



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • February 2010

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) Update

By Pam Leitterman, APNC Chair


In April 2009, the APNC was elected to work on filling the vacancy left by the **Rev. Steve Wilde**. This is a big job, not only because Steve was so well loved and so effective, but also because in his 12-year tenure, he served in many ways. He began as a youth pastor but concluded his call at Sunnyvale supervising youth ministry and actively working in Mission & Service and Outreach & Evangelism. So, it was not immediately obvious what job we needed to fill, and we decided to take the time to do some serious research on our options.

In our weekly meetings we heard from Session representatives about our

various existing ministries. We conducted a congregational survey. We talked with community leaders and leaders in other churches. We incorporated the experiences and expertise of our diverse committee. We prayed and listened for God's guidance. Our conclusion is to seek an associate pastor who will actively lead our already robust youth ministry, working in conjunction with our strong youth director, **Cassie Carroll**. The new associate pastor will also work to build and further develop a young adult program, and spiritually direct our outreach and evangelism activities.

In December and January,

Session and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry approved our Church Information Form (CIF) which includes the full job description, qualifications, and key skills for this position. The CIF and more information about our process, including FAQs, are posted on the church web site; hard copies are in the church office.

Now we move on to recruiting and interviewing prospective candidates. We welcome your recommendations, but please remember our process is confidential, and we are unable to share status on anyone you may refer. Most of all, your prayers are vital. We are confident God has already selected our next associate pastor; pray that we hear God's voice. 

The View From Here

by Rev. Steve Harrington

Friends,

The Massachusetts special election which slightly — but significantly — shifted the balance of politics in the Senate will surely affect the shape of health care reform and other legislation to come. Whether one is grateful for a better (non-filibuster proof) process or concerned that important issues will be stymied depends of course on your personal politics.

The recent Supreme Court decision giving corporations and unions equal protection of freedom of speech has likewise caused a major shift in the way things have been and, for many, bring new concerns about the influence of special interest (and even multinational) groups and how their money will affect our political processes.

As the dust settles upon the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, the monumental task of sustaining life and rebuilding that

country confronts us with an enormity of need that overwhelms despite text donations, concerts of hope, pledges from governments and contributions from millions.


Each Sunday as we pray the Lord's Prayer and say... "thy kingdom come, thy will be done..." we are repeating a prayer for transformational change, not simply

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done..." is a prayer for transformational change.

incremental adjustments. The Gospels teach that the kingdom that was brought nearer in the coming of Christ is a radical kingdom that turns the world's plans, priorities and values upside down. It is therefore appropriate for Christians — and even churches — to be political and to exercise what influence they have to accomplish the goals and good that they perceive to be right. That said, our church

is not partisan with regard to advocating for a particular candidate but we are political in recognizing that our call to faith is a call to faithfulness in the world. That faithfulness requires us to be open to God's change in ourselves as well as to work for changes in the structures of society that are in anyway contrary to God's will.

It's what we do in the

between times — between the coming of Christ and His final return. We don't presume that by our efforts we can fully accomplish what only God can bring to pass. And yet... we wait and we work and we live our lives as witness to the One who will come again and redeem all things according to the power of His kingdom. 

Grace and peace,



February Calendar

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


February

- 6 Angel Island outing with Recreational Ministry
- 7 "Souper" Bowl Sunday
- 7 African Summit – 6:15 PM
- 8 Deadline for March newsletter articles
- 12 Junior High Video Scavenger Hunt
- 14 Moment with Children – Rainbow Choir (K-2nd) sings
- 14 Adult Luncheon
- 14-21 Senior High Sea of Cortez kayaking trip
- 15 Presidents' Day observed – church office closed
- 17 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM
- 17 Winter Break – No LOGOS, FLASH or CLUE
- 24 Youth BLEND Night
- 26 Senior High Photo Scavenger Hunt
- 26–28 Women's Retreat
- 28 iChoir begins rehearsal for Palm Sunday

March

- 7 Caravan Unveiling
- 7-8 Charlie Jensen Lectureship
- 8 Deadline for April newsletter articles
- 14 Annual Congregational Meeting – 11 AM

Newsletter Deadlines

All articles need to be submitted by the second Monday of the month, which means February 8 for the March edition of the newsletter. Articles must be 120 words or less. Send your article to newsletter@svpc.us. 



Rooted in Christ...

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

Hope Begins Today

New Year's resolutions are a yearning for a better life. Whether your resolutions are in writing and whether you're succeeding so far, now is a good time to focus on the essence of those yearnings and hopes. In fact, focusing on them once a day can move you in the right direction. Try reading something inspirational such as *These Days*, the free devotional booklet on our Sunday Booksale display, which includes a scripture passage and a prayer to help you communicate with God each day.

Other helpful books also on the Sunday Booksale display include *Open Mind Open Heart* about Centering Prayer, and *Too Deep for Words*, on Lectio Divina. Try the Centering

Prayer group on third Saturday mornings or Lectio Divina group on second Wednesday evenings (for further information contact jsthuman04@aol.com). Today is a good time to start again and take steps to improve your life.



Church Library

Your church library is home to more than 4,000 books, 300 DVDs and 60 CDs. Special sections contain resources useful to parents and seniors. Come see in Room 213. Most materials are loaned to members and visitors of all ages, usually for two weeks. We can even help you find audio books and eBooks. Read more about it on the library web page: visit www.svpc.us and then click on the Resources tab. The email address is library@svpc.us.

Adult Lunch

Enjoy a Valentine's Luncheon with us on February 14 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. **The Bradshaws** will be entertaining us with their delightful Ragtime piano music and a delicious lunch will be served for only \$5 – reservations not required.



