



# the Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

NOVEMBER 2014

*A Personal Point of View~*

## “I plan to give thanks that I’m still alive...”

*— One Marine, Cpl. Matthew Hummel, 21, celebrated 2004 Thanksgiving in Iraq*

One of the reflections of the development of the character of Christ in a human heart is the capacity to give thanks to and receive thanks from other people. We are to live a life of thanksgiving with each other. Sometimes that means saying thanks for the blessing we receive from others. I have noticed that we often have trouble with a “thanksgiving” way of life. I don’t know why.

Perhaps, we think that we lose some of ourselves in giving thanks to others. Over the years, I have learned that we gain a new portion of our redeemed selves when we give some of ourselves away in thanksgiving. One of my personal habits is to try to thank the people around me for the things that they do that others may not seem to notice. It gives me a sense of purpose when I can build another person up.

Perhaps, we are afraid that we will contribute to puffing another person up if we shower them with thanks and affirmation. This does not seem to be in the spirit of the scriptural admonition to build one another up in love. My personal conviction is that the world around us does enough to deflate our egos and that the Body of Christ should set the standard for affirming and celebrating one another. We have a chance to offer grace to each other when we show and share thanks living.

Perhaps, we can try to be thanksgiving and thanksgiving for Thanksgiving Day this month we will celebrate over the turkey meal with family and friends. What would happen if we fast from saying not-so-good things this month, and instead say good things about something even when we don’t feel like it? How different the world around us would be if we practice thanksgiving and thanksgiving and let them be our verse in the powerful play of our lives? I am curious. Would you be willing to test out on this with me this month? I pray that many of you will join me in the practice of thanksgiving and thanksgiving during the month of November by Fully Relying On God (FROG). Happy Thanksgiving! Ribbit!

*~Pastor Sunny*

*P.S. If you need a restful moment to escape the busyness of modern life—especially during November and December with the many extra holiday activities—then please come enjoy a quiet moment in the Sanctuary and Meditation Garden of the church. They will be opened from 10am to 2pm every Monday for those who would like to experience a quiet moment. You may stop in and out at any time during those hours weekly. One of the pastors will be present in the sanctuary to pray with you if you desire. Simply you can come up to the prayer rail with an upward open palm, representing your desire. This might be a great opportunity to re-energize you and restore the thanksgiving heart, especially if you deal with Monday blues or Holiday blues. Come, rest, and reconnect with God!*

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***Final day for submissions: November 21, 2014***

***Please submit articles to: [syarmolich@srvumc.org](mailto:syarmolich@srvumc.org)***

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# Can I get a Witness?



*In the next couple of issues of the Valley Messenger, our members and friends will give witness to the difference SRVUMC has made, and is making, in their lives. How has it made a difference in YOUR life?*

Sometimes it is said, "The Church is just a bunch of "Do Gooders" – but what a wonderful opportunity to connect in ways to be able to "Do Good" in whatever way, or interest, or use of your abilities and resources (even if they are limited).

I'm glad to be part of the SRVUMC community that enables a person to "Start Where You Are; Use What You Have; DO What You Can"

—Carole Johnson

The SRVUMC continues to grow in importance as the "flagship" of our Christian faith journey. In recent times we personally have had the time and good fortune to be able to respond to our church's challenge to serve those less fortunate than ourselves. The message from our pulpit calls us into service to others. "Out there somewhere - almost everywhere - are needs and opportunities for each of us to do some good work - God's work." We find great fulfillment in working with other church members as we answer this call.

This calls us to want to help care for our church financially so that the many effective ministries that the church supports may continue and grow.

—Peggy and Horace Crawford

San Ramon Valley is home. It's the place where you go to see warm, loving, familiar faces who accept you for who you are. It's a community of diverse individuals and families who long for the opportunity to explore their faith as well as serve their community. Tim and I feel blessed to have found many friends from many generations at SRVUMC.

—Lea Hickman

SRVUMC is one of the primary local sources of hope to combat the growing secular trend. The young people who attend our church are involved with many of the outreach and local community projects. They are serious about their participation, which should give us great hope for our future. We are so fortunate to have such a competent and visionary staff. Also, our congregation contributes so much to the diverse actions of our church community in both treasure and time. We are blessed to have a staff and congregation that is so involved with these varied efforts to help the less fortunate worldwide. I support our agenda and I feel very privileged to be a member.

—Bill Sabin

### *Our Young People Offer Their Own Testimony...*

"This church is a place where I can learn about God through people I trust and care about."

—Ally Kelly

"To me, church means a safe place where I can come and feel loved and not judged."

—Taylor Smallwood

"This church means a lot to me. It has impacted me by teaching me about God and (has) brought me close to many people I consider my best friends."

