



The Valley Messenger

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

JUNE 2015

A Parsonal Point of View ~

What's Next? Moving Beyond Good Intentions

Ask any member of most any church about the kind of church that they would like to be a part of, and they will likely use words such as, “vital, caring, exciting and dynamic.” It’s no secret that we all carry with us a certain vision of what a vital and meaningful church life looks like. And that, of course, is a good and needed thing. “Without a vision,” the Book of Proverbs tells us, “the people perish.” Indeed, without a vision of what we would like to become, there will be no incentive to change and grow and become something that we are not yet.

That being said, however, the fulfillment of a vision requires something more than merely good intentions. Visions come to pass not because people are willing to think generally about their good intentions, but because they are willing to act specifically upon those intentions. It’s one thing to entertain aspirations. It is another thing to translate those aspirations into action.

In his book, *Doing the Math of Mission: Fruits, Faithfulness and Metrics*, Church consultant, **Gil Rendle** writes, *“Moving beyond intentions begins by changing the questions we ask ourselves. Instead of only asking what kind of person we wish to be (generous, faithful, disciple-like...), we also need to ask the less comfortable question of what we need to change about ourselves next in order to be more like the aspired person we envision.*

Instead of asking only what kind of congregation we want to be (vital, growing, disciple-making, justice-seeking...) we also need to ask the less comfortable question of what change we need to address next, or what we need to learn next, to be more like the aspired congregation we envision.”

Rendle has a point — one that is difficult to deny. Meaningful and purposeful visions require more than good intentions and wishful thinking. They require the hard work of thinking and planning not in terms of one giant leap from aspiration to fulfillment, but in terms of a whole series of “next steps” that need to be taken in order to get from here to there.

I have always aspired to hike the trail from Lake Tahoe to Yosemite Valley. That journey remains on my “bucket list” and will likely stay there until I am willing to do the hard work of planning the “specifics” of making plans for each day

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Next Issue: July, 2015

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: [Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:Lisa.Jancarik@srvumc.org) by June 15, 2015

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and each leg of the journey. One hundred and eighty hiking miles is not a distance that can be covered merely by good intentions, but by a willingness to consider and implement the “next step” and the “next steps” after that.

As you may know, there have been a number of folks in our congregation who have been involved in a strategic planning process during the past year. We are currently moving into the phase in which we are refining our goals and our objectives in order to present this plan to our congregation. If you talk to those who have been involved in this lengthy process, they will likely tell you that it has had its moments of disappointment and frustration. After all, it is not easy to formulate a plan that can creatively and effectively capture the true aspirations of our congregation as a whole. There have been many different ideas and many different opinions about what to include and what not to include.

While this can be tedious work — work that requires a lot of patience and a lot of persistence — it is also work that I believe is absolutely necessary if we are to be faithful to our task. To be sure, there have been times in which we have been sorely tempted to take some “shortcuts” and circumvent the process. Thankfully, however, we have resisted

the temptation to go for the “quick fix” and have instead, concentrated on what we need to do “next” in order to move forward on our vision quest.

When this phase of our planning process comes to an end, we will then submit our proposal to the congregation for review, input, and refinement. As a final step in the process, the Administrative Board will be called upon to approve (or not) the refined proposal. While I would like to offer a specific timeline for how and when all of this will unfold, I’m not sure that I can really do that. For, if there is one thing that I have learned in this process, it is that it cannot be rushed. Instead of leaping ahead to our finalized conclusion — as tempting as that might be — we must take the time to work out the “specifics” of what our next step requires.

Good intentions, you see, will only take us so far. Any vision worth its salt demands that we engage in the difficult work of translating our aspirations into the actions that move us forward on the journey — one step at a time.

Grace & Peace,

Ron



Labyrinth Opening Ceremony

Sunday, May 31 at 4 p.m.

Hap Magee Ranch Park

1026 LaGonda Way, Danville,

CA

Please consider parking at SRVUMC and walking over to the park, as parking at Hap Magee is limited.

A Special Father's Day Gift

Endowment Fund

Are you looking for a very special way to honor your father or grandfather for Father's Day? Cherish him with the Father's Day gift that "keeps on giving."

With a gift to the Endowment Fund in his name, you can show your love for him and honor his commitment to God at the same time.

- Donors' names may be listed or kept anonymous at donor's request.
- You can also honor anyone who has been "like a father to you"!

