



The Valley Messenger

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

A Parsonal Point of View ~

Thoughts on Ordination

*Luke, take authority as an elder
to preach the Word of God,
to administer the Holy Sacraments
and to order the life of the Church,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

As Bishop Warner Brown spoke those words to me at the 2016 California-Nevada Annual Conference gathering, I knew that my life would never be the same. As some of you know, being ordained in the United Methodist Church is not a simple process. You must become a certified candidate, go to seminary, followed by years of developing your ministry as a Licensed Local Pastor and Provisional Member. Through trainings, academies, various interviews, forms and reflection papers, you are evaluated continuously on your progress by clergy and laity. It is a process that at times seems overly complicated and long. However, now that I stand on the other side, I have come to appreciate the time of discernment, mentorship and learning that this process provided me with.

Don't Miss What's Inside

- 1 PPV: Thoughts on Ordination
- 2 Church Council Report
- 3 Church Council Q&A
- 5 Annual Conference Report 2016
- 7 Upcoming Mission Opportunities
- 9 Communion Offering, Monthly Giving Report
- 10 Between the Bookends
- 11 Senior Scoop
- 12 Youth, Children and Family Ministries
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Next Issue: October 2016

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

I have also come to realize just how much of an impact the people of San Ramon Valley UMC have had on my life and ministry. Whereas many of my fellow ordinands served two or three different congregations during their ordination process, I had the opportunity to spend the entirety of my process with you. And it is because of the people of SRVUMC that I have felt so overwhelmingly loved and supported throughout this whole experience. So, thank you. Thanks to each and every one of you for all of your kind words, positivity and prayers that you have offered to me over the past five years.

I also want to take the time to publicly thank those clergy who provided me with mentorship along the way: Pastor Kim Risedorff of Asbury UMC in Livermore, Pastor Mike Harrell of Foothills UMC in Cameron Park, Pastor Fel Cao of Wayside UMC in Vallejo and of course Pastor Ron Dunn, Pastor Kathi McShane, Pastor Dawn Boyd and Pastor Sunny Ahn who I got to serve with side-by-side here at SRVUMC.

Now, as we begin a new chapter of ministry together and my role shifts from a focus on youth ministry to the duties of a general Associate Pastor, I look forward to developing deeper relationships with folks of all ages here at SRVUMC. I am excited to be able to share with you more in worship as well as work with small group leaders to provide a place for everyone

SRVUMC

902 Danville Blvd
Alamo, CA 94507

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.-12, 1-4:30 p.m.

Phone

(925) 837-5243

Fax

(925) 837-7263

Web site

www.srvumc.org

Ministers

EVERYONE

Lead Pastor

Ron Dunn (ext. 107)

Associate Pastor

Luke Ham (ext. 108)

Director of Children's Ministries

Stephanie Ham (ext 106)

Office Administrator, Membership,

Accounts Receivable

Shannon Dever (ext 105)

Finance Administrator

Accounts Payable

Coreen Janes (ext 104)

Facilities & Purchasing Manager

Marilyn Clarke (ext 102)

Music Director

Bruce Koliha

Organist

Nadia Blank-Koliha

U.M. Preschool Director

Paulette Ove (ext 113)

Communications Director

Linda Green

Director Membership & Mission

Kathleen Saghafi (ext 110)

Messenger Editor

Lisa Jancarik

newsletter@srvumc.org

to feel cared for and connected with others. I hope to be more accessible and available for pastoral care, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to get together for a visit. Even if there is no crisis or illness or loss, I love getting out of the office to connect with people in their homes, in a coffee shop or over an ice cream cone as we stroll through downtown Danville, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you would like to talk.

Looking forward to a great year together,

Luke



Church Council Report

Meeting of July 19, 7 p.m.

Fireside Room



Lay Leaders Debra Carter and Lea Hickman reflected on their experience as baristas in the courtyard between Sunday services when they served over 60 lattes while engaging in meaningful dialog with members of the congregation. Ideas were exchanged, new ideas were suggested and issues important to the congregant and Church were discussed.

Brad Tolstedt reported, on behalf of the Finance Committee, that *January through June income and expenses were projected to be favorable to plan.* Budget planning for next year will start in August so the Stewardship Campaign can set expectations. A recommendation to allocate funds to the Church Council Reserve Fund for this year was again tabled to the next Council meeting.