—Kaylee Bain



## November Communion Offering Benefits Loaves & Fishes & Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties



*As we begin our transition from fall into the holiday season this month, we remember and support two local organizations who are caring for and feeding local families, seniors and children who are hungry, the working poor and homeless segments of our society. Your generous giving through our November Communion Offering on Nov. 2 benefits Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen of San Jose, and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties in Concord.*



For the last 34 years, the Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen has provided, free, hot meals to families, seniors and the working poor. What began years ago as a simple meal of bread and fish for eleven adults and fifteen children, now serves as many as 1,000 healthy meals per day. According to a 2012 University of Santa Clara study, hunger affects 44% of children and 12% of seniors in the Santa Clara valley. These meals, served at three San Jose locations, remove one large concern off the worry list for the low-income people this program gladly serves.

Your Communion Offering giving will help Loaves & Fishes buy kitchen supplies, meal ingredients and support their Goodwill and shelter meal delivery service. In addition, it will fund seeds, seedlings and materials needed to grow fresh produce for Loaves & Fishes at Father Larry's Farm, and fund campaigns to end hunger. To learn more about all the good things Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen is doing, visit their website at: <http://www.loavesfishes.org/cms/#sthash.mNCSGhHw.dpuf>



The other beneficiary of our November Communion Offering is the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties. This organization works to feed hungry families, adults and seniors and provide farmer's market vouchers in the counties they serve, raise awareness of hunger and issues related to food, and reduce food waste. Your Communion Offering giving helps these families stretch their limited income and provides a better quality of life.

Under the leadership of Lee Rust, our church regularly sends teams to the Food Bank's warehouse in Concord to help sort and prepare food for distribution. Lee led a team of about 25 adults and youth on this fall's Mission Saturday to the Food Bank. In a mere two hours, they packed up 160 boxes of produce, which represents about 5,400 lbs. of fresh produce! This means people from our community who may be experiencing a difficult time, will be able to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables as a result of this Mission Saturday team's hard work.

If you're interested in serving in this way, Lee is hosting another mission team trip to the Food Bank, on January 17 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30pm. Contact Lee ([chijocol@aol.com](mailto:chijocol@aol.com)) if you're interested in joining the team! You can help the Food Bank any time by donating non-perishable food items into the barrels in the Narthex and Wesley Center Foyer. To read about real life stories and the transforming work the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties is doing, visit: <http://www.foodbankccs.org/about/real-life-stories.html#sthash.B792gV5Q.dpuf>





## MISSION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Start where you are  
Use what you have.  
Do what you can.  
~ Arthur Ashe*

*Support Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH),  
because,*

## There is No Place like Home!



Every day in our own community, hundreds of families including hundreds of children, go to sleep homeless. In fact, Contra Costa County has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation, despite also being home to some of the country's wealthiest individuals.

Fortunately, Hope Has a Home through Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH), and San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church is already helping through our ongoing support. Currently, CCIH is serving over 700 low-income, at-risk residents, including over 300 children, in our community. But CCIH needs your help.

CCIH's Annual January Auction, Ruby Slippers, generates a significant portion of CCIH's annual budget, and we need SRVUMC's help again this year. Each member faith community for CCIH, including SRVUMC, is being asked to donate auction items for the silent auction portion by having members of the congregation select items from an "Auction Board" to purchase and donate. This auction board will have approximately 10 suggested items ranging from approximately \$100-\$500, such as two bottles of wine, a golf foursome, a camping starter set, a spa gift card, etc. The items were selected based on what people in the past bid on the most. So look for Jeff Rideout between services with the CCIH Auction Board- it is fun and an easy way to help. Jeff can also provide more information on CCIH, and other ways to sponsor and/or attend the CCIH Auction if you are interested.



## Buy A Student A Meal

Hello all, I pray all is well with you and your loved ones.

I hope all of you enjoyed James Lazarre's visit and sermon.

In his sermon he said to you that "You are in Mission EVERY day with your gifts of love, talents, money and time". I am proud to be his mentor and to work with him in this initiative.

I am proud of our church and of our efforts to help those in Haiti to a better life. You are actively in Mission.

Not long ago, our congregation raised over \$20,000 for water purifiers and we have installed 10 of them and they are giving clean drinking water to over 1000 people every day. Today we are again seeking your assistance with providing funds for food to the children in these schools. For 3 years we have fed children daily and as of now we have 2 lunch programs in operation and are serving 400+ meals each day during the school year. Each meal cost 50 cents and is purchased in country at the local markets. This is our only cash flow need and since we come to know these children, and many of you are pen pals with them, we ask that you find it in your heart to help in this very important need.

