



The Valley Messenger

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

NOVEMBER 2015

A Parsonal Point of View ~

FROG: Letting Go

Imagine a trapeze artist walking across the sawdust floor of a circus tent. She walks purposefully and gracefully toward the rope ladder leading to a tiny platform high above. Slowly she begins to climb, the ladder swaying as she ascends. Upon reaching the platform, she grasps the bar attached to another rope secured to the top of the tent. Poised on the edge of the platform, she pushes off into the air, swinging forward and back, gaining speed.

At the same time, across from her, another artist holds his bar, steps off his platform, and begins to swing, soon matching the rhythm of his partner. With fluid movements, he twists his body up and over the bar to hang by his knees. With his arms free, you realize he has become the “catcher,” ready and waiting for her to let go. Back and forth they swing as the tension mounts. Suddenly she releases her bar and is flying through the air. In that brief moment she experiences the profound freedom of letting go.

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Next Issue: December 2015

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik
newsletter@srvumc.org *by November 12, 2015.*

This is not our usual deadline, so please make a note!

In the Buddhist tradition, the slogan “nothing to hold on to” is understood to be at the heart of spiritual practice. When we try to hold on to anything, we are denying the reality of impermanence. Even though we know intellectually that everything is changing, we search for ways to avoid this truth. We expend enormous amounts of energy seeking permanence and security, looking for ways to keep things as they are. We hold on.

Imagine what would happen to the trapeze artist if she didn't let go. She would swing indefinitely, stuck in the one back-and-forth movement, just one way of being alive. She must let go to free herself for new life. And so it is for us. Letting go is a spiritual practice that offers freedom and space to grow and change, cooperating with our impermanent reality rather than fighting against it.

As we are approaching the season of “thanksgiving” or “gratitude,” I am thinking about how often we are pulled from experiencing the holiness of the present moment by thoughts of our past. We might remember a particularly wonderful Thanksgiving in our life, wish it were like that again this year, and despair at all the difficulties now surrounding us. Maybe we had a hurtful encounter with a friend or family member

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and are rehashing what was said, what we wished we'd said, and wondering how it might have turned out differently. We could be carrying a deeply disturbing memory we can't seem to let go of, and when it comes to mind, we go back over the incident again and again, re-telling the story and rekindling old hurt and anger.

Wishing things were as they used to be, reworking old conversations, and telling our painful stories of abuse and injustice is natural. But if we do so to place blame or dwell on another's guilt, our pain turns to resentment, and our lives fill with bitterness. Bitter people hold tightly to their past, remember every detail of the story, and sink into self-pity. Captured by past events, they are unable to move forward into new life. The possibility of forgiveness as a means of letting go of their hurt and bitterness may never have occurred to them.

Forgiveness keeps us from being stuck in the past and helps us find a way beyond the prison of bitterness. When we forgive, we let go of our emotional attachment to what has happened, but we do not forget or excuse the wrong that was done or the pain that was caused. Sometimes we are able to go to the person who has hurt us and offer them our forgiveness. Many more times forgiveness is something we do in our own hearts without engaging the other person face-to-face. Either way, forgiving another has no predictable outcome; it does not always lead to reconciliation, nor does it necessarily make a difference in the other person's life. What it can do is transform the person who has found the courage to forgive.

I pray that we all become the transformed persons of God who let go of the past with the courage to forgive in this season of "thanksgiving" to maximize the joy of salvation in our life and in the lives of others. Have a joyful Thanksgiving ~ Ribbit!

~ *Pastor Sunny*



Youth Fall Retreat 2015! Turn to page 9 to see what the gang is up to now.

On the GROWING Edge

If you have been in worship lately — and I trust that you have — you are aware of the fact that we are now in the midst of our fall stewardship focus entitled, “On the GROWING Edge.” Referencing Jesus’ parable of the mustard seed, we are suggesting that the reign of God often takes shape in small, seemingly insignificant ways. Like the tiny mustard seed, the seed of our witness of faith can grow in ways that defy expectations and boggle our imaginations. What was once the smallest of seeds can, by the grace of God, become the largest of shrubs — a tree in which the birds of the air can make nest in its branches.

