



# The Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

MAY 2016

*A Parsonal Point of View ~*

## Mother's Day

There was a little boy who forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory went blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue. "I am the light of the world." The boy's face lit up and with great feeling and a loud and clear voice he said, "My mother is the light of the world."

I know this thing about pressure for moms is really nothing new. Eve was blamed for Original Sin and had one son who killed his brother. Hagar, Abraham's handmaiden, was sent away by Abraham with her boy, Ishmael, and they almost died in the desert. Jochebed was the mother of Moses. Egyptians were killing all male Hebrew babies to curb population at that time, so she placed Moses in a basket and let it loose on the river. Mary, the mother of Jesus, found no room in the inn, and then had to flee to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. Jesus was missing at the Temple. She endured His trial and crucifixion.

Sookja Pak, my mother became a single mother with two young children (ages five and three years) when she was in her twenties because of a motorcycle accident; had a child critically ill; had to sell most of her assets for paying the medical bills; and had to move the whole family to a new land called "America" without knowing anyone because of this sick child. How about YOUR MOTHER? I am sure that you have a story to tell about your mother. Let's share the stories of our mothers. I love to hear the stories.

It might be tough for some of you to come to church on Mother's Days. You've prayed for a child but God's answer has seemed to be no, or maybe you've experienced the pain of losing your mom or a child, and the memories are all-consuming on a day like Mother's Day. Maybe years ago you chose to end a pregnancy, and that decision still haunts you. Others of you just feel inadequate. Others are presently feeling incredible fulfillment from being a mom. No matter how you feel, mothers, you all are AWESOME! Thank you for being "MOM!"

Blessed be all mothers who have come into our lives whose kindness, care and loving remain with us to guide. Happy Mother's Day! Ribbit!

*~ Pastor Sunny*

### Don't Miss What's Inside

- 1 PPV: Mother's Day
- 3 Church Council Notes
- 4 ARC Status Report
- 5 Refugee Resettlement
- 6 Mission Opportunities
- 7 May Communion Offering
- 8 Between the Bookends
- 9 to 11 Kindness Matters (including Bonus Kindness Matters!)
- 12 Senior Scoop
- 13 SRVUMC Family Ministries
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Next Issue: June 2016**

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org) by May 15, 2016.*

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# Church Council Meeting Notes

from March 29, 2016 Meeting

By Terry Sherman, Chair

The following persons are members of the Church Council, formerly the Administrative Board:

Chair – Terry Sherman

Vice Chair – Jim McKnight

Co-Lay Leader – Debra Carter

Co-Lay Leader – Lea Hickman

Secretary – Maggie Stienstra

### Pastoral Staff

Ron Dunn

Sunny Ahn

Luke Ham

### Practice Groups

Radical Hospitality Chair – Carol Warnock

Passionate Worship Chair –

Joanne Van Bezey

Intentional Faith Development Chair – Bill Rust

Risk Taking Mission and Service Chair – Paul Kuelz

Extravagant Hospitality Chair – Harry Knapp

### Administrative Committees

Board of Trustees Chair – Mark Miller

Staff Parish Relations Chair – Don Field

Finance Chair– Brad Tolstedt

Nominations & Leadership Development Chair – Fred Toney

Strategic Development & Implementation Chair – Jim McKnight

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The Council approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the 2016 budget. **Total income is projected to be \$1,109,450**, an increase of \$11,687 over the 2015 budget, with **total expenses projected to be \$1,130,577**, an increase of \$11,570 over 2015, leaving a budget deficit of \$21,127. The budget and Brad Tolstedt's presentation are on the Church website at [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org).

**Quentin Alexander reported on the progress of the ARC building.** Construction is well underway. His full report is on the [website](#). *Read more about ARC progress on page 4.*

**Council members and Strategic Initiative leaders** recently met with Greg Bergquist, the California-Nevada Annual Conference Superintendent for Leadership Development, for a one-and-a-half-day retreat at San Damiano Retreat Center. The primary purpose of the retreat was to bring together the members of the new Church Council and the leaders of the Strategic Initiatives **to create a leadership team that will be responsible, among other things, to lead the implementation of the recently adopted Strategic Initiatives.** A follow-up meeting was held to further discuss collaboration between Practice Groups and Strategic Initiative teams.

**Mark Miller** reported on the progress of the **courtyard awning**, and he also reported that the **parking lot will be repaved at the end of construction with 1.5-inch asphalt.** The Trustees' full report is on the [website](#).

**Paul Kuelz** reported that a joint mission project is being considered with other churches in

our Circuit to explore the **possibility of providing assistance to a refugee family or families that may resettle in our area**. SRVUMC member **Liz Bayat** has agreed to lead a fifteen-member Circuit task force. Missions is working toward an effort to communicate and inform our congregation about the refugee resettlement issue. **Check out page 5 for more.**

**Pastor Ron interviewed David Bayat**, a native of Afghanistan who came to the U.S. many years ago as a refugee when Afghanistan was under Soviet occupation, during worship services on April 10. **Great Decisions** discussed the worldwide refugee situation on April 17.