In most cases this one meal is the only meal the child will receive in that day. God bless you

Buy a student a meal

*~ Warren McGuffin*

**\$100 for a school year per student  
gives a daily hot meal  
Total Goal this school year for student meals =  
\$20,000**



# Between the Bookends

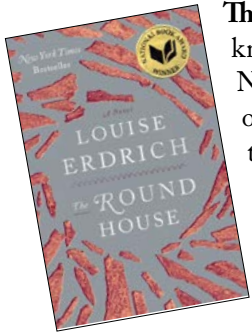
By Sally Christopherson, Librarian



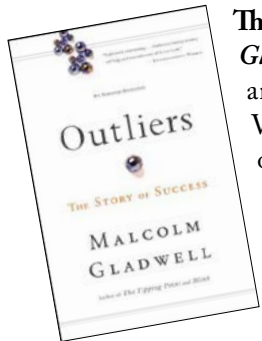
*What can you keep in your pocket, carry under your arm, drop and it won't break, and it's not harmed by going through security cameras? It can go on a picnic, make you cry, or make you laugh, it can make you think, makes a perfect gift, and is a guilt-free splurge for yourself? You know exactly what I'm thinking of—books!—and we love them here at SRVUMC!*

*Every Sunday morning there's a choice selection on the Book Cart in the Wesley Center foyer. You can check out a book, and when you're finished reading it, return it quickly and easily to the Big Brown Return Box located next to the cart and check out another one.*

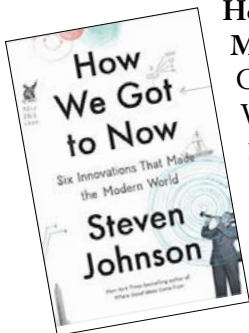
*Here are some new ones you'll find on the library cart on Sunday, November 2. Watch for them!*



**The Round House, by Louise Erdrich.** We all know there are “Indian reservations” where Native Americans still live, guided by their own tribal laws and customs. Young Joe is the only child of a tribal judge who grows up fast when his mother is brutally attacked and retreats into her own world. The power of love and family shines through this award-winning novel.



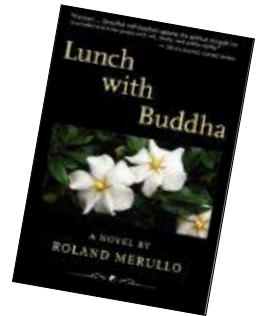
**The Outliers: the story of success, by Malcolm Gladwell.** Why do some people succeed and others don't? Is there a magic formula? What are the hidden advantages, the extra opportunities? Gladwell seems to have a trademark on his readable ideas of why Mozart and the Beatles were successful and others just as talented weren't. Easy...and fun...and thought-provoking...to read.



**How We Got to Now; Six Innovations That Made the Modern World, by Steven Johnson.** Glass; Cold; Sound; Clean; Time; Light. Why were no self-portraits painted before 1400? Who knew that the Neanderthals experimented with acoustics in those caves in France? This fascinating book is full of unexpected and thrilling revelations. Now featured in a six part series on PBS.

**Lunch with Buddha, by Roland Merullo.**

Breakfast with Buddha is one of the most popular books in our Library. We have two copies and they're always checked out. Now uptight Otto Ringling is off on another road trip with his free-spirited Buddhist brother-in-law and we're along for the ride. I wish I knew Rinpoche!



**A Fine Balance, by Rohinton Mistry.** This expansive novel of India was read and enjoyed by one of our book groups and comes highly recommended. Four unlikely people are forced by circumstances to band together for survival in an uncertain world. In many ways cruel, in every way honest, this novel reflects the wonder and the despair that is India.



*There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*

—Edith Wharton, 1862-1937

# Kindness Matters Corner

## Must Kindness Be So Unusual?

The news seems to be full of stories of kindness and “paying it forward” events. Why are acts of kindness so often reported, almost advertised? Why can’t acts of kindness merely be a way of life, like breathing for instance? Is each breath reported, is it a big deal, is it something to be admired? Why can’t kindness be ingrained in us like breathing?

One quite ordinary act of kindness caused a friend to ponder this question and think of the contrast between an act of kindness and almost any other type of act. It began in a local coffee shop, a woman friend of mine stood behind a young man who was obviously the office “go-for.” He had a list of half a dozen orders, special orders every one—you know very few people drink just coffee anymore. She watched this poor fella as he moved into the “making sure” phase of his purchase, making sure all orders were correct, all orders

were received, all orders had a better than fair chance of reaching the office without spilling while retaining heat.

As the young man gave the last order, his own, to the server, my friend said, “Here, please, let me buy your coffee for you.” The young man couldn’t believe it! Here was a woman who, for no reason other than kindness, was buying his coffee! He couldn’t contain himself, and he almost stumbled as he expressed his thanks and joy for the \$3 gift. You would have thought he had hit the jackpot from this act of kindness. The young man’s reaction caused my friend to consider the contrasts between kindness and other acts.