While our culture tends to assume that “bigger is better,” the essence of Jesus’ message is that, oftentimes, “small is the best.” For, that, it seems, is the way that the Spirit of God often works — through the tiny seeds of compassion, kindness, love and service that are planted in the everyday context of our everyday lives.

On June 30, 1957 a seed was planted in a worship service that was held in a funeral home on Front Street in Danville. Eighty-nine people gathered that day for the purpose of starting a new church — one that eventually, would bear the name of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. The seed that was planted on that day would, in time, take root and grow in some amazing and surprising ways. Property was purchased in a walnut orchard. A chapel was built, and our church began to “sprout up” into a growing and vital congregation. The rest, as they say, is history — *our* history as a United Methodist Congregation.

And to think that it all started with the seed of an idea that became the root of a plan that became the sprout of a program that would eventually become the supportive ministry that we now offer to the “birds of the air” that build nest in our branches. God does indeed work in small and surprising ways to make an impact far greater than we might have imagined.

While it is important for us to reflect back upon our past and to trace the ways in which the early seeds that were planted have grown to surprising size, it is also important for us to realize that the task of planting seeds is never complete. Just as those who founded our church planted seeds that benefit us in the present, so we have the responsibility of planting the seeds that will benefit generations yet to come. It would be sad and even tragic if we were to conclude that there was little work left for us to do. That, of course, is the conclusion of any organization that is preparing to die.

The truth is that there is much work to be done. In a culture that is increasingly suspicious of “organized religion,” we have the opportunity to be the kind of faith community that many people have given up hope of ever finding. Our choice to be open and inclusive in our acceptance of others, progressive in our ideas and our theology, and compassionate in our witness of service and justice is one that many people would like to know more about. They are looking for places of faith that are not bound by old stereotypes and prejudices, places where people can “think and let think” without feeling the need to color within the lines of a doctrine gone stale from its narrow scope and vision.

I believe that we can be that place and that we can offer a connection and a communion that encourages them to rediscover a faith that is both personal and social in its focus.

Our task, it seems to me, is to “sow the seeds” that will enable us to connect with our culture in new and often, unconventional ways — some of which are yet to be discovered. Our new strategic plan outlines a path into the future that will



Cars at Justice Hall, while the “mustard seed” of SRVUMC was just sprouting.

assist us in our efforts to make this connection. Our new recreational building (ARC) will, likewise, provide an important connection point with the very people who may have concluded that the Church is no longer relevant or needed.

I am grateful to be a part of a faith community that is not content to sit back and merely live off the legacy that has been provided for us. I am grateful that ours is a congregation that is willing to take the risk of reaching out and exploring new ways of being in ministry to our local community and our global community as well. In this sense, then, we are continuing with the “seed sowing” tradition that marked our beginning nearly six decades ago. And that, I believe, is very exciting!

As we move toward our Consecration Sunday on November 15, I hope that you will sense this excitement as you consider our future and the possibilities before us. In fact, I hope that you will be excited enough to invest yourself and your resources in the future that stretches before us. There is much work to be done and we cannot do it alone. But, together we can, by the grace of God, accomplish what we may have thought was beyond our reach.

If you aren’t sure about that, you might want to consider the mustard seed...the smallest of seeds that can become a tree so large that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.

Grace & Peace,

Ron

Our Annual Angel Tree Program

November 15 through December 6th

Christmas trees will be decorated in the Narthex and Wesley Center with gift requests for you to choose from.

Each card’s request has been given to us by one of the six agencies our church will be helping this year.

Although it may seem early to be undertaking this project, the shopping and distribution must be done early in December so gifts can be distributed in a timely manner.



8th Annual Harvest

Festival and Boutique!

