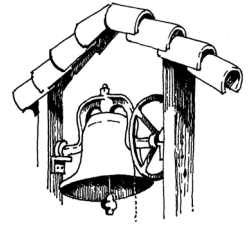




Niles Discovery Church

United in God's love for everyone's journey ... no exceptions.



The Bell

May 2013

Volume 14 No. 5

Call to Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the first Annual Meeting of Niles Discovery Church will be held on Sunday, May 12, immediately following worship, in Ford Hall. As of the press deadline for this edition of *The Bell*, the only item of business on the agenda is the approval of minutes of past congregational meetings and the election of Cabinet members. Of course, business items can be introduced from the floor. Your attendance is urgently and prayerfully requested.

Upcoming Worship

May 5 – Barbara Meyers, guest preacher

May 12 – “Waters of Baptism,” John 1:19-34

May 19 – “Waters of Healing,” Revelation 22:1-5

May 26 – to be announced

Save the Date!



On Sunday, June 9, at 3:00 pm at Eden UCC in Hayward, Pastor Brenda will be ordained into the Christian ministry of word and sacrament. All are welcome to attend this important celebration in Brenda's life and the life of the church, and Niles Discovery has an important role to play in the liturgy! Eden's congregation is looking forward to hosting the service and reception, and would also welcome any contributions of food or other assistance. If you are interested in helping out with the service and/or reception, please contact Pastor Brenda.

Join a ministry team

Niles Discovery Church's bylaws say that only the chairs of the Standing Ministry Teams are elected. The membership of the Ministry Teams is self-selected. So, if you want to join a ministry team, just do it. You can do it at any time during the year, but with the elections of the chairs coming up on May 12, this is a good month to become part of a Team. All Ministry Teams meet on the first Monday of the month (May 6 this month). The Ministry of Christian Education Team meets at 6:30; the other Ministry Teams meet at 7:30.

The Ministry of Christian Education Team coordinates our faith formation programs. The Ministry of Property Team takes care of the various property issues. The Ministry of Social Concerns organizes ways for us to do hands-on ministry that cares for people in the wider community. The Ministry of Spiritual Life helps coordinate our worship services and is responsible for setting up communion. The Ministry of Evangelism and Outreach empowers the whole church to invite people to journey with us as we live into our discipleship and helps integrate new people into the full life of the church.

Delegates to DOC General Assembly Sought

Every two years, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) holds their nation-wide General Assembly. Each congregation in the DOC is entitled to two voting representatives. While Niles Discovery Church cannot pay your expenses, you still might want to go.

This summer, the General Assembly is July 13-17. It will be held in Orlando, Florida. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/LZ6XE>. If you would like to be an official delegate from Niles Discovery Church, please contact Jim Thomas.

Have “Lunch with the Pastor” on May 19

You are invited to join Pastor Jeff (and often Pastor Brenda) for a host lunch at The Rose Garden (a Chinese restaurant at 33348 Alvarado Niles Rd., Union City) on Sunday, May 19 at around 12:15. This is a time to chat together with no agenda (though Jeff has been known to ask for some feedback about sermons). Consider carpooling.



Merrill Gardens lunch

Church people living at Merrill Gardens join Pastor Jeff or Pastor Brenda for lunch at Merrill Gardens on the second Tuesday of the month at noon. If you would like to participate (whether you live at Merrill Gardens or not), please call **Irene Vollbrecht** (510-792-4642) to let her know by the Monday morning preceding the lunch. Non-residents of Merrill Gardens are welcome, but it costs \$11.

Bikes and Bikers Blessing

Whether it's a rumbling Harley hog, an off-road mountain bike, or a Big Wheel tricycle, every bike—and biker—could use an extra blessing for safety on the road. Our Niles community is an epicenter for bikes and bikers of all kinds, and the Ministry of Evangelism and Outreach is considering offering a Bike(r) Blessing in early summer as an outreach to our friends and neighbors of all ages in the community. We are looking for a few volunteers who would like to help plan, organize, and participate in this ministry opportunity. If this sounds like a fun and meaningful activity for you, please see Pastor Brenda.

