



Valley Messenger

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

JANUARY 2019

Pastor's Pulse ~

Living the Truth of Christmas

We have celebrated Christmas, the arrival of the Christ child here on earth. We are now taking down the tree and the decorations, and eating the last of the cookies. The fruitcake will keep for another year.

Now is the season for living the truth of Christmas: God's Presence is here with us, on earth. That Presence arrives as a tiny, vulnerable infant. Have you noticed that infants cannot be ignored? Infants need and demand continual care. Caring for an infant changes how we live our days. Sometimes we don't get to do what we want to do (like taking a shower!), as we learn to care for this tiny bundle of life.

When an infant comes home with us, we also can experience a love we never knew was possible. And we accept the need to change our everyday lives, rearrange our schedules and our priorities in order to care for and love our baby.

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Next Issue: February 2019

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by January 15, 2019.

So it is with the infant Jesus. Christ Jesus had a purpose here on earth: to embody God's love for all people. That truth asks us to change our lives. We are to receive God's love for us, and bring that love into the world, into all our actions, interactions and decisions.

Pope Francis put it this way: "The true spirit of Christmas is the beauty of being loved by God."

What would we do or say differently if we knew for sure we are loved by God? Let us live these days practicing being loved by God. That practice might involve carrying a prayer or mantra with us: "I am loved by God. All are loved by God." We might use post-it notes and write down that phrase or Pope Francis' quote, and then post it in our car, our office, our bathroom mirror. The most powerful way to live our faith is to practice living as God's beloved. When we do that, we become more and more aware that ALL people are God's Beloved. Then, together, we transform our communities, and our world. May it be so for us.

Blessings on the journey!

Pastor Kim

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January 6: We celebrate Epiphany!

Our Sermon Series in January will follow the story found in Genesis of Abraham and Sarah, as late in life they take a risk and leave all that was familiar in order to obey God. This series will offer us guidance as the international United Methodist Church prepares to meet in late February to decide what our stance is on sexual orientation and gender identity. United Methodists around the world do not agree on how to welcome and include the LGBTQ communities. ***Our Bishops have called a Special General Conference in St. Louis, February 23 through 26.***



During 2019, at SRVUMC, we will need to be clear about our own understanding of what God is calling us to do. While that process will start later in the year, we begin with exploring Scripture and letting that guide us.

January 13: Claim Your Faith: Take A Risk

Special Offering: Human Relations Day

Genesis 12: 1-2; 4-5a; 7-8

January 20: Claim Your Faith: Change Your Relationship with God

Genesis 17: 1-8; 15-16a

January 27: Claim Your Faith: Wrestle with Scripture

Genesis 19: 1-11; 24-25 We will read the story of Sodom and Gomorrah and explore its message.

Pesterings from Pastor Dan

WELCOME

Since we've returned to our gorgeous new and improved Sanctuary, I've noticed an increase in attendance, particularly at the 9 a.m. service. And since I have not a smidgen of doubt this trend will continue, pew space is going to become increasingly scarce. As your Hospitality and Welcoming Czar, I encourage you to do the following when possible:

1. If mobility is ***not*** a concern for you, please park in the farthest reaches of the parking lot so that it leaves easily available spaces for latecomers and visitors as well as for those who ***do*** have mobility issues. Of course, I'd like everyone coming to worship to be on time, but I don't want running late to ***prevent*** them from coming.
2. When people arrive late, ushers will attend to them; should you be sitting on the aisle with available seats on the far side of you, and ushers show up with latecomers in tow, rather than expecting them to squeeze past your knees, put on your most welcoming demeanor and scoot down to make room. It's not only the hospitable thing to do, it diminishes disruption.

Pesterings from Pastor Dan (Continued from Page 2)

You Can Serve Communion

Since we share Holy Communion on the first of every month and thus are always in need of communion servers, and since Pastor Kim and I would love for you to experience what a blessing it is to offer sacrament to those in your church family—it is holy work to be sure and you will glimpse, if you open yourself to it, what God loves in each person who partakes—I invite anyone who has served communion or *would like to serve Communion* to let me know. I'll make out a schedule (subject to your availability), and I'll make sure you know everything you need to know, which isn't a lot. Being a blessing to others turns out to be pretty easy.

