



# Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist

**AUGUST 2017**

*A Parsonal Point of View ~*

## The “ARC” of a New Ministry

In case you are one of the few who hasn't heard, the **ARC** (Activity **R**ecreation **C**enter) is now open for business! As we move into our second month of operation, it can safely be said that our new gym is not only up and running, but running at an amazing capacity. During our first few weeks, we have played host to a variety of groups and organizations that offer sports programming in basketball, volleyball, pickle ball and soccer.

In addition, we have co-hosted our first basketball camp along with the Wolf-Pack Basketball program. Twenty elementary school-age young people registered for our five-day camp, which features a blend of basketball skill development and values instruction. We not only talked about the finer points of the game, but also the finer points of putting certain key values (**Responsibility, Respect, Caring, Fairness and Community**) into practice on and off the court. I was impressed with the excellent coaching providing by Matt Clawson and his staff, as well as the receptivity of the young people in our daily conversations about values. It was a good week and an excellent way to begin developing our ministry of recreation.

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***Next Issue: September 2017***

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org) by August 15, 2017.*

A very special thanks to Jim Burk for all his work over the past two to three years—recruiting different groups interested in using our building and developing the solid connections that have helped to ensure good working relationships with those involved. Jim and his wife, Anne, have done some amazing work in getting us to this place in our ministry plan. They have spent untold hours and have made a number of sacrifices in order to ensure that our new building would not be empty of interest or of use. I know that you will want to join me in thanking them for their wonderful stewardship.

It can be dangerous, of course, to start naming names to thank and I will not make the mistake of doing that here. I would, however, like to thank one additional person that needs to be mentioned, and that would be Bob Baker. Bob has patiently and persistently supervised the construction of our gym and has devoted huge amounts of his time and ability to the task of ensuring that the construction work would be completed efficiently and within budget guidelines. Thanks to Bob, we are even a little under budget at this time, and that is a remarkable accomplishment. Thank you, Bob!

## **SRVUMC**

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There are, of course, many, many others who have invested their time, talent and energy in making this new building a reality. We will have a chance to recognize them and celebrate their accomplishments when we hold our **Dedication Ceremony on September 10 at 4:00 p.m.**

Please save that date on your calendar as this promises to be a party that you will not want to miss!

As we look forward to our future and the recreation ministry that is already beginning to take shape, I would like to suggest that there is a crucial question about our new facility that has yet to be answered. The question is, **“Will we, as a congregation, own this ministry ourselves or will we think primarily in terms of handing it off or hiring it out to others?”**

As you think about your response to this question, you may recall that our decision to move forward with construction of this beautiful facility was predicated upon the vision that suggested that it would allow us to connect with our community in ways that, otherwise, we could not. The generous gift of this building makes possible a whole new arena for ministry and outreach in this community. All that is needed, at this point, are the people who will help to carry out that ministry.

Given this vision, I am hopeful that we, as a congregation, will see this facility as an investment in ministry that we choose to make together—using our time, our talent and our energy to make the ARC a place not only of recreation, but also a place of connection with our community. I am convinced that, in our recreationally focused culture, we will never have a better opportunity to engage our community in ways that can truly touch lives and forge deep and meaningful relationships. As Pastor Lorraine suggested in her message last Sunday, “God is doing a new thing in the ARC and the ministry that it is already creating.”

Let's just make sure that we are not too preoccupied with “business as usual” to get in on it.

Grace & Peace,

*Ron*

P.S. We are currently in need of volunteers to serve as **Assistant Managers** for various time slots, either during the day or during evening hours. If you would be willing to offer two to four hours of your time per week to help provide a hospitable presence to those who are using our facility, please contact the **ARC Office (925-837-2011)**.



*Ground breaking ceremony for ARC on January 31, 2016. Seems like a long time ago, huh?*

## **Mark Your**

## **Calendars!**

## **ARC Dedication Ceremony**

## Church Council Meeting Takeaways

July 18, 2017

### Board of Trustees Makes Alcohol Policy Recommendation; Motion Passes to Hire New Youth Director

Some brief notes from the Church Council meeting, made by the newsletter editor. *These bullet points should not be equated with more complete, detailed meeting minutes. Monthly minutes are posted on the [church website](#).* Remember, monthly Church Council meetings are open to all members.

