



The Valley Messenger

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

JUNE 2016

A Parsonal Point of View ~

Taking a Page Out of the Warriors' Playbook

Many of us have been enjoying the exceptional year that the Golden State Warriors are having. After many years of frustration and disappointment, it's actually fun to be a Warriors fan! And it's not just about the record number of wins that they have been able to accumulate—it's about the way in which they have been able to accumulate them. If you've watched the Warriors play this season, you cannot help but notice that they play with a certain selfless style that invites the contribution of each player on the floor. While they have their "superstars" in Steph Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green, they play a brand of basketball that emphasizes the importance of the team over the individual. They are clearly motivated to play the game with a different set of ground rules than those employed by many other teams.

I am intrigued by the fact that Coach Steve Kerr has developed a set of core values that are used to give shape to the team's fundamental approach to the game. Those values, as you may be aware, are:

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Next Issue: July 2016

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by **June 15, 2016**.*

- **JOY**
- **MINDFULNESS**
- **COMPASSION**
- **COMPETITION**

It is interesting, isn't it, that "Joy" would be first on the list? And that "mindfulness" and "compassion" would follow? One might have guessed that "competition" or "winning" would have been first. What these values suggest, of course, is that there more—much more—to playing the game of basketball than focusing primarily upon winning. The irony is that if one really does focus on the concepts of joy, mindfulness and compassion, winning is much more likely to be the result. For these are the values—the core values—that pour the foundation for the experience of truly being a team and, of course, playing like a team.

I have been thinking about these core values of the Warriors as we envision the kind of recreational ministry that we will develop through the ARC (Athletic Recreation Center) now under construction. A number of our people are presently involved in a very important conversation that will give shape and direction to the ministry that we offer once the doors of our new gym are open.

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In this discussion, we recognize that we will need to balance the practical needs of making sure that our program is financially solvent with the philosophical needs of offering the kind of ministry that witnesses to the deeper values of our faith and how it calls us to live. In a culture that is often obsessed with winning at all costs (literally and figuratively), what message and approach will we choose to offer that may, in fact, counter the culture? What are the "core values" that we will seek to instill within the children, youth and adults who take part in the programing that we will offer?

These are not easy questions to answer, but we are now in the process of seeking to provide those answers to underscore and reinforce our vision of the way this new recreational center will be used to connect in meaningful ways with the community that surrounds us. You may recall that, early in the process of discussing our primary reason for building this new building, it was determined that this building would be a primary tool for reaching out to and connecting with our community. While we understood that there would certainly be a benefit for our own members and friends, it was felt that the greater focus ought to be placed upon forging a meaningful relationship with those who are not a part of our immediate church community.

With this understanding in mind, we are now taking the steps to create that link and develop that relationship. While there are challenges, to be sure, I am pleased to witness the work of so many who are committed to creating the kind of programing that will enable this wonderful new building to become a place where people can not only train and improve their athletic skills, but also a place where they can reflect upon and refine the core values that grow out of the experience of sport. When this takes place, it is then that the ministry we offer will truly be a "re-creational" one in which body, mind and spirit are "re-created" and made new.

It is, I believe, a wonderful vision to pursue and, by the grace of God at work in quite a number of people, it is now taking shape.

Grace & Peace,

Ron

P.S. If you have questions or would like to help in this process, don't hesitate to call me and I will be happy to connect you with those who can best be of assistance.

Congratulations, Confirmation Class of 2016!



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

LOCAL

Habitat for Humanity 30th Anniversary Build-A-Thon, June 17 to 21.

Join us in celebrating 30 years of serving the community. Hundreds of volunteers will come together to build six homes at our Muir Ridge development in Martinez. More details to come!



California Mission Project: We will travel to Weed, California (near Mt. Shasta) to help rebuild from the 2014 Boles Fire. We will carpool to the area on **Saturday, June 25 and return on Thursday, June 30.** Check our website or contact Larry Pasquale, 640-8799, larry_pasquale@hotmail.com.

Mission Inspiration...