Liz Bayat, leader of the Circuit refugee resettlement task force, reported for Missions that the refugee family from Yemen, a mother with two sons, no longer intends to move to Los Angeles from Daly City but will instead relocate to the East Bay. The Council will await further updates in regards to continued financial support. *See page 8 for more.*

Trustees Chair Mark Miller reported that the ARC building walls were finally under construction and that trenching across the parking lot will begin mid-September. *The work will take approximately one month and will result in the temporary loss of 20 parking spaces.*

Church Council Report, Continued

Joanne VanBezey and Carole Johnson recently attended the California-Nevada Annual Conference (**Note: read Carole and Don's reports on the conference in this issue of the newsletter!**). Highlights include the ordination of **Luke Ham**; **Kathi McShane's** receipt of the Bishop Talbert Award for uniting African and Korean constituents into one congregation; the retirement of **Bishop Warner Brown**; the announcement of his successor, **Bishop Minerva Carcaño**; the endorsement of **Dr. Karen Oliveto, Senior Pastor at Glide Memorial UMC**, as the Conference Episcopal Nominee to the Western Jurisdiction; the passage of legislation calling for the Book of Discipline not to be followed as it relates to LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Allies) persons and cease judicial processes in these matters; and the passage of legislation to reduce gun violence and to control the use of guns.

Pastor Ron addressed the issue of Dr. Karen Oliveto's sexual orientation as a lesbian. At the General Conference the subject of ordination of a gay/lesbian person was assigned to a task force with the intention of determining how we can come together as a denomination regarding this issue. Dr. Oliveto's election and declaration short-cuts this process and moves the denomination towards the possibility of a split. Pastor Ron noted that this is also an issue within our congregation with some longtime members who note our lack of diversity. He reminded the Council that we must be truly intentional about being inclusive.

Stephanie Ham, Children's Ministries Director, with assistance from **Kathleen Saghafi, Director, Membership & Mission**, presented a proposal to use Lamm Hall as a designated room for childcare (**Tot Spot Proposal**). Details of the proposal are described in a PowerPoint presentation posted on the [Church website](#). After much discussion, the Board of Trustees was instructed to review the proposal and advise the Council.

Fred Toney, Co-Chair of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee, presented the revised Guidelines for Nominations and Extensions, which provide that committee leaders and members may serve beyond

Church Council Q & A

(Editor's Note: Watch for more Q&A about the Church Council to get a sense of what this important body does. This month, we have the two most basic questions answered.)

On November 17, 2015, the SRVUMC All Church Conference approved the Administrative Board's recommendation to reorganize the San Ramon Valley UMC governing body, to be named the Church Council, to be effective March 1, 2016. On that date the reorganization became effective and the Administrative Board became the Church Council.

What is the Charge or Church Conference?

The Charge Conference is the connecting link between SRVUMC and the general United Methodist Church, and it has general oversight over the Church Council. All members of the Church Council are members of the Charge Conference. To encourage broader participation by members of the church, the Charge Conference may be convened as the Church Conference. SRVUMC has historically convened as the Church Conference. **It meets annually.** One of the Church Conference's responsibilities is to approve appointments of lay persons to various committees, leadership roles and other positions.

To summarize...

- **Church Conference**—also called the “All Church Conference”; Consists of members of the Church Council and Church members who attend the Conference.
- **Church Council**—the administrative arm of the Church Conference.
- **Charge Conference** and the Church Conference perform the same functions.

What is the function of the Church Council?

The Council functions as the **administrative agency** of the Charge Conference and, as such:

- Oversees the Church's governance and administration – establishes **policies, procedures, communication strategies, accountability**, etc.
- Sets the strategic direction for the Church and assures that its ministries are aligned with our Vision and Mis-

three-year terms under certain conditions. The Council approved the revised guidelines, which are posted on the church website as an attachment to the minutes.

Staff Parish Chair Don Field reported that resumé submissions were slow coming in for the Director of Youth Ministry and suggested that advertising the position as a three-quarters to full-time position may be a deterrent to candidates. Staff Parish is willing to give more time to the search, with the possibility of an interim **Youth Director**. Cost implications of a full-time Youth Director were discussed. Don also reported that the **Cherub Choir Director** position will be open due to Aimee Knese's resignation to pursue other opportunities.

The minutes of the Church Council meeting and written committee reports are posted on the [Church website](#). *Council meetings are currently scheduled for 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Fireside Room. The Council will meet on August 16, and then on September 20. All are welcome to attend.*

Shalom,

Terry Sherman
Chair, SRVUMC Church Council

Q&A, Continued

sion, *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*, through implementation of our Strategic Initiatives and adherence to our Core Values.

