



The Valley Messenger

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

DECEMBER 2016

A Personal Point of View ~

Post-Election Reflections: Where Do We Go from Here?

In the aftermath of the tumultuous presidential campaign and election, there is tangible evidence of the division within our country that so many have alluded to in recent weeks. There is, on the one hand, a celebration by some whose candidate has won. On the other hand, there is a frustration mixed with fear expressed by some whose candidate has lost. The pre-election tension, it seems to me, hasn't gone away but has only increased, as we have now been witnessing the gatherings and marches of those who wish to give voice to their concerns. It is, to be sure, an uneasy and uncertain time.

In the midst of it all, we are each faced with the decision of how we shall live into the landscape of a new presidential administration. There is, it seems to me, a point in which we must make a fundamental choice about what our responsibilities as American citizens ask of us. Will we choose to come together and work together for the common good? Or, will we choose to see each other as the adversary and, therefore, work against one another?

Regardless of how I may personally feel about this election, I believe that I have the responsibility of accepting the results

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Next Issue: January 2017

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: [Lisa Jancarik](mailto:Lisa.Jancarik@newslettersrvumc.org) newslettersrvumc.org by **December 15, 2016**.*

and then finding areas of common ground that will provide a basis for moving forward. Now, this responsibility will not likely be easy to fulfill. It will require something more than joining hands in a circle and singing, "Kum Ba Yah." But, I believe that we simply cannot afford to continue with the ugly partisanship and vitriol that we have witnessed in our political process over the past several years. At what point will we recognize that our salvation as a nation will not come from one political platform or another, but from the choice to find a way to work together for the common good?

The question, of course, that remains to be answered is "what is the common good?" Whose version of the common good are we willing to accept? As a Christian, I believe that we gain a pretty good insight concerning the nature of the common good in the life and teaching of Jesus. Not one to pay much attention to the political maneuverings of his day, Jesus was quite clear that those who followed him were called to welcome the stranger, to respect the other, to honor diversity, to practice inclusivity and to reject racism and sexism as an affront to the world that God intends.

These teachings of Jesus, I believe, give shape and definition to our understanding of the common good and what it actually looks like in our day to day lives. Jesus was, without question, a champion and an advocate for those who had been pushed to the margins of life. I believe that we are called to do the same.

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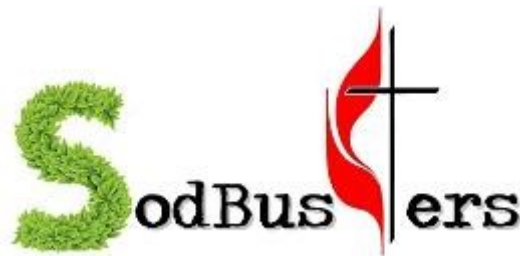
While I believe that, as an American citizen, I have the responsibility to work together with others to bring about healing and harmony for our nation, I also recognize that, as a Christian, I have the even greater responsibility of recognizing that the common good that Jesus lifted up is the common goal that is most worthy of my investment.

While there is, of course, a lot of speculation about our future and what it portends, I believe that it is premature to speculate or anticipate all the worst-case scenarios that one can imagine. That only serves to feed the forces of fear and I don't believe that I need to remind you that those forces will only wreak havoc and confusion as they deepen the divisions between us.

In this time of tension and uncertainty, I find that there is comfort and encouragement in the thought that someone shared with me many years ago: "While I don't know what the future holds, I do know who holds the future." Our God is a God who holds the future. Our job, it seems to me, is to trust that it is so and live accordingly.

Grace and Peace,

Ron



Our peaceful meditation garden after November 20's gentle Sunday morning rainfall. The meditation garden, like the rest of the grounds at SRVUMC, is cared for by a team of volunteers rather than a paid yard service. Recently, this large team has lost some great members and could use some new help. No experience required!

If you have a few hours per month to share in trimming, mowing and weeding the church grounds, then contact Gary Swanson at 925-437-2887 or email garyswanson811@gmail.com.

