



the Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

MAY 2015

A Parsonal Point of View~

The Roots of Methodism

Since 2009, when my mom went to her heavenly home, May is one of the deep thinking months for me. During this deep thinking time, I've also had time to think about Methodism. I've been wondering how to re-ignite the spirit of Methodism within me and my community. My reflections brought me back to the roots of Methodism in 1786.

On August 4, 1786, John Wesley, the founding father of Methodism, wrote, "I do not fear that the Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.

And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

By the 1780s, Methodism had become a thriving church in America. In England, the Methodists were structured into class meetings, societies, and conferences. The warm heart and the missional zeal had been institutionalized, and the survival of the institution seemed certain. Yet, even then, Wesley feared that the spirit and power of Methodism were already being threatened. He observed that Methodists had become prosperous as a result of their discipline, frugality, and diligence. But, according to Wesley, as they increased their wealth, the Methodists decreased in their dependence upon grace. Self-reliance replaced dependency upon God and one another. Complacency and personal comfort replaced compassion and identification with the poor. Self-discipline and accountability gave way to self-indulgence and excessive individualism.

Accompanying Wesley's warning of the demise of authentic Methodism was his construct for avoiding such a fate. First, the Methodists need to hold fast to the doctrine of the faith. Knowing God with the heart and the head is one way to avoid having a form of religion and lacking the power. Doctrine matters as it results in knowing God and experiencing God's grace in our lives. We are what we believe!

Second, Wesley admonished the people called Methodist to practice the means of grace. Those whose holy habits connect us to God and open us to the movement of the Spirit as the character of Christ is developed within us. We are to be a praying, worshiping, studying, communing, conferencing,

Don't Miss What's Inside

- 2 Communion Offering
- 3 Mission & Volunteer Opportunities
- 4 General Fund Update
- 5 Between the Bookends
- 6 Kindness Matters
- 7 Get Involved
- 9 Senior Scoop
- 10 Great Decisions of Our Age
- 11 Prescription Drug Awareness Program
- 12 Children & Family Ministry
- 13 Youth Ministry
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Next Issue: May 28, 2015

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik
newsletter@srvumc.org by May 15, 2015*

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

baptizing, serving, caring, justice-working, faith-sharing people of the strangely warmed heart. So...how is it with your soul?

Third, Wesley spoke how we should use our material resources. He admonished the Methodists to avoid decreasing in grace as they increased in wealth by "earning all you can, saving all you can, and giving all you can."

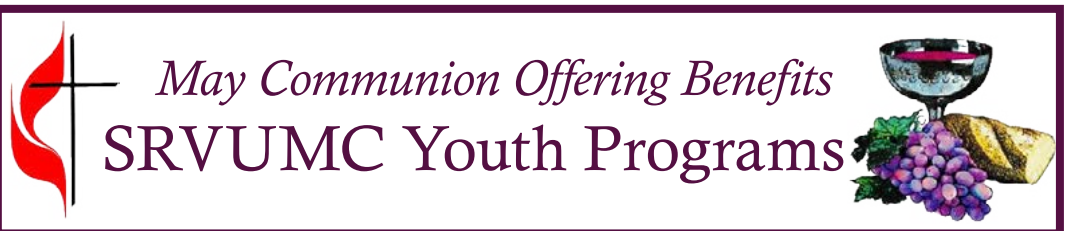
In other words, how we earn and use our

resources as individuals and institutions, determines our future vitality as God's people. If someone were to look at the stewardship of your life, would they be able to see evidence of the Lordship of Christ? God is not yet finished with us—the Wesleyan-Methodist people—whom Wesley said God had raised up "to reform the nations, beginning with the church, and to spread scriptural holiness throughout

the lands." The world we live in needs the Wesleyan-Methodists to exist not as a dead sect, but as a living, vital movement. We are a community shaped by and empowered by God's grace. Let us be a true Methodist Christian FROG to leap our faith and love for Christ. Ribbit!

~ *Pastor Sunny*

PS. Have a meaningful Mother's Day



Your May Communion Offering support the programming of our youth program. Under the leadership of Pastor Luke Ham, the SRVUMC Youth Program will use the money in three ways:

Fund Youth Work: SRVUMC youth have the opportunity to work jobs around the church, such as serving at events, cleaning, childcare, etc. All money the youth raises through this work, is credited to the youth's mission account fund. Your Communion giving supports funding to pay our youth for their work. Youth mission account funds are used to offset or pay for youth mission trip fees or youth event fees.

Helping Youth Families: Fees for youth mission trips generally run between \$200 to nearly \$400. Funds from the May Communion Offering will be put into a general scholarship to help families who need additional mission trip funding, so that their youth can participate in one of our life-changing summer mission trips.

Offsetting Youth Mission Trip Expenses: This summer, our youth will travel to Dinuba, CA, located in the central valley of our state, and Smith River, which is near the northern California coast. Often times, we need to rent vans or trucks to get all the youth, chaperons and their gear to the job sites. Your Communion Offering will offset our mission trip transportation costs such as vehicle rentals and fuel.

