



# ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • August 2011

## Incorporating Faith At Home

By Christine Gough

During Advent last year, **Alex**, my 3-year-old, started asking some tough questions. “How can Jesus be God’s son and Joseph’s son?!?” And, “If God is Jesus’s father, how can they also be the same thing?” He seemed to be hitting on a question about the Trinity, unintentionally or not. And frankly, I wasn’t sure how to respond.

As parents, it can be tough to know how to be an active participant in sharing faith with our children. It’s easier just to drop them off in Room 801 and say, “Have fun at Church School!” and entrust instruction on those tricky questions to the amazing and faithful volunteers. But in those precious moments at home, how are we engaging in these matters

of the heart, in matters of faith?

In Deuteronomy chapter 6, the commandment is to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” One verse later,



it says, “<sup>7</sup>Recite them [(the commandments in verse 5)] to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.” To me, this

is a call to take advantage of the *informal times* to have faith conversations with our children. It is not a commandment to unpack the deeper truths of scripture in lecture format, or even tell them how to live out their faith in ten easy steps. It is a call to remember, to recite, and to discuss in the most everyday moments.

There is a reminder in this scripture that faith is a journey, born in moments at home, when away, when sleeping and rising. By creating an atmosphere and practice that it’s ok to ask questions and talk about faith, we encourage our children to feel comfortable

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# The View From Here

by Rev. Steve Harrington

For some time, hospitality has been the foundation and core of our understanding of ministry. Hospitality is not so much a matter of serving tea and biscuits as it is creating an open and welcoming space where people are free to be, and discover, and make decisions of faith. Each encounter we have, each conversation and interaction, is, ultimately, a movement towards either hospitality or hostility. We want to be a church that always moves towards hospitality.

I have two suggestions as to how we might move further into our vision of hospitality. The first is to sign up to serve coffee or juice at our 10 AM service. We're lightening the expectations of servers now by asking our early-morning custodian to make the coffee so all

you'd have to do is serve it and clean up afterward. It's a great ministry when we can provide the opportunity for visitors and members alike to pause after worship, stand with a cup of coffee in their hands, and visit with one another. We're not just making coffee, we're making community!

The other suggestion I have is regarding a more sensitive issue. It has to do with fragrances – the perfume and cologne that we might wear. While the Scriptures in II Corinthians 2 say that we are to be “the aroma of Christ,” that's speaking of our winsome and engaging presence in the world that leads others to faith. However, did you know that there are people who don't go into public places and stay home from worship because of their sensitivity to fra-

grances? A heavy perfume or cologne can create all kinds of reactions in some people that can adversely affect their experience of worship and therefore of God! As we seek to be sensitive to and servants of one another, let's do anything we can to make worship open to all, and that means to please forego the fragrances on Sunday.

As you continue to reach out and greet one another in Trinity court, as you reach out in compassion to fellow members in need, as we give of food and finances to further the work of the church, we are making real our vision of hospitality; thank you! 🌱

Grace and peace,



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# August Calendar

A quick look at what's happening at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church this month...

## July

- 31 CARAVAN High School Service & Learning Trip  
departs, returning August 7  
Way of Service school supplies collection

## August

- 1 Junior High – Monday Madness @ LaserQuest  
7 Last Day of Summer Church School  
CARAVAN High School Service & Learning Trip  
returns  
8 Junior High – Monday Madness @ Serra Park  
Deadline for September newsletter articles  
9 Senior High – Tuesday Time Out @ Serra Park  
14 CARAVAN Sunday – CARAVAN participants lead  
in worship  
No Church School at 10 AM or Intersections; attend  
worship as a family; child care available for  
infants, toddlers, and preschoolers  
20 Young Families Fellowship San Jose Giants Baseball  
Game, 6 PM  
21 No Church School at 10 AM or Intersections; attend worship as a family;  
Child care available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers  
25 Guest speaker Jack Jezreel from JustFaith Ministries, 7 PM  
28 Last day to sign up for All Church Camp  
No Church School at 10 AM or Intersections; attend worship as a family  
Child care available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

