



# The Valley Messenger

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

JULY 2015

*A Parsonal Point of View ~*

## Amphibian Attitude: Happy FROGS

As I am starting the second year as the pastor at San Ramon Valley UMC (SRVUMC), I have revisited my personal mission statement — “to restore the joy of salvation in the hearts of people, so they will be happy/joyous.” My assumption about people is everyone wants to be happy. Surely I want myself to be happier each day. I also wish for a happier life for everyone, especially those people around me. I am hoping that my tombstone will be engraved as, “Sunny HOPS (Helps Other People Smile).”

In pursuing happiness for me and others, especially in the year of 2015-2016, however, I am not able to ignore the writings of John Hogue in

his book, *Predictions 2015-2016*. He predicts a disastrous future with the collapse of old systems of order, including the ecosystem, which might be a threat or a potential for the rise of new people movements and positive socioeconomic and political revolutions.

In a “crisis-filled” life during 2015-2016, I think we can still maintain our “happiness” by choosing a right set of attitudes in Christ. To help us choose the right set of attitudes, I share a poem about two frogs by Helen Lowrie Marshall. It is titled “Miracle.” It goes like this...

*Now, two little frogs in the course of their way,  
Fell into a pitcher of cream one day,  
And though they both frantically struggled about,  
Quite obviously, neither one could get out.*

*Whereupon, said the first, “Why struggle at all?  
The cream is too deep and the pitcher too tall.  
I could have leaped out if I had had room.”  
Thus, blaming her fate, she sank down to her doom.*

*But the second frog said, “Now, I must confess,  
I’ve certainly got myself into a mess.  
Things look mighty bad, but at least, I can fight,”  
And she began kicking with all of her might;*

*And she thrashed and she struggled;  
She splashed and she tore,*

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**Next Issue: August 27, 2015**

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

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*And when she grew weary, she only  
thrashed more,  
Till a miracle happened, as miracles  
do*

*For she who just won't admit that  
she's through...*

*The cream she was kicking grew  
thicker and thick  
Until there was finally no more need  
to kick!*

*And, wondering how such good luck  
came about,*

*She crouched on the butter she'd  
made-and leaped out!*

As Christians, we often tell ourselves that we believe in and practice being FROGS (Fully Rely on God). When you read the poem, do you see yourself in first frog or the

second one? Both frogs faced the same crisis, but their attitude determined their fate.

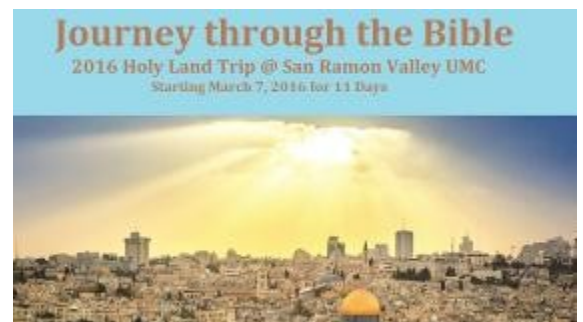
The Chinese pictograph for **crisis** is a combination of two symbols — the symbols for **danger** with **opportunity**. Crisis with “danger” attitude leads to the dead end; however, crisis with “opportunity” attitude leads to life. Which attitude shall we adopt? The choice is ours! I pray that my friends at SRVUMC will choose to be “hoppy” FROGS with an “opportunity” attitude to bring “happy” life to the community of faith. Ribbit!

*~Pastor Sunny*

## Journey Through the Bible, March, 2016

Our theme for this 11-day tour of the Holy Land will focus on Jesus' life, times, land, and His Hebrew faith. Our tour is being administered by Educations Opportunity Tour (EOT), and the cost for the trip is \$2,998

(including round trip airfare from NJ/NY to Tel Aviv). We will visit Jericho, Bethlehem Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Galilee, Nazareth, Samaria, Jerusalem and more! A \$300 deposit reserves your spot on the tour. Second payment of \$1,500 is due by Nov., 23, 2015, and final payment due by Jan., 7, 2016. An extra processing fee of \$140 applies for credit card payments. Pick up a tour brochure in the church office. Contact Pastor Sunny or Phyllis Meyer for more information about this incredible trip. Check our website at: <http://srvumc.org/informational-meeting-for-2016-holy-land-trip/>





# MISSION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

START WHERE YOU ARE.  
USE WHAT YOU HAVE.  
DO WHAT YOU CAN.

## Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, July 25, 2015  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Can you spare a couple of hours during your summer break to provide some much needed help at the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano? A group of us will be traveling to Concord on Saturday, July 25 to do just that. We will spend two worthwhile hours, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., probably sorting food that has been donated in the green food barrels you see around town and on our church campus. On the other hand, since it will be summer, we may be asked to bag fresh produce for distribution at various locations throughout the two counties. We'll go with open minds and willing spirits offering to serve wherever we are needed.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano is proud to be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. As far back as 1979, the Food Bank began its first direct distribution program by providing 50 low-income seniors in Antioch with five or six food staples like bread and canned goods. Today the Senior Food Program serves over 8,000 seniors a month at 35 sites in the two counties.

In addition to the senior program, the Food Bank serves those in need through direct distribution and partner agencies like emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, school programs and other nonprofits, the Food Bank provides over 16 million meals per year. Plus, every month the Food Bank gives out one million pounds of fresh produce.

If you would like to be on our team on July 25, please contact **Lee Rust** at [chijo-col@aol.com](mailto:chijo-col@aol.com) or (925) 820-9047. *Space is limited, so sign up early. Hope you can join us.*

## Affordable Housing: The Conversation Continues

What would you do if your rent/house payment suddenly increased by \$500? Sadly, that's a reality faced by many low-income residents of our county. Come join us on Sunday, July 12, at 11:30a.m. in the Fireside Room, to learn more about:

- How Contra Costa County is addressing the affordable housing issue
- Brainstorm for ways SRVUMC can respond and become transformers in our world

*A simple lunch from Subway will be served. Sponsored by the MLK Peacemaker/Justice Committee of our church, with help from the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition of Contra Costa County, and others (to be named).*





# July Communion Offering



Our July Communion Offering supports two local organizations who serve low-income, at-risk and homeless people in our community — Monument Crisis Center of Concord and Trinity Center in



Walnut Creek.

Monument Crisis Center serves low-income and at-risk individuals and families in Contra Costa County. Your financial support helps the center provide programs and services to their clients free of charge. The Center helps the thousands of clients they serve each year get back on their feet through educational programs, food, general assistance, enrichment programs for senior adults and youth, and referrals to other services.

SRVUMC has a long history volunteering at the Center as well as providing financial support. Visit their website to learn



more about the Center: <http://monumentcrisiscenter.org>

Your July Communion giv-

ing also helps Trinity Center of Walnut Creek offer a safety net of basic services to homeless or at-risk individuals in the county. In addition to being in community and a safe place off the street, Trinity Center offers their clients, breakfasts and hot lunches, a place to shower and do laundry, clothing, mail and phone access, assistance with and referrals to services and help with benefit applications. St Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek is a primary sponsor of the center. Over the years, SRVUMC has been in partnership with Trinity Center. Several people in our congregation regularly volunteer in various capacities at the Center. Your July offering supports continuation of the many programs offered by this valuable community resource.

Several years ago SRVUMC began the Food for Thought program at the center. The Food for Thought program was conceptualized by Horace Crawford and Dick Lam. While our July Communion Offering supports the general fund at Trinity Center, the Food for Thought program is self-funding and runs weekly throughout the year.

As part of this program, SRVUMC members and friends



gather each Friday morning in the Wesley Kitchen (Rousch Kitchen) to prepare a home-cooked lunch. The lunch is then brought to Trinity program at the Trinity Center, served to the clients, followed by a spiritual discussion led by Pastor Ron or one of our Food for Thought team members.

Visit their website to learn more or view their wish list of needed items: <http://trinitycenterwc.org>, or if you'd like to join a Food for Thought team, contact Dick Lam, [richardclam@aol.com](mailto:richardclam@aol.com) or Horace Crawford, 925-937-8330.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ray Bryant of 3Strands

June 4 Talk

Human Trafficking is a massive, and under-reported, crime. As part of our Great Decisions series, we invited Ray Bryant to speak. Ray represents a not-for-profit organization called *3Strands*. Ray told us that the global annual revenue from trafficking is estimated to be \$36 billion, a bit less than drug trafficking but similar to arms trafficking. The US trafficking business is estimated to be around \$10 billion.

The vulnerable populations are migrants, women and children who are sold for sex exploitation, forced labor and trade of human organs. The problem is global, but it also impacts our local communities.

