



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • November 2009

Safe Church Program at SVPC

by Nancy Moffett


In keeping with the covenant of Baptism, we have committed ourselves and our resources to the nurturing of our children. At Sunnyvale Presbyterian, our specific goal is to ensure children feel the welcome and love of Jesus Christ and develop a lifelong relationship with Christ in a safe and secure environment.

The Safe Church Program was launched this year in order to provide a safe environment for children to learn, grow, and experience God's love. We believe that effective ministry for children and youth requires relation-

ships with caring, loving, and mature adults and youth leaders who can demonstrate God's love to them. The Safe Church Program is intended to keep these relationships (and all aspects of ministries with children and youth) safe.

Over 200 people have been trained using the Safeguarding God's Children curriculum. We continue to train and screen volunteers, parents and congregational members to ensure that together, we grow in our love, understanding and relationship with God.



Please consider attending a training to learn how you can help ensure the safety of the children in our community of faith. The final trainings for 2009 will be held on November 1 at 11:15 AM and November 15 at 3:00 PM. Please call the church office to sign up. Additional information regarding SVPC's Safe Church program can be found on the church website (www.svpc.us/difference/safechurch.php). 

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

— Mark 10:14

The View From Here

by Rev. Steve Harrington

I listen to National Public Radio and we have supported them at times over the years, but I must admit when they run their fund-raising drives I sometimes click over to another station. I hope that you will “stay tuned” in this season of our church because stewardship

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is very different than fund-raising. This is not to say that we don't have a significant challenge of resources to raise to allow our ministry to continue, we do: your church depends upon your support. It's just to say that stewardship is more of a measure of our priorities and commitments than it is of our pledge cards and contributions.

Nancy and I made a decision 35 years ago that our tithe (10% of our income) would all go to the church as both an expression of our

worship and as a way of being a part of God's work. I believe that making a significant contribution in one place is better than dabbling out smaller gifts for many causes. It both makes a more significant contribution to the organization you give to and it focuses our own com-

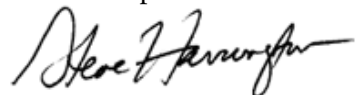
mitment on one community rather than stretching ourselves out over the many very good causes out there. Our giving connects us.

If you believe in what our church is doing — if you believe in nurturing children and youth in faith and a life of service to others, if you believe in helping people of all ages grow spiritually and discover more about God and understand the Scriptures better, if you believe it's important to be a presence of healing and hope in our

community through partnerships and service in our neighborhood, if you believe that we have been blessed to be a blessing and that we are called into community to work together to do something greater than we could do on our own — then I hope you will give generously and significantly to the ministry of our church this year.

Dedication Sunday — when we not only turn in our pledge cards but renew our vows of faith — is November 8. Of course, through our new online pledging at www.svpc.us, you could do it sooner. But however you do it, I hope that as you consider how God has blessed you that you will respond with generosity and faithfulness to reflect your gratitude of worship and an attitude of commitment. 🌱

Grace and peace,



November Calendar

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

November

- 1 End of Daylight Saving Time
- 1 Monthly food drive
- 1 Safe Church Training, 11:15 AM
- 6-8 Junior High November Bash @ Westminster Woods
- 8 Pledge Dedication Sunday
- 8 Moment with Children
- 8 Glory Choir sings (3rd – 6th)
- 8 Adult Luncheon, 11:20 AM – 1:00 PM
- 9 Deadline for submitting December newsletter articles
- 14 Senior High Turkey Bowl
- 15 Choir rehearsals begin (3's – 6th)
- 15 Pilgrims of Ibillin book discussion, 6:30 PM
- 15 Poinsettia sales
- 15 Final 2009 Safe Church Training, 3:00 PM
- 18 Celebration of Ministry in Trinity Court
- 22 Advent wreath making
- 22 Poinsettia sales
- 22 Alternative Gifts catalogs available
- 26 Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday – Church office closed
- 28 Hanging of the greens, 9 AM
- 29 First Sunday of Advent
- 29 Alternative Gifts orders due

December

- 6 Chancel Choir Advent Concert, 7:30 PM
- 26 Kayaking in the Sea of Cortez, Dec. 26–Jan. 3



Spectacular Nativity Display

See the 116 nativities from over 70 countries displayed at the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays from noon to 4:00 PM through January 3. All exhibits are free of charge. The museum is located at 570 East Remington, just east of the Senior Center on the Community Center site. For more information, call 408-749-0220.