Nepal missionary Katherine T. Parker (left) spoke May 1 during church services. She was later honored at a luncheon in the Wesley Center sponsored by the Benevolent Giving Committee. Parker's work through the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church presently focuses on community development in Nepal's Rukum District, a region north and west of Kathmandu.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REQUEST FOR TOYS

Family ministries is looking for donations for gently used toys (as listed below) for use in our childcare room that serves children ages 0 to 8. We are looking for donations of high-quality toys that could withstand heavy use. If you are considering donating large items or large quantities please consider emailing a picture to Stephanie Ham, Director of children and Family Ministries, to coordinate. Because our space is small and we want to provide high-quality materials to enhance a child's experience and sustain itself while here at church, we will not accept all items.

Toys that we are seeking:

- | | |
|---|--|
| -Indoor ride on toys for toddlers or small children | -Assortment of cars safe for toddlers |
| -Push toys (infant walker, shopping cart, wagon) | -Plush dolls with clothes for dressing |
| -Assortment of balls safe for infants and toddlers | -Play pots and pans |
| -Pull toys (has a stick or string that can be pulled along) | -Wood or plush play food |
| -Wood block set | -Finger or hand puppets |
| -Infant bouncer, excer-saucer, or activity mat | -Sensory or water table |
| | -Building toys (including Legos) |

Afternoon Book Group Monday, June 20 at 1 p.m. 202 Wesley Center

Selections from...

Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Novels and Stories, Vol. 1 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sharon leading)

Selections include (read some or all):

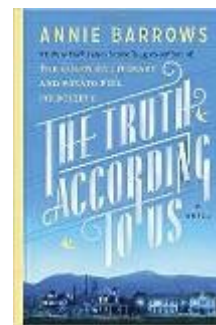
- A Study in Scarlet
- A Scandal in Bohemia
- The Red-Headed League
- The Man with the Twisted Lip
- The Yellow Face
- The Crooked Man
- The Greek Interpreter
- The Final Problem
- The Adventure of the Empty House
- The Adventure of the Dancing Men
- The Adventure of the Six Napoleons



Christ Care Book Group Wednesday, June 22, 10 a.m. Church Library

The Truth According to Us

by Annie Barrows



June Communion Offering

Rebuilding Weed, CA

Back in 2014, the Boles Fire which ripped through the Siskiyou County area, including Weed, CA made headlines. This fast-moving fire forced a few thousand Weed residents—essentially the entire town—to evacuate their homes. Some had only minutes to grab a few belongings. Fanned by high winds, the fires damaged or destroyed 150 structures, including 100 homes, the saw mill and the Holy Family Catholic Church. According to Cal Fire, the Boles Wildfire burned 516 acres.



Photo by Cal Fire, c. 2014.

For the past few weeks, you've seen the announcement about a California Mission Project in the *Mini Messenger*. Volunteers are still needed, but this mission project needs funding, too, and the June Communion Offering supports the large number of rebuilding projects still needed in the region. Funds raised with the June Offering will buy building supplies purchased from local merchants. The money also allows the rental of some power equipment, also handled in the Weed area through a local business.

Assistance to Weed, CA, came to San Ramon Valley UMC's attention because it is a UMVIM project supported by the United Methodist Church. Volunteers will be staying at the Mt. Shasta UMC and will be assigned projects to work while on site. The overall project seeks to rebuild some of the 150 homes destroyed by the fires in September 2014. Organizers will assign SRVUMC participants different projects based on skill levels and current needs. The Lynwood and Asbury UMC groups have participated already: they worked on three different homes with the homeowners sharing in the efforts, too.

Dates for the trip are **Saturday, June 25 through Friday, July 1**. If you wish to volunteer on this project, contact Larry Pasquale at larry_pasquale@hotmail.com or call him at **640-8799**. Larry became interested in the project because he and his wife have traveled through the Weed area for a few years.

Update on the Lenten Offering

You might recall that this year's Lenten Offering was marked for the **Wheelchair Foundation**. The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization seeking to provide wheelchairs to people around the world who need them. They presently work with 152 countries worldwide to distribute these devices. It is estimated that at least 100 million children, teens and adults worldwide need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. **\$150 helps purchase, ship and deliver a new wheelchair to a person in need** and supports the mission of Wheelchair Foundation.

