



Valley Messenger

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

A Parsonal Point of View ~

Being There

In our staff meeting this morning, we talked about how, at this time of year, the activity level begins to “ramp up” and we, likewise, begin to feel the pressure to keep up with this increasing pace. With school starting earlier this year, so has the intensity that usually accompanies this transition point that leads from summer to fall. In the midst of it all, it is very easy to lose our balance as our daily schedules become crowded with a new round of activities and responsibilities. Sound familiar? I imagine that it does because, after all, it is a symptom of the disease of “busyness” that seems to afflict almost all of us.

As a counter-point to our inclination to give in to the busyness that swirls around us, I believe that it is important to step back for a moment, take a deep breath, and remind ourselves that the good life is not to be defined by how busy we can be, but by how much we are able to savor the little moments that often add up to a much larger understanding of what the meaning of life is all about.

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Next Issue: October 2017

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by September 15, 2017.

Annie Dillard, in her remarkable book, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, shares a brief experience that I believe is worthy of our consideration.

The mockingbird took a single step into the air and dropped. The wings were folded against his sides as though he were singing from a limb and not falling, accelerating thirty-two feet per second, through empty air. Just a breath before he would have been dashed to the ground, he unfurled his wings with exact, deliberate care, revealing the broad bars of white, spread his elegant, white banded tail, and so floated onto the grass.

I had just rounded a corner when his insouciant step caught my eye; there was no one else in sight. The fact of his free fall was like the old philosophical conundrum about the tree falling in the forest. The answer must be, I think, that beauty and grace are performed whether or not we will see or sense them. The least that we can do is try to be there.

—Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, page 8

I believe that she has it exactly right. “Beauty and grace are

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performed whether or not we will see or sense them. The least that we can do is to try to be there." That ought to be our daily assignment—to "be there" as we become fully present to the unfolding wonder of the little moments of grace and beauty.

- Did you really notice the hummingbird that flashed its bright colors as it hovered momentarily before you?
- Did you hear—really listen to—the laughter of the child who was playing with his dog?
- Did you smell the intoxicating aroma of the lavender bush right after the rain?
- Did you feel that connecting sense of compassion that welled up inside of you when you read the newspaper story of a person struggling to overcome adversity?

Sadly, there are times in which we may discover that we have been simply too busy to notice. We may see—but not really see. We may feel—but not really feel. We may listen—but not really listen. There are times in which we, quite simply, are too busy to notice, to pay attention to the beauty and grace that are performed all around us.

Perhaps there is wisdom in making the choice to let go of our addiction to busyness by actually scheduling time to stop what we are doing in order to focus our attention on simply being. Perhaps it would make sense to take time each day to direct our attention specifically toward the little things that often get lost in the wake of the big things that we have been concentrating on. At the very least, it would be worth trying out such an approach as an experiment for a week or two. Then, you could see if you noticed any difference in the way you were able to appreciate the moments of beauty and grace that are there for the savoring.

As I think about the busy fall months that are now beginning to come into focus, I want to also think about the times, each day, that I will set apart in order to be fully present to the Presence that is holy, and the beauty that is, in and of itself, a gift of grace. I hope that you are able to do that as well. It is, after all, the very least we can do.

Grace & Peace,

Ron

ARC Activities Update

All Church Time: Bring your friends and family and join in the fun at the ARC on Wednesdays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. and Sundays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. **No Charge**

Gentle Flow Yoga; 10-week series starts August 29. All levels welcome.

Tuesdays 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. – 8/29 – 10/31 Cost \$129

Fridays 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. 9/1 – 11/3 Cost \$129

Both Tuesday & Friday, 8/29 – 11/3 Cost \$220

Single drop-in class \$15

Contact Annetta at (925) 285-3128, e-mail: annetta.mccarty@gmail.com or

Website: <http://www.annettamccartyyoga.com>



Gsand family enjoys All Church Time together.

ARC Volunteers Still Needed to cover all the hours the ARC is open. We also need a volunteer to organize the All Church Time activities. Please contact Anne Burk at anne.burk@sbcglobal.net for more information and to volunteer.

