



The Valley Messenger

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

A Parsonal Point of View ~

“Se-Ong-Ji-Ma!”

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se ong ji ma

Don't Miss What's Inside

- 2 Mission and Volunteer Opportunities
- 3 Fall Announcements
- 4 Communion Offering
- 6 Disciple Bible Study
- 7 Between the Bookends
- 8 Kindness Matters
- 9 Senior Scoop
- 11 Children & Family Ministry
- 13 Youth Ministry
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Next Issue: October 2015

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

Se-Ong-Ji-Ma is an ancient Asian story about the irony of fate. The story goes like this:

Once upon a time, a farmer captured a wild stallion. His neighbor said to him, “sure glad to hear your good news.” The farmer replied, “Good news, bad news. Who knows?” A few days later, the farmer’s son asked if he could break in the horse. The stallion threw him off, and he broke his leg. The farmer’s neighbor said, “Sorry to hear your bad news.” The farmer replied, “Good news, bad news. Who knows?” A week later, war broke out and all the young men in the city were drafted to go off to fight. The neighbor leaned across the fence and said, “Sure turned out to be good news, the way your boy broke his leg and all.” The farmer replied, “Good news, bad news. Who knows?”

We don't see the larger picture of what God is doing in the world. Many times I've had the experience of things appearing to be suffering and hardship and then watching them form the ingredients of greater good and the means to prevent greater evil. Many heroes — Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Esther, Mary, et al. in the Bible — began their journey not knowing the destination, but kept walking on the path wherever God led them to walk. They kept the faith and never gave up in the middle of their foggy and bumpy journey. Finally they became “Biblical heroes” who finished the “holy walk.”

My dear friends! We don't know whether the good news for today will be the bad news for tomorrow. Also, we don't know whether the bad news for today will be the good news for tomorrow. But I can certainly say that if we hold our faith in Christ and keep walking the walk God wants us to walk, the end of the journey will bring us good news for sure, like Romans 8:28 says, **“in all things God works for the good of those who love God.”**

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In this faith, our church continues our "holy walk" by envisioning the future together on Sunday, September 13, which is our Fall Kickoff Sunday.

Our schedule on Sunday morning, September 13, will be a bit different from our usual pattern:

- 9 a.m. — Town Hall Meeting in Fireside Room
- 10:30 a.m. — Worship in Sanctuary [**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE**]
- 11:45 a.m. — Ministry Fair and Picnic at the courtyard

Please see more information about Fall Kickoff Sunday on Page 3.

"Se-Ong-Ji-Ma!" "Good news, bad news. Who knows?" Let us continue our holy walk by Fully Relying On God in all circumstances. Let us be a true FROG and leap in our faith and love for Christ. Ribbit!

~Pastor Sunny

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Mission Saturday Has Grown! Bigger and Better!

Volunteer Opportunities from September 19 to October 3

*This year, **The Church Will Leave the Building** – For 15 days!!...Fifteen days to make a difference, in your world, your community, and your life.*

Sign up on our [church website](http://www.srvumc.org) for these and other events!



Habitat For Humanity build in Martinez - Saturday, September 19, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Habitat Playhouse build in the church parking lot - Sunday, September 20, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. *See the Communion Offering page for more about this creative and satisfying activity.*

Glide Memorial breakfast serving and service - Sunday, September 20, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Iron Horse Trail cleanup - Tuesday, Sept 22 and Thursday, September 24, 9:00 a.m.

AniMeals food packing in Lamm Hall - Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



CC Food Bank - Saturday, September 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Stop Hunger Now food packing in Wesley - Saturday, September 26, noon to 3:00 p.m. *See the Communion Offering page for more about this important effort.*

Additional information and sign-ups are available at <http://srvumc.org/summer-mission-projects-seeking-volunteers/>, or we will have sign-ups after each church service in the courtyard.

Other ongoing mission opportunities:

Singing at Sunrise Assisted Living (15 volunteers), 1027 Diablo Road, Danville, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Minimum age: 12 years. Bring sunshine and song to the residents of Sunrise Assisted Living, in Danville. We'll be singing some of your favorite songs and hymns and spending time visiting with Sunrise residents. *Contact Suzanne Stephens with any questions 925-820-8249.*

Mark Your Calendars with These Fall 2015

Announcements!

Fall Kickoff Sunday, September 13: Don't look now, but the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" are dwindling down to a precious few, and the fall season is now officially on the horizon. As is our custom, we will welcome the fall season and the start of our fall programming with a special Sunday morning celebration.