My friend’s thoughts were these: Each day many people trudge through as if they are wearing raincoats. It is



forever cloudy above them. With each step, they receive another unkindness, and they try to let it just run off of them. Consider the negative actions that come your way or that you observe in just one day. The range of settings and the unkindness’s tossed our way are unending. We trudge along while the increasing severity of unkindness results in fog, mist, sporadic raindrops, steady rain, hail, or sleet, and each smacks against us and our raincoat. Sometimes with the wind’s help, we’re physically pushed. With the exception of very unkind acts, we adjust and just deal with it. Most times there is nothing to do, but accept it. It isn’t worth the trouble; it isn’t worth the risk of receiving further unkindness. We accept it, and we move along, eyes down, looking at what is immediately before us. There is really nothing

anyone can do, but accept it. But then, somehow the clouds part, the bright sun shines through, and, without advance notice or fanfare, a woman buys a cup of coffee. The raincoat comes off because who needs it now—a kindness has been given to me. Thank you, thank you! Let’s begin a campaign to remove the raincoats worn by those close to us, right now.

When it was all said and done, I had to tell my friend, “You know, if kindness becomes the norm, then I’m out of a job!”

These stories and examples are all around us. Please tell of those that especially move you—it matters. Be a cub reporter and tell others of the kindnesses you observe, offer, and accept. Share your stories of kindness by emailing your story to [kindness@srvumc.org](mailto:kindness@srvumc.org). Names won’t be used, just the example of kindness for others. Your story will be posted to the church website within a few days.



Show you care,  
Think Carpool  
& Share a ride  
to Church!

## All Church Charge Conference

An All Church Charge Conference will be held Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room. All are welcome and invited to attend.

The Administrative Board will meet before the Charge Conference at 6:30 in the Fireside Room. The meeting will be adjourned to attend the Charge Conference, and will resume after conclusion of the Charge Conference.



**Pick-up magnets  
and Kindness  
Matters brochures  
in the church  
office, Narthex  
and Wesley foyer  
brochure racks.**





**More than Just Breakfast.**  
*A fellowship and Christian Services Group*



The United Methodist Men's (UMM) group is so much more than just breakfast and interesting speakers every month. Did you know that last year they raised and donated over \$7,000 to support various needs around the Church and throughout the community? And, they had a great time doing it!

The UMM organizes several fundraising events throughout the year, including the Crab Feed (February), Annual Golf Tournament (October), and their popular Christmas Breakfast (December). With the proceeds from these events, they support programs such as: Methodist Youth, Sentinels of

Freedom, Trinity Center, Haiti Thomas School, Shelter, Inc., and the Wesley Center Kitchen.

In addition to their special events, the group has several members of the group joined together for their 22nd annual men's retreat at Horace and Peggy Crawford's Quail Run Ranch near Mt. Lassen. The group enjoyed four days of great barbeques, hiking, fishing, relaxation, and *tall tales*.

To get involved with the United Methodist Men, or any of their activities, email Dean McWilliams at [OSI310@aol.com](mailto:OSI310@aol.com).

*Come Join Us!*





# What's Going On?

## Looking for Input on the Name for Our New Building

by Jim Burk



I have been working on the development of a name for our new building/gymnasium. I have both spoken to numerous individuals and groups within the church to obtain their thoughts and input, and will continue this research in the immediate days ahead. This article is meant to stimulate thoughts from

those with whom I have not previously spoken. We are on a timeline that would envision going before the Charge Conference planned for Tuesday, November 18 to see if we have a consensus or whether we need more input before we are ready to finalize the name. It is our objective to come to a conclusion possibly before the Charge Conference, or certainly by the end of November at the latest, if possible. That would allow us to be ready with a "majority opinion" name before the groundbreaking event which could occur late in 2014, or very early in 2015.

One name that has considerable support to date is "Athletic & Recreation Center" or "ARC." Discussion with Pastor Luke, for one, indicates that he foresees this name as catchy and popular with our younger audience and potential users.

I would appreciate your feedback to me either via e-mail, telephone, or in person; and I am seeking your concurrence, constructive critique, or new alternatives by Monday, November 10. Thank you in advance for your personal observations. They are most welcome.

Contact: [jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net) or (925) 946-1192

### CenterPoint Worship

*Centerpoint is held on the first Wednesday of each month as a time to be quiet and communicate with our Lord. It is a contemplative service and all are invited. Centerpoint will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 6:30pm (new time) in the sanctuary. December's Centerpoint dates are December 3, 10 and 17. All are welcome!*



## Around the Church



United Methodist Women  
Faith•Hope•Love In Action

*The next meeting of the United Methodist Women is on  
Tuesday, November 11, 2014*

*10:30am in Wesley Center*

*for a Combined October/November Program.*

*United Methodist Women will welcome*

**JoAnne Van Bezey**

*who will bring us*

*"An Eye Care Mission in Cambodia through the Lens of  
an Optometrist"*

*The UMW was able to help with the purchase of  
equipment and supplies for this UMWIM project  
through monies earned at the  
annual Rummage Sale.*

*Make plans to come to this meeting and program,  
followed by lunch prepared by Mary Roush for all  
who can stay.*

San Ramon Valley United Methodist  
Church

Harvest Festival and Boutique

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

9:00 – 3:00

902 Danville Blvd., Alamo

- Shop for everyone on your list!
- Quality Hand Crafts by local artists
- Unbeatable DEALs!
- Support the SRVUMC Youth Bake Sale

Stay for the Harvest Café  
Homemade Soups & Sandwiches  
Delicious Pies & Bakes Goods  
Just \$5.00!





