



the Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

FEBRUARY 2015

A Parsonal Point of View~

Leaning Toward Lent: Ready... Set... Reflect!

The New Year is now well underway and, by this point, we have had some time to evaluate whether our resolutions for 2015 are still worthy of our allegiance and investment. In some cases, we have concluded, "It was a good idea, but..." or that it was never really a good idea from the start! In other cases, we may have discovered that we are in the process of living into a new and needed reality—one that represents nothing less than the transformation we have been hoping for.

Life, it seems to me, is a series of starts and stops in which we make and then evaluate the choices that we trust will enable us to live the kind of lives that we would like to be living. In this sense then, we are engaged in an ongoing process of resolve, reflection and revision. It is, I believe, part of the natural rhythm of living on purpose.

Although the season of Lent is still several weeks away, it will be upon us before our next issue of "The Messenger" is published and so it is that I wanted to take a moment to provide an early invitation to participate in our Lenten journey through worship (Centerpoint and Sunday morning experiences) and through our small group offerings. When shared in combination, these two activities can provide us with the opportunity to live our lives more thoughtfully and intentionally.

In a culture that tends to emphasize the importance of "doing" rather than "being," of acting rather than thinking, the Season of Lent offers a need counter balance to our inclination to be so busy that we simply don't have time to think. These forty days of preparation that lead us into the experience of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter can be the gift that we need to slow us down and remind us, once again, of the true significance of our faith.

This year, we will continue in our recently established tradition of focusing on one of the Gospels and the message that it holds for us. Last year, of course, the Gospel of Mark was our focus and many of us discovered that it had much to teach us about our faith journey and what it means to "Follow on the Heels of Jesus."

This year, we are shifting our focus to the Gospel of Matthew and its call to radical discipleship for the Christian community. Our text for this venture will be Grace Imathiu's study in Matthew that is entitled, "**Matthew's Message—Good News for the New Millennium.**" While this millennium is now not so new, I believe that you will find Rev. Imathiu's perspective both insightful and challenging. She is not only a gifted United Methodist preacher, but a talented writer as well.

As we will discover in our embrace of Matthew's Gospel, Matthew's ultimate focus is directed toward the Church and its calling to cultivate a community of believers who reflect a radical discipleship that is expressed through an ethic of love, forgiveness, and restoration. Matthew recognizes that while is not always easy to be the Church, it is the Church that, nevertheless, holds the potential to provide the tangible evidence of the

Don't Miss What's Inside

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Next Issue: February 26, 2015

*Have something you'd like included in next month's
Messenger? Please submit your articles to:
syarmolich@srvumc.org by February 13, 2015*

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SRVUMC

902 Danville Blvd
Alamo, CA 94507

Office Hours:

8:30am-12 & 1-4:30pm

Phone

(925) 837-5243

Fax

(925) 837-7263

Web site

www.srvumc.org

Ministers

EVERYONE

Lead Pastor

Ron Dunn (ext. 107)

Pastor

Sunny Ahn (ext 109)

Associate Pastor

Luke Ham (ext. 108)

Director of Children's Ministries

Stephanie Ham (ext 106)

Director of

Membership & Mission

Devon Drake (ext 110)

Office Administrator, Membership, Accounts Receivable

Shannon Dever (ext 105)

Finance Administrator Accounts Payable

Coreen Janes (ext 104)

Facilities & Purchasing Manager

Marilyn Clarke (ext 102)

Music Director

Bruce Koliha

Organist

Nadia Blank-Koliha

U.M. Preschool Director

Paulette Ove (ext 113)

Messenger Editor

Sandy Yarmolich

syarmolich@srvumc.org

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inclusive, reconciling and renewing power of God's love at work in our world. While we may struggle to fulfill this ancient hope, it is a hope worth our reflection...and our response.

I hope that you will plan to be a part of our Lenten focus this year. I'm looking forward to it.

*Grace & Peace,
Ron*

Team for Spring Haiti Mission Trip Forming Now

April 6-13, 2015

Thomas Food Project's Director of Sustainability, Warren McGuffin, is leading a mission team to Haiti this spring. The trip runs from April 6-13, 2015. The team is specifically seeking volunteers with expertise or interest in education, computers, water purification and gardening. If you've been searching for a way of serving others in a deep, meaningful way, this is the opportunity you've been waiting for!

To join the team, or for more information, please contact Contact Warren McGuffin 925.997.7602 warren@mcguffin.com



February Communion Offering Benefits

Bay Area Crisis Nursery



**When Parents Care
But
Temporarily Can't Cope**

Our February Communion Offering supports the work of the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Located in Concord, this short-term residential care facility serves families in crisis, primarily in the East Bay. Clients may be homeless, have a history of mental illness or substance abuse, may need distance and safety from a domestic abuse situation or have a medical emergency and need immediate care for their young children. The BACN takes in children from infants to 11 years of age. The goal of this organization is to help build healthy families by providing a safe, nurturing environment during a family's crisis, and support services and resources for the family once the emergency has passed. These services are free to the families under their care. BACN relies on donations - such as your communion giving - and donations made through fundraisers and private foundations.

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery was started by Sister Ann Weltz in 1981. Since their founding, BACN has helped over 20,000 children. SRVUMC has been a long-time supporter of BACN, where our children have made blankets for the nursery and through financial giving. If you're interested in supporting BACN in addition to your February Communion financial gift, check their website. They're currently in need of milk based powder formula with iron, and you can contact them if you'd like to make a formula donation, (925) 685-8052.