I've never used Sign-Up Genius before, but I hear some of you have. So, I might use that as well. In any case, please come talk to me.



Doing Peace and Justice

by Laura Sanchez, Chair, Peace and Justice Committee

Are you interested in doing Peace and Justice? Contact **Laura Sanchez**, laura3627@gmail.com and see the MFAC website at www.multifaithactioncoalition.org.

Monday, January 21, 2019 at 4 p.m. The annual community celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is in our Sanctuary. Our program this year features the Reverend Dr. Charles D. Tinsley, the retiring chaplain of the juvenile detention facilities of Contra Costa County, with several of the graduates of that program. The title of their presentation is “Judged by the Content of Their Character.”

A collection will be taken for “Gettin Outta Dodge”, a ministry Tinsley is leading that mentors and assists graduates of juvenile detention as they establish new lives. A reception in the Fireside Room follows.



Monday, January 28—Tom Bonacci, Director of the Interfaith Peace

Project and a well-known transformational speaker will talk on personal and corporate responsibility for creating peace and justice in ourselves and in our community.

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense meets in our Fireside Room. Men and women are welcome. At most meetings, those in attendance actually do something to further legislation or education to prevent gun violence. The regular meetings of Moms Demand Action are held on the last Wednesday evenings of each month in our Fireside Room. Plan to come and make an active contribution to reducing gun violence, wherever it may happen!



*We are Advocates and Communities
Taking Initiative for Our Neighbors*

Press Release and Words from Bishop Carcaño Concerning Glide Foundation

December 11, 2018

Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your prayers during this time of discernment in our work with the Glide Foundation. I want to assure you that your conference leadership has worked diligently with me in our efforts to reach a good and faithful place with the leaders of the Glide Foundation Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, it was not possible.

Due to the Glide Foundation's blatant violation of the trust clauses that govern the life of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, we have been forced to file a lawsuit against the Glide Foundation. Please know that we do so with heavy hearts, but with the commitment to be good stewards of our United Methodist Churches, ministries, and our witness. Below please find the press release that we are sending forth this day.

Your Sister in Christ,

Minerva G. Carcaño

Press Release:

Statement from Minerva G. Carcaño, Presiding Bishop of the California Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church December 11, 2018. Today, the California-Nevada Annual Conference (CNAC) of The United Methodist Church (UMC), along with its Presiding Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, filed a lawsuit against the Glide Foundation (also known as Glide Memorial United Methodist Church) in the Superior Court for the County of San Francisco. The suit seeks a Court order preserving the UMC's control over trust property in accordance with the original intent of Lizzie Glide, a devout Methodist who established a trust in 1929 for the express purpose of building a Methodist church for Christian witness and service in San Francisco in honor of her late husband. Earlier this year, the Glide Foundation violated the explicit terms of Lizzie Glide's trust by attempting to sever ties with the UMC and wrongfully assert control over the trust property.

The Complaint also asks the Court to enforce the UMC's long-standing rule that all property of each local United Methodist church is held in trust exclusively for the benefit of the UMC.

As the matter is now before the Court, Bishop Carcaño and the CNAC do not intend to speak further about the matter at this time.

Office Staff on Sundays

I have a favor to ask: on Sundays when you see any of our church office staff at church, please remember this is their time for worship. Sure, it is convenient and efficient to ask them about a church matter. Yet, such a conversation also makes staff feel like they are working, even on Sunday when they are here to worship. This request applies to our wonderful staff: Marilyn Clarke, Theresa Omar, Patsy Kyles, Katrina Combs, Jeff Lang, Linda Green, Lisa Jancarik, and Joey Fuca. If you could email or leave a phone message instead, our office staff will respond promptly on Monday. Thank you!

Of course, this does not apply to Pastor Kim, Pastor Dan, Laura Roy or Rebecca Bernstein. When you see them on Sunday, ask them anything you want!