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 7, 2015

902 Danville Blvd., Alamo

- Shop for everyone on your list!
 - Quality handicrafts by local artists
 - Unbeatable deals!
 - Support the SRVUMC Youth Bake Sale
- Fabulous \$5 lunch deal at the Harvest Café** features homemade soups and sandwiches, plus delicious homemade pies

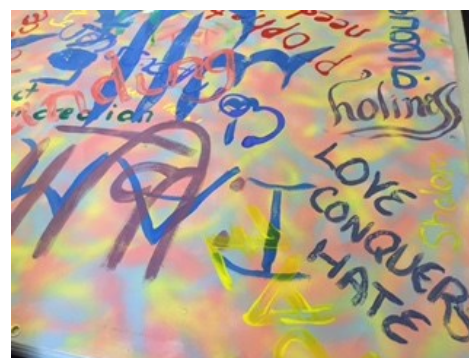


Upcoming Mission Opportunities

- **Habitat for Humanity Restore in Concord.** Contact Alice Impraim @925-389-3185 or aliceimpraim@yahoo.com.
- **Habitat For Humanity - El Salvador:** Work side by side with partner families and friends from Habitat East Bay/Silicon Valley and Habitat El Salvador. February 27 to March 6, 2016 (9 days). Trip cost is \$1,630 and approximately \$600 in airfare. Contact Tori at (510) 803-3375 or TBommarito@HabitatEBSV.org



Artist Bill Carmel and His Veil Tapestry Project at San Ramon Valley UMC



Left: Several San Ramon Valley members examine the six-foot by ten-foot canvas between services on Sunday, October 18, 2015. Artist Bill Carmel invited adults and children to add a word or phrase associated with their faith. Carmel's project came to us thanks to the Interfaith Community/I-SRV and has been circulating among the I-SRV Congregations. The artist hopes that the changing canvas will prompt "joy and wonder as a celebration of wholeness, understanding and inclusivity."

Top Right: Detail of the canvas.

Bottom Right: Carmel assists participants in his project with the paintbrushes and acrylic paints used for their contributions. Visit <http://peacejourney.org/justice-advocacy-2/dance-for-joy/> for more information.

Finance Committee Quarterly Report:

2015 Year-to-Date General Fund

Information as of September 30, 2015.

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Pos / (Neg)
Total Gift Receipts	\$ 761,698	\$ 758,400	\$ 3,298
Total Other	16,596	19,955	(3,359)
Total Income	778,294	778,355	(61)
Total Operating Expense	774,855	808,278	33,423
Total Program Expense	22,066	25,362	3,296
Total Expense	796,921	833,640	36,719
Net Position	\$ (18,627)	\$ (55,285)	\$ 36,658

Revenues

- Through the first nine months of 2015, Total Income is right on plan.
- Giving receipts are ahead of plan by \$3,000.

Other Income is below plan by an equal amount primarily due to Facility rents and E-Scrip receipts being less than budgeted. There has been an increased emphasis on renting more of our available space going forward.

Expenses

Year-to-date Operating Expenses are favorable to plan by \$33,423. Roughly half of the savings is coming from non-appointed staffing costs being favorable due to below-budget spending in the areas of musicians and childcare providers. Most of the remainder of the favorable variance is in Office/Property Expense. Most Program Expense categories are operating favorable to plan resulting in the positive variance of \$3,296. This yields Total Expense being favorable to plan by \$36,719.

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 Deficit through September of \$18,627. This represents a favorable variance to budget of \$36,658. A good share of this variance will be used in the future as a portion of the savings in Non-Appointed staff and Program areas are timing related. As mentioned in prior reports, we are in sound financial condition heading into the final quarter of the year.

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

November Communion Offering

In this month of Thanksgiving, we share our communion offering to assist in feeding Contra Costa County's hungry. To this end, we share our offering with two familiar organizations, the **Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano** and **Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County**. These two organizations have been recognized by the *Contra Costa Times* as two of the most cost-effective charities in the Bay Area.

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

According to this organization's [website](#), 1 in 8 residents of the area they serve receives food from the Food Bank, and 1 in 3 of the Food Bank's clients had to choose between buying food or paying for housing. Roughly 190,000 people are served monthly.



Of the 20 million pounds of food this organization distributes annually, more than half is fresh produce. The food comes from manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, but also from gardens, food drives and individuals.

Our offering this month will be used efficiently. The charity's website claims that 96 cents of every dollar goes directly to food programs, and each dollar provides two healthy meals.