## Endowment Donors Invited

# Men's Breakfast

*Breakfast Every Third Saturday  
Wesley Center, 8am*

Each month, the UMM Group joins together to share their culinary skills, fellowship, and enjoy programs on local Church activities and community affairs.

### *Recent speakers visiting the group include:*

- John Coleman/Director East Bay Municipality
- Daniel Borenstein/Contra Costa News Columnist
- Mike Nicco/KGO Meteorologist
- Dave Livingston/Contra Costa County Sheriff
- Steve Simpkins/Danville Police Chief
- Seth Adams/Save Mt. Diablo
- Pastor Sunny Ahn/Her Faith Journey

Come see for yourself what the United Methodist Men's Group is all about at our November meeting as we welcome SRVUMC member, and former Chevron Manager on Environmental Issues, Dr. Lyn Arscott. Lyn will speak on "Energy Dependence, and concerns on Fracking Shale for Oil and Gas."

## SRVUMC Women's Retreat 2015

*"Blossoming in God's Love"*  
*Led by: Denise Bowman Wylie*  
Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz, CA  
(831) 465-1236



**Dates:** Friday evening, January 23 through lunch Sunday, January 25, 2015

**Retreat Topic:** The retreat will focus on the "Blossoming in God's Love"

**Fees:** \$270 for a double room; \$315 for a single room

**Registration:** Sunday, November 2, and 9 after the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services in Wesley Center Lobby

Your registration must be done in person. Bring your completed registration form and your check when signing up. *(There are no early registrations but no one will be turned away!)* If you are sharing a room, please enter the name of your room partner on the form. Your room partner does not need to be present at registration. You may turn in their check along with yours.

**Cancellation with refund** deadline is December 15th (on or after December 15, women should find a replacement or consider donating their registration free for a scholarship.) A \$5 scholarship donation will be welcomed by all who would like to participate.

Contact Deanna Clark ([dtclark@me.com](mailto:dtclark@me.com)) or call her at 925-895-0730, if you would like to attend but would appreciate financial assistance.

## Endowment Donors Invited



# Annual Thank You Brunch

The Annual Endowment donor Thank You Brunch will be at 11:30am on Sunday November 16th in Wesley Center. Guest speaker is Linn Coombs, Estate Planning Attorney, who will provide insights about protecting your savings and estate planning.

## *I Trovatori Opera* presents *Così fan tutte* (Women are like that...)

*by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*  
(with our own Kelly Benjamson)

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

• 7:30 pm •

Diablo Valley College  
Music Building, Room 101  
Pleasant Hill, CA

South Entrance to DVC off of Viking Drive

❖ Tickets ❖

General \$15, Seniors \$10  
[BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)



[itrovatori2013.webs.com](http://itrovatori2013.webs.com)

501c3 Pending

## UMW Christmas Tea

# Spotlight Your Tablesetting Talents

The Christmas Tea is coming and I need ladies willing to hostess a table. To hostess a table entails setting the table to seat 8 or 10. You may use the church dishes if you wish. Either a green or white table cloth will be provided, your choice. The hostess provides her table with a Christmas themed center piece. Some hostesses prefer to bring their own napkins or dishes from home. Set up of the table may be done on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> after 10:30am or the day of the tea. You may invite ladies to sit at your table or have seats available for attendees. To those who have been hostesses in the past, I hope you will consider a table again this year. To those who have never done a table, it can be as simple or complex as you want to make it. Thank you for volunteering. Please contact Bonnie Roberts, 925-846-2035, or by e-mailing her at bad-brindie@att.net



## Senior Scoop

*All Seniors and their family, friends & caregivers are invited!*

**Lunch with Friends**  
**1st & 3rd Tuesday, Noon**

Lunch with Friends is a home-cooked, sit-down meal, served in Wesley Center at Noon on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tables are set with fresh flowers and surrounded by interesting people. These lunches are the friendliest place in town. Plan ahead and invite a friend!

- **Tuesday, November 4.** Menu: Baked ziti, garlic bread, green salad, ice cream and cookies.

## Calling All Angels!

# Help Bring Joy For Christmas



The 2014 Angel Tree Campaign has arrived!