—*Pastor Kim*

All Church Conference Takeaways

All Church Conference approves nominations • Thank you to outgoing committee chairs and volunteers

All Church Conference

Rev. Kathy La Point-Collup called the All Church Conference to order before a full Fireside Room on December 4. Following the opening prayer from Kathleen Saghafi and some thoughts from Pastor Kim, the first order of business was presented, reorganizing the Church Council to remove five practice group positions and replace them with three at-large positions. The Mission and Service Committee continues as an administrative committee position. A revised organization chart was presented in the agenda for the meeting, and questions from attendees about proposed changes were fielded. The motion PASSED.

Church Council: Council chair, Debra Carter; Council vice-chair, Kathleen Saghafi; Council secretary, David Pierce; Co-lay leaders, Lea Hickman and Kathleen Saghafi

Administrative Committees: Finance, Bob Dominici; Trustee, open (will be elected by Board of Trustees from Board membership); Staff-Parish Relations, Fred Schreiber; Nominations and Leadership Development, Pastor Kim Risedorph, Larry Henderson; Strategic Development and Implementation, Jim McKnight; Mission and Service, Paul Kuelz; At-large, Brent Willman, Laurie Stocking and Dianne Anderson

Furthermore, the slate of other committee chairs and members presented by the Nominations and Leadership committee were approved. The Church Council extends its gratitude for the service of outgoing office holders and committee members.

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair Fred Schreiber presented proposed 2019 pastor compensation. Packages for senior and associate pastors were discussed and approved.

SRVUMC 2019 METHODIST MEN'S

ANNUAL CRAB FEED 6:00 PM/ Feb 09

Deposit Top for Door Prize



\$50.00 Adults

\$25.00 12 > 18

\$5.00 6 > 11

Under 6 Free

Chicken \$25.00 & \$15.00, Under 6 Free

**KEEP THIS PORTION
FOR DOOR PRIZE**

Door Prizes! Dining! Vacation Condos! Golf! Plenty More...

This year features on-table hot butter warmers for all the fresh Dungeness crab you can eat!

Other spectacular menu items range from salads and sauces to desserts!

Wildfire Recovery Mission – Middletown, California, November 2018



Among many volunteer groups assisting with the recovery.

The devastation of wildfires is awful. Everything is in ashes. Lives shattered. Lives lost. Whole communities gone. The so-called Valley Fire that roared through Middletown, California in the Fall of 2015 was no exception. Seventy-six thousand acres burned, and 1500 homes and businesses were destroyed. Thankfully, only four people died.

We were blessed to be one of the many volunteer teams to go help with the recovery. Our mission was to assist with rebuilding homes. We were hosted by a local organization, Hope City, to arrange the work. They also provided room and board at dorm they built. Hope City screens the clients for help and raises the money for materials and supplies. They partner with the local faith communities and other groups to make this happen.



Mickie and family.

Our team of nineteen included participants from Asbury UMC in Livermore, Lynnewood UMC in Pleasanton, San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo and the St. Helena UMC. We worked on three homes doing painting, plumbing, electrical and foundation construction. While the work was interesting, it is getting to know our clients that is most rewarding. We listen to their stories. We get to know their challenges. We affirm their hope.

Among our clients was Mickie and his family. He is disabled by a stroke and a muscular disease. He, his adult daughter and her kids live in a ragtag combo of RV's, mobile homes and sheds, essentially camping out for the last three years on the property where his home once stood. We also worked for two other deserving clients, somewhat reclusive, as many "end of the roaders" are.

After a full day's work, a meaningful part of the mission experience is to relax and share time together. We always have a short group time in the evening for a devotional moment and to reflect on what we are doing. We had great meals, provided by Ruth, our faithful cook from Minnesota.

It is such a privilege to live our faith by serving others with love on these trips. There is something so rewarding about bringing hope to others. We are grateful for the time, the talent and the resources to do so.