Our schedule on this Sunday morning will be a bit different from our usual pattern. We will have **one worship service only at 10:30 a.m.**, and then conclude our morning with a special courtyard picnic featuring the catering delights of "**Tortilla El Molino**," a very popular provider of delicious Mexican food.

There will be games for children, including a jump house and an activities table. The event will also feature table tennis (ping pong), Farkle and some good conversation. In addition, you will learn more about various ministries that we offer and the ways in which you might choose to become involved.

JustFaith Ministries: JustFaith is a new small group that will meet on **Mondays, 6:30 p.m. starting September 14** at San Ramon Valley UMC. Just Faith (Ecumenical) is a mind- and heart-opening journey that invites participants to encounter the Spirit of Jesus in our midst, especially in the lives of people who are poor and vulnerable. JustFaith is an in-depth, multifaceted, transformational process and a spiritual journey. Through prayer, reflection, reading, dialogue, and encounters with people living on the margins of society, JustFaith invites participants to explore their path to a life of greater compassion. Please contact **Joanne van Bezey** or **Judy Slinger** for more information.

Women of Faith (WOF) Conference: Joanne Durrenberger and Pastor Sunny want to invite women of all ages to join them for the Women of Faith Conference in Sacramento, CA on **Friday, November 20, evening through Saturday, November 21**. Friday night begins with music, laughter, and grace as walls come down and women awaken to what God has in store. On Saturday, messages speak to heartfelt needs — transforming lives and sparking change that spreads to communities, churches, families, and friends. Women of Faith weekends are for women who want to deepen their faith and explore what faith is all about. For more information, please visit <http://www.womenoffaith.com/events2/sacramento1/>

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

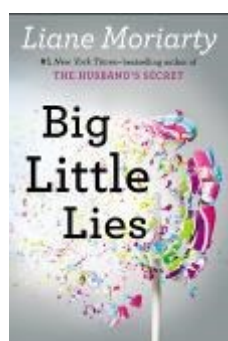
Monday 1:00 p.m.

Rm. 202, Wesley Center

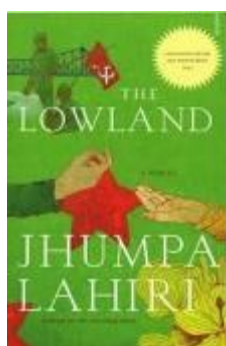
Monday, September 21 — *Big Little Lies* by Liana Moriarty (Dan and/or Nancy leading)

Monday, October, 19 — *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri (Mary Jane leading)

Monday, November 16 — *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman (Lee leading)



September



October



November

September Communion Offering



This month, your Communion Sunday offering supports two familiar charities with efforts planned for Mission Saturday. First, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church and Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley partner again, this time to bring joy to the youngest members of the populations they serve with the Habitat Playhouse. Additionally, we will sponsor another Stop Hunger Now! meal pack-out to supply nutrition to people in developing countries.

The Habitat Playhouse

The Habitat Playhouse project is an aspect of Habitat for Humanity that invites groups to build and donate playhouses to charities or individual families. To sponsor a playhouse, a group raises \$2000 to cover the cost of playhouse materials and to support Habitat for Humanity's continuing efforts to provide affordable housing solutions. Then, the group of volunteers builds the playhouse themselves.



Through the Habitat Playhouse program, volunteers fully construct a playhouse down to details including windows and trim. SRVUMC's playhouse is nearly built, and the Mission Saturday effort will focus on painting the playhouse.

"Creative and artistic volunteers would love this project as it is entirely up to us to decide on the theme of the house," said Paul Kuelz in an email.

Other groups working through Habitat for Humanity have chosen familiar cartoon characters and other cheerful themes.

When completed, our playhouse will go to Blue Star Moms, Habitat Playhouse's largest recipient organization. Blue Star Moms is an organization of mothers whose sons and daughters are serving or have served honorably in the United States' Armed Forces. Working with Habitat, that group will designate the particular family who gets the playhouse. The recipient family will be Tri-Valley residents with a parent serving overseas.

Habitat Playhouse build in the church parking lot on Sunday, September 20, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Stop Hunger Now!

