



ALONG THE WAY

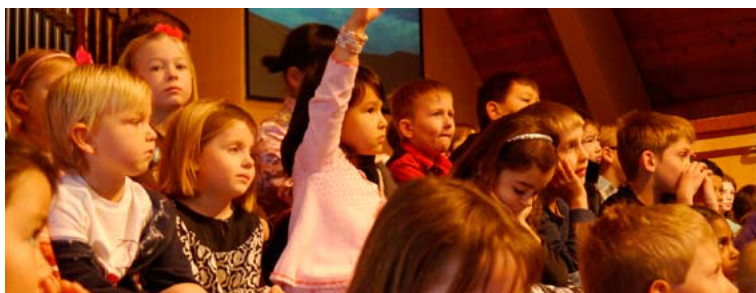
The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • August 2015

Children in Worship?

By Carol Heath, Director of Children's Ministry

Churches have wrestled with this debate for decades. On one side are those who say that worship is really for adults—that children should be taught to behave until they appreciate what is happening, or that they (and their parents) should be relieved by the provision of a church school program during the worship hour. On the other side are those who say that the congregation's worship should be reworked to make it appealing to children.

At Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church we have the best of both sides! We are blessed to have dynamic church school programs that teach and nurture children in their faith. And we have times of family worship where



children and adults come together to offer praise to the living God.

I am particularly excited about the family worship opportunities this August. The children's ministry staff and the pastoral staff have been working together to create worship services that will appeal to children and adults, and will offer ways for children to be involved in leadership. In August you might notice children being ushers, reading scripture and prayers or playing an

instrument. Children (and adults) will have the opportunity to fill out prayer cards, give offerings of their time, talent and money, and even to sculpt something from clay.

In the month of August as you come for worship, look around you and warmly welcome the families with children, even when they squirm a bit and maybe disrupt your worship a little. After all, it was Jesus who said, "Let the little children come."

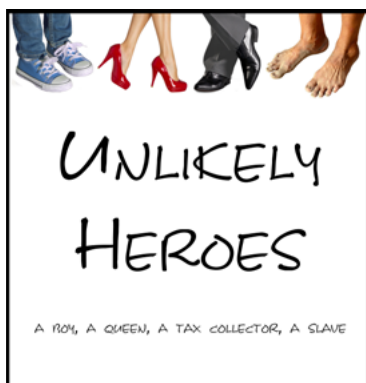
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August Sermons At-a-Glance

Sunday, August 2

CARAVAN Sunday:
Youth lead worship based
on their service and learning
trip experiences in Los
Angeles



Sundays, August 9–30: Unlikely Heroes from the Bible

August 9: A Boy

August 16: A Queen

August 23: A Tax Collector

August 30: A Slave 🌱

August Calendar

A quick look at what's happening at SVPC this month...

August

- 2 CARAVAN Sunday
Food drive for those in our community served by
Sunnyvale Community Services
- 3 Junior High Monday Madness, 7–8 PM, Serra Park
- 4 Senior High Tuesday Time-Out, 7–8 PM, Serra Park
- 5 FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- 9 Hymn Sing precedes 10 AM service
Praise Sing precedes 5 PM service
All–Family Worship with child-friendly elements at
10 AM & 5 PM services; child care available for
infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
Safe Church Training, 11:30 AM–1 PM
- 10 Junior High Monday Madness, 7–8 PM, Serra Park
Articles due for September newsletter
- 11 Senior High Tuesday Time-Out, 7–8 PM,
Resurrection Field (next door to SVPC)
- 12 FLASH & CLUE End of Summer Bash, 6–8 PM,
Lawn next to Phoenix Center Gym
- 16 Hymn Sing precedes 10 AM service
Praise Sing precedes 5 PM service
All–Family Worship with child-friendly elements at
10 AM & 5 PM services; child care available for
infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- 22 The Music School Open House Celebration, 10 AM,
Fellowship Hall and The Music School
Walk-n-Roll for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Golden
Gate Park
- 23 Hymn Sing precedes 10 AM service
Praise Sing precedes 5 PM service
All–Family Worship with child-friendly elements at