Church Council Meeting Takeaways

August 15, 2017

ARC Dedication Slated for September 10; Coaching for Church Growth and Health Scheduled for October

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

ARC: Planning is underway for the ARC dedication ceremony on September 10 at 4 p.m. Celebrants will be treated to a video about the building of the ARC. Council meeting attendees who are preparing this celebration have emphasized the importance of RSVPing by August 31 so they can plan accordingly.

Volunteers are still needed, with time slots on Saturdays and weeknights particularly in need of assistance. Volunteers have proved hugely important in reducing expenses.

The Church Council passed a resolution permitting the use of up to \$3,000 from the Church Council Reserve Fund to purchase two receivers and microphones for the ARC. If funds are available from the ARC budget once other expenses have been met, up to 50% of the amount spent will be reimbursed to the Reserve Fund from ARC budget surplus.

Also, during this meeting, the Church Council formally approved a marketing position added to the organization chart. Liz Bayat has been functioning in this capacity.

Finance Committee: Total July income is \$17k favorable to plan, with pledge giving steady through the summer. Budgeting for 2018 begins in September. Rhonda Poole's detailed budget report was made available at the meeting.

SPRC (Strategic Plan Committee): Preparations are underway for the October arrival of consultant **Jim Griffith**. A published author in addition to his consulting work, Mr. Griffith has extensive experience with planting new churches and revitalizing mature churches. *You may see him around during his time with us October 20 through 23.*

Board of Trustees: We are still awaiting architectural plans and contractor schedule for the installation of windows on the north Sanctuary wall, per Bill Sabin's gift. These new windows will be akin to those overlooking the Meditation Garden.

"I'm excited by the energy that's developing."

—Jim Burk, referring to the ARC's first eight weeks of operation. Jim also shared one or two stories about community response to the ARC.

RSVP

***Don't forget to RSVP as soon as you
receive your newsletter for the
September 10
ARC Dedication
Head count matters!***

A gift to the Endowment Committee is the gift that keeps on giving.

Busy Summer 2017 for SRVUMC Youth!



SRVUMC owes a huge debt of gratitude for the adults who made this summer's activities possible! Thank you to **Randy and Joanne Durrenberger** for chaperoning our youth on their Sierra Service Project trip to San Diego this year. **Carrie Metcalf and Lori Pavel** served as chaperones for Gleanings for the Hungry in Dinuba, CA. They spent the week processing and drying peaches for needy people all over the world. **Laurie Stocking and Joanne Durrenberger** chaperoned a one-day Youth rafting trip on the South Fork of the American River.



Welcome Jamere Crawford, New Youth Director at SRVUMC

Hi, SRVUMC community!

I am so excited to be the new youth director here. I have worked at number of different programs, such as the Boys and Girls Club of Alameda, the YMCA, Today's Youth Matter, to name a few. I graduated from Patten University with a B.A. in Liberal Studies. I enjoy hanging out with friends, family, my fiancée Katie, and my dog Yogi. I'm looking forward to the upcoming fall season and getting to know all the kids that are here in Youth Group. We have some exciting things coming up this year to

be on the lookout for, such as the **Fall Retreat on September 8-10**; **middle school Youth Group**, which starts on the **September 13 at 6 p.m.**; and **high school dinner out on Thursday, September 14 at 6 p.m.** I look forward to getting a chance meet everyone and start off a fun year!

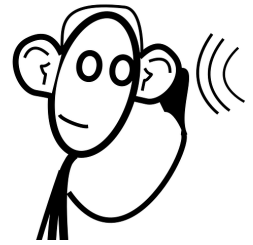
P.S. To sign up for Fall Retreat you can email me at JCrawford@sruvmc.org.

PRIME TIME PLAYERS

Our End of Summer Thank you BBQ was hugely attended (*we ran out of food!*) – a great time was had by all! THANK YOU 55+ crowd for all you do for our church!

