



# the Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

APRIL 2015

*A Parsonal Point of View~*

## If This Was The Corporate World...

I have heard this expression used in church committee meetings more times than I can possibly count: “If this was the corporate world...”

Invariably, the one making this statement then completes it by suggesting how much easier it would be to work on a particular problem or how much simpler it would be to roll out a certain program. Invariably, the response to this comment has been one of heads, nodding in agreement, that yes, if we were “in the corporate world,” things would not only be different, but the difference would be a very positive one.

Yet, as one who has often nodded in agreement, I find myself wondering if such wistful thinking is really worthy of our wistfulness. Would it really improve our lot if we began to think in more corporate terms and use language that grows out of the corporate perspective? Is that what is ailing the Church? Could

we better face and then solve the challenges before us merely by adopting the “best practices” of Apple, Google or Microsoft?

While I certainly believe that we can and should, learn from some of these game-changing companies, I am also aware that we, who make up the “Body of Christ” that is the Church, have a calling and a mission that simply cannot be forced to fit the corporate mold—as impressive and effective as it may be.

Though we sometimes are inclined to forget, our purpose is defined differently from that of many corporations. Our primary task has (or should have) less to do with profit margins and more to do with being prophets on behalf of those who live on the margins of our society. We are called, not to “look out for number one!” but to voluntarily choose to place others and their needs before our own. While there are many companies or corporations that have impressive mission statements grounded in noble values, I still suggest that the Church of Jesus Christ has a mission statement that sets it apart and corresponding values that lead it in a different direction from many, if not most, corporations.

This much becomes clear as we make our way through the Gospel of Matthew this Lenten season. Matthew, the Jewish-Christian, who wrote this gospel, was seeking to address the questions and concerns of the early Jewish-Christian community that was living, quite possibly, in the City of Antioch. In a time of tremendous change, Matthew wanted his readers to fully understand the implications of this change as experienced in their personal lives and their “corporate” life together.

So for that reason Matthew arranges much of his material as a teaching document—designed to define clearly what it means to call oneself a follower of Jesus Christ. Included in his five book (section) outline are his instructions on what it means to be a disciple (Matthew 3:1—7:29), the nature of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 11:2—13:53) and his teaching on what it means to live in community with other disciples (Matthew 13:54—19:1).

These three sections alone serve to remind the reader that the choice to follow Jesus and the choice to be a part of the community of faith, is a choice that will, inevitably, set one apart from the rest of the culture of which surrounds them.

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*Next Issue: April 30, 2015*

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to:*

*[syarmolich@srvumc.org](mailto:syarmolich@srvumc.org) by April 17, 2015*

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Matthew's Gospel is essentially, a teaching gospel that serves to remind us that whether we are living in Antioch in the year 90 CE or Alamo in the year 2015 CE, we are called to live and think differently from the culture that surrounds us. I trust that your Lenten reading and reflecting has enabled you to get in touch with, at least, some of the ways in which your choice

to follow Jesus sets you apart from that culture.

While we, in the Church, have much to learn from the corporate world and the ways in which it does business, we would do well to remember that ultimately, it is not the wisdom of the corporate world that best defines us, but, instead, the wisdom generated by Jesus' vision of the "kingdom of heaven." For Matthew's early

Christian community and our own, it is this wisdom that makes all the difference—all the difference in the world!

*Grace & Peace,  
Ron*

P.S. I look forward to sharing in the familiar rituals of Holy Week with you and also, the prospect of celebrating Easter's remarkable "Good News!"



## Looking For A New Way to Invite Your Friends to Church This Easter?

Easter time is a time of year where people seek to connect or reconnect with a community of faith. Do you happen to know someone who may be interested in exploring SRVUMC this Easter, but you just didn't quite know how to start that conversation? This year, we're making it really easy for you! Next time you're at church, be sure to pick up one - or several - Easter Sunday invitations (pictured). These invitations have been customized with our Easter Sunday service schedule and there's a place for you to add a personalized note inside the card.

This Easter campaign was created and made available to us by the United Methodist Communications, as part of the "ReThink Church" national advertising campaign that began in mid-March. Visit our website and Facebook pages to view our very own Easter video! Sharing the video on your personal Facebook page really helps us spread the good news about our church AND our risen Christ!

Did you know, people are more likely to take you up on an invitation to church if you bring them to church with you instead of meeting them at church? This Easter take a new approach - make a personal invitation and start planning the Easter morning carpool to SRVUMC!



# Easter Offering

## Easter Offering Supports Local Interfaith Organizations & Imagine No Malaria Lenten Giving

Our April Easter Offering supports the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (ICCCC), Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH), Greater Richmond Interfaith Project (GRIP) and our designated Lenten beneficiary, the Imagine No Malaria Lenten giving campaign. Your generous financial gifts given in worship this Easter, enable these organizations to continue their vital work locally and in Malaria-prone countries. Here's how your giving is making a difference.

### Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

ICCCC, under the direction of Rev Will McGarvey, brings diverse spiritual traditions and faiths together to minister to people in need within Contra Costa County. They administer support programs for the care of and ministry to homebound elderly and incarcerated juveniles, promote children's health through an immunization program, engage in social justice advocacy and house homeless families during our cold, winter months. SRVUMC has been in partnership with ICCCC by hosting their Winter Nights Shelter in Wesley Center for two weeks each winter season. Through ICCCC's Winter Nights Shelter program, participant families are housed in safe and secure locations at local churches, on a rotating basis. The ultimate goal of the Winter Nights program is to locate and secure permanent housing for their participant families. ICCCC also works in conjunction with the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, United Religions Initiative, the FAITHS initiative and the Northern California Inter-religious Conference. ICCCC send The Singing Messengers, under the direction of Jackie Wan, into county nursing homes during the year. Visit the Winter Nights website and you just may see a photo of a familiar face or two: <http://www.cccwinternights.org/index.html>. Learn more about ICCCC: <http://interfaithccc.org>