Between our church and Asbury UMC in Livermore, more than \$17,000 has been raised. A check has been sent to the Wheelchair Foundation to cover 110 chairs or one small container load. The Wheelchair Foundation has contacts worldwide. After discussions with Asbury and The Foundation, it was decided that **Guatemala** would greatly benefit from this gift. At this time, we are scheduling a trip to **Guatemala City** and **Antigua** to distribute the wheelchairs, **January 18 to 25, 2017**. Airfare at this time is approximately \$600 round-trip. We will also have a couple of days for sightseeing. If you would like more information or are interested in being a part of this trip, please contact **Paul Kuelz** paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net or call **831-3128**. Thank you to all who made this opportunity possible. **Donations will continue to be accepted, as we are planning an additional trip to another country in the Fall 2017.**



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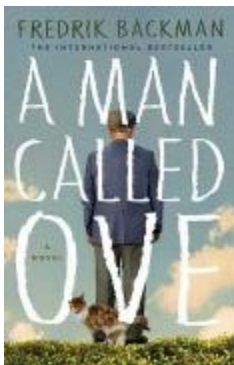


Between the Bookends



By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

Are you ready? Wonderful books this time—two new books from authors we already know and love, and two books from writers we’re meeting for the first time. Read on:



Backman, Fredrik. *A Man Called Ove; a Novel.* Ove is not easy to like—he’s judgmental, set in his ways, has a short fuse, and you’ll soon want to throw up your hands rather than deal with him any more. But be patient—Ove has an interesting story, fascinating neighbors, and a cat that just won’t go away. Keep with it; it all ties up beautifully and you just might shed a tear as you turn that last page.



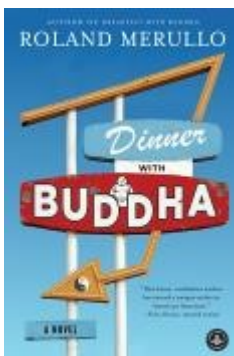
Simonson, Helen. *The Summer Before the War, a Novel.* Have you read *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand*? I hope so because it’s warm and charming and established Helen Simonson’s literary reputation. This new novel has been widely waited for and at last it’s here. The war of the title is World War I, and it takes us to England in 1914. It’s the small town of Rye where the English class system is alive and well. We follow the lives of those who go to war, and the lives of those who stay at home. Well worth the wait!



Macdonald, Helen. *H is for Hawk.* There are many, many “bestseller lists,” and this book has appeared on almost all of them. People weren’t sure what to make of it at first—is it a memoir, a nature study, a manual of falconry, an exercise in healing from grief? Turns out it’s all of those things. As Helen Macdonald struggled to come to terms with the death of her beloved father, she slowly began thinking about training a goshawk, a much more vicious and dangerous raptor than the falcons, kestrels and other hawks she knew. And so Helen brought home the small ball of fluff that was the color of cappuccino with the soul of a fighting samurai. It changed her life.

Whether you think you can or you think you can’t—you are right.

—Henry Ford, 1863-1947.



Merullo, Roland. *Dinner with Buddha; a Novel.* Here it is, the successor to *Breakfast with Buddha* and *Lunch with Buddha*. Otto Ringling is once again on the road with Rinpoche, his Buddhist brother-in-law who has become his sort-of spiritual teacher. Funny and wise and thought-provoking, you’ll learn a lot about Buddhism and the American west as Otto challenges Rinpoche and yet begins to learn and accept as he sees Rinpoche deal with souls both enlightened and

greatly in need of help.

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 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.

My Post-Sunday Service Adventure

I drove a friend to church today and drove another to her home. A few minutes later I realized the friend's handicap placard was still in my car. Thinking of kindness, I was on my way to return the placard to her residence, so she wouldn't worry. My car stopped dead as I was about to drive through a major Alamo intersection. Unable to restart the car, I put on the flashers and got out. Cars were able to go around, so traffic was not completely stopped, thank goodness!