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

According to their [website](#), this organization has served 4 million meals in Contra Costa County since 1983. They have a presence in Antioch, Bay Point, Martinez, Pittsburg and Oakley, as well as a partner site in Walnut Creek (Trinity Homeless Outreach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church). Together they have organized thousands of volunteers to serve over 170,000 meals annually (about 14,000 hot lunches monthly) and to distribute over 100 tons of groceries each year.



Benevolent Giving Figures from the Past Year

Thanks to the generosity of this SRVUMC Congregation, your Communion Offerings have supported many projects and needs through our local missions and throughout the world. Your contributions have helped so many individuals, in ways that you can hardly imagine. To name just a few:

- Thousands of meals through the **Stop Hunger Now** program, packed here and sent all over the world
- The local mission supporting many who volunteer and cook for the homeless at our **Food for Thought** program at Trinity Center
- **United Methodist missionaries** serving in Zimbabwe, Macedonia and Cambodia
- Response to the **Napa UMC Earthquake** disaster
- Hosting the **Winter Nights** program

This heartfelt response of our membership makes it possible to live out Christ's ministry in our neighborhood and our world. Please look over the spreadsheet on the following page for more details on how these Communion Offerings and other special offerings have supported our reaching out to help others.

Peggy Crawford

Chair, Benevolent Giving Committee

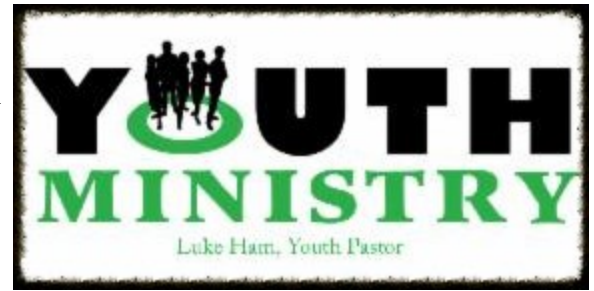
Benevolent Giving Figures from the Past Year, Continued

SRVUMC COMMUNION AND SPECIAL OFFERINGS 2014		
Month	Recipient	Amount
January		
\$2,704.00	Haiti Project Mobile Ed. Centers	\$2,704.00
February		
\$2,527.00	Bay Area Crisis Nursery	\$2,527.00
March		
\$3,278.00	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$3,278.00
Easter		
\$10,069.00	CC Interfaith Council Covenant (CVNT)	\$ 2,000.00
	CC Interfaith Housing (CVNT)	\$ 1,200.00
	Greater Richmond Interfaith Project (CVNT)	\$ 1,000.00
	Trinity Center	\$ 1,467.25
	Monument Crisis Center	\$ 1,467.25
	Trinity Food for Thought - SRVUMC	\$ 1,467.25
	Limb Restoration	\$ 1,467.25
April		
\$1,918.00	Capernaum Young Life Program	\$ 959.00
	Tri-Valley Haven	\$ 959.00
May		
\$2,382.00	Local Youth Mission a/c 4.6091	\$2,382.00
June		
\$2,520.00	Annual Conference Offering - Imagine No Malaria	\$2,491.00
July		
\$1,877.00	Shelter, Inc.	\$1,877.00
August		
\$2,089.00	Habitat/East Bay	\$2,089.00
September		
\$3,812.00	Missions Saturday Projects	\$3,812.00
	Stop Hunger Now from Local Mission	\$5,000.00
	Stop Hunger Now Total	\$8,812.00
October		
\$2,276.00	Napa UMC Earthquake Recovery	\$2,076.00
	World Communion Sunday	\$200.00
November		
\$2,422.00	Food Bank	\$ 1,211.00
	Loaves & Fishes	\$ 1,211.00
December		
\$2,697.00	UMCOR World AIDS Day	\$ 200.00
	Bay Area Alliance	\$ 1,248.50
	Youth Homes	\$ 1,248.50
Christmas		
\$21,285.00	Winter Nights	\$ 2,000.00
	Global Mission -Zimbabwe,Nepal,Macedonia	\$ 4,000.00
	UMCOR Disaster Relief - US	\$ 1,000.00
	UMCOR Disaster Relief - International	\$ 1,000.00
	Haiti Project	\$ 5,285.00
	Food for Thought	\$ 5,000.00
	Open Heart Kitchen, Livermore	\$ 1,000.00
	STAND (for families free of violence, Concord)	\$ 1,000.00
		\$ 74,639.00
L.I.F.E. - \$750.00 from Benevolent Fund		
Bagels - (Food Banks) - \$520.25		

WHEW!