Even though Halloween has not arrived yet, it is time to form the committee for this year's Angel Tree Campaign. We begin planning in late October, and our activities take us through mid-December. Participating on this committee is a great way

to contribute to this keystone of our SRVUMC Mission Outreach Program. And consider this: you can ask for the activity that best fits your schedule and likes. Last year we delivered about 275 gifts to 8 different charitable organizations. If you would like to participate by planning, decorating, wrapping, or delivering gifts to the agencies, please contact your Angel Tree Co-coordinators:

Linda Green, [gzpete@comcast.net](mailto:gzpete@comcast.net), (925) 683-7444, or Marla Schleicher, [catlike19@aol.com](mailto:catlike19@aol.com), (925) 648-0517.



You're Invited to the United Methodist Women's

## Annual Women's Christmas Tea

**Saturday, December 13, 2014**  
**Wesley Center from 1-3pm**

**Great musical performances**  
**Please bring a plate of finger food to share**





## Bowlers Wanted

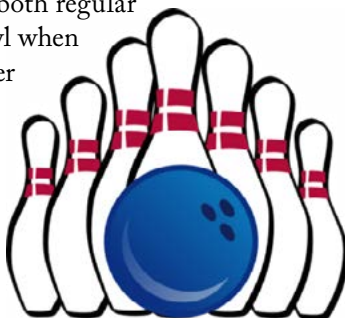
### Don't Miss the Fun!

*Monday Nights, 7:15pm*

Looking for a fun way to meet people, get some exercise, and even improve your bowling game? Come join the fun with bowling group at 7:15pm on Monday Nights at Danville Bowl.

This group is made up of bowlers with all levels of bowling experience. We're looking for both regular bowlers and substitutes to bowl when the need arises. Cost is \$18 per week, and that includes your ball and shoes.

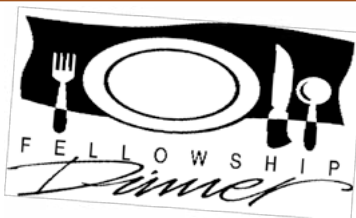
For more information, email Barb McWilliams at [DeanandBarbara@aol.com](mailto:DeanandBarbara@aol.com) or Vera Robinson at [vrobgrf@yahoo.com](mailto:vrobgrf@yahoo.com)



### Dinner for "8"

Doubles or Singles join together for awesome culinary dining at it best! It's a chance to share in fellowship, connect with old friends and make new friends.

Sign up by contacting Winnie Stribling at [WinnieStribling@msn.com](mailto:WinnieStribling@msn.com) or Barb McWilliams at [deanandbarbara@aol.com](mailto:deanandbarbara@aol.com)



## Handbell Ringers Needed



### Carillon Bell Choir

If you have experience ringing handbells, the Carillon Choir welcomes you. We are starting to prepare for the Christmas concert in December.

Our rehearsals are from 5:45-7pm on Tuesday evenings in Wesley Center.

For more information, contact Winnie Stribling (838-2601), [Winnie\\_Stribling@msn.com](mailto:Winnie_Stribling@msn.com), or Floy Blair (935-4290), [FloyBlair@comcast.net](mailto:FloyBlair@comcast.net).

## Help Wanted

*Part-time/One Time Chefs for Senior Lunches  
January thru May 2015*

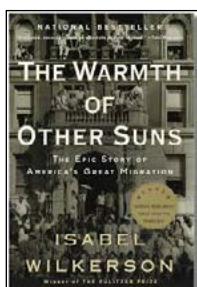
Our chef for Senior Lunches is going on an around the world cruise from late January thru early May. We could use your help in preparing a lunch menu for the seniors. The lunches are held on the first and third Tuesdays at noon in Wesley Center. We already have a dedicated crew to assist you. If you can help one time or several times, please call Sandy Greenwood at (925) 935-1109 or email her at [SandyG4711@gmail.com](mailto:SandyG4711@gmail.com).

Dates Open: Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, Feb 17th, Mar 3rd, Mar 17th, Apr 7th, Apr 21st, and May 5th. If you can help for any of these dates, please give me a call.

## Book Groups

### Christ Care Book Group

*Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 10am, Library*



The Christ Care Book Group does not meet in November and December.

We will meet 28 January 2015 after reading "The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson. We welcome you to join us."If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Gloria Fenton at [gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net)

### Afternoon Book Group

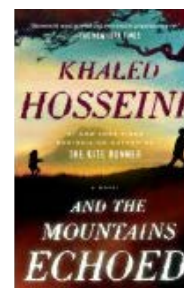
*Monday, November 17, 1 pm,  
Rm. 202, Wesley Center*

Our November meeting is on Monday, November 17, and we will discuss our next book, "And the Mountains Echoed" by Khaled Hosseini

We won't meet in December.