Kindness #1: A gentleman pulled over and asked if he could help. I told him I just needed to use his cell phone to call AAA. Mine was at home—should not have left without it—never again! It took AAA forever to answer and then to find my location. They said it might be 45 minutes, although I was in an unsafe place in traffic. I told the helpful gentleman I was fine, AAA was on the way. I thanked him, and he left.

Kindness #2: A young lady stopped behind me, a mechanic who has worked on cars and airplanes, and she would help me move the car. I told her I didn't think we could, or should, put an electric car in neutral since it broke down in gear, and nothing was working.

Kindnesses #3-5: Church friends drove by, offering to help, and I told them that AAA was on the way, and all was well.

Kindness #6: A church friend drove up, put out a flare, and offered help. We three consulted, and he and the lady mechanic tried moving the car, but to no avail: it was truly dead in the water.

My church friend stayed with me. We thanked the young lady, and she left. We referred to the owner's manual, trying to figure out how to get the car into neutral, but no luck! Many Prius owners want to know if it is possible to move a Prius that has died in gear. ***I'll get the answer and pass it on!***

Kindness #7: A patrolman stopped behind my car, and angled his to prevent the possibility of someone slamming into me. My friend put out another flare. The patrolman said he would stay, and my now even better friend was able to leave.

The AAA tow truck eventually arrived. The driver was able to start the car and drive it onto the tow truck. With me sitting high in the tow truck cab and my car behind me, the driver took me to the Toyota dealership in Walnut Creek. Only the sales office was open for business, no service department. Fortunately, it started up for driving off the tow truck, and we left my car parked in the Toyota overflow lot.

Kindness #8 (or was it?): A Toyota salesman offered to sell me a new Prius and gave me a price for my old one! Actually he was very nice, and he directed me to the after-hours service check-in box. My friend with the flares had contacted my husband, and his concerned but smiling face met me, and he took me home.

So many acts of kindness—and all persons were so sympathetic and helpful. It was certainly my most eventful drive from Sunday service, this adventure of mine, my car, and the kindnesses of many caring persons.

Senior Scoop

ADVENTURESOME SENIORS POT LUCK – Tuesday, June 7 @ Noon

This month's program: "Geneology and Its Many Gifts!" by speaker Nancy Alexander

Don't hesitate to stop at the deli at Safeway, or just come!! Always plenty of food!

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH WITH FRIENDS – Tuesday, June 21 @Noon

Chef John Sanders will serve chicken piccata with rice, green beans and almonds, and more!

OUTING – GIANTS v. A'S IN OAKLAND

SOLD OUT!



April Field Trip to the Tech Museum

Our 55+ group continued fun pursuits with a recent visit to the Tech Museum in San Jose. Clearly directed to the school-age set, but a great time was still had by all. Watch Senior Scoop for more field trips!





SUMMER CAMPS AND TRIPS FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN

JUNE 27 TO JULY 1 — House Boats (For Completed Grades 7 through 12)

JULY 11 TO 14 — Vacation Bible School (Age 3 and Toilet Trained through Grade 5)

JULY 17 TO 23 — Gleanings Mission Trip (Completed Grades 6 to 12), Cost \$225

JULY 31 TO AUG 6 — SSP San Diego (REGISTRATION FULL)

SUMMER BREAK FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Starting in June, we will **BE ON summer break** for the following programs that will resume in Fall:

Middle School Youth Group
(Returns September 14)

High School Youth Group
(Returns September 18th)

High School Dinner out
(Returns September 15th)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIRS

The **youth, cherub, archangel and bros and belles choirs** will take a summer break and resume after Sunday **Fall Kick off (September 11)**. Practice days/times and performances dates will be announced.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS

Elementary School Topic: FAITH

Bottom Line: The story of Jesus changes everything.

Bottom Line: The story of Jesus changes how I see him.

Bottom Line: The story of Jesus changes how I see others.

Bottom Line: The story of Jesus changes how I help others.

Grades 6-12 Topic: We Are Young

Session 1: A Different Story

Bottom Line: Change their view by what you do.

Session 2: A Different Planet

Bottom Line: You have the choice to give them a voice.