Church Council Report

(Covering September, October and November Council Meetings)

New Software. The Church Council approved the proposal by Communications Director **Linda Green** to replace the Church software pursuant to the Technology Strategic Initiative. The Communications group looked at 26 programs and determined that the program offered by **ShelbyNext** met the required criteria.

Diversity. Lay Leaders **Debra Carter** and **Lea Hickman** are exploring the issue of diversity as it applies to our Church community and to our Church leadership. **Fred Schreiber**, HR executive consultant with many years' experience who periodically attends our Church, has offered to help facilitate the conversation. Debra will head up a task force including Council members and others: she welcomes volunteers.

Finance. The Finance Committee reported that income and expenses through October continue to be favorable to plan. Finance is awaiting the results of the Stewardship campaign before finalizing the 2017 budget. **The budget for 2017 will be submitted to the Church Council for approval on December 12.**

Facility Improvements. The Board of Trustees reports completion of the following projects: cross and mural in the courtyard; chancel improvements and addition of movable lecterns to allow for more space during services; and landscaping improvements to the Meditation Garden.

Trustees recommended, and the Council approved, replacement of the four large, cement block sections of the sanctuary wall facing the Meditation Garden with glass panels below the stained-glass windows, to allow for more natural light, to allow views of the Meditation Garden, and to give an updated look to the sanctuary.

All these improvements have been and will be largely funded through the extravagant generosity of members **Bill and Nancy Sabin**.

Work to upgrade Lamm Hall for use by Children and Family Ministries as the Tot Spot is underway. The Preschool is continuing with office upgrades.

ARC. Construction continues to be behind schedule. **Jim Burk**, head of ARC operations, reported that two groups are in the process of meeting, one to work on the dedication ceremony and the other to work on developing an ARC commission to oversee the ARC once it is up and running.

After discussion, the Council approved a motion that Church members who use the ARC will be asked to pay the posted

market rate for individual use of the sports and recreation activities. Rationale: members will benefit personally from use of ARC, it's consistent with other Church programs members are asked to pay for (crab feed, Vacation Bible School, youth group dinners, etc.), many Church members don't want the Church to incur any financial liability from the ARC, and use by members would be free for the once-a-week "all-church" events where members will be encouraged to bring friends (also free of charge).

The solar system for the ARC will be purchased at the original \$45,000 cost. The proposed PPA agreement with Collective Sun for a larger system did not work out due to contract issues.

Refugee Resettlement. The Circuit task force, led by **Liz Bayat**, has agreed to fulfill the \$5,000 financial obligation to the refugee family from Yemen who have settled in Foster City, but will provide no further financial support. It is expected the task force will be able to support a new refugee family beginning in January with \$5,000 donated by our Church and \$3,000 from Asbury United Methodist Church, plus any other funds raised, with the condition that this family locate in the East Bay.

Reappointment of Pastors. Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair voted to recommend to the Bishop re-appointment of pastors **Ron Dunn** and **Luke Ham** for next year. Their performance reviews will be submitted to the District Superintendent in December.

The December Church Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12. All members are welcome to attend.

Terry Sherman

Chair, SRVUMC Church Council



Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

CCIH's Annual Auction Gala *Ruby Slippers-There's No Place Like Home!*

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) provides permanent, affordable housing and vital support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals in Contra Costa County. CCIH has grown from serving 72 people (in 2004) to more than 1,000 Contra Costa residents today. In just the last year, CCIH has added 52 units of affordable permanent housing to chronically homeless families and individuals. Housing is just the start. Programs such as on-site mental health support for trauma-impacted children, academic-based afterschool programming, eviction prevention, case management services, evidence-based parenting classes, rental readiness programs, and summer youth enrichment support residents to achieve their greatest degree of independence possible.