- Coordinates and facilitates **long-range planning for SRVUMC's buildings, facilities, staffing, lay leadership and governance** to ensure a robust infrastructure that can support the Vision, Mission and Strategic Initiatives.
- Assures that **investments in our infrastructure** are coordinated, complementary, and forward-looking.
- Assures that a program for the development of **lay leaders** is established and implemented.

Assures that the Five Practices of a fruitful congregation (*Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity*) apply to all ministries and Strategic Initiatives.

LIFT

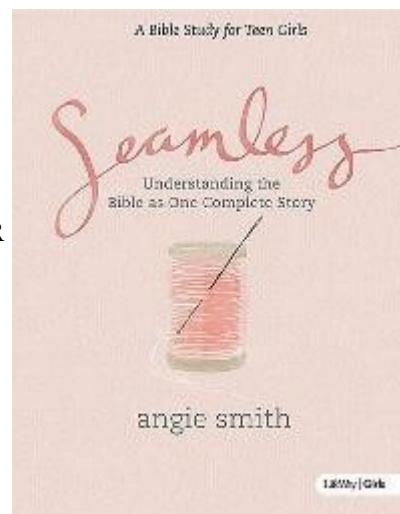
First meetings are Thursday, September 15 or Sunday, September 18.

Our Intergenerational Women's Bible Study will be starting a new study, *Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story* by Angie Smith.

We have two groups forming this Fall: **Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:15 a.m. OR Sunday evenings from 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact **Debbie Kelly** (415)385-8088, gsanddeb@sbcglobal.net OR **Sandy Gsand** (925)989-7880, sangsan@aol.com for more information.

Sign-ups are going on now and will end on September 11.



Annual Conference 2016

California-Nevada UMC

He Said...

This year's Annual Conference adopted a new expression:

"ASPIRATIONAL." We as disciples of Jesus aspire to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. John Wesley said it was "going on to Perfection." Martin Luther termed it as "saving Grace."

One of the pieces of business that was addressed and adopted was an "aspirational" resolution called "Living into a Season of Grace" calling for the Book of Discipline not to be followed as it relates to items concerning LGBTQIA persons and ceasing judicial processes in matters related to prohibitions against LGBTQIA persons.

And a special focus for this year's session was an act of repentance for the horrific acts against Native Americans—also a part of the history we observe as a Conference. We have four churches: Klamath, Round Valley, Point Arena and Schurz, and the work is guided by CONAM, Conference Committee on Native American Ministry.

She Said...

It was retiring Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.'s last time to convene the Annual Conference of California-

Nevada UMC—this in Burlingame Hyatt, on June 22 through 25, with more than 1,000 attendees. But it was also the 168th Session—that's two years before California's statehood! 1850 was a time when traveling preachers came with the other seekers to this Golden Land and they spoke wherever people would listen. This year's theme was **"Engaging Faith in the Public Square"** as well.



Bishop Brown proposed, **"Live in hope, live in the possibilities...Love is the power that gives us life and connects us with the God who will loves us despite ourselves."** On Thursday evening, his ministry, alongside that of Minnie Brown, was celebrated and August 31 will be his last

As reported by CA-NV delegation to Western Jurisdiction: ***The process for selecting our new bishop was deeply rooted in prayer, and an active attempt to discern whom God has gifted for this time in the life of our jurisdiction. The goal as a delegation was to work to elect the person we felt was best equipped to lead us.***

Our delegation feels the conference worked well and with great humility. The unanimous election of the Rev. Karen Oliveto represents the person our team, and the larger conference, feels is the right person to lead us for such a time as this in the life of our church, and the greater society.

—**Don Johnson** (Also glad to share and recruit YOU and others to consider submitting your name to the Lay Leadership Team to be Alamo's next Lay Member to Conference: the ratio is one Lay for every Ordained.)

day in office. They will continue to live in the Sacramento area.

Joanne VanBezey, Don and I experienced lively music, dealt with 31 resolutions (including one which Don will share along with the special emphasis of "Journey Toward Repentance"); and endorsed **Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto**, senior pastor of Glide United Methodist Church in San Francisco, as the conference's Episcopal nominee to the Western Jurisdiction Conference. She was subsequently elected and will lead the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conference. We will welcome **Bishop Minerva Carcano** to California-Nevada.

Look for ACS 2016 Wrap Up Report on www.cnumc.org to have the full overview. There are links to several videos and presentations.

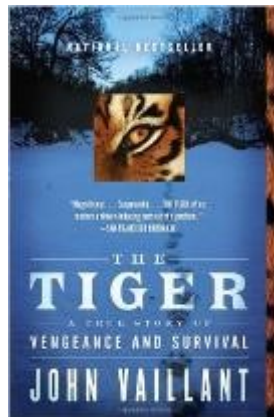
- Twenty-six clergy and spouses who died in the past year were remembered during a memorial service.
 - Nineteen clergy retired, representing more than 371 years of service.
 - Eight elders in full connection were ordained, two deacons ordained, and
- Continued Page 13...**

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Monday, September 18, 1:00 p.m.