Special Offerings

The May Special Offering (received May 5) is for Blankets+. Blankets+ supports Church World Service, our ecumenical partner for overseas disaster relief and development work. The Blankets+ offering will provide blankets, tents, food, and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; and literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Thanks to your generosity, the April special offering in support of the UCC Conference and DOC Region raised \$411.00.

Wear your name tag

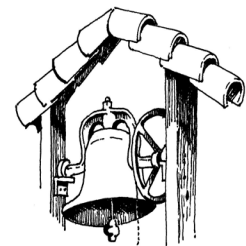
As our congregations move deeper into merger, it will be very helpful if we all make a habit of wearing our *new* name tags. It's hard enough for some of us to learn a handful of names, let alone 100 new names. If you need a new name tag, please talk to a greeter.

Pastors' schedules

Due to meetings and appointments, it is difficult for Pastor **Jeff Spencer** to post regular office hours. It's a good idea to call before you drop by to make sure he's in. Please call him if you would like to make an appointment or have him come by for a visit (church: 510-797-0895; mobile: 510-579-8851). Pastor Jeff's Sabbath day is Friday and his day off is usually Saturday.

Pastor **Brenda Loreman** is just settling into her position as part-time Associate Pastor. At this point, she's taking Thursday, Friday, and Saturday off. Remember, hers is a half-time position. If you would like to see her or for her to come see you, please call her (church: 510-797-0895; mobile 510-828-4107).

Cecilia Le works Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, 8:00 a.m. to noon.



THE BELL

Published monthly by
Niles Discovery Church
Editor: Judy Smith

Articles may be submitted in writing to the church office or they can be e-mailed to tothebell@comcast.net

Jeff's Jottings



This is a bit of a disjointed column, because there are four very different things that I want to comment on. Here they are, in chronological order.

On Sunday, May 5, we will have a guest preacher: the Rev. Barbara Meyers. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, so the Ministry of Spiritual Life and I invited Barbara to preach. Barbara is a Unitarian Universalist Community Minister endorsed by the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont. Her ministry is focused on mental health issues and includes educational, healing, social justice and priestly functions, which has included creating a public access TV show and a series of YouTube videos.

Unfortunately, there is a social stigma associated with mental illness, and this stigma prevents many, perhaps even a majority of people with mental illnesses from seeking help. I hope that Barbara's sermon, "Nature, Theology, and Recovery from Mental Health Problems," will help us break down that social stigma.

On May 12, we will have our first Annual Meeting as a fully merged Niles Discovery Church. Congratulations! As you'll see on page 1, we will approve minutes of past congregational meetings and elect officers and chairs of the Standing Ministry Teams. You are welcome to join any Ministry Team at any time. See the article on page 1.

651 hours of earth care, the planting of 54 trees, and the writing of 63 letters. That's what you reported in just the first three weeks of Mission 4/1 Earth. Congratulations! Let's keep it up. See pages 6-7 for more information about how you can be involved. I'm wondering if we will end up with close to 1500 hours of earth care, over 100 trees, and over 150 letters. Do you think we can?

Finally, I hope you will save the date – June 9, 3:00 p.m. – for Pastor Brenda's ordination. See the article on page 1 with details on how you can be involved. This is going to be a wonderful celebration for Brenda, for our congregation, and for the wider church. I hope you will be there!

Peace,
Jeff

Pastor Jeff's personal blog is at jeffsjottings.wordpress.com.
He is publishing his sermons there so you can leave feedback or comments.



Subscribe to newsletters from the wider church

You can subscribe to the weekly email newsletters from the UCC Conference by going to <http://bit.ly/QFhbEz> and entering your email address. You can subscribe to the weekly email newsletter from the DOC Region by going to <http://conta.cc/SlhyQL> and typing in your email address.

You can subscribe to email newsletters from the national settings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at <http://bit.ly/n1Mzfk> and the United Church of Christ at <http://j.mp/odITLO>.

Please hold in prayer ...