Want to help? Represent San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church at CCIH's annual auction gala, ***Ruby Slippers-There's No Place Like Home!*** Tickets are on sale now for this magical night of silent and live auctions, raffles, dinner, and dancing on **February 4, 2017 at Diablo Country Club**. All proceeds benefit local formerly homeless and extremely low-income families and individuals in our community. ***Get your discounted early bird tickets before December 16.*** Invite your small group, friends, and neighbors to come along and support this unforgettable evening! Can't make it to the event, but still want to help end homelessness? Support CCIH here. Thank you for your generosity. Your support is changing lives!



Questions? Contact SRVUMC member **Jeff Rideout**, jarideout@sbcglobal.net. Jeff is currently serving as Chair of CCIH.

Shortened ticket link: <http://bit.ly/2dybSJI>

General CCIH donation link: <http://ccinterfaithhousing.org/donate/>



Haiti Child Needs Your Help!

We sent this child to Mirebalais and they are referred to: **Bernard Mevs hospital** in Port Au Prince. where they have services to care for this child.

During a recent mission, this child was discovered at the home of a Haiti Project Water Filter recipient.

She is the one-year-old daughter of the Charles family and has hydrocephalus (water on the brain), a potentially serious condition.

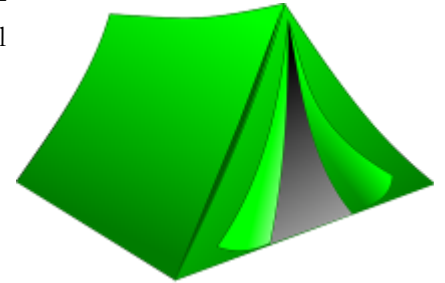
We are not sure of the hospital costs but ask that if you can, to donate to toward her medical cost.

Mark Checks: **Haiti "Charles Medical"**

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Guatemala City & Antigua Mission to distribute wheelchairs: *January 23-29, 2017 (new dates!)* 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 about the trip: paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net, or 925-831-3128.

WINTER NIGHTS 2017: We have the privilege to host Winter Nights 2017 from **January 30 through February 13, 2017**. During our two-week period, we will split our time with St. Isadore's Parish to provide for the daily requirements for the program. We will need people to be overnight hosts, manage laundry, handle shopping, pick up food donations, coordinate fun activities for kids and adults, tutor school children, manage site and kitchen activities, and provide meals for the group. ***If you would like to volunteer to help or to donate to this effort, please contact Susan Dowling at sue_dowling@comcast.net or 925-648-5184.*** Donations needed are: diapers of all sizes, gas cards, Wal-Mart or Target Gift cards, deodorant, Lysol or Clorox wipes, socks of all sizes, baby wipes, flashlights, and extra batteries of all sizes.



Mission Volunteers & Communion Giving

Special Offerings

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

October Volunteers

- > **84 volunteers for Stop Hunger Now**
- > **20 Volunteers for Habitat Playhouse Build**
- > **14 Coffee Hour Volunteers.**
- > **20 Sodbusters**
- > **25 Volunteers for "Food For Thought"**
- > **4 Volunteers at The Souper Center**
- > **20 Volunteers at The CC Food Bank**
- > **24 Sunshine Singers at the Sunrise Retirement Center**
- > **12 Crop Walkers**

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 Capernaum	825.50 825.50
Sep	Stop Hunger Now Habitat Playhouses	1,750.00 4,350.00
Oct	World Communion Sunday UMCOR - Lower Lake Fire & - Louisiana Flooding	200.00 1049.00 1049.00
Nov		
Dec		
Totals		\$32,417

Mission Memories...



Recently, Paul Kuelz, who organized the Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build, received this note and photo from one of the families who received a playhouse from us this year.

Hello,

I am writing to thank you and your team for our dinosaur playhouse that was built for our two boys, Finn and Bo. They absolutely love it! It was so wonderful that they were able to see the hard work behind it and meet the people who built and painted the house.

Thank you for your support of the military as well. My husband is active duty Air Force and I'm an Army Reservist. The boys have always wanted a playhouse, but my husband isn't home much, so this was perfect for our family.

Thank you!

Stacey, Rian, Finn, and Bo Suihkonen

Warm Winters would like to thank everyone for generously donating gently used coats this past month!