Fall is upon us! Looking forward to September activities:

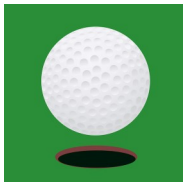
Tuesday, September 5—Prime Time Players Potluck & Presentation. Hearing Loss Prevention with **Dr. Leigh Kielsen** from Valley Audiology. Please bring a dish to share: Safeway deli or bakery is just fine! Hearing loss affects all of us in some way. Please join us.



Tuesday, September 19—Prime Time Lunch with Friends. Chef John Sanders will prepare one of his wonderful Jell-O salads, stuffed pork loin, mashed potatoes and glazed carrots with a stone fruit crisp and ice cream for dessert. All, as always, from scratch. Best \$5 meal in the Valley! Over 55? Please join us!

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

LOCAL



Golf Tournament at Boundary Oaks Gold Course in Walnut Creek—Saturday, September 30, 10:30 a.m. All golfers welcome! Four-person scramble. Contact **Paul Kuelz 925-831-3128** or paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net for more information. Sign-ups will begin in September in the courtyard between services.

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 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

Join Us on Our Upcoming Mission Trip to Guatemala

We will be returning to Guatemala to volunteer at a hospital, a home for disabled persons and to distribute 100 wheelchairs in Antigua and Guatemala City. There are many people in this country who cannot afford a wheelchair. We will be teaming with the Rotary Club in Guatemala City to select and equip individuals who are in desperate need one. This mission will be a rewarding way to live your faith in service to others.

The travel dates are **Saturday, January 27 to Saturday, February 3, 2018**. In addition to volunteering, there will be the option to do a little sightseeing. The preliminary cost estimate is \$1,800 per person for airfare, hotels, meals and other related expenses.

Registration is open now and will conclude around **November 1**. But the sooner you decide to join us, the better. We are limited to twelve (12) volunteer slots. For questions or more details, please contact **Paul Kuelz** at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net or at (925) 831-3128.



Mission Volunteers & Communion Giving

Special Offerings

Lent - Haiti Solar Ovens \$16,050

August 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 st 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	\$3115
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
	BAAYS	0
Christmas	Winter Nights	0
	Global Missions	0
	UMCOR	0
Totals		\$25,968

Collection Drive for Foster Kid Teens (Ages 12-18yrs)

Did you know that most foster kid teens use a black plastic garbage bag to carry their few personal belongings from place to place? The **SRVHS Pledge To Humanity Club** is organizing a collection drive so that foster kid teens can receive their very own bag filled with critical items they need. These special bags (called "Comfort Cases") include **NEW** items which collected **during the months of August and September**. We will assemble these comfort cases and deliver them to local foster kid teens. We would love **ANY** of the following donations (*new items only please*):

- Small duffel or backpack
- Pajamas (Sizes needed: youth size 14 up to Adult S/M/LG)
- Small blanket (40 x 60 in. or smaller)
- New teen book or magazine
- Pens and pencils, journal
- Toothbrush/toothpaste, soap, deodorant
- **travel size toiletries:** shampoo/conditioner/lotion

Donations can also be left at Alamo Smiles in the marked bin. Drive ends September 30!

Oil the Sewing Machine and Fill the Candy Molds! It's Time To Get Ready for SRVUMC's

10th Annual Holiday Boutique Craft Fair November 4, 2017

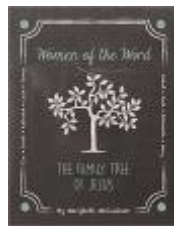
Crafters, start preparing for the show featuring treasures created by our own church folk and members of the community! For the past nine years, we have consistently shown high-quality handmade items, such as

- Jewelry
- Quilted table linens
- Handmade shawls & sweaters
- Fused glass ornaments
- Handmade caramels
- Silk floral arrangements, and more!

If you have creative talents, we need you! It's time to reserve a space and get busy creating works of art or tasty treats. **A space fee of \$35 and 10% of your total sales will be donated to the church.** Let's bring out all our hidden talents and make the 10th Annual Craft Fair the best yet! **Contact Shannon Dever, sdever@srvumc.org, or 925-837-5243 for information or to sign up. Friends and family welcome!**

LIFT Bible Study

We have officially started sign-ups for the fall! All women are welcome to join our **Intergenerational Women's Bible Study** as we start a new study; ***Women of the Word*** by Marybeth McCullum. Choose either



Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m., starting Sept. 14

OR

Sundays 4:00-5:30 p.m., starting Sept. 17

Please contact Debbie Kelly at gsanddeb@sbcglobal.net or Sandy Gsand at (925)989-7880, sangsan@aol.com to sign up or ask questions.