The Youth program has been in full swing since our annual Fall Retreat in September. Did you know how busy we are?

- Middle School Youth Group
- High School Thursday Night Dinner Out
- Youth Sunday School, Confirmation Class
- Youth Choir
- Youth Bell Choir
- High School Youth Group



With all these groups, we are seeing over 80 different students a week! Also, our students are continuing to bring friends through our “take a shot at inviting a friend” program so we are seeing new faces every week!



Feed Us!

Also, we are always looking for folks who are **willing to prepare dinner for our Middle School Youth Group on Wednesday nights**. We are happy to reimburse you for your food costs. Youth favorites include taco bar, any kind of pasta dish, soup and, of course, pizza. **Dinner begins at 6 p.m.** Please let Luke know if you would like to take a Wednesday!

Youth Bake Sale Table at SRVUMC's Annual Fall Craft Fair

All proceeds from our sale will go to the youth mission trip accounts. Please remember to stop by!



Don't Forget to Check Out Our Weekly Programming for Students

Sundays:	9 a.m.—Youth Sunday School
	10:15 a.m.—Confirmation Class
	3:00 p.m.—Youth Choir
	4:00 p.m.—High School Youth Group
Wednesdays:	5:30 p.m.—Bro and Belles Bell Choir
	6:00 p.m.—Middle School Youth Group
Thursdays:	6:30 p.m.—High School Dinner Out

Kindness Matters Corner



To all readers: Where do you think all of these kindness stories come from? The Internet? Nope! YouTube, Newspapers, Magazines? Nope! Try again. You are thinking way too big. Every story is homegrown! Every one is the story from our SRVUMC family. Each is a kindness given, a kindness received, or a kindness observed in our Tri-Valley area!

"You Definity Live the Kindness Motto," a statement given over and over from many in our congregation to the special individuals who remind us we are not forgotten on special days. Here are just a few excerpts:

"Thank you so much for the birthday wishes and the gorgeous photo of the Abnawnee Hotel. That is a place that I would have loved to stay in even after seeing many other beautiful hotels around the world."

"Thank you for the birthday card of the woman making lace. It brought back so many memories of traveling on a train from Chester to Wales. I was fascinated by the process and talked to the maker throughout the day's travel. She was a nurse in WWII and had many stories. I love talking to the ordinary people you meet on travels: they have such interesting stories to share. The beautiful picture let me recall many wonderful memories."

"It was thoughtful of you to send a greeting in honor of my special day. I recognized the bridge and wished I was there walking over it and enjoying the scenery."

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.



Women's Retreat at Villa Maria del Mar in Santa Cruz Led by Pastor Debra Brady

Friday Evening, January 22 Through Lunch Sunday, January 24, 2016

Registration Dates: Sunday, November 8 and November 15 at 9:15 in Wesley Center Courtyard.

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

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and is not complete until we have your check. We regret we cannot "hold" a room for you until a later payment. A check is required to complete registration. Make your check out to: SRVUMC. ***Do not make a check out until your registration form is accepted on Registration Day.***

Cancellation with refund deadline - December 15 (on or after December 16, women should find a replacement or consider donating their registration fee for a scholarship)

Scholarships - A \$5 scholarship donation will be welcomed by all who would like to participate. Please let the registration desk know if you would like to attend but would appreciate financial assistance.

Fill out the Registration form on our website – SRVUMC.org and bring the completed form to registration along with your check. We will also have printed forms available in the Narthex.

Senior Scoop

CANCELLED: Adventuresome Seniors Potluck – Tues., November 3. Instead, there will be a combined Pizza Party on Tuesday, November 17 at noon.