- **ARC:** The ARC completed its 23rd day of operation as of this Council meeting with a gross income of over \$6,800; **Volunteers have proved hugely important in reducing expenses.** Currently, volunteers number 15 to 20, but more adult volunteers—especially those who can assist in the physical work of setup and take-down—will be needed as the youth volunteers return to school. **On the horizon:** ARC Commission will eventually manage ARC operations. Jim Burk is still drafting job descriptions for this commission.
- **Building Commission:** ARC dedication ceremony slated for Sunday, September 10 at 4 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees (BOT):** The Board has reviewed the results of the alcohol survey and **recommends no change in the existing alcohol policy at this time.** The survey among church members had a 75% response rate. Two thirds of respondents were female, and 88% of respondents report some alcohol consumption in their private lives. While roughly two thirds of respondents favored permitting alcohol consumption on the church campus, the question of serving alcohol at church-related functions (like the Crab Feed) resulted in a nearly even split. The intensity of opposition, together with liability concerns, informed BOT recommendation. After significant lively debate, the Church Council voted to adopt the Board's recommendation.
- **SPRC: Motion to hire Jamere Crawford as Youth Director passes.** Currently, Jamere holds a part-time position in youth ministry in Lafayette while pursuing his master's degree in social work. The position at SRVUMC is a full-time post with responsibilities that have been covered through much of the spring and summer by very dedicated (but tired!) volunteers. No start date for Jamere yet.
- **Budget:** Total June income is \$16k favorable to plan, down from last month. The favorable number offers some cushion through the summer months, traditionally a low giving period. Rhonda Poole's detailed budget report was made available at the meeting.

## Estate Planning Thoughts from the Endowment Committee

Some people have accrued a sizable sum in tax deferred retirement accounts. These accounts provide a comfortable back up for pension income. However, there are some disadvantages when you withdraw funds from these accounts. Upon death, state and federal taxes must be paid on the funds. Also, as individuals exceed 70.5 years in age, a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) tax must be paid on the income. This income, added to regular pension income, can push the income into a higher tax bracket.

Congress has made permanent a rule that permits a donation from the deferred account to an approved charitable organization (maximum \$100,000). Such a gift can cover all or a major portion of the RMD. This provides several benefits. The RMD income is not added to your gross income, the amount in your IRA is reduced for later taxes, no taxes are due for the donated RMD funds and you have enabled a charitable organization to extend its services.

You may want to discuss this possible gift with your tax advisor.





# Upcoming Mission Opportunities

## LOCAL

### Habitat for Humanity – Faith Partners quilt

Coming to our congregation in August is the Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley Faith Partners Quilt. To mark the 30th anniversary of the Faith Partners, a handmade quilt will be **on display at our church on August 20 and 27**. This quilt features T-shirts dating back to 1992 and celebrates many of our Build-a-Thons and other special events over the past 30 years. The quilt will be raffled off to benefit the work of Habitat EB/SV. Tickets will sell for \$5 each, or five for \$20. All proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity EB/SV.



**Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank** – Our next scheduled date to sort and box food at their facility is on **Saturday, September 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Contact **Lee Rust** at [chijocol@aol.com](mailto:chijocol@aol.com) or at 925-820-9047 for more information.



### Mission Sunday – October 8

It started out as a simple idea: A day of mission. One Sunday, where everyone would gather, then be sent out to be a disciple; do God's work. Mission Sunday has grown up since those early years. Although we still call it "Mission Sunday" it is no longer one day of mission – it is many. Over the period of 4 weeks, there are various mission opportunities for you to get involved.

September 16 – Habitat for Humanity Central Commons Build-a-Thon in Fremont

September 23 – Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano Counties

September 18 - 25 – Haiti Medical Team trip

September 26 - October 3 – Haiti Community Support Team

October 4 - 11 – Haiti Education Team

**October 8 - Mission Sunday** – Playhouse Build and Rise Against Hunger Food Packing (Rise Against Hunger formerly Stop Hunger Now!)

October 15 – Crop Walk in Walnut Creek

# Upcoming Mission Opportunities

## WORLD

### SAVE THE DATE - GUATEMALA WHEELCHAIR MISSION TRIP

We will be returning to Guatemala for another rewarding wheelchair giving mission trip. Dates are **January 27 to February 3, 2018**. We will again be providing 110 wheelchairs (at a cost of \$150 each), to the needy in the cities of Antigua and Guatemala City. In addition, we will be donating our time for two days at the Hermano Pedro Hospital in Antigua. The August Communion offering will be going towards the cost to cover the 110 wheelchairs. Please contact Paul Kuelz at [paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net) or 925-831-3128 for more information.