Rm. 202, Wesley Center

The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival by John Vaillant (Ruth leading)



Christ Care Book Group

Wednesday, September 28, 10 a.m.

Church Library

Join us to discuss

Breakfast with Buddha by Roland Merullo



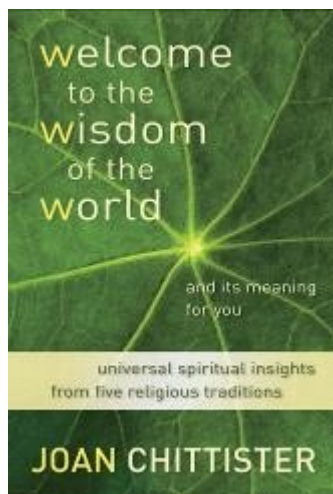
Women of the Night

September 12, 19 and October 3, 17, 24

7 p.m., Fireside Room

The Women of the Night study group is currently examining a variety of belief systems in comparison to Christianity. We have just completed *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler and will next be reading *Welcome to the Wisdom of the World and Its Meaning for You* by Joan Chittister. Please join us as we examine what being a holy person might mean with this engaging and easily understood author.

Amazon has copies of the book online. If you have any other questions, contact **Linda Forsey** at calphi-mu@yahoo.com or **Merilyn Milam** at m_k_milam@earthlink.net. Hope to see you there!



INTERFAITH SPIRITUALITY AND PRACTICE

IN A WORLD GONE GLOBAL

Four Thursday Evenings, 7 to 9 p.m.

September 22, 29 and October 13, 20 (NOT Oct. 6!)

Wesley Center Great Hall

Led by **Thomas P. Bonacci**,

This exciting series, hosted by SRVUMC's new Peace and Justice Committee and Interfaith-San Ramon Valley (I-SRV), will question and explore how the faith traditions and practices of humankind provide a basis for our love of and respect for the peoples of our world. We will look at several faith traditions to discover the wisdom by which we may practice peace in all the affairs of life. Our speaker, **Thomas P. Bonacci**, serves as director of the Interfaith Peace Project of Antioch, CA, and spoke at our January 2016 MLK celebration.

This promises to be a series of transformational learning experiences that will bring us to further understand the main faith traditions of our world and the humanness we share with others. Along with members of our church family, we have joined with Interfaith-San Ramon Valley to include participants from other faith traditions in our neighborhood. *There will be light refreshments during break!*

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

LOCAL

Coming up – Mission Sunday!!

This year our annual “**Church Has Left the Building**” event will focus on two campus activities to be held on **Sunday, September 18**. These mission opportunities will kick off two weeks of events. On that Sunday, we will have one service, which will be held at 9:00 a.m. Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to take part in one—or both—opportunities.

In the courtyard, under the shade, we will be building and painting two playhouses provided by **Habitat For Humanity**. One of the playhouses will be given to a Blue Star Mom family. The family will be on site to accept this wonderful gift.

The second opportunity will take place in Wesley Hall. **Stop Hunger Now!** will be set up, ready for us to pack 15,000 meals.

Both of these activities are suitable for all ages. Families are encouraged to sign up. We will need 20 to 25 volunteers for the playhouse build and 50 to 60 volunteers for the meal packing. ***Signups for both events will take place in the courtyard after each Sunday service beginning on August 21.***

Our September Communion offering will go towards funding these events.

We will have several additional activities available to get involved in the following weeks. These include:

- **Habitat For Humanity, Muir Ridge Martinez – Saturday, September 24, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
- **Contra Costa Food Bank, Concord – Saturday, September 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**
- **Butte Fire Rebuild and Restoration, Jackson and Camp Lodestar – September 25 to 30.**

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Paul Kuelz at 831-3128.

Mission Memories...



Stop Hunger Now! Pack out from May 2015.



Playhouse build for Habitat for Humanity, 2015.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

WORLD

Guatemala City and Antigua Mission to Distribute Wheelchairs—January 23 through 29, 2017. We have sent the Wheelchair Foundation payment for 110 wheelchairs, or one small container load. SRVUMC, Asbury UMC and the Foundation made the decision that Guatemala would greatly benefit from these wheelchairs. Contact **Paul Kuelz** for more information at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net or call 925-831-3128.