Sincerely,

Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Steve Wilson, Coleman Johnson, Kerry Davis, Rath Coffing, Roger Grimm, Steve Collap, Mary Ellen Huey, Doug Huey, Bob Hoffman, Dick Crawford, Larry Sater, Bart Rodgers, Cynthia DeLand, Barke Owens, Kevin Leininger, Dawn Leininger and Ron Logan

SRVUMC Hosts Winter Nights 2019

March 25 Through April 8—Volunteers Needed

Winter Nights is a program which helps homeless families who are working to regain housing. A key part of the program is to keep the children in their original school, so this program supports families in east and central Contra Costa County. The program includes assisting with writing resumes to help them get jobs or find better jobs, helping them apply for housing in the area, and much more. As of the writing of this article, this year's program has nine families consisting of 15 adults, with at least one working parent per family, and 14 children ranging in age from one month to age 16. SRVUMC is one of many faith groups who host Winter Nights (see The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County [online](#) for a full listing of participants).

Winter Nights Program participants will be on site for the entire two-week period between **March 25 and April 8**. During this two-week period, we will split our time with St. Isidore's Parish to provide for the daily requirements for the program. **For the week of March 25 through April 1, we will need people from SRVUMC to:**

- Host overnight onsite
- Manage laundry
- Handle shopping
- Bake muffins/breads
- Coordinate fun activities for kids and adults
- Tutor school children
- Manage site and kitchen activities
- Provide meals for the group

We provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for seven full days, so please let us know if you would like to help donate food or if you can help prepare the evening and weekend meals.

This year, we are also looking for people who would be willing to prepare activities for the children, such as creating box blocks for the children to use or setting up dancing or other activities. We would also like to find people who would be willing to do things with the adults such as teaching adults a craft like knitting, or volunteers who can bring in activities such as yoga or massage. Also, if you have a business activity you would like to donate, such as haircuts, please contact Susan to set it up.

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

- Gas cards
- Wal-Mart or Target Gift cards
- Lysol or Clorox wipes
- Socks of all sizes
- Baby wipes
- Umbrella strollers
- Twin-size fitted sheets
- New sleeping bags
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries of all sizes

Also, the program encourages the children to read by letting them earn movie passes for specific hours of reading. So, donations of **movie gift certificates** are needed.

January Communion Offering

Human Relations Day is one of the six Special Sundays celebrated within the United Methodist Church. The Sunday we observe **Human Relations Day, January 20**, falls each year on the Sunday closest to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. On this day, Methodists are called upon to consider all God's children as human beings in relationship with one another. *The offering for Human Relations Day will be collected on January 6, Communion Sunday, per usual.*

"The basics of the UMC Human Relations Day focus is to strengthen the Church's outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and worth with at-risk youth," **Paul Kuelz** told the newsletter in an email.

According to UMCgiving.org, the special offering collected nationwide will support neighborhood ministries (called "Community Developers" in this program), community advocacy through the United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The United Methodist Church distributes the collected offering in the following way: 57% to Community Developers, 33% to United Methodist Voluntary Services, and 10% to Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Grant applicants seeking funding from the Youth Offender Program collected from the Human Relations Day offering are building outreach and assistance to nonviolent youth through education, advocacy or leadership training. Applicants are either United Methodist churches or organizations themselves or are ecumenical groups whose program works with at least one United Methodist church.

Not everyone impacted by the Human Relations Day outreach is a youth, however. Recovery programs for adults on the margins benefit from the Human Relations funding, too. Other organizations relying on this funding assist poor students or families with basic needs, like money for bills and groceries.

According to Julie Dwyer, general church content editor for United Methodist Communications, "The Human Relations Day apportionment allows our ministry to thrive in places that we would not otherwise be able to impact."

In California, some organizations using Human Relations grants to serve their communities include Buena Vista UMC, Norwalk UMC and Wesley Community Center. For a full map of several Community Developers at work through the Human Relations grants around the United States, visit [this PDF](#).

To read more about Human Relations Day, check out <http://www.umcgiving.org/your-impact/P0/2745>, a website with more articles about how this offering supports people on the margins in all sorts of places.



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing—Our next meal packing event will occur on **Sunday, February 24** immediately following the 9 a.m. service in the Wesley Center. All ages are welcome to participate.



Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build is scheduled for **April 28** in the Church courtyard.

Medshare—Help sort, identify and package critical medical supplies that will be shipped to underserved hospitals and clinics in developing countries around the world on **Saturday, January 19, from 1 to 4 p.m.** The Medshare warehouse is in San Leandro. Contact **Chris Hoff** at **925-367-3360** to sign up.