- 10 AM & 5 PM services; child care available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- 30 Hymn Sing precedes 10 AM service
Praise Sing precedes 5 PM service
All-Family Worship with child-friendly elements at 10 AM & 5 PM services; child care available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- 31 BLAST/iBLAST Teacher/Shepherd Training, 6:30 PM
Youth and Their Families Parent Experience, 7–8:45 PM

September

- 1 Stars/iStars Teacher Training, 6:30 PM
- 4–7 All-Church Camp, Redwood Glen near La Honda
- 13 Food drive for those in our community served by Sunnyvale Community Services (note: 2nd Sunday in September)
- 16 JAM Mom's Group begins, 9:30–11:30 AM, Coleman Room & Gym

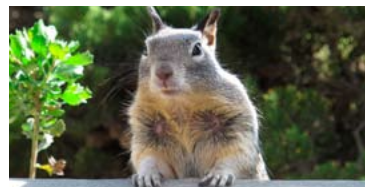
October

- 2–3 Mobile Pack



Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, August 10, for the September edition. Articles may be up to 120 words in length. Send your article to newsletter@svpc.us, and, if possible, include a photo with your article.



Go green!

Go Green! Consider joining the more than 420 individuals and families that now receive their newsletter electronically. The online edition arrives sooner, contains the same articles plus vivid full-color photos and live 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.

The View From Here

by Rev. Debbie Whaley

Friends,

August means Family Worship! Starting with CARAVAN Sunday on August 2, we will hear from our youth about their mission trip to Los Angeles and be blessed by their worship leadership. I can't begin to imagine what surprising transformations God

has in store for them! The following Sundays, August 9, 16, 23, and 30, we will start our traditional and contemporary services 10 minutes before the hour with rousing hymn and praise sings. The sermon series those weeks will focus on a different unlikely hero that God chooses to use in unexpected ways.

and their intergenerational connections in church. Intergenerational programs like CARAVAN and Family Worship facilitate the building of a faith that develops and "sticks" with our young people as they grow up. Let's all get behind these essential aspects of our community life together.

Our Ministry Renewal Team (MRT) is busy praying, discerning, and writing up their conclusions from all the listening sessions and surveys they have conducted over the past three months. Session will soon receive their report. This will serve as the foundation for our leadership to more clearly discern the future direction for Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church and the selection of a new senior pastor. So keep the MRT and session in your prayers! 🌱

Blessings,

Debbie

"Research says that the capacity of a child's faith to "stick" later in life is tied to their involvement in worship and their intergenerational connections in church."



We will have a few surprises that will help our kids participate in worship each Sunday in August. So if you have a family, bring them! If children are not part of your life, please welcome their wiggles and giggles as they join us for worship. Research says that the capacity of a child's faith to "stick" later in life is tied to their involvement in worship

Rooted in Christ...

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

Children's Ministry Needs You!

Did you know that our Church School program is run entirely by volunteers from our church? As part of the promise that we make through baptism to guide and support all of God's children, members of our congregation from all walks of life are needed to help nurture and teach children about our faith.

Children's ministry staff prepares all of the materials, provides training and offers continuous support to help you feel comfortable and confident while you teach. Many teaching and shepherding positions for the 10 AM and 5 PM services need to be filled. Remember, you do not have to have children in the program to participate. We welcome those without children or those whose children are all grown up. We hope that you will prayerfully consider how you can be a part of Church School this year.

Please contact **Carol Heath** at carol@svpc.us to teach in the morning, or **Kristin Matthews** at kristin@svpc.us to teach in the evening.




Hearing God Speak

By Miriam Kishi

The Spiritual Hacks sermon series led me to ask, does God speak to me? I've discovered that when I'm open to the Bible, God does speak to me. Recently in the Lectionary Daily Readings, I found help for the moment in Old and New Testaments readings. Words and phrases stood out. When I meditated and wrote about them, I found new understanding.