One Spring break in 2008, a 17-year-old girl went with friends to her local grocery store near Sacramento. A 22-year-old perpetrator offered to take the girls home, but after dropping two of them to their homes, he drove off with the other girl. Without her knowledge, the girl had been drugged with something slipped into her soda. Within a few hours of her abduction, she was posted for sale for sex on Craig's List. Thankfully, because of good police work, the FBI rescued her after eight days from a motel in the Bay Area, and the perpetrator was arrested.

In response to this personal experience, the mothers of the girls in the previous story formed a group called Break Free (which later merged with 3Strands). The purpose of this newly formed group is to bring awareness about the prevalence of human trafficking and to educate youth and their parents on ways they can protect themselves from being manipulated into trafficking. 3Strands speaks to schools and other community groups to make sure that young people and parents understand the tactics of

perpetrators and are aware of dangers and risks young people face on social media.

California has nine trafficking task forces. During the period 2010-2012, they identified 1,277 victims and arrested 1,798 individuals. Of the victims, 56% were coerced into sex trafficking. California Proposition 35 increased prison terms for sex traffickers and was passed in 2012 by 81% yeas — the largest margin in the history of California initiatives.

The lesson here is that youth and their parents should be ever-vigilant about this crime. Be vigilant for signs around you, including the influence of social media, such as Facebook, and take time to warn young people about the dangers (see following list of signs).

**If you would like to schedule a presentation at your school or youth group, contact Ashlie Bryant at [ashlie@3StrandsGlobal.com](mailto:ashlie@3StrandsGlobal.com)**

## List of signs of Human Trafficking (3Strands)

- Presence of overly controlling boyfriend
- Inability to look into a person's eyes when communicating
- Physical abuse
- Signs of malnourishment
- Signs of drug abuse
- Fear, anxiety, depression, submissive, tense or nervous
- Few or no personal possessions
- Truancy
- Knowledge of trafficking industry and the associated slang
- Has an explicit online profile



## June 6 Mission Work: Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, June 6, eleven members of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church joined approximately 150 other faith partners to build homes for Habitat For Humanity. Over the course of four days, seven homes were framed at the new Muir Ridge site in Martinez. This is just the first phase of a 20-unit subdivision that will offer of two-, three-, and four-bedroom homes to qualifying low-income families. Both phases are expected to be completed by 2016. In addition, the volunteers were partnered with the future homeowners of each unit during the build. As with any Habitat home, the partner families must demonstrate a willingness to help and will spend at least 500 hours working on building their home – “sweat equity.” Habitat homes are not charity cases. Each family must agree to a mortgage with Habitat. When the homeowner does need to sell for any reason, Habitat has first right to purchase. In the Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley, 150 families are presently on the wait list for a home.

This weekend “All-Faith Framing Blitz” was a first for Habitat for Humanity. Twenty different faith communities came together over the four-day weekend. Over 500 volunteers transformed seven lots into seven two-story framed homes. Almost three dozen faith communities have committed to raising \$20,000 to help fund the Muir Ridge development. An anonymous donor has pledged to match the first \$100,000, bringing the total to \$300,000 – enough to completely cover the cost of two homes. At SRVUMC, the August communion offering is designated for Habitat and the Muir Ridge development.

If you ask anyone of the volunteers, they will tell you it is work, but very gratifying work. The day went by quickly, and knowing that 20 families are that much closer to reaching their dream of owning their own home makes one feel that they are making a difference.

**The next scheduled Faith Build Day at Muir Ridge site is Saturday, Sept 19.**

**We have space for 8 volunteers. Please join us! Sign up on the church website.**



*Some participating SRVUMC members, from left to right: Paul Kuelz, Steve Garnick, Nancy Garnick, Alice Impraim, and Anne Kuelz. A total of eleven volunteers from SRVUMC lent a hand.*

**Habitat  
for Humanity®**





## Summer Sermon Series: A Vocabulary of Faith



Words have power! How we understand and use those words can make all the difference between a life that is lived deeply and richly and a life

that is lived superficially. This is certainly true of the words that are often used to describe the faith that we share and the journey that is ours as followers of Jesus. In this series of sermons, we will examine some of the key words or concepts that live at the heart of our faith experience as Christians.

Join us in Sunday worship at 9 & 10:30a.m. as we examine these words together. Check our website for the weekly Sermon topics and key words from our faith tradition: <http://srvumc.org/summer-sermon-series-a-vocabulary-of-faith/>

### Women of Faith (WOF) Conference

Joanne Durrenberger and Pastor Sunny invite women of all ages to join them for the Women of Faith Conference in **Sacramento, CA** on **Friday (11/20/2015) evening thru Saturday (11/21/2015)**.