SRVUMC volunteers have participated in lively meal pack-outs before, most recently on May 16. On



that date, church members packed over 10,000 meals in a little over 90 minutes. On Mission Saturday, we aspire to double that volume. This satisfying project requires \$0.29 per meal to fund the raw materials such as dehydrated rice/soy meal, dehydrated vegetables and spices. To sponsor Mission Saturday's pack-out, we have a goal of raising \$2900. The upcoming pack-out has space for eighty volunteers and is appropriate for families with children who are able to follow directions.

These meal packets will be sent to partner schools in developing countries. The schools serve these hot meals to their students. A daily hot meal provided at school for each child serves as an important incentive for parents in these regions to send their children to school. Improved school attendance and nutrition assist in breaking the cycle of poverty for these families.

Stop Hunger Now! began in 1998 and is based in Raleigh, N.C. This organization and its volunteers has provided over 180 million meals in 65 countries around the world.

Stop Hunger Now! food packing in Wesley on Saturday, September 26, noon to 3:00 p.m.



San Ramon Valley UMC members worked at the May Stop Hunger Now! event to bag over 10,000 meals. Thanks to Jennifer Norrid for sharing this photo.



Note of Gratitude to SRVUMC Kindness **Korps Volunteers**

We have completed our first two months of the Kindness Korps. "Success" is the word our congregation members, our pastors, and our Kindness Korps Steering Committee use when evaluating our process. "Thank you, and God bless you" is the phrase most heard from recipients of our care and love from our pastors and our congregation.

The "thank you," is given directly to you for your service to others in our congregation as a Korps volunteer, whether your service is given towards any (or some, or all) Korps areas of Transportation, Visitation, Meals, or Communication. These are excerpts of some of the cards received from those who have received Kindness Korps support:

*Dear Friends,
I am so grateful for the many expressions of SRVUMC "kindness caring" during my recent illness. Cards, calls, visits and meals all gave me a boost in recovery and reflect the loving community we share.
Thank you.
Affectionately,*

And

*Dear Kindness Group,
My day was brightened when the Kindness Korps visitor came to spend time with me. Also, visitors, staying with my husband have allowed me to attend Sunday service, receive communion, and see friends. Thank you for touching our lives this way.
Love,*

To reiterate an aspect of our care process, addressed when we embarked on the Kindness Korps, as we have almost 100 Korps volunteers across four service areas, you may not have received a request to serve in your chosen capacity. Fear not! Your time will come: maybe tomorrow, maybe next month. Every effort is made to ensure an organized rotation among Korps volunteers.

Your willingness to drive, to cook a meal, to visit, and to send cards and notes to those in our congregation who wish our support, is one of the beauties of the Kindness Korps. By your volunteering, you have told our congregation, "I want to do this!" There is no need to search for one to support another: there is a full roster just waiting and wanting to get up to bat!

Your offer to support the Korps is just as important to our church, our church family, the Kindness Korps, and the care recipients, as any other Korps member. Thank you, again, for your service to others.

A note will be sent to you soon to provide a recap of the Kindness Korps services provided and a short description of how the system works.

Your Kindness Korps Steering Committee



CHANCEL CHOIR
REHEARSALS RESUME
August 27, 7:30 p.m., Music
Room

JOIN US – DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES

“If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples.”— John 8:31

Scripture has something to say directly to you. Are you listening? The small group Disciple Bible Studies guide you into Scripture, but don't tell you what to take from Scripture. That's your job! You “live” in Scripture and “listen” for how it speaks directly to you.

Disciple I (“Becoming Disciples through Bible Study”): A foundational, disciplined, small group Bible study designed to connect us to Scripture. Scripture draws each of us to explore who we are, our relationship with the Holy, and our relationships with each other and the world. Its aim is transformation, not just information. Groups meet on **Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.** (Linda Forsey, leader; starts **September 15**); or **Thursdays at noon** (Pastor Sunny, leader, starts **September 17**); **Tuesdays at 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.** (Bill Rust, leader; starts **September 22**). A drop-in class is slated for **Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** (Bill Rust, leader; Starts **September 20**).

This acclaimed, ecumenical Bible study is active throughout The United Methodist Church and thirty-three other denominations. It is for beginners and those seeking to be refreshed through Bible study.

Disciple II (“Into the Word, Into the World”): Takes us deeper into selected Scripture, especially Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. We will read familiar passages but in fresh ways, listening for God's call on our hearts. Groups meet on **Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.** (Phyllis Meyer, leader; starts **September 16**) and **6:00 or 7:00 p.m.** (Dave Coombs, leader; starts **September 16**).