Afternoon Book Group

Mondays, 1 p.m.

Room 202, Wesley Center

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

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

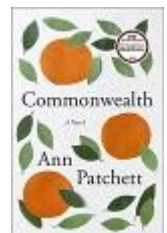
November 20—*Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett



September



October



November

September Communion Offering

You can give for the Communion Offering any Sunday of the month!

This month, your Communion Sunday offering supports two familiar charities with efforts planned for **Mission Saturday**. First, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church and Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley partner again, this time to bring joy to the youngest members of the populations they serve with the Habitat Playhouse. Additionally, we will sponsor another Rise Against Hunger meal pack-out to supply nutrition to an international population.

The Habitat Playhouse

The Habitat Playhouse project is an aspect of Habitat for Humanity of East Bay and Silicon Valley that invites groups to build and donate playhouses to charities or individual families. To sponsor a playhouse, a group raises \$2000 and then builds the playhouse themselves.

SRVUMC's playhouse is nearly built, and the Mission Saturday effort will focus on painting the playhouse.

"Creative and artistic volunteers would love this project as it is entirely up to us to decide on the theme of the house," said Paul Kuelz.



Other groups working through Habitat for Humanity have chosen familiar cartoon characters and other cheerful themes.

When completed, our playhouse will go to the Blue Star Moms. Working with Habitat, that group will designate the particular family who gets the playhouse. The recipient family will be Tri-Valley residents with a parent serving overseas.

Rise Against Hunger (Formerly Stop Hunger Now!)

SRVUMC volunteers have participated in lively meal pack-outs before, although you may remember this organization by another name: Stop Hunger Now! In previous pack-outs, church members have packed over 10,000 meals in a little over 90 minutes. This satisfying project requires \$0.29 per meal to fund the raw materials such as dehydrated rice/soy meal, dehydrated vegetables and spices. According to its website, Rise Against Hunger has a goal of ending hunger by 2030.

These meal packets will be sent to partner schools in developing countries, who serve these hot meals to their students. A daily hot meal provided at school for each child serves as an important incentive for parents in these regions to send their children to school. Improved school attendance and nutrition assist in breaking the cycle of poverty for these families.



Stop Hunger Now! began in 1998 and is based in Raleigh, N.C. Now Rise Against Hunger, this organization and its volunteers has provided over 180 million meals in 65 countries around the world. In 2016, Rise Against Hunger provided meals and other aid to 1 million people. Rise Against Hunger responds to crises worldwide and also works to improve agriculture and incomes in the countries they serve.

Landscape Improvements at Will Schramm Labyrinth Set for Fall 2017

The labyrinth at Hap Magee Ranch Park was completed in April 2015 and was dedicated with an opening ceremony led by Pastors Ron Dunn and Kathi McShane. The labyrinth committee was formed after the death of Will Schramm in 2013, when his parents Dory and Tom expressed their desire to build a labyrinth to honor Will's memory. After months of research and planning, the project was approved by the Alamo MAC and Town of Danville. Logistic support from our church was instrumental in making this project possible.

The committee is now ready to move forward with landscape improvements at the site. The plans include a variety of drought-tolerant shrubs and trees along either side of the entry path, boulders to define the landscaped area, a 20-foot curved seat wall along the northerly side of the labyrinth, and a boulder near the entrance path with a plaque providing information about the labyrinth, as well as thanking those who made this installation possible. These enhancements are estimated to cost \$15,000 to \$18,000.

The town of Danville has already installed and paid for irrigation. The project is expected to take place this fall when the weather is cooler and more accommodating to new plantings.