Haiti Update

2017 Teams are forming for February 28 through March 7; March 8 through 15; and March 21 through 28

Many of you have expressed interest to be in mission to Haiti. I plan on filling the month with teams to facilitate the HAIIB and Solar Oven Project as well as Bio-Sand Filters.

The price is \$600 per person for a seven-day mission, not including air transportation.

We are soliciting donations for a solar oven. We have a matching grant for one oven. Each solar oven costs \$15,000. Each team in March will visit a clinic that has two of the ovens installed that have been in use for ten years. Two ovens will facilitate our project to make up to 30,000 lunches per month.

Blessings,
Warren McGuffin



Refugee Family Update

There have been several twists and turns with our lovely new family, which consists of a single mother Abeer (age 35) and two boys (ages 12 and 9) from Yemen. This has precluded me from communicating on a more consistent basis.

Abeer and her boys are presently living in Daly City in an apartment close to a family tie, but with a rent of \$2000/month, which they will not be able to afford. The family has had all of their medical and dental check-ups. Abeer has been issued her Social Security card and can now work.

The church circuit and Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) feel we must relocate Abeer and her boys from Daly City to the East Bay to provide more comprehensive support, and also because we must provide more affordable housing. Additionally, we are trying to assist Abeer in finding employment.

If anyone knows of an **affordable apartment** or cottage for rent, then please contact me. In addition, we are trying to find a job for Abeer. If anyone knows of **entry-level jobs** available in the East Bay, please let me know.

Thanks very much,
Liz
(925) 487-9693 cell
lbayat@aol.com

September Communion Offering

This month's Communion Offering supports some familiar charities as part of the annual **Mission Sunday** beginning **September 18**. Check out the volunteer opportunities related to the two weeks of efforts kicked off that Sunday on the mission page (page 7 of this newsletter)! In particular, our Communion Offering will focus on funding two exciting efforts.

We plan to pack 15,000 meals for **Stop Hunger Now!** However, when we participate in that program, our church funds those meals. Each nutritious meal costs about \$0.29, and consists of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. Learn more [here](#).

That same Sunday, some of us will build a playhouse for Habitat for Humanity to give to a Blue Star Mom family. According to the [Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley website](#), each playhouse costs \$10,000. Previous playhouse builds by SRVUMC volunteers have also supported Blue Star Mom families.



Mission Volunteers & Communion Giving

Special Offerings

- Wheelchair \$2,397
- Refugee Resettlement 5,035

July Volunteers

- 16 Coffee Hour volunteers.
- 20 Sodbuster volunteers helped mow, blow, trim and cleanup the grounds and landscaping of the church campus
- 25 volunteers helped prepare and serve Friday "Food for Thought" lunch at the Trinity Center in Walnut Creek
- 11 volunteers to CC Food Bank
- 4 volunteers to the Souper Center

Month	Entity	Amt
Jan	Haiti	\$2,415
Feb	P.E. Transportation Limb Restoration	470 470
Mar	One Great Hour of Sharing	1,342
Easter	Stop Hunger Now Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Council Richmond Interfaith	3,309 3,309 3,000 1,000
April	Trinity Center	1,668
May	Local Youth Mission	1,847
Jun	Weed Ca Fire Recovery	1,779
Jul	Monument Crisis Center STAND	879.50 879.50
Aug	Fred Finch Capernum	
Sep	Mission Saturday	
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		
Totals		\$22,368



Between the Bookends



By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

September is here and it's time to get down to business: fall reading! Have you ever thought what a legacy we possess sitting right here on our Book Cart? It began with cave walls, then stone tablets, then papyrus scrolls, and finally that precious volume you can hold in your hands—or access on your electronic tablet. Yes, I know, there were a few other steps along the way, but those were a few highlights. Now—head to the Book Cart and see what's waiting for you:



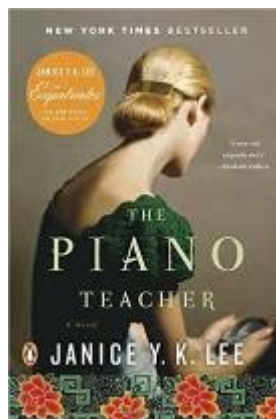
Carey, Ella. *The House by the Lake*. World War II ended over 70 years ago but it's not quite over for Anna's beloved grandfather, Max. Now living in San Francisco, Max pleads with Anna to return to Germany, to the small town of his birth, and retrieve something he left behind. What is it, and why does it hold so much meaning for him? Anna tries, but is met with a cold reception by villagers with long memories and a compassionate young attorney who nonetheless feels he must follow the letter of the law.



