



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • September 2015

JAM

By Kristin Matthews

Motherhood alters life drastically. Mothers sacrifice sleep, food, and leisure time for their kids. I've found that each moment of heartache or milestone gives me purpose. It drives me to learn new things, step outside my comfort zone and build a village of people to carry me through it all. Yet, in the midst of this recalibration of life as a mom, I get lost. My needs, wants and desires get put on the back burner as I care for little people who are so dependent on me. My identity becomes "Connor and Sophia's mom," not "Kristin."

Just Among Moms—JAM—was created to be a place where moms can get back in touch with who they are. The space is meant to

be a sanctuary for finding yourself, fueling your desires, and sharing your talents. Child care is provided for children who are not in school during the meeting time so we can focus solely on ourselves!

Our theme for this year is "Be Free." Meetings will consist of brunch, a hands-on activity or video clip, devotional or topic, and time for discussion or journal reflection. The key to JAM is that anyone who walks through the door can take and participate as much or little as they need. There are no expectations, no judgments and no pressure. We welcome you!

For more information,



Key Information

- Kick-off is Wednesday, September 16
- Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9:30–11:30 AM
- Phoenix Center (Building 700)
- Moms meet in the Coleman Room; child care is in the Gym

Continued on next page...

Continued from cover...

please watch our testimonial [video](#), join our Facebook [group](#), and find details on the church's [website](#).

JAM Links



[www.svpc.us/
groups/jam](http://www.svpc.us/groups/jam)



[facebook.com/
groups/JAMSunnyvale](https://facebook.com/groups/JAMSunnyvale)



[https://vimeo.com/
136774315](https://vimeo.com/136774315)

SAFE~~X~~CHURCH

[www.svpc.us/difference/
safechurch](http://www.svpc.us/difference/safechurch)

September Calendar

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

September

- 1 BLAST/iBLAST Teacher Training, 6:30 PM
Choir of Bells 1st fall rehearsal, 7–9 PM, Sanctuary
- 4–7 All–Church Camp, Redwood Glen near La Honda
- 6 Labor Day Sunday
Please join us for worship