### Contra Costa County Interfaith Housing

The Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) organization seeks to eradicate homelessness in Contra Costa County. Rental housing costs within our county is among the highest in the nation, and sadly, our county suffers from a severe shortage of affordable rental housing. CCIH responds to this need by providing affordable housing and engage in housing advocacy, provide healthcare, employment assistance and other support services for people in need within our county. In 2004, our County committed to end homelessness and provide long-term stable housing within Contra Costa County within ten-years, through a partnership between CCIH and faith organizations, and community volunteers and donors. SRVUMC has supported CCIH through our offering as well as volunteering at the Community Center on Mission Saturdays, and smaller volunteer teams who serve periodically throughout the year. To learn more about CCIH, visit their website: <http://ccinterfaithhousing.org>

### Greater Richmond Interfaith Project (GRIP)

GRIP is faith-based group serving people in need in the Greater Richmond area. Their programs offer services and support ranging from feeding lunch to more than 200 people each day, to providing housing, emergency shelter and transitional housing, to case management, training and treatment programs for people in their service area. Our church, under the direction of Lee Rust, sends a volunteer team to GRIP on the 3rd Thursday each month, where they serve in GRIP's Souper Center Program. Contact Lee if you're interested in joining the next Souper Center team, [chijocol@aol.com](mailto:chijocol@aol.com). Visit the GRIP website to learn more: <http://www.gripcommunity.org>

### Imagine No Malaria Lenten Giving Campaign

Our Lent, our church has committed to raise \$10,000 this Lent, in support of the Imagine No Malaria campaign. The giving campaign, began the first Sunday of Lent, and ends on Easter Sunday. At press time, our congregation has raised just over \$3,400 toward our \$10,000 goal. Help push us to our goal this Easter!

Unlike many other diseases that are awaiting a cure, malaria was eliminated in the U.S. in the 1950s. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill a person every 60 seconds. Imagine No Malaria is part of a global partnership and is the single largest mission ever undertaken by The United Methodist Church. Together, we can stop a needless killer, and our generation can beat malaria once and for all.

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. and the four District Superintendents are now challenging their districts to each raise \$100,000. If the Cal-Nev Conference goal of \$2 million is raised by June 1, Bishop Brown will subject himself to a pie in the face and dunk tank during the Annual Conference Session. If the Central Valley and El Camino Real Districts reach their goals, their Superintendents, the Revs. Debra Brady and Kristie L. Olah will also get pies in their faces.

Visit their website to learn more about the Imagine No Malaria campaign: <http://imaginenomalaria.org/>





## MISSION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Start where you are  
Use what you have.  
Do what you can.  
~ Arthur Ashe*

**Habitat for Humanity®**  
East Bay/Solano Valley

### Building on Faith Framing Blitz



**3 Days, 5 Houses, All Faiths.**

Join Habitat for Humanity June 6th-8th as hundreds of volunteers from all faiths come together to raise the walls of Habitat homes in Martinez. More than 25 faith groups from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties will engage in this build. The Muir Ridge 20 home development in Martinez is the latest Habitat project in Contra Costa County. This is a first for Habitat East Bay - 20 single family homes in one development. Over the course of the 3 days, 5 homes will be completely framed. You do not need to have construction background or experience to be part of this event. There are many different jobs and skill levels needed. Habitat does although, have a minimum age of 16 to work on the job site. Volunteer build days are available for both Saturday, June 6th and Sunday, June 7th. Time for both is 8:30 am to 4:00 pm with an hour break for lunch. To volunteer, sign-up using VolunteerSpot at <http://vols.pt/MyxKEM>

For information on the Muir Ridge development, please go to the Habitat website at: <http://www.habitatebsv.org/Homes-for-Sale/Muir-Ridge-Development>

### A Small Donation Can Make a Big Difference

*This may be the only meal of the day*



Can you imagine how hard it is for a child to learn on an empty stomach? Your giving has helped provide a hot lunch each day during the school year for the kids at the schools we support in Haiti, but funds are short this year. Can you help?

Your donation of:

- \$7 buys a month of lunches for one student
- \$40 covers six months of lunches for one student
- \$70 pays for a whole school year of lunches
- \$250 to \$400 affords lunches for a whole school for a Week

Mark your donations "Haiti Lunch program"

***Thank you so much for your help***

## Volunteer Opportunity at the Food Bank

*Thursday, April 23 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Did you know that nearly 1 in 5 seniors in California are not able to stretch their budgets to afford enough food? Often they must choose whether to spend their limited income on food or medications. The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano is able to provide non-perishable food items and fresh produce to more than 3,000 seniors in our own counties each month through the Senior Food Program. This program is just one of the many that the Food Bank has to help our neighbors in need.

Join us as we travel to the Food Bank in Concord on Thursday, April 23. From 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., we will spend two worthwhile hours probably sorting food that has been donated in the barrels you see around town, including those on our own church campus. On the other hand, there may be other tasks that need to be performed. We go with open minds and willing spirits offering to serve where we are needed.

If you would like to be on our team on April 23, please contact Lee Rust at [chijocol@aol.com](mailto:chijocol@aol.com) or (925) 820-9047. Hope you can join us.

## Stop Hunger Now!

*Saturday, May 16, noon to 3pm. Wesley Center*



We will be hosting our THIRD, "Stop Hunger Now", meal packaging event on Saturday, May 16 from noon to 3 pm. We will again be setting up in Wesley Hall. We will be needing 50 volunteers to help in the packing of 10,000 meals. If you attended either one of the previous events you know how fun and fulfilling the event is. If you were unable to help previously, here is your chance to part of a rich and rewarding couple of hours. Ages 5 to 95 are welcome to attend. It is truly a family event. "Stop Hunger Now" was founded in 1998 by Ray Buchanan, an ordained United Methodist minister with the vision of ending hunger in his lifetime. Since 1998, they have provided over 180 million meals in 65 countries For more information on this organization, please visit the "Stop Hunger Now" website at: <http://www.stophungernow.org/> If you are unable to help out on this day, please consider donating a gift towards the cost of packing the meals. Each meal costs \$0.29 - a gift of \$25 will cover almost 100 meals. To volunteer, sign-up using VolunteerSpot at <http://vols.pt/N3Qja3>



## Volunteers Reflect on Winter Nights 2015

by Bob Baker

*Warm Nights Leaders: Bob & Judy Baker and Jane Lang*

The last tent has been taken down and the last box loaded onto the broken down truck headed to the next Winter Nights location, Orinda Community Church. What an incredible two weeks it was. Hundreds of volunteers lovingly cooking and serving meals, playing with children, doing laundry, doing all the things needed to support 28 homeless “neighbors.” Jesus commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and so it was.