On Monday, November 14, Warm Winters hosted a Holiday Spruce Up Event at the Concord Emergency Shelter, for over 130 homeless community members. Staffed by youth from Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek, the event featured haircuts and shaves, donated by stylists from Stem Salon in Walnut Creek, goodie bags filled with donated new socks, new underwear and toiletries, and tables filled with coats and sweatshirts. The event featured a catered lunch and live music.

Thanks to your generosity, there were enough coats to also supply every homeless community member at the Richmond Homeless Shelter!

Warm Winters was founded in 2011 by two Walnut Creek girls, Corinne Hindes and Katrine Kirsebom, at age 11. Both ski racers, they began collecting the unclaimed Lost & Found from ski resorts in Lake Tahoe, bringing warm coats, hats, gloves and scarves to local shelters. Today, Warm Winters has 32 ski resort partners in 12 states, with 500 youth volunteers, who collect the unclaimed clothing, as well as do sock drives.

This event would not have been possible without your generosity. We are so grateful!

—Laurie Hindes of Warm Winters



Mission Memories...

UMCOR Depot Mission Trip Report



Imagine, if you will, a mother giving birth in the bush of Africa, a flood-ravaged home or an impoverished child without basic school supplies. These are the kind of challenges addressed by the Relief Supplies Program of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

In early November, a team from several Bay Area United Methodist Churches traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah to work at the UMCOR West Depot. This Depot is one of two major stocking locations in the United States for relief kits (the other location is in Louisiana). Kits are pre-packaged supplies designed to address specific needs. They include Birthing Kits, Flood Buckets, School Kits and others.

Our week was devoted to processing layette kits—a modest bundle of baby clothes, reusable diapers, and a couple of baby blankets. These kits are intended for mothers in other countries without access to basic young baby supplies. We packaged about eight pallets—hundreds and hundreds of kits.

While the work could be tedious at times, we enjoyed each other's company. We laughed a lot and swapped stories of our lives. The fellowship was wonderful. In addition to packaging kits, part of the team, very talented seamstresses, worked in the Sewing Room making new clothes and repairing items. Their creativity was remarkable.

Our trip included a half day at the Mormon Welfare Complex. The complex is an impressive facility where the Mormon Church operates baking and canning facilities, a thrift store, a grocery store and employment services program. A visit here was an eye-opening exposure to the steadfast commitment the Mormon Church makes to charity.



We concluded our time at the Depot with a communion worship service. It was a time of reflection on the meaning of our work and the importance of living our faith through service.

One of the most rewarding moments each day was when we finished packing a pallet, we stopped to lay hands on the boxes, say a prayer and bless the pallet. Visualize a warehouse full of pallets, lovingly packed by volunteers like us, each blessed with prayer, ready to go out into the world to do good. It touches the heart in a new and special way.

In Mission Together,

Steve Elliott, Kim Risedorff, Doug and Mary Ellen Huey, Bobbie and Coleman Johnson, Gary and Deb Grundman, Karen Brown and Beth Okurowski

December Communion Offering

World AIDS Day

Each year, the United Methodist Church observes World AIDS Day on December 1. UMCOR participates, and it states on the [UMCOR website](#) the objectives of promotion of awareness of HIV/AIDS; creating resources to be used in local churches or annual conferences; supporting projects around the globe for prevention and care; increasing community response to HIV/AIDS; and combating stigma. As of 2015, United Methodist Global AIDS Fund established by UMCOR had funded 287 church-related or Christ-centered projects in 44 countries.

According to [www.aids.gov](#), **36.7 million people worldwide currently live with HIV/AIDS**, based on 2015 statistics. Of the world population afflicted with HIV/AIDS, **1.8 million were children** aged less than 15 years.

For comparison, 36.7 million people was nearly the entire population of California as of 2015.

Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families (BAAYFS)

This worthy organization provides residential, educational and support services for children and teens removed from lives of abuse and neglect. While both boys and girls find foster families through this agency, adolescent girls have access to residential programs based in Pittsburg and Concord.