## Mission Volunteers & Communion Giving

### Special Offerings

Lent - Haiti Solar Ovens \$16,050

### June 2017 Volunteers

- Coffee hour - 14 volunteers
- Sodbusters - 20 volunteers
- Food For Thought - 20 volunteers
- Souper Center - 4 volunteers
- Sunshine Singers -18 volunteers

Month	Entity	Amt
Jan	Haiti	\$2,625
Feb	Limb Restoration	\$1,348
Mar	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,694
Easter	Rise Against Hunger	\$2,000
	Habitat for Humanity	\$1,200
	Interfaith Council	\$1,000
	Richmond Interfaith	\$2,840
	1 <sup>st</sup> Methodist Church - Salinas	\$2,840
April	Trinity Center	\$2,330
May	Local Youth Mission	\$2,031
Jun	African University	\$200
	Weed CA Fire Recovery	\$1,163
Jul	Monument Crisis Center	\$791
	Stand for Families Free of Violence	\$791
Aug	Guatemala Wheelchair Program	0
Sep	Rise Against Hunger	0
	Habitat for Humanity Playhouse	0
Oct	Fred Finch Youth Center	0
Nov		0
Dec	UMCOR World Aids Day	0
	Youth Homes	0
	BAAYFS	0
Christmas	Winter Nights	0
	Global Missions	0
	UMCOR	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$22,853</b>



# July 4 Parade 2017



# Testify to Love, Your Story

## The 169th California-Nevada Annual Conference Reports

From Joanne Van Bezey (Left Column) and Kathleen Saghafi (Right Column)

The annual conference met to conduct the business of the California-Nevada conference, to inspire, and to stay connected.



*Bishop Minerva G. Carcano, shown here at her ordination.*

**Bishop Minerva G. Carcano** is the new bishop following the retirement of Bishop Brown. Her priorities for our conference:

- Minister to all people, especially the marginalized
- Work in our district circuit to renew congregations and help plant new ones
- Align ministries with the in the United Methodist Church's four areas of focus

### More Developments

- A new, fifth district (**Bay District**) was created
- The 2018 conference will elect new delegates who will attend a specially called 2019 General Conference to talk about **gender issues**, tolerance of differing opinions and how to remain in one Church
- Resolutions on public education and transgender justice
- Resolution in support of the election of **Bishop Karen Oliveto**, an openly gay individual
- Resolution on welcoming the migrant
- Retirement of **Revs. Dawn Boyd** and **Heather Hammer**

The Bishop Awards saw four recipients this year, and four other awards were given. Ordination services were held for nine elders in full connections and two deacons, six provisional elders and one provisional deacon were commissioned. A memorial service honored thirty clergy, spouses and one certified lay minister. Powerful and inspirational speakers preached to over one thousand attendees.

I love being a voting laity for our Church at the conference. Participating in the legislative process; meeting new people; catching up with friends and previous pastors; receiving communion with hundreds of people; and hearing God's Word in so many different and inspiring ways are uplifting and growing experiences that Holy Conferencing provides.

The conference will be in Modesto next year.

—Joanne Van Bezey

As a first-time Lay member to the Annual Conference, I did not know what to expect from my four days in Burlingame. My only experience with Church business was at our own Church Council or Charge Conference meetings, and I certainly couldn't imagine four days of that!

Fortunately, the Annual Conference was so much more than committee reports and motions. I found it to be an interesting and moving look into the inner workings of our larger UMC community. For me, these were some of the highlights.

### The Speakers

Not surprisingly, the UMC is blessed with a number of gifted speakers. During the conference, this talent was on full display. Greg Bergquist, Associate General Secretary of GBHEM, delivered a beautiful and moving Memorial Service for the clergy and spouses that have passed in the last year. Conference Lay Leader, Michael Pope, spoke eloquently of the vital role of laity in our Church. Our own **Kathi McShane** and **Debra Brady** gave interesting updates on the **Core Team** and **Conference District** changes respectively.

But unquestionably, Erin Hawkins, the General Secretary of GCORR and the Conference Keynote Speaker, gave the most inspiring and rousing talks of the Conference. She reminded us of our role within the Church and our larger communities. She emphasized the importance of understanding and sharing our faith stories and brought the assembly to their feet more than once. If you ever have a chance to hear this amazing person speak, please go. You will be rewarded!