At our January 26, 2015 meeting we discuss, "The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics" by Daniel Brown

For more information, please contact Marilyn Scott at [merebruin.scott@gmail.com](mailto:merebruin.scott@gmail.com)



# SRVUMC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Stephanie Ham, Director of Children's Ministry

Have you ever been watching a sporting event where one of the teams played like they were falling apart at the seams? The pitcher giving up run after run. The defensive line that just can't stop anyone. It's a mess. Finally the coach calls it: "Time out!" He brings the team in, takes a moment to regroup. He adjusts and recalibrates to get his team ready to get back on the field and face their opponent.

The same goes for life.

Everything can be going well. You're happy at work. The kids are excelling at school, and they are even getting along with each other at home. Life seems pretty perfect. Then overtime something happens. Not overnight and maybe even so gradually that you don't notice it. But one day you wake up and it seems like nothing's going right and everyone is grumpy. Something is off. Something is broken. And everyone needs a time out. There are just some things that need an adjustment.



## *Bottom Lines for the* Month of November

You always have something to be grateful for.

- Take time to say "thank you."
- Take time to adjust your attitude.
- Take time to celebrate what God has done.
- Take time to remember how others have helped you.

God wants to work in your life and the lives of your kids to tweak some things in your character. In a lot of ways, He's taking a time out and making adjustments to conform you to the image of His Son. In those times, it's like God is pulling us over to the side and reminding us when we need to recalibrate a few things. And it makes sense, really. If God made us, He knows what we need to give attention to. That's why it's important to pay attention to His instruction manual and what He has to say about certain attitudes. Take the idea of GRATITUDE, for example. If we never take the time to acknowledge what God has done in our lives or how others have helped us, we may develop an unhealthy ego or a growing frustration at the people around us. We might become bitter and complain about every little thing.

That's why GRATITUDE is a really big idea that God talks about so much. It affects more of your life than you probably have ever imagined. That's why we're taking this month to talk about what it means to show GRATITUDE: letting others know how they've helped you. Sometimes gratitude takes a little bit of intentionality. Sometimes, you have to literally take a time out and remember what you have to be grateful for. A great way to do that is through giving.







### Luke Ham, Youth Pastor

October was a month full of special moments in the youth program including the confirmation covenant service as well as the Blessing of the Athletes. Our format of two youth groups a week (one for High School, one for Middle School) has been working out quite nicely. We've seen several new youth from outside of the church coming to check out our youth group. Our Edge Youth Worship on Sundays has been blessed with great music from the Youth Band under the direction of Teri Hawk. Sometimes, I think it can be easy to overlook how blessed we are with young people at this church. I would like to share with you an excerpt from my sermon on October 19th to illustrate how I see our church making a difference in young people's lives:

In our time of strategic planning and visioning for our faith community, Pastor Ron often brings up a simple question.... If "San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church Disappeared tomorrow...", in what ways would the community around us notice?"

*Well, I can tell you in my relatively short time at this church I have seen our Youth program help young people make better decisions about drugs, alcohol and unhealthy relationships.*

*I have seen this church help families deal with addiction.*

*I have seen this church help get youth through the fact that their parents are separating, and family life will never be the same.*

*I have seen this church be the one place youth feel comfortable enough to share that they are suffering from abuse and need help to get free of the situation.*

*I have seen this church be a place where youth can reach out for help before making the decision to try and end their lives.*

*I have seen this church provide mission experiences that allow youth to see that the world is very different outside of our little valley. Where there is work that they can do to bring a positive impact for those who are as not as fortunate as we are.*

*I have seen this church bring a child who hasn't smiled in weeks to belly laughing with joy.*

*I have seen this church bring young men to tears because they can finally vent all the difficult things that are going on in their life out loud.*

*Do you realize that this church is one of the only thriving Christian youth ministries in the San Ramon Valley that allows space for youth to ask questions about who they are attracted to or love?*

*Do you realize there is not another Christian space with a critical mass of youth in our community where the ideal of Open Hearts and Open Minds can be explored and lived???*

*We have something truly special and unique here. We have something that God is using in powerful ways.*

Thank you to all those who make the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church a place that welcomes Youth. A place that allows a safe space for them to realize how much they are loved, and how much of a positive impact they can have on the world around them.

—Luke

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Victor Karpenko  
Brad Stribling  
Lyn Bristow  
Clyde Bazell

## Contact Information Updates

Please update the following information in your directory:

- Bill Sabin: [bsabin27@gmail.com](mailto:bsabin27@gmail.com)
- Scott & Dawn Smallwood, 863 La Gonda Way, Danville 945256
- Dianne Ehlers: [dianne.ehlers@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.ehlers@gmail.com)

## Our Christian Sympathy to:

Marilyn Mathis and family on the death of her mother, Alice Stoessel.

## Continued Prayers For...

*All those who continue to live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families:*

Bill Andrew; Judy Branden; Lyn Bristow; Lenore Cooper; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny & Donna Johnston; Del Kennedy; Dale & Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Larry Liggett; Jen Lotz-Kush; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Ruth Meier; John Neary; Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Charlie & Phyllis Roth; Barbara Schneider; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Carol Webb; Joan Webb.