Living with our clients for two weeks, you get a sense of where they have been. A common story; a family loses the father to jail, drugs, abuse, whatever. Mom and the kids bump down the ladder, ending up at the bottom rung. One day, the Sheriff comes and then they are out on the lawn with all their possessions. Frantic calls to friends to come save some of the stuff. Who will take the dog? They put everything they can cram into the car and they drive into their bleak future.

Reflecting on her family’s experience with Winter Nights, volunteer Kathy Kennedy shared, “My family and I have always enjoyed participating in Winter Nights. The kids can connect with other kids and see how we are all the same. This year we tutored instead of preparing food. A boy was in need of help with his science fair project. I said, ‘Great! I am a scientist and I judge science fair projects!’ Since he and his sister were smart, engaged, and well supported by their mother, we got over the hurdle of just getting started. A week later the Winter Nights tutor emailed me and asked me to come back to help with the project. My boy and his mom had asked for me to come back. We ran the test and had some fun – science can be fun! I came back a 3rd time and he had finished the write-up on his own. He was proud of himself. The gift I received was so much bigger, for

them to recognize my special talents, and ask me to be a part of their life – just for a few minutes. It felt really good.”

As a postscript, Kathy adds, “JT my, 8 year old, read books for an hour with a 7 year-old and helped him get enough reading points for a movie ticket. He got to share his special talents too.”

“Volunteering for Winter Nights was very special to me for many reasons,” shared Kim Maddux, another volunteer. “A few of those reasons are: I was able to take my 3 children with me to play with the children one evening after dinner. It was amazing to watch these kids from all walks of life just being kids and playing leap frog. I wanted my children to have that experience and know that they made an impact on someone else’s life. I also wanted to show them how blessed we are to have the things we have - some families don’t have homes, food, transportation etc. It really made an impact on their young minds.”

“Another special moment was when I was on the playground with two very adorable little boys.” Kim continues, “I was swinging them as high as I could on a gorgeous Saturday morning. The two brothers were giggling and smiling while they were looking at each other. I thought at this moment, they are having the time of their life without a worry of their tough situation in life. I was so blessed to share that moment with them. I will remember it forever.”

Our work is important. We gave 28 people a chance. Winter Nights says they will place 95% of the families into “permanent” housing by the end of the shelter in April.

Wow, what a ride! I you missed the train this year, you will have another chance on February 1-15, 2016.





# Between the Bookends

By Sally Christopherson, Librarian



Our new books on the Cart this time represent the very essence of reading and wonderment that is found while holding a book, opening it, and beginning to read. Here are five new titles that are diverse and different and range from fiction to religion to housekeeping. Which one will you choose first?



**Hannah, Kristin.** *The Nightingale*. This book is a page-turner and a very different book for Kristin Hannah. She's chosen to write about two sisters in a small village in France in WWII under Nazi occupation and the very different ways their lives unfolded. I guarantee it will be hard to put this book down as the Germans tighten their grip and crack down harder and harder. A caveat: while this book has become a

runaway bestseller, there are some people who personally lived through this time that take issue with how unrealistic behavior and wild chances are depicted that no reasonable person would ever have taken. Remember that this is historical fiction, with the fiction much stronger than the actual history.



**Kondo, Marie.** *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up; the Japanese art of decluttering and organizing*. Do you despair that your house is cluttered and messy, and you just can't get a handle on it? Apparently you're not alone; over two million have bought this small book that has been translated from the Japanese and become a bestseller. Kondo's medicine is strong; get rid of

everything that you don't actually need and love. She takes it in steps and describes exactly how to do it. She swears it will change your life and attitude; do you have the courage?



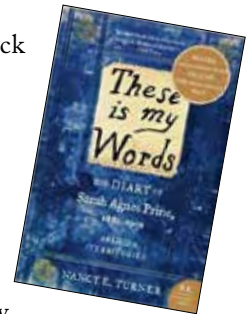
**O'Brien, Tim.** *The Things They Carried, a work of fiction*. That subtitle is important. Although this novel is about soldiers serving in Vietnam in the 1960s, and Tim O'Brien was one of them, he states that much of what he describes really happened, but much of it is what he imagined and felt. It's truly a breakthrough in writing, so much so that this book has become required reading in many universities and even high schools.

Lt. Jimmy Cross, Kiowa, and Mitch Sanders become so real. But were they? This book has been called the defining novel of Vietnam, much as *Catch 22* spoke to WWII.

**Peterson, Eugene.** *The Message; the Bible in contemporary language*. Most people love *The Message*. For some, it may be a little too modern, a little too removed from the beauty of the King James Version. We've had the New Testament *Message* for some time in our Wesley Library; now we have the whole Bible. If a passage in the Old or New Testament seems ambiguous or hard to understand, there's no better place to go for clarification than *The Message*.



**Turner, Nancy E.** *These Is My Words; the Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881-1901, Arizona Territories; a novel*. Sarah Prine was just 18 years old at the beginning of this saga, almost illiterate, but she rode her horse bareback and was a crack shot with a rifle. Surviving broken wagon axles, Comanche raids, and a hair-raising encounter with a giant rattle snake, this becomes a "you are there" account of a family in the Old West. Sarah's life is framed by her love of books, her love for Captain Jack Elliot, and her own courage and resilience. Nancy Turner based this loosely on her great-grandmother's life in early Arizona and put it in diary form. Very hard to put down.



*If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.*

—Cicero, 106-143 B.C.E.

## Returning Books

I'm glad we have a congregation of avid readers. But our check-out time is for three weeks, and too often books are kept for four, five, six weeks and longer. Especially, if a book has appeared in the *Messenger* and you are lucky enough to get it first, remember someone else is probably just as excited to read it as you are!