### Way Forward

As many of you are aware, the divide within the UMC over human sexuality and the resulting questions about the unity of the church led to the creation of the Commission on a Way Forward. Brian Adkins, the pastor of Open Door UMC in Richmond, CA and a member of this Commission, reported on the progress he sees to date. As an openly gay pastor, he brings an important perspective to the Commission. Fortunately, he is encouraged by the relationships he has built within the group and the progress he believes they have made. He finds it somewhat ironic that the closest relationship he has developed within the group is

*Kathleen's perspective continues on Page 9.*



# August Communion Offering

*Our August communion offering will support the Wheelchair Foundation Mission trip. We will be returning to Guatemala on January 27 to February 3, 2018. We will again be delivering 100 wheelchairs in Antigua and Guatemala City, but we need your support. Each wheelchair costs \$150 delivered to each respective location, where we will personally present them to each deserving individual. We will combine with Asbury UMC in Livermore and Lynnewood UMC in Pleasanton on this mission trip. Below is a reprint of the March 2017 article about the details of this rewarding and heartfelt event.*



## Changing Lives in Guatemala

Imagine, if you will, never having walked due to a birth deformity; losing a leg to diabetes or other health challenge; or being disabled in a tragic accident...and suddenly the gift of mobility comes into your life. That was the blessing we offered to many during our wheelchair mission to Guatemala in January 2017.

Through the generous donations of the **Asbury, Lynnewood and the San Ramon Valley United Methodist churches**, a team from those churches traveled to Guatemala to distribute 100 wheelchairs in partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation and the Rotary Club of Guatemala City.

This was a remarkable opportunity to engage with families that had no means to purchase a wheelchair. They carried, carted or hobble-walked a family member everywhere. Our recipients included disabled and mobility challenged children, adults and seniors.

Our first delivery was to Virgen Del Socorro in Antigua. This long-term care facility, run by the Franciscan Order of the Catholic Church, is for children and adults with permanent disabilities, who will never go home. Many of these are children and young adults who suffer from Cerebral Paralysis. Their care is provided free of charge.



While in Antigua, we also visited the Hospital of Santo Hermano Pedro, a charity hospital that turns no one away, and only charges what a person can afford. This Franciscan hospital provides medical services by local staff and travelling physicians from around the world. We were blessed to meet a doctor from the U.S., who was there for two weeks performing orthopedic surgeries. We were particularly touched by how children with cleft palates, club feet and other congenital deformities received help and hope.



Our second donation was to a senior community, Hogar Margarita Cruz Ruiz, in Guatemala City. Established by three sisters, this home, a lovely converted hacienda, provides compassionate care to elderly women who have no place else to go. It was amazing to see mobility limited women slip into their new wheelchair for the first time. Previously, the staff would physically carry these patients to meals, chapel and open space. Our hearts leapt with joy as we experienced this moment. It is a level of dignity they so deserve.

Our largest distribution was at an event in Guatemala City sponsored by the Rotary Club. It was overwhelming to walk into an outdoor pavilion filled with anxious families selected to receive a wheelchair. One by one, each family was called to the front to accept the wheelchair. One by one, we collectively celebrated the grateful, beaming recipient and their family. It was one of the most heartwarming moments you can imagine and one of the most humbling.



We delivered what seemed like an endless stream of wheelchairs. To see a very young boy experience mobility for the first time in his life, brought tears to our eyes. This little boy had only known life as his loving and patient mother carried him, on her back. Adults who had lost a leg, or seniors who could no longer walk on their own, were simply grateful beyond words. As our host, Alejandro, said, "You changed many lives today." My goodness, we did, with great love, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



*Kathleen's perspective continues here from Page 7.*

with the most conservative member of the 32- person team. His optimism for truly finding a "way forward" was very encouraging.

### **Church Appointments**

Surprising myself, I found the Fixing of Appointments (when all the coming year's pastoral appointments are announced) to be a wonderfully uplifting part of the week. Watching each pastor stand when their church name was announced was a reminder of the many, many faith connections we have around us.

In fact, my takeaway from the Annual Conference as a whole was a wonderful sense of community with our UMC brothers and sisters. If you ever have a chance to go, I hope you take advantage of it. You will be rewarded!