They Sang Hallelujah Chorus: Past Times at San Ramon Valley UMC

Reflections by Carole Johnson

It was Sunday, November 5, 1961, at four o'clock—a time of celebration and a "Service of Consecration for the Sanctuary" of San Ramon Valley Methodist Church. A cadre of distinguished ministers participated in the Order of Worship with Bishop Donald Harvey Tippet giving the sermon. Also appropriate to the occasion was the Handel's Hallelujah Chorus as the last anthem.

Ground was broken for this new building on June 11, 1961. Charter Member **Noble Justice** was the contractor so major work was done by his employees, but volunteers contributed in many ways. Early member **Bob Spencer** distinctly recalls his slip down the steep slope of the Sanctuary roof as he was applying shingles—but he stopped before going over the edge. **Harry Lamm**, also a Charter Member, made many of the furnishings, the screening in the Chancel, the communion rail, altar, pulpit and lectern. The pews were manufactured by The Marshall Company of Payette, Idaho. The windows with symbolic depictions from the Bible are from the Studio of John Wallis & Associates, Fine Stained Glass, of Pasadena, CA. The two side windows at the front doors are by Dan McCoy of Ukiah, CA and were installed at the end of 1970.

A small electronic organ provided the accompaniment and special music for the congregation in the first years. The first big wedding in the new Sanctuary was of **Carol Justice and Ed Davey** on November 3, 1962. *"...The bridesmaids had come down the aisle and Carol and her dad, Noble stood at the narthex door ready to enter. Organist Mr. Mauritz Lundholm played the notes to start the wedding march, and the organ gave a sad whine and died. He tried once more and then quickly moved around to the piano for the continuing of the wedding proceedings."* And so was prompted the movement to raise funds for a new pipe organ.

The Reuter Pipe Organ was built in 1964. With eighteen ranks, the cost was about \$25,000 and dedicated on March 7, 1965. Storm damage through the "wings" of the Sanctuary roof in 1972 cost over \$1,000 to repair. The corner rooms on the east end require an even temperature to help maintain the tuning. The organ also needs annual tuning several times with the changing of the seasons. Upgrades have been proposed over the years, and an ongoing Organ Fund is in place. It was created with a concert featuring Prof. Herbert Nanney from Stanford University given on January 14, 1977 with the program *"...dedicated to the glory of God and to the man who inspired and led this congregation to purchase the Reuter Pipe Organ ~~ Wilbur A. Jacoby."* In the late 1980s, the organ was enlarged to meet the original specifications and brought it to 23 ranks. The work was done by Swain & Kates of San Francisco with a cost of \$27,500. The dedication concert was given by Jared Jacobson on Sept. 17, 1989. While the Sanctuary was being re-roofed in the fall of 1990, rains leaked into the

Past Times at San Ramon Valley UMC, Continued from Page 9.

south organ chamber, damaging the instrument and incurring a repair cost of over \$8,000.

The present Baldwin seven-foot grand piano in our Sanctuary was given by **Alton “Mac” and Julie McLaughlin** in 1983 as a memorial to their son, **Donald**. With the initial gift valued at almost \$13,000 (including stage dolly, a second artist’s bench and a cover), the piano was quickly added to the church’s insurance with a replacement value of \$18,500.

The parking lot was paved in 1965. Prior to that, **Juliette Forsey High** wrote of these remembrances of those early years: *“Many weekends the men of the church would come and clean up the orchard around the church and burn leaves. One morning, my dad, Shirley Forsey, came into the church kitchen (now where the breezeway and Pastor Kim’s office is) for a glass of water, and Lorraine Jacoby said, ‘Your shirt sleeve is burning!’ It was quickly put out and all was well.”*

One spring, on the first Sunday of Daylight Savings Time, the parsonage family at the time, the Hirschfelds, got up and were ready for the day. No one was there for services, another hour went by, and finally a few people started to arrive. Pastor Herb had set the clocks ahead, Ivy his wife had set the clocks ahead, and Ivy’s mother, Mrs. Whitcomb, had set the clocks ahead. That is really springing forward!

