my understanding of evangelism has changed immensely. I went from being very uncomfortable with the idea of evangelism to having a much deeper grasp of the whole concept and feeling called to live out my faith. Turns out, evangelism is simply spreading the Good News.

It's as simple as "My faith has been such a positive grounding in my life, and I want that for others as well." Below are what I've found to be the top five non-threatening ways to share one's faith.

1) *Bring a friend to Wednesday night dinner*

These casual gatherings are a great place for someone interested in growing in faith. The programs always have an inspiring multifaith theme, but it is the people that make this weekly event so special. Interacting with individuals who have a deep spiritual element to their lives would make anyone desire a deeper-rooted faith.



2) *Invite a friend to lead music at Monday night worship*

This is a great low-pressure way to get involved with CA House. Believe it or not, people respond well



to taking on some responsibility in worship; when it comes to spiritual growth, the more you put in, the more you get out.

3) *Talking with a Christian friend in public settings*

Being comfortable talking about faith in public not only helps

me grow in my own faith, but also allows others to feel comfortable approaching me and not be intimidated by a Christian-centered conversation. People are often surprised by how casually yet respectfully we discuss different aspects of Christianity, and are intrigued.

4) *Volunteering to do outreach*

– Spending time with people who are very comfortable talking about their faith is a great way to spread the Good News. For example, I started tabling with CA House last fall with people who had been sharing CA House's mission with students for quite awhile. It was challenging at first, but eventually I got into a rhythm where I too was comfortable using words to spread the joy of a faith in God.

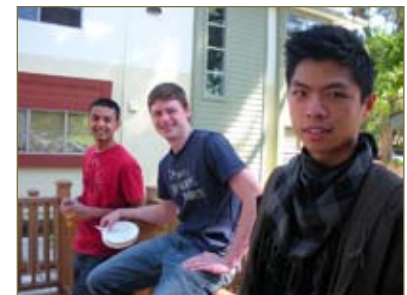
5) *Working at a campus ministry or church*

– The only question I hear more often than "What's your major?" is "Where do you work?". Making a faith organization a central part of your life means that you will naturally be talking with more people about



it. The more involved you are, the more you'll be talking with or inviting others.

And lastly, if there were just one lesson that I could take from this past year, it would be evangelical empathy. I always found the most effective approach to be



asking myself, "If I were new to all this, what could others do to help me grow spiritually?" ☞



Kristin Stoneking, Meredith Jackson and CA House Receive Multiple Honors

Rev. Kristin Stoneking and CA House were honored several times this summer for the broad-ranging ministry and particularly the completion of construction and the opening of the Multifaith Living Community.

In June, Kristin received the Civil Rights Advocacy Award from the City of Davis, given to an individual for significant efforts and achievement in speaking on behalf of those who have little voice



Davis City Council member Stephen Souza presents Rev. Stoneking with the Civil Rights Advocacy Award.

or are unable to speak for themselves or assert their civil rights. The Human Relations Commission selected Kristin for her work with students of many faiths to assist them in proudly articulating their faith practices and beliefs in a way that others can hear and for her work in building bridges between faith communities that have had long standing difficulties with each other, and in so doing, sowing the seeds of peace more broadly. The commission specifically acknowledged Kristin's role in bringing the vision of the Multifaith Living Community to fruition and that "Faith is just one more aspect of our diversity that can be misunderstood and cause bias, discrimination, and ultimately, acts of hatred."

At the Annual Conference Session of the Cal-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church, Kristin was awarded the Francis Asbury Award from the General Board of Higher Education in Nashville. The Asbury award is given to an individual who has performed outstanding service in ministry in higher education. Also, at the annual meeting of the National Campus Ministry Association, CA House was honored with the Campus Ministry of the Year Award which is given to a ministry that has distinguished itself through effective and innovative ministry.

Additionally, at the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, Meredith Jackson, CA House Community Coordinator, was awarded the Robert Sherard Youth and Young Adults Award which is presented in appreciation of visionary leadership, witness and commitment to justice. Meredith was also recognized as an Honored Laywoman for the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. ☞



Community Coordinator Meredith Jackson was presented the Robert Sherard Youth and Young Adults Award

("Evangelism" continued from page 2)

faith, hope and love. It is this light that I want to share with others—not by beating them over the head with my Bible, but by sharing my stories with them. My stories about the amazing ministry happening at CA House may encourage them to fill a void in their own life, seek out a community, or find a personal faith practice that brings them closer to whatever they call divine.

