



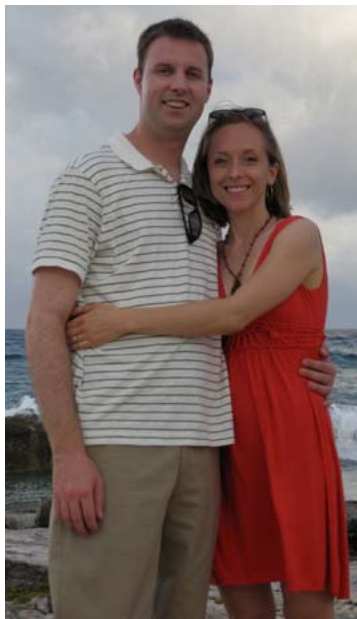
ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • January 2012

Reflections on Membership

By Kevin & Lydia Coolidge

We had been attending Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church for quite some time before we finally made the commitment to taking a new members class. One of the things that we really liked about SVPC was that from the beginning we felt this community treated us like family, whether or not we were members. We liked that there seemed to be no expectation that we were the “perfect Christians” but simply that we had a desire to know God and be on a spiritual journey. Perhaps it was this feeling at home early on that served as an excuse NOT to take the new members class. We already had a sense of connectedness and commitment to the community here. Besides,



Kevin & Lydia

business and other commitments seemed to always get in the way of taking the new member class. One Sunday it was announced that there would be a new member class two Sundays after church. The convenience

of it made it hard to resist. We appreciated the opportunity to learn the history and structure of the church as well as connect with others who were becoming new members. Although we may not have felt a sense of urgency before, it has been fulfilling to formalize our commitment to this church and outwardly state that this is a place where we intend to seek spiritual growth and encouragement in Christ as well as try to offer our own spiritual gifts toward the spiritual growth and encouragement of others. 🌿

See the [“Rooted in Christ” section](#) after the calendar for details on the next New Members Class in February.

The View From Here

by Rev. Steve Harrington

Since ours is a church that always wants to know when there is a need, I want to report some of the currently challenging news we're facing as we try to formulate next year's budget. In our 2012 stewardship emphasis we received a good response from many of you — an average increase of 3% — which is very helpful. And for this current year our giving is also good which means we expect to close our fiscal year (which ends March 31) in the black. Thank you so much for your support and commitment to our church!

However there are still a large number of friends and members who pledged last year that we have not heard from, and that leaves us currently in a significant deficit situation for next year's budget. These numbers are in flux as we continue to receive some pledges

that change the outlook and we don't have to make any difficult decisions until March but... If we have yet to hear from you and you intend to continue your support of our church and your commitment of faith, please indicate your intentions through the online website form or by contacting our comptroller Tavie Armfield here at the church.

We are well aware that these economic times have put some of us in difficult and even desperate situations and we are not insensitive to that — in fact we have some funds set aside to help members in need. However if you continue to experience the support and joy of the ministry of our church and we've not yet heard from you — or if you are in a position to increase your previous pledge — we need to hear from you soon to avoid some difficult budgetary decisions.



You can pledge online at svpc.us/who/giving or contact the church office.

It's hard to begin the year on such a note but these have been challenging times for all. My prayer is that this new year will be one of joy and bright hope for your family as well as ours here at the church. On behalf of our staff here I can say that it is our privilege and joy to serve with you in ministry together in this place. Thank you. 🌿

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Harrington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Next year's budget: a challenge we can meet!

January Calendar

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

January

- 1 Regular services at 7:50 AM, 10 AM, and 5 PM
Family Worship, No Church School
- 2 Music School Winter Term begins
- 4 FLASH & CLUE, 7-8:30 PM, Room 752 & Gym
- 8 Adult Learning classes resume at 8:50 & 11:30 AM
FLASH AM, 10 AM, Gym
Moment with Children
- 9 Youth Small Groups
Deadline for February newsletter articles
- 11 FLASH & CLUE, 7-8:30 PM, Room 752 & Gym
- 15 FLASH AM, 10 AM, Gym
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
Youth Small Groups
- 18 FLASH & CLUE, 7-8:30 PM Room 752 & Gym
- 20-21 Junior High Lock-In, 7 PM – 8 AM, Room 752
- 22 FLASH AM, 10 AM, Gym
- 25 FLASH & CLUE, 7-8:30 PM, Room 752 & Gym
- 28 Music School Teddy Bear Concert, 11 AM,
Fellowship Hall
- 29 FLASH AM, 10 AM, Gym