## Thank You

To my many church friends:

Many, many thanks for your encouraging visits and phone calls during my recent hospital stay after knee surgery. The beautiful flowers that Lee brought from the altar were so special. Thanks you to our wonderful clergy who drove out to Pleasanton to visit and to encourage me. I'm finally on the "road to recovery" getting stronger by the day and anxious to join you.

Love, Barbara Schneider

## Welcome to:

Roman Victor Karpenko, on October 6th, great-grandson of Donna & John Johnston.

## Thank You

To our loving Church Family,

Brad and I sincerely thank each of you for your loving support during Brad's short illness. It caught both of us by surprise, but your cards, hospital and home visits, pastoral care, delicious meals and words of concern and encouragement meant a great deal to us. As we all know, illness is very stressful on the ones experiencing it, but your understanding and caring really made the difference. Thank you, thank you.

Winnie and Brad Stribling

## Shared Bulletins

Our hiking group attended Alison Berry's church, Sierra Pines UMC, on 9/14 while hiking in the Grass Valley area.

## Name Tags

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



# December Celebrations

## Birthdays



- |                    |                     |                           |                      |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 K Leigh Alfrey   | 7 Niles Bybel       | 13 Olivia Bybel           | 22 Kevin Isbell      |
| Chuck Desmond      | Elizabeth Coombs    | Robbie Rigolfi, Jr.       | HollyAnn Melton      |
| David Hagebush     | Geilhufe            | Deborah Robinson          | Flo Spanier (93!!)   |
| Liz Hirsch         | Kyle Dever          | David Shaw                | 23 Gayle Jackson     |
| 2 Aimee Knese      | Connie Erickson     | 14 Lillian Baker Holleman | Angela Norton        |
| Anita Weir-Ball    | Kathy Fulcher       | Ivan Kerr                 | 24 Caroline Marsh    |
| 3 Marissa Clarke   | Merrily Gervais     | Annette Whiting           | Suzanne Shea         |
| Greg Koos          | Don Weis            | 15 Cassidy Barry          | 25 Quentin Alexander |
| Jane Roath         | Suzanne Ziarnik     | Jim Braden                | 26 Del Kennedy       |
| 4 Lois Hammond     | 8 Emily Baker       | Horace Crawford           | Logan Nicco          |
| Ray Shea           | Cary Johnson (94!!) | John Larkins              | 27 Lauren Dowling    |
| 5 Aly Kelly        | Amy Beth Ogden      | 17 Patrick Dowling        | Evelyn Evans         |
| 6 Kathleen Saghafi | 9 Kirsten Choy      | Teresa Fimby-Christensen  | Rachel Hagebush      |
|                    | Sandy Clark         | Gretl Winter              | 28 Jane Knox         |
|                    | Ali Kuelz           | 18 Anne Kuelz             | Bill Miskovetz       |
|                    | Epi Vazquez         | Tyler Portman             | 29 George Hawk       |
|                    | 10 Wendi Cerda      | Kay Tarr                  | Kevin Keen           |
|                    | Ethel Ricker        | 19 Myra Gordon            | 30 Phyllis Meyer     |
|                    | Karen Steffy        | Teresa Stroin             | Ryan Mitchell        |
|                    | Amanda Taylor       | 20 Kathleen Isbell        | 31 Eric Carlson      |
|                    | 11 David Cashin     | 21 Susan Pickering-Gest   | Warren McGuffin      |
|                    | Kevin Knapp, Jr.    | Lindsay Portman           | Phyllis Wood         |
|                    | 12 Laura Brown      | Heather Coffman           |                      |
|                    | Joan Webb           | Kate Steffy               |                      |
|                    |                     | Kerri Wakefield           |                      |

## Wedding Anniversaries

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 Sharon & Bob Leyman                       | 27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz                  |
| Paula & Hal Lyons                           | 28 <b>Sheryl &amp; Ivan Kerr (51st)</b>   |
| 7 Karen & Al Dudas                          | Laurel & Geoff Portman                    |
| 9 Renée & Doug Beck                         | 29 <b>Eleanor &amp; Fred Toney (53rd)</b> |
| 15 <b>Rosemarie &amp; John Place (51st)</b> | 30 Mary & Carl Ogden                      |
| 16 Aubrie & Jeff Flores                     | 31 Georgia & Steve Wilkens                |
| 21 Shelley & Bill Lettis                    |   |
| 22 Gerry & Jim Aude                         |   |
| Yuri & Steve Beagles                        |   |





NOVEMBER 2014

## Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary

Non-Traditional Worship, 10:30 am, in the Sanctuary

Centerpoint Worship Service, first Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary

Child Care for birth-kindergarten is available during the morning services in the Children's Building

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly  
10/27/2014

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