Many from the church, family and friends of Will Schramm, and members of the Danville and Alamo Communities contributed their time and finances to provide funding for building the labyrinth. After the death of Steve Colman in 2015, many of his family and friends also made donations to the Labyrinth fund in his memory. We have some funds in the Labyrinth Account, but as with the first phase of the project, the labyrinth committee needs to raise funds to finance Phase 2 of this project.

If you would like to make a contribution, please make a check out to the SRVUMC Labyrinth Project and mail it to the church. 902 Danville Blvd, Alamo, CA 94507.

We hope you take a moment to visit this beautiful, peaceful spot. Hap Magee Ranch Park is right around the corner from the church.

The Plaque at the Will Schramm Labyrinth reads:

ALL ARE WELCOME

There is no Right or Wrong Way to Walk a Labyrinth.

Based on a thirteenth century design from the Chartres Cathedral in France, the labyrinth is designed to be a peaceful place of quiet meditation. It is different from a maze in that there is only one path in, and one path out. It has been said that you enter a maze to get lost, and a labyrinth to find yourself.

For thousands of years, labyrinths have been enjoyed around the world as tools for contemplations, entering, and healing. Please be considerate of others using the labyrinth and of the labyrinth's quiet purpose. As you walk to the center and back out again, pass others or allow others to pass you simply by moving aside.

Thanks to those who made the installation of this labyrinth possible:

Family and Friends of Will Schramm and Steve Colman

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

Communities of Alamo and Danville



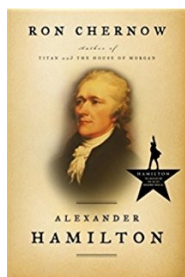


Between the Bookends



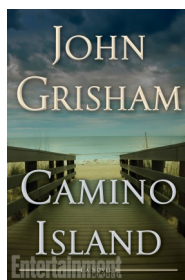
By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

Do you realize how rare and special our Book Cart is? It is regularly stocked with new, current books, many of which are bestsellers. This happens three ways—our church maintains a small but constant book budget for the library, the Endowment Committee adds support every year, and church members frequently contribute brand new books that they have read only once but which they know are in high demand. Thank you to all our faithful and discerning donors! This month is no exception; our cup runneth over!



Chernow, Ron. *Alexander Hamilton*. Here is the book whose scholarship and readability gave birth to the hit musical, “Hamilton!” Lin-Manuel Miranda, the musical genius who created “Hamilton,” was going on vacation and needed a “good, fat book” to take with him. *Alexander Hamilton* went into his suitcase and as he read it, he realized that he saw a musical in it. And the founding father who

had played such a critical part in our nation’s birth, but was so little-known, was reintroduced to a whole new generation of Americans. Thank you, Joan Arscott!



Grisham, John. *Camino Island*. Has John Grisham ever written a book that *wasn't* a bestseller? This is his newest book and one reviewer marveled that Grisham had taken a vacation from his usual theme. Well, maybe, but not quite. It’s a cat-and-mouse literary thriller that features the theft of priceless Scott Fitzgerald manuscripts, a bookstore in Florida, and what happens to stolen treasures.

This book has almost 400 people on the waiting list at the public library! It’s short (only 290 pages) and will have you burning the midnight oil. Millie Loper, thank you for making sure our library has this copy!

Patrick, Phaedra. *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper*. This reminded me a little bit of *A Man Called Ove*. Another man mourning the loss of his wife, but this man finds a charm bracelet hidden away in one of his wife’s shoes. The charms are so different and unusual, and obviously valuable, that he begins to question why his wife had this bracelet and why she’d kept it a secret from him. Tiny numbers on the little elephant charm lead

to a telephone call to India...and from there to discoveries that shake Arthur Pepper’s quiet, unassuming life and open up his world.

Towles, Amor. *A Gentleman in Moscow*. The gentleman is Count Alexander Rostov, and the Bolshevik government in 1922 Moscow doesn’t know quite what to do with him. They acknowledge he was an early supporter of Revolution, but now they’re not so sure. The man is an intellectual, which is always dangerous. So they banish him to the hotel where he’d been living in luxury, but now he has been moved to a tiny attic room. He is safe there, but if he leaves the hotel for any reason, he’ll be shot. The Count forges a new life as he freely roams the hotel, getting to know those who work there, and guests as they come and go. Full of wise and witty repartee and sparkling humor, this is also on every best-seller list. Stylish and memorable. Gloria Fenton, thank you!