“Invitation to the Old Testament”: An eight-week overview study in the Disciple study format gives a taste of Scripture. The study occurs **Sunday at 9 a.m.** (Phyllis Meyer, leader; starts **September 20**)

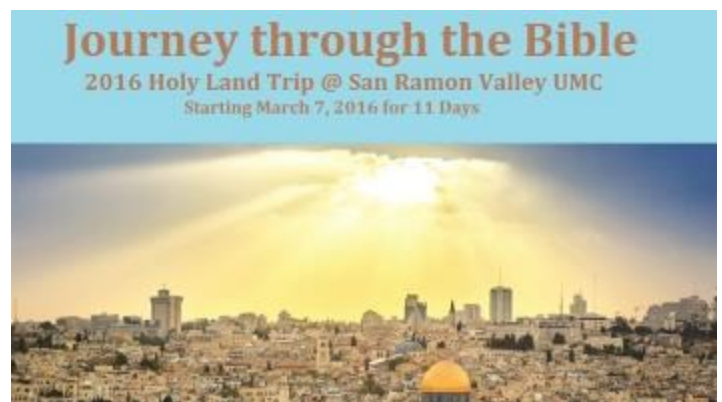
“Invitation to the New Testament”: An eight-week overview study in the Disciple study format. It gives a taste of Scripture. The study occurs **Mondays at noon** at Learning Over Lunch (Phyllis Meyer, leader; starts **October 5**).

Please join us. Disciple small groups will meet mid-September to April, 2016 with breaks at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The program asks for weekly preparation and attendance. Disciple meetings quickly become part of the rhythm of your week: Scripture is telling your story, and you want to know more. Your bonds with the group grow. You just want to be there!

To join or for questions: Contact Bill Rust at wrusirarb@aol.com or by phone, or a group leader, or Sunny Ahn. Contact information is in the church directory.

Journey Through the Bible, March, 2016

Our theme for this 11-day tour of the Holy Land will focus on His life, His times, His 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 **November 23, 2015**, and final payment due by **January 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.





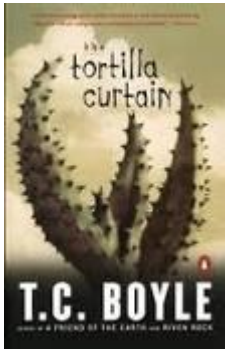
Between the Bookends



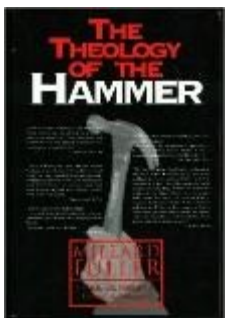
By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

Which do you like better — steak or apple pie? Macaroni and cheese or brownies? Not fair, is it, because they're so different! It's pretty much the same with books — the more I read, the more trouble I have choosing a "favorite book." At different times, my favorites have been Philbrick's *In the Heart of the Sea*, Gilbert's *The Signature of All Things*, and McCullough's *John Adams*.

So don't get stuck in a rut. While you may lean toward science fiction or biography or historical novels, try something different once in a while. Give it at least fifty pages to grab you, and if it doesn't, no harm done except that little bit of time lost while you explored something new. Here are a few to consider:

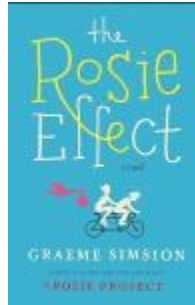


Boyle, T. C. *The Tortilla Curtain*. Two couples who never really meet, but whose lives are more closely intersected than they know. Meet Candido and America — undocumented immigrants, and Kyra and Delaney — comfortable, upper-middle class Californians. The push-and-pull between these couples reflects the one's fears and the other's hopes. Thank you, Floy Blair!

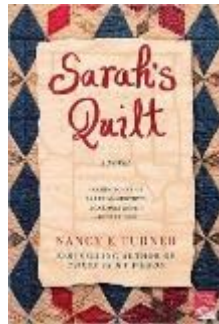


Fuller, Millard. *The Theology of the Hammer*. That hammer is the one that helps build a home for a family that couldn't afford it otherwise — Habitat for Humanity. Did you ever wonder how Habitat started? Millard Fuller was born poor, but he grew up smart and became a self-made millionaire. He put it all aside and spent the rest of his life making sure Habitat

made a difference to so many people. Thank you to Bruce and Sylvia Benzler for this eye-opener.