Endowment Fund gifts are invested for the long-term use of the church. Endowment gifts will be allowed to grow in perpetuity. The growth and income they generate will be used throughout the life of the church to benefit the following Endowment Category you choose: Capital Improvements, Sunday School, Library, Missions, Music, Youth Ministry, and Unrestricted. A new Senior Programs category is also available for donations. If no category is chosen, donated gifts will be placed in the Unrestricted Endowment category. Through your previous gifts, the Endowment Fund provided \$50,000 of earnings back to the church this year.



To make a Father's Day contribution to the Endowment Fund, complete the form below, attach a check and return them both to the church office. Please make the check out to **SRVUMC Endowment Fund**. *Father's Day envelopes will also be in the church pews on Father's Day, June 21, 2015 for your convenience.*

Donor's Name _____

Date _____

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Endowment Donation Amount _____

Endowment Category (check one or more*):

Capital Improvements _____ Missions _____

Sunday School _____ Youth Ministry _____ Music _____

Library _____ Senior Programs _____ Unrestricted _____

***Note:** If no category is chosen, gifts will be placed in the Unrestricted category.

Make checks to SRVUMC Endowment Fund.



Haiti: Christian Service with a Vision

Recent Mission in Haiti

Warren McGuffin



Clear vision is a luxury in many parts of the world just like it is in Haiti. By seeing, we can read and learn. Seeing others able to read their Bible or write a letter is a visual of the impact we are making in the communities we serve. An optometry mission is an up close and personal interaction with those you are serving.

Joanne Van Bezey, an optometrist, provided the leadership for the mission vision service activities. All team members were involved in vision tests and fitting reading glasses. We used four interpreters, one for each station for tests and evaluation.

Four of the five schools we serve are local, but the fifth school is in the remote village of Hinche, so it required an overnight trip by TapTap. Ginette, our cook staff manager, traveled with the team, along with our driver and our project manager, James Lazarre. Also along were interpreters Eddyson and Bernard. We had dinner and breakfast and slept in the sanctuary on mattresses. The Hinche school is sponsored by Placerville UMC.

We were joined by School Ties, a "school 2 school" initiative located in Houston, TX. We will be partnering with them at the Thomas Food Program (TFP) schools

Three teams are forming for this fall: one medical, one support and preparatory, and one installation team for the seventh school sponsored by [Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Pittsburgh, PA.](#)

Thanks to all for your support!



The Team

Warren McGuffin, SRVUMC; Joanne Van Bezey, SRVUMC; Bill Van Bezey, SRVUMC; Kal Peters, SRVUMC; Terry Comp Valencia, UMC; Kelly Swanson, School Ties, Houston, TX

Mission Accomplished! Ten Days in Haiti

- 5 Schools and Communities served
- 646 people vision tests
- 500 reading glasses delivered
- 197 reading glasses fitted
- 55 referrals for clinical eye care. Lots of cataracts.
- 100+ sun shades to the adults and toothbrushes for the children
- 100+ gifts of clothing from SRVUMC Hands For Haiti
- Kitchen support items and baking tools for the new UMW sponsored oven.



Joanne Van Bezey

Haiti's people live a conflicting life dealing with modern technology and antiquity.

Cell phones and computers are part of the daily life, yet the lack of drinkable water, indoor plumbing, limited electricity and food present huge challenges. Haitians deal with their hardships with courage, faith and hope. As a retired optometrist, my mission to Haiti was to establish a vision screening process in the schools, to screen the children and adults and to supply reading and sunglasses. We did just that.



Bill Van Bezey

The most memorable experience for me on our outreach to Haiti was the bonding with the children. They genuinely appreciated our presence and looked forward to seeing us show up at their schools. Their fascination with our skin color, the hair on our arms and the need to touch the hair on our heads was intriguing to me. They loved the simple toys that we shared with them and had a real appreciation for our gifts. These are children with very little in their lives, but children with enthusiasm for life and smiles and laughter that were really contagious.

June Communion Offering Supports the People of Nepal

Our June Communion Offering supports the earthquake-ravaged country of Nepal. As you've no doubt seen on recent news reports, the country was hit by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on April 25, followed by a series of severe aftershocks as large as magnitude 7.3. Nepal suffered significant loss of life and total devastation to homes, shops and other buildings. Displaced people, too afraid to go into their homes or those whose homes were destroyed, are living on the streets and sleeping in tents.