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

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

GET IN THE MOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, DECEMBER 8 at Noon

- *A seasonal menu extravaganza with all the trimmings by Chef John Sanders*
- *Holiday musical program featuring Monte Vista High School's Double "Beauty Shop" Quartet*
- *Reservations are requested for this special occasion.*

If you haven't already reserved a spot for yourself and a friend at one of the Senior luncheons, **please call the Church Office at 837-5243** and ask to be added to the Seniors Holiday Luncheon reservation list!

A \$7 donation per person is suggested.



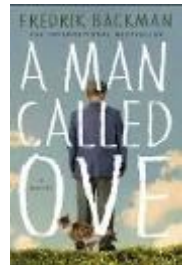
On October 18, third-graders received their Bibles from San Ramon Valley UMC, while their parents, their families and the congregation agreed to support them in learning the ways of Jesus. This group of kids received their Bibles in the 9 a.m. service.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Monday 1:00 p.m.

Rm. 202, Wesley Center

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



SRVUMC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



As God's Son, Jesus deserved a palace with a throne, complete with servants waiting on His every need or desire. Yet for Jesus, it wasn't about the lap of luxury or the fame. Jesus came for a different reason. He came to save us and rather than being served, He chose to serve others. The Book of Mark records it this way — Jesus said, “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free” (**Mark 10:45**). For us, we often think of service in terms of our experience with a waiter at a restaurant or the phone call we make for technical support. But as we lean into God's heart and discover what it means to reflect His character to the world around us, we soon discover something more about service. It's not just what people do for us, but rather what we need to be doing for the people around us.

It's like our definition for service: lending a hand to help someone else. There's something pretty great that happens when we decide to take the focus off of ourselves and lend a hand to help someone who needs it. When we start to serve others we begin to realize that God is up to something big in this world.

The amazing thing is that He wants us to be part of it. This month as we learn what it means to lend a hand and serve others, we pray kids are inspired to use what they have to join in the work God is doing and make a difference in the world.

I think that we all want our children to grow up and recognize that the world doesn't actually revolve around them — that often life is about what we can do for the people around us. We hope that kids start to understand that they really do have an important role in this world to give, to help, and to serve others.



Got Lunch?



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 at our partner schools.

Buy some lunches 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

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

Thanksgiving Multi-Faith Celebration & Service

Sunday, November 22 at 4 p.m.

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, 2925 Bonifacio Street, Concord

- Sponsored by the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition
- Gathering in Community: Clergy from across the County
- With a Multi-Faith Choir Led by Cantor Leigh Korn
- Refreshments will be served

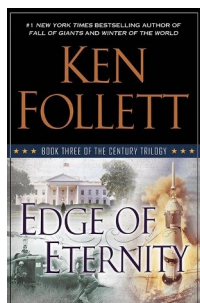
For more information, contact the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition at [contact-mfac@gmail.com](mailto:mfac@gmail.com). If you would like to join the Multi-Faith Choir for this event, please contact Cantor Korn at cantor.korn@temple-isaiah.org.



The Christ Care Book Group

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

We will meet January 27, 2016 in the church library at 10 a.m. after reading *Edge of Eternity* by Ken Follett.



Messenger Submission Deadlines Change for December and January Issues!

If we kept to our usual schedule, our tireless *Messenger* volunteers would spend Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve printing, folding and mailing the print edition! Consequently, submission deadlines have been moved up to **November 10 for the December issue and December 10 for the January issue**. Back to the usual schedule after these two editions. Please make a note.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Mark Miller	Lucy Carrico
Carole (Webb) Samford	Edith Liggett
Joe Samford	Lyn Bristow
Betty Dorsey	Dick Greeno
Jay Bennett	
Shannon Stepper	
Alice Reynolds	

Our Christian Sympathy To...

- Edith Liggett and family on the death of Larry on 10/2. A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on 10/28, 2:00 p.m.
- Cathy Colman and family on the death of Steve on 10/3. A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on 11/6, 2:00 p.m.
- Johnny Johnston & family on the death of Donna on 10/12. Memorial service TBD.
- Kathy MacLean and family on the death of her mother in Pennsylvania.
- Donna Lindquist and family on the death of her sister, Shirley, on 10/9.
- Betty Jo Bennett and family on the death of son, Jay, on 10/18. A memorial service is not planned at this time.
- The family of Jean White. Jean passed away on Saturday, October 24. Memorial service details TBD.