Simsion, Graeme. *The Rosie Effect*. If you enjoyed *The Rosie Project*, you've already met Professor Don Tillman, genetics professor and mild Asberger's Syndrome sufferer. Don tries to do everything by the book, which he managed to do until he met Rosie. Don is lovable, weird, well-meaning, and loves his schedules. But he tried to loosen up a little and has won Rosie's heart. Now married and living in New York City, another bombshell for Don — Rosie is pregnant! Merriment ensues!



Turner, Nancy E. *Sarah's Quilt; A Novel of Sarah Agnes Prine...* If you were enthralled by *These Is My Words*, the first book about Sarah Prine Elliott, her story continues in this page turner. She and her neighbors suffer through a drought in Arizona Territory in 1906 that sounds all too familiar to us today. While dealing with her own tragedy, she hears from her brother whose family has lost almost everything in the San Francisco earthquake. Based on the life of Nancy Turner's great-grandmother, the description of the destruction, ruin, mud and rain that follows the quake brings home what people really suffered until help was mobilized. Sarah's wagon of clothing and nonperishable food supplies almost certainly saved her brother's family.

"When I get a little money, I buy books, and if any is left, I buy food and clothes." — Desiderius Erasmus, 1465-1536

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.”

Vocabulary of Faith: Mercy, Compassion. The day after the pastor’s message when various photographs were shown on the screens, and the congregation noted the first emotion each felt, our church member witnessed this example to share with us:

I was standing in line at a crowded pharmacy, the sixth in line, and one of the folks at the single window already had some kind of problem, and so the line was tied up for nearly ten minutes. Standing long periods of time is hard for me. But like the man who had no shoes, after I witnessed this kindness, I knew I'd come to see the man who had no feet.

A gentleman in line behind me became impatient as he constantly looked around me to identify the gridlock’s cause. I saw a woman come into the pharmacy with a crutch, just one, but she was walking gingerly. By this time, a couple of more people were in line, including the lady with the crutch.

It was quiet, the sound of exaggerated sighs the only sounds. But then, I heard the impatient man behind me say to the lady on the crutch, "No, no, it's OK, let's trade places, really!" The lady was dumbfounded, but grateful. She kept saying, “Are you sure, really? Well, my goodness, thank you so much." It was a kindness I was blessed to have witnessed, and won't soon forget.

Oh, one more thing. I wish I had paid that kindness forward, let her move ahead of me, too. I didn't, but I wish I had. However, my not taking that step in no way clouds the original kindness for me, but still... I was relieved when a pharmacy clerk also saw the lady with the crutch and called her forward to the other register to help her. I am blessed as I, too, have known many kindnesses, especially during the last seven years as I now need a cane when walking. I learned many things in this short exchange. I have been blessed, blessed to remember the kindnesses I've been given. And best of all, I will now remember to pay it forward the next time I see a way to pay it forward. So, not just the lady was blessed, I was, too.

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

United Methodist Women Welcome Catharine Baker, California Assembly Member, 16th District



Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 10:30 a.m. in Wesley Center

ALL are invited, and please ask others who would be interested in this opportunity to hear directly from this church member. She represents this area, encompassing Lamorinda and the Tri-Valley. Lunch will be served.

Looking Ahead: The Christmas Tea will be Dec. 12.

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Saturday, October 10, at San Ramon Golf Club off Alcosta.

- \$55/person.
- First tee time 11 a.m.
- Put together your own foursome or have one assembled for you.



Sign-ups through September in Courtyard. Contact Paul Kuelz at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net for details.

Senior Scoop

New luncheon schedule for Seniors – see below!

ADVENTURESOME SENIORS POTLUCK

Adventuresome Seniors get together on the 1st Tuesday of the month for a potluck followed by a program in Wesley Center.

Tuesday, Sept. 1 @ Noon – Adventuresome Seniors Potluck

Program: Join **John Sanders** for a “Trip Around the World!”

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

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

Tuesday, Sept. 15 @ Noon – Lunch with Friends

Chef John Sanders cooks up a storm: Waldorf salad, pork scallopini, mashed potatoes, green beans and a stone fruit crumble!

FIELD TRIP

Thurs., Sept. 10 – USS HORNET EXCURSION (Alameda)

Leave church at 9:30 a.m. Tour is 10:15 to 12:15 p.m. followed by lunch nearby. Cost is \$13 for Seniors plus lunch (\$16 for non-Senior adults). Sign up at a Senior luncheon or call **Mary Jane Brusher (925) 968-9102**. Bring a friend!