Thank you for your generous giving in support of the Bay Area Crisis Nursery on Feb. 1! You are truly transforming the lives of our most vulnerable through your gift. To learn more about the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, visit their website: www.bayareacrisisnursery.org



MISSION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Imagine No Malaria – A Mission for Lent

SRVUMC Mission and Service team will focus on the national program titled Imagine No Malaria during Lent. In 2013, our California – Nevada Conference set a goal to raise \$2 million to help eradicate death by malaria on the African continent. As of January 14, 2015, we are only \$505,221 from meeting this goal.



During the Lenten season, we will offer awareness programs to educate our community about this preventable disease. Unlike many other diseases that are awaiting a cure, malaria was eliminated in the U.S. in the 1950s. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill a person every 60 seconds. Imagine No Malaria is part of a global partnership and is the single largest mission ever undertaken by The United Methodist Church. Together, we can stop a needless killer, and our generation can beat malaria

once and for all.

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. and the four District Superintendents are now challenging their districts to each raise \$100,000. If the Cal-Nev Conference goal of \$2 million is raised by June 1, Bishop Brown will subject himself to a pie in the face and dunk tank during the Annual Conference Session. If the Central Valley and El Camino Real Districts reach their goals, their Superintendents, the Revs. Debra Brady and Kristie L. Olah will also get pies in their faces. The Revs. Schuyler Rhodes and David Samelson have agreed to shave their heads if Bridges and Great Northern reach the \$100,000 mark. **SRVUMC has set a goal to raise \$10,000 during the Lenten season.** Kick-off is set for the first Sunday of Lent, February 22.

Additional information will be on the church website and in the Mini Messenger throughout Lent. To see Debra Brady in Bishop Brown's message, view www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Q1C5LYzkUc. For more information on this national program, please go to <http://imaginenomalaria.org/>

Together, we are changing lives!

Winter Nights Children's Activities/Tutoring



Winter Nights Shelter

SRVUMC, is hosting several families from 2/9-2/22. We need help providing tutoring and children's activities

Tutoring Weeknights: If possible, please plan on tutoring for two sessions at 5:30-6:30 pm and 7:15-8:15 pm. Dinner is served from 6:30-7:15pm. If tutoring for both sessions, please plan on joining us for dinner.

Children's Activities: It is helpful if your group has planned games, crafts and/or activities for younger children. Please plan on donating, leaving toys, games, books, etc that you bring (the kids can be pretty tough on items, so do not bring anything you would not want damaged). If you are staying all evening, please plan on eating with us. Feel free to bring older children, but PLEASE no children under 5/6 years old- it becomes distracting and hard for adults to focus on the Winter Nights kids...

There will be two activity sessions (this is approximate, please plan on being flexible and modifying activities based on interest, etc) from 5:15-6:30 pm and 7:15-8:30 pm.

LOCATION: Wesley Center

QUESTIONS? Please contact Jane Lang, 408-623-9973, janelang1@yahoo.com

Please click the link below to sign-up for the SRVUMC Winter Nights Children's Activities/Tutoring: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4ea4a92da64-winter>

Need Glasses?



Do you know someone that needs new glasses, but maybe can't afford them? We have new ready-made reading glasses are available for *you* to distribute to friends, families, hospitals, jails, Seniors, Churches, anyone with a need. So please, "look around, see the need, then do the deed." For more information, contact Joanne VanBezey at tealeyes50@comcast.net

Report from Administrative Board

Meeting of January 14, 2015,

by Terry Sherman

The Administrative Board met Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm. New appointments to the Ad Board were welcomed: Don Field (Staff Parish), Phyllis Meyer (Adult Education), Brad Tolstedt (Finance) and Brad Stribling in his new position as Ad Board Vice-Chair.

Brad Tolstedt reported that while the books on 2014 are not yet closed, there will likely be a net surplus of \$53,000 that will likely be added to the Ad Board Reserve Fund. The disposition of the surplus will be decided at the next Board meeting. The 2015 Stewardship campaign appears to be favorable to plan with continuing outreach to those who have not yet responded with financial commitments.

Pastor Ron reported as follows: this was a very good Advent season and the Christmas giving was generous; the Trustees have been very busy with the many ongoing projects throughout the campus; Pastors Luke, Sunny and Ron will be going to Mt. Herman for the Gathering of the Orders January 20-22.

Pastor Ron reminded the Board that Ron Charles, book section editor of the Washington Post, would be speaking at SRVUMC on January 27 about the portrayal of God and religion in literary fiction.

Pastor Sunny reported as follows: Small Group planning and expansion is moving forward; regarding Lenten season programming and study, the Small Group Advisory Team will be discussing and defining the plans for the upcoming season; the Peacemakers plan to see the movie "Selma" in Walnut Creek Saturday, January 17 followed with a guided discussion; the

Neighborhood Network is working to become more personal to each family within their network; the sanctuary is open on Mondays (10-2pm) to the public for prayer and meditation.

Mission Chair Paul Kuelz reported that the Lenten mission program is "Imagine No Malaria." Bishop Brown set the fund raising goal of \$100,000 for churches in our conference. More details will be dispersed before the February 22nd kick off of the Lenten season.

The Will Schramm labyrinth project at Hap Magee Ranch Park is ready to break ground. The artisan will begin laying the pavers on February 9 and the project is projected to be complete by the end of April.

Carole Johnson noted that our missionary partner in Macedonia, Carol Partridge, is retiring. There will be a luncheon in the honor of her service on Sunday, April 19, at SRVUMC.