Going to the grocery store just isn’t a priority when the fate of a fictional character is hanging in the balance.

—Anonymous

Was it a great read?

Is it still on your nightstand?

Don’t forget to return those popular bestsellers so others can have their turn with them!



CROP Walk is back for October 15, 2017! Here is a reprint of the article about last year's CROP walk. Can we build on last year's success?



Once upon a time, on a windy and stormy day, good people of every gender, every age, every race, once again called attention to the plight of others on our earth. This event was just another of incalculable numbers that transpire every day, everywhere around our globe.

Following Sunday service, October 16, walkers took their faith and love outside the sanctuary. Aware the weather was stormy as rain bounced off the sanctuary roof, contributing quiet background rhythm to Pastor Ron's message, walkers donned their rain gear. At the end of the service, one could almost feel the words, "Rain? No big deal, I've made a commitment to the CROP Hunger Walk!"



Our dozen walkers, bolstered by the financial contributions of many others in our congregation, met at Walnut Creek's Civic Park gazebo. Colorful umbrellas and rain coats complemented the plush green grass, giving a scene one might view as impressionist art. We joined representatives from six other churches in our area, bringing us up to 50 to 60 walkers. Following introductions, individuals walked with friends and made new friends for the 2- or 3-mile walk in downtown Walnut Creek.

Our walkers were dazzling as they carried large poster signs, signs with meaningful words to live by, colorful signs, and creative signs. Thank you, kids of our youth program, for spending one of your nights creating these just for us. Great job!

Rain splashed off our umbrellas and raincoat hoods throughout the walk. And shoes? Forget about it, they were soaked in the gutter run-off at the first street crossing! One of our walkers stepped in water up to her ankle, and then she stepped back, and plunged in again! Why? She replied, "Heck, I may as well even it up!"

It was a happy group, happy to be together, to be doing for others, showing the community we cared, maybe causing the onlookers to ask themselves, "Maybe I ought do more." The rain somehow added happiness, even when a small stream of water flowing off a canopy fell on someone's head and rolled down their back under a shirt! Brrrr! One walker expressed the thoughts of many, when he remarked, "This rain and weather will make this day a lasting memory!"

Our donations were **\$700** from our team. **Twenty-five percent of those donations go directly to Winter Nights**, a program we have supported for several years. The CROP Hunger Walks began following World War II when our nation's farms produced an abundance of crops, and Europe, Africa, and Asia were starving. Now Church World Services coordinates about 1,100 walks nationwide (ours was one), donations amount to \$10-12M a year. Donations are used to provide support for needy peoples in the world by, distribution of food/water; improvements and resources to develop self-sufficiency; disaster emergency response; and refugee resettlement.

And so, God thanked the walkers and donors for their time and treasure on this walk. These are the persons in this world who love and care, who look for ways to assist the disadvantaged, the hungry, the thirsty. These people's hope is that through their giving and loving, they may give hope to others who live with hopelessness.

The End...Goodnight children, I love you.

You may read more about the Crop Hunger Walk and donations can still be made at: www.crophungerwalk.org/walnutcreekca. Our Mission Council arranged this event. To learn more about this walk and the program, please contact John Green, bubalegs@comcast.net, (925) 837-9419.

Skydiving for Children's Cancer Research

Sunday, September 17, 10:30 a.m., Fireside Room

Come hear Rebecca Byrom share her experience of jumping out of an airplane to promote children's cancer research!

In May 2016 Rebecca's grandson Alex, age 11, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer. Alex's treatment was very hard on him. Rebecca doesn't like to fly and is afraid of heights, so she chose skydiving as her way to honor Alex's struggle and raise awareness of childhood cancer.



Rebecca did her skydive on July 22, accompanied by members of the Patriots Parachute Team, a group of former Navy Seals. Her "Jump with Grandma Bee" campaign has raised over \$27,000 for childhood cancer research.