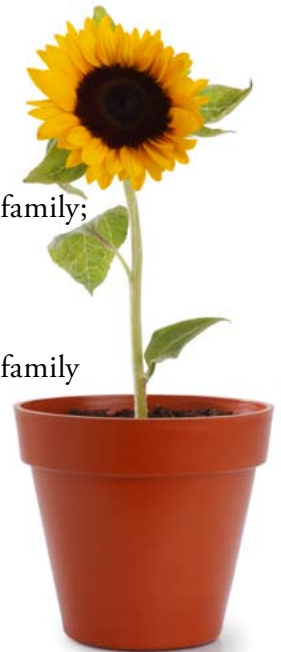
## September

- 2-5 All Church Camp  
10 Music School Celebration Concert 11 AM in Fellowship Hall  
12 Music School Fall classes begin

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continuing these conversations as they grow older.

For me, rather than fretting over my lack of training, and tendency to want to pass off the task of faith development to my husband, the ordained minister, I'm reminding myself that engaging my kids even in small, simple ways *can* and *does* make a difference. 🌱



# Rooted in Christ...

Sunnyvale Presbyterian offers everyone an opportunity to connect with the church community.

## Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, August 8 for the September edition. Articles may be up to 120 words in length. Send your article to [newsletter@svpc.us](mailto:newsletter@svpc.us).

## Go green!

Consider joining the 260+ individuals and families that now receive their newsletter electronically. The online edition arrives sooner, contains the same articles plus vivid full-color photos and inline links, and can be easily shared with family and friends, all while helping reduce our carbon footprint! *Opt-in* by sending an e-mail to [newsletter@svpc.us](mailto:newsletter@svpc.us) with your request. 🌱



## All Church Camp September 2 – 5, 2011

There's still room for you! **August 28 is the last day to sign up!** Make new friends, experience spiritual growth, and have fun among



majestic redwoods. Our special speaker **Peter Whitelock**, head pastor at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, has chosen the theme, "Living Above Life's Circumstance." All activities are run by volunteers. For more information, including currently available accommodations and jobs, visit [www.svpc.us/calendar/camp.php](http://www.svpc.us/calendar/camp.php) or contact **Richard and Maria Collins** at [maria\\_benevento@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maria_benevento@sbcglobal.net) or 408-739-4332. If you have already signed up, *registration forms and fees are now due at the church office.*

## Young Families Fellowship Baseball Game

**August 20 at 6 PM**

Three strikes and you're out! On Saturday, August 20, Young Families Fellowship will be cheering for the San Jose Giants baseball team as they take on the High Desert Mavericks at 6 PM. If you haven't been to a San Jose Giants game, it's a great family outing. At the end of the game, kids are even invited onto the field to run the bases! For stadium address and other information and to purchase tickets visit <http://sanjose.giants.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t476>. If you have any questions, please contact **Aimee Reyes** at [aimeenick@gmail.com](mailto:aimeenick@gmail.com).



## Friday Morning Men's Bible Study

Fridays, 6:30 – 7:30 AM

We're a small group of men who meet over coffee and discuss scripture, the involvement of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our responses to the Holy Spirit, and how the Holy Spirit will daily lead us. The group desires to increase its membership and is seeking more men who wish to develop their spiritual lives in the light of scripture, share their experiences, and can spend time in fellowship before starting their day. The group meets in the Choir Room (105) from 6:30 to 7:30 AM every Friday. Please join us. Contact **John May**, [greenknight2814@aol.com](mailto:greenknight2814@aol.com), for more information.




## Children's Ministry Needs You!

Have you volunteered yet? Our Church School program is run entirely by volunteers like you. We provide training and support to help you succeed. There are still many teaching and shepherding spots to fill for the upcoming Church School year. Children's Church School teachers commit for as little as one month of Sundays; shepherds job-share for a specific grade level. Contact **Carol Heath** at [carol@svpc.us](mailto:carol@svpc.us) to let us know how you can help.