Regarding the new building, recently named the Athletic & Recreation Center (ARC), Lyn Arscott reported that all the conditions required for approval will be met in the next couple of weeks and then the technical review will take another couple of months. A committee is in place for the management of the facility headed by Jim Burk. Another committee will be in charge of the groundbreaking ceremony.

The minutes of the Administrative Board meeting are posted on the Church website.

The next Administrative Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm, in the Fireside Room. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Memorials & Gifts Fund

Make a Lasting Contribution for a Loved One

Memorials and Gifts is a fund for contributions given in memory of a loved one, or one who had great influence over our life. We may also honor living persons who continue to be important to us.

The Memorials and Gifts funds are held in an account and are released for approved church projects. A recent example is that Memorials and Gifts funded a portion of the beautiful cabinetry and furnishings in the Narthex. Another is our Meditation Garden, the beautiful and spiritual place where we may find peace and inspiration. It also was partially funded by Memorials and Gifts.

Contributors to Memorials and Gifts have the option to specify the use of their funds. Funds citing a specific use can only be used in support of that designation. For instance, if "Senior Ministry" were the citation for a contribution, the funds would only be released to support a facet of the Senior Ministry. If there is no specific designation, the funds are available for any appropriate church project. The Memorials and Gifts

committee evaluates requests by authorized groups and approves those deemed worthy.

Is there someone whom you loved dearly, whom you miss, whom you might like to remember by giving a Memorial Gift in your loved one's name? Is there a loved one who is still with us, who inspires you? Someone you can't wait to see, and whose face or voice causes you to smile? If so, maybe you'd like to give a Memorial Gift in your loved one's name?

If you wish to give a gift, please use the special Memorials and Gifts card in the pews, and complete the information requested. Various specific designations are noted on the card if you wish to use them. You may drop your card in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. Any of our committee members would be happy to discuss our Memorials and Gifts process, and assist you in offering a contribution. Committee members: Alice Anthony, Betty Jo Bennett, Floy Blair, Gerry Carothers, John Green, Gay Scott, and Linda Green, Chairperson.



Kindness Matters Corner

by John Green

Here are Kindness Samplers from Thanksgiving and Christmas that will stay with us all year long:

A very generous young woman in our church restored a surplus laptop she owned, installed new software, and gave it to a homeless woman at Trinity Center. This gift enabled the homeless woman to reconnect with family members. The gift also gave her the means to send out resumes as she continues searching for employment. This act of kindness was life-giving for this woman, and she is very grateful.

Beautiful People Giving, Beautiful People Receiving

One of the regular customers at our favorite café is an elderly man, one we have known for about ten years. "Harold," so quiet and so friendly in manner, seems to know everyone at the café, all of the customers and all of the employees. Most of the time he sits alone, enjoying his breakfast, but the bench seat opposite him is like a revolving door as person after person sits a few minutes to say hello. But it's the women employees who adore Harold and whom he adores. What great fun to see this 85-year-old man smiling and laughing as one or more of the women cuddle him, hug him, and whisper words to him; their genuine admiration and love of this man is remarkable. We enjoy seeing and talking with him as he has the most wonderful memory. As we approach, Harold always starts by asking how this or that went, just some little thing we had mentioned last time we saw him.

Harold is a walking and living Kindness. But this story is of the kindness given to him each of the last five years on Thanksgiving Day. A young women customer is the giver of the special kindness. Harold has a few family members in the region, but as he says, "They don't have their feast until six or seven at night. I can't wait that long to eat dinner, and I'm in bed by the time they are having dinner." Five years ago, "Kelly," the young woman, asked Harold about his Thanksgiving plans. When he explained the situation, Kelly told him, "OK, on Thanksgiving Day, I will pick you up at 2:00 pm, and we will go to a great restaurant and enjoy our Thanksgiving together. Don't bring money; don't bring credit cards!" It happened, and again, and again, for five years. This year, Harold, spoke with Kelly, and he explained his increased difficulty in walking. Without hesitation, she replied, "Okay, a change in plans. I will go to the great restaurant, get two Thanksgiving dinners to go with all the fixings, and I'll bring them to your home for our Thanksgiving together."

When Irritation and Inconvenience Become Compassion.

From a church member: I was in my car leaving the parking lot of Ace Hardware in Alamo in the early evening. There were two cars in front of me waiting to exit the lot in front of Starbucks, and I noticed a parked car backing up and going to hit me. Powerless to move, I laid on the horn, but the car hit the passenger side of my car. A few moments went by, but there was no movement in the other car—no dome light went on, no driver's door opened. I thought, "How is it this wacko can't see me right in back of him!" After the collision, I went to the driver's door, and still there was no movement inside the car. I knocked on the window, and I saw it was an elderly man. He rolled his window down to say, "I did not hit your car." I and my injured car begged to differ with him, but then I noticed an oxygen bottle with tubes to his nose and a strap around his head. I told him I would check my car for damage, and I discovered slight damage to the rear right panel. In my calmer mood from the slight damage, my thoughts turned to the frail old man, and I returned to tell him of the minor damage. I knocked on his window again, and he rolled it down. He was now rocking back and forth in the driver's seat, gasping for breath. I spent the next fifteen minutes trying to reassure him my car's damage was minor and that I would forgive him. I pleaded with him to calm down as I thought he was going to have a heart attack. He eventually did calm down, and his breathing returned to normal. He kept telling me how sorry he was, and I kept telling him that everything was all right. I asked if he felt he could drive home. He told me he felt better after our talk, and he could drive. We parted company with a, "Merry Christmas."