The Church Council affirmed the effort to further explore the refugee resettlement project and report back in due course.

**Pastor Sunny reported on her recent two-week trip to the Holy Land** with a group of 12 members from SRVUMC and Lynnewood UMC on a trip.

**Pastor Luke reported that the Easter sunrise service was magnificent.** Intergenerational parents attended along with the youth. Pastor Luke also reported that he recently participated in the **“Every 15 Minutes” at Monte Vista HS**. The program educates youth on the dangers of drinking and driving. Luke will also spend two days on campus at San Ramon Valley HS; Forty of the “dead” (actors) will be housed at SRVUMC in preparation for the program.

**Pastor Ron related that SRVUMC’s childcare program needs greater financial support if we want to involve families in the life of the Church, as called for in our Strategic Initiatives.** Our 2016 budget provides only \$5,000 for childcare; in comparison, Santa Rosa UMC’s budget several years ago provided \$25,000. The Council will consider the issue at the next Council meeting.

**State Child Care Licensing** approved an increase in the capacity of the Preschool from 46 to 50 children on campus, effectively immediately.

The minutes of the Council meeting, together with reports, are on the [website](#).

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## Help Your Church Endowment Fund with A Gift That Will Not Affect Your Cash Flow

Gifts of appreciated assets such as

- **Securities**
- **Real estate**

are an excellent way for you to help your church, and yourself at the same time. These gifts provide the following tax benefits for you:

1. Generate an **immediate income tax deduction** and tax savings
2. Avoid federal and state **capital gains** taxes
3. Avoid the tax on **net investment** income



## San Ramon Valley Chorale Premiere Performance!

**Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m.**

**Wesley Center**

The newly formed 71-voice San Ramon Valley Chorale under the direction of **Bruce Koliha** will be giving the third and final concert of this year’s concert series sponsored by the church. **Admission is free, though a good will offering will be taken.** The group will present a varied concert of both sacred and secular music, from Mozart to bluegrass (with bluegrass band!) to operatic chorus. Not to be missed!



# ARC Status Update

Have you thought to yourself, “It appears not much is happening on the ARC. I don’t see any walls yet.” Well, while there are no walls thus far, much is going on in the ground.

## Progress So Far

The contractor spent March and the first half of April getting the underground work done on the building.

- Electrical service was installed and is ready to connect to the new electrical panel when it is installed.
- New regulations require that the water run-off from the parking lot and the roof must go through a filtration process before being released into the creek. Several drains have been built with connecting runs to catch the water and filter out the toxins coming from our cars, such as oil and gasoline.
- The fire water line was installed. This portion of the project took a month to complete, which was longer than expected.
- The remaining cyclone fence on the northeast corner of the parking lot has been removed, and a new fence has been completed.

## What’s Next?

This is where you’ll really start to see progress:

- Foundation and slab floor will be completed during the last part of April and into May.
- Wall framing is expected to start at the beginning of June.

Finally, discussions with several prospective individual coaches, associations, and other organizations who have expressed interest in renting our facility for camps, clinics, and group play for various ages of children, youth, and adults have been taking place.

Now we are assessing the fit we have with these groups. The “fit” takes into consideration not only their compatibility with our mission, but also the availability of times and days of the week in which they are interested as it relates to our envisioned schedule of operation.

If you have other questions please feel free to either send me an e-mail, or give me a telephone call.

*Jim Burk*

*Volunteer ARC Director*

*E-mail: [jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)*

*Telephone: (925) 946-1192*



*ARC construction as of April 17, 2016.*

## Men’s Breakfast Group

All Methodist Men are invited to Christian fellowship and a hearty breakfast on the **third Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in Wesley Center.**

**Saturday, May 21:** the speaker will be Mark Jewett, who is a member of our church and a member of the SRV School Board. He will talk on the challenges facing the schools in our valley.

**Saturday, June 18:** a group of church members will report on their recent trip to Palestine.



# Refugee Resettlement Task Force

There are more than 50 million displaced people in the world as a result of global conflict. In particular, the reports of the suffering of the Syrian refugees is heart wrenching.

Every year 85,000 refugees, through a very strenuous vetting process by the U.S. State Department, are allowed entry into the United States as U.S. Citizens. Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) works with the State Department to assist approximately 700 refugees (regardless of ethnicity) to successfully resettle to the East Bay each year.

**Task Force:** More recently members of three local church communities, who form our local Methodist Circuit, have gathered together to form the Refugee Resettlement Task Force which is designed to support the resettlement of refugee families to the East Bay through monetary and volunteer support. We are teaming with Catholic Charities on this new ministry.

**Volunteers:** We will help with housing, home furnishings, stocking food pantry, clothing, school enrollment, job search, English language tutoring, transportation, medical, dental, mentoring and socialization.

**Money:** It takes approximately \$8,000 to support a family in the resettlement process. This covers the first and last months' rent and other expenses while refugee family members find work.