You are invited to hold these requests in prayer:

Because of their health concerns:

Jean Kneisler;
Marilyn Rasler;
 our Pastor Emerita, the Rev. Dr. **Sally Smith;**
Pat Weaver;
Frank Molander;
Bruce Kieft;
Diana Roeding;
Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;
Sarah Boyer;
Ryan BoyerTaylor;
Carol Baer;
Doug Higgins;
Fred Anderson;
Rollie Eaton;
Arlene Snagor;
Julia Parks;
Don Dillon;
Doug Swint's mother;
Doug Swint's father;
 Carol Easter's mother, **Barbara;**
 Julia Fernades' **unborn baby;**
 Isaiah Espinoza's uncle, **Lyle Espinoza;**
Nancy Walker's cousin;
Rod Reyes' grandmother;
 Judy Baumgardner's daughter **LeAnn;**
 Joanne Gehrer's friend's daughter, **Kim Benavente;**
 Pat Weaver's great-grandson **Kyle;**
 Harry Jordan's brother-in-law **Lawrence Freitas;**
 Isaiah and Aiyanna's grandfather **Ed Espinoza;**
 Dorothy Williams' daughter **Belinda Williams;**
Bill Palleschi's father and mother;
 Shirley Dunlap's son **David Dunlap;**
 Shirley Dunlap's sister **Nancy Cook;**
Nancy Walker's dad;
 Joy Hurst's mom **Ruby Hurst.**

All who are grieving.

People who've asked to be held in prayer:

Kyle Lambert (son of Lisa Lambert);
 the **residents at Lincoln Villa;**
 Ron Adamson's sister and brother-in-law, **Joanne & Alden Orput.**

The safety (and in some cases safe return) of members of the congregation and our friends and loved ones serving in the military, including: **Chris Swint, Scott Swint, and Ben Gonzales.**

People who are unemployed and under-employed, especially members of our church, that they find employment that fills their hearts and souls.

These leaders of our congregation:

members of the Cabinet;
 the **Construction Team;**
Pastor Jeff Spencer;
Pastor Brenda Loreman;
 the **Care Team.**

Families, including families in our congregation, where there is conflict and disturbance, thinking especially of the children who are powerless and vulnerable in these situations.

Friends and family seeking to live clean and sober lives.

People (and all of creation) around the globe suffering from natural disasters, from human-made disasters, and from repression, violence, and war.

People around the globe who are seeking and claiming freedom.

The political leaders of our communities, states, and country.

All the people of the world, that we embrace ways to lessen the impact of global climate change.

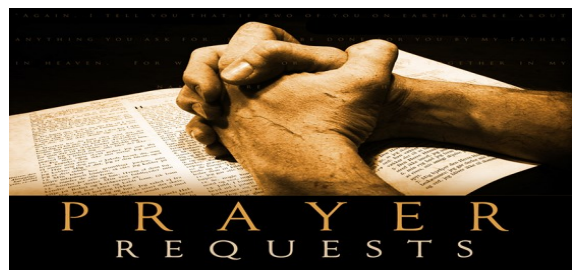
Refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees, and stateless persons.

Peace throughout the earth.

And you can check out the United Church of Christ calendar of prayer at <http://www.ucc.org/worship/calendar/>.

A reminder about this prayer list:

If you have a prayer request that you'd like added to this list (or removed), please let Pastor Jeff know.



Construction Team offers progress update

Your Team is working steadily with our architects, JSW/D, to try to make the construction date on our timeline. Right now, the construction at 36600 should begin either in August or September, if we are able to provide all the information needed and all the consulting work can be completed. The architects are working closely with the city of Fremont to make sure that everything is in order, and the City likes our plans and the way they are being handled.

The configuration of the sanctuary has been chosen, and now the details of materials, projection possibilities, acoustics, and flooring are being considered. It grows more beautiful with each decision, so all of the congregation's hard work in making lists and data sheets is now invaluable.

Canyon Construction will soon come in with cost sheets, so we will then be able to see if we are on budget or if we have to make some changes to keep us on track. All costs are being kept track of by our treasurer and Cecilia, and we will keep you fully informed of our financial decisions as we make them.

Right now, we are working with AV experts to plan the acoustics and the AV equipment. It is our intention to re-use as much of the quality equipment from both churches as we can. We will be including hearing assistance if it is financially possible, as we think that is important to many people.