Thank you for your generous giving on May 3 and for the ways your giving is making a difference for our SRVUMC youth and their families, as well as the people they'll serve on mission this summer.





MISSION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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



Habitat for Humanity Blitz

Join Habitat for Humanity June 6 as hundreds of volunteers from all faiths come together to raise the

walls of Habitat homes in Martinez. More than 25 faith groups from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties will engage in this build. The Muir Ridge 20 home development in Martinez is the latest Habitat project in Contra Costa County. This is a first for Habitat East Bay – 20 single family homes in one development.

Over the course of this framing blitz, 5 homes will be completely framed. You do not need to have construction background or experience to be part of this event. There are many different jobs and skill levels needed. Habitat does although, have a minimum age of 16 to work on the job site. Volunteer: <http://vols.pt/MyxKEM>

For information on the Muir Ridge development, visit the Habitat website: <http://www.habitatebsv.org/Homes-for-Sale/Muir-Ridge-Development>

Great Activity for Families

Join the Stop Hunger Now! Meal Pack-out



We will be hosting our *third*, “Stop Hunger Now” meal packaging event on Saturday, May 16 from noon to 3pm in Wesley Center. We need 50 volunteers to help in the packing of 10,000 meals. If you attended either one of the previous events, you know how fun and fulfilling the event is. If you were unable to help previously, here is your chance to part of a rich and

rewarding couple of hours. Ages 5 to 95 are welcome to attend. This is truly a family event. Volunteer: <http://vols.pt/N3Qja3>

If you are unable to help out on this day, please consider donating a gift towards the cost of packing the meals. Each meal costs \$0.29, so a gift of \$25 will cover almost 100 meals.

“Stop Hunger Now” was founded in 1998 by Ray Buchanan, an ordained United Methodist minister with the vision of ending hunger in his lifetime. Since 1998, they have provided over 180 million meals in 65 countries. For more information on this organization, please visit the “Stop Hunger Now” website at <http://feedthehungry.org/>

Imagine No Malaria Campaign – A Mission For Lent



Congratulations to SRVUMC! Thanks to the support of the congregation, we have met our goal of raising \$10,000 towards the “Imagine No Malaria” program. On Sunday, May 17th, during the church services, we will be presenting a check to Rev.

Kristie Olah, District Superintendent for the El Camino Real District. This will go far in attaining the Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. challenge of each district to each raise \$100,000. Thank you again.

Together, we are changing lives!

Two Chances to Volunteer

Sort Medical Supplies at MedShare in May and August

Our Missions Committee is hosting two mission projects to MedShare in San Leandro, on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 and Saturday, August 15, 2015 both from 9am to 12pm. Volunteers will sort medical supplies that are sent to medical teams around the world. To learn more about MedShare, visit their website at <http://www.medshare.org/>

Children between the ages of 10 and 17 years are invited to attend. Please visit our website to sign up and download Parent Permission Form: <http://tinyurl.com/mission-medshare>

Plan to arrive 5-10 minutes before our shifts begin to complete the sign in & orientation process. Wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. The warehouse has no heating or air conditioning so volunteers should dress in layers and take into consideration the outside temperature. Closed-toe shoes are required. No sandals, flip flops or high heels, please! Questions? Contact John Green.

Carpools are recommended, but there is a large, free parking lot in front and on the side of the building. Volunteers should enter through the door on the left side of the building marked “Volunteer Center.”

We provide hot and cold drinks and light snacks in our Volunteer Center. If you'd like to bring snacks to share it's always welcome as it helps us stretch our funding to help more people.



The children of Haiti are counting on you!

The Thomas Food Project of Haiti has blossomed from a vision Warren McGuffin had after visiting the earthquake ravaged country, to today serving daily lunches at six project schools, countless health checkups, installation of solar and clean water equipment, and the installation of computers in each school site. Your donations are truly changing lives and all this progress would not be possible without your generous financial support!

Since the Thomas Food Project's inception, your giving has helped provide a hot lunch each day during the school year for the kids at the schools we support in Haiti, but continuous funding of this program is critical to its survival. Imagine how difficult it is for a child to learn on an empty stomach. For many of the children served by the Thomas Food Program, this may be their only meal of the day.

Here's how your donation helps feed the children of Haiti:

\$10 funds lunch for 1 week

\$20 funds lunch for 2 weeks

\$50 funds lunch for 6 months

\$100 funds a full school year of lunches

Please designate "Haiti Lunch Program" when making your donation. Thank you for your help!