CONTACT US!

Pastor Luke Ham (Grades 6 to 12)

lham@srvumc.org,

Stephanie Ham (Birth through Grade 5)

sham@srvumc.org,

www.srvumc.org

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Jim Bunker
Mary Roush
Edith Liggett
Barb McWilliams
Merrybell Loesel
Horace Crawford

Continued Prayers For...

illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Bill Andrew; Lyn Bristow; Gene Brown; 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; Al-

leen Landstrom; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Pat Shoner; Jean Spencer; Carol Webb Samford; Joan Webb; Jeannine Woolery.

Visiting Friends...

John and Rachel Kraps will be visiting the area and plan to attend the 9 a.m. church service on **June 19**. At **4 p.m.** on that afternoon, they will be at **Oak Hill Park** and hope you will join them with your bag dinner and drinks to catch up with old friends.

Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$7/ea.)

WELCOME

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church welcomed new members in its 9 a.m. service on May 8. From left to right: Kathleen and Briggs Wood, Caroline Walsh, and David and Joan Pierce.



July Celebrations

Birthdays



2 Sarah Garnick	Sherrie Weis	20 Lauren Alfrey	
Lisa Glover	Katie Wolfram	Ann Barnes (101!!)	
3 Kevin Campbell	13 Devon Drake	Esi Impraim	27 Cherrie Anderson
4 Don Field	Fern Hibdon	John Marshall	Susan Donatelli
5 John Nelson	14 Amy Riedel	Sandra McFarland	Dan Duggan
6 Xan Alexander	Kim Soderlund	Ben Ten Elshof	Darlene Greeno
Michael Dandridge	Robert Winter	21 Christine Duggan	Malia Malin
Susan Hinzie	15 Marilyn Christian	Carol Fhlug	Valerie Miller
Stephanie Ricker Schmalz	Karen Garnick	Harry Hanover	Jerry Ricker
7 Brenda Domergue	Gloria Holleman	Ginger McGuffin	28 Tony Pelletier
Emily Lucente	Bob Lambert	Bill Rust	Janet Steffy
Fred Toney	Donna Paula-Willis	Mary Roush (92)	Brian Stocking
8 Billy Andrew	Briggs Wood	22 Beth McKnight	29 Joseph Saghafi
9 Graydon Bazell	16 Vlad Balyuk	Shirley Slater	30 Karen Dudas
10 Shannon Dever	Melissa Stroin	Larry Stone	Stacey Judd
Ryan Dunn	17 Nancy Alexander	23 Judy Benedict	Mark Miller
Meghan Flanagan	Allison Lowe	Pam Lewey	Jeff Schroeder
Vin Hirsch	Steve McAdams	Mitch Nicco	31 Ed Bader
Kathy Kennedy	Caroline Walsh	Kathy Sheppard	Gail Soldavini
Joan Ross	18 Matthew Hickson	Georgia Wilkens	Greg Willis
11 Ross Rudow	Kelley Shaw	24 Whitney Tiedemann	
Marti Starnes	Vera Knowles	25 Willy Adam	
Teri Voegtle	19 Judy Baker	26 Ryan Leontini	
12 Linda Ashcraft	Diane Barley	Bill Sabin	
Kellie McFarland	Marilyn Scott	Corinne Warnock	

Wedding Anniversaries

2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts	8 Kelly & Erik Benjamson	16 Trudy & Larry Pasquale	Alice Anthony & Alex Iantuano
5 Carol & John Sayers (53 rd)	Pam & Alan Christian	Rebecca & Roger Ten-Elshof	22 Jennifer & Don Andres
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell	Jane & John VanderWerf	18 Sunny & Sung Ahn	23 Marianne & Bruce Templeton
Judy & Randy Slinger	9 Debbie & John Hammond	20 Katy & Gregg Mannell	31 Liz & Ron Cooper
7 Laura & José Altamirano	Linda & Curtis Jimerson	21 Liz & David Bayat	Marci & Kelly Milligan
Teresa Fimby-Christensen & Randy Christensen	12 Kerry & Scott Davis	Nancy & John Harrison	