



# ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • January 2010

## Step Beyond

by Judy Beggs

We often hear or read our church's mission statement, "Rooted in Christ, Reaching Out in Love." When those phrases have come to your attention, have you ever thought, "What does that mean for me?" "How can I be rooted in Christ – or more deeply rooted in Christ?" "What are the ways I am being called to reach out in love? Are there new ways I can reach out in love to others?"

Beginning in late January, there will be an opportunity to explore those questions as part of a series called Step Beyond. As you know, our class for new members is called The Next Step. This new series is called Step Beyond, because it invites all adults and high school

youth, who would like to take another step in faith, to meet together to explore what those steps might be.



For five weeks, we will meet to hear from pastors and then break out into a small group format for reflection and response. For a class schedule, see the Step Beyond web page at [www.svpc.us/groups/step\\_beyond.php](http://www.svpc.us/groups/step_beyond.php). This series will be offered at two different times each week – on

Sundays, beginning January 24, at 11:15 AM, and on Monday evenings, beginning January 25, at 7:00 PM.

For those of you already meeting in a small group, your small group is welcome to join the series.

To learn more, please plan to attend an informational session on January 10 after the 10:00 AM service. Sign-up tables will be available that day and again on January 17.

Childcare for the informational meeting and the Sunday classes will be available with a request in advance to Childcare Coordinator **Debbie Klein** at [childcaresvpc@gmail.com](mailto:childcaresvpc@gmail.com) or at 408-730-0212. No childcare will be provided on Monday nights. 🌱

# The View From Here

by Rev. Steve Harrington

Sometimes I think we can have a tendency to do our faith like we do Christmas ornaments. Our faith can be like something we hang on a side branch to decorate a particular season of our lives. It can be a peripheral adornment amongst the many other aspects and elements of our busy days — one among many things that we can focus on and take joy in, but not necessarily the center or source of our being.

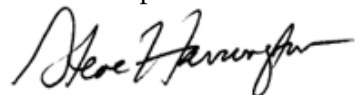
The Bible, however, calls us to a faith that is more akin to the metal stand that holds the entire tree up. Our faith is to be the base and supporting element of our lives, a strong and central foundation to our identity. As you look at various Christmas trees this season I would invite you to let them be a reminder to you of our call from Christ and the hope of our hearts: to establish ourselves, rooted and grounded in the love and grace of God.

In my last newsletter article I wrote of a new program of discipleship that we are offering to our members and friends beginning in the new year and running for 5 weeks starting January 24. There is information about this program — which we are calling *Step Beyond* — in our brochure kiosks around campus and on our website (click on the front page link under Events at [www.svpc.us](http://www.svpc.us)). Basically the idea is for each of us to create an intentional discipleship commitment that will be tailored to our own lives, learning styles and inclinations. Our pastors will teach on various topics, and then in small groups we will begin to work on forming a personal discipleship commitment which we will then live out during the commitment time of the following 4 months. The discipleship commitment that we will be invited to make will consist of our own spiritual practices plan (how we will be rooted

in Christ) and a practical plan for Christian service, whether in the church or the community (how we will be reaching out in love). On March 14 those who choose to participate will be commissioned in worship to this season of discipleship and service. Check the website for more information or talk to me as I'm very excited about this possibility and would love to chat with you about it!

As we come to the close of another year of life and ministry together, I want to say on behalf of myself and our entire staff how fortunate we feel and how blessed we are to be partners with you in this great work of God. I hope that you had a very merry Christmas and my prayer for us is that the New Year will be one of growing faith and joyful love! 🍀

Grace and peace,



# January Calendar

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

## January

- 1 Church office closed
- 3 Morning Church School meets in Fellowship Hall for BLAST and Soulé Hall for Stars
- 4 Balance for Living classes begin with Jackie Hirsch
- 6 FLASH and CLUE resume
- 7 Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas teaches on Globalization
- 8–9 Session Retreat
- 10 Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas teaches on Displaced Persons
- 10 Moment with Children
- 10 Informational meeting for Step Beyond, after service
- 10 Adult Learning classes resume
- 10 Adult Luncheon
- 10 Safe Church training class
- 10 Presbyterian Women Epiphany Tea, 2:00–4:00 PM
- 11 Deadline for February newsletter articles
- 17 Rev. Dr. Jim Bennett teaches on Martin Luther King
- 18 Day of Service
- 18 Martin Luther King Day observed, church office closed
- 19 Bekah Wolfe's Pilgrims of Ibillin presentation, 7:00 PM
- 23 Marriage ceremony of Lindsey Halford and Todd Bettisworth at SVPC at 4:00 PM
- 24 Step Beyond Sunday series begins
- 25 Step Beyond Monday series begins
- 31 Family Worship

## February

26–28 Women's Retreat in San Juan Bautista

## Newsletter Deadlines

All articles need to be submitted by the second Monday of the month, which means January 11 for the February edition of the newsletter. Articles must be 120 words or less. Send your article to [newsletter@svpc.us](mailto:newsletter@svpc.us).