In the story of the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24, Jesus interpreted scripture to help his companions understand recent events. Opening ourselves to God's Word is one way to hear God speak to us.

Share your experiences hearing God speak or with other spiritual disciplines and we'll share them in this space. Send them to newsletter@svpc.us.

 www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/devotions/

Session Summaries

July 21 Session Meeting

In addition to regular business including the financial report, there were three items shared for information and education. The first was a personnel committee overview by Council Chair and Personnel Chair, **Eric Lanzendorf**. The second presentation by the **Rev. Debbie Whaley** concerned transition and change. She spoke of the stages of change, as she reminded session that God is constant in all change. The third focus of the evening was a slide presentation by the Ministry Renewal Team led by Chair **Debbie Shaver**. The team has done an amazing job of bringing together all the data from focus groups, town hall meetings, and the individual surveys. The MRT team will present a final report at the September session meeting.

 www.svpc.us/who/session

Financial Update

By Tavia Armfield, Church Comptroller

Thanks to our very generous congregation, we ended the first quarter of our fiscal year with income coming in at 105% of budget. We have a \$19,000 surplus as a result of your generosity and careful spending by our staff and session. We are grateful for your faithfulness to this church.



Quarter Ending 6-30-15				
	Actual	Budget	Delta	Of Budget
Income	448	427	21	105%
Expenses	429	454	(25)	94%
Surplus/(Deficit)	19	(27)	46	
Note: All figures are in thousands of dollars.				

Congregation Reflection

Thank you to all who have participated in recent congregation reflection activities conducted by the Ministry Renewal Team (MRT). Over 300 people participated in focus groups and town hall meetings and over 300 individuals completed the MRT survey. The information collected is helping us reflect on who we are as a congregation and where God may be calling us to go. Here are some examples of what we have learned.

- *Rooted in Christ*—Almost 50% of survey respondents pray or meditate at least daily, 53% meet with a small group monthly or more often, and 55% experience God's creation as a spiritual practice at least several times a week.
- *Reaching out in love*—43% of respondents take care of a vulnerable family member or friend on at least a weekly basis, and 53% serve in the community and 65% serve in church ministries at least monthly.
- *Faith statements*—89% of respondents agree with the statement, "The church is helping me grow spiritually," compared to 65% who agree with, "I feel comfortable discussing my faith with people who don't attend church."

The MRT is using information collected to write a Mission Study Report, which will form the foundation of the church's work in calling a new senior pastor. The church's leadership will also be using MRT findings to strengthen current programs and identify areas for growth.

Please contact MRT members at ministryrenewal@svpc.us if you have any questions.



Spotlight on Staff

Returns in September.

Parents, Ready for a Date Night?

Parent's Night Out (PNO) is a Christian cooperative child care program at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. PNO is administered and staffed by participating couples, and overseen by the Director of Children's Ministry. The program runs on a 16-week trimester basis. Families are expected to commit to the entire trimester. PNO currently meets Saturday nights from 5:30–8:30 PM.

During the three-hour program, children enjoy age-appropriate activities, a snack, and a movie. Two couples provide supervision each week. Couples work on a rotating, regularly scheduled basis. Families of all types and sizes are welcome. Children at least six months old are welcome to participate.

Currently we have room on our waiting list. If you would like more information about PNO and/or would like to be added to our waiting list, please contact **Laura Compton** at aurlarae@gmail.com or **Kristin Matthews** at kristin@svpc.us.