In addition to the story of Rebecca's jump, Dr. Caroline Hastings, Director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellowship training at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital will share some facts about childhood cancer and the status of research into treatment and cures.

Finally, Justin Gauny, a former Navy Seal who jumped out of the airplane with Rebecca and filmed her skydive, will talk about his parachuting experience. Justin was a member of the Leapfrogs, the US Navy demonstration parachute team. He has done thousands of parachute jumps.

Inviting All 2nd to 6th Grade Children!

Be an Acolyte!

You can STILL serve, even if you missed training!



The word acolyte is from an ancient Greek word that means attendant, or "follower." Light and fire remind us that God is here with us. When you bring the light (fire) into the sanctuary where people are gathering to worship, and when you light the candles, you are reminding the people that God is

with us at home, at school, and at work as well as in the worship service. When you light the torch again, before extinguishing the candles, and then walk out with your torch lit, you remind the people what when we scatter out into the world, God will be there with us. Lit candles also remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Acolytes are scheduled to serve on a rotating basis for the 9 a.m. Sunday service.

Questions? or to RSVP: lroy@srvumc.org

It's a Smart Idea...

To Donate Appreciated Stock to the Church

With the stock markets nearing record levels, it is a wise idea to make your gifts to the church using appreciated stock. You gain three ways...your gift is a charitable donation, you avoid paying capital gains on the appreciated value and your net estate is reduced.



It is a simple process. Your stock gift can be transferred electronically from your broker to the church brokerage account. Determine the stock to be donated and the number of shares to cover the gift plus the church brokerage fees.

- Call Shannon at the church office to get the brokerage contact information.
- Draft a direction letter to your broker giving the transfer information and a statement on what the gift is for (church operating budget, capital reserve, Endowment Fund).
- Send a copy of your letter to the church.

The value of your charitable donation is established on the date of your broker letter.



Children's Ministries Staff and Pal Celebration!

Join me for brunch!

Sunday, September 24, 10 to 11 a.m. in Wesley Hall

Come celebrate the start of a new year in ministry together! I look forward to connecting with an amazing staff and hope we can inspire each other in planting seeds of faith in our kids! **RSVP to Laura Roy**
lroy@srvumc.org

Save the Date!

**BBQ for Families of Children Birth Thru Grade 5
Sunday, October 1, 3 to 5 p.m., Hap Magee Park**

Join us for a relaxing barbecue to kick off the new school year. Hap Magee has everything—a great play area and lots of room for fun! We have secured some picnic tables. We will supply hot dogs, drinks, chips, salad and shaved ice. **Donations accepted to cover the cost.** **RSVP to** lroy@srvumc.org



Sunday Singers! Music Is Coming to Our Sunday Morning Children's Ministry! Starting Sunday September 17

In addition to building community, children will be learning a variety of traditional hymns and songs. They will develop their creative expression, musicality and work with some percussion instruments. The songs will enhance the lessons being taught! Sunday Singer's musical ministry will be to share one song a month with the congregation. In addition to this wonderful opportunity will also have...

Children's Choir

This will be a wonderful opportunity for those children who love to sing and perform. Children interested in performing in the special concerts will spend 15 minutes after Sunday school and work on selected music. We will focus on rhythm, pitch, and performance skills and continue to grow skills as the year progresses. **These practices will begin the first week of October.** If you have questions please contact the director, **Beth McClelland,**
iteachk@pacbell.net

Both choirs are open to children in Pre-K through 5th grade (3 years, 9 months by September 1, 2017)



Every Sunday

9 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday school meets

K to Grade 5: Otterbein/Albright Rooms

Childcare for all ages in Tot Spot, Lamm Hall

Grades 6 to 12: Room 202

10:30 a.m. Nontraditional Worship

Contact Us!

Laura Roy

Children and Family Ministries
(Children through Grade 5)

lroy@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext 106

Jamere Crawford

Youth Director

jcrawford@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext.109

Music

Sunday Singers

Preschool to Grade 5

Meet Sunday mornings for the 15 minutes for Sunday school. Sharing on Sundays once a month.

Children's Choir

Will meet for 15 minutes following Sunday school to practice for special events on Sunday morning. Beth McClelland, Director.