2015 YEAR-TO-DATE GENERAL FUND UPDATE

The information below is as of March 31st

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Pos / (Neg)
Total Gift Receipts	\$ 350,569	\$ 347,700	\$ 2,869
Total Other	6,019	8,151	(2,132)
Total Income	356,588	355,851	737
Total Operating Expense	267,352	274,910	7,558
Total Program Expense	6,015	8,454	2,439
Total Expense	273,367	283,364	9,997
Net Position	\$ 83,221	\$ 72,487	\$ 10,734

Revenues

Through the first three months of 2015, Total Income is roughly right on plan with a positive variance of \$2,869.

Giving receipts are ahead of plan.

Other Income is below plan primarily due to facility rentals being less than budgeted as well as E-scrip receipts.

Expenses

Year-to-date Operating Expenses are favorable to plan by \$7,558. The majority of this savings occurs from non-appointed staffing costs being favorable due to below budget spending in the areas of musicians and childcare providers. Office/Property Expense is essentially on plan. Most Program expense categories are operating favorable to plan resulting in the positive variance of \$2,439. This yields Total Expense being favorable to plan by \$9,997.

As a reminder, we are paying Apportionments as a percentage of monthly income and therefore apportionments are tracking essentially at the budgeted levels.

Net Position

We have a Net Surplus through March of \$83,221. This represents a favorable variance to budget of \$10,734. A sizable share of this variance will be used in the future as a lot of the savings in Non-Appointed staff and Program areas are timing related. This being said, we are on solid footing heading into the summer months when giving tends to slow but expenses keep on coming.

We plan on placing a Quarterly Financial Report in the Messenger going forward. We will continue to report Giving, as we have in the past, on a regular basis in the Mini-Messenger.

Thank you to the Congregation for blessing us with your Gifts and Talents.

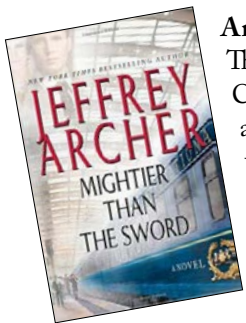


Between the Bookends

By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

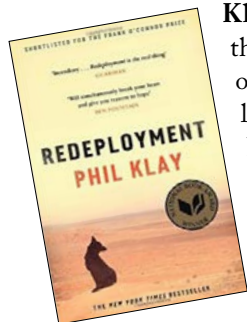


Have you found the Wesley Library? Don't forget—San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church has a terrific library located right in Wesley Center and it's open all the time. If Wesley Center is open, so is the Library, and you are welcome here. Feel free to come in, look around, browse, or even sit a spell. Any book that you see there is available for you to check out—just remember to sign the check-out card found in the back of every book. Leave the signed card on the Library desk. But I'm sure you also know that we have a Book Cart full of beautiful books—current, up-to-date, and guaranteed to give you a chuckle, make you think, and certainly widen your world. Here are few new titles that are on the Cart now:



Archer, Jeffrey. *Mightier Than the Sword.* This is the fifth volume in the Clifton Chronicles, the gripping story of the Clifton and Barrington families, mostly English but with American ties. We have the first four volumes so you can begin at the beginning and get to know these larger-than-life characters. Many thanks to Paula Boswell.

Grissom Kathleen. *The Kitchen House.* Lavinia was orphaned aboard ship as her white Irish family was immigrating to America. The sea captain took pity on the little girl and took her home to his Virginia plantation, where he made her an indentured servant who would be free after her seven years of service. She was placed in the "kitchen house" in the care of slaves who taught her to cook and clean—and raised and loved her as one of their own. Chapters alternate between Lavinia and Belle, the captain's mixed-race daughter, as each tells her story and grows up. If you enjoyed *The Help*, or *The Invention of Wings*, or indeed any book that helps us understand our past, this book is for you. Many thanks to Linda Ashcraft.



Klay, Phil. *Redeployment.* On the cover of this book is the gold medallion given to one of the most prestigious awards in American literature, the National Book Award for Fiction. Phil Klay is a Dartmouth graduate and former Marine Captain who served in Iraq and these twelve stories and observations on that war and the men and women who are serving there are riveting. Part fiction, part autobiographical, Klay is

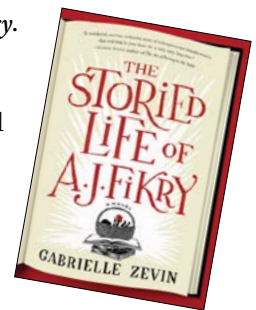
never politically correct and is unflinching in describing what soldiers in this war experience, physically, mentally and emotionally.

Talbot, David. *Season of the Witch; Enchantment, Terror, and Deliverance in the City of Love.* Yes, that city is San Francisco, specifically in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Do the names Harvey Milk, Jim Jones, Patty Hearst and Bill Walsh sound familiar to you? If so, you'd probably love browsing/reading through this amazing chronicle of a city that crammed so much history and drama into such a short period. This is a bestseller at Barnes & Noble, where readers who remember this time buy it, along with readers who wish there were there at the time!



Zevin, Gabrielle. *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry.* Do you love books and bookstores and some of the quirky people who haunt bookstores? A. J. Fikry runs his little bookshop on a small island off the New England coast, and judges and measures almost everything against books he has read in the past.