The Music School Open House Celebration, *Jazz and More!*

Saturday, August 22, 10 AM



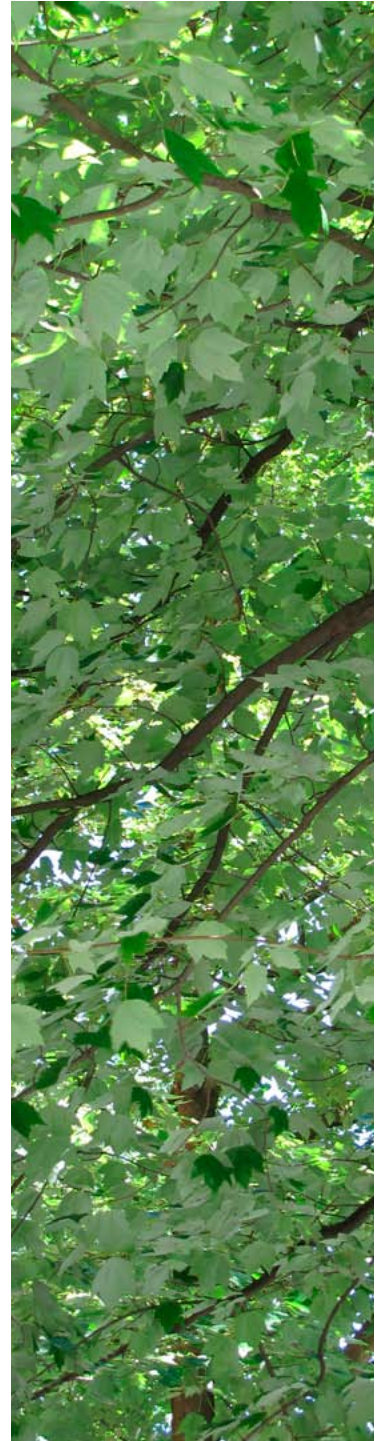
Join the festivities with musical fun for the entire family. At 10 AM kids participate in our Activity Hour with hands-on musical projects, games and crafts at The Music School. Our teachers would love to meet you! Our special *Jazz and More!* concert starts at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall featuring **Doris Harry, Kirk Tamura** and others. After the concert, enjoy refreshments; fall registration information will also be available.

Pastoral Care Team

By Karin Hejmanowski

There are among us many people who have huge hearts of compassion and provide care for friends and family. Our Pastoral Care Team, or PCT, is a team of nine such people who have been specially called and whom we have commissioned to provide care in the form of visits to hospitals, care facilities, or homes, as well as to make phone calls and to write notes to people in need of pastoral care. They are already very actively providing such care and by so doing, are expanding the breadth and depth of care that we are able to extend to our church.

The members of the Pastoral Care Team are **Dave and Judy Beggs, Joanne Papoulias, Dave Chapman, Chris and Wilna Derr, Jim Peterson, Teri Archer, and Diane Schouten**. At church and elsewhere, they'll be wearing special name tags or lanyards with name badges. Thank you in advance for welcoming their care and their visits as they extend the love of Christ and the love of this church to you in times of both need and celebration. If you have or are aware of such needs or celebrations, please let us know by contacting **Jean Ranck**, Pastoral Administrative Assistant, at jean@svpc.us or 408-739-1892.





COMMUNITY
BIBLE STUDY



Community Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:15–11:15 AM, beginning September 16,
Foothill Covenant Church, Los Altos

Looking for an in-depth women's Bible Study? Community Bible Study (CBS) offers the opportunity to study the Bible in a comfortable, non-intimidating atmosphere. Discover how God's Word can give answers to life's issues as we study Isaiah. The format includes personal study, small group discussion, class lectures, written commentaries and monthly small group socials. A preschool children's program is provided. To enroll, contact **Shirley Edwards** at shirleyedwards@mac.com or 650-962-9540.

Email Newsletters

Do you receive the Children's or Youth email newsletters each week? This is the best way to stay current with what is happening in Children's and Youth Ministries. To be added to the Children's Ministry mailing list contact **Kristin** at kristin@svpc.us. To be added to the Youth Ministry mailing list contact youth@svpc.us. Or from the website, www.svpc.us, sign up by selecting "Join Our Email List" at the top of any page.