—Kathleen Saghafi

### **WELCOME AND GET ACQUAINTED WITH PASTOR LORRAINE**



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is organizing four "Meet and Greet" gatherings for the congregation to welcome and get acquainted with our new **Interim Pastor, Reverend Lorraine McNeal**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend on one of the following dates:

**Sunday, August 13** – Noon in the Fireside Room

**Wednesday, August 23** – 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

*Light refreshments will be served.*

### **Did You Know?**

You can still sign up to teach or assist with **Sunday School for grades 6 through 12**...or you can sign up to feed them snacks.



Check out **Signup Genius** at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090549aba82c7-youth> to make sure you aren't too late!

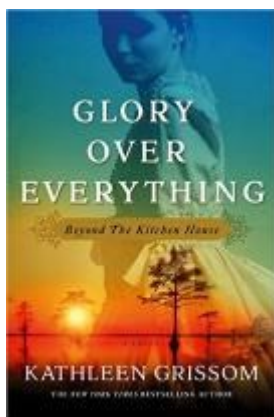


# Between the Bookends



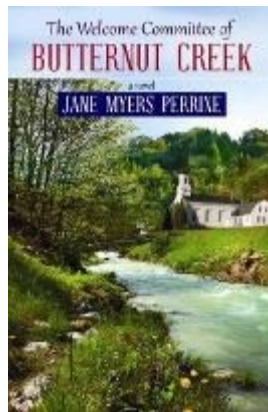
By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

It's that time again—time to read! I know (or hope) that you read all the time—newspapers, magazines, guidebooks, your iPhone, even cereal boxes. But to really settle down and READ, you need a good book! You've come to the right place—here are four new ones to check out!



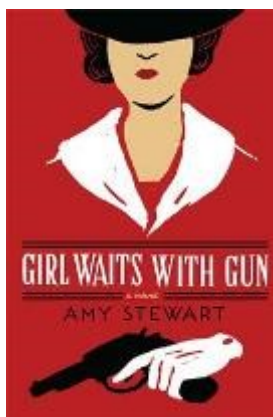
**Grissom, Kathleen. *Glory Over Everything*.** Jamie Pyke is a successful and wealthy aristocrat in Philadelphia in 1830. But Jamie Pyke is living a lie and has a past that has him constantly walking a fine line because he is never sure who he can trust or who might betray him. He is a runaway slave with a white father and half-white mother, and he is fair-skinned and passing for white. When the chips are down, where do his true loyalties lie—with his beloved white

fiancée or the black servant boy under his protection who has been kidnapped and sold back into slavery? This masterful story lets you step into Jamie Pyke's shoes and think about choices which can be life-changing. Every bit as memorable as *The Help*.



**Perrine, Jane Myers. *The Welcome Committee of Butternut Creek*.** Are you a fan of Patrick Taylor's Irish Country Doctor stories or Jeff High's homey stories about Dr. Luke Bradford of Watervalley, Tennessee? Then come meet Adam Jordan, the new young Christian minister in Butternut Creek, Texas. Eager to plunge right in to his new duties and career, his first challenge is dealing with one of own

parishioners, the formidable Miss Birdie, who decides she needs to show him how things are done here, and while she's at it, find him a wife. Here's another warm and witty cast of characters whose innate goodness and decency always shines through!



**Stewart, Amy. *Girl Waits With Gun*.** And now for something a little bit different! Based on a real person, Constance Kopp is like no one you've ever met—she is taller than most men, has no interest in the “domestic sciences” and possesses a dry wit that will have you chuckling and rolling your eyes. Get to know Constance and her two sisters—they were an unforgettable trio of unlikely women who were far

ahead of their time. And yes, when they needed to, they all learned to handle a gun!



**Merullo, Roland. *Rinpoche's Remarkable Ten-Week Weight Loss Clinic*.** Roland Merullo felt he had one more short vignette to share about Volya Rinpoche, his inscrutable, wise, ascetic brother-in-law that starred in the Buddha trilogy (*Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner with Buddha*) So here he is again in this short novella of only 66 pages, this time leading a weight-loss clinic in a New York City yoga studio. He still thinks everyone is perfect just as they are, but he wants to offer a little help

if they want to become healthier by shedding a few pounds. If you read any of the earlier Buddha books—and if you haven't, you should!—you'll love this short visit with him again.