Our Pastors during this first decade were **Herbert C. Hirschfeld**, 1957-1963; **Floyd E. Tufts**, 1963-1967, and **Dr. K. Fillmore Gray**, 1967-1974. All three are now deceased.



We have an exciting year ahead of us with lots of great food, fun and fellowship. If you ever have an idea for us regarding speakers, outings or menus, please bring them to my attention. Or if you’d like to join our Senior Council, we’d love to have you! Nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com or 925-784-1955.

Mark your calendar for the first half of the year with first Tuesdays (moved to second if first is a holiday, like January) is the Prime Time Potluck and Presentation. Third Tuesday is Lunch with Friends, a sit-down lunch to say **Thank You!** to all the over-55ers who do so much to keep this place running!

Tuesday, January 8—Prime Time Potluck and Presentation, 12 noon, Wesley Hall. Our speaker is our very own Pastor Dan Sturdivant. Bring a dish to share, or stop at the deli or bakery, and learn Pastor Dan’s story and how we came to be so lucky and blessed to have him!

Tuesday, January 15—Prime Time Lunch with Friends, 12 noon, Wesley Hall. Chef John Sanders will prepare his from-scratch meatloaf and scalloped potatoes, green beans with almonds and homemade red velvet cake with ice cream for dessert. Best \$5 meal in the Valley!



Pastor Dan: Rumor has it he’s even more fun when you feed him a little bit. Inviting him to a potluck lunch is genius!

Preschool Update

Happy New Year! We are well into the school year, and the children and teachers have been enjoying festivities throughout the holiday season. In October, over 200 children and family members gathered to enjoy our annual Apple Pie Night. The Primetime Players celebrated Halloween with us by hosting a family breakfast and leading fun Halloween games throughout the morning. During the month of November, we gave thanks and celebrated Thanksgiving with a student gathering complete with student-made corn muffins. Classroom discussions about gratitude and generosity lead us to hold a food drive for the Contra Costa Food Bank. In December, the children and our music teacher, Beth McClelland, got busy practicing for the Christmas Performance. Singing and music bring great joy into our lives at the preschool, and each year we look forward to sharing the joy of music and song with our families at the Christmas concert.

In January, enrollment season begins. We will be busy touring prospective families, and continuing families will be re-enrolling for the following school year. In February, we open enrollment to the outside community, and tours will continue into the spring.

Our vibrant educational program seeks to develop the whole child through academics and the arts, and the spiritual life of our children is nurtured through their weekly chapel experience with Laura Roy. The chapel experience revolves around a monthly "Fruit of the Spirit" as described in the Book of Galatians and consists of singing, storytelling and more. The children have a rich and well-balanced school experience thanks to the efforts of the talented preschool teachers, our music teacher, Beth McClelland, and Laura Roy, our chapel teacher.

We look forward to a New Year full of fun, growth, and learning, and we wish you the same!

Warm Regards,

Paulette Ove
United Methodist Preschool, Director

Thank You, Angels!

Angels have no philosophy but love.

—Terri Guillemets

You all took the angel tags, bought the gifts, and got them back to SRVUMC so that the children would get them on time. Thank you so much for going out of your way to make someone else's Christmas a bit brighter!

Through your loving generosity, SRVUMC was able to serve seven agencies during the 2018 Angel Tree Christmas season, providing both gifts and gift cards. The agencies served were: Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services, Bay Area Rescue Mission, Stand, East Salinas Life Program, Fred Finch Youth Center, the Tri Valley Haven District and Trinity Center.

Your loving sharing made this outreach happen! Angels are around us—you are one!

Thank you SRVUMC Angels!
The 2018 Angel Tree Committee



LIFT Bible Study

Join us! All women are welcome to join our **Intergenerational Women's Bible Study** as we start a new study in January.