He also drinks too much wine and summarily dismisses the earnest publisher's rep who has just been assigned to his district. Just when we're beginning to fear that A. J. Fikry might be lacking in any redeeming quality—other than his love of books—a surprising and unusual package is left on his doorstep and everything changes. Well, not immediately, but you have high hopes for A. J. Fikry, and ultimately, he doesn't disappoint! A charming and wonderful book guaranteed to make you smile!



The day the Lord created Hope was probably the same day he created Spring.

—Bernard Williams, 1929-2003



You are invited

Labyrinth Opening Ceremony and Blessing Sunday, May 31 at 4pm

The Labyrinth Committee SRVUMC

Pastors Ron Dunn and Kathi McShane

The family and friends of Will Schramm

Our beautiful handcrafted labyrinth is finished and is open for walking in Hap Magee Ranch Park. Please stop by any time the park is open and find some time to introduce yourself to this ancient practice.

All are welcome. There is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Labyrinths occur in all cultures and have long been used as tools for meditation, centering, and healing. Some people come with questions, others just to slow down and take time out from a busy life. Some come to find strength to take the next step. Many come during times of grief and loss. Instead of worrying about past and future, you may find yourself present and peaceful in the now.

Kindness Matters Corner

by John Green



To all readers: Where do you think we get all of these kindness stories? The Internet? Nope! YouTube, Newspapers, Magazines? Nope! Nope! And again, Nope! You are thinking way too big. Every story

is homegrown and is the story of our SRVUMC family. Each is a kindness given, a kindness received, or a kindness observed in our Tri-Valley area!

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

A Very Special Valentine's Day.

A Very Special Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day was coming and, like many widows, I no longer had a Valentine of my own. Disappointed from my previous lonely Valentine-less years, I decided to have one this year. I called the father of a friend, a friend who had passed years ago, and I asked the father, "Do you want to be my Valentine?" He hemmed and hawed a bit, and then said, "Yes, what a great idea. I've been feeling poorly lately, and I would love to be your Valentine!"

We met for brunch at a restaurant we both liked. I got him a lovely rose, wrapped in beautiful red, sparkly paper, and I was off to the restaurant. I gave him his rose, and he gave me a box of chocolates. Being just the two of us, we could talk without interruption. He told me about the good old days in this valley and his role in its development. With my love of history and his amazing stories, I was fascinated.

During the lunch, he told me he had just turned 90, and he had not received a single card or phone call from his family on this momentous event. On the sly, I had the wait staff bring

him ice cream, topped with a candle, and we all sang Happy Birthday to him.

I left the restaurant beaming, happy I had reached out to someone, happy to see the smile on his face. I felt very warm in my heart, and I thanked God for giving me a loving Valentine's Day after all.

Treasured Mementos and Beautiful People.

The lady, a widow, brought many boxes of her possessions to the church rummage sale. Among the items was a beautiful crystal candle holder, a gift in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Returning on Saturday, towards the end of the sale, the lady discovered the crystal candle holder was still there. Picking it up she thought, "I can't leave it here because it has so many happy memories for me." Deciding to buy it back, she approached the check-out table.

She told the two check-out ladies the story of the candle holder. Without a moment's hesitation, they told her, "It belongs to you. You and the candle-holder are intertwined with the most beautiful memories and purest love. Please take it home with you." She accepted the candle holder from the hands and hearts of two ladies at the rummage sale, through whom God's gift was given a second time. As she moved to her car, the lady's face was taken over by a sweet, beautiful smile of thankfulness, and she thought, "Kindness really does matter!"

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

Get Involved

What's going on at the Church

A Special Mother's Day Gift

Are you looking for a very special way to honor your mother or grandmother for Mother's Day? Cherish her with the Mother's Day gift that "keeps on giving".



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

Donors' names may be listed or kept anonymous at donor's request.

You can also honor anyone who has been "like a mother to you"!

Endowment Fund gifts are invested for the long-term use of the church as specified from the following categories: Capital Improvements, Wesley Center Maintenance, Sunday School, Library, Missions, Music, Youth Ministry, Senior Programs and Unrestricted. If no category is chosen, donated gifts will be placed in the Unrestricted Endowment category. Endowment gifts will be allowed to grow in perpetuity; with the growth and income they generate being used throughout the life of the church to benefit the Endowment Category you choose. Through your previous gifts the Endowment Fund provided \$50,000 of earnings back to the Church this year.

To make a Mother's Day contribution to the Endowment Fund, complete the form below, attach a check and return them both to the church office. Please make the check out to SRVUMC Endowment Fund. Mother's Day Envelopes will also be in the Church Pews on Mother's Day, May 10, 2015 for your convenience.