We have plans to invite members, former members, and friends to become Angels to help finance some costs and objects that will make our new church very special. We hope that you will want to become an Angel if that fits into your budget, and if you can only be a Prayer Angel right now, that works too. Angel letters along with the Angel List will be mailed out soon, and gifts will be recorded in a special Angel Book.

The Team is working hard, and the excitement is building. Each person on the Team brings some expertise to the table, and pulling together we are making it all happen. Keep watching the bulletin board in Ford Hall for plan updates, and if you have more ideas, tell them to us. There is still time to make changes to improve the final result.

Steve Rosellini,
Mark Twist, Bill
Palleschi, Judy Mo-
lander, Bruce Kieft,
Alta Jo Adamson,
Steve Armstrong,
Matt Espinosa, Carl
Nordling, John Hol-
lowell, Sandy
Thomas, Marilyn
Singer, the Pastors



Let the PPRC know

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) wants to hear from you. Contact any PPRC member – Ron Adamson, Mark Twist, Judy Molander, Judy Hollowell, Dena Hokom, Annie O'Hare, Pastor Jeff Spencer, and Pastor Brenda Loreman – if you have a concern about the life of the church that you want to explore. If you have a church relationship that's hurting and want some assistance in healing it, speak to one of them.



Are you on Facebook?

If you are on Facebook, please "like" the Niles Discovery Church page. You can find it at www.facebook.com/NilesDiscoveryChurch. Use your smart phone to let people know that you're at church on Sunday morning. Once you've clicked the "Like" button, it will change to "Liked." Click it again, then click on "Get Notifications" in the drop down menu. This way, you will receive a notification whenever we post something on the page.

You can also join our Facebook "group" at www.facebook.com/groups/nilesdiscoverychurch/

MISSION 4/1 EARTH:

50 Great Days

Meatless Potluck & Letter Writing Party helps us reach goal

One of the nation-wide goals of "Mission 4/1 Earth" is to have members of the United Church of Christ write 100,000 advocacy letters on environmental concerns to elected officials and local and national newspapers. To help reach this goal, the Ministry of Social Concerns Team will host a letter-writing party following worship on Sunday, May 5, in Ford Hall during a "Meatless Potluck." The MSC Team will have sample letters on several causes and addresses to whom the letters can be sent.

Plan to stick around a little longer on Sunday, May 5, and put your hand to work caring for the earth. Letters written that day will be stamped and mailed by the church.

Blue Gold investigates the commodification of water



BLUE GOLD
THE WAR OVER YOUR WATER IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

"This is not a film about saving our environment. This is a film about saving ourselves." So says narrator Malcolm McDowell in the opening of *Blue Gold: World Water Wars*. The documentary will be shown on Saturday, May 18, at 1:30 p.m., in Ford Hall, as part of our "Mission 4/1 Earth" activities. The screening will be followed with a discussion.

Life on this planet is not possible without water. Yet, all across the globe, people are polluting, diverting, pumping, and wasting limited supplies of fresh water as population and technology grows. Rampant overdevelopment of agriculture, housing, and industry increases the demands for fresh water, often well beyond the finite local supplies, ultimately resulting in desertification.

But that is only the first problem. The second problem is the commodification of water. Corporate giants are seeking to privatize public water systems for their own profit. Sometimes privatization comes as a condition of international loans. Corrupt governments use water for economic and political gain. Military control of water emerges and

a new geo-political map and power structure forms, setting the stage for world water wars.

The United Nations has declared through Resolution 64/292 (passed 28 July 2010, after this film was made) that there is a basic the human right to water and sanitation. However, problems still exist. When water systems are privatized, guaranteeing this human right becomes much harder.

The film explores not only these problems, but also solutions. It shows people fighting for their basic right to water, from court cases to violent revolutions to revised constitutions to local protests at grade schools.

A line is crossed as water becomes a commodity. Will we survive?

What counts as Earth Care Hours?

- Make your trip to church tomorrow count as earth care time. Bring you aluminum cans for recycling.
- Count one earth care hour for each load of laundry you do during these 50 great days ... if you do it in COLD water.
- Haven't changed your light bulbs to CFLs? Planning to change to an energy efficient appliance? Let Mission
- 4/1 Earth be your excuse. Count the time it takes to do this!
- Do you carry a water bottle so you don't buy water in plastic bottles? Give yourself credit for 1 earth care hour each week.
- Biking, car pooling, walking, using public transportation during these 50 great days counts as earth care hours.