Name Tags

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

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; Lenore Cooper; Jeni Evans; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny Johnston; Del Kennedy; Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Phyllis Roth; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Joan Webb; Jean White.

In the News...

Hannah Stephenson, daughter of Brian and Cadi Stephenson, was in the news recently for raising nearly \$17,000 over three years for Parkinson's Research. Her father, Brian, was diagnosed with the disease at 40.

Navy veteran and 94-year-old SRVUMC member Pat Patteson appeared in a recent *Tri-Valley Times* photo. He is aiming the wing gun of a vintage WWII B-17 which flew over Hayward as part of a fundraising mission.

Oops! Missing November Anniversaries

Uh-oh! Copying and pasting from one document into another sometimes gets us into trouble. Our apologies to these couples for missing them last month.

21 Dory & Tom Schramm

27 Lynne & Larry Henderson (50th)

Priscilla & Ted Wolfram

29 Gloria & Robert Fenton (63rd)

30 Ann & Jeff Schroeder

December Celebrations

Birthdays



- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 K Leigh Alfrey | 8 Emily Baker | Jim Braden | |
| Chuck Desmond | Cary Johnson (96!!) | Horace Crawford | |
| David Hagebush | Amy Beth Ogden | John Larkins | 24 Caroline Marsh |
| Liz Hirsch | 9 Kirsten Choy | 17 Patrick Dowling | Suzanne Shea |
| 2 Sunny Ahn | Sandy Clark | Teresa Fimby-Christensen | 25 Quentin Alexander |
| Aimee Knese | Ali Kuelz | Gretl Winter | 26 Del Kennedy |
| Anita Weir-Ball | Epi Vazquez | 18 Anne Kuelz | Logan Nicco |
| 3 Marissa Clarke | 10 Wendi Cerda | Tyler Portman | 27 Lauren Dowling |
| Greg Koos | Ethel Ricker | Kay Tarr | Evelyn Evans |
| Jane Roath | Karen Steffy | 19 Myra Gordon | Rachel Hagebush |
| 4 Lois Hammond | Amanda Taylor | Teresa Stroin | 28 Jane Knox |
| Ray Shea | 11 David Cashin | 20 Kathleen Isbell | Bill Miskovetz |
| 5 Aly Kelly | Kevin Knapp, Jr. | 21 Susan Pickering-Gest | 29 George Hawk |
| 6 Kathleen Saghafi | 12 Laura Brown | Lindsay Portman | Kevin Keen |
| 7 Niles Bybel | Joan Webb | Heather Coffman Givens | 30 Phyllis Meyer |
| Elizabeth Coombs Geilhufe | 13 Olivia Bybel | Kate Steffy | Ryan Mitchell |
| Kyle Dever | Harrison Pavel | Kerri Wakefield | 31 Eric Carlson |
| Connie Erickson | Robbie Rigolfi, Jr. | 22 Kevin Isbell | Warren McGuffin |
| Kathy Fulcher | Deborah Robinson | HollyAnn Melton | Phyllis Wood |
| Merrily Gervais | David Shaw | Flo Spanier (94!!) | |
| Sketch Sketchley | 14 Lillian Baker Holleman | 23 Gayle Jackson | |
| Don Weis | Ivan Kerr | Angela Norton | |
| Suzanne Ziarnik | Annette Whiting | | |
| | 15 Cassidy Barry | | |

Wedding Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 Pam & Bob Dominici | 15 Rosemarie & John Place (53 rd) | 27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz | 29 Eleanor & Fred Toney (54 th) |
| 3 Sharon & Bob Leyman | 16 Aubrie & Jeff Flores | 28 Sheryl & Ivan Kerr (53 rd) | 30 Mary & Carl Ogden (50 th) |
| Paula & Hal Lyons | 21 Shelley & Bill Lettis | Laurel & Geoff Portman | 31 Georgia & Steve Wilkens |
| 7 Karen & Al Dudas | 22 Gerry & Jim Aude | | |
| 9 Renée & Doug Beck | Yuri & Steve Beagles | | |