Mother's Day Endowment Gift

Mother or Loved One:

In honor of / in memory of (circle one)

Gift given by:

Donation Category:

You Can Make a Difference @ SRVUMC

It has been said, that it "takes a village" to do big things, and keeping our church running is no different. We have two support teams who are seeking new volunteers. Perhaps you are looking for a new way to support our church, so we hope you'll consider volunteering to help one of these vital teams.

The Sodbusters serve our church by volunteering one Friday morning per month to help keep our lawns and gardens mowed, edged, swept, pruned and weeded. The Sodbusters have been at this work for 5 years with a fair number of charter members. The result of their efforts is a significant improvement in the appearance of our grounds and thousands of dollars in annual savings. We have a great crew, but we've lost some members due to health issues and scheduling conflicts. We need 5 new Sodbusters to join the team so that we can continue this important work. Please contact Gary Swanson, garyswanson811@gmail.com or 925.437-2887 to learn more or volunteer.

Our Coffee Fellowship team serves refreshments and greets our members and visitors during coffee hour following each service. This team helps prepare and serve coffee, tea, juice and the ever-present bagels and cleans up after the coffee service has ended. We are especially looking for volunteers to host the coffee service after the 10:30am service, where coffee is served from a cart in the Narthex. If you enjoy meeting new people - or connecting with your church friends, and are looking for a new way of serving at church, please consider joining our Coffee Fellowship team. Contact Kim Maier, kim.maier@lmco.com or 925-487-3367 to learn more or volunteer.

Next Class Starts May 3

2-Day New Member Class Offered

Are you interested in exploring membership at SRVUMC? Our next new member exploration class, known as the Discovery Class, will be held on May 3 & 17. We have retooled the class into two, 2-hour sessions so that we have more time for you to participate in a small group experience and explore your own faith journey. After our time together, you will know more about what it means to be a Christian, a United Methodist and a member of SRVUMC, and will have made valuable connections with our ministerial staff and your classmates.

The May Discovery Class will run both days from Noon – 2pm, with lunch included. Childcare is available upon prior request. Interested in learning more or joining the class? Contact Devon Drake, Director, Membership & Mission, ddrake@srvumc.org to reserve your spot and request childcare. Registration deadline: April 25, min. of 6 participants

Congratulations Pastor Sunny!

Pastor Sunny was recently elected President of the National Association of Korean American United Methodist (KAUM) clergywomen. Her job as president is to strengthen God's ministry under the leadership of the group by celebrating, connecting, and empowering the KAUM clergywomen and their ministries. She will also provide a platform to raise the story and profile of Korean American United Methodist clergywomen, and assist with leadership development of the Korean American women in ministry. As a leading voice in the group, Pastor Sunny will advocate peace and justice in the world. She will be working closely with the boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church. Please offer your prayers and support to accomplish God's will and purpose for her.



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

Reflections on Growing Older

*Based on Chapter 4 of
"Women Aging: Chang-
ing Identities, Challeng-
ing Myths"*



Mirror of My Future, Reflection of My Past
© Mara Friedman

When: Tuesday, May 12,
from 9am to 3pm

Where: San Damiano

Retreat (710 Highland Drive, Danville, CA 94526)

Registration Fee: \$50 per person including lunch.

Scholarships are available. Please speak to Bonnie Roberts!

Please make a check payable to SRVUMC with memo "2015

Wise Women's Retreat."

For more information, or if you have any questions, please

contact Pastor Sunny at sahn@srvumc.org. Register in the

Church office,

*Remember to bring a picture of a wise woman who
influenced you!*

What is the Preschool Commission?

A community outreach of SRVUMC is our popular United Methodist Preschool, which is filled to capacity with children ages 2 to 5. It offers morning two-, three-, and four-day programs supplemented by afternoon Lunch Bunch, Art Enrichment and Kindermusik sessions. Paulette Ove is the Preschool Director and she supervises a staff of nine.

The Preschool Commission was created by the Administrative Board in 2007 to provide general oversight to the Preschool. It operates under Bylaws which provide for seven to twelve members to be selected from designated committees and the Ad Board, at-large members selected by the Committee on Lay Leadership, and a ministerial staff member.

The Commission meets monthly to make decisions regarding the staff, program, and the budget. Current members have expertise in child development, business practices, finance and law, and human resources, and include a representative of the current Preschool parents. Winnie Stribling is chairperson, and church staff representatives are Sunny Ahn and Stephanie Ham.

A current project is obtaining a new state license to allow additional students into our classrooms, as more students have applied for admission than we are able to accept. Two Commission members, who also serve on Finance Committee, review the financial records monthly to insure proper accounting procedures are maintained and accurately recorded. Our Preschool shares a portion of its yearly income with the church to help offset expenses incurred by Trustees to maintain and improve the Preschool facilities.

Recent facility improvements include the installation of keyless locks and campus security cameras to help protect our little ones and their teachers. Our awesome campus handymen, Boyd and

Brian, have repaired the sliding doors between two classrooms and built an outdoor table and storage units for the play yard. A major project recently completed by Paulette, under the guidance of Judy Baker (CPA/Auditor) is the implementation of the ProCare Child Care Management Software. This conversion of record keeping from cumbersome, old file systems to high-powered modular software provides our Preschool-specific child care administration and record keeping tools.