*Lord! When you sell a man a book you don't sell just twelve ounces of paper and ink and glue—you sell him a whole new life. Love and friendship and humor and ships at sea by night—there's all heaven and earth in a book, a real book.*

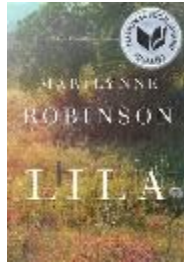
—Christopher Morley, 1890-1957

## Afternoon Book Group

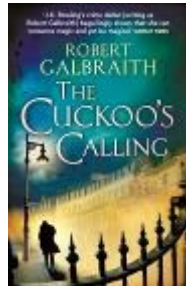
Monday, 1 p.m.

Rm. 202, Wesley Center

Monday, August 21—*Lila* by Marilynne Robinson (Sharon leading)



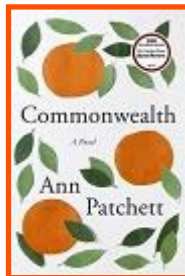
Monday, September 18—*The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith (Teresa leading)



Monday, October 16—*Wake* by Dan O'Connor (Marilyn leading)



Monday, November 20—*Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett



## ALL CHURCH AFTERNOONS/ EVENINGS AT THE ARC

The arc is open on the following days and times for our church members and constituents to come and play without charge. Invite your friends and neighbors to come with you!

Sunday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**DROP-IN SPORTS SCHEDULE** (\$4.00 per person for each session)

### PICKLE BALL:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday as of August 8 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### BASKETBALL:

Thursday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

*Both schedules subject to change.*

***Facts Matter for an Informed Electorate!***

## Meet Richard Kimball , President of Vote Smart

**Monday, August 14, Fireside Room, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Meet with Richard Kimball, president of Vote Smart, [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org), to learn about the services of this nonpartisan, unbiased source of data on State and Federal elected representatives and candidates. Easy to use, it includes voting records, ratings by various organizations with differing viewpoints, sources of campaign financing, all public statements, as well as biographies and committee assignments.

***Light supper will be served.***



# Prime Time Players

## (Formerly “55+”)

### End of Season BBQ

**Tuesday, August 15, Noon—Wesley Center**

Only one event in August – our annual End of Season BBQ! We'll be in the courtyard (weather permitting). Chef John Sanders will be BBQing all the traditional summer BBQ fare, along with his always, made from scratch, amazing sides dishes.

Please come, sit, relax and enjoy friends as we say **THANK YOU** to all you church people who are over 55 and do SO MUCH for our SRVUMC family!



*Emoji created by Freepik.*

### SRVUMC Men's Annual Fall Retreat

SRVUMC MEN'S Group is looking for a few more good men to join the regulars at their annual fall retreat. If you like **great fellowship, wonderful camp food and opportunities for fishing, hiking, photography, campfire presentations, and camping out** under the glorious stars of northeastern California, then please request details from **Horace Crawford, 925-324-8040**, or [hcrawpcraw@gmail.com](mailto:hcrawpcraw@gmail.com).

Dates for the 2017 retreat are **Thursday, October 12 (early bird arrivals)** with the **official retreat beginning at 4 P.M. Friday, October 13** and **concluding by 1 P.M. on Sunday, October 15.**

**Early Birds - \$65.00**

**Friday Arrivals - \$60.00**

This retreat has been held annually for over 20 years and typically involves around 20 - 25 outdoor- and nature-loving men. It is held at **Horace and Peggy Crawford's Quail Run Ranch** near Mt. Lassen.



### Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes to Lead 2018 Women's Retreat!



Dear SRVUMC Women,

The Women's Retreat Committee is so excited to have secured Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes to lead our 2018 retreat, **February 2 to 4, 2018**, at Villa Maria Del Mar in Santa Cruz. He is a Zeigler Award recipient for excellence in preaching. He is a sixth generation Methodist pastor from Acton, MA, a songwriter and poet, and he posts daily meditations on his website at <https://www.unfoldinglight.net>. He has a wicked sense of humor, and it is bound to be a memorable weekend, so save the date!

To get Pastor Steve here, we are looking for a donation of airline miles. Anyone who is willing to contribute their reward miles, for one leg or round trip, of his flight please contact Sylvia Benzler, [skbenz@me.com](mailto:skbenz@me.com) or call **925-708-4489**. We very much appreciate your generosity in advance.