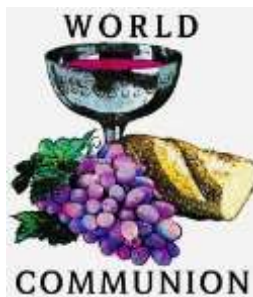
The need in Nepal is great, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has already responded through on-the-ground partners who were in a position to provide the most immediate response. UMCOR has already given financial grants to GlobalMedic; Church Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA); United Mission to Nepal (UMN); and to the Nepal Community Empowerment Group (NCEG). Your financial gifts will make a difference in this devastated country.

UM Missionary Katherine Parker, who was already serving in Nepal prior to the quake, recently reported:

My role has been less glamorous as I've been working mostly in logistics. I've spent hours writing getting quotes and writing purchase orders for tarps and rice and health kits and other food supplies. And then I have become the go-to person for writing letters to get customs clearance of goods purchased in India across the border into Nepal without needing to pay import tax. This week, I've been compiling reports of our activities into the format to submit to the United Nations office of coordination for humanitarian response so that there can be accurate record keeping and some uniformity of standards as to what is being done where.

The WASH activities in this relief phase are basically about getting hygiene kits (soap and water purification) out to people, but we had an initial meeting today to start planning our recovery phase intervention for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Shelter and seed supply are the two big things coming in the next round of work. Shelter because the monsoon rains are coming, and seed because people need to plant ASAP before the rains or we are going to have bigger



hunger issues if there is no crop to harvest. We are hopeful that FAO will donate the seed, but we will still need to get it to villages. In some of the places where we are working, the suspension bridges are out, and the trails have been washed away by landslides. So, helicopters are the only option, and those are in very short supply and very expensive even with the 75-90% discounts we are getting. A good focus for your efforts would be these things: shelter, seed and transportation of goods.

Thanks to you, UMCOR will be able to send help where it's needed the most and to help the people of Nepal plant crops and build shelter. Your gifts DO make a difference!

To read more about Katherine and her mission service, visit her page on the GBGM website: <http://www.umcmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Parker-Katherine> and her blog at:

Learn more about UMCOR's response in Nepal, visit their website: <http://www.umcor.org>

Learn more about how you can help Nepal visit: <http://srvumc.org/june-communion-offering-supports-the-people-of-nepal/>

METHODIST MEN'S PROGRAM

Ididarod Presentation



SRVUMC John Sayers and Rick and Lynn Dodge visited the 2015 dogsled trek in Alaska and will present a photo/video presentation of the Event. Church members and friends invited!

- June 20, 8:00 a.m. Wesley Center
- Contact Dean McWilliams for Reservations 925-837-0971 or e mail OSI310@AOL.COM

KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE!

MLK Peacemakers

Seventy years ago, San Francisco birthed the United Nations in response to the degradation of world war. To inspire courage and to act for peace with global awareness, you are invited to join others from the Bay Area Interfaith Community to commemorate the United Nations 70th Anniversary on June 27 from 1-6 p.m. at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. The MLK Peacemakers have endorsed this event.

In celebration of the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco in 1945, the day will include experiential educational workshops and a concert. The concert, entitled *The Way Chose You*, composed by Stefan Safsten, was inspired by Secretary Dag Hammarskjold's spiritual journal *Markings* and will be performed by the Swedish choir Kloster Vocalis. The event and concert are free and open to all; however, tickets are needed due to limited seating. To request tickets contact the web site listed below. *The Way Chose You* will also be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, June 26, at Peace Lutheran Church in Danville.

In addition to the event on June 27, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will be in San Francisco to celebrate the 70th

Anniversary with Mayor Lee at a ceremony on June 26 at City Hall. Historical sites that contributed to the formation of the UN including Herbst Theatre, Mills College, the Fairmont Hotel and Muir Woods will also have Recognition Ceremonies prior to June 27. *The Way Chose You* will also be performed at the United Nations and at St. Peter's Church in Manhattan.

"I don't know Who – or what – put the question, I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone – or Something – and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal." – Dag Hammarskjold



For more information see: UN70Charter.org



Great turnout for the May 16 **Stop Hunger Now!** packout. This group packed 10,152 meals in a little over 90 minutes!