Hodgman, George. *Bettyville*. Here is a memoir unlike any you've read before. When George Hodgman returns to his hometown of Paris, MO, it is to care for his somewhat stoic and strong-willed mother, Betty, who is now suffering from Alzheimer's disease. But Betty has plenty of her wits left, and her sparring with George is often hilarious, yet the tragic undertones are still there. George is an only child, a book editor now living a different life in New York City. His love for Betty

is unequivocal, but neither of his parents has ever acknowledged that he is gay. His recounting of his small-town upbringing, family ties, and inner struggles is funny and warm and yet will often bring tears to your eyes. Many thanks to Susan Dunn.

Lee, Janice Y. K. *The Piano Teacher*. Claire Pendleton arrives in Hong Kong in 1952 with her bland husband, Martin, who had been her ticket out of her mother's stifling home in England. She quickly finds a job as a piano teacher for a wealthy Chinese family and almost as quickly becomes fasci-



nated by the family's enigmatic English chauffeur, who seems to come and go as he pleases. Unwittingly, Claire has stepped into a triangle that began ten years ago, when Japan declared war and took control of Hong Kong, affecting every nationality living there—Chinese, English, American, White Russian, and more. Lee spares no one as each character makes choices which affect them and others many years into the future.



Malarkey, Tucker. *Resurrection*. Have you heard of the Gnostic Gospels? They were found at Nag Hammadi in Egypt in the 1940s. Many believe they are books that should have been included in the Bible as we now know it, but were purposely omitted. Elaine Pagels has written extensively about these “lost books” and we have some of her books in our Library. Tucker Malarkey has taken a different turn and created this fictional literary thriller that some have called the

“thinking man's DaVinci Code.” Love Biblical history? While fiction, this will have you thinking! Many thanks to Sandy Greenwood.

Fiction is to grown men what play is to a child.

—Robert Louis Stevenson, 1850-1894

Senior Scoop

Please join us this fall for lots of opportunities for fellowship and good food for those of us over 55, and available during the day! Or just take a lunch break and join us! ***We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month.***

Lunch with Friends—Tuesday, September 6 @ Noon; Potluck

Lunch with Friends is a **potluck luncheon**, sit-down meal, served in Wesley Center on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. These lunches are the friendliest place in town! Bring your favorite dish, or stop by the deli on your way over!

—**Zack Adinoff**, Emergency Planning Coordinator for Contra Costa County, will present Emergency Preparedness following lunch. We all need to sharpen up our plans!



Fellowship Book Club—Tuesday, September 6; Follows Lunch with Friends

We will resume the Fellowship Book Club in September after our Summer Hiatus with a VERY casual discussion ***AFTER*** Lunch with Friends on Tuesday, August 6, to discuss Book Options, meeting time etc. We will then develop the schedule for the balance of the year.

Lunch with Friends—Tuesday, September 20 @ Noon; Restaurant-style Meal

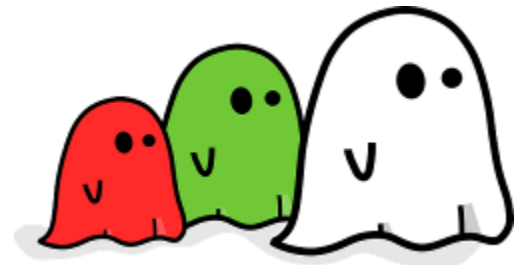
Lunch with Friends is a **restaurant-style meal** served in Wesley Center on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

—**Chef John Sanders** will make his classic stuffed chicken breasts, his wonderful warm rolls, glazed carrots and homemade spice cake and ice cream for dessert. ***Suggested \$5.00 donation***

We will also be discussing excursions and day trips at these meetings. If you have something to offer or have an idea—***PLEASE*** join us!

LOOKING FORWARD...

In October, we'll host our intergenerational Halloween Parade and Family Feast as well as the start of the Intergenerational Reading Program with our wonderful Methodist Preschool. Details to come...so fun!





San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church Family Ministries

Two Changes for Children at SRVUMC

1. The Church council voted to accept a dedicated childcare room we are calling **"The Tot Spot."** We will be renovating Lamm hall for this project, and childcare will be available during worship (of course) and for small groups at no cost. More details to come!
2. Children's Sunday worship structure will have a change this fall **starting Sunday, September 11. *Children will start in worship with their families for the welcoming and a children's moment and then move with their age group to Sunday school.*** Our vision here at SRVUMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We hope that this will make children more familiar with church, worship, and some of the traditions we hold. We also want our church to gather as a community and this includes the children! It will be a short period of time to also allow children a chance to be with children their age and pull as much from Sunday morning as they can. This is very exciting!