*When returning books, do not put them back on the cart. Someone else will take them, and they are still checked out to you!*

**Please return all books to the brown return box on the bench in Wesley Center vestibule.**

# Get Involved

What's going on at the Church

## Holy Week Services Lead into Easter

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29 and concludes on Easter Saturday, April 4. In the Christian church, Holy Week is a series of services and commemorations that mark the final days of Jesus' life before his crucifixion. You are invited to join us for any or all of these Holy Week services and events.

### Palm Sunday

*March 29, 9 & 10:30am Worship Services*

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem in the days before his arrest and trial. Upon his entrance on the back of a donkey into the city, the gathered crowd celebrated his arrival by waving palm branches and laying down their garments and palm branches in Jesus' path. On March 29, we will celebrate Palm Sunday in both the 9 and 10:30am worship services, with a palm processional led by our children and choirs. The celebration continues with a Family Brunch & Children's Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 11:30am. Children will attend Sunday School at 10:30am instead of 9am on March 29. Learn more about the Brunch & Egg Hunt

### Maundy Thursday

*April 2, Taize Maundy Thursday Supper & Service,  
6:30pm Supper & 7:30pm Service at Lynnwood UMC,  
4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton CA*

Maundy Thursday marks the preparation Jesus and his twelve disciples made for Passover. As part of the preparation ritual, Jesus washed the disciples feet and told them to care for one another after he was gone. It is during this time that Jesus shared his final meal with his disciples in what today is known as the Last Supper. This is where they shared the bread and wine – elements representing the sacrifice that Jesus was about to make – a ritual we continue to this day. On April 2, we will mark Maundy Thursday – along with the other churches of our circuit – at Lynnwood UMC in Pleasanton. This poignant evening begins with a simple soup supper at 6:30am, followed by the Taize Maundy Thursday service at 7:30pm in Lynnwood's Sanctuary. The service features chanting, foot washing and Holy Communion.

### Family Brunch Pot Luck & Easter Egg Hunt March 29

*After the 10:30am Service,  
Wesley Center & Courtyard*

Join other SRVUMC families on Palm Sunday for a brunch and Easter egg hunt! Bring a brunch dish to share (enough to feed your family + 2 more people), and baskets for collecting eggs. The Egg Hunt will take place after the brunch and will have sectioned areas for each age group.

### Good Friday

*April 3, 7pm in the Sanctuary*

Good Friday commemorates the day Jesus is arrested, put on trial and crucified. Our Good Friday service – April 3 at 7pm, in the Sanctuary – retells the stories of these final hours of Jesus' life through music, dramatized Scripture readings and time of quiet reflection.

### Easter Sunday

Celebrate the good news of the risen Christ at San Ramon Valley UMC on Sunday, April 5! Childcare is provided in the Children's Building during the 8, 9:30 and 11 am worship services.

- *6:30 am, Sunrise Service in the Courtyard*  
Featuring the Living Water Singers & Band and Youth Choir. Pastor Luke Ham will deliver the Easter message.
- *8 am, Easter Service in the Sanctuary*  
Featuring music led by the Living Water Singers and Band. Pastors Ron & Sunny presiding. Ron will deliver the Easter message.
- *9:30 am Easter Service in the Sanctuary*  
Featuring the Chancel Choir and the "Hallelujah Chorus" sing-along. Pastors Ron & Sunny presiding. Ron will deliver the Easter message.
- *11am Easter Celebration in the Sanctuary*  
Featuring the Chancel Choir and the "Hallelujah Chorus" sing-along. Pastors Ron & Sunny presiding. Ron will deliver the Easter message.

### Next Class Starts May 3

## Explore membership at SRVUMC

Are you interested in exploring membership at SRVUMC? Our next new member exploration class, known as the Discovery Class, will be held on May 3 & 17. We have retooled the class into two, 2 hour sessions so that we have more time for you to participate in a small group experience and explore your own faith journey. After our time together, you will know more about what it means to be a Christian, a United Methodist and a member of SRVUMC, and will have made valuable connections with our ministerial staff and your classmates.

The May Discovery Class will run both days from Noon - 2pm, with lunch included. Childcare is available upon prior request. Interested in learning more or joining the class? Contact Devon Drake, Director, Membership & Mission, [ddrake@srvumc.org](mailto:ddrake@srvumc.org) or 925-837-5243 x 110. Registration deadline, April 25, 2015.

## United Methodist Men's Breakfast

### Guest Speaker Bill Andrews to Speak



All Methodist Men are welcome to Christian Fellowship and a hearty breakfast on the third Saturday of each month in Wesley Center starting at 8:00am. The speaker for Saturday, April 18, will be Bill Andrews who is the General Manger of Chevron Shipping Company and a member of the church. Bill will talk about the challenges of operating a global fleet of tankers for a large oil and gas company.

## Charitable Gift Annuity With The California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation

A few weeks ago a conversation was overheard at coffee hour between SRVUMC members discussing the benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity they had purchased from the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation in 2012. They seemed very happy with the general income generated and tax advantages which boosted the actual return of the two person Annuity to 7.7%. In fact they were so happy another two person Charitable Gift Annuity was purchased in 2013. That really got my attention and asked if they would share what was so exciting about this investment.

They shared the following data about a two person Charitable Gift Annuity of \$25,000, where both persons are 77 years old, and SRVUMC is the final recipient. This is an example, but a gift can be any amount of \$5,000 or above.

- **Charitable Gift Annuity Amount:** \$25,000
- **One-time charitable deduction in the tax year of the gift:** \$ 9,204.94
- **Annuity Return:** 5.3% (based upon two people, ages 77 years old. Returns may vary according to age and number of lives covered).
- **Yearly Income:** \$1,325.00 (80% Tax Free until 2026-then fully taxed).

*Actual Annuity Return After Tax Free Adjustment: 7.7%*

Besides the 7.7% actual return on investment, the yearly income stream of \$1325.00 would continue for the duration of both lifetimes and depending on the California - Nevada United Methodist Foundation's investments, at least 90% of the original \$25,000 gift would be issued to SRVUMC at the end of both lives. This couple was pleased to gift the SRVUMC Endowment Fund, and receives a tax advantaged income stream for the duration of both their lifetimes.