Imagine No Malaria: \$10,000 Check

Presented May 17, 2015



Shown: Rev. Ron Dunn, Susan Gest, Rev. Kristie Olah, Rev. Sunny Ahn.

Susan Gest chairs the Imagine No Malaria (INM) campaign and is a member of the Missions Council. Kristie Olah is our district superintendent.



HOUSING BRAINSTORMING

On May 3, several interested SRVUMC members gathered with the purpose of brainstorming ideas to combat the lack of affordable housing in our county. SRVUMC member Laura Sanchez is our representative on the Housing and Shelter Committee for the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition, which was formed in early 2014. The following ideas were generated during the brainstorming session:

1. Churches could each subsidize housing for one person for as long as 3 years while that person, with support from social services (public or church-provided?), does what he/she needs to do to become self-sufficient.
2. Individuals with "In-Law Cottages" on their property could rent their cottage for a rate affordable to a low-income person(s) of their choosing. Need to check legality with city.
3. Churches could have an all-year program of allowing homeless people to sleep on pads on the floor in their buildings for rotating week or two-week time periods as Winter Nights does. A model of this plan is operating in Illinois, called "PADS". It would require pre-screening and transportation of the selected people to and from the church evening and morning, and could include an evening and morning meal each day.
4. A church or group of churches could raise money to buy or build an apartment building that they would own and operate to provide housing for extremely low- to moderate-income tenants. Some church members might be included among the qualifying tenants! Dependent on city zoning and approvals by city and county.
5. An income tax credit/deduction might be lobbied for if a family takes in an additional person/family member to share their home. Requires federal and/or state approval.

6. There was agreement that we would want to pursue nongovernmental avenues, so as not to add to government bureaucracy; and recognizing that our church and others have resources (buildings and capable people) and potential funding sources (members and possibly UMC funds) that could be used for provision of carefully planned and supervised housing.



We recognized that if too many requirements are put on builders, financiers and government regulators of new, renovated or converted housing for low-income people, those underwriters might withdraw. Also, we recognized that city and county governments — which control zoning, selection of builders, and approval of plans — must also be concerned with receiving sufficient income from property taxes and fees as well as acceptance by their citizens.

I think we came up with some very creative and valuable ideas, that I look forward to pursuing further, both in our church, in the San Ramon Valley Interfaith Coalition (Tom Kring for SRVUMC), the Interfaith Coalition of Contra Costa County (Rev. Will McGarvey), and in the Housing and Shelter Committee of the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition for Contra Costa County (Laura Sanchez for SRVUMC).

Please contact me at Laura3627@gmail.com if you're interested in getting involved with this social justice issue.

Laura Sanchez
MLK Peacemaker/Justice Committee
SRVUMC

Last "Great Decisions of Our Age" Talk

Brazil's Metamorphosis, May 31 – Brazil — it's the "B" in the acronym BRICS, five emerging economies once seen as soon-to-be superpowers. After economic troubles in the 1990s, Brazil has risen to new global prominence. It's drawing in more investment, working on global issues ranging from climate change to peacekeeping, and even hosting the 2016 Olympics. But some of Brazil's trickiest problems — deep divisions over how to tackle serious income inequality, weak civic institutions and poor regional leadership — have held it back. **Join us at 10:30a.m. in Wesley Center.**





Between the Bookends



By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

If it's spring, can summer be far behind? Of course not, so that means it's time to warm up to some top-quality summer reading. As usual, it's waiting for you, right here on our Book Cart! The cart is parked in Wesley Center's fellowship room, and right next to it is the Return Box, where you can return these treasures when you've finished reading them.



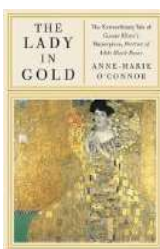
Benjamin, Melanie. *The Aviator's Wife.* While it doesn't seem possible, it was almost 90 years ago when the boyish world sensation, Charles Lindbergh (aka Lucky Lindy or the Lone Eagle) spotted the shy, college senior, Anne Morrow, across the room. This is wonderful historical fiction, seemingly told by Anne herself. She

became a pilot too, a gifted writer, and a mother, and suffered the worst loss a parent can bear. This covers their years together, packed with glory and tragedy. A multiple award winner and book club favorite. Many thanks to Floy Blair.