At present, we are fundraising and soliciting volunteers to help. Our church has offered to raise \$2,500 towards the circuit goal of \$8,000. Two of the churches have already raised their share. There was a special request for donations at the April 17 service. You may offer your contribution at that time or **just send your donation to the office at any time. Make out the check to SRVUMC and memo Refugees.** An anonymous donor has already offered to match the first \$1,000.

**Housing:** Most refugees in the East Bay are placed in housing in the broader Oakland area, where CCEB can access affordable housing. If we could access an affordable unit in the Tri-valley we would place them here. If you are able to assist with this project, then please contact Liz Bayat.

**Timing:** We believe we will be ready to take a family by May 2016.

If you can give of your time or donate items, then please contact **Liz Bayat at 925-487-9693 or [lbayat@aol.com](mailto:lbayat@aol.com).**

**Great lecture to watch:**

**TED Talks**

**[Why Refugees Have a Right To Be Protected](#)**

## Nepal Missionary Katherine T. Parker

**Luncheon on Sunday, May 1, Noon**

**Wesley Center**

Katherine T. Parker, supported by SRVUMC, is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church serving in Nepal. Katherine wants to thank our church for our continued support, and the generosity of its Nepal earthquake relief. This spring, she is visiting the United Methodist churches supporting her work, including San Ramon Valley UMC. She will be visiting from April 19 through May 3, and May 22 through June 26.

Parker has much exciting news to share about the recovery from the earthquake, continuing challenges, and an herb mission in Kathmandu. According to **[the California Nevada Conference website](#)**, she has a community development project underway in the Rukum District, in the remote, mountainous area to the north and west of Kathmandu.

Parker's home church is Mt. Tamalpais UMC in Mill Valley. She studied at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont for her undergraduate work and completed her master's degree from Sacramento State. Before her current appointment in Nepal, she served in Cambodia for five years.

**Please attend a luncheon in her honor at noon on Sunday, May 1 in Wesley Center sponsored by the Benevolent Giving Committee.**

# Upcoming Mission Opportunities

## LOCAL

- **Serve Lunch at Glide Memorial Church** in SF **May 22**. Need 23 volunteers. Contact Debbie Koos at [glkoos@comcast.net](mailto:glkoos@comcast.net).
- **Habitat for Humanity 30th Anniversary Build-A-Thon, June 17 to 21**. Join us in celebrating 30 years of serving the community. Hundreds of volunteers will come together to build six homes at our Muir Ridge development in Martinez. More details to come!
- **California Mission Project**: We will travel to Weed, California (near Mt. Shasta) to help rebuild from the 2014 Boles Fire. We will carpool to the area on **Saturday, June 25 and return on Thursday, June 30**. Check our website or contact Larry Pasquale, 640-8799, [larry\\_pasquale@hotmail.com](mailto:larry_pasquale@hotmail.com).



## The Great Decisions of Our Age

What are the great global decisions facing the U.S.? **Each Sunday until May 15, at 10:20 a.m. in Wesley Center**, our church will hold a series of discussions on critical global issues using a guide prepared by the Foreign Affairs Association. As part of an annual, nationwide program, groups of concerned citizens throughout the US will discuss why the issues are important and why we should be concerned.

The facilitator will be Lyn Arscott. We will use a written guide and a DVD.

### May 1 — The United Nations: Post- 2015

On the eve of the international organization's 70th birthday, the United Nations stands at a crossroads. This year marks a halfway point in the organization's global effort to eradicate poverty, hunger and discrimination, as well as ensure justice and dignity for all peoples. But as the UN's 193 member states look back at the success of the millennium development goals, they also must assess their needs for its sustainable development goals — a new series of benchmarks, which are set to expire in 2030. With the appointment of the ninth Secretary-General in the near future as well, the next U.S. President is bound to have quite a lot on his or her plate going into office.

### May 8 — Climate Geopolitics

In the past few years, the American public has become more aware of the damage wrought by climate change. From droughts in the west to extreme weather in the east, a rapidly changing climate has already made its footprint in the United States. Now, it is expected that the presidential election in 2016 will be one of the first to place an emphasis on these environmental changes. What can the next President do to stymie this environmental crisis? And is it too late for these efforts to be effective?

### May 15 — Cuba and the U.S.

The U.S. announced in December 17, 2014, that, after decades of isolation, it would be taking major steps to normalize relations with Cuba, its neighbor to the south. The announcement marked a dramatic shift away from a policy that has its roots in one of the darkest moments of the Cold War — the Cuban missile crisis. Although the U.S. trade embargo is unlikely to end any time soon, American and Cuban leaders today are trying to bring a relationship once defined by antithetical ideologies into the 21st century.

# May Communion Offering

This month's communion offering supports **Youth Missions** in three crucial ways.

- **Work Study:** Allows any youth to work jobs around the church — serving at events, cleaning, childcare, et cetera — to raise funds for his or her mission account.
- **General Scholarship:** Helps families who need additional resources to allow their youth to go on one of our mission trips.
- **Transportation Costs:** Pays for rental trucks, vans and fuel for our youth mission trips.