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. We won't use names, just the example of kindness for others. Your story will be posted to the church website within a few days. You can read these and other Kindness Matters stories on our website at <http://srvumc.org/category/kindness>



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

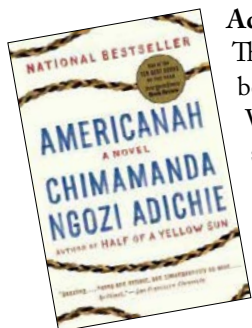


Between the Bookends

By Sally Christopherson, Librarian



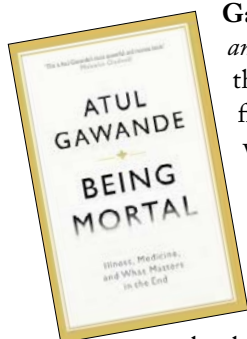
I hear you saying, “I need a good book, one I can’t put down, but how can I find that jewel?” There are always good books available; you just have to tap all the resources! What are your friends reading, what are the book clubs reading? Take a look at the local and national bestselling book lists in the Sunday paper or check out amazon’s current list. Ideas are all around you, but one of the best and easiest ways is to check out our own Book Cart! Here are some of the best currently residing there:



Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Americanah.*

This has appeared on almost every current bestseller list from the New York Times to the Washington Post. It’s the story of two high school sweethearts in Nigeria who choose different paths, Ifemelu immigrating to the U. S. and Obinze to London. Fifteen years and radically different lives and experiences separate them, before both return to Nigeria. Obinze wants to pick up where

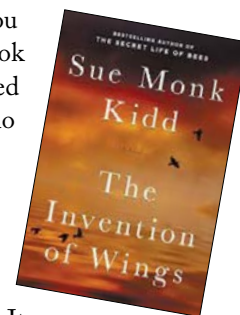
they left off, but Ifemelu feels she has betrayed herself and there is no going back. Adichie captures the culture shock that Ifemelu meets in the United States when she realizes she is truly a “stranger in a strange land”. Masterfully written.



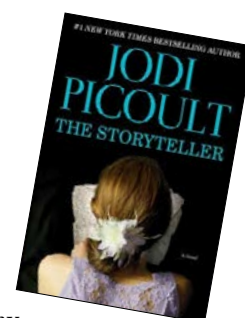
Gawande, Atul. *Becoming Mortal; Medicine and What Matters in the End.* Here’s one of the most troubling issues of our day—doctors fighting to give us every extra day of life as we near the end, but what if those extra days are filled with procedures, medications and therapies that tax what little strength we have left? How does each person decide on his “quality of life”? This compassionate and articulate physician lays out choices

that he has made and ones that he has seen his patients make. A thoughtful book, not to be missed.

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Invention of Wings.* If you read and enjoyed *The Secret Life of Bees*, this book is now waiting to enthrall you. It’s a novel based on the true story of the two Grimke sisters who actually lived on a Charleston plantation and knew slavery very well first-hand. It turned them into lifelong abolitionists. Kidd tells the story in alternating chapters in the voice of Sarah, the privileged daughter, and Handful, the slave she is given on her eleventh birthday. It will stay with you long after reading the last page. Many thanks to Linda Ashcraft for her donation.



Picoult, Jodi. *The Storyteller.* If you know Picoult, you’ll know she loves to take on unsolvable situations and somehow find a workable and compassionate solution. *The Storyteller* is no different. This time we meet Sage, grieving over her mother’s recent death, working in a bakery, and living a quiet and lonely life. An elderly man in her grief support group begins stopping by the bakery and they become unlikely friends, until one day he confesses he had been a Nazi SS Officer in a concentration camp in World War II. Sage is thunderstruck—her own grandmother is a survivor of the camps. Heart wrenching, profound, guaranteed to make you wonder what *you* would do. Thank you to Paula Boswell for this gift.



Help Welcomed!

Are you a librarian--or were you ever a librarian? Does the Dewey Decimal System make sense to you? Have you ever heard of Sears Subject Headings? Did you ever work in the Technical Services Department of a library?

If so, we’d love to talk to you about occasionally helping out in our Wesley Library!

Good books--enthusiastic readers--a volunteer’s flexible hours! Call Sally Christopherson at 925-939-3973 or drop by Wesley Library any Tuesday morning (call the Church first to make sure we’re there).

When I do good, I feel good.

When I do bad, I feel bad.

That’s my religion.

—Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865

Get Involved

What's going on at the Church

Share the Beginning of Lent



Join us as we gather to commemorate the season on Lent on February 18 at 6 pm. We'll begin the service in Wesley Center at 6 pm for a Simple Supper.

At 7 pm, after supper, we'll move to the Sanctuary for Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Catharine Baker to Speak At February UMM Breakfast

February 21, 8am in Wesley Center

All Methodist Men are welcome to Christian Fellowship and a hearty breakfast on the third Saturday of each month in Wesley Center starting at 8am.

On Saturday February 21, the speaker will be Catharine Baker, a member of our church who was recently elected to the California State legislature. For this meeting the Methodist

Men are offering an open invitation to any members of the church who are interested in hearing what Catharine has to say about her new assignment in Sacramento. Please email Dean McWilliams at OSI310@aol.com if you would like to attend

Save the date: On Saturday, March 21, the speakers will be John Coombs and Tamara Hunter who will speak about mental health issues. In particular, they will be discussing the role played by the Putnam Clubhouse in Concord where Tamara is the Director and John is a member.



Lenten CenterPoint Schedule

Wednesdays February 25-April 2

Take a pause each

Wednesday during Lent. Join us for a time to reflect, singing, prayer and silence 6:30-7 pm in the Sanctuary



Lenten Small Group Study



Lent begins on February 18, and our Lenten Guide this year is Grace Imathiu's book, "Matthew's Message – Good News for the New Millennium." This six-session study approaches the message and application of Matthew's Gospel as a whole.