BAAYFS board president **Patrick Davis** founded this organization in 2002. Some of you will remember him when he taught Bible study classes at SRVUMC and when his wife, **Dawn Boyd**, worked at this church.

BAAYFS seeks to shepherd the children it serves into caring living situations, regular public school attendance, and the development of life skills for integration into their communities. BAAYFS also facilitates enrollment in sports teams, music and art programs for youth who want to join in those activities. On-site mental health and social work also facilitate these goals for kids who can benefit from them.

Our communion offering supports ongoing needs at BAAYFS include hygiene products, bed linens, paper goods for kitchen and bath, as well as video and board games or movie passes. If you are inspired to give of your time, BAAYFS welcomes volunteer mentors and tutors.

Youth Homes, Inc.

Based in Pleasanton, CA, Youth Homes, Inc. helped over 600 area foster children and families in 2014. Youth Homes houses and supports children removed by the court system from abuse and neglect. Most of these children are between 12 and 17 years old, although Youth Homes has placed children as young as six in their residential programs. The kids they serve may be housed in either of two Crisis Assessment homes, either of two Intensive Residential homes, or placed with private foster families.

Founded in 1965, this organization is the oldest continually operating children's residential program in Contra Costa County. Much of their funding comes from state and local government agencies, but 13% comes from private donations like our December communion offering. Of this money, 79% is spent directly on programs supporting the children they serve.





Christmas Offering

This year, we celebrate Christmas with generosity directed to a number of familiar organizations, local and international alike, so they can continue their good works.

UMCOR National and International Relief Projects

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief at home and around the world. While not a first-response organization, UMCOR assists regions in recovering from natural disasters or conflict. Read about how UMCOR makes the most of funding for disaster relief on [its website](#).



Mission Work in Nepal and Zimbabwe

Larry and Jane Kies continue their mission work in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Larry is a technical advisor to the Africa University Farm, while Jane teaches intensive English to students at Africa University.

Katherine Parker serves as a missionary in Nepal, focusing on health, hygiene and sanitation. Local to Mill Valley, Katherine visited SRVUMC back in May to update us on her work.



*Missionary Katherine Parker visits in May 2016.
Parker's work in Nepal continues with our support.*

Winter Nights

Many SRVUMC members are already very familiar with this project. Organized by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Winter Nights local homeless population. Each congregation hosts for two weeks, providing bedding, meals and other services (this year, we will host in the Wesley Center during February – you can sign up to help!). Two thirds of this project's budget comes from the contributions of individuals and congregations in Contra Costa County. Guests are screened and have dependent children.

Food for Thought

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

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

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

According to their [website](#), this organization has served four million meals in Contra Costa County since 1983.

They have a presence in Antioch, Bay Point, Martinez, Pittsburg and Oakley, and 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.



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.

Open Heart Kitchen

Open Heart Kitchen was founded in 1995 and currently serves Tri-Valley populations in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. Its mission centers on three meal programs, the Hot Meal program, the weekend Box Lunch program, and the Senior Meal program. Hot meals, made from scratch, can be eaten in or taken to go for anyone in need. The Box Lunch program fills the weekend gap in nutrition experienced by low-income children on days when they are not getting a hot lunch at school. The Senior Meal program addresses nutrition for low-income seniors age 60 or older.

Bay Area Rescue Mission and Shelter

The Bay Area Rescue Mission and Shelter recently celebrated its fiftieth anni-



versary of assisting the homeless and hungry in the region. BARM ministers to men, women and children. Since their founding in 1965, they have served over 20,000,000 meals and offered 4,000,000 bed-nights of shelter. Last year, this privately funded organization provided more than 1,450,000 meals and 85,000 nights of shelter. These essentials must be available to protect health and state of mind, and addressing these immediate needs allows BARM guests “to begin addressing their problems,” according to [the group’s website](#).