E-mail—info@svpc.us

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Youth—facebook.com/SVPCYFM

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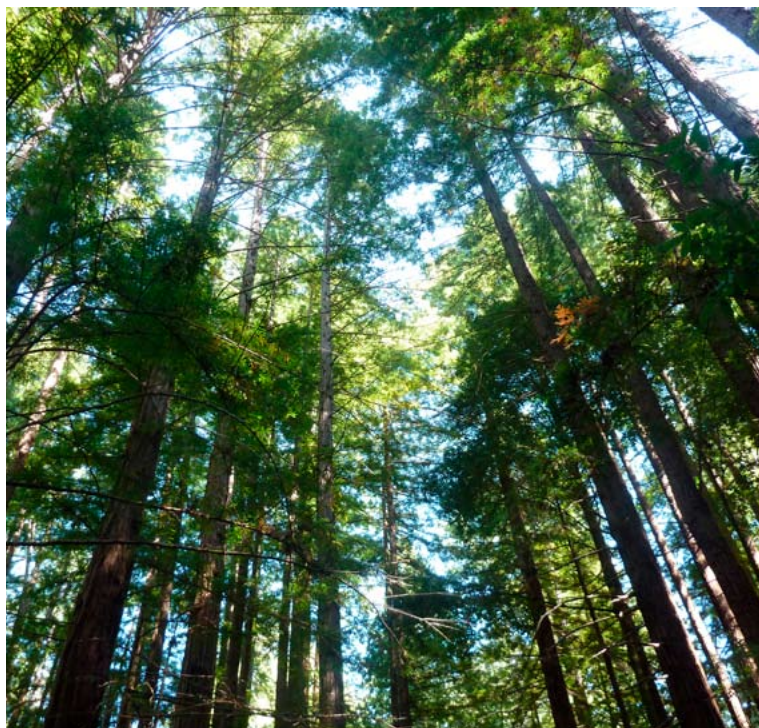
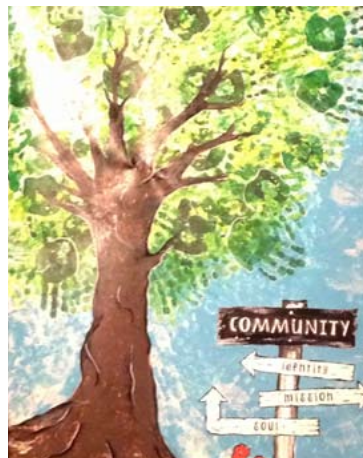
All-Church Camp

September 4–7, Redwood Glen near La Honda

All-Church Camp is a great opportunity to make new connections, strengthen your faith, and enjoy being in fellowship in a spectacular redwood setting. In the mornings there are programs for adults, junior and senior high school students, and elementary school-age students.

The afternoons and evenings provide a wealth of activities from which to choose. All of this is possible thanks to our many volunteers. For more information about available volunteer jobs and accommodations, please see the camp web page, www.svpc.us/calendar/camp.

Sign up for All-Church Camp after the 10 AM and 5 PM services most Sundays. Questions? Contact **Renée Wigginton** and **Jenny Wharram**, 2015 Camp Directors, at allchurchcamp@svpc.us.




Reaching Out In Love.

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

Refugee Rights Project Meets Daunting Challenges

The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project from Florence, AZ, contacted SVPC's Mission & Service ministry team thanking us for the nearly \$8,000 donation received from our Christmas collection. The Project practices the mission of making sure there is adequate and fair representation of unaccompanied children (usually from Central America). Because children are not provided a district attorney by the court, and because many children who did qualify as asylum seekers still needed ongoing representation, the Florence Project has sought funding and volunteer legal assistance to fill this gap over the past 25 years. This need has grown especially for those children exposed to abandonment, abuse, severe negligence and human trafficking.

In its expansion, the Florence Project has increased its recruitment of pro-bono legal services from attorneys in Phoenix (and elsewhere) and offering added internships to students wanting to learn more about the legal system by working in it.

 www.firrp.org




Walk-n-Roll for Spinal Muscular Atrophy

**Saturday, August 22,
Golden Gate Park**

Pat and **Dick Wolff** are leading this year's Northern California Walk-n-Roll for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). SMA is a neuro-muscular disease that affects one's ability to walk, crawl, and breath. The Wolff family learned about SMA when their granddaughter, **Madison**, was diagnosed with this disease. She needs help doing basic things, but her power chair allows her to independently go to school.