This year's youth missions will go to **Gleanings for the Hungry** and to **Sierra Service Project** in San Diego.

## Sierra Service Project (SSP), San Diego

Sierra Service Project organizes summertime construction projects implemented by high school-age work teams including our own youth at SRVUMC. Most projects improve residences with roofing, wheelchair ramps and other general home repairs. However, sometimes work teams participate in projects for public spaces like churches, schools or similar community buildings. About half of the 2015 projects improved community sites, and this year's tasks include graffiti removal and cleaning up alleyways. Last year, some projects completed by SSP included garden boxes for the Smith River United Methodist Church parsonage and dog cages for the local animal shelter.

## Gleanings for the Hungry

San Ramon Valley UMC youth have worked with Gleanings for the Hungry in past years. This nonprofit organization operates as a ministry arm of Youth With A Mission to feed the hungry of approximately 40 countries worldwide. Gleanings is located near Fresno, CA.



Gleanings has two familiar programs. First, it began processing about 15,000 pounds of donated cull fruit in the summer of 1982 on donated equipment. Today, fresh peaches and nectarines are well-known donated fruit offered by Gleanings. Later, it began to distribute dried soup. However, this organization donates a variety of foodstuffs to recipient countries, including beans, rice and cereal. In 2011, Gleanings volunteers packaged and shipped over 30 million eight-ounce servings of soup mix and over 550,000 pounds of dried fruit. This food was distributed on location in partner countries, about 30 countries that year. Our youth will be processing and packaging fruit and soup mix to be sent around the world.



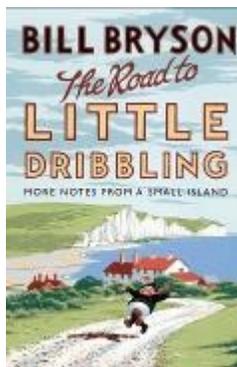


## Between the Bookends

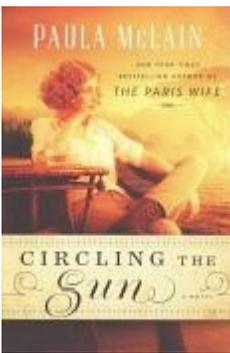
By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

If you're reading this column, chances are you have more than a passing interest in books...reading...literature. You have at least a few bookish friends that you love sharing books with — what you're reading now, what you just finished, a new title you just heard about. Books truly are a magic carpet that give you an eye-opening, heart-thumping trip almost anywhere in the world, or out of this world.

Here are a few new ones in our Church Library that will take you far away. For a little while, you will walk in the rich, red soil of Kenya, step aboard a floating bookshop in Paris, wonder at the quiet green beauty of England, and feel at home in the warm practicality of Holland. Bon voyage!

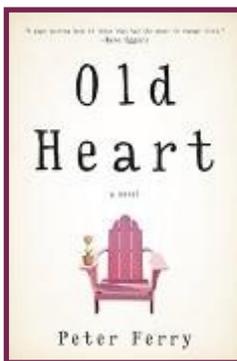


**Bryson, Bill. *The Road to Little Dribbling*.** *From a Small Island.* While he revisits some of the same places, mostly he visits new ones. Bryson seems a little more of a curmudgeon now — he's 64 — but he's honest and funny and makes us laugh at little British eccentricities, despair at the English propensity to litter, and wonder at the beauty of the English countryside. If you're a Bryson fan, not to be missed.



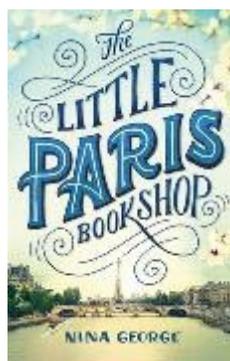
**McLain, Paula. *Circling the Sun*.** Here is the eagerly awaited latest book by the author who gave us *The Paris Wife*. It's a wonderful story of Beryl Markham, who grew up a British ex-pat in Kenya in the 1920s. Markham's family did not have the money that most colonials possessed, but she became the finest horse trainer in Kenya, a friend of Karen Blixen (who wrote *Out of Africa* under the name of Isak Dinesen) and finally the first pilot

who flew solo east to west across the Atlantic Ocean. What a woman! What a book!



**Ferry, Peter. *Old Heart*.** There aren't many Amazon five star novels, but this one rates the full five! Tom Johnson is an old man, afraid his well-meaning children mean to place him in a "residence home", and he decides it just won't happen. We learn about Tom, those children, and a long deferred dream Tom has of returning to Holland to find the girl he met as a young GI, and just can't forget. Perfectly crafted, you'll soon be inside

Tom's skin, and cheering for him.



**George, Nina. *The Little Paris Bookshop*.** Welcome to a love letter to books and reading! It's a floating bookshop on the Seine in Paris, where Monsieur Perdu has an uncanny ability to find just the right book to cure anyone's loneliness or troubles. He says that "books are more than doctors, of course. Some are loving, lifelong companions; some give you a clip around the ear; others are friends who wrap you in warm towels when you've got those autumn

blues." Full of literary allusions, you'll love watching M. Perdu find exactly the right book for each person who seeks his help. Now, if only he could help himself...