If the above information sounds interesting and you wish more information contact Quentin Alexander, Endowment Committee member at 925-820-1593, or call the California-Nevada UMF at 888-789-7374 and ask for Susan Peters.

**Ed Bader**

**SRVUMC Endowment Committee Member**

Administrative Board Minutes from the March 17th meeting can be found on the Website at <http://tinyurl.com/srvumcadboard>

## Report from the Board of Trustees

An explanation of who the Board of Trustees (BOT) is, and what they do, was published in the February, 2015 Messenger. This is a report on projects we have recently completed, projects in progress, and projects under consideration.

Have you noticed how our campus is sparkling? Bill and Nancy Sabin have generously funded and supervised work on the exteriors of our buildings. Look up! All of our natural wood soffits have been cleaned and stained! All iron work, stairs, stair railings, columns, doors, trim, gutters, downspouts and other areas that required it, have been prepped, and primed and two coats of paint applied. We thank Bill and Nancy for their wonderful gift and the expertise to get the job done.

The front of our sanctuary – the wood doors and glass over the doors – was deliberately not included in this work. A sub-committee of BOT, under the leadership of Chuck Clark, is investigating options to replace the aging entrance with materials that are contemporary and inviting. Our beloved courtyard is also being considered for a facelift which could replace the dangerous pear trees with drought tolerant shade trees and plants. This research is being led by Debra Carter, who is also in the final stages of refurbishing the Narthex.

Work that is not visible includes an improved security system with exterior cameras. Protection of our premises during construction of ARC and on-going security for our preschoolers and youth made this nominal cost especially important. The church computer server outlived its expectant life and, to assure online security and support of the latest Church Windows updates, a replacement has been purchased and installed. Church Windows is our primary software for membership and accounting.

When construction of ARC begins watch for information from Anne Kuelz about our temporary transportation plan. Parking will be reduced for a while so carpools, and possibly shuttles to off-site parking, will be necessary.

For a complete listing of BOT members and their responsibilities, please refer to the Governance section on the church website.



# Carol Partridge Visits SRVUMC

*Sunday, April 19, 11:30am in Wesley Center*

Our congregation will have the opportunity to honor and celebrate with Carol Partridge who has entered a retirement status as a UM Missionary in Macedonia. We have supported Carol in a Covenant Relationship since 2000 as part of being a Global Missions Partner Church. She is from our California-Nevada Annual Conference; and, since missionaries rotate back to the States to report to their supporting churches every three years, we have been fortunate to have as a speaker here several other times.



Carol will be introduced in the two worship services as part of the Mission Moments segment. Following at 11:30am in Wesley Center a light lunch will be served and ALL are invited to hear a further visual presentation of her service in the UMC in the Republic of Macedonia where she worked in Christian education, especially with children, youth and women. Prior to becoming a missionary, Carol was a Peace Corps volunteer in Macedonia from 1997-1999.

This event is sponsored by the Missions/Benevolence Committee and the United Methodist Women.

To make a reservations, please contact Carole Johnson at [carolesuej@comcast.net](mailto:carolesuej@comcast.net)

## SRVUMC Endowment Giving

The SRVUMC Endowment Giving Program has provided many church members a means of sustainable financial support of the following Endowment giving categories:

Capital Maintenance/Improvements, Maintenance Wesley Center, Missions, Music, Youth Ministry, Sunday School, Senior Activities, Library, and Unrestricted.

Since 1991, the Endowment Committee have been good stewards of your gifts. The value of "the fund" as of 12/31/2014 is slightly over \$1 million in value. During this period, Endowment has also distributed over \$260,000 back to the church in the above categories, as designated by donors. At the February 11, 2015 Endowment meeting, committee members voted to distribute a total of \$50,000 for 2015, allocated to the above categories, according to donor wishes. Endowment is truly the "gift that keeps on giving".

We are pleased to offer a program that enables church members and friends to donate a vehicle to the SRVUMC Endowment Fund. If you or anyone you know has a vehicle to donate, simply call Endowment Chairperson Dave McWilliams at 925-999-8093 or Fred Toney at 925-838-9182 to donate a vehicle and

receive a possible 2015 tax deduction.

Your 2015 Endowment Committee members are Dave McWilliams-Chairperson, Quentin Alexander-Vice Chairperson, Judy Baker-Secretary, Kerry Davis-Treasurer, Ed Bader, Rudy Ceragioli, Steve Roath, Irv Skeoch, and Fred Toney. Please direct inquiries about Endowment giving to any of the above Endowment members.

### UMW Donates Oven to Thomas School

Many thanks to the UMW for donating the funds to purchase a propane oven for our cooks at the Thomas school in Haiti. The head cook, Ginette, helped select the oven and was thrilled to begin using it the very same day we bought it. She prepared baked items every remaining day for the mission team dinners, and a special pineapple upside down cake for our final night. She is also using the oven to assist in food preparation for the Thomas school lunch program. We brought some cookbooks, recipes, baking pans, and measuring cups and spoons to supplement the supplies at Thomas. Ginette and the other cooks were extremely grateful for the generosity of the UMW!



### Lenten CenterPoint Schedule

*Join us every Wednesday until April 2 for a time to reflect, singing, prayer and silence. 6:30-7 pm in the Sanctuary*

## Reflections on Growing Older

*Based on Chapter 4 of "Women Aging: Changing Identities, Challenging Myths"*



Mirror of My Future, Reflection of My Past  
© Mira Friedman

**When:** Tuesday, May 12, from 9am to 3pm

**Where:** San Damiano Retreat (710 Highland Drive, Danville, CA 94526)

**Registration Fee:** \$50 per person including lunch. Scholarships are available. Please speak to Bonnie Roberts! Please make a check payable to SRVUMC with memo "2015 Wise Women's Retreat."

*Registration is due on April 21!*

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sunny at [sahn@srvumc.org](mailto:sahn@srvumc.org). Register in the Church office,

*Remember to bring a picture of a wise woman who influenced you!*



March Guest Chefs Rudy & Jackie Ceragioli

## Senior Scoop

All Seniors and their family, friends & caregivers are invited!