SHELTER Inc. of Contra Costa

SHELTER, Inc. strives to prevent and end homelessness. Among other services, SHELTER Inc. offers financial assistance so families can stay in their homes. Shelter Inc. owns or master leases 250 properties throughout Contra Costa County that provide affordable housing for families. This organization also provides intensive case management to help participating veteran families increase their ability to sustain permanent housing.

Remembering Brad McWilliams at Mount Everest



On October 26, 2016, Lyn and Chris Arscott built a cairn at the Everest Base Camp and placed on top a pebble that was carried all the way from Danville. This was in memory of Brad McWilliams who passed away before he and his dad, Dean, were able to make the same journey to the base camp that they had been planning. When Dean learned that Lyn and Chris were planning to make this trip, it brought back memories of the time when Dean and Brad were making the same plans. He asked Lyn to take a small pebble from Danville as a memorial to Brad.

The photo shows Lyn placing the Danville pebble on the cairn at the base of Everest at an elevation of 17,600 feet. Everest is in the background and the formidable Kumbu Ice Fall is clearly shown in the foreground.

Whenever our church members see a picture of Everest they might remember that there is a small piece of Danville at the base, a memorial to Brad and a symbol of the spirit of SRVUMC.



Between the Bookends



By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

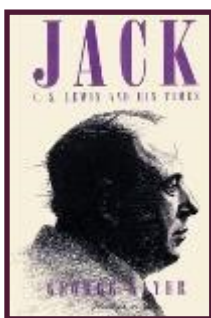
The Christmas books are out! We have a wonderful collection of Christmas novels, stories and meditations for adults, as well as picture books for children. So many, in fact, that at this time of year we put out two Book Carts. The adult cart will have regular books on one side and Christmas selections on the other side.

The other cart is exclusively for children's Christmas books, which are both religious and secular and simply beautiful. There are a few Hanukkah books as well, including one that tells how George Washington learned about Hanukkah from a Jewish soldier at Valley Forge. Make sure any children in your life have a chance to choose a book from this cart, and even better, share it with them.

Now for what's new:

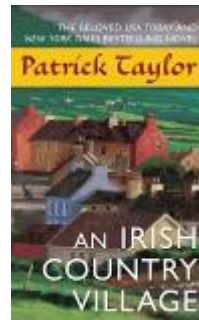
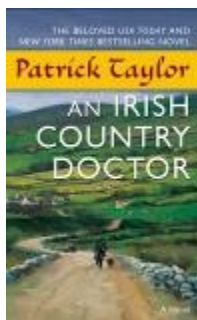


Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. *Oleander Girl*. In this novel which begins in India, Korobi (Bengali for Oleander) travels to the U.S. shortly after 9/11 on a personal search. This has been called an "Indian Jane Austen novel" and is Danville-San Ramon's 2016 CityRead's choice.



Sayer, George. *Jack; a life of C. S. Lewis*. Clive Staples Lewis was an Oxford don who lived a life of teaching and writing and speaking for Christianity. Who knew he would write the enchanting Chronicles of Narnia for children, and then in his sixties marry an ebullient American poet? He was known to his friends as Jack, which explains the title of this readable biography.

Many thanks to Sandy Greenwood.



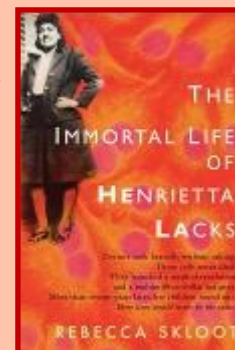
Taylor, Patrick. *An Irish Country Doctor*. Barry Laverty was a newly graduated young doctor who took a job as assistant to an older country doctor in a small northern Irish village. Laverty wavered between horror at some of O'Reilly's medical practices and yet wonder at his wisdom in treating the townspeople he knew so well. This is the first in a warm and delightful series that you'll read easily and with a smile. We also have the second in the series, *An Irish Country Village*. And in perfect timing, number three is *An Irish Country Christmas*, which you'll find with the Christmas books on the Book Cart!

The real purpose of books is to trap the mind into doing its own thinking.

—Christopher Morley, 1890-1957

We have an S.O.S.!