*How shall I know, unless I go  
To Cairo and Cathay,  
Whether or not this blessed spot  
Is blest in every way?*

*Now it may be, the flower for me  
Is this beneath my nose;  
How shall I tell, unless I smell  
The Carthaginian rose?*

— Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1892-1950

**Bryson, Bill. *The Road to Little Dribbling; Adventures of an American in Britain*.** Bryson once again makes his way around England, just as he did in his bestselling *Notes*

# Kindness Matters Corner



**To all readers:** Where do you think all of these kindness stories come from? The Internet? Nope! YouTube, newspapers, magazines? Nope! Try again. You are thinking way too big. Every story is homegrown! Every one is the story from our SRVUMC family. Each is a kindness given, a kindness received, or a kindness observed in our Tri-Valley area!

You may directly share your stories of kindness to the website in this way: Send your story to [kindness@srvumc.org](mailto:kindness@srvumc.org). Your story will be posted to the church website within a few days.

**Food for Thought.** This is the recent experience of a church member, when the kindness of her colleagues was given to her:

It was Monday of the week when our team was scheduled to cook for Trinity Center's Friday lunch, "Food for Thought." The menu was planned, and I was compiling the shopping list when my daughter called: she was terribly ill and in need of my help. My "motherly instincts" kicked into high gear, but I had so many counting on me to organize this lunch. What to do?

I called one of my loyal team members who helps us prepare for our Friday lunches.

"Would you be able to help me?" I pleaded. "I'll get the food tomorrow and leave it in the Wesley Center kitchen with all the instructions."

He kindly agreed to take the lead. His parting words, "family first!" calmed me. My flight was booked for Wednesday morning.

I tried to sleep Monday night, wondering and worrying if I could get everything bought and organized on Tuesday as I had promised.

Early Tuesday morning I received the angelic call, "Don't worry about the shopping. I've got a menu and a plan, and we'll get it done. Go take care of your daughter."

My stress level scaled back, and I could think about my daughter and readying for the trip. I was overjoyed with such kindness, and tears of joy filled my eyes and warmed my heart. Other words of kindness from the team and church members added to my comfort.

They always say a good team "has your back." God's gift of this team was the living example of that! They truly are "Living the Word."

P.S. My daughter is great, and word is so was the lunch!

**Considering Pride.** It is easy and a good thing to offer kindnesses whenever we see an opportunity. But we can't overlook the receptivity and feelings of the receiver. For example, someone appearing to struggle with a walker or other mobility aid may almost resent an offer of assistance if the offer is loudly given among others. That kind of offer announces to all those persons within earshot that you question the receiver's ability to care for him— or herself. In consideration of the feelings of those we wish to help, a quiet and confidential offer would be a better and more appreciated approach.

# Kindness Matters Corner—Bonus!

*This article relates the experience of a church couple and their encounters with a homeless woman.*



## **The Red-Haired Woman on Pennsylvania Avenue**

Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. It's a famous street. In fact, the most famous address in the United States of America is on this street: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the address of the White House. I am, however, walking on a different block of Pennsylvania Avenue, a little beyond the Capitol building. It's a hot, muggy August afternoon.

Burt and I are walking briskly along the avenue, heading towards the Metro station at Eastern Market. We have spent the morning attending a Methodist church service across the street from where we are now walking and have just finished up serving a meal to some of Washington, D.C.'s homeless population. A gentleman who runs this meal program for the homeless has just this morning told us that in addition to serving up the meal, one of the kindest things we can do is to acknowledge these folks as "human beings," to make eye contact with them, to listen to them. He reminds us that each of them has dignity, though most of the time they are not made to feel very dignified. In the soup kitchen, we can restore dignity to them, even if for only a moment. I am mulling these ideas as I walk.

A red-haired Caucasian woman slouching on a park bench near us, suddenly calls out to me. "Can you spare 50 cents? We're homeless," she says gesturing towards herself and her African American male companion. I stop to acknowledge her.

"We just finished serving lunch to some homeless people," I reply, "over in that church there."

"Oh, were you there?" she asked brightly. "I had lunch there! That was a good lunch!"

"Yeah, we're here with some kids who will be working with the homeless all week. You'll see us in this neighborhood a lot. So, I'm not going to give you spare change each time you ask, but I'll invite you to take advantage of the meals."

"That's cool," she replies.

And therein begins a little friendship between us.

The next time I see her, she's with a different guy, who hits us up for money. She winks at me and waves me on. We share a smile, and her eyes flash with spirit. I think to myself, she's fiery. She's intelligent.

Over the next few days, we pass each other frequently. "Hey," she calls out to me at one point, "I see you're making the rounds on this street as much as I am!"