*This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine*

Evangelism has been feared for too long. Bloody battles and painful words have caused Christians to shy away from what they can do to share the joy in their life. But we must share. We must shout it from the mountaintop. We cannot hide it under a bushel. Let your light shine! Proclaim who you are and what guides you in your life. Sharing your story is the best form of evangelism out there, and you, too, can be a part of this mission. You don't need to be young, be a preacher, or even be sure of what you believe. You have stories to share, and the world is ready to listen.

*Hide it under a bushel—no!
I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel—no!
I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel—no!
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine*



Many Thanks to all those Individuals, organizations, and businesses that helped make Cal Aggie Christian Association the successful campus ministry it is today. With your generous contributions of time, resources, services, and funding, we are able to continue our important work in these difficult economic times. Thank You!

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You're Invited: Annual Indian Dinner and Silent Auction

The annual Indian dinner and silent auction to benefit activities of the CA House and Multifaith Living Community is scheduled for **Saturday evening, October 10th at Davis Community Church**. The doors of the Fellowship Hall at DCC will open at 5:30 pm to allow you to view and bid on the many silent auction items. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.



The Indian dinner prepared by local resident Mary Philip and colleagues has become an annual event. This year's menu will include samosas (a spicy potato wrap), chicken and rice biryani, sautéed vegetables, a yogurt based raita, and a dessert of kheer (rice pudding) and cardamom tea.

The silent auction will include a wide variety items donated by Davis businesses and members of the CA House community. There will be vacation/entertainment items, food and art items, personal service items and other surprises. Special items include a six-night stay at a three bedroom condo at North Lake Tahoe, an all day event (wedding, family reunion, special birthday, baptism, etc.) photography shoot, and a cioppino dinner for six.

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to donate items to the silent auction, please contact CA House at (530) 753-2000 or cahouse@cahouse.org. The suggested donation for tickets is \$35 for adults, \$20 for youth/students. ☺



CA House Alumni Reception

We know that life has changed for you since you were at UC Davis and CA House. Our ministry has changed as well! Last fall, CA House added the Multifaith Living Community to our array of programming. This six-townhouse development, along with the remodeling of the main house, has really transformed the look of CA House, and we'd love to share this with you.

The heart of CA House continues to be relationships, service, and growing in faith. We would love to know what's going on in your life, reacquaint you with old friends, and reconnect with you. We'll be gathering alumni before our annual Indian Dinner and Silent Auction this year for a special reception - we hope you'll be there!

When: October 10th, 2009, 4:30-5:30pm

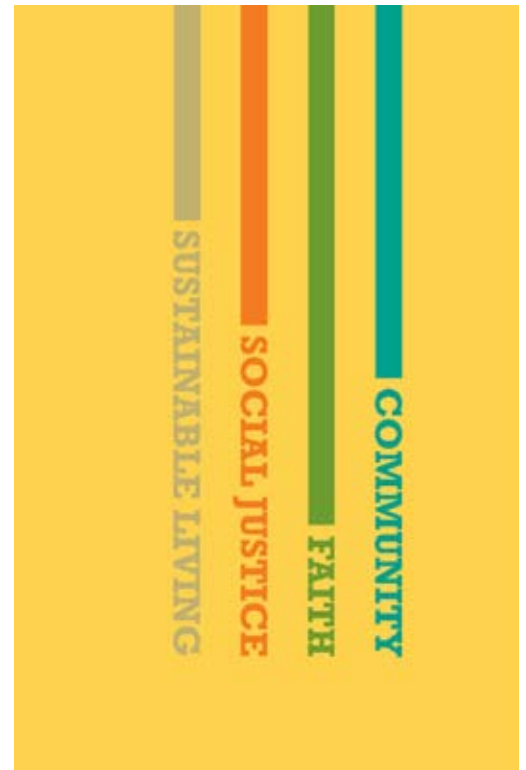
Where: CA House - MLC Courtyard, 433 Russell Boulevard

RSVP: CA House at (530) 753-2000 or cahouse@cahouse.org

Kristin to Take Sabbatical in 2010

Our Campus Minister and Director, Rev. Kristin Stoneking begins her eleventh year at CA House this fall. In that time, the ministry has grown and developed with the number of students regularly involved more than quadrupling, the construction and opening of the Multifaith Living Community, and the increase of annual budget by almost 500%. In June, the board of directors voted to grant Kristin a six month sabbatical, beginning March 1, 2010. Kristin shared with the board her desire to engage in more formal training in world religions as well as to spend time in reflection and writing. Kristin will be taking classes in the spring in a location still being determined, and in the summer will be in Cambridge, Massachusetts taking classes through the Harvard Summer School.