Women of Faith weekends are for women who want to deepen their faith and explore what faith is all about. Tickets start at \$99 plus your overnight lodging. For more information, please visit: <http://srvumc.org/reserve-your-spot-for-the-women-of-faith-conference/>



## Save The Date Grill & Chill Begins in July

Thursdays just got much more chill, and oh so delicious! Leave the cooking to our Grill & Chill dinner teams each Thursday evening, from July 9 to Aug. 6. Each Grill & Chill features a delicious dinner and exciting entertainment. Our entertainment line up is being firmed up, but we are happy to report that our VBS kids will show you the songs and dances they learned during VBS on July 16!



Stay tuned for details about weekly Grill & Chill sign ups and pricing.



*Vilva Robinette (center) recently celebrated her 95th birthday and she is SRVUMC's oldest volunteer! Vilva is part of the Friday morning worship bulletin folding crew (pictured here). Standing, left to right: Jane Schnittker, Pam Lewey, Marla Schleicher, Martha Kitajima. (Crew members not pictured: Melanie Hask, Sheila McClelland)*

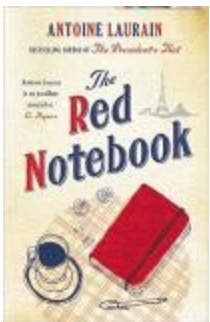


# Between the Bookends

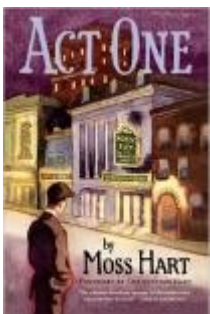


By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

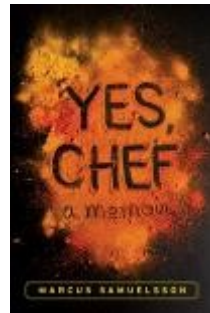
The only thing that's more fun than talking about a book is reading it for yourself! So join one of our book clubs, or scout out a brand-new treasure for yourself. They're right there on the Book Cart, and if the one you want isn't there, then reserve it! Just drop by the Library on a Tuesday morning — or email "Library Request" to Sally at [jchris161k@aol.com](mailto:jchris161k@aol.com), and we'll make sure you get it next! Here's what's new on our Book Cart:



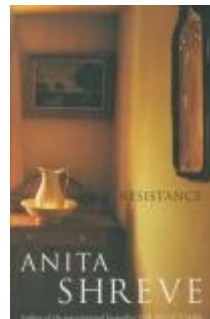
**Laurain, Antoine.** *The Red Notebook*. Light, warm, humorous, and with wonderful insight into human nature, this comes to us from France. It's beautifully translated and brings to life characters you love and root for until the end. And they don't disappoint you!



**Hart, Moss.** *Act One; An Autobiography*. Do you love the theater? Is the name Moss Hart familiar to you? If not, it should be. Multi-talented, he wrote several award-winning plays for Broadway, the screenplay for the Oscar-winner *Gentleman's Agreement*, and also directed the musical, *Camelot*. He wrote this autobiography at the request of his wife, Kitty Carlisle, and then unexpectedly died only two years later at age 57. It was a tragic loss for American theater.



**Samuelsson, Marcus.** *Yes, Chef: A Memoir*. This is Walnut Creek's "One Book, One City" book of the year, and it's one you won't put down easily. Orphaned as a child in Ethiopia, adopted by a white Swedish family, this black child grew up speaking Swedish and English and learning to cook standing next to his Swedish grandmother. Any world class chef has worked unbelievably hard to achieve that status, but Marcus Samuelsson was uncommonly driven to learn cuisines and flavors and what makes food not only healthy, but memorable. His journey has led him all over the world, and he now has his own restaurant, Red Rooster, in Harlem in New York City.



**Shreve, Anita.** *Resistance; A Novel*. Anita Shreve is known for her accessible stories that are full of people that you feel you know. She comes through again with this story of WWII Belgium, and the resistance workers that risk their own lives, and even those of their families, to rescue downed British and American pilots. Why do they do it? Because they feel their own eventual freedom from Nazi domination lies in getting those flyers back home to fly again.