"You bet," I reply. "I'm busy keeping these young people fed." We pass each other, she bouncing down the street in one direction, me in the other, but I find myself smiling, enjoying these encounters with her. I find myself liking her.

On one occasion, one of her companions, asks, "Where are you guys from?"

"Oakland, California," I reply.

"Oakland?" he rejoins excitedly. "I got some friends in Oakland! That's a good ol' city!"

In the ensuing days, I am always aware of the red-haired woman in the neighborhood. I observe her. I think about her. I wonder about her. She hangs pretty much in a two block area, near a small park, where she sits in the shade of some big old trees on a park bench. She's always wearing the same green T-shirt and jeans and worn out shoes. She's often smoking. When she smiles, I notice how yellow and decayed her teeth are. I think she's in her 50s, a little younger than me. Of course, she could be younger and just look old. I know the streets can age a person. I wonder how long she's been on the streets. I wonder why she's on the streets. But I never ask her. I wonder why I don't ask her.

Then, towards the end of the week, I draw near, but she does not notice me. She's standing near her bench, wavering on her feet as she talks to a companion. Her eyes are bloodshot this time, and the language coming out of her mouth is rough. There are no smiles, no recognition. She's preoccupied and deeply involved in her conversation, but I have no trouble telling that she's under the influence of some substance. And I begin to think I understand why she's on the streets. At least, I speculate that she's a substance abuser. She's looks a little unsteady, unappealing. I do not approach her to acknowledge her. I make a wider arc in my path to avoid her.

The red-haired woman remains on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. I do not. I have moved on, first to a nice B&B

for a few days as a tourist, now back to my comfortable little condo in Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, California. I have slept comfortably over this past week. Where has the red-haired woman slept? On the park bench? In the alcove of the church where we served lunch that day I met her? I have taken numerous showers and donned clean clothes, eaten lots of whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Has the red-haired woman had a shower? Has she changed out of her green T-shirt, jeans and worn-out shoes? Has she had good food?

Has someone smiled at her lately and seen that flash in her eyes? Evidence of a fiery spirit?

What is the future for this woman? Will she die on the streets? Will she find a refuge somewhere? Will there ever be someone to take care of her?

She is one among so many. I have seen the many homeless, the many “down and outers.” More importantly, I have seen her, the red-haired woman on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., an individual who maybe fifty years ago was a little girl like me, growing up with hopes and dreams for a bright future. What happened to her hopes and dreams? How did she veer off the straighter path? What combination of circumstances brought her to this place at this time? Is she responsible for being where she is? Are others?

Am I? What is my responsibility to this woman?

“Love your neighbor as yourself,” Jesus implores us. How can I love her? Is it enough to have looked her in the eye, shared a smile with her, seen her fiery spirit?

For a moment, I paid attention. Maybe that guy at the soup kitchen was right. Maybe paying attention is the kindest thing we can do.

—Joyce D. Rodgers, August 23, 2009



**SRVUMC**  
**FM**  
**Family Ministries**

**Music**

We invite you to join our children and youth choirs. These choirs are free and open to everyone.

**Cherub Choir, Aimee Knese**  
Preschool through Grade 1; Practice Wed from 3 to 3:45 p.m.

**Archangel Choir, Teri Hawk**  
Grades 2 to 5; Practice Wed at 3 p.m.

**Youth Choir, Terri Hawk**  
Grades 6 to 12; Practice Sunday at 3 p.m.

**Bros and Belles Choir, Winnie Stribling**  
Grades 6 to 12; Practice Wed from 5:15 to 6 p.m.

**The Best Part of Waking Up...  
...Is the Coffee Fellowship Team!**

Become a hospitality volunteer for coffee hour for the 9 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. services.

Volunteers for the 9 a.m. service arrive around 30 minutes ahead of serving for setup, and 10:45 a.m. volunteers stay for about 30 minutes of light cleanup.

People often choose to volunteer once per month, but all help is appreciated. Usually three or four people participate for a given service, so you won't be alone.

Bagel Brigade volunteers pick up bagels on Saturday afternoons.

Contact Kim Maier at [kim.maier@lmco.com](mailto:kim.maier@lmco.com) or 925-487-3367 for more info or to join in this important welcome function.



# Senior Scoop

## ADVENTURESOME SENIORS POTLUCK

Adventuresome Seniors get together on the 1st Tuesday of the month for a potluck followed by a program in Wesley Center. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share – or just stop by the deli on your way over!

**Adventuresome Seniors Potluck – Tues., May 10 @ Noon** (*Date change to accommodate Wise Women Retreat*)

Program: Greg from Living Waters

## SENIOR FAITH SHARING BOOK CLUB

This session we will be reading “Being Mortal” by Dr. Atul Gawande. Pastor Ron Dunn will be facilitating the discussion.

**Senior Faith Sharing Book Club – Tues., May 10 @ 10:45 Library** (*Date change to accommodate Wise Women Retreat*)

## LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

Lunch with Friends is a home-cooked, sit-down meal, served in Wesley Center on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. These lunches are the friendliest place in town!