Women's Retreat: "Come and See!"

St. Francis Retreat Center, February 26–28, 2010

Join us for our annual Women's Retreat weekend at San Juan Bautista, stepping out of our everyday routines to experience the invitation God extends to each of us every day: "Come and See" (John 1:39).

Come and see who this God is. Come and see what it means to follow the Risen Jesus. Come and see how refreshing it is to be given a new heart and a new spirit at the outset of the Lenten Season. **Sisters Marilyn Lacey and Mary Ann Scofield**, Sisters of Mercy, will be our guides.


Registration is open now. For more information and to volunteer to help, contact **Trish Guerrieri** at guerri@ieec.org or 408-746-9880.



Young Adult Bible Study

We are people in our 20s and early 30s that meet weekly to learn more about God and fellowship with each other. The vision of the Young Adult Bible Study group at SVPC is to create a comfortable setting to discuss spirituality and to celebrate our faith. All walks of faith are invited to our group. Whether you are just beginning your faith walk or have been a believer for a long time, you are welcome!

We meet every Tuesday from 7:30–9:00 PM in Room 304 on the church campus.

Beginning January 26 and continuing for approximately 8 weeks we'll be studying the book *The Lord and His Prayer* (available on Amazon) by N.T. Wright. See www.svpc.us/groups/youngadult.php for more. Please join us! 

Reaching Out In Love.

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

Celebrations...

On January 4, **Matt and May Morimoto** became the parents of twins, **Sarah Asami Morimoto** and **Joshua Toshihiro Morimoto**. **Abby and Marcus Tribble** welcomed a new daughter, **Tatum Orell Tribble**, on January 10.

In our thoughts and prayers...

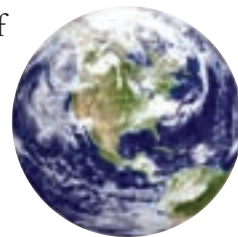
The family of **Charlene Longaker**, who died on January 1; **Cheryl Thomas** and **Barbara Clapp**, whose mothers died; **Ellen Brown**, whose ex-husband died; **Valerie Steffen**, who recently had surgery; **Mim Root** and **Ray Wallace**, who were hospitalized; **Jeff Fregger** and **Trina Grube-Liu**, who continue medical treatment; **Al Clinton**, **Dan Daggett**, and **Dave Wetle**, who are continuing to recover.

An African Summit in Sunnyvale?

How can we, in Sunnyvale, begin to make a difference in the lives of the children of Africa?

On Sunday, February 7 at 6:15 PM at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church in Soulé Hall, a panel of speakers who are currently working with NGOs (non-government organizations) will share how their organizations are working in Africa. The panel includes:

- **Sister Marilyn Lacey** – working with Mercy Beyond Borders in the Sudan
- **Zenebe Ayele** – executive director of Ladders of Hope – Ethiopia
- **Pastor Matthews** – working with Hope Ethiopia in its Pastoral Care
- **Wendy Walleigh** – working with TechnoServe – focusing on women and small business enterprises in Africa
- **John Allen** – part of the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church team which worked in Uganda last year



Almaz Nagash, a member of our congregation and founder and managing partner of EntwineGlobal, and **Dorothy Dixon** will be coordinating the discussion. For more information contact Dorothy at dicksons@ix.netcom.com.

Caravan

Caravan is a week-long service and learning trip where students put their faith into action as they serve God by serving others. Caravan is open to students entering ninth grade through graduating high school. This year's Caravan will take place July 31 – August 8. Come and hear the destination of Caravan 2010 at the unveiling on March 7 at 6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Children's Ministry Teaching Spots Still Available

If you haven't had a chance to sign up yet, now is your opportunity. Or, if you've already taught and can't wait to teach again, the following choice spots are available for morning Church School:

- Exploratorium – March, April, May
- Creative Expressions – May
- BLAST.com – May

Please contact **Carol Heath** or **Colleen D'Amour** for exact teaching dates. As always, teachers will be provided with user-friendly curriculum, all supplies needed for the lesson and a supportive Children's Ministry Staff to answer any and all questions.

Save Your Recyclables!


Children's Ministry is still in need of glass jars for upcoming Church School projects.

The jars should be similar in size to jelly, jam, and mayo jars and be clean with labels removed. You may drop them off at the Church School office. Thank you to all who have donated already. We are no longer in need of shoe boxes.



First Charlie Jensen Lecturer

As the first speaker selected for the Charlie Jensen Lectureship, **Una Stevenson** of Longmont, Colorado will share her knowledge about human trafficking with Adult Learning classes on March 7 at 11:30 AM and on March 8 at 7:30 PM.

The Mission and Service Ministry Area established this Social Justice lecture series to honor **Charles Jensen**. Mr. Jensen and his wife, **Betty**, became members of the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church in 1977. Charlie was instrumental in the formation of the Peacemaking and Social Justice committee at Sunnyvale Presbyterian and participated in the actions of that group until his passing in 2008. Charlie was an inspiration in the church, presbytery and the national organization as a leader in peacemaking. 

Recreational Ministry Trip

A trip to Angel Island is planned for Saturday, February 6. Everyone is invited. We will meet at the church at 8:30 AM in order to leave by 9 AM and catch the 11 AM ferry from Tiburon. Be sure to bring a lunch and snacks (especially water) or money to buy a lunch on the island. We will take the 3 PM return ferry to Tiburon and plan to be back at the church by 5 PM. For more information (ferry tickets, etc.) check the website, or contact **Val Weirauch** at recmin@svpc.us or 408-390-2258.



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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