E-Scrip Bulletin

Safeway has discontinued its connection with e-Scrip. **Effective August 1, 2015**, church member shopping at Safeway stores will not produce monetary contributions to our church. This change has no impact in regards to lower prices at Safeway: use of Loyalty Cards continues for lower-priced shopping. During our six-year participation with e-Scrip, our church has received \$17,000, and Safeway has accounted for 85% of these contributions. Lunardi's remains the sole major e-Scrip participant for our church membership.

— John Green, SRVUMC e-Scrip Coordinator

MONDAY NIGHT BOWLING — BACK AGAIN !

Sept. 14 is First Night

Open to EVERYONE — NEW BOWLERS NEEDED!

- Practice begins 7:15 p.m.
- Game starts 7:30 p.m.
- RSVP!



To sign up or for information, you may contact **Barb McWilliams**

(837-0971) osi310@aol.com, or **Paul Kuelz (831-3128)**
paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net.

Come to **Danville Bowl**, first-timers and old friends alike!

HOMES WE ALL CAN AFFORD

Housing and Shelter Committee for the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition

Action Ideas Discussed Over Lunch on Sunday, July 26

SRVUMC member Laura Sanchez is our representative on the Housing and Shelter Committee for the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition formed in early 2014. In recent months, she and others within our congregation have sought ideas for keeping affordable housing in Contra Costa County. The list of possible action items below includes came out of the July 26 brainstorming session.

Individual Scale

1. Involvement in the training for homeless and near-homeless people as they work to become self-sufficient, by **joining the CIRCLES PROGRAM** beginning soon in our United Methodist Circuit Churches in the Tri-Valley Area, led by the Asbury UMC in Livermore.
2. **Tour apartments in our area** available to, for instance, single persons with monthly incomes between \$2700 and \$6500; or families of two adults and two young children with monthly incomes between \$3900 and \$9200. These are buildings are built and/or owned to charge below-market rents to those whose incomes fall within income limits depending on family size, based on agreements made with the City Government. The occupancy rate for these apartments is near 100%, and all such buildings have waiting lists!
3. **Arrange a Poverty Simulation Event** at SRVUMC, in Wesley Great Hall.
4. **Attend a City Council Meeting** to speak in the Non-Agenda Public Comment Time (or Agenda Item Public Comment time if housing is on the Agenda) giving your thoughts on what to do about rapidly rising housing costs in your area. City councils determine zoning and land use and have approval (with Planning Commission) of building plans. Sometimes, city councils contribute to funding of or tax credits for desired building projects. Alternatively, meet with one or more of your council members about your ideas.
5. **Control rent increases to a certain percentage increase over a specified number of years.** Richmond City Council passed during first week in August a rent control ordinance that limits increases to a percent of Consumer Price Index per year, and limits the buildings where this applies to those over 20 years old, but not single-family homes or condominiums.
6. Vigorous, wholehearted support for the work of the **Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition's work with the Zero 2016 effort of Contra Costa County Housing Authority** to find homes for veteran and chronically homeless people now, following the **Housing First** model that includes supportive services for both the people housed and for the landlords. This has proved in a number of cities to be the most effective way to achieve both eventual self-sufficiency for the people housed and reduction of the monetary cost to the community of dealing with homeless people.

Large Scale

7. In cooperation with other Faith Congregations, get 1000 members together on a certain date to **demonstrate and speak at a Contra Costa County Supervisors' Meeting**, advocating for the zoning, approval, and funding of more Homes ALL Can Afford in our County.
8. Faith Communities poll their membership for volunteer investors in a non-profit corporation to **buy an existing apartment building (or even to construct such) that could be offered at reasonable rental rates** to those with incomes below the ability to afford market-rate rent, yet still offer the investors a reasonable (not extravagant!) return on their investment.



What To Do Now: Letters to Sign on September 13

The Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition will be signing two letters to Mayor and City Council & Planning Department of Walnut Creek. The first letter encourages including more homes everyone can afford. The other urges fast agreement to the contract with the California National Guard to use the Walnut Creek Armory for a Winter Nights Shelter for single homeless people. Watch for prewritten letters to sign in support of these measures.