Youth Choir

Teri Hawk

Grades 6 to 12

Practice Sunday 10 to 11 a.m. in Conference Rm. Perform third Sunday of each month

Bros and Belles Choir

Winnie Stribling

Grades 6 to 12

Practice Wed from 5:15 to 6 p.m.

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 (1st and 3rd Sundays) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

See our weekly email newsletters for locations

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Jean Spencer
Thelma Orr
Gene Brown
Mary Ellen Brown

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; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny Johnston; Daphne Kimbell; Alleen Landstrom; Edith Liggett; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Mary Ogden; Lea Patteson; Mike Robinett; Mary Roush; Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Pat Shoner; Jean Spencer; Carol Webb

Samford; Joan Webb; Jean-nine Woolery.

Our Christian Sympathy To...

The family and friends of Amy Parnes. Amy's 34-year-old niece died August 12.

Name Tags

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



Goodbye Summer...

Karaoke night at Grill-n-Chill, 2017.



September Celebrations

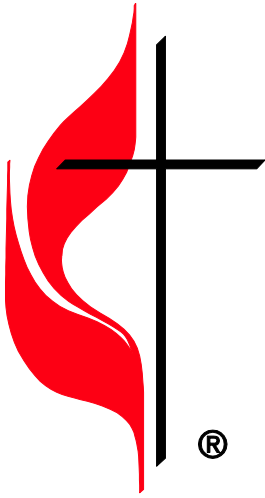
Birthdays



1 Dianne Ehlers Meaghan Krakoff Marianne Skeoch	9 Sheryl Kerr Bethany Metcalf	Mackenzie Dimler Kelly Nakaso	
2 Louise Farrow Julia Philbert Brian Stephenson	10 Alan Christian Ray Tombaugh Jennifer Townsend Jeff Stroin	18 Ela Altamirano Bill Andrew Dawn Boyd David Coombs John Harrison Maria Kirby Mira Samara	Craig Schultz 23 Holland Ericson Irv Skeoch 24 Alonzo Altamirano Hayden Higgins Suzanne Korinke John Place Nick Tsai Keith Wesselschmidt
3 Ariel Carpenter Catherine Ehlers Lucille Eichelberger (93) Alice Miller	11 Lilly Hickman Marissa Ogden Terry Stocking Linda Stone Carol Webb	19 Lyn Arscott Yuri Beagles Alison Berry Kirsten Ericson Gregg Mannell Ted Wolfram	25 Linda Albertoni Engman Peggy Crawford Don Johnson 26 Seth Naples Pat Ryan
4 Sharon Leyman Jillian Ericson Caitlin Flanagan	12 Brigitte Greene 13 Sandi Cook 14 Elena Fenoglio Bill Fulcher Nathan Morones Mike Nicco	20 Marci Milligan Larry Pasquale Lydia Sidhom Judy Takeda 21 Don Brockman Brad Stribling	27 Scott Ericson 28 Clayton Clark 29 James Kocins 30 Nell Ryan
6 Nicholas Stocking Ray Winter 7 James Smith Steve Wood	15 Cole McKnight 16 Geoff Greenwood Gary Osterhout Jaclyn Vazquez 17 Connor Choy	22 Jan Baldwin	
8 Carrie Metcalf Sarah Fulcher Ekua Impraim Corey Merchant Brad Soderlund			

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Carole Lynne & Ed Keller (54th) 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 (57th)	6 Rebecca & Tom Byrom Elaine & David Hagebush Judy & Brad Kobsar Julia & Tom Philbert	13 Tammy & Adam Webb Joan & Dave Webb (59th) 16 Lee & Bill Rust 19 Teresa & Jeff Stroin	28 Connie & David Lowe
4 Laura Brady & Doug Merritt Nicky & Mark Jewett	8 Cara & Blaine Mucklow 10 Dot & Gene Ives (63rd) 11 Jamie & Rich Braden	20 Jana & Ali Vojdani Amy & Sam Sidhom 23 Annette & Dan Whiting	



SEPTEMBER 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

September 2017

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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