**Lunch with Friends – Tues., May 17 @ Noon**

Chef John Sanders’s lasagna, Caesar salad, homemade rolls and dessert!

**SENIOR FIELD TRIP – FILIO GARDENS, Wed., May 25, 10 to 3:30 p.m.**

Tour of gardens and lunch on site. Cost is \$15 plus lunch. *Sign up at a Senior Luncheon.*

## Trinity Center Gala

**May 19, 2016 at 6 p.m.**

**Boundary Oak, Walnut Creek**

Learn more at [www.trinitycenterwc.org](http://www.trinitycenterwc.org)

**Want To Help?** Trinity Center is asking for donations such as a gift card, a certificate for a free round of golf, etc. Contact Jerry Kaplan at [jerryk@trinitycenterwc.org](mailto:jerryk@trinitycenterwc.org) with questions about donations.



## Afternoon Book Group

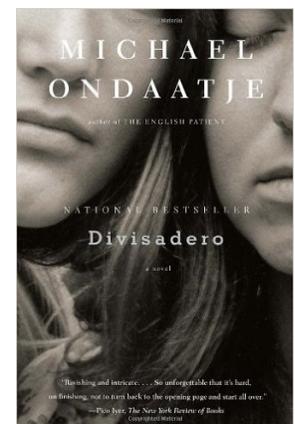
**Monday, May 16, 1:00 p.m.**

**Room 202, Wesley Center**

*Divisadero*

by Michael Ondaatje

(Marilyn leading)



FAMILY

SRVUMC



## San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church Family Ministries

### Calendar of Events for Families

- May 13 — Family Camp Fire
- May 14 — Confirmation Rehearsal
- May 15 — Confirmation Sunday
- May 25 — Messy Game Night (Middle and High School Youth)
- June 12 — Graduation Sunday
- June 27 to July 1 — House Boats (For Completed Grades 7 through 12)
- July 11 to 14 — Vacation Bible School (Age 3 and Toilet Trained through Grade 5)
- July 17 to 23 — Gleanings Mission Trip (Completed Grades 7 to 12), Cost \$360
- July 31 to Aug 6 — SSP San Diego (Completed Grades 9 to 12), Cost \$250

Regular programming that freezes for summer includes all children and youth choirs, middle and high school youth groups, and Confirmation. Sunday School will continue to be available on Sundays at 9 a.m.

**Summer Mission Trips — Registration is due now.** All forms and payments need to be submitted to Luke. Registration forms available online. Contact [Luke Ham](#) with questions.

**VBS registration has filled for our Pre-Elementary children.** We are only accepting children that are entering grades 1 through 5 in the fall. Registration is [online](#). Contact [Stephanie Ham](#) with questions.

### Sunday School Topics

#### Kindergarten to Grade 5:

**Bottom Line:** When you focus on God, He can help you be content.

**Bottom Line:** When you focus on what you don't have, it can make you miserable.

**Bottom Line:** When you focus on what you used to have, you can miss what you have now.

**Bottom Line:** When you focus on stuff, you can miss what matters.

**Bottom Line:** When you focus on God, you don't have to worry.

#### Grades 6 to 12:

**Session One:** Spring Cleaning

**Bottom Line:** Greed keeps me focused on me.

**Session Two:** Attention Please!

**Bottom Line:** Compassion is fueled by focus.

**Session Three:** The Real Story

**Bottom Line:** Partnering with Jesus = Passing out Hope

### Contact Us!

#### Luke Ham

Youth Pastor (Grades 6 to 12)

[lham@srvumc.org](mailto:lham@srvumc.org)

(925)837-5243 ext 108

#### Stephanie Ham

Children and Family Ministries (Birth through Grade 5)

[sham@srvumc.org](mailto:sham@srvumc.org)

(925)837-5243 ext 106

### Weekly Programming

**Middle School Youth Group** (Grades 6 to 8) On Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

**High School Youth Group** (Grades 9 to 12) On Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**High School Dinner Night Out** (1st and 3rd Sundays) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

*See our weekly email newsletters for locations.*

### 9 a.m. Traditional Worship

K to Grade 2, Lamm Hall; Grades 3 to 5, Wesley upstairs, game room;

Grades 6 to 12, Room 202

### 10:30 a.m. Nontraditional Worship

Confirmation meets in room 204 until 11:45 a.m. Childcare for all ages in children's building, downstairs.

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Edith Liggett  
Lillian Scherer  
Nancy Reynolds  
Barb McWilliams  
Merrybell Loesel  
Cary Johnson  
Horace Crawford

## Our Christian Sympathy To...

The family of Judy Simkin. Judy died on March 26, 2016 and a memorial service was held in our sanctuary on April 13.

The family of Alice Impraim on the death of her father on April 11.

## Welcome...

Priscilla and Ted Wolfram's new grandson Russell Michael, born to Kim and Russ Martin. Ed Wolfram is a proud great-grandfather.

Jada Koonce's new grandson Brady Alexander, born March 31 to Darrin and Melissa Koonce.