SRVUMC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

When you walk into a room and you look around, do you notice what you need to notice? Have you ever wondered why there are some people who can see things that other people just don't see? It seems like some people just have this knack for looking around a room and noticing things that others don't. Maybe they notice that there are three crooked pictures on the wall or three people are wearing orange shirts. Sometimes they might even notice that there's a job to be done — like cleaning up a spilled glass of soda or emptying an overflowing trashcan. Now, what if this ability to notice things has more to do with being trained to open your eyes instead of a simple natural ability? Because when it comes down to it, seeing what needs to be done is not just about training yourself to see what's around you; rather, it should be more about doing something about what you've seen.

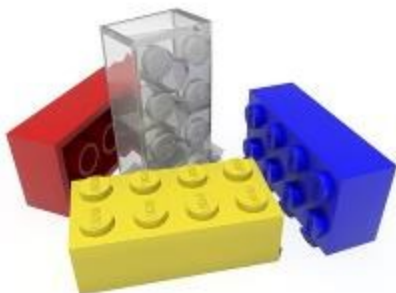
**MAKE
THINGS
HAPPEN**

But let's be honest for a second, sometimes what you end up seeing are jobs that are pretty dirty, huh? Not many people like taking out the trash, cleaning up the yard after the dog has been out there, or those bathrooms that just never seem to clean themselves. But somebody's gotta do those jobs. If they don't, life will get pretty messy, pretty fast. But dirty jobs aren't just about cleaning the house. Sometimes, we see a relationship that needs to get fixed or someone that needs some encouragement. Are we really aware of what's happening around us to take notice and take action?

The same goes for our kids. Shouldn't we train our children to open their eyes, to be aware of their surroundings and get involved? What would happen if we started teaching our kids how to really look at the world around them and actually do something about what they see? What would it be like if our children could begin to notice things that need to be done and do them without being asked? What could happen if they look at the people in their life that need help and take the initiative to help them? Or what about when it comes to their own life? What if they saw things that needed to be changed and changed them? These don't have to be huge. It could be something simple like brushing their teeth or taking a bath or keeping their room clean. That's why we're taking this whole month to discover more about **initiative**.

INITIATIVE

Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it. Initiative isn't just some practical principle; it's really a spiritual principle that starts with God. Initiative is part of God's character. God took initiative on our behalf. When God saw our broken relationship with Him, He sent Jesus to make it right. When we show initiative, we are reflecting God's image that is hardwired in us. Help your kids see life in a different way. Start asking the question, "What do you see?" When you walk into a room, when you walk by someone and when you're trying to teach children to see themselves from a different perspective, train your kids to notice things they would not ordinarily notice and encourage them to do something about what they see.



What if you picked up these little guys off the floor without being told? That's showing initiative to make sure no one stubs their toes and gets hurt.



SAN RAMON VALLEY UNITED CHURCH'S

FAMILY PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 27TH

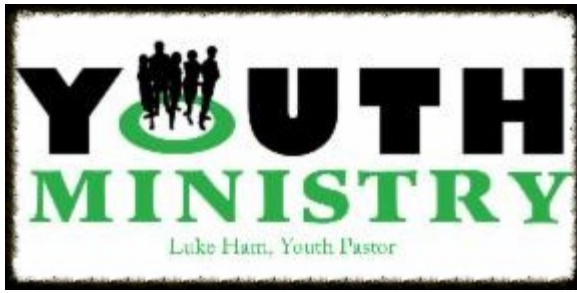
At Hap Magee Park

FOOD SERVED AT 11 AM

Food, Games, and Fellowship
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Bring drinks for your family
RSVP to Follow

Feel free to bring lawn chairs and additional lawn games.
The day is sure to be a memorable one!



It is September so that means that the students are back in their classrooms and the SRVUMC Youth ministry is starting to be in full swing with our weekly programming and events. The 2015-16 school year kicks off with our annual Fall Retreat at Monte Toyon Camp in Aptos. This is a weekend of worshipping God, team building on the ropes course, going to the beach and just have an all-around good time! This year's retreat takes place from September 11-13 and our theme is "Kindness Matters."



Now here's a good-looking bunch. They do seem so serious...do you think they ever have any fun?

Confirmation Class has their orientation meeting on Sunday, September 13 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Wesley Youth room. This will be a time where the Pastors will go over the expectations of our confirmands as well as what we hope for them to get from the program. **Confirmation class meets on Sundays from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and will begin September 20.** Confirmation is for those in eighth grade (or older if they missed the class when they were that age).