Lunch with Friends

Tuesday, April 7 & 21 Noon in Wesley Center

Lunch with Friends is a home-cooked, sit-down meal, served in Wesley Center at Noon on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Tables are set with fresh flowers and surrounded by interesting people. These lunches are the friendliest place in town.

**We Need YOUR Help:** We are still searching for Guest Chefs for the month of April. We have Lunch with Friends kitchen staff that will make it easy – even do the shopping for you!

## ADVENTURESOME SENIORS

Adventuresome Seniors get together on the last Tuesday of the month for a potluck and program in Wesley Center. (Don't feel like cooking – just pick something up to share at the deli!)

Tuesday, April 28 at Noon

**Program:** Pastor Ron Dunn will reprise his role as John Muir, followed by a field trip to the John Muir House in Martinez in May.

*You do not need to make a reservation to attend any of the luncheons. (Only special events may require reservations.)*



United Methodist Preschool

## Session 4 Art Enrichment: "What a Wonderful World" (April 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20)

This series of art classes will focus on the lyrics of Louis Armstrong's song "What a Wonderful World". The children will learn different art techniques to create their own collage style canvas inspired by his words! Your children will draw graphic style roses, do splatter painting, use mixed media, and produce different effects with sponges, dabbers and embellishments, use acrylics, watercolors and more. We will also be talking about how each one of us can help take care of our "Wonderful World". National "Earth Day" is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, so our timing could not be better!



Registration form available on preschool website: [unitedmethodistpreschool.org](http://unitedmethodistpreschool.org)

Space is limited! Open to children ages 4 through 6

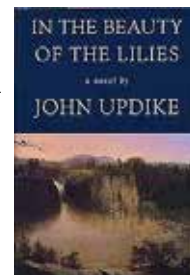
## Book Groups

### Afternoon Book Group

Monday, April 20, 1 pm,  
Rm. 202, Wesley Center

The April book is "In the Beauty of the Lilies" by John Updike.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Scott at [merebruin.scott@gmail.com](mailto:merebruin.scott@gmail.com)

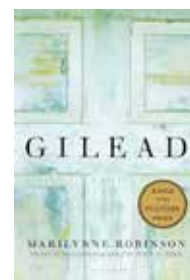


### Christ Care Book Group

Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 10am, Library

"The Christ Care Book Group will meet April 22nd at 10am in the church library to review and discuss "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson. We will meet May 27th (same time and place) after reading "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova."

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Gloria Fenton at [gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net)





# Great Decisions of Our Age

Starting Sunday, April 12, 10:30am

What are the great global policy decisions facing the US and how should Christians respond? Starting on Sunday April 12, at 10:30 AM, our church will hold a series of eight weekly discussions on critical global issues using a guide prepared by the Foreign Affairs Association (FAA). This program is part of an annual, nationwide program, whereby groups of concerned citizens throughout the US will discuss why the issues are important and why we should be concerned.

The series will be facilitated by Lyn Arscott and will be held after the first service in the Fireside room or Wesley Center. A short DVD, prepared by the FAA will be shown on each topic and the discussion series guidebooks will be on sale for \$20. Contact [lynarscott@comcast.net](mailto:lynarscott@comcast.net) if you need a copy. The following topics are scheduled:



## Russia and the Near Abroad

As calls for closer ties with the EU failed to be met, Ukrainians took to the streets in November 2013. As the movement later known as the Euromaidan, or “Euro Square,” pulled western Ukraine closer to its European neighbors, another powerful force threatened to tear away the country’s eastern half: Russia. Putin’s push back against European expansionism has the West wondering: If Putin’s Russia isn’t afraid to take an aggressive stance against Europeanization in Ukraine, what does that mean for the rest of Russia’s neighbors?



## Privacy in the Digital Age

The idea of “privacy” has undergone significant changes in the digital age, as has the idea of privacy “harm.” Fearful of British spying, influence and intervention, the founding fathers granted citizens significant protections in the Constitution. Now, the tables have turned: Concerns about what some see as a U.S. “dragnet” and unwarranted privacy intrusions have compelled other countries to revamp their own privacy protections. Legislation, both at home and abroad, hasn’t kept pace with technological developments, leaving some wondering if privacy as we know it is long dead.



## Sectarianism in the Middle East

Many of the current conflicts in the Middle East have been attributed to sectarianism, a politicization of ethnic and religious identity. From the crisis in Iraq and Syria to the tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the struggle between Sunni and Shi’i groups for dominance is tearing apart the region and shows no signs of abating. But for all the religious discourse permeating the conflict, much of its roots are political, not religious. How does sectarianism fit into a larger narrative of the Middle East? How have governments manipulated sectarian differences? And finally, what is the U.S. doing about it?



## India Changes Course

Fed up with corruption, dynastic policies and ineffective public services, Indian voters catapulted Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party to power in the country’s 2014 elections. For voters, Modi embodied real change and an India that wasn’t stumbling, but running, to greatness. But for the U.S., change in India brings its own set of unknowns, heralding an age ruled by a prime minister new to national office and other policymakers who have been out of the public eye for a decade. Now, the U.S. has to determine how to best secure its interests as India asserts itself on the world stage.



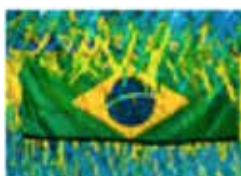
## U.S. Policy Toward Africa

Africa is in the midst of an unprecedented transformation. The continent is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and it’s become a draw for foreign investors from across the globe. After the “Obamamania” of 2008 died down, though, the realization that Obama wasn’t going to overturn, or even prioritize, U.S. Africa policy kicked in. Still, the U.S. has promised to promote “strong institutions, not strong men,” and to favor good governance and healthy economies over profit. How can U.S. policy live up to its promise and values while securing its interests in the region?



## Syria’s Refugee Crisis

Syrians have for a century welcomed over a million refugees from Armenia, Palestine, Iraq and other countries around the region. Now, thanks to a multiyear civil war, they are on track to become the source of the world’s largest refugee population in a matter of months. As Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and other neighbors strive to accommodate the millions of Syrians, the risk of allowing Syrians to become dependent on emergency aid and forming a “lost generation” remains. Ultimately, though, the safety of displaced Syrians rests with the whole international community.