February

- 5 New Member Class meeting #1, 11:15 AM,
Coleman Room
- 12 New Member Class meeting #2 11:15 AM,
Coleman Room
- 24-26 Women's Retreat

Newsletter

Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, January 9 for the February edition. Articles may be up to 120 words in length. Send your article to newsletter@svpc.us.

Go green!

Go Green! Consider joining the nearly 300 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 with your request. 🌱



Rooted in Christ...

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

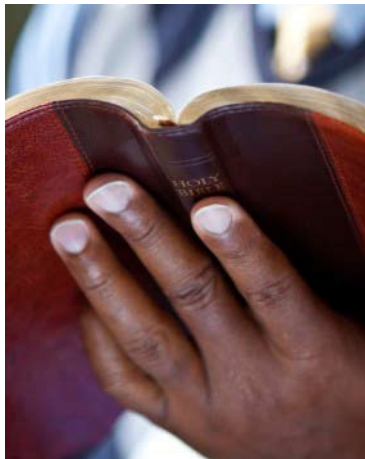
New Members Class

February 5 & 12, 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Pastor Steve Harrington will be teaching a new members class in February. If you've been attending for some time, are feeling at home and have been thinking you'd like to explore the step of connecting with Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church as a member, now's your opportunity. This class will meet from 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM in the Coleman Room (Room 702) for two




consecutive Sundays on February 5 and 12. To let us know you plan to attend, please contact **Dot Dansey** at 408-739-1892, or dot@svpc.us. Childcare is available for children ages six months to six years if reserved by January 27. Please contact Childcare Coordinator **Debbie Klein** at childcare@svpc.us or 408-730-0212.



Men's Study Group

Friday mornings, 6:30 – 7:30 AM

The Friday Morning Men's Group will begin in January a study on God's grace and its meanings for us. This study group is open to all men. We meet in the Coleman Room (Phoenix Center, Room 702) every Friday morning. For more information contact **David Hui** at McDragon@ix.netcom.com or 408-248-6554. 



Feel Good About Yourself in 2012

Try a Balance for Living exercise class in our own church gymnasium. **Jackie Hirsch** has taught challenging but safe classes here for more than 20 years, constantly training in and sharing the latest methods. Offering three formats (including conditioning, Pilates and aerobics) four mornings a week, Jackie's classes provide a great opportunity for all ages from our church and community to get in shape and feel better about themselves. Check out the church website (svpc.us/groups/exercise) or fliers on the church kiosks for more details. New classes begin in January. You can sign up for one, two or three classes a week or pay \$5 to "drop-in" for any class.


Adult Learning

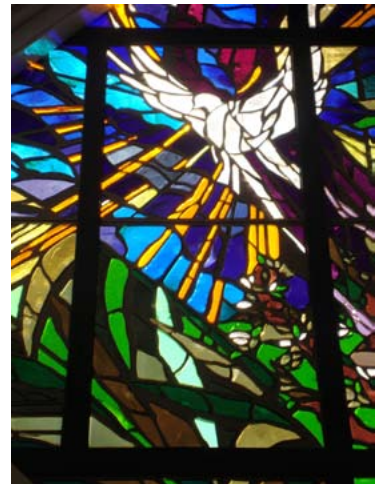
Classes resume Sunday, January 8

8:50 AM in Room 303

On January 8, we will begin a seven-week series stemming from **Pastor Steve's** summer sermon series, "The 7 Lively Virtues." These discussions will give us a chance to reflect a bit more on the sin in our lives and to commit ourselves to living out more fully the virtues God wants us to embrace in our relationships with others.