Groups meet on various days and times each week during Lent:

Sunday 9am: Lent Study led by Phyllis Meyer

Sunday 10:30 am: Lent Study with Deborah and Johnathan Robinson, or

Sunday 10:30am: Lent Study with Dave Coombs

Monday 12 noon: Learning over Lunch with Phyllis Meyer

Monday 7:00 pm: Women of the Night led by Linda Forsey and Marilyn Milam, Fireside Room

Tuesday 7:00 pm: Lent Study with Pastor Sunny

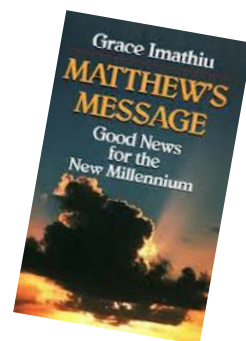
Wednesday 7:15 pm: Lent Study with Joanne Van Brezy, Fireside Room

Thursday 12noon: Lent Study over Lunch with Pastor Sunny

Friday 6:30 am: Friday Men's Group with Pastor Ron

We will use the "Matthew Commentary Booklet" created by our awesome pastors (Pastor Ron, Pastor Sunny, and Pastor Luke) based on the sermons they will preach during Lent. A childcare will be provided upon request.

The book can be purchased from Pastor Sunny's office with \$10. All proceeds from book sales will go into the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign of California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Registration for classes will be taken between worship services on Sunday, February 1, in the Courtyard. Please contact Pastor Sunny if you have any question.





*Save those treasures and bring them to donate
ONLY ON WEDNESDAY,
March 4, 2015 between 9 am and 8 pm!!!*

Sale begins on Friday, March 6th, 9 am to 2 pm and continues Saturday, March 7th, 9 am to 12 noon.

We are happy to accept usable, salable items in good condition. Please test small appliances to make sure they are in good working order. When you are considering something to donate, ask the question, "Would I give this item to a friend or relative?" Donations must be clean, not soiled. Please – no missing pieces or parts, no rips, tears, or discoloration. Metal items will be accepted for Boyd Hasik and Brian Robert's ongoing recycling program.

We are unable to accept sofas/overstuffed furniture, office furniture, mattresses, box springs, water-beds, hide-a-beds, bed pillows, cribs, infant seats, curtains, Venetian blinds/shutters, all automotive products, all building materials, pianos, organs, bicycle parts, gas powered tools, food items, magazines, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, non-working electrical equipment, chemicals, oils, toxic materials, pesticides.

What's more important is that we need your physical help. This is a church-wide rummage sale that the UMW organizes. We can no longer do all the work that putting on a rummage sale requires without many helping hands from church members. That means helping Wednesday, Friday or Saturday for whatever time you can spare. One half of all the moneys earned goes directly to SRVUMC for youth programs and missions.

A recap of how the rummage sale works:

On Wednesday, the workers accept the rummage from people as they drop their items off. Men are especially needed to take the rummage from people at their cars if possible and move the items in to the hall. Others are needed to sort the rummage and put it on the designated tables.

We break for lunch and workers usually bring food to share like a potluck. For the evening meal, Peg Jackson prepares food for the workers staying.

Thursday is pricing day. If you have a "gift" for pricing items, we need you that day. We start at 9:00 and stop when we are done.

Friday and Saturday until noon are our sale days. People are needed to ring up the sales, help shoppers find items, refolding of clothes, etc.

Our youth will be there Saturday at noon to help pack up the unsold rummage which will be donated to another organization.

If you have questions, please call Bonnie Roberts at (925) 846-2035.

Save The Date!

Missionary from Macedonia Visits SRVUMC

Sunday, April 19

There are no regular scheduled meetings for the next couple of months. Instead, the United Methodist Women are working hard to put together the annual church-wide rummage sale on March 6 and 7. Please consider adding *your* special support!

Then, on Sunday, April 19, there will be another church-wide opportunity to hear from *Carol Partridge*, who has been our UM Missionary in Macedonia. Carol is from our CA-NV Annual Conference and SRV has been in partnership and support of her ministry. She is on Itineration, visiting her supporting congregations and is retiring after fifteen years of service. Carol will be introduced during the worship services with time for a Mission Moment and a luncheon and program following second hour. Details will be announced later, but *Save the Date* for this fellowship event.



Methodist Men's Annual Community



Saturday, February 7, 6pm in Wesley Center

Roll up your sleeves and join the United Methodist Men's Group on Saturday, February 7th for their Annual Community and Friends Crab Feed. Dinner includes all the crab you can eat with all the trimmings, salads, French bread, dessert, and beverages. There are great door prizes to local restaurants and clubs

Early Bird Pricing Ends Soon!

Adults: \$40 Youth: \$25 (12-18 years)
under 12 years FREE

After January 31

Adults: \$45 Youth: \$30 (12-18 years)

Land Lubbers Chicken Dinner

Adults: \$25 Youth: \$15 (12-18 years)

For information and tickets, call Dean McWilliams at 925-837-0971 or email: OSI310@AOL.COM

All proceeds benefit Youth and Church Community Programs.

Childcare & Nursery **we're hiring!**

We are currently seeking to fill two part-time positions, both in childcare. We are looking for experienced childcare givers to provide loving care to our nursery kids on Sunday Mornings. The Childcare Manager will work cohesively with the Childcare Assistant to provide excellent care for our nursery. Both positions require consistent Sunday morning commitment and experience working with children. All hired persons must submit to a background check. If interested, please contact Stephanie Ham at sham@srvumc.org or Brad Stribling at brad_stribling@msn.com

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.