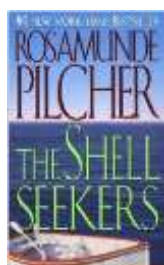


Joyce, Rachel. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry.* Harold Fry is retired and living in a marriage that is failing when he receives a letter from Queenie Hennessy. They'd had a platonic work relationship many years ago, and now Queenie has written to say she is dying of cancer but wanted to say goodbye. Stunned, Harold

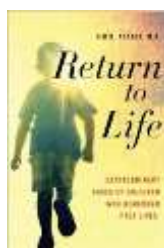
pens an answer, but as he approaches the mailbox, he just keeps walking. Maybe if he says goodbye in person, Queenie will continue to live until he gets there. So, ill-prepared, Harold begins the 600-mile walk across England to Queenie. He is shy and frightened, but his long walk brings thoughts and memories that begin to change his life, and the lives of those he meets along the way. And he doesn't give up.



O'Connor, Anne-Marie. *The Lady in Gold.* Have you seen the wonderful movie, *The Woman in Gold*? This is the book on which it was based, telling the story of Maria Altmann, a Los Angeles dress-shop owner who sued the Austrian government for the return of a painting of her aunt, done many years ago by famed artist, Gustav Klimt. The painting was stolen from her Jewish family by the Nazis during World War II and later recovered. But it was returned to the "country of origin" and not her family. This was not the first case of a national museum refusing to return an art treasure to the rightful owner, but it became a famous and precedent-setting one. A real eye-opener.



Pilcher, Rosamund. *The Shell Seekers.* You must have read it! No? It was an instant best-seller in 1987 and has since become a classic saga of a mother, her beloved painting, and her three children, with each chapter told by one of them. Now in a brand-new edition, beautifully done.



Tucker, Jim B. *Return to Life: Extraordinary Cases of Children Who Remember Past Lives.* This keeps popping up — children who suddenly remember things about family members or occurrences that they could not possibly know without having been there. Jim Tucker was one of a group of scientists who launched a scientific search into all known facts and came up shaking their heads. Some of the stories are remarkable — and thought-provoking. Many thanks to Paula Boswell.

Can't stand anymore? Try kneeling!

—T-Shirt Wisdom

Kindness Matters Corner

Mr. Fred Rogers Said: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” To this day, especially in times of “disaster,” I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world.”

Brothers Helping Brothers. The connections between brothers are the strongest: the ties may be as siblings, comrades in arms, fraternity brothers, and many others based on common interests and experiences. Here is an example of the strength of these bonds, the strength that blossoms into kindness, into love:



The son of a SRVUMC member couple remains in contact with his fraternity brothers of years ago during their Southern California university days. Early this year, Keith, a fraternity brother, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Doctors gave Keith, a husband and father, about nine months of life. Keith’s fraternity brothers were alerted, and they committed to raise funds for Keith’s treatment and his family.

Just as an aside, the brother’s interest in college sports, namely the NCAA Basketball Tournament, played a big part in this kindness. Each joined a large basketball pool for the “The Final Four.” Ten brothers joined Keith in his home to watch the final game that Monday night.

One brother actually won the large pool. Imagine the excitement in Keith’s home, the hollering and jumping up and down — who wouldn’t! Once all were completely celebration-exhausted, the winning brother announced to Keith that the winnings were a gift for Keith and his family. Keith, his wife and son were stunned and thrilled. The win and the gift were later announced as \$115,000. Overcome with emotion over this tremendous gift of love, compassion, and sacrifice, Keith announced this most wonderful kindness gave him the resolve to fight his cancer. To this day, Keith is fighting, and Keith’s brothers show their love by working down Keith’s bucket list and just being there with him and his family. Strong ties, strong love, extraordinary kindnesses.

You may directly share your stories of kindness to the website in this way:

Send your story to kindness@srvumc.org. Your story will be posted to the church website within a few days.



United Methodist Women Luncheon

United Methodist Women will meet **Tuesday, June 9, at 11 a.m.**, in Wesley Center to share a picnic style/salad luncheon.

Questions: Call Bonnie Roberts, 846-2035.

New Adult Bible Class on Paul

Beginning June 14 at 10:30 a.m. Dave Coombs will lead a three-week class on the Apostle Paul. Contemporary NT scholars are pulling Paul away from the traditional views posited by Augustine and Luther. Was Paul converted to Christianity? What was Paul’s faith and his beliefs about Jesus? What were his views on homosexuality? What letters did he actually write?