In Kristin's absence, Ted Adams, who has been serving on the CA House Board of Directors since 2007 and who is retired as the Director for Student Programs and Activities Center (SPAC) at UC Davis, will act as sabbatical minister. Ted's career also included service as Chaplain at the University of the Pacific, multifaith ministry in Oakland, and campus ministry at San Jose State. We are grateful for Ted's willingness to serve and look forward to the renewing and productive effects of the sabbatical for Kristin. ☞



New Book Offers Insight, Practical Suggestions for Campus Ministry

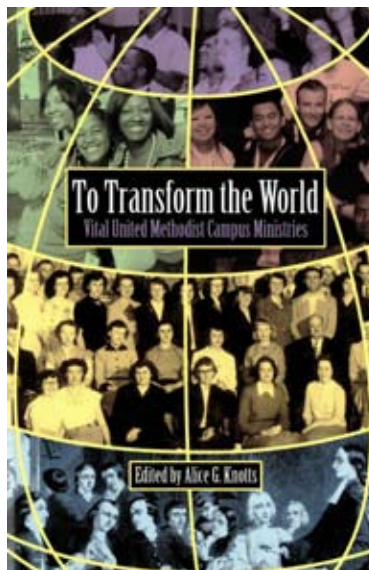
Rev. Kristin Stoneking is one of 10 campus ministers who contributed an essay for a new book from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry that offers insights and practical suggestions for vital United Methodist campus ministry today.

Kristin's essay in **To Transform the World: Vital United Methodist Campus Ministries**, is about the strategies that the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference employed to increase support for campus ministry. Other topics include why campus ministry is crucial for the church's witness in the twenty-first century; the role of campus ministry in preparing leaders for church and world; dealing with trauma and violence on campus; effective use of emerging digital technologies; and more.

Alice Knotts, the editor of the book, said the writers view United Methodist campus ministries as crucial leadership development centers for the church and the world.

"In this generation when congregations crave the participation of young adults, this book claims that the church needs to go where young adults are gathered in college communities that are larger, more diverse, and more global than ever in history," she said.

"The church depends on campus ministries to prepare young adults to do critical religious thinking essential to leading the church through a process of dying and renewal and to lead the world through global climate changes."



Too often, struggling campus ministries represent a breakdown in mission outreach teamwork by church structures, Knotts said. "Campus ministries are closed at great peril to the church. Campus ministries are dealing with trauma and technology in ways that can lead the church," she said.

She thanked the Rev. Beth Cooper, co-chair of the United Methodist Campus Ministry Association and one of the writers, for imagining this book and leading the call for a renewal of teamwork between church and campus ministry.

The Rev. Helen R. Neinast, a former GBHEM staffer and a former campus minister, called the book engaging and thoughtful.

"This book uncovers some of the most important work being done by the church today – that of campus ministers and chaplains in higher education. Illuminating and hopeful, these writers embolden us to pursue campus ministry as a labor central to the gospel's call to transform the world. This book makes clear both the urgency and the joy of that task," Neinast said.

To order, contact Cokesbury at 1-800-672-1789 or www.cokesbury.com. The book sells for \$12.95 and the ISBN number is 978-0-938162-87-2. ☞



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Cal Aggie Christian Association

Indian Dinner & Silent Auction

Come and enjoy this year's Indian Dinner Fundraiser for CA House. The evening will include a meal of mouthwatering Indian food, a wide variety of auction items donated by Davis businesses and members of the CA House community, entertainment, and a short program highlighting the CA House mission and ministries.

Suggested Donation:

Adults \$35, Youth & Students \$20
Children 10 & under are free

CAL AGGIE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

433 Russell Boulevard
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 753-2000
www.cahouse.org

Date: **Saturday,
October 10, 2009**
Time: **Doors Open 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6:30 pm**
Place: **Davis Community
Church
412 C Street, Davis**