Tuesday, February 3 at Noon

Guest Chef Nancy Benvenuto. Menu: Pulled Pork sandwiches on Hawaiian rolls, pineapple coleslaw & succotash.

Tuesday, February 17 at Noon
(Fireside Room – Winter Nights are in Wesley)

Guest Chef Boyd Hasik. Menu: Baked Ham, macaroni & cheese, tossed green salad, brownies & ice cream.

Field Trip, Thursday, February 12

Tea at The English Rose in Pleasanton. Reservations Required: Sign up at one of the Senior luncheons or call Sandy Greenwood at 935-1109.

ADVENTURESOME SENIORS

Adventuresome Seniors get together on the last Tuesday of the month for a potluck and program in Wesley Center. (Don't feel like cooking – just pick something up to share at the deli!)

Tuesday, February 24 @ Noon – You won't want to miss this one guys!

Program: Ron Dunn & Larry Watson will demonstrate the fine art of fly fishing.

You do not need to make a reservation to attend any of the luncheons. (Only special events may require reservations.)

Session 3: Art Enrichment Sign-Ups



Where
love grows

Knights, Castles, Princesses & Dragons

UM Preschool Enrichment Program
February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18

This series of art classes will explore the fantasy world of knights and princess and castles and dragons of old! We'll be learning how to draw castles using simple shapes and discovering how to add unique details and washes of color to create some great pictures worthy of the realm! We'll be designing and making shields, doing dragon crafts, creating knight or princess collages and other noble projects fit for an arty young princess or knight! Lessons will consist of small projects and larger ongoing ones. Cost: \$150 per session and several different sessions will be available throughout the year.

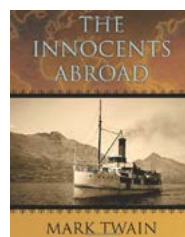
Enrollment paperwork and the registration forms are available on the preschool's website: www.unitedmethodistpreschool.org.

Any further questions, please contact the Preschool Office preschool-office@srvumc.org or 925-837-2788

Book Groups

Afternoon Book Group

Monday, February 23, 1 pm,
Rm. 202, Wesley Center



Please note that our February meeting is a week later due to holidays.

The February book is "The Innocents Abroad" by Mark Twain.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Scott at merebruin.scott@gmail.com

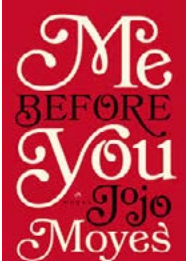
Christ Care Book Group

Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 10am, Library

The Christ Care Book Group will meet February 25 at 10am in the church library. We will read and review "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes."

We welcome you to join us.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Gloria Fenton at gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net



Do you know the BOT?

BOT = Board of Trustees. This is a volunteer group of nine church members and staff member Marilyn Clark, Facilities & Purchasing Manager, under the leadership of Chairman Jim McKnight. Trustees have monthly meetings and communicate frequently about facility issues. If something needs repair or replacement Marilyn notifies the BOT, who has the responsibility for how the money of the church is spent. Recent examples include work on the dishwasher, furnace, and ice maker in Wesley Center, and installing keyless locks to improve campus security. If at any time you see that is repair is needed on our campus, contact Marilyn Clarke in the office at x102.

Larger campus projects the Trustees have responsibility for include the installation of the solar panels, renovation of the Narthex, repair of the organ bellows, and improving the Sanctuary and courtyard sound systems. When ARC construction begins, Trustees will oversee parking logistics and landscaping to ensure a contiguous look throughout our campus. If funding is available, painting the exterior of Wesley, replanting the courtyard, and updating the façade of the Sanctuary may be considered, but none of this work proceeds without the thorough research and cost estimates identified by the members of Trustees.

For a listing of BOT members, refer to Governance on the church website at <http://srvumc.org/get-to-know-us/governance/>

Be A Part of the Team!

Guatemala UMVIM Team Forming

We are excited to be leading the medical mission team to Guatemala this year. In 2014 our team provided medical care to over 400 patients with a wide range of ailments from respiratory infections, parasitic infections, pain, diabetes, hypertension and cerebral palsy. We also provided educational classes about parasites, dental hygiene, and diabetes screening. In addition, we engaged the community with song, dance, soccer, smiles and laughter.

Would you like to be part of our team this year? We are recruiting medical and non-medical team members! We are in need of doctors and a pharmacist, so please help spread the word. There are a limited number of spots of the team, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested. We will be traveling from July 24-August 2, 2015. The first official team meeting is Saturday, February 21st at 10:00am in the Walnut Creek UMC Social Hall located at 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek. Please join us!

To join the team, or if you need more information, please contact Mari Ward at mariward@comcast.net or Jan Pearson at janpearson@earthlink.net

Hap Magee Labyrinth

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2pm at Hap Magee Ranch Park



The ground has been excavated and the concrete ring poured; the site is ready for artist, Marty Kermeen, to begin his work. You're invited to the Labyrinth Groundbreaking Ceremony, Sunday, Feb. 8, 2:00 PM, at Hap Magee Ranch Park.

During this ceremony, you will be invited to write a message, name, prayer or any words of your choosing on a small stone to place in the base of the labyrinth. Although they will not be visible once the base rock is laid, these special messages will become a permanent part of the labyrinth's foundation.

Stones and pens will be available at the ceremony or feel free to bring your own small stone. Help us give this important art installation a strong foundation of love, remembrance and community.