The multidisciplinary expertise of the Commission members helps the preschool in its daily operation, and we are proud that it continues to have an excellent reputation in the community. For a complete listing of Preschool Commission members and their responsibilities, please refer to the Governance section of the church website. View the United Methodist Preschool website at <http://www.unitedmethodistpreschool.org/>.



Preschool Commission Members: Judy Slinger, Helen Sinclair, Rhonda Poole, Terry Sherman, Sally Andrew, Chairperson Winnie Stribling, Sunny Ahn, Stephanie Ham, Director Paulette Ove, Sara Rossini. Missing from picture: Anne Kuelz and Jean Desmond.

Holy Land Trip in 2016:

During 2015, the people of San Ramon Valley UMC are encouraged to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Now we are in the process of experiencing the stories in the Bible through the Holy Land Trip in 2016. The first Holy Land Trip planning meeting will be on Sunday (5/31) after the 10:30am worship. Please let Pastor Sunny know if you are interested in joining the planning meeting.

The next Administrative Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 at 6:30pm in Wesley Center. All are welcome to attend.

Minutes for meetings can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/srvumcadboard>

Senior Scoop Lunch with Friends

(All luncheons are in Wesley Center)

Lunch with Friends is a home-cooked, sit-down meal, served in Wesley Center at Noon on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Tables are set with fresh flowers and surrounded by interesting people. These lunches are the friendliest place in town.

Tues., May 5 @ Noon: Lunch with Friends
Guest Chef Nancy Benvenuto
Cinco De Mayo Celebration

Tues., May 19 @ Noon: Lunch with Friends
Chef John Sanders

Thurs., May 21: Senior Field Trip
John Muir House in Martinez. Sign up at a Senior Luncheon or call Sandy Greenwood 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, May 25 at Noon

Program: Program: Judy Benedict and Gail Soldavini will present a program on their stay at a lighthouse

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

LET'S TALK!

About Having Homes Everyone Can Afford in Contra Costa County

There will be a short get-together with Laura Sanchez for those interested in discussing and contributing ideas on the subject of Inclusive and Affordable Housing on Sunday, May 3rd, in the Library in Wesley Center between services, 10:10-10:50am. Bring your coffee and bagel, and let your interest be known. If you are concerned about the housing shortage in our communities, attend the workshop on

"Creative Housing Options for an Inclusive Community"

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall

1942 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek (one block up Trinity Ave. from the Leshner Center). Plenty of parking.

Wednesday May 13, 2015, 9:00am to 12 noon

The workshop will provide an opportunity for the many involved and affected individuals, government members, businesses, developers, builders, and citizens to have a discussion about planning communities for the future designed for everyone— young professionals, families, seniors, businesses, lower-income workers, and others who want the convenience of living near alternative transportation options and in downtown settings.

This workshop is sponsored by the Housing and Shelter Committee of the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition that was formed in early 2014. For more information, contact Laura Sanchez, Laura3627@gmail.com, (925) 946-1620.

Laura is a member, representing San Ramon Valley UMC, on this Committee.

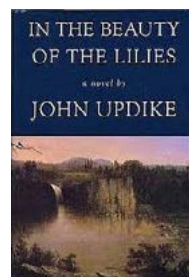
Book Groups

Afternoon Book Group

Monday, April 20, 1pm,
Rm. 202, Wesley Center

The April book is "In the Beauty of the Lilies" by John Updike.

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



Christ Care Book Group

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 10am, Library

The Christ Care Book Group will meet May 27 at 10am in the church library to review and discuss "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova.

We will meet 24 June (same time and place) after reading "All the Light We Cannot See" by Alan Doerr.

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



Great Decisions of Our Age

Continuing through May 31

What are the great global policy decisions facing the US and how should Christians respond? Starting on Sunday April 12, at 10:30am, our church will hold a series of eight weekly discussions on critical global issues using a guide prepared by the Foreign Affairs Association (FAA). This program, known as Great Decisions of our Age, is part of an annual, nationwide program, whereby groups of concerned citizens throughout the US will discuss why the issues are important and why we should be concerned.

The series will be facilitated by Lyn Arscott and held after the first service in the Fireside Room or Wesley Center. A short DVD, prepared by the FAA will be shown on each topic, and the discussion series guidebooks will be on sale for \$20 at the sessions.

Contact Lyn Arscott, lynarscott@comcast.net Upcoming topics:



Privacy in the Digital Age, April 26.

The idea of “privacy” has undergone significant changes in the digital age, as has the idea of privacy “harm.” Fearful of British spying, influence and intervention, the founding fathers granted citizens significant protections in the Constitution. Now, the tables have turned: Concerns about what some see as a U.S.