Informational Meeting for 2016 Holy Land Trip



In preparation for our 2016 Holy Land Trip: Journey through the Bible, please join us for an informational meeting on **Sunday, May 31 at 11:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room**. The 11-day trip begins March 7, 2016. Our educational theme for this trip is Jesus: His life, His times, His land, His Hebrew faith. This trip is being administered by Education Opportunity Tour (EOT), and the cost for the trip is \$2,998 (including roundtrip international airfare from NJ/NY to Tel Aviv + \$398 from SFO to Tel Aviv). We will visit Jericho, Bethlehem, Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Galilee, Nazareth, Samaria, Jerusalem and more! And this trip will be more meaningful since it will coincide with the 2016 Lent season. Journey through the Bible during 2016 Lent by joining this trip.

Registration & Payment Schedule:

- Deposit: \$300 deposit by credit card, personal check/cashier check/money order can be made at the time of your initial reservation. There is a \$140 extra processing fee for making payments by credit card.
- Second Payment: \$1,500 is due by November 23. Registrations can be made up until 45 days before March 7 with extra late charge.
- Final Payment: \$1,596 is due January 7.

Stay tuned for additional registration details! Please [contact Pastor Sunny](#) or [Phyllis Meyer](#) for more information.

Senior Scoop

Tues., June 2, – NO LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

Tues., June 16, Lunch with Friends – Noon in Wesley Center

Chef John Sanders – Menu TBD.

Tues., June 23 – Field Trip to Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco & Lunch at the Cliff House

Plan to leave church at 9:00 a.m. with tour at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at the Cliff House at noon. No cost for tour but will need money for lunch. Sign up at one of the senior luncheons or call Sandy Greenwood at 935-1109.

Tues., June 30 – Adventuresome Seniors Potluck – Noon in Wesley Center

Program: Bill Nelson will present a program on the *USS Hornet*.



A Review of the Preschool Year



It has been a pleasure getting to know many members in the SRVUMC community, and I look forward to expanding the circle of UMP friends. We are approaching the end of the school year, and I am happy to have this opportunity to recap some of the year's highlights and tell of our growth.

Since becoming the Preschool Director in 2013, it has been my desire to create a meaningful connection between the church and preschool. The preschool and Sunday school programs that were previously very separate in nature have developed bonds of friendship and cooperation thanks to **Angela Norton**, the previous Sunday Morning Childcare Manager, and to the current manager, **Debbie Byers**, one of UMP's fine preschool teachers.

Pastor **Kathi McShane** created connections between the preschool and ministerial staff last year by providing monthly Christian education and small group chapel time for the preschoolers. This year, **Pastor Sunny** expanded the children's chapel experience from a monthly gathering to a weekly one provided by **Stephanie Ham**, who has added an additional faith formation experience to our Christian education program.

We invited Pastors Ron, Kathi and Sunny, and Stephanie Ham to various community events such as the **Back-to-School Night, Apple Pie Night in the Fall, our Christmas performance, and the End-of-Year BBQ**. Pastor Ron has graciously provided blessings at these events bringing an awareness of God's presence to these occasions.

A special "Thank You" is in order to **Brian Roberts** and **Boyd Hasik** for providing unending help to the preschool in the form of repairs, building projects, and more. Recently, these talented men finished building a beautiful shade cover over the sand box and helped plant a Braeburn apple tree in our yard on Earth Day. These men help keep the preschool facility in tip-top shape, and there is no doubt we could not operate our Preschool as smoothly without their generous help!

End-of-Year Recap:

- Art and Music Enrichment programs were offered this year. Both programs proved to be successful and well attended.
- The Preschool is fully enrolled for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.
- Development of the Preschool website is completed. Thank you, **Jeff Lang**, for your creativity and help with this project.

What's ahead? We are offering a 3-week summer school program from June 23-July 10. We are currently registering students for this program. Please refer to the Preschool website for details:

<http://unitedmethodistpreschool.org/>

Sincerely,

Paulette Ove

June: Conviction

Growing up, sometimes we might think it would be cool to be a superhero. Mostly because, well, flying sounded like it would be AMAZING. But also because superheroes stood up for what was right regardless of how dangerous or how scary the situation. Their conviction drove them to find the courage to stand up to evil, even when no one else seemed to care or stood petrified with fear. No matter what, the superhero came to the rescue.