Please consider carpooling and walking from SRVUMC. We hope to see you, rain or shine.

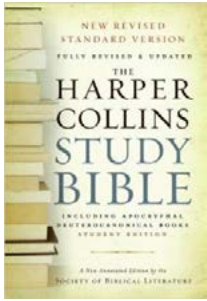
Follow our progress by "Liking" our Hap Magee Labyrinth Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hapmageelabyrinth> or visit the Labyrinth page on our website: <http://srvumc.org/grow-your-faith/labyrinth-at-hap-magee-ranch-park>

Questions or comments to Dory Schramm at kiddus@aol.com



Aerial rendering of the Hap Magee Ranch Park labyrinth site. (Image courtesy of the Town of Danville)

Are you Reading the Bible?



During 2015, the Adult Education Team encourages the people of SRVUMC to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. If you'd like to follow along, please visit <http://srvumc.org/read-the-entire-bible-this-year/> for the daily reading list. There will be a moment of recognition for those who read the entire Bible at the end of the year.

In addition, an optional 2016 Holy Land Trip is being organized for those who have participated in this Bible reading challenge.

If you wonder how the stories in the Bible have relevance to your life today, please join one of two ongoing drop-in discussion groups:

Mondays, Noon until 1:15 pm in the Fireside Room

Sundays, 10:30-11:30 am in room 202 of Wesley Center.

Contact Pastor Sunny at syung@srvumc.org or Phyllis Meyer at pcmeyer@pacbell.net if you have any questions.

Holy Week Services & Events

Save these dates and plan to join us as we conclude our Lenten journey with these Holy Week services and events.

Palm Sunday, March 28

Gather in the Sanctuary as the children recreate Jesus' welcome into Jerusalem through the traditional Palm Processional. After the second service, there will be a Family Brunch Potluck & Children's Easter Egg Hunt in Wesley Center & the Courtyard.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Join with members from our circuit churches at Lynnewood UMC in Pleasanton, for this special Maundy Thursday Taize worship.

Good Friday, April 3

We'll commemorate Jesus' trial and crucifixion through Scripture, song, silent reflection and prayer

Easter Sunday, April 5

Celebrate the good news of the risen Christ at one of four Easter Worship services: 6:30am, Sunrise Service in the Courtyard; 8, 9:30 and 11 am Worship in the Sanctuary

CHILDREN & FAMILY

MINISTRY

Stephanie Ham, Director of Children's Ministry



Undercover Kindness

This past August, in St. Petersburg, Florida, some undercover kindness began early in the morning, when a

woman in the drive-thru paid for her iced coffee and a stranger's caramel macchiato in the car behind her. This "drive-thru kindness" lasted 11 hours, with 378 people paying for each stranger's caffeine fix in the car behind them. That's a LOT of coffee. And a lot of kindness! Anonymous drivers joined in the undercover kindness because they just wanted people to feel special, to feel like someone cared for them. But as it turns out, they ended up being part of something so much bigger than themselves that the story of their kindness made national news! And whether they knew it or not, all of those people who joined in that extreme act of kindness were just reflecting something bigger.

Think about it: When you look at the life of Jesus, He demonstrated kindness all the time. But He not only showed kindness to others, He actually flipped the whole idea of kindness on its head and redefined it for not only His disciples, but all of us. He showed kindness to all people: people who had been marginalized, or people with bad reputations. Children, beggars, the sick and outcast, all people—regardless of whether they could return the kindness given to them.

In the month of February, it seems like everyone is talking about how they're going to show their friends and family how valuable they are with cards and candy and flowers.



Our Bottom Lines for the Month of February

Week 1: There's always time to be kind.

Week 2: Be kind to your family and friends.

Week 3: Be kind to people who are overlooked

Week 4: Be kind to people who aren't kind to you.

But it could be that the simplest way we can make the most impact is by showing kindness the way Jesus did and the way He taught His followers. We live in a world that most often seems like it's anything but kind. Kindness is so rare that the acts of



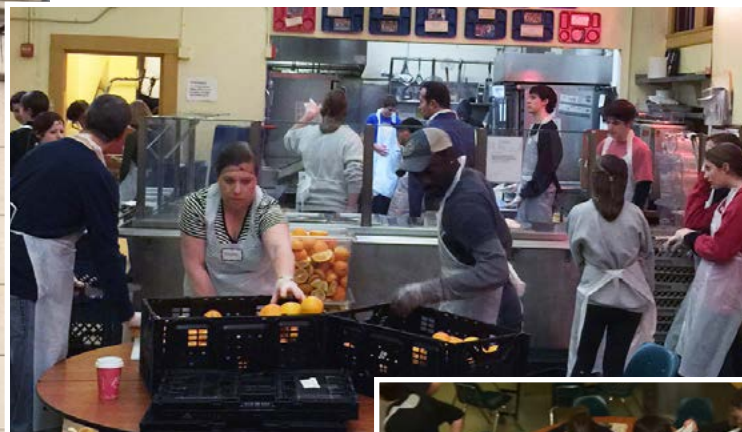
kindness like what happen in Florida make national news! And just think about the arguments that break out within our own families. But what would happen if kindness didn't seem so rare? What would happen if we decided to live out what Jesus said about showing others they are valuable? That's why we're taking the whole month to look more closely at kindness: by showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Through Bible stories that we will look over this month, we hope kids will understand that showing kindness is really important. Not only is kindness a fruit of the Spirit; but it's also one of the best ways to tap into Jesus' character. When we show kindness to others, we are reflecting the heart of Jesus to them. As a parent or leader, one of the most powerful things you can do this month is help a child understand how they can cooperate with God to treat people with kindness; how they want to be treated. And who knows, their *own* version of Undercover Kindness might just end up changing the world.