# **Kindness Matters Corner**



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

**Are Angels On-Call or Are They on Duty 24/7?** Some of the best moments for my friend are the times she pulls into a Starbucks to pick up a grande cup of iced black tea. Especially enjoyable are days when she has just completed another round of her treatment for cancer. She was fatigued this day, a day when a stranger provided a kindness. Relatively speaking the kindness she received was no great earth-shaker, but was just an ordinary action that we should see every day, everywhere.

She was tired, and after placing her placard on her mirror, she just grabbed her Starbucks card and her cane. She opened her door, and dropped the cane in the street, no way to start this moment. Now she was struggling just to get out of her car. A young man, seeing her difficulty, offered his help, and he picked up the cane and held her arm to steady her as she got out of the car. He stayed with her until the store, and he opened the door for her. “Thank you so much,” she said. He moved in with the crowd, and she lost track of him.

She placed her order for her cool drink and handed the card to the clerk. “I’m sorry, miss, but your card is short a dollar,” the clerk told her. She considered how difficult this was going to be for her, having to go back to her car for money. But immediately, the same young man announced, “Let me get that,” and he did. My friend thanked the man again, repeating it at least a few times, drawing his smile in return. The grande in one hand and the cane in her other now presented the problem of exiting the store.

“Here, let me,” was the same voice, and the young man opened the door and escorted my friend to her car, held the tea while she got behind the wheel, and made sure she was all right to go.

She rolled down the window and told the young man, “You are my hero.”

He responded, “No, I’m just a guy.”

On the drive home, my friend pondered, “Do angels appear when they are needed, or are angels always around us?”

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

# Senior Scoop

All Senior adults are invited to come enjoy a lunchtime meal with the friendliest people in town. There's room at the table for you!

## Lunch with Friends, Tuesday, July 21 @ Noon

Lunch with Friends is a home-cooked, sit-down meal, served in Wesley Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Tables are set with fresh flowers and surrounded by interesting people. Chef John Sanders serves summer faire – ribs, fruit and potato salads and lemon meringue pie!

## Adventuresome Seniors, Tuesday, July 28 @ Noon

Adventuresome Seniors get together on the last Tuesday of the month for a potluck followed by a program in Wesley Center. July Program: Vacations!

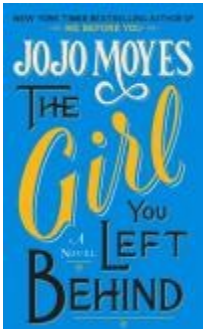


*Seniors on their May 21 trip to the John Muir House.*

## The Christ Care Book Group

July 22 at 10 a.m. in the church library to review and discuss *The Girl You Left Behind* by JoJo Moyes

August 26 at 10 a.m. in the church library after reading *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simon.

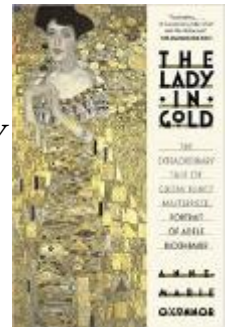


## AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Monday 1:00 p.m.

Rm. 202, Wesley Center

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



**Adult Sunday School: Study of Paul reconvenes its lively discussion, Sundays, 10:30 a.m., beginning July 12, in the Fireside Room.**

# Disciple Quilt

## ***Karen Scalzi creates a handmade quilt to honor her late husband Tony and Disciple Class graduates***

These past few Sundays, you may have noticed the quilt prominently displayed in the Narthex. In our May 24 worship services, Disciple class co-leader, Bill Rust, recognized this year's Disciple graduates and the Disciple program. During Bill's tribute, he recognized Karen Scalzi for creating this beautiful work of art.

The quilt is dedicated to all our Disciple graduates and honors the memory of Karen's late husband, Tony Scalzi. Tony passed away in the early spring of 1997. Even though he had been ill, he and Karen were part of the Disciple class which embarked on the 36-week class earlier in the fall. Karen had completed ALL the Disciple class levels but was taking the class again so she and Tony could experience the class together.

Being a part of the Disciple class gave them a brief respite from Tony's illness and it offered a classroom community of friends for support. Toward the end of his illness, Tony's vision had deteriorated so that he could no longer read. So, Karen read the daily Bible passages aloud. Hearing these stories out loud brought the Bible passages to life, and each reading took on a new meaning. Karen remembers that Tony's memory became so clear during this time that he could recall from memory most of the daily passages she read to him.