Sunday School (PreK-5) TRUST

WEEK 1

Bottom Line: When you think you're alone, you can trust God is with you.

WEEK 2

Bottom Line: When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.

WEEK 3

Bottom Line: When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.

WEEK 4

Bottom Line: You can trust God no matter what.

MUSIC

Cherub and Archangel Choirs

When: Weekly practice begins **August 31**, Every Wednesday

Place: Music Room at SRVUMC

Time, Cherub (3yr 11mt to 6yrs): 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.

Time, Archangel (2nd grade to 5th grade): 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

Children's ministries will be leading art, cooking, and game activities for the children during their alternate time (3:00 to 3:30 for Archangel and 3:45 to 4:14 for Cherub).

Childcare is also provided for children birth through age three for parents/

grandparents who would like to participate in the group that meets in the Fireside from 3:00 to 4:14 p.m. Please contact Stephanie Ham for details.

Youth Handbells (AKA the Bros and Belles Choir)

Meets for practice before every Wednesday night middle school youth group in the music room, from 5 to 6 p.m. This choir is open to both high school and middle school students and is under the direction of Winnie Stribling. Folks of any skill level are welcome to join in! The group typically performs at various times throughout the year in worship.

Youth Choir

Meets for practice every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. beginning August 25. This

choir performs once a month in worship as well as helps lead music at special youth events such as fall retreat. In addition to receiving chorale experience, Youth Choir members also get a discount on various youth trips in which they participate. For example, on the youth fall retreat, each choir member gets a \$75 discount since they will be providing leadership to the rest of the group in our song time each morning and evening. The Youth Choir is under the direction of Teri Hawk and is open to both middle and high school youth.

More FM News next page!

Annual Conference, She Said, Continued from Page 5 seven provisional elders were commissioned on Friday evening. Eleven licensed local pastors were received as well as one deaconess commissioned. A contingent of SRV supporters was there to witness and celebrate with our own Rev. Luke Ham.

I am choosing to highlight the words of some of the inspirational speakers we heard. **Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy**, president of the Pacific School of Religion (PSR in Berkeley), referenced Church as *“a place to go, belong—‘where everybody knows your name.’”* But recent events have produced “a loss of sanctuary,” and we grieve the loss of a fixed point of reference. Now, we are using GPS which identifies a four-moving-objects dynamic (a reminder to us of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience). He urged, *“Attach yourself to the One who calls you into relationship.”*

Another quote I’d like to raise up was from Burt Yin, one of our retiring Conf. Co-Lay Leaders, who cited Scripture from **Colossians, Chapter 3**, about “Put on Love.” One translation says “teach and admonish;” he used another that said “Nurture and Grow” and suggested that it put a positive spin on N.A.G. It has been fun to tell Don that my gentle reminders are not just nagging, but helps us both forgive each other’s complaints, because Love binds everything together in (almost) perfect harmony.

It has been an honor to be a Lay Member from Alamo: San Ramon Valley and celebrate all the good (and work with the flaws) that comes from being a connectional United Methodist Church. —Carole Johnson



Contact Us!

Stephanie Ham
Children and Family Ministries
(Children through Grade 5)
sham@srvumc.org
(925)837-5243 ext 106

Weekly Programming to Resume

Archangel and Cherub Choir—Wednesday, 3 to 4:15 p.m.
starts August 31

Bros and Belles Choir—Wednesday, 5 to 6 p.m. starts
September 14

Middle school Youth Group—Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m.
starts September 14

Youth Choir—Thursday, 4 to 5 p.m. starts September 15

High School Youth Group—Sunday, 4 to 5:30 p.m. starts
September 18

Donate and Help House Those in Need This Winter

Trinity Center Needs Your Help

What?

The Trinity Center Evening Program will house up to 50 people at the Walnut Creek Armory. We need lots of volunteers to help with meals, driving, and overnight monitoring.

Where?

Walnut Creek Armory, 1800 Carmel Dr., Walnut Creek. Members will be transported to and from Trinity Center to the Armory daily.

When?

The program will begin November 12, 2016 and end March 30, 2017.

RSVP

Help us raise funds, spread the word and volunteer! With matching funds from the City of Walnut Creek of \$2 for every \$1, our goal is to raise \$50,000 to house 50 people for five months! Your donation of \$200 will house one person for one month.