“dragnet” and unwarranted privacy intrusions have compelled other countries to revamp their own privacy protections. Legislation, both at home and abroad, hasn’t kept pace with technological developments, leaving some wondering if privacy as we know it is long dead.



Sectarianism in the Middle East, May 3.

Many of the current conflicts in the Middle East have been attributed to sectarianism, a politicization of ethnic and religious identity. From the crisis in Iraq and Syria to the tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the struggle between Sunni and Shi’i groups for dominance is tearing apart the region and shows no signs of abating. But for all the religious discourse permeating the conflict, much of its roots are

political, not religious. How does sectarianism fit into a larger narrative of the Middle East? How have governments manipulated sectarian differences? And finally, what is the U.S. doing about it?



India Changes Course, May 10.

Fed up with corruption, dynastic policies and ineffective public services, Indian voters catapulted Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party to power in the country’s 2014 elections. For voters, Modi embodied real change and an India that wasn’t stumbling, but running, to greatness. But for the U.S., change in India

brings its own set of unknowns, heralding an age ruled by a prime minister new to national office and other policymakers who have been out of the public eye for a decade. Now, the U.S. has to determine how to best secure its interests as India asserts itself on the world stage.



Syria’s Refugee Crisis, May 17.

Syrians have for a century welcomed over a million refugees from Armenia, Palestine, Iraq and other countries around the region. Now, thanks to a multiyear civil war, they are on track to become the source of the world’s largest refugee population in a matter of months. As Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and other

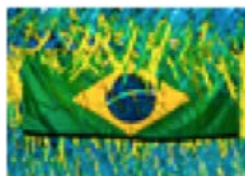
neighbors strive to accommodate the millions of Syrians, the risk of allowing Syrians to become dependent on emergency aid and forming a “lost generation” remains. Ultimately, though, the safety of displaced Syrians rests with the whole international community.



Human Trafficking in the 21st Century, May 24.

We will have a presentation by Ashlie Bryant, Vice President of “3 Strands”, an organization that raises awareness of human trafficking. Human trafficking represents a multi-billion in international trade per annum and continues to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries. While undeniably a global phenomenon,

the U.S., as one of the world’s leading human trafficking importers, bears a special responsibility to combat this practice. The U.S. and the international community have adopted various treaties and laws to prevent trafficking, but to truly understand and combat the issue, they must find the root causes enabling traffickers to exploit millions of victims.



Brazil’s Metamorphosis, May 31.

Brazil — it’s the “B” in the acronym BRICS, five emerging economies once seen as soon-to-be superpowers. After economic troubles in the 1990s, Brazil has risen to new global prominence — it’s drawing in more investment, working on global issues ranging from climate change to peacekeeping, and even hosting the 2016 Olympics. But some of Brazil’s trickiest problems — deep divisions over how to

tackle serious income inequality, weak civic institutions and poor regional leadership — have held it back.



Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness

What Every Parent, Teen and Community Member Needs to Know

Sunday May 3, 2015 3:00-5:00 PM

Wesley Center at San Ramon Valley UMC 902 Danville Blvd, Alamo, CA

Did You Know...

- Prescription drug abuse is at epidemic levels in communities throughout America and every family is potentially at risk for its impacts.
- One in five teens who has abused a prescription drug did so before the age of 14 and the consequences can be deadly.
- Prescription drug abuse is a reality in Alamo/Danville/San Ramon and has been linked to the deaths of multiple community members of all ages in the recent past.

You Will Learn About...

- Prescription drugs most abused by teens that can be addictive and deadly.
- Legal consequences of prescription drug abuse.
- Prevention strategies to help keep your child substance free.
- Common teen risk factors and how to recognize signs of substance abuse and overdose.
- Recommended action and resources if you suspect there's a problem.

SRVUMC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Stephanie Ham, Director of Children's Ministry

The things we say stack up. The way we live, or the reality of certain situations stack up another way. If both stacks line up, you can build something strong on them. When what we say lines up with what we do, people know they can trust us. Our words



have strength; our lives are built with integrity. Honesty really is a big deal. That's why we're spending the month of May talking about it. Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

When we're honest, when our words line up with our actions,

people know they can trust us; our relationships grow stronger. God understands the relationship between honesty and trust. God set it into motion in the first place. Since the beginning, God has been in the business of making and keeping promises. God told Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation of people—he was. God told the Israelites that He would provide for them in the desert—He did. God told Joshua that the wall of Jericho would fall if the people marched around it for seven days—it did. God told Mary that she would give birth to a Son, Jesus—she did.

That baby boy was the answer to a promise God set in motion from the beginning: God kept His promise to send a Savior. When we were lost, He came through and sent Jesus, the Messiah, the One who in whom we can ultimately put all of our trust. That's really it, isn't it? God is honest. He has proven from the beginning that He can be trusted—even to the point of sending His Son. We're called to reflect the image of God to a world around us that is desperate for people who will live with integrity.