Choose either **Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:15, starting January 17** OR **Sunday evenings from 5 to 6:30 p.m., starting January 13.**

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

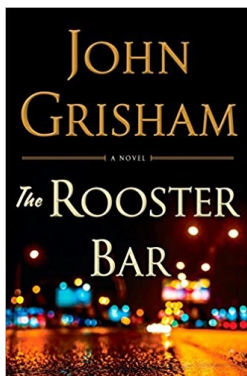


Between the Bookends

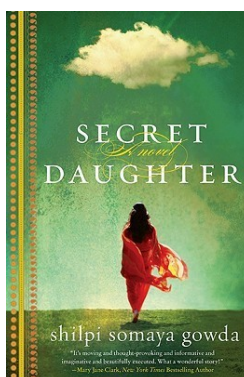


By Paula Boswell

Another new year for bringing exciting books to you. The library team thanks the many readers who donated books to us in 2018. All those donations are scrupulously read by at least three of our five-woman team. As a church library we have to set high standards. However, if we find certain books unacceptable to our library they will still be distributed to other readers. So please, keep them coming! Here are the new books for your reading pleasure. Two of these were donated. Thanks!

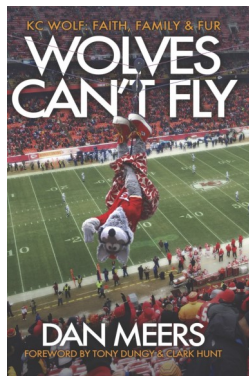


Grisham, John, *The Rooster Bar*. In 2014, *The Atlantic* ran a story entitled “The Law School Scam”, exposing for-profit schools which were enticing people with promises of glitzy, high-paying jobs while saddling them with huge debt. John Grisham grabs the premise and turns it into a thriller as only he can. His law school is terrible, the students have incurred enormous debt, the job market is dim and the school’s owner also owns a number of other for-profits and has his hands in the loan and debt recovery business. Of course the situation has to be remedied, and students Mark, Todd and Zola manage the task of bringing down the bad guy while lining their own pockets. It is an enjoyable romp!



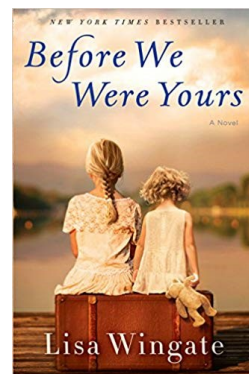
Gowda, Shilpi Somaya, *Secret Daughter*. Mothers, daughters and international adoption are the main themes of this book. Krishnan, a physician who left India for the U.S. marries Somer, a medical student from California. Being infertile they decide to adopt a young girl, Asha, from an Indian orphanage. The reader will immediately be intrigued with the twists and turns of

the story. It gives you a glimpse of what life is like in India for both the “haves” and the “have-nots.” It explores the feelings of an adopted child who wonders why her birth parents have given her up and those of a mother who every day wonders what happened to the child she had to give up. This is a compelling read filled with wisdom and hope, but most of all love.



Meers, Dan, *Wolves Can't Fly*. Even if you are not into football you will love this book filled with courage, devotion, faith and perseverance. Meers, the author and storyteller, has been the mascot for decades for the Kansas City Chiefs. He planned skits for every game in the NFL dressed in his heavy, cumbersome costume. You will enjoy reading about some of his humorous antics

and funny experiences. Throughout his exploits his spiritual life shines through. One skit runs afoul and he is seriously injured. His undying faith in the Lord and devotion to his family and friends sees him through this crisis. An uplifting read!



Wingate, Lisa, *Before We Were Yours*. An unbelievable story based on historical events. It starts with the Foss family, parents with five children, poor but happy living on a dilapidated houseboat. While the father takes his wife to the hospital, the children were forcibly removed by Georgia Tann, who ran a network of orphanages in several Southern states. She was in cahoots

with corrupt doctors, nurses, police and judges for stealing children from poor families from the depression until the fifties. The children were barely fed, physically abused, molested and a large number killed. Babies and the physically attractive were sold to Hollywood celebrities, politicians and the rich. That some of these children decades later found their other siblings and were able to live strong and productive lives was a miracle.

“In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.” —Mortimer J. Adler





Calendar

January 13, 4 to 6 p.m.—Parent Connection. Jane Knox will share with us her ideas for helping young families build a stronger bond.

January 15—Mom, Pop & Tots. Come to Tot Spot for snacks, a craft for the children and discussion around how to practice “self-care” in the New Year.



February 24—Chili and Bingo Night. Wesley Hall. Save the date!