Trinity Center, (925) 949-8712 or email Nora Hudson at norah@trinitycenterwc.org.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Lillian Baker-Holleman	Gail Soldavini
Barbara Brick	Barb McWilliams
Sharleen Keen	
Gene Brown	
Edith Liggett	

Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$7/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; Gene Brown; Lenore Cooper; Jeni Evans; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman;	Cary Johnson; Johnny Johnston; Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Mary Ogden; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Pat Shoner; Jean Spencer; Carol Webb Samford; Joan Webb; Jeannine Woolery.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Welcome...

John Evans' and Pam Lewey's new granddaughter, Lyvia June Archuletta, born August 18.

In the News...

Noelle Item is seen around the church, often assisting her mother, Roni, in preparing and hosting special events on our campus. But this 12-year-old is no ordinary preteen.

Noelle recently completed her fourth year of competition at the Alameda County Fair. To illustrate her success this year, she was awarded around 100 ribbons, about 25% her weight!

- **Baking, Cooking, of Being a Hostess:** Many categories
- **Photography:** Nature; Portrait; Still Life
- **Crafts:** December Holiday; Valentine Pillow; Poster Design
- **Poetry**
- **Animal Husbandry:** Pig Raising

Noelle's thoughtful and sensitive side is revealed by her themes chosen for her submissions. For example, a Hostess subject was "Table Setting." Her family is a friend to another, and she honored the family with the theme "Welcome Home, Sailor" for the returning husband. As another example, Down Syndrome was Noelle's Poetry theme, written in honor of her aunt.



Have a question or want an opinion about baking, pig-raising, photography, poetry, crafts, target practice, tennis, ice skating, and flute-playing? See Noelle: you'll probably find her in Wesley Center, setting tables or baking lemon bars!

Thanks to John Green for bringing Noelle's accomplishments to our attention and writing this article.

September Celebrations

Birthdays



1 Dianne Ehlers Meaghan Krakoff Marianne Skeoch	9 Sheryl Kerr Bethany Metcalf	18 Ela Altamirano Bill Andrew Dawn Boyd	Hayden Higgins Suzanne Korinke John Place Nick Tsai Keith Wesselschmidt
2 Louise Farrow Julia Philbert Brian Stephenson	10 Alan Christian Ray Tombaugh Jennifer Townsend Jeff Stroin	David Coombs John Harrison Maria Kirby Mira Samara	25 Linda Albertoni Engman Gwen Bastin (98) Peggy Crawford Don Johnson
3 Ariel Carpenter Catherine Ehlers Lucille Eichelberger (92) Alice Miller	11 Marissa Ogden Terry Stocking Linda Stone Carol Webb	19 Lyn Arscott Yuri Beagles Alison Berry Kirsten Ericson	26 Pat Ryan 27 Scott Ericson 28 Clayton Clark 29 James Kocins 30 Nell Ryan
4 Sharon Leyman Jillian Ericson Caitlin Flanagan	12 Brigitte Greene 13 Sandi Cook 14 Bill Fulcher	Gregg Mannell Ted Wolfram 20 Marci Milligan Larry Pasquale Judy Takeda	
6 Nicholas Stocking Ray Winter	Nathan Morones Mike Nicco	21 Don Brockman Brad Stribling	
7 James Smith Steve Wood	15 Cole McKnight 16 Geoff Greenwood	22 Jan Baldwin Craig Schultz	
8 Carrie Metcalf Sarah Fulcher Ekua Impraim Corey Merchant Brad Soderlund	Merrybell Loesel (96) Gary Osterhout Jaclyn Vazquez 17 Mackenzie Dimler Kelly Nakaso	23 Irv Skeoch 24 Alonzo Altamirano	

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Carole Lynne & Ed Keller (53 rd) Patricia Ludwig and Mike Prenger	Carrie & Brad Tolstedt	Joanne & Bill Van Bezey	24 Jeryn & Steven Smario Stephanie & Christopher Campbell
2 Brenda & Doug Domergue	5 Amanda & Steve Lee	12 Jan & Bill Foulds	26 Karen & Brian Steffy
3 Susie & Jim McKnight (56 th)	6 Rebecca & Tom Byrom Elaine & David Hagebush	13 Tammy & Adam Webb Joan & Dave Webb (58 th)	28 Connie & David Lowe
4 Laura Brady & Doug Merritt Nicky & Mark Jewett	Judy & Brad Kobsar Julia & Tom Philbert	16 Lee & Bill Rust 19 Teresa & Jeff Stroin	
	8 Cara & Blaine Mucklow 10 Dot & Gene Ives (62 nd)	20 Jana & Ali Vojdani Amy & Sam Sidhom	
	11 Jamie & Rich Braden	23 Annette & Dan Whiting	