We hope many of you will be able to attend this special weekend retreat. We look forward to fellowship and spiritual renewal with the many wonderful SRVUMC women. If you would like to become familiar with pastor Steve's work, you can receive daily current meditations by sending him an e-mail at [unfoldinglight@gmail.com](mailto:unfoldinglight@gmail.com) and ask to be put on his daily mailing list. He already has at least 20 women followers, if not more, from SRVUMC. Enjoy!

God Bless,  
The SRVUMC Women's Retreat Committee



## Vacation Bible School, 2017

We had a wonderful week at Hero Central Vacation Bible School last week. We went on awesome adventures alongside some of our favorite Bible heroes and discovered the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. Thank you to **Kathleen Saghafi** and the epic staff of volunteers who led us in music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories helping kids discover their strength in God! It was so fun to see the smiles and hear the laughter filling our church campus each day. **The Grill & Chill** and closing songfest were a great way to celebrate the end of a funtastic week! Thank you to all the families who brought their children and again, to all the amazing volunteers!

## Weekly Programming

### Middle School Youth Group

(Grades 6 to 8) On Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

**High School Youth Group** (Grades 9 to 12) On Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**High School Dinner Night Out** not in session until further notice. Go to Grill-n-Chill while you still can

## Every Sunday

### 9 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday school meets

K to Grade 5: Lamm Hall

Grades 6 to 12: Room 202 (teachers, assistants and snacks still needed for

August! Check <http://>

[www.signupgenius.com/go/4090549aba82c7-youth](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090549aba82c7-youth) to see if

you can help.

### 10:30 a.m. Nontraditional Worship

Confirmation meets in room 201 until 11:45 a.m.

*Childcare for all ages in children's building, downstairs, either service.*

## Fall Retreat

Mark your calendars for the Fall Retreat from **September 8 through 10**. More info to follow.



## Open Position: San Ramon Valley's United Methodist Preschool

**Beginning August 30.** 12 hrs./week; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 8:30-12:30. Visit us at [www.unitedmethodistpreschool.org](http://www.unitedmethodistpreschool.org). Duties include snack preparation, set-up and clean-up of children's activities, interaction and supervision of preschoolers in a classroom and nature-filled playground. Come. Play with us! Compensation: \$14-\$17 doe. Employment contingent on finger print and background clearance. **Contact: Preschool Director, Paulette Ove 925-464-6415.**

## Tot Spot Childcare Lead Teacher: Paid Position

We are looking for an adult lead Tot Spot caregiver starting in October. This paid position requires two Sundays per month from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Safe Gatherings background check and training required. If you or someone you know is interested, then please contact **Laura Roy** at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org) or (925) 837-5243 ext. #106.

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Dan Sherman	Jo Ann Hirsch
Thelma Orr	Lisa Robinson Best
Barb McWilliams	Gene Brown

## Thank You...

Dear friends at SRVUMC,

Thank you for the get well cards, thoughts, prayers and calls after my recent surgery. You were all my special angels for whom I am very grateful.

Love to all, Sylvia Benzler

A belated Thank You for your cards and "quick healing" thoughts regarding my knee replacement. According to the doctor, the recovery is "right on schedule"...of course, not as rapid as I would like!

- Barb McWilliams

## Seeking Preschool Assistant...

See Family Ministries on page 13.

## Our Christian Sympathy To...

The family and friends of Jada Koonce. Jada died on June 21, and a memorial service was held in our sanctuary on 7/1.

The family and friends of Dottie Almquist, a former church member who died on 7/19.

Gary Swanson and family on the death of Gary's father, Milo.

## Continued Prayers For...

All those who continue to live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Bill Andrew; Gene Brown; Lenore Cooper; Jeni Evans; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny Johnston;

Daphne Kimbell; Alleen Landstrom; Edith Liggett; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Mary Ogden; Lea Patteson; 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.)