MISSION 4/1 EARTH:

50 Great Days

Schedule a “Green House Call”

This summer, local cities are supporting FREE energy and water assessments for your home, and the installation of free CFLs, showerheads, retractable clotheslines, power strips, and more through California Youth Energy Services. These free Green House Calls are available to all homeowners *and* renters, regardless of income level! But they are only available July 2 through August 8, so call 510.665.1501 x10 to reserve yours today.

Report your *Mission 4/1 Earth* hours each week

Just three weeks into Mission 4/1 Earth, and you have reported 651 hours of earth care, the planting of 54 trees, and the writing of 63 letters.

Please keep caring for the earth and please keep reporting your hours, trees, and letters. Use the insert in the bulletin each week to report, and place it in the offering plate. The data from the reports will be collected and reported to the national settings of the church. You can track how the United Church of Christ is doing as a whole by going to www.ucc.org/earth at any time (as of the press deadlines, the totals were: 97,462 hours; 16,462 trees; 14868 letters).

Counting how many trees you planted and donated via the ucc.org/earth website is easy. Counting how many letters (or emails) you’ve written in any given week isn’t too hard. But figuring out how many earth-care hours you’ve given may prove to be a bit more challenging. Remember, anything you do that cares for the earth counts. Carpooling counts. Hanging up clothes (instead of using a drier) counts. Any project around the home to make it more energy efficient counts. Time spent learning about what you can do to care for the earth counts. Time spent engaging and teaching kids about earth care counts. And remember to count your time planting trees and writing letters, too!



Worship Leaders Sought

Liturgist Team meeting

If you would like to join (or continue on) the Liturgist Team, please plan to attend their annual training and planning meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Remember, you must attend to be on the team during the 2013-14 year.

Time with the Children training

If you would like to be one of the people who leads the “Time with the Children” during worship, please attend the very brief training on Sunday, May 19, immediately after worship. Gather by the communion table.

Evening Women's Fellowship

The evening women's fellowship met at the home of Judy Molander on April 9. The lesson was "What's the Point?" based on the Beatitudes.

The May meeting will be at the home of Kay McFarland at 2:00 PM NOT 7:00 p.m. The lesson will be "That's the Point," based on Mark 6:30-44.

Judy, Shirley Dunlap, and Dorletta Larsen plan to attend the Spring Gathering of Women at First Christian Church of Palo Alto on Saturday, April 20.



We've gone Yahoo!

One great way to be in touch is to join the Niles Discovery Church's Yahoo email group. Go to groups.yahoo.com/group/nilesdiscoverychurch/ and click on the blue "Join This Group!" button on the right toward the top of the page. Once your membership has been confirmed, you'll start getting emails with announcements and prayer request. There are generally five or six emails a week on the list, so your inbox won't be swamped. Also, once you're a part of the group, you can send emails to everyone else in the group by sending an email to nilesdiscoverychurch@yahoo.com. Please add this address to your spam filter as a "safe" address.

Time to register for Summer Camps 2013

2013 Summer Camps at Cazadero

Senior High (grades 9-12): July 14-20
 Junior Camp (grades 3-6) and CIT: July 21-27
 Jr. High (grades 6-9): July 28-Aug 3
 You and Me camp (grades K-3 with adult): Aug 16-18
 Adult Spiritual Retreat (age 18 and up): Aug 9-11

2013 Summer Camps at Community of the Great Commission

Adults: June 6-9
 Junior (grades 4-6) and Chi Rho (grades 7-9): June 23-29
 Grandparents and Me (grades K-3), Session I: June 29-July 1
 Christian Youth Fellowship (grades 10-G): June 30-July 6
 Grandparents and Me (grades K-3) Camp, Session II: July 1-3

2013 Summer Camps at Tamarack

Jr./Jr. High (grades 4-8) and CIT: July 21-27
 Sr. High (grades 9-12): July 28-Aug 3

School Grades: School grades above are the grade a child is going into in September.