As a kid, we might not realize that we are already part of an amazing story. No one might have ever told us that it didn't take some super power to act like a superhero. I have a feeling there are a ton of kids out there who feel the same way. That's why we're taking the months of June and July to discover what it means to **Stand Up: Get in the Story** as we learn more about *conviction*. Conviction is standing for what's right, even when others don't.



Let's take Jesus for example. Even for Jesus, the Son of God, it wasn't always popular to do the right thing. Sometimes doing the right thing meant hanging out with tax collectors, blessing the little children, or even forgiving someone who had done something wrong. No matter what it was that Jesus needed to do, He did it because it was the right thing to do. But doing the right thing often made Jesus stand apart from some of the rich and powerful people of His time. They didn't always like what He was doing or saying, but Jesus never let those crowds persuade Him to go against what God wanted Him to do. Even when it meant going to the cross to die, Jesus knew that it was the right thing, and He did it.



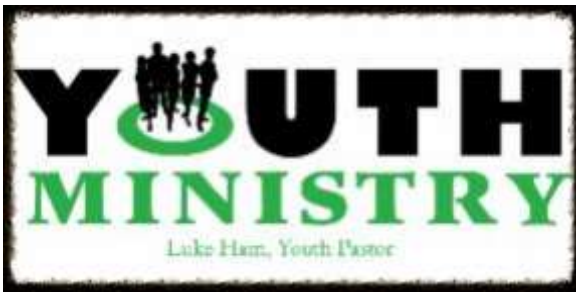
Jesus was able to live with conviction because He knew the will of God, and that gave Him strength and courage. In the same way, God has given us the ability to know what is right and the ability to do it. You see, when we are fueled by God's character, we will stand up for the things that matter to God.

Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to stand for what's right.

Bottom Line: When you know what God says, it can help you stand for what's right.

Bottom Line: When you stand for what's right, you stand up for others.

Bottom Line: When you stand for what's right, others can see God.



On May 13, we wrapped up our Youth Group year with our annual Messy Games Night! Fun was had by all as we got messy with shaving cream, maple syrup, chocolate sauce, lipstick, pudding and marshmallows! Thanks to everyone who helped to make this youth group year a success! Youth group will return in September.

We will celebrate our **Youth and Graduating Seniors on June 14** with special worship service at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. followed by a brunch for the graduates and their families at 11:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. *Please RSVP for Brunch to Luke if you have a graduating senior your family is planning to participate.*

Just because youth group is on summer break doesn't mean there still aren't things to do at church! We will continue to have Youth Sunday School at 9am and have two mission trip opportunities in July.

The SSP: Smith River Mission Trip will include power tools, housing restoration projects and building projects in a low income area of the Northern California coast. The trip runs from **July 5-11** and is for those entering their freshman year of high school through those entering their freshman year of college in the fall. There are only four more spots available, so let Luke know if you would like to go ASAP! *We also still need two adult chaperone volunteers. All adult volunteers get to attend the trip FREE OF CHARGE!*

The Gleanings for the Hungry Mission Trip will be a time of processing and packaging thousands of pounds of food for those in third world countries. This trip is for those entering 7th grade through 12th grade in the Fall. The trip goes from **July 19-25**. *Adult drivers are still needed for this trip, please let Luke know if you can help!*

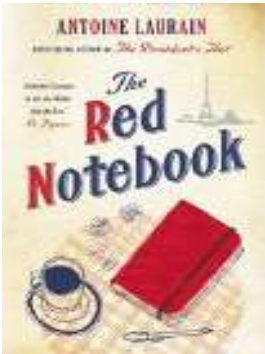
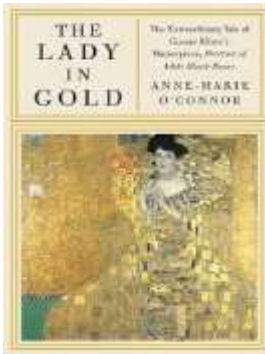


AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP
 Monday 1:00 p.m.
 Rm. 202, Wesley Center

Monday, May 18 — *The Steady Running of the Hour* by Justin Go (Teresa leading)

Monday, June 15 — *The Red Notebook* by Antoine Laurain (Marilyn leading)

Monday, July 20th-- *The Lady in Gold* by Anne-Marie O'Connor (Debbie leading)

*More
 Messy
 Games...*



Do you think they look this good when they're cleaned up?...Just kidding, girls! — Lisa J.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Nancy Sabin	Donna Johnston
Marilyn Mathis	John Johnston
Jackie Ceragioli	Jean White
Phyl Roth	
Melanie Hasik	
Dick Greeno	

Welcome

Caleb John, born April 28, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz, 21 inches long, to Stephanie & Luke Ham. Mom and Dad are taking some time away from work to bond with little Caleb.