Tony lost his battle shortly before the final weeks of Disciple class meetings. Karen recalls feeling the incredible support surrounded by the loving Disciple community she and Tony so treasured. On the first class meeting after his passing, Karen joined her classmates for their weekly meeting in Lamm Hall. And the most incredible thing happened.

"Two male deer entered the Courtyard and explored the Courtyard for quite a long time! It



***Karen Scalzi with the quilt she created.***

was so incredible and we were so amazed. None of us had ever seen deer in the Courtyard before...or ever since," said Karen. The group decided it was Tony and his friend Frank (who passed away several months prior) coming to check in with the Disciple class. As Karen's friend termed it, a "God-incidence."

It was during this time, that Karen and other Handicrafters were cross stitching the chrismon ornaments for the church Christmas trees. Chalk it up to divine intervention or a nudge from Tony, Karen came up with the concept of creating a wall hanging to honor all Disciple class graduates and Tony's memory. Over the next year, Karen lovingly cross stitched fifty-six squares, each featuring a different chrismon symbol.

The Disciple quilt is on temporary display in the Narthex. Next time you're in the Narthex, stop by to appreciate the delicate beauty of each cross stitch square and the entire quilt.



# SRVUMC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



Can you imagine what it would be like to be a superhero? You could do things like soar from building to building on webs SHOT FROM

YOUR WRIST like Spider-Man, fly through the air like Superman, hang with a team like the Justice League or even create super techno-gadgets like Batman. I mean, who *wouldn't* want to be part of those stories?! And it's not just the super powers! Superheroes stand up for what was right — even when the situation is dangerous or scary. Their conviction drives them to find the courage to stand up to evil, even when no one else seems to care or stands by, petrified in fear. No matter what, the superhero comes to the rescue.

Almost all kids want to be superheroes and dream of being cast in the pages of their own comic books. Is that because most kids don't know that they can already play a part in an amazing story? It doesn't take some super power to stand up and start acting like a superhero. That's why we're taking the months of June and July to discover what it means to **Stand Up: Get in the Story** as we learn more about conviction. **Conviction is standing for what's right, even when others don't.**

Let's take Jesus for example. Even for Jesus, the Son of God, it wasn't always popular to do the right thing. Sometimes doing the right thing meant hanging out with tax collectors, blessing the little children or even forgiving someone who had done something wrong. No matter what it was that Jesus needed to do, He did it because it was the right thing to do. But doing the right thing often made Jesus stand apart

from some of the rich and powerful people of His time. They didn't like what He was doing or saying, but Jesus never let those crowds persuade Him to go against what God wanted Him to do.

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

We're looking forward to finishing out a great summer helping kids discover that God created them in His image to join the story that He's telling in the world.



**Week 1 Bottom Line:** If you want to stand for what's right, then listen to someone who listens to God.

**Week 2 Bottom Line:** You can stand for what's right, even when it's not popular.

**Week 3 Bottom Line:** Get in the habit of standing for what's right.

**Week 4 Bottom Line:** We can stand for what's right because Jesus is alive.

## Got Lunch?



Make checks payable to SRVUMC. Reference "Haiti Project" on your donation.

**Can you imagine how hard it is for a child to learn on an empty stomach?**

Your gifts of clean water, quality education tools, computers, clothing, and school supplies are a huge help, but there's an ongoing need to feed the children at our partner schools.

Buy lunch for a hungry student. This may be their only meal of the day!

**\$10 A week of lunches**

**\$20 Two weeks of lunches**

**\$50 Six months of lunches**

**\$100 A school year of lunches**

## Staff Changes at San Ramon Valley UMC by Don Field

### Introducing Greg Zema

Please welcome Greg Zema to his new position of **Director of Contemporary Worship Music Ministry**, effective June 1. Greg has been the accompanist for the Living Waters group for the past three years.

Greg was raised in Danville and attended San Ramon Valley High School. His parents, Gloria and George, continue to reside in Danville, while his sister, Gillian, lives in San Diego.

Greg lives in Walnut Creek but has a music studio in Livermore, where he teaches guitar with some voice and piano. Greg holds a B.A. degree in music from San Francisco State University.

In addition to the music that he provides for the church, Greg also plays in a band called "Moustache Harbor", which is fittingly attired in yachting outfits. They play music from the late '70's and early '80's.

### Devon Drake Resigns

Sadly, we announce the resignation of Devon Drake, our **Director of Membership and Mission**, effective Friday, June 26, 2015.