How to register: Registration forms are available in the church office or from Pastor Jeff or Pastor Brenda. Fill out the forms and return them to Pastor Jeff before the deadline (see below). We hope to provide all children and youth attending camp an automatic campership of \$200. If you need an additional campership, please make a note of that on your registration forms.

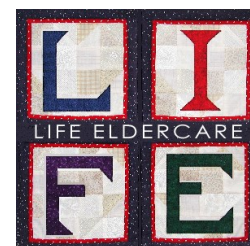
Registration Deadlines: For camps at Community of the Great Commission, the deadline is May 12. For camps at Cazadero and Tamarack, the deadline is May 26.

Community Bulletin Board

California Nursery Historical Park: The final plan approval is pending from the City of Fremont for the California Nursery Historical Park and community gardens at 36501 Niles Boulevard, directly across the street from 36600 Niles Blvd., the location of our new church facility. Workshops are already happening there, like the free one of May 4, 9:00 to noon, about Water Efficient Landscape Irrigation.

It's great to know that we will have wonderful neighbors who care about the environment and who will help create a beautiful setting on Niles Blvd. to mirror what we are creating at 36600.

LIFE ElderCare Fundraiser: LIFE ElderCare is having a Fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes on May 8, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner for two will raise funds for one hot meal delivered to a homebound senior. Judy Zlatnik will have flyers that need to be turned in with your payment in order for LIFE ElderCare to get credit.



May 2013

Niles Discovery Church

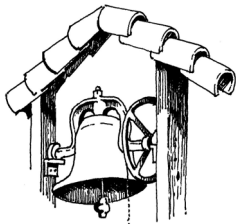
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30 PM Spiritual Direction Group A (Ch)	2 7:28 PM Choir Rehearsal (Ch)	3	4
				NCNC-UCC Annual Gathering, Hotel Sofitel, Redwood Shores		
Mission 4/1 Earth						
5 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship & Sunday School 11:30 AM Meatless Potluck & Letter Writing Party NCNC-UCC Annual Gather...	6 7:30 PM Ministry Team meetings	7 7:00 PM Construction Team (HR)	8 7:00 PM Evening Women's Fellowship	9 7:28 PM Choir Rehearsal (Ch)	10	11 10:30 AM Luncheon set-up 12:00 PM Spring Luncheon (FH) 1:30 PM Documentary Screening (S3)
Mission 4/1 Earth						
12 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship & Sunday School 11:45 AM Annual Meeting 11:45 AM Town Hall Meeting	13	14 12:00 PM Merrill Gardens lunch 7:00 PM Construction Team (HR)	15 7:30 PM Care Team	16 7:28 PM Choir Rehearsal (Ch)	17	18
Mission 4/1 Earth						
19 Pentecost 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship & Sunday School 11:15 AM TWTC Training 12:15 PM Lunch with the Pastor Mission 4/1 Earth	20 11:30 AM Daytime Women's Fellowship (FH) 7:00 PM Cabinet meeting (FH)	21 5:00 PM Bell deadline 7:00 PM Construction Team (HR)	22 10:00 AM Lap Robe Tying Group (HR) 7:30 PM Liturgist Team Training	23 7:28 PM Choir Rehearsal (Ch)	24	25
26 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship & Sunday School	27 Memorial Day - office closed 7:00 PM Communion Elders meeting (CR)	28 7:00 PM Construction Team (HR) 7:30 PM Book Club (Carol Baer's)	29	30 7:28 PM Choir Rehearsal (Ch)	31	



Niles Discovery Church

Rev. Jeffrey Spencer, Pastor
Rev. Brenda Loreman, Associate Pastor
PO Box 2265
255 H Street
Fremont CA 94536

Phone: 510-797-0895
<http://nilesdiscoverychurch.org>



The Bell is First Class

If you received this issue of *The Bell* through the US Mail, then you received it first class. You can help reduce our costs by receiving *The Bell* as a pdf email attachment. Please let **both** Judy Smith (tothebell@comcast.net) and Cecilia Le (cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org) know if you can start receiving *The Bell* via email.

Niles Discovery Church



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