The Library needs a copy of a remarkable book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. Might you have an unmarked copy in good condition that you would donate to us? If so, call Sally Christopherson at 925-939-3973. And thank you!



Senior Update

Tuesday December 6—Glass House Tour, meet @ 10:30 in the church parking lot

Docent-led tour of the Glass House in San Ramon. There is still time to join us in a tour of the big white Victorian home we see just west of I-680 south of Bollinger Canyon. \$5 tour and no-host lunch after at Clementine's in San Ramon. Call Kay Jones (925-837-5702 or kaydee5702@gmail.com), or the church office to RSVP.



Glass House in San Ramon.

Tuesday, December 13—Our Annual Christmas Luncheon

Join us for our biggest event of the year! All over-55ers are welcome to a traditional Christmas feast, with restaurant-style dining, lovely tables and great fun with friends. The SRV High School Choir will perform for our delight! Please RSVP to Nancy Benvenuto (925-784-1955 or nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com) or the church office.

Looking ahead to January: Tuesday, January 10—Rob Rigolfi Short Film and Music on Haiti Adventuresome Seniors Pot Luck

Rob Rigolfi, Nancy Benvenuto's son, will share his short film and music presentation based on his experience in Haiti this past October. This was Rob's third trip to Haiti (with Warren McGuffin), and at 23 he is committed to serving others in need. Pretty impressive for such a young man! Please join us to hear him share, and to support his efforts.

Christmas Tea Invitation



**All Women of the Church
are invited**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER
10, 2016**

WESLEY CENTER

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Performance by Kristen Princiotta, accompanied by Nadia Blank

Please bring a plate of finger food to share.

Want to Hostess a Table at the Women's Christmas Tea?

I need women to hostess a table.

***Save the Date: Saturday, December 10
from 1 to 3 p.m.***

When you are the hostess of a table, you will decorate it and can invite friends to sit at the table with you.

If you would like to hostess a tea table, please contact **Bonnie Roberts**, 925-846-2035 or at badbrindie@att.net.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have a few openings left in our Christmas Pageant for children ages 4 to 12 and for two families! Our Christmas pageant will take place on **December 24 at 4 p.m.**, and we will have one group rehearsal on **December 18**. Please talk to Stephanie if interested.

Preschool enrollment is open to returning families in January and new families in February. For more information about United Methodist Preschool or tours, contact our director, Paulette Ove at pove@srvumc.org or Stephanie with questions.

CONTACT US!

Tawfick Fayed (Grades 6-12)
tfayed@srvumc.org

Stephanie Ham
(Birth through Grade 5)
sham@srvumc.org

www.srvumc.org

DATES

Dec 16: Christmas Movie Night
Dec 17: Living Nativity
Dec 18: Christmas family caroling

PLANNING AHEAD

Jan 28: Youth Fundraiser Dinner
Feb 17-20: Youth Disneyland trip; Drivers still needed.

IMPORTANT!

There will be **NO Youth Group** on Dec 21, 25, 28 or 31.

There will be **NO Bros and Belles Practice** Dec 21 or 28.

There will be **NO Youth Choir Practice** Dec 29.

YOUTH WORSHIP SERIES

Upside Down

Have you ever thought something worked one way, only to find it didn't? Like maybe as a kid you thought the bathtub drain was a death trap. Then you learned it couldn't actually suck you into the sewer and *that* was a game changer. Or maybe you were sure that the closet should be avoided because monsters lived there. Then you learned they didn't. That changed your morning routine for sure. Any time you learn new information, it can turn your world upside down.

Jesus had a habit of doing just that with the people closest to Him. He often did or said things that were the exact opposite of what anyone expected. He'd take ideas that everyone agreed with, ideas that everyone would say, "Of course, that's just the way it is," and He'd flip them upside down. He would tell people to do the exact opposite of what they thought. This was especially true when Jesus talked about how we treat *people*, specifically people who like us, people who don't, and people we don't even notice.