## August Wedding

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1 Sandy & Chuck Clark<br>(53 <sup>rd</sup> ) | Gemma & Tom Sepull                              | Shirley & Jerry Slater<br>(62 <sup>nd</sup> )    | Margaret & Gary Hansen<br>(56 <sup>th</sup> )  |
| 3 Gloria Holleman & Gary Osterhout           | 11 Laura Macomber Weeks & Dave Shaw             | 21 Maggie & John Stienstra                       | Thelma & John Orr, Sr.<br>(56 <sup>th</sup> )  |
| Dolores & Thomas Mullican                    | 13 Jennifer & Jim Ludlam                        | Sandy & Paul Yarmolich                           | 28 Louise & Brad Farrow                        |
| Mary & Bill Nelson (60 <sup>th</sup> )       | 17 Stephanie & John Fenoglio                    | 24 Carol & Jim Warnock                           | 29 Rose & John Larkins                         |
| 5 Sue & Jim Hardy                            | Sharon & Dennis Greene                          | Karen & Larry Watson<br>(54 <sup>th</sup> )      | Millie & Terry Sherman<br>(53 <sup>rd</sup> )  |
| Lea & Tim Hickman                            | Heather & John Morgan                           | 25 Nancy & Quentin Alexander (60 <sup>th</sup> ) | 30 Carole & Don Johnson<br>(59 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| Sandy & Barry Pihowich                       | 19 Susie & Doug Barton                          | Sylvia & John Corson<br>(60 <sup>th</sup> )      | Maria & Stuart Kirby                           |
| 7 Alexis & Niles Bybel                       | Marilyn & Todd Christian<br>(56 <sup>th</sup> ) | 27 Sylvia & Bruce Benzler                        |  |
| Caroline & Steve Marsh                       | 20 Barbara & Don Carlson                        | Julie & Bill Dastic (57 <sup>th</sup> )          |  |
| 8 Stephanie & Luke Ham                       | Julie & Al Shipp                                |  |  |



# August Celebrations

## Birthdays

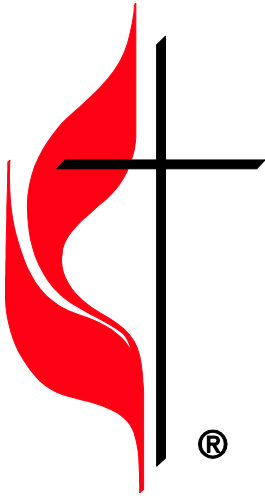


1 Don Carlson	Cadi Stephenson	Talia Stivender	
Michael Cerda	Carol Warnock	20 Robin Hammond	
Wai Chang	11 Sung Ahn	Carol Koepp	
Chuck Clark	Brian Beck	21 Pam Dominici	
Chris Hagebush	Jason Skeoch	Kelly Kerr	
Geoff Portman	Gary Swanson	Ford Higgins	
Marti Sketchley	Sarah Warnock	22 Deanna Clark	
2 Susie McKnight	12 Scott Birkby	Alleen Landstrom	
3 Kim Maddux	Julie Klug	<b>(96th)</b>	28 Sharon Brockman
Amy McWilliams Hess	Heather Weis	Olivia White	Rikki Robinson
Brett McKnight	14 David Bain	23 Jeremy Brown	29 Gene Brown
Courtney Randall	Bette Smith	John Fenoglio	Nell Marie Forsey
4 Scott Armanini	15 Steve Beagles	Chris Kelly	Bob Korinke
Teresa Merchant	Dolores Mullican	Nick Rossi	30 Victoria da Roza
Julie Shipp	16 Joyce Kayser	Mike Sherrill	Joanie Deis
5 Mary Mitchell	Andy Mathis	24 Mandy Bain	Jeff Presnell
Sarah Schroeder	Jenny Swanson	Megan Bain	31 Sean Greenwood
6 Tom Andrew	17 Dominic Albertoni	Ron White	Sheila McClelland <b>(90th)</b>
7 Meghan Bennion	Matt Donatelli	25 Peg Jackson	
Lindsey Garnick	Thomas Mathis	Shirley Wible	
Scott Garnick	19 Dick Greeno	26 Charlie Adam <b>(93rd)</b>	
8 Kelli George	Jennifer Ludlam	Chris Knese	
Jerry Osborn	Sophie Ludlam	Duncan Miller	
Dan Woolery	Merilyn Milam	Anna TenElshof	
9 Allyson Cerda	Jeanie Rheault <b>(93rd)</b>	Jeannine Woolery	
10 Jim Bunker	Marla Schleicher	27 Carole Lynne Keller	
		Marilyn Mathis	

***Whew! August is a big month around here!***

**In case you didn't spot them, August Wedding Anniversaries list fit better on the Among Ourselves page this month!**

**Congratulations to our numerous celebrants this month!**



# AUGUST 2017

## Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Non-Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Child Care for birth-kindergarten is available during the morning services in the

Children's Building

August 2017

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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