## Wedding Bells

The Halford family invites the congregation to witness the marriage ceremony of **Lindsey Halford** and **Todd Bettisworth**, on January 23, 2010, at 4:00 PM in our church. A celebration in Fellowship Hall will follow the ceremony. No gifts please.



## Booksale

Stop by the Booksale display and pick up a copy of *Steadfast Hope*. It includes an excellent booklet and DVD about the situation in Israel/Palestine and will be the resource for **Miriam Kishi's** class February 21, 28 and March 7. There are other books to use as devotional guides in 2010, to stimulate your thinking and discipleship, and to help you meet your goals for growing in faith.

# Rooted in Christ...

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

## 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 begins after the first of the year. For more information and to volunteer to help, contact **Trish Guerrieri** at [guerrid@ieec.org](mailto:guerrid@ieec.org) or 408-746-9880.

## Balance for Living

If adding exercise to your weekly schedule is a New Year goal, consider taking one of **Jackie Hirsch's** "Balance for Living" classes. Sign up for the January 4 through March 27 session for one, two or three classes per week, or on a drop-in basis for \$5 per class.

Choose from "Gettin Fit" for dance aerobics and Pilates, "Body by Jackie" for muscle conditioning techniques using weights, yoga, Pilates and stretching, and/or a "Pilates Class."

Fliers with details are available in the information kiosk. Jackie has been teaching classes in our church for over twenty years and is well respected by class participants from our church and community.

## Adult Learning Classes for January

Learn about important figures from the New Testament, including Peter, James, Priscilla and Lazarus, during the 8:50 AM adult learning classes beginning on January 10. Hear guest speaker, the **Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas**, on January 10 at 11:30 AM. On January 17, the **Rev. Dr. Jim Bennett** will speak about Martin Luther King. The Step Beyond series begins on January 24 at 11:30 AM. Step Beyond is a pastor-led class focusing on deepening spiritual practice and service, with opportunities for small group discussion. Childcare is provided for 11:30 AM classes. 🌱





## PW Epiphany Tea

All are invited to join Presbyterian Women of the San Jose Presbytery for the Epiphany Tea, “Beyond Boundaries...into the Light” on January 10 from 2:00–4:00 PM. Refresh yourself in the New Year with a Taizé worship experience of music, chanting, and readings in the contemplative candle-lit sanctuary of Stone Church in Willow Glen.


## Safe Church

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church is committed to providing a safe environment where children, youth, and adults can grow in their relationship with God. As part of this Safe Church program, we are offering a training class for volunteers, parents and the congregation to help ensure the safety of children and youth, as well as the adults who work with them.

The next Safe Church training classes will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2010 and Sunday, March 7, 2010. The classes will take place from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room (Room 203). Childcare is available. Please call or stop by the church office during church business hours to register for either of these classes.



## Parent Support Group

Begin the New Year by joining the Parent Support Group. Parents meet from 11:00 AM to noon on most 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays in the church library. The group is designed to support the parents of children who need extra help. Children may have issues related to learning differences, sensory processing, attention, social behavior, or uneven development. All are welcome, and the group is facilitated and confidential. Even if your child has not been diagnosed, but they (and you) struggle with schoolwork, or areas of their personal development, we invite you to come. For more information, send an e-mail to [parentsupport@svpc.us](mailto:parentsupport@svpc.us). For a list of meeting dates, select Parent Support Group from the Small Groups menu on the church website. 

## Children's Ministry News

**Please save these  
recyclables for us!**

We are collecting the following recyclables for upcoming Church School projects. They may be dropped off at the Church School office.

Please save:

- Clean glass jars with lids – size similar to jelly, jam, mayo, etc. Please remove labels.
- Adult shoe boxes – please include the lids.