VBS will take place
July 13-16 from 9-12 pm
Watch for registration to
open in March





Luke Ham, Youth Pastor

The Youth Are On The Road Again!

After a holiday season packed with fun —our annual Christmas Party, Living Nativity and a new Youth-led Christmas Eve service—we are still keeping ourselves busy. The new year started off with Youth Group meetings, Tutor Time, Thursday Night High School Dinner Out and the annual Confirmation Class trip to serve and attend worship at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco.

On President's day weekend, we will be making our annual trip to Disneyland. For the second year in a row, over 50 youth and parents will be in attendance! During our trip, we stay at and worship with a local congregation and spend two full days in the "Happiest Place on Earth." One of the purposes of this trip is to welcome and engage with youth who are not already a part of our congregation. And, I am happy to report that we have a half dozen new youth joining us!

Also, make sure to mark your calendar for our annual Spring Break College Road trip that will take place April 6-9. College stops include UC Davis, University of the Pacific, Cal Poly-SLO, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, USC, Chapman University as well as any other particular campuses our youth are interested in seeing. What makes this trip particularly fun is that we get to visit our

Youth Group Alumni who show us around their own college campus. This trip is recommended for Sophomores and Juniors in High School. If you are interested in joining us on this trip, please e-mail Luke for upcoming planning meetings so we can make sure everyone gets to visit the campuses they want to see!

Do you want to help? If you have ever wondered how you can support the youth program, may we suggest offering to provide a meal for one of our weekly Middle School Wednesday Night Youth groups. Pasta dishes, pizzas, soups and tacos are always crowd favorites! If you would be willing to help us by providing a meal, please contact Luke via e-mail.



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Lonnie & Lyn Bristow	Donna Johnston
Carol Sayers	Jean White
Clayton Clark	Dale Kimbell
Al Robinson	

Our Christian Sympathy to:

- Jeanne van der Zee and the Bazell & Hirsch families on the death of Clyde Bazell on Jan. 21st. A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 1:30 p.m.
- Kathy Fulcher and family on the death of her father.
- To the Sherman & Neary families on the death of John Neary on 1/26.
- To the family of Judy Branden on her death on Jan. 24th. Judy was a former member of this church and the chancel choir.
- Sympathy to Judy Slinger and her family on the death of Judy's mother.

Thank You

Donna & Johnny Johnston would like to thank everyone for the prayers and cards they've received and send their love to everyone.

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; Steve Colman; 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; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Carol Webb; Joan Webb.

Name Tags

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

Giving Statements

2014 year-end giving statements were sent Monday, 1/26, either by email or snail mail. If you did not get your statement, please contact Shannon in the Church Office.

March Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Bart Jacobi | 11 Karen Sanson | 20 Denise Greene | 26 Bob Garner |
| Joe Rousseu | 12 Lee Grabel (96) | Bill Van Bezey | Kyle Knapp |
| 2 Al Tiedemann | 13 Ellen Kocins | John VanderWerf | Carl Ogden |
| 3 Debra Carter | Beth Lewis | 21 Al Dudas | 27 Dianne Anderson |
| Stephanie Fenoglio | 14 Roberta Blendow (90) | George Knies | Elizabeth Beck |
| Joel Jung | 15 Betty Jo Bennett | Maile Ogden | Jason Chang |
| Steve Roath | Brad Braden | Phyllis Roth | 28 Chris Chang |
| 4 Mike Scalzi | Cathy Colman | 22 Joan Arscott | Brad Judd |
| Ryan Shelp | Lucy Hooper | Liz Field | Sarah Koepp |
| Travis Turley | Gene Ives | 23 Miles Robinson | 29 Lori Ratto |
| 6 Ed Keller | 16 Justin Walz | Karen Scalzi | Katie Riemer |
| 7 Amber Marx | 17 Ariel Bohleen | 24 Susie Codd | 30 Kristen Charbonneau |
| Cindy Rudow | Jack Gordon | Steve Ramos | Corin Drake |
| Adam Webb | Betty Hinz | Chris Shiber | Kevin Peters |
| 8 Gentry Higgins | 19 Jim Burk | Judy Slinger | 31 Michael Foster |
| Kathy MacLean | Chase Domergue | 25 Marcus Durrenberger | Candice Newburn |
| John Sublett | Nicky Jewett | Catherine Godbey | Brian Smith |
| 9 Terry Sherman | Lori Pavel | Marianne Templeton | Greg Warwick |
| Paige Steffy | | | |

Wedding Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Helen & Lee Grabel (71st) | 14 Jenny & Ron Ormiston (51st) |
| Anne & Don Robertson | 20 Dawn Boyd & Patrick Davis |
| 5 Kirsten & Langley Choy | 22 JoAnne & Jess Erickson (58th) |
| 6 Judy & Gene Flick | Erin & Rich Lowther |
| Amy & John Riedel | 25 Sherry & Sanjiv More |
| 8 Cindy & Tony Leonard | 26 Dianne & Roger Ehlers |
| Andrea Bourgeois McWilliams & Dave McWilliams | 29 Ruth & John Nelson |
| Nancy & William Mills | Marilyn & Berry Scott (57th) |
| Lori & John Pavel | 30 Nancy & Bill Sabin |



FEBRUARY 2015

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary

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

Lenten Centerpoint Worship Service, Every Wednesday February 25-April 2, 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
1/29/2015

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