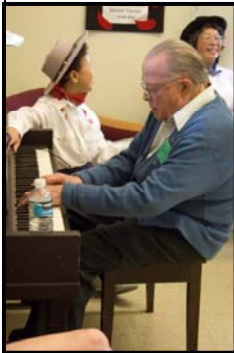


Now, That's Cook'n- El Cerrito Cluster Serves The Community



"It's a party!" was the cheer from over 100 Richmond seniors recently. The El Cerrito Cluster teamed up with the Richmond Recreation Department on

a late September afternoon. Long closed due to both financial problems and low attendance, the Senior Center located in the Richmond Annex area, was looking for a way to boost interest of the local seniors community.

As a percentage of the overall population, seniors – those age 70 and above, are the fastest growing cohort in West County. Cathy Meyers, a representative of the Richmond Recreation Department explains, **"We are attempting to reach this growing population to keep them from isolation and the loneliness that accompanies it. We are always looking for folks interested in working with our seniors."**

With the encouragement of El Cerrito Cluster member, Jack Sprecher, 92 years young, Cluster leader, Charlie Stone met with Ms. Meyers to discuss the possibility of a partnership. WayPointe's office teamed with the Cluster, by developing and producing flyers; the Recreation Department distributed them, and set up a sign up sheet. **"We'll probably only have a few."** Stated Charlie Stone.

He couldn't have been more wrong.



"We had so many people attend, we ran out of hotdogs – over 100. It was a great time. Along with the delicious food, all prepared by the El Cerrito Cluster members, there was a lot of entertainment. There was a flute duet played by a husband-wife team, another woman belted out old Broadway musicals, and yet another group took part with some country-western line dancing."

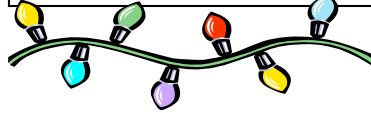
Encouraged by the attendance, the Recreation leaders remarked that they had many sign-ups for future outings and activities through the Seniors Center. **"This is the largest gathering we have had here. We couldn't have done it without you."** Ms. Meyer enthused to Charlie Stone.

The Cluster members gained as well. Not only were they encouraged by the joyous response of the seniors, they realized that their gift of time glorified God.

As an additional benefit, the event also increased their group's numbers. Albert, a senior, was so excited by the Cluster's service, he asked if he could join the group for its weekly Cluster meetings. Now, he and another senior – Eoline Alexander, are joining in WayPointe's weekly worship when they can. **Now, that's Cook'n!**



Holiday Happenings



Christmas In October... A festive success. The folks of WayPointe didn't wait long to take part in making children's Christmas holiday a bit jollier. The names for some 100 young children of Quintanna Roo, Mexico were chosen, gift boxes wrapped, all before the month of October was over. Team leaders, Janet and Joel Smith were absolutely stunned by the outstanding response by the church community. The packages are soon to be delivered to the children – in time for Feliz Navidad!

6th Annual Community Thanksgiving - At this writing, teams are busily at work, preparing for this annual event for the West County community. The goal this year – feed over 300 folks a spectacular Thanksgiving feast. Donations, including food items, money and of course the gift of time – all welcome. For more details, contact Lisa Dowrelia—222-1724.

Christmas Caroling – West County Detention Facility - In response to a request from the Jail's chaplains, a WayPointe team is preparing and practicing for a night of Christmas Caroling, December 22nd. **"What a fantastic experience this is."** said a previous caroler.

And More...

Although the Jail event – due to certain restrictions, is full, we have recently received a request from a sister church in West Richmond. They have asked if we would join them for an

evening of caroling around several West Richmond neighbor-hoods. This may also include a night of caroling aboard one of San Francisco's famous cable cars.

If you are interested in either one of these new opportunities, contact Pastor Patrick @ 234-4395.



Cluster Locations and Contacts

El Cerrito Cluster	5 PM Sun.
Charlie Stone	559-1015
El Sobrante Cluster	7PM Mon.
Lind Davis	908-1679
Hercules Cluster	7PM Tues.
Drummonds	964-1850
*Java & Jesus	8AM Wed.
Pastor Gary	234-4395
Pinole Cluster	7PM Thur.
	234-4395
Richmond Cluster	7PM Tues.
Andrea's	234-7427
Arts Cluster	Pending

Designed For Dialogue...