11:30 AM in Soulé Hall (Room 501)

Also on January 8, we will begin a four-week series taught by **Grant Rozeboom** of Stanford University on "Striving for Forgiveness." A literary figure once quipped, "Always forgive your enemies — nothing annoys them so much." This is funny, but why? Part of the answer has to be that "forgiveness" done in order to strike back at one's enemies isn't really forgiveness, at least as Jesus modeled it. In this class, we'll explore some other ways of moving on from wrongdoing that can look and feel like forgiveness but that fall short of realizing the relational transformation that God promises us through true forgiveness. In so doing, we'll be led to appreciate anew the powerful, but difficult, gift that genuine forgiveness is. 



One Sunday at the Church Library

The Church Library is open Sundays 9 AM – noon and Mon – Fri, 9 AM – 5 PM

- Two women are at the checkout table. They've just returned items borrowed a month prior (first time users then), and are borrowing different items now.
- One adult is with a little boy who is playing with the Fisher Price train. Later his big sister arrives with another adult and borrows a stack of *Berenstain Bears* books.
- Another adult is lying lengthwise, on his stomach, on the bench, while reading a kid's book which is on the carpet.



Meanwhile his son is playing with the train puzzle. Later this same adult is sitting in a chair reading a book on finance.

- A woman wants to know whether we have any recordings from *Focus on the Family* radio drama. She borrows their audiobook about the life of an African slave, a feature film DVD, and some Presbyterian Women *Horizon* magazines.
- A middle school boy is sitting in a chair reading *Toad Rage*. Later his mother and sister come in to browse chapter books too.
- A Church School BLAST teacher borrows a book from the wall display to prepare for a lesson on Jonah.
- A member of a men's Bible study group which has just donated a book stops in to explain why they are endorsing it.
- A little boy borrows a *McGee & Me* DVD. His dad observes they've borrowed the same DVD several times this year already.
- There were other library users as well.
- Perusing the checkout cards left in the blue basket, someone borrowed the *Great Course on Islam* (12 lectures on two DVDs).
- A PELC parent who returned some parenting books last week has borrowed some different items this week. (She may be participating in a Love & Logic class). 🍃



Parents' Night Out (PNO)

All parents need a break. Yet, babysitters are expensive, and we all want to make sure our kids are safe and happy. Need options? PNO is a cooperative child care program, where we take turns watching one another's children on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 PM.

To make sure our kids are safe, we closely follow Safe Church requirements (www.svpc.us/difference/safechurch).

Parent's Night Out currently has an opening in the 6 months – 6 years old group. In addition, we maintain waiting lists for both age groups. PNO offers the chance to grow closer to other families by working together with other parents as we care for one another's children. For more information, contact **Michelle VanSickle** at scottyvs@earthlink.net or 408-749-1552, or visit www.svpc.us/groups/pno.



Children's Ministry

Save Your Small Plastic Bottles for Children's Ministry!

We are collecting small plastic bottles, such as Gatorade, juice, water, or tea, for an upcoming Church School project. Please rinse and include lids. You can drop them off at the Church School office.

Children's Ministry Weekly Newsletter

Do you receive the weekly Children's Ministry newsletter via e-mail? This is the best way to stay current with what is happening in Children's Ministry. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact **Aimee Reyes** at aimee@svpc.us. Alternatively, you can sign yourself up by clicking "[Join Our Email List](#)" on the front page of the church website. 🌿



Reaching Out In Love.

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

Stephen Ministry

LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED

YOU... In John 15:12 Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job — it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it. If you would like to explore using your gifts in becoming a Stephen Minister, or would like to request a Stephen Minister, contact **Judy Beggs** at 650-949-4087 or **Joanne Papoulias** at 408-737-1749. 🌱

Knitting Ministries

Knit For Kids

Knitters will start out the new year by gathering at **Jan Mortensen's** home to knit sweaters for needy children. Join the fun! Free patterns are available. We'll meet Tuesday, January 17 at noon. Bring a sandwich; dessert will be provided. Please contact Jan at janmort@me.com or 408-733-1220 by January 15 to RSVP and for address information.