After much prayer and consultation with family, Devon has resigned so that she can seek a full-time position. Devon will remain a member of the church and will continue in various volunteer roles in support of our church. Devon's dedication and diligence in her years of service to the church will be celebrated between services on Sunday, July 5, 2015.

SPRC-member, Brenda Domergue, is heading up the committee searching for Devon's replacement. See page 14 for the job posting.

We thank Devon for her outstanding service to the church and wish her every success as she moves on to her next step.

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

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

## 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.

## Job Posting

### **Paid Staff Position: Director of Communications (approximately 10-15 hours per week)**

#### **General responsibilities:**

- Coordinate website content, working with staff and volunteers
- Create and send Friday memo and occasional mid-week memos
- Create and send Sunday Scoop
- Assist *Messenger* editor by providing content and images as necessary, and proof-reading
- General publicity, including creating brochures and publicity aids

Respond to Staff Parish Relations by emailing [search@srvumc.org](mailto:search@srvumc.org)

## Job Posting

### **Paid Staff Position: Director, Membership & Mission (approximately 10 hours per week)**

#### **General responsibilities:**

- Connect with new visitors
- Work with Pastors to coordinate visitor follow-up
- Coordinate with Welcome Committee and other church outreach groups to promote a consistent welcoming process and culture
- Recruit potential members
- Co-lead new member class with lead pastor
- Educate new members about opportunities for worship, small groups and service

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



# July Celebrations

## *Birthdays*



2 Sarah Garnick Lisa Glover	12 Linda Ashcraft Kellie McFarland	Marilyn Scott	
3 Kevin Campbell	Sherrie Weis	20 Lauren Alfrey	Bill Sabin
4 Don Field	Katie Wolfram	Ann Barnes (100!!)	Corinne Warnock
5 John Nelson	13 Devon Drake	Esi Impraim	27 Cherrie Anderson
6 Xan Alexander	Fern Hibdon	John Marshall	Susan Donatelli
Michael Dandridge	14 Amy Riedel	Sandra McFarland	Dan Duggan
Susan Hinzle	Kim Soderlund	Ben Ten Elshof	Darlene Greeno
Stephanie Ricker	Robert Winter	21 Christine Duggan	Malia Malin
Schmalz	15 Marilyn Christian	Carol Fhlug	Valerie Miller
7 Brenda Domergue	Karen Garnick	Harry Hanover	Jerry Ricker
Emily Lucente	Gloria Holleman	Ginger McGuffin	28 Tony Pelletier
Fred Toney	Bob Lambert	Bill Rust	Janet Steffy
8 Billy Andrew	Donna Paula-Willis	Mary Roush (91)	Brian Stocking
9 Graydon Bazell	16 Vlad Balyuk	22 Beth McKnight	29 Joseph Saghafi
10 Shannon Dever	Melissa Stroin	Shirley Slater	30 Karen Dudas
Ryan Dunn	17 Nancy Alexander	Larry Stone	Stacey Judd
Meghan Flanagan	Allison Lowe	23 Judy Benedict	Mark Miller
Vin Hirsch	Steve McAdams	Pam Lewey	Jeff Schroeder
Kathy Kennedy	18 Matthew Hickson	Mitch Nicco	31 Ed Bader
Joan Ross	Kelley Shaw	Kathy Sheppard	Gail Soldavini
11 Ross Rudow	Vera Knowles	Georgia Wilkens	Greg Willis
Marti Starnes	19 Judy Baker	24 Whitney Tiedemann	
Teri Voegtle	Diane Barley	25 Willy Adam	
		26 Ryan Leontini	

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts	Pam & Alan Chris- tian	TenElshof	Templeton
5 Carol & John Sayers (52nd)	Jane & John Vander- Werf	18 Sunny & Sung Ahn	31 Liz & Ron Cooper
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell	9 Debbie & John Hammond	20 Katy & Gregg Man- nell	Marci & Kelly Milligan
Judy & Randy Slinger	Linda & Curtis Jimer- son	21 Nancy & John Har- rison	
7 Teresa Fimby-	12 Kerry & Scott Davis	Alice Anthony & Alex Iantuano	
Christensen & Randy Christensen	16 Trudy & Larry Pasquale	Liz & David Bayat	
8 Kelly & Erik Ben- jamson	Rebecca & Roger	22 Jennifer & Don Andres	
		23 Marianne & Bruce	