Contact Us!

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Rebecca Bernstein

Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

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Sunday School Topics

Life Application: SELF-CONTROL—Choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to.

WEEK 1

Proverbs 25:28, City with Broken Walls

SAY THIS: Doing what you should can keep you safe.

WEEK 2

Proverbs 16:32, Slow to Anger

SAY THIS: Think before you lose your temper.

WEEK 3

Proverbs 12:18, Choose Your Words Carefully

SAY THIS: Choose your words carefully.

WEEK 4

Proverbs 25:16, Too Much of a Good Thing

SAY THIS: Know when to stop.

Remember This: “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” **2 Peter 1:3a**

Every Sunday

9 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday school meets

K to Grade 5: Lamm Hall

Grades 6 to 12: Room 202

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.

Weekly Programming

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 to 8) Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9 to 12) 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.

Music

Children’s Choir—Beth McClelland
Sundays, 10 to 10:30 a.m., TK through grade 5, meets upstairs in Judson. The choir will sing the second Sunday of the month. Also perform for the Christmas concert, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and the May Music Concert. Questions? Please contact Beth McClelland at iteachk@pacbell.net.

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 Sun from 4 to 5 p.m.

Among Ourselves

Our Christian Sympathy To...

The family of **John Clawson**, who passed 12/14/18. Services to be announced.

Congratulations To...

Liz and Skip George on the birth of their grandson, **Oliver Louis George**, 12/13/18.

Continued Prayers For...

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Lea Patteson; Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Joan Webb; Jeanine Woolery

Name Tags

Please contact **Patsy Kyles** in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$8/ea.)

January Celebrations

Birthdays

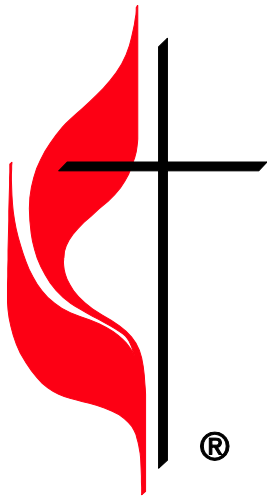


1 Marilyn Clarke	Belle Peters (92)	Kim Risedorph
Jim Kretsch	Berry Scott	22 Bob Leyman
2 Paula Boswell (94)	13 Bill Nelson	23 Jan Foulds
Steve Marohn	14 Nancy Tiedemann	24 Barb McWilliams
Adena Verdi	15 Liz George	Grant Norrid
3 Val Miller	Shadaab Kanwal	25 Teri Armanini
Jennifer Norrid	Dory Schramm	Dorothy Brose
Brian Roberts	16 Sam Sidhom	Roger Ehlers
4 Jennifer Shin	17 Teresa Brown	Taylor Smallwood
Rebecca Ten Elshof	Gerry Carothers	26 Katie Presnell
6 Nancy Amini	Jean Desmond	Jack Presnell
Kinsley Poole	Larry Sherman	Nick Toma
James Wakefield	18 Elaine Halliday	Emily Wood
Colleen Woolery	Mike Kelly	27 Tami Mitchell
8 Jill Barry	Jeff Kuemmel	28 Bill Dever
9 Terry Bailey	Stephen Lee	Nancy Harrison
Andrew Kocins	Evan Schroeder	Karen Stepper
Betty Skeoch	19 Elizabeth De Chene	30 Susan Schultz
10 Chris Hoff	20 Nancy Garnick	Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei
11 Ann Schroeder	Dave Johnson	31 Lisa Chapman
12 Scott Davis	21 Dave Holleman	

Wedding Anniversaries

2 Melissa & Robert Ward	11 Suzanne & Bob Korinke
3 Andrea & John Siebert	20 Susan & Doug Hinz
5 Judy & Bob Baker	21 Wendi & Michael Cerda
7 Jo Ann & Vin Hirsch (58 ^h)	25 Pat & Tim Elam
9 Linda & Alex Farhang	27 Shirley & Charles Stephenson
10 Layne & Mike Alfrey	29 Danni & Dan Sherman





JANUARY 2019

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. in the Wesley Center

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

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

Children's Building

January 2019

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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