Another Christmas Story

It's Christmas. Nativity scenes are everywhere. You know, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and the drummer boy (who wasn't actually there). Maybe you grew up seeing these scenes and wondered what they were all about. Or maybe you've heard the story a million times. Either way, there's another story we bet you haven't heard, characters you barely know, scenes you don't see in the plastic nativity on your neighbor's lawn. As we explore two often-untold parts of the Christmas story, we discover that God had something bigger in mind from the very beginning. And, just as it was true for those at the first Christmas, He may just have a bigger story in mind for us as well.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Elementary topic:

WEEK 1: I can have joy because God keeps his promises.

WEEK 2: I can have joy because anything is possible with God.

WEEK 3: I can have joy because God sent His Son.

WEEK 4: I can have joy because God's story is for everyone.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Lea Patteson
Quentin Alexander
Bill Sabin
Elizabeth De Chene
Byron Nygreen
Lyn Bristow
Edith Liggett
Mary Ellen Brown

Our Christian Sympathy To...

Bill Sabin, family and friends of Nancy Sabin, who died on November 12. A memorial service was held in our Sanctuary on November 26.

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; Edith Liggett; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Mary Ogden; Mike Robinett; Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Pat Shoner; Jean Spencer; Carol Webb Samford; Joan Webb; Jeannine Woolery.

Name Tags

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

December Celebrations

Birthdays



1 K Leigh Alfrey	Sketch Sketchley	14 Lillian Baker Holleman	
Chuck Desmond	Don Weis	Ivan Kerr	
David Hagebush	Suzanne Ziarnik	Annette Whiting	Flo Spanier (95!!)
Liz Hirsch	8 Emily Baker	15 Cassidy Barry	23 Gayle Jackson
Victoria Longstreet	Cary Johnson (97!!)	Jim Braden	Angela Norton
2 Sunny Ahn	Amy Beth Ogden	Horace Crawford	24 Caroline Marsh
Aimee Knese	9 Kirsten Choy	John Larkins	Suzanne Shea
Anita Weir-Ball	Sandy Clark	17 Patrick Dowling	25 Quentin Alexander
3 Marissa Clarke	Ali Kuelz	Teresa Fimby-Christensen	26 Logan Nicco
Greg Koos	Epi Vazquez	Gretl Winter	27 Lauren Dowling
Jane Roath	10 Wendi Cerda	18 Anne Kuelz	Evelyn Evans
4 Lois Hammond	Karen Steffy	Kay Tarr	Rachel Hagebush
Ray Shea	Amanda Taylor	19 Myra Gordon	28 Jane Knox
5 Aly Kelly	11 David Cashin	Teresa Stroin	Bill Miskovetz
6 Kathleen Saghafi	Kevin Knapp, Jr.	20 Kathleen Isbell	29 George Hawk
7 Niles Bybel	12 Laura Brown	21 Susan Pickering-Gest	Kevin Keen
Elizabeth Coombs	Joan Webb	Lindsay Portman	30 Phyllis Meyer
Geilhufe	13 Olivia Bybel	Heather Coffman Givens	Ryan Mitchell
Kyle Dever	Harrison Pavel	Kate Steffy	31 Eric Carlson
Connie Erickson	Robbie Rigolfi, Jr.	Kerri Wakefield	Warren McGuffin
Kathy Fulcher	Deborah Robinson	22 Kevin Isbell	Phyllis Wood
Merrily Gervais	David Shaw	HollyAnn Melton	

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Pam & Bob Dominici	Yuri & Steve Beagles
3 Sharon & Bob Leyman	27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz
Paula & Hal Lyons	28 Sheryl & Ivan Kerr (54 th)
7 Karen & Al Dudas	Laurel & Geoff Portman
9 Renée & Doug Beck	29 Eleanor & Fred Toney (55 th)
15 Rosemarie & John Place (54 th)	30 Mary & Carl Ogden (51 st)
16 Aubrie & Jeff Flores	31 Georgia & Steve Wilkens
21 Shelley & Bill Lettis	
22 Gerry & Jim Aude	