## JustFaith Ministries

August 25 at 7 PM

**Jack Jezreel**, founder and Executive Director of JustFaith Ministries, will be speaking at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church on August 25 at 7 PM. Jack is a national faith leader and world-class public speaker on social justice and faith. Jack will give a talk entitled "Gathering and Sending," followed by a reception and display of JustFaith course materials. For more information or to RSVP, contact **Paul Wilcox** at [pwilcox\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:pwilcox_99@yahoo.com) or 408-838 7630, or **Pat Plant** at [pat@sanjosepb.org](mailto:pat@sanjosepb.org) or 408-702-0785. 

# Reaching Out In Love.

Christ commands us to love one another as He loves us. Here's how.



## Learning Music Can Be Fun!

Did you know we have our own music school right here on campus? Registration is underway at The Music School for fall music classes, ensembles, and lessons. Our curriculum has been carefully tailored for each level, providing appropriate, innovative learning materials for each age group.

## Celebrate Music, Friends, and a New School Year!

September 10 at 11 AM

The Music School invites you, your family, and friends to our Celebration Concert on Saturday, September 10 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall. This free concert will feature faculty and friends of The Music School performing classical, folk tunes, Broadway hits, jazz and more. We hope to see you there!

Music School classes are designed to offer a logical progression of musical study as students continue through our courses. Our students have the opportunity to participate in recitals, concerts, and musical performances throughout the year. And music lessons are not just for the young! Adults are also welcome to register for private lessons. For more information, please stop by The Music School office, email **Doris Harry** at [doris@svpc.us](mailto:doris@svpc.us), or visit our website at [www.themusicschool.org](http://www.themusicschool.org). The Music School is a ministry outreach of Sunnysvale Presbyterian Church. Some scholarship assistance is available. 🌿

THE USIC SCHOOL


## In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

The families of **Foy King**, **Carol Oudegeest** and **Elanore Grap**, who died; **Betsy Brittle**, whose father died and **Marilyn Burke**, whose grandson died; **Judy Joy**, **Chuck Divine**, **Sue Hayden**, **Gerry Ducey**, **Mary Jane Stoeckert**, **Scott Chapman**, and **Genny TerKeurst**, who continue medical care; **Marilyn Shaver**, **Pat Plant**, **Mark Papamarcos**, **Anita Gaines**, **Joss Lee**, **Trina Grube-Liu**, **Sandy Ellyson**, and **Bob Goslow**, who had surgery; **Elsie Hasling**, **Don Yeager**, and **Leigh Mulready**, who were hospitalized; **Mim Root**, who has been ill.

## In Celebration...

We celebrate the weddings of **Katie Adams** and **Dean Butler**, and **Amanda Schuller** and **Chris Gregory**.

## Thanks...

Our three year old granddaughter **Tia** took center stage on June 26 for a moment as she danced in a way that expressed Ann's and my joy for having been the pastor of this wonderful congregation for 22 years. Many of you were involved in preparations for this celebration and all of you have been involved in being hopeful, generous and caring over the years, expressing the love of Christ in ways that made a great difference in the life of many through Life's Garden, The Music School, Presbyterian Early Learning Center, and much more. That afternoon I felt like we were being blessed by a great host of others who have already gone ahead of us to life beyond. Thank you for an afternoon to remember. — **Bruce and Ann Coleman** 





## Spreading the Joy of Reading!

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the Spinnakers Fellowship Group, and our friends and neighbors, we now have over 3,000 books — enough to establish three libraries in Lesotho, Africa! However we will continue to collect books through September. You may bring children's books suitable for ages 3-13 (no religious or heavy books please) to the church office any time the office is open. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile mission outreach. 🌱



**SUNNYVALE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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