## Upcoming Conference Dates

United Methodist **General Conference** meets in **Portland, OR on May 10 through May 20, 2016**. This meeting occurs once every four years. Consider reading [this valuable article online](#)

(<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/what-will-general-conference-mean-to-my-united-methodist-church>)

about what this meeting will mean for our own church.

The upcoming **2016 Annual Conference** in June will occur in **Burlingame, CA**. The theme for this year is "Engaging Faith in the Public Square" and will run from **June 22 to June 25**. Our pastors and elected lay members **Carole and Don Johnson and Joanne Van Bezey** will attend.

## Continued Prayers For...

All those who continue to live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Bill Andrew; Lyn Bristow; Gene Brown; Lenore Cooper; Jeni Evans; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny Johnston; Del Kennedy; Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Aileen Landstrom; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Ann Schroeder; Pat Shoner;

Carol Webb Samford; Joan Webb.

## Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$7/ea.)

## Many Thanks...

For all your thoughts and cares, your many cards, phone calls and emails for my accident and recovery.

Thank you for all your visits, and especially the great meals, making my day and Dean's day so much easier.

Looking forward to returning to church and choir to see all of you, my friends!

—*Barb McWilliams and Dean, Also*

# June Celebrations



## Birthdays

1 Anna Dunn	Lori Tiedemann	Luke Philbert	
John Hammond	9 Mike Dominici	Kate Reed	
Marty Osborn	Wolf Meier	Leah Schroeder	Cindy Leonard
John Rowland	Vilva Robinett (95!)	18 Rudy Ceragioli	26 Dot Ives
2 Steve Smith	11 Evan Cerda	Erin Lowther	27 Tom Mullican
Jane VanderWerf	Jeff Lang	19 Sharon Greene	28 Jessica Brown
4 Mike Brady	Trice Rainer	Grayson Metcalf	Wright Hall
Emily Colman	12 Sylvia Corson	20 Kim Sherman	Cara Mucklow
5 Genevieve DeWalt	13 Nadia Blank-Koliha	21 Mary Ellen Brown	29 Jess Erickson
Keegan Dimler	14 Grace Soderlund	Haley Pihowich	Jourdan Krakoff
Nader Sagafi	Brian Steffy	Mark Schramm	Corinne Warnock
6 José Altamirano	15 Chase Cox	22 Jennifer Helms	30 Debra Brady
ClaudeC Johannessen	16 Ryan Batruni	Larry Liggett (98!)	Sara Rossini
John Stienstra	Nancy Mills	23 Lea Hickman	John Schnittker
7 Tom Byrom	Mary Ogden	Lee Rust	Jerry Slater
Glenda Chang	Elli Rigolfi	Lauren Smith	Liz Walz
8 Linn Coombs	17 Kaylee Bain	24 Amy Parnes	
Steve Newburn	Jo Anne Erickson	25 Maddie Dautel	

## Wedding Anniversaries

1 Joan & Allan Ross	Marti & Robert Starnes	18 Diane & Bill Barley (55th)	Susie & Bill Steele (52nd)
3 Suzanne & Ray Shea	11 Lori & Dave Ratto	Glenda & Wai Chang	23 Jan & Frank Baldwin
4 Norma Jean & Jim Bunker	12 Sandy & Bill Gsand (50th)	Cherie & Bob Charbon-	(59th)
5 Deb & Phil Bandy	Joanne & Harry Knapp	neau	Anita Ho & Henry Moon
Ellen & James Kocins	Linda & Larry Stone	Donna Paula-Willis & Dan	24 Mary Ellen & Robert
Myla & Christopher	(50th)	Willis	Brown (53rd)
Niederauer	13 Lisa & Jim Laird	19 Linn & Dave Coombs	Marla & Bob Schleicher
6 Suzie & Ben Paroulek	14 Debbie & Mike Kelly	Bethany & Jerry Metcalf	26 Rosanne & Michael Ogles
Cindy & Rob Rudow	15 Linda Ashcraft & Richard	20 Edith & Larry Liggett	(50th)
7 Janelle & Dan Hawkley	Hudak	(72nd)	Jane & Steve Roath (50th)
Vera & Bob Knowles	Marilyn & Julien Hansen	21 Judy & Gene Benedict	27 Liz & Don Field
(52nd)	(58th)	Laura Byrne Graham &	29 Lavonne & Howard
9 Peggy & Horace Crawford	Jan & Doug Rohde	John Graham	Rodean
(53rd)	16 Sally & Bill Andrew	Marge & Steve Wood	
ClaudeC & Richard Johan-	Teresa & Steve Marohn	22 Sally & Jerry Christopher-	
nessen (53rd)	Barb & Dean McWilliams	son (58th)	
10 Louise & Harry Hanover	(53rd)	Linda & Mark Dew-	
(65th)	Pam & Brian Uitti	Hiersoux	
Kim Risedorph & Steve	17 Karen & Tony Stepper	Pat & Dick Shoner (63rd)	
Elliott		Dawn & Scott Smallwood	