Newsletter deadline info

All articles need to be submitted by the second Monday of the month, which means November 9 for the December edition of the newsletter. Articles must be 120 words or less. Email your article to publications_team@svpc.us.

Rooted in Christ...

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

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thursday, November 26, please join us for our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. For several years now, we have been celebrating together with a day filled with cooking, decorating, preparing and serving a meal that is a collaboration of love and good energy. Bring your family and friends on Thanksgiving Day to the church for dinner and think about inviting someone who might be alone during the holidays. We'll begin cooking at 9:00 AM and dinner is served at 4:00 PM. We'll need volunteers to help cook, decorate, set-up, clean-up, serve and share the bounty of our efforts at dinner. So join us to share in the collective spirit of thanks and gratitude for blessings that abound! To learn more, contact **Cathey Edwards** at cody36@yahoo.com or leave a message at 408-764-9941 or 408-733-9125.

Something Old & Something New

The 2009 Chancel Choir Advent Concert is coming Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 PM. Come hear something old and something new.

Selections include the Bach *Christmas Oratorio* and a brand new lively rendition of *Gloria* by Mark Hayes as well as a mix of traditional Christmas carols. The concert will feature professional soloists and musicians from the Peninsula Symphony. Childcare is provided. Invite friends & family alike.



Hanging of the Greens

Come together in community as we decorate our sanctuary on Saturday, November 28 at 9:00 AM. This is a time when the whole church family can come to prepare our sanctuary for Advent. Coffee and cookies provided.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias go on sale for two consecutive weeks beginning Sunday, November 15. There will be a table at the 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM services. You may pick up your poinsettia after the 11:00 PM Christmas Eve service. Flowers are \$10.00 each.

Adult Luncheon

Our November Adult Luncheon will feature the musical talents of **Anneka Bear** and **Valerie Sterk**. Please join us in Fellowship Hall on November 8 from 11:20 AM–1:00 PM to enjoy some music and then a tasty lunch. The cost is only \$5. Hope to see you there!



All Church Family Advent Wreath-Making Activity

On Sunday, November 22, we will be making Advent Wreaths in Fellowship Hall following both the 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM worship services. In addition, Advent Chains will be available to make at home to help your family prepare for the Advent season. We hope you'll join us for this fun way to start the season.



Pilgrims of Ibillin

The Pilgrims of Ibillin invite you to a discussion of the book *The Lemon Tree* with **Miriam Kishi**, who has just returned from Israel/Palestine. Enjoy appetizers from Dish Dash on Sunday, November 15 at 6:30 PM in Room 501 and see how the lives of **Dahlia**, a Jewish woman, and **Bashir**, an Arab man, who have lived in the house with the lemon tree, reflect the situation there. Your understanding will be helped if you have read *The Lemon Tree* (available on the booksale display on Sundays) or seen an abbreviated telling of the story on DVD. Miriam met Dahlia at the house, which now holds a kindergarten for Arab children.

Wow, I never knew that...

Learn about PC(USA), the Genesis Debates and John Calvin. The Rev. **Karin Hejmanowski** leads a two-part class about the beliefs and history of the Presbyterian Church on November 1 and 8. On November 15 and 22, we will welcome guest speaker **David Pleins**, Professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University, who will speak on "The Genesis Debates: Then and Now." All classes are in Soulé Hall at 11:30 AM. Childcare is provided in Room 901.

The occasion of John Calvin's 500th birthday provides a compelling opportunity to revisit his life and thought. In November the 8:50 AM adult learning class in Room 303, led by **Nancy Ewing**, will view and discuss a video to learn more about the work and thoughts of John Calvin.

Sea Kayaking in the Sea of Cortez December 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

With all the busyness of the Christmas season behind you and the joy of God's love still within you, travel with us to the Sea of Cortez where we will begin the New Year from a completely different perspective where the stark harshness of the Mexican desert joins the beauty of the emerald sea and deep blue sky. Pastor **Steve Harrington** is a master wilderness guide and inspirational retreat leader. For more information visit www.svpc.us/groups/seacortez.php or contact Steve at steve@svpc.us. 