Folks in the church as well as the community are abuzz about our new name —WayPointe Christian Fellowship. New signs on the church property, as well as printed materials are now joined by stylish shirts sporting the our unique logo. The design, a collaboration between illustrator Nick Pierson and Pastor Gary depicts a guiding star—or is it a cross? The name, WayPointe, is a navigational term meaning a point on a journey. Due to popular request, the shirts, first worn by members of our leadership team, are now available for purchase.

In a variety of sizes, the shirts are for sale at our cost of \$28 and may be purchased through our office.



Upcoming Events...

Community Thanksgiving-
-Thanksgiving Day, November 2006
Open Mic— Thanksgiving Sunday
Sunday, November 23rd
WayPointe Project
Sunday, December 10th
Christmas Caroling-
-West County Detention Center
December 22nd
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
7 pm Sunday, December 24th

Past The Pain An Interview With Evelyn McGann



It's the phone call no one wants to get – the announcement of the death of a loved one. More wrenching yet, is the pronouncement that one's child was violently murdered. This

very event happened to Evelyn McGann in May of 1984.

Aware of Evelyn's work with POMC, Parents of Murdered Children, Connecting Pointe asked her to share some thoughts. As she shared her story, this writer couldn't help but think of St. Paul's words "Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the source of every mercy and the God who comforts us. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

CP: Can you share what happened?

Evelyn: My son, Richard, age 21 was working in the Reno area, when he agreed to drive an acquaintance and another man to Sacramento. On the road between Reno and Truckee, Richard was attacked by the rider – it turns out he was a violent parolee from the LA area who had run to Reno. Richard was stabbed repeatedly and then had his throat slit. His body was found several hours later by a passing fireman.

CP: Was the murderer caught?

Evelyn: Yes, but not before he had murdered a second man, and then attempted to murder a third. The third victim was able to identify the assailant, and evidence from my son's murder

linked the felon to all three violent assaults. I attended the preliminary trial where enough evidence was presented to bind the murderer over for a full trial.

CP: Can you share your feelings from that time?

Evelyn: This was an unbelievably traumatic experience that my family and I endured. The pain of knowing my son had suffered and had fought so gallantly for his life was almost more than I could bear. As a mother, I needed details, but was spared from the pain and agony of a full trial when the individual took a plea bargain. Nonetheless, through the ordeal I took one day at a time, praying for strength to manage that particular day.

Murder of a family member is like ripping your heart out. The impact on our family was devastating and still impacts us today. My husband while he was alive was angry at everything and everybody, worse yet, angry at God. Our surviving son turned to drugs and alcohol and even our daughter needed extensive therapy. I must confess that I too was angry with God. Our human attempts to deal with the anger and pain did not do too well.

CP: How did your faith help?

Evelyn: Well, as I said, without God helping me to endure life, one day at a time, I'm not sure what I would have done. Although I was initially angry with the Lord for allowing the murder of my son, reality began to set in, and I realized that this was a work of evil – the devil.

CP: Have you moved past the pain?

Evelyn: I'm not sure that you ever fully recover— move past the pain, but after counseling sessions during the first couple of years, I heard about Parents Of Murdered Children – POMC and began to attend. I became the Contra Costa-East Bay chapter leader in 1995.

CP: Can you share some about your work with POMC?

Evelyn: I facilitate a monthly grief support meeting in Pleasant Hill. I accompany victim's families to court, write a monthly newsletter, receive phone calls from newly bereaved family members, and I occasionally handle victim-family notification.

I now speak once a month to young men, ages 13-18 who are incarcerated in locations such as: the Byron's Boy's Ranch, the Log Cabin Ranch in La Honda, San Francisco County Jails, and the Juvenile Hall in Martinez. I share the pain of such a crime from the family's point of view and how many people are impacted by such acts of violence.

CP: How can others help, or get involved.

Evelyn: There are several ways. First of all, we need to press for victim's rights. While there are at least fifteen specific legal rights of an accused offender, there are virtually no rights for the victims and their families.

On a more immediate level, I could use a volunteer to help prepare our monthly mailing. This consists of folding and labeling the 300 newsletters.

Editors note; To dialogue with Evelyn or to volunteer some time, contact her at Evmcga@aol.com

"without God helping me to endure life, I'm not sure what I would have done."

"I took one day at a time, praying for strength to manage that particular day."