Middle School Youth Group will be meeting on **Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.** in Wesley Center. We will begin with dinner (\$5 suggested donation) then continue on with games and our lesson. Lessons address real-world issues middle schoolers deal with every day. Middle School Youth group **begins September 16** and will run through the month of May.

High School Youth Group will be meeting on **Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** Snacks will be provided. This is a time to hang out and have some great conversation with other high schoolers regarding faith, life and current events. We also have

Please Contribute Small Items to Thomas Haiti Project

- Toothbrushes and paste
- Travel size shampoo and toiletries
- Soccer Balls
- Smart Phones
- Educational and Family DVDs
- Boys shorts, underwear and T-Shirts (all sizes)
- Girls underwear (all sizes)
- Sandals (all sizes)
- Books in French
- Oxford Picture Dictionary (French, English)
- Rechargeable Batteries and Charger
- Flashlights (Small)

Donations can be dropped off at the church office.



some very fun (yet gracefully-mature) games planned as well. High School Youth Group **begins September 20** and runs through the month of May.

Also, don't forget about our **High School Dinners** out which meet on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month**. Our first High School dinner of the year will be at Chipotle in Danville on **September 17** from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Karen Scalzi	Steve Colman
Diane Higgins	Dick Greeno
Le Anne Jacobi	Richard Carter
Lyn Bristow	Lucy Carrico
Edith Liggett	Johnni Johnston

Our Christian Sympathy To...

The family of Lenore Cooper. Lenore died on 7/22.
Wolf Meier and family on the death of Ruth on 7/24.
Cindy Leonard and Helen Grabel on the death of Lee Grabel on 7/27.

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; Jeni Evans; 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;	Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Phyllis Roth; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Joan Webb; Jean White.
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Name Tags

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

October Celebrations



Birthdays

2 Sam Hawk	8 William Barton	17 Bill Lettis	
Kim Maier	Doug Domergue	Ken Randall	
Laurel Portman	Dennis Greene	18 Joe Anderson	
3 Jim Johnson	Thomas Valdriz	Ida Dandridge	29 Erik Benjamson
Heather Morgan	9 Anita Ho	Mikala Choy	Jen Birkby
4 Laura Byrne Graham	Ann Radick	Priscilla Wolfram	Aubrie Flores
Lance Schlichter	10 Paula Lyons	21 Sharleen Keen	Allie Metcalf
5 Betty Dorsey	Jim Rossini	Greg Sallee	Bob Millinich
Christina Ehlers	Bob Sada	23 Bruce Benzler	Leslie Shipp
Grace Hickman	Pam Uitti	Nancy Campbell	Glen Taylor
6 Wendy Cooper	11 Susan Dowling	Jana Vojdani	
Dylan DeWalt	12 Layne Alfrey	Ann Knies	
Ron Dunn	Kellen Armanini	Kelly Milligan	
Kyle Glover	13 Roger Miller	24 Jim Laird	
Heather Jackson	Al Shipp	Lauren Nakaso	
Jack Schramm	14 Christine Miller	Jonathan Vasquez	
Millie Sherman	Danni Sherman	Karen Watson	
7 Catherine Cooper	Melissa Ward	25 Sandy Pihowich	
Morgan Dowling	Larry Watson	Bob Schleicher	
Lydia Fenoglio	16 Elyce Bayat	26 Rochelle Hoff	
Lisa Laird	Liz Bayat	27 Angie Comstock	
Barbara Schneider	Ashley Dever	28 Bill Foulds	



Wedding Anniversaries

	12 Cadi & Brian Stephenson	18 Marilyn & Lonnie Bristow (54th)	22 Carol & Steve Koeppe
	13 Devon & Buck Drake	Barbara & Bill Schneider (63rd)	HollyAnn Melton & Ted Nguyen
	14 Marti & Sketch Sketchley	19 Marla & Stanley Nakaso	23 Joan & Lyn Arscott (50th)
2 Beth & Brett McKnight	15 Jen & Scott Birkby	Rhonda & Brad Poole	24 Sue & Wright Hall
4 Colleen & Dan Woolery	Karen & Ken Randall	Sherrie & Don Weis	Kathleen & Nader Saghafi
5 Kathy & Noel Sheppard	16 Susan & Craig Schultz	20 Myra & Jack Gordon	29 Cherrie & Joe Anderson
9 Liz & Skip George	17 Margo & Ron Cefalo	21 Beth McClelland & Joseph Voelker	
Jackie & Rudy Ceragioli (56th)	Tami & John Mitchell		
	Nancy & Epi Vazquez		