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Joanne Donovan and **Beth Robb**, whose fathers died. **Jacqueline Howell**, **Anne McCloskey**, **Marie Ramirez**, **David Wetle**, **Maryann Schuck**, **Clara Auker**, and **Don Yeager**, who were hospitalized, and **Al Clinton** and **Margaret Lenz**, who recently had surgery. Prayers of healing and comfort for **Harlyn Larmer**.



Stewardship Pledges for 2010

The Stewardship Committee trusts that you have been prayerfully considering your financial giving plans for 2010. Dedication Sunday will take place at all of our services on November 8.

Come to any of our services on Dedication Sunday with your pledge card in hand so that you can joyfully submit your 2010 financial pledge. You can also pledge online in a confidential manner through the church's website (www.svpc.us). Whatever your decision, our prayer is that you will prayerfully consider your pledge and that your financial giving will be joyfully and freely offered.

Financial Report Through September

Income for September was close to budget, down by \$10 thousand, or about 9%. We are now at the end of the second quarter of our fiscal year. For the year to date, income is running 10% below budget, overall. We can expect income to rise over the fall months if past experience is a guide.

Expenses continue to be significantly below budget, under by \$27 thousand this month. The personnel budget accounts for most of this under-spending, due to not having an interim pastor on board and some other positions not fully filled. Total spending is down by 17% from budget. The combination of low income but even lower spending (compared to budget) has resulted in a current cash surplus of \$64 thousand. We expect expenses to rise as the program year gets fully underway and staff positions become fully filled.

Putting the income and expense pictures together, it looks as though we will end the year in the black, which will be a healthy financial situation!

Reaching Out In Love.

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



Special Alternative Gifts worship service! Sunday, November 29th

It's Thanksgiving Sunday and the first Sunday of Advent — how appropriate to also enjoy a wonderful intergenerational musical worship service that tells the story of Alternative Gifts for 2009. To observe Christ's birthday with gifts to the neediest that honor your loved ones, Alternative "Shopping List" catalogs will be available November 22. Take time to select your gifts, and order them right after each special service on Sunday, November 29.

Dear SVPC Family,

We are deeply humbled by the recognition and support for the work we have done and continue to do with refugees. Please know that in receiving the awards as Volunteers of the Year for Catholic Charities USA, the honor is shared with all of you. It was in this community of faith where our lives intersected and we have been nurtured to be rooted in Christ to reach out in love. We have embraced the challenges and celebrations of this refugee ministry and continue to witness and feel God's love and grace. Many of you have joined in the journey and we thank you. Our work continues, so let us know if you would like to participate in refugee ministry.

In Gratitude,

Melissa Kreisa and **Elsa Amboy**

Refugee Ministry Advocates for the Presbytery of San Jose


Opportunities for Involvement

- ***Sunnyvale Transitional House*** — Help with grocery shopping and produce pick up twice a month. Contact **Coleen Hausler** at chausler786@sbcglobal.net.
- ***Family Co-Sponsorship*** — See the blog at nadineandherfamily.blogspot.com and for more information contact **Debbie Shaver** at dmslaver@sbcglobal.net or 408-737-1252.
- ***Tutor / Mentor*** — Visit Refugee Transitions at www.reftrans.org to learn how you can be a literacy coach and mentor for two hours a week. Contact **Elsa Amboy** at elsa@reftrans.org or 408-701-8251. 





Stephen Ministry

Our community is full of people who are hurting: those who have lost a job, lost a loved one, gone through a divorce, or are battling a terminal illness. Stephen Ministers are those lay people in our church who bring God's love to those who are hurting, through compassionate and accepting listening. Stephen Ministers are trained and supported in this ministry. Sign-ups are beginning now for a new training class to begin in January 2010. If you would like to explore how you might become involved in this one-to-one caregiving ministry, please contact a Stephen Leader, **Deb Halford** at 408-732-7522 or **Judy Beggs** at 650-949-4087. 



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