### Children's Ministry Weekly Newsletter

The Children's Ministry e-mail newsletter is the best way to stay current with news and events in Children's Ministry. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an e-mail to **Aimee Reyes** at [aimee@svpc.us](mailto:aimee@svpc.us).



## Financial Report Through November

In the previous report I indicated: "If we are to catch up [to budget on income] we will need strong contributions in November and December." Good news! November was a very strong month. While not bringing us all the way back to budget, we did move significantly in that direction (now 7% below instead of 11%). Early giving in December also is strong.

Expenses were considerably below budget, as they have been for most months this fiscal year. This is primarily due to a reduction in personnel expenses as we continue to operate without full staffing, especially in our pastoral staff. Putting the income and expense picture together, we are running a healthy cash flow surplus. If income makes up some further ground and expenses continue to run low, we will end the year in the black.

Most of our pledge commitments for 2010 are now in. The results at this point are a matter of some concern. We are projecting that we are below our pledging of last year, and about \$100 thousand below where we need to be if we are to support full staffing (including the new pastor when he or she comes on board), meet the preliminary budgets prepared by our various ministry areas, and continue to support mission efforts at the level we have been committed to for several years now. If you have yet to make a pledge, we would love to hear from you as soon as possible. And if you have already made a pledge and find you can increase it, we would gladly receive a revised pledge.

In financially troubled times nationally and here in the Bay Area, we are blessed as a church to be in good health this year, even as we face some challenge for the next year.

**Jim Peterson**, Church Administrator  
December, 2009 

# Reaching Out In Love.

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

## Alternative Gift Faire Update

Our church just brought to a close its 22nd Alternative Gifts event.

In this year of high need both in the U.S. and around the world, a record was set at our church for AG shopping, topping the \$20,000 mark for the very first time. This year's event included a special worship service on November 29, the first day of Advent. An inter-

generational musical script was conceived and developed by **GINNA TRAINA**, in coordination with **CAROL HEATH**, Director of Children's Ministry, and **TONI WOODRUFF**, Coordinator of Children's Choirs. **MARK TREITEL** and **SHANNON REILLY** narrated scriptures and information about AG International projects. Bringing ministry into focus through music were the **CHILDREN'S RAINBOW CHOIR**, the **GLORY CHOIR**, **LARRY PAGE**, **JULIE MCAFEE**, **KATHERINE WOODRUFF**, **KEYLA** and **LUIZ ZORZELLA**, **GREG NEWLON** and **BEV BARNETT**.

This event provided a model for educating students about the world and an opportunity for children to learn some valuable lessons about giving to those in need, as well as a less materialistic way to celebrate the birth of Christ.



## Day of Service

January 18, 2010

“Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love” means serving others, something members and friends of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church will have an opportunity to do as they join thousands of other Americans participating in a Day of Service commemorating Martin Luther King on January 18.

You can choose how you will serve from a variety of activities, including something as simple as writing letters of support to families of troops serving overseas, to helping develop a partnership with a neighborhood school.

To participate in this special day, contact **Paul Wilcox** at [pwilcox\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:pwilcox_99@yahoo.com) or **Judi Pogue** at [judipogue@comcast.net](mailto:judipogue@comcast.net). For more information, stop by the Day of Service table in Trinity Court on Sunday, January 3 or 10. 🌱

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

The family of **Phyllis Bunnelle**, who died on December 11; **Pam Letterman**, whose father died; **Jeff Harp**, **Dick Nepstad**, **Dan Daggett**, and **Ben Schouten**, who recently had surgery; **Bill Frees** and **Connie Adler**, who were hospitalized; **Al Clinton** and **Dave Wetle**, who are continuing to recover.

## Pilgrims of Ibillin

The Palestine Solidarity Project will be the focus of **Bekah Wolfe's** presentation at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 19 in Fellowship Hall. Bekah was a practicing Jew in New Mexico and moved to Palestine in 2006 to settle in an agricultural village in West Bank near Hebron. She organized the village against dispossession and settler violence and encouraged non-violent resistance.

She recently married **Mousa Abu Maria**, a Palestinian farmer. Bekah, Mousa and other Palestinian farmers founded the Palestine Solidarity Project to help isolated villages work together, forming a movement of Palestinians across political party lines. Bekah will share their important work and how one may support their efforts. This presentation is sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin, South Bay Jewish Voice for Peace, South Bay Mobilization, and the Peace and Justice Task Force of the San Jose Presbytery. 🌱



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