Research is providing hope for a cure; 18 drugs to treat SMA are in development, and seven are in FDA clinical trials. We hope you will read about Madi and join our team. Thank you to all who have supported us over the years.

 fsma.convio.net/goto/Madison2015




Sunnyvale Presbyterian to host Silicon Valley Mobile Pack

October 2–3

What is a mobile pack? A mobile pack is hundreds of volunteers coming together to pack thousands of nutritionally balanced meals to send to hungry children and adults overseas.

SVPC is partnering with Orchard Valley Christian Church and Feed My Starving Children, a Christian charity, to transform the Phoenix Center into a food-packing center for two days, October 2–3. Volunteers work in 2-hours shifts and can be as young as 5 years old (with adult supervision).

The mobile pack is a fun and rewarding event that you can do as a family or small group service project. Sign-ups will start in August. Look for tables in Trinity Court or visit the church website for more information.

 www.svpc.us/difference/mobilepack






The Red Barrels Help Families Every Week

**Jay Pecot, Directory of Giving,
Sunnyvale Community Services**

Guadalupe was shopping in our Pantry this week, and she told us about how much it costs to feed her family during the summer months. “My children are home and it is hard to keep enough food in the house. They are all growing so fast. The lunches they get at school are a huge help, but that isn’t available in July and August.”

Guadalupe went on to tell us how difficult it is to afford food because of the increases in her rent. Each month the bills for her apartment and her car get paid before she knows how much she has for food the rest of the month. “The canned food and the produce I get every week from SCS means my kids are growing up healthy.”

Thank you Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church for donating so many cans of food and improving the lives of thousands of Sunnyvale families.

 www.svpc.us/difference/turntables

Look for our red barrels in Trinity Court for your food donations on the first Sunday of each month. Most needed are protein-rich foods (soups, stews, chili, peanut butter, canned meat like tuna, chicken or ham), and powdered milk, cereal, and canned vegetables and fruits.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

The **Jensen Family**, following the death of **Nancy's** father, **Dan Daggett**; **Lisa McManis** and **Bev Lenihan**, whose mothers passed away; **Paula White**, whose daughter, **Jeanne**, passed away; **Marge** and **George Connell**, whose daughter, **Kristy**, passed away; **David Robinson**, who was in the hospital; **Herb Ebhardt**, who continues to receive care; and **Charlie Hopkins**, who is recovering from surgery.



Celebrations...

We celebrate the births of **Sloan Margaret Butler** and **Wyatt John Butler**, born on May 18, and **Margot Joanne Stephan**, born on June 1. Sloan and Wyatt are the children of **Dean** and **Katie Butler**, grandchildren of **John** and **Linda Adams**. Margot is the daughter of **Matt Stephan** and **Katie Byron**. We also celebrate the marriage of **Sarah Macway** and **Fjord Hawthorne** on June 20.

Thank You...

Thank you to the many individuals who expressed their concerns by way of cards, phone calls, one-on-one conversations, and their many prayers for the unexpected loss of my daughter, **Jeanne**, on June 3. My family and I truly appreciate all that you have done.

—**Paula White**





SUNNYVALE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Thanks for saving paper and postage by reading this online!


SVPC's Group for Moms—JAM

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 9:30–11:30 AM

Phoenix Center (Building 700)

Moms meet in the Coleman Room; child care in the gym

We are so excited to announce a new ministry for moms this year! JAM, Just Among Moms, is a place for moms to join together in a space to be real and honest about life. Starting September 16, we will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at the church from 9:30–11:30 AM. We will meet together for brunch, sometimes crafts or meditation, and either a speaker or devotional and discussion time—with an intention to have time to focus on YOU! We offer child care for all ages by Safe Church-trained staff for the duration of the meeting. For more information, please visit the church website or email **Kristin Matthews** or **Michelle Schmidt** at jam@svpc.us.

 www.svpc.us/groups/jam