Prayer Shawls

Winter is a good time to knit (or crochet) a Prayer Shawl. Many people were given shawls from our Prayer Shawl Bank this fall, and we were blessed to share with those who could use a special blessing. Now we need to replenish our supply. If you'd like to knit with a group, choose the second Tuesday or third Wednesday evening group or the new Wednesday daytime group. For information on the evening groups, contact **Miriam Kishi** at 408-246-4664. Contact **Mary Storton** at 408-737-9657 with questions about the daytime group or when you have a shawl ready to contribute if you choose to knit on your own. Funds are available if anyone can use assistance in purchasing yarn.

Teddy Bear Concert

Music for Young People and their Bears

Saturday, January 28 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall



Children, families, and all who are young at heart are invited to bring their bears and attend The Music School's annual Teddy Bear Concert. Faculty performers will present a program planned especially for young listeners and will include classical literature, folk music, and children's music featuring singing and instruments. It's a great way to be introduced to a variety of instruments. There is a suggested ticket donation of \$5/individual or \$10/family. Proceeds will benefit the Janice Williams Scholarship Fund.

Alternative Gift Fair Update

www.altgifts.org

A big THANK YOU to our church family! Our totals this year exceeded last year's amount by 15%, which is really good news. Of particular interest is that several families from out-of-state participated and took back information to their homes churches. In addition, many people from the SVPC community participated for the first time. Thank you for truly making a difference around the world! 🍀

Hospitality Goes Online

Three to four people are needed to serve beverages and clean up from 11 AM to noon each Sunday. It's a fun, easy way to extend hospitality. To view open dates and sign up for Beverage Service, visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/sunday381>.

Looking for a fun, easy way to be in community? Communion is served monthly at the 10 AM worship service, after which there are many small cups to be collected, washed and put away. To participate in Communion Cup Cleanup, sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/communion12>.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 16, 2012

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “**Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’**”

Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. January 16, 2012 will mark the 26th anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity to honor Dr. King’s legacy through service. The Way of Service, and Peace and Social Justice ministry teams will be sponsoring an array of opportunities to serve on January 16 including sorting clothes for homeless, writing letters to military families, assembling hygiene kits and refugee welcome backpacks. Check the worship bulletins for more information or contact **Paul Wilcox** at pwilcox_99@yahoo.com or 408-838-7630. 🍏



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Bobbie Hubbard, whose father, **John Myron**, died; **Pat Sheridan**, whose mother, **Sharon Louise Sheridan**, died; **Mackey Lunsford**, who was hospitalized; **Kay Coll**, who had surgery; and **Dick Chang, Chuck Devine, Sue Hayden, Gerry Ducey, Mary Jane Stoeckert, Glenn Martinson, Miriam Clark**, and **Don Yeager**, who continue medical care.

Celebration

We celebrate the birth on November 23 of **Hope Renee Kennedy Hejmanowski**, daughter of **Pastor Karin and Ken Hejmanowski**, and the birth on November 26 of **Natalie Alison Baer**, granddaughter of **Bill and Peg Prior**. 🍀



The Search Continues

We are still missing some CARAVAN destinations for the years 1973–1980, 1982–1985, and 1988–1990. Contact **Dot Dansey** at dot@svpc.us to let us know which year you attended and where you went.

Bethlehem Under Occupation

Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and Jericho, where Zaccheus climbed a tree to see Jesus, are two cities under military occupation in Palestine. Today, if Joseph and Mary wanted to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, they would be stopped by a towering concrete barrier. People living in Jericho, near the banks of the Jordan River, are blocked from going to the river. “Breaking the Barriers to a Just Peace in Israel / Palestine” is a two-day event, March 23–24, sponsored by Sabeel, a Christian Palestinian movement for liberating all of the Holy Land, so that all — Christians, Jews, and Muslims — can live in peace. We invite all to the conference, to be held at SVPC, to come with an open mind and heart. If you would like to help, please contact **Susan Brooksbank** at sbrooksb@sbcglobal.net.

Find more at www.barriers-conference.org



Women's Retreat – Save the Date!

February 24-26, 2012

The annual Women's Retreat this year is February 24-26, 2012 at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista. We are excited to have **Patti Pierce** return as our guest speaker. Check the worship bulletins and website later this month for information on sign ups and cost.



St. Francis Retreat Center by Wilna Derr 2011



SUNNYVALE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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