Our Bottom Lines for the Month of May

Bottom Line #1: Being truthful helps you stay out of trouble.

Bottom Line #2: When you are not truthful, you can hurt the people you care about.

Bottom Line #3: When you are not truthful, you lose trust.

Bottom Line #4: When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead.

Bottom Line #5 : Being truthful with God keeps you close to Him.

We want kids to begin building the kind of lives that show they can be trusted because they know the One who can be trusted above any other. We start the month with Proverbs 10:9, "Anyone who lives without blame walks safely." Being honest isn't just about the words you say, it's about the life you live. Being honest comes much easier when you are an honest person and live your life with integrity.



As we look at these great stories and principles from the Bible, we hope that kids begin to live with honesty and integrity, that what they say will stack up with what they do. But this won't always be easy. That's why our memory verse for the month can serve as a prayer for our kids when they need God's strength to tell the truth. Psalm 119:29 says "Keep me from cheating and telling lies. Be kind and teach me your law." We pray that this month will be a great reminder to all of us to be honest, no matter what the situation looks like.

CANCELED

**Music Camp
has been canceled
this summer.**



STOP HUNGER NOW.

The children are collecting change for the upcoming Stop Hunger Now! packing event. Please contact Stephanie if your child would like a can to collect change. Please return all change and money to church before
May 18th





YOUTH MINISTRY

Luke Ham, Youth Pastor

April was truly a time of great joy in the Youth Department. The month started off with a bang as the Youth, Archangel, and Living Water Choirs lead Easter Sunrise worship in the SRVUMC Courtyard. There was even a flash mob that broke out as we celebrated life's victory over death!

The day after Easter, some of our 11th graders hit the road with Luke and Stephanie as we toured colleges around California and visited our Youth Group Alumni who showed us around their campuses. This year we were able to visit UC Davis, University of the Pacific, UC Merced, Cal Poly-SLO, UC Santa Barbara, California Lutheran University, Chapman University, San Diego State University and Azusa Pacific College—all in four days!!!

On April 18, the youth held their annual 30-Hour Famine. During this time, we learned about world hunger as well as water shortage. We found out about how the United Methodist Committee on Relief is tackling these issues and how we can help. Each youth went 30 hours without food to get a glimpse of what many people suffer through every day. We broke our fast with the Lord's Supper followed by a wonderful feast in Wesley Center. This year the money we received from community donations will go directly to the UMCOR to help people all over the world.

Finally, April is wrapped up with a special Circuit Youth Gathering on April 26th. Youth from Asbury UMC, Castro Valley UMC, Concord UMC and Lynnewood Pleasanton UMC will all gather at SRVUMC to learn about what Jesus meant when he called us to be "Fishers of People."

As we enter May, please note that the Confirmation class being confirmed on May 3rd and Youth Group will be wrapping up for the school year on May 13th.

As many of you know, Stephanie and I are expecting our first child on May 8th. While God is the only one who knows the exact arrival date, we will be taking some time away from the church to bond as a family as soon as our son is born. We look forward to introducing you to him sometime in late May. More details about that to come soon!

Thank you so much for all the support and love you have shown us, we can't imagine a better community of faith to bring our new child into!

*Blessings,
Luke*

Late Breaking News!

Just as this issue of the Messenger was going to press, we received notice that Caleb John Ham arrived April 28, 2015 at 6:22am. He is 8 lbs, 1 oz, and 21" long.

Both mom and baby are doing great!

Congratulations Luke & Stephanie!

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Vilva Robinett	Donna Johnston
Jackie Ceragioli	Jean White
Phyllis Roth	
Melanie Hasik	
Dick Greeno	
Steve Colman	

Our Christian Sympathy to:

- Emily Baker and family on the death of daughter Jen Kush. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on 4/18,
- The family of Bea Kropf who died on 4/3. Her service will be held in June.

Continued Prayers For...

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

Bill Andrew; Lyn Bristow; Steve Colman; Lenore Cooper; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny & Donna Johnston; Del Kennedy; Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Larry Liggett; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Ruth Meier; Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Phyllis Roth; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Carol Webb; Joan Webb; Jean White.

Shared Bulletins

Rosemarie & John Place shared bulletins from Toorak Uniting Church during their extended stay in Australia

Name Tags

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

Join the Sodbusters— The Church's Gardening Service

We need more help! For the last three years a group of individuals, both men and women, have been maintaining the Church grounds each week and have been able to save the Church significant expense through this volunteer effort. We need to reinforce our numbers and would like to invite you to consider joining us.

The time commitment runs approximately three hours, one Friday morning a month. Call Jim Burk at (925) 946-1192 or email jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net for more information.

June Celebrations

Birthdays

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

Wedding Anniversaries

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



MAY 2015

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary

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

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

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly
4/30/2015

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Alamo, CA 94507
Permit No. 1

San Ramon Valley
United Methodist Church
902 Danville Blvd.
Alamo, CA 94507