## Brazil’s Metamorphosis

Brazil — it’s the “B” in the acronym BRICS, five emerging economies once seen as soon-to-be superpowers. After economic troubles in the 1990s, Brazil has risen to new global prominence — it’s drawing in more investment, working on global issues ranging from climate change to peacekeeping, and even hosting the 2016 Olympics. But some of Brazil’s trickiest problems — deep divisions over how to tackle serious income inequality, weak civic institutions and poor regional leadership — have held it back.



## Human Trafficking in the 21st Century

Human trafficking represents a multi-billion in international trade per annum and continues to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries. While undeniably a global phenomenon, the U.S., as one of the world’s leading human trafficking importers, bears a special responsibility to combat this practice. The U.S. and the international community have adopted various treaties and laws to prevent trafficking, but to truly understand and combat the issue, they must find the root causes enabling traffickers to exploit millions of victims.



# SRVUMC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Stephanie Ham, Director of Children's Ministry

The truth, it seems there are a lot of people who are walking around angry. Somehow they grew up and missed a simple principle that is critical to life. Peace. Peace is part of God's character and what Jesus came to do for us. God wants us to reflect peace in our relationships with others. We define peace like this: proving you care more about each other than about winning an argument.

It's interesting that peace almost always requires some type of sacrifice. I can almost guarantee there will be a time in every relationship when you will have to give up something you care about to make peace. Peace will cost you something. When sin entered God's magnificent paradise, our relationship with Him was broken. God's love for us was so great that He was willing to sacrifice to restore the relationship. God proved He cared about peace when He sent His Son to pay for our sins.

Peace is more than just "not fighting" and saying the right

things to keep people happy. Peace is living in a way that shows you care more about others than about being right. It's about building strong relationships through mutual trust. Working at those relationships is hard work. It will cost us something. It will take time, swallowing our pride, and often will mean walking away from the chance to prove we're "right." That's why we start by getting everyone to memorize something Paul said in the book of Romans. "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up," (*Romans 14:19, NIV*)

Think about the significance of that phrase. Paul is challenging us to do all we can to live in peace. He stresses how important it is for us to do everything in our power to build a bridge—to fix what is broken—between us and someone else. Let's help kids grow up and learn to do whatever they can do to fix what's wrong between them and someone else. Let's help them learn to make peace a priority in their lives.



## VBS Needs YOU!

Vacation Bible school is still months away yet we are gearing up for a great week! VBS is an opportunity for our church to reach out to children and families in this community and invite them in with open arms. This is a great time for kids to invite a friend or ask the neighbors to join in and sign up too.

Although we are still months away, there is much to be done. Preparations are already underway and your help is needed. We need volunteers during the week of VBS to interact and lead stations with the children but right now we also need some people to help prepare items. Our VBS program is in need to several people with good gathering and organizing skills. Below are the descriptions of several ways that we need you on our ministry of VBS. Please let Stephanie know if you are able to help in any way. [sham@srvumc.org](mailto:sham@srvumc.org)

### VBS Job Descriptions

**Crew Age Group Leaders and Helpers:** Essential to the Activity Center Plan are the guides. Each adult guide escorts a group of children to the different activity centers. Because they spend the entire session with one group of children, the guides are able to build relationships with children, assist with various activities and help children stay focused (Need 8).

**Craft Leader:** Before VBS, chooses and tests craft projects. During VBS, explains and supervises the crafts as each group of children visits the Craft Center; may recruit helpers (Need 2).

**Snack Leader:** Chooses snacks and prepares or leads children to prepare the daily snacks (Need 2).

**Bible Games leader:** Will lead the games station. Uses suggested conversation to help children review each session's Bible truths and apply them to their lives (Need 2).

**Recreational Games Leader:** Will lead the games station. Uses suggested conversation to help children review each session's Bible truths and apply them to their lives (Need 2).

**Materials Coordinators:** This is an opportunity for several people to help before VBS and will not work with any children. Material coordinators will use organization skills to help gather and organize all of the needed materials for the week of VBS (Need several).

**Material Gatherers:** VBS takes a lot of time and a lot of materials. There are several needed items that are right around your house. Material gatherers will receive a short list of needed items to seek out. Their help is needed before VBS and it could require a little scavenger hunting (Several needed).

**Assistant Director:** Helps the director to plan and implement VBS. Works with coordinating volunteers and the supply coordinators and gathers to make sure that VBS is set up a ready and helps at the work parties (Need 1).

**Decorating Coordinator:** Meets with the VBS director to determine decorations. Attends two work parties and helps lead youth and adult helpers to implement the decoration plan (Need 1).

**Youth helper:** Attends work parties and help out an age level group during the week of VBS. Please contact Stephanie or Luke and fill out a youth volunteer form ( Need 15).



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Luke Ham, Youth Pastor

## Sign-Up for Spring & Summer Activities

On March 7th, our confirmation class had the chance to meet with Youth all over the conference as they attended the annual Bishop's Retreat at Monte Toyon. This retreat is a time where the class learns about the Bishop as well as the rich history of Methodists in California. At the end of the retreat, the Bishop leads communion and blesses the confirmands as they continue their journey towards full membership in the church. Please keep this year's confirmation class in your prayers as we get closer and closer to our Sunday May 3rd confirmation.

There are still a couple spots open on our Spring Break College Road Trip that runs from April 6-10. If you are a sophomore or junior in high school and want to check out colleges all over California (including LA and San Diego), let Luke know you want to join us!

On April 18, we will have our annual 30-Hour Famine. During this impactful event youth purposively fast for 30-hours as they raise awareness about the hunger crisis in our world. During

our evening together we will be learning about the realities of starvation and malnutrition throughout the world and ways in which we can help. We break our fast with communion followed by a wonderfully delicious feast. If you would like to get involved, there are three ways in which we need help:

- 1-You can help Chaperone the event on the evening of April 18th.
- 2-You can donate a food item for our feast to break our fast. (e.g. Mac-N-Cheese, Lasagna, Ham etc.)
- 3-You can make a monetary donation which will be used to help feed starving families throughout the world.