Thank You

Daphne Kimbell and family would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the tremendous outpouring of love and support that we received on the death of Dale Kimbell.

To all the wonderful people at SRVUMC,

I want to say thank you for all the prayers that all of my good friends said for me. Without this pacemaker, I would not be here today. What a blessing the people of this church are! Thanks to all my family and special friends for the loving care you gave me. No "thank you" words can be enough, but I must say this group of people is the best.

Love to all of you,

Vilva Robinett

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; Steve Colman; Lenore Cooper; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny & Donna Johnston; Del Kennedy; Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Larry Liggett; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Ruth Meier; Mary Ogden;

Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Phyllis Roth; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Carol Webb; Joan Webb; Jean White.

Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$6/ea.)

Special thanks to Shannon, Devon, as well as Sandy Yarmolich and everyone else here at SRVUMC who helped me get going in my new role with the *Messenger* this month. It didn't hurt that the June submissions were all on time this month, either! — Lisa J.

July Celebrations



Birthdays

2 Sarah Garnick Lisa Glover	Kellie McFarland Sherrrie Weis	20 Lauren Alfrey Ann Barnes (100!!)	
3 Kevin Campbell	Katie Wolfram	Esi Impraim	Corinne Warnock
4 Don Field	13 Devon Drake	John Marshall	27 Cherrie Anderson
5 John Nelson	Fern Hibdon	Sandra McFarland	Susan Donatelli
6 Xan Alexander Michael Dandridge Susan Hinzie Stephanie Ricker Schmalz	14 Amy Riedel Kim Soderlund Robert Winter	Ben Ten Elshof 21 Christine Duggan Carol Fhlug Harry Hanover Ginger McGuffin Bill Rust Mary Roush (91)	Dan Duggan Darlene Greeno Malia Malin Valerie Miller Jerry Ricker
7 Brenda Domergue Emily Lucente Fred Toney	15 Marilyn Christian Karen Garnick Gloria Holleman Bob Lambert	22 Beth McKnight Shirley Slater Larry Stone	28 Tony Pelletier Janet Steffy Brian Stocking
8 Billy Andrew	Donna Paula-Willis		
9 Graydon Bazell	16 Vlad Balyuk Melissa Stroin	23 Judy Benedict Pam Lewey Mitch Nicco Kathy Sheppard Georgia Wilkens	29 Joseph Saghafi 30 Karen Dudas Stacey Judd Mark Miller Jeff Schroeder
10 Shannon Dever Ryan Dunn Meghan Flanagan Vin Hirsch Kathy Kennedy Joan Ross	17 Nancy Alexander Allison Lowe Steve McAdams	24 Whitney Tiedemann 25 Willy Adam 26 Ryan Leontini Bill Sabin	31 Ed Bader Gail Soldavini Greg Willis
11 Ross Rudow Marti Starnes Teri Voegtle	Vera Knowles 19 Judy Baker Diane Barley Marilyn Scott		
12 Linda Ashcraft			

Wedding Anniversaries

2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts	Pam & Alan Christian	Elshof	23 Marianne & Bruce Templeton
5 Carol & John Sayers (52nd)	Jane & John VanderWerf	18 Sunny & Sung Ahn	31 Liz & Ron Cooper Marci & Kelly Milligan
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell Judy & Randy Slinger	9 Debbie & John Hammond Linda & Curtis Jimerson	20 Katy & Gregg Mannell 21 Nancy & John Harrison Alice Anthony & Alex Iantuanano	
7 Teresa Fimby-Christensen & Randy Christensen	12 Kerry & Scott Davis 16 Trudy & Larry Pasquale	22 Jennifer & Don Andres	
8 Kelly & Erik Benjamson	Rebecca & Roger Ten-		