**Youth and Parents:** Registration for our summer mission trips have gone out, and special early bird pricing is available until April 19th. Visit our website to sign up online at <http://srvumc.org/registration-open-for-summer-youth-mission-trips/>.

*Please make sure to secure your spot on one of these life changing trips ASAP!*

*Blessings,  
Luke*

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Ron Dunn	Dick Greeno
Norma Jean & Jim Bunker	Judy Simkin
Bill Nelson	Steve Colman
Marilyn Mathis	Donna Johnston
Bruce Benzler	Jean White
Sung Ahn's mother, Colorado	

## Our Christian Sympathy to:

- Phyl Roth and family on the death of Charlie on March 3rd. The family will have a military memorial service.
- Sandy Greenwood and family on the death of her mother, on 2/27, and her aunt, on 3/1. Services were held in Maryland.

## 2014 Giving Statements

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** 2014 year-end giving statements were sent Monday, 1/26, either by email or snail mail. If you did not get your statement, please contact Shannon in the Church Office.

## Continued Prayers For...

*All those who continue to live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families:*

Bill Andrew; Lyn Bristow; Steve Colman; Lenore Cooper; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny & Donna Johnston; Del Kennedy; Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Larry Liggett; Jen Lotz-Kush; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Ruth Meier; Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Phyllis Roth; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Carol Webb; Joan Webb; Jean White.

## Shared Bulletins

- Brian Roberts attended First UMC of Waukesha, WI. in March while visiting his mother.

## Photo Directories

Our new picture directories are finally here!!! Many thanks to Nancy Garnick and Sally Andrew for a fabulous job coordinating this effort from start to finish. You may pick up your directory either in the Courtyard between services on Sunday or in the Church Office during the week.

## Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$6/ea.)

## Thank You So Very Much

*My family and I want to express a heart felt thank you to the SRVUMC community for the prayers, cards, letters, hugs, endowment memorial gifts, memorial service, and overall concern expressed by everyone on the passing of my wife, Marian.*

*Ed Bader and Family*

## Thank You!

*It is with humility and gratitude that I thank the congregation for your calls, cards and prayers during the recent loss of my Mom and my Aunt. Your support strengthens and sustains me. I am most fortunate to be a part of this church family.*

*Sandy Greenwood"*



# May Celebrations

## Birthdays

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 Catharine Baker<br>Barbara Nicco  | 8 Cherie Charbonneau<br>Mitzie Dew<br>Matt Hinzie<br>Kari Mullican<br>Charity Pelletier<br>Sarah Pihowich | 15 Janelle Hawkley<br>Greg Lowe<br>Scott Ryan                   | 25 Karen Dautel<br>Clara Malin<br>Thomas Mannell<br>Sara Wolfram |
| 2 Will Davis<br>Rich Johannessen<br>Cheryl Morones                            | 9 Winnie Stribling  | 16 Lorry Dahl<br>Brad Poole                                     | 26 Norma Jean Bunker<br>Skip George                              |
| 3 Bruce Templeton   | 10 Barbara Carlson  | 17 Joe Rousseu  | 27 Justin Farhang<br>Thomas Valdriz                              |
| 4 Sylvia Benzler<br>Floy Blair<br>Alana Morgin<br>Mike Prenger<br>Jim Warnock | 11 Louise Hanover<br>Will Maddux<br>Connor Marohn   | 18 John Graham<br>Sanjiv More                                   | 28 Kay Jones<br>Tom Schramm<br>Anna Templeton                    |
| 5 Jan Rohde<br>Hannah Sidhom<br>Scott Smallwood<br>Matt Yarmolilch            | 12 Patrick Davis  | 19 Alice Impraim<br>Marla Nakaso                                | 29 Jan Geahry  |
| 6 Laura Brady<br>Mary Jane Brusher<br><b>Jean Spencer (92)</b>                | 13 Brett Greene<br>Carole Johnson<br>Jim McKnight<br>Pamela Peters  | 20 Susan Dunn   | 30 Aksel Schmidt   |
| 7 <b>Paul Knauff (90)</b>   | 14 Saba Kanwal  | 21 Gerry Aude<br>Bob Baker<br>Brian Dandridge<br>Mike Donatelli | 31 Bob Benedict<br>Christa Farrow                                |
|   |   | 22 Ruth Pavlik  |  |
|   |   | 23 Gary Hickson<br>Gary Krumrei<br>Rose Larkins                 |  |



## Wedding Anniversaries

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Stephanie & Jeff Leontini   | 26 Debra Brady & Steve Veglia<br>Meg & Bob Guldner<br>Anita Weir & Jim Ball  |
| 4 Linda Albertoni Engman & Dave Engman  | 27 Lillian Baker Holleman & Dave Holleman  |
| 5 <b>Floy &amp; Jerry Blair (52nd)</b>  | 28 Kari & Kevin Dimler<br>Amber & Matt Marx<br>Alice & Roger Miller<br>Barbara & Mike Nicco<br>Karen & Scott Sanson                              |
| 8 Brenda & Darren Cowdrey<br>Marty & Jerry Osborn                                   | 30 Christy & Bruce Campbell<br>Heather & Doug Clay<br>Lynn & Richard Dodge<br>Stacey & Brad Judd<br>Anne & Paul Kuelz<br>Marilyn & Thomas Mathis |
| 10 Nancy & Steve Garnick  |  |
| 12 Lisa & Edmund Glover   |  |
| 14 Angela & Tom Norton  |  |
| 17 Darlene & Dick Greeno  |  |
| 18 Donna & Dave Bain  |  |
| 20 Rhona & Mike Sherrill  |  |
| 21 Debra & Richard Carter   |  |
| 22 Lisa & John Jancarik   |  |
| 24 Willy & Charlie Adam<br>Susan Pickering-Gest & Steve Gest<br>Connie & Ray Winter |  |

April 2015



## Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary

Non-Traditional Worship, 10:30 am, in the Sanctuary

Lenten Centerpoint Worship Service, Every Wednesday until April 2, 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary

Child Care for birth-kindergarten is available during the morning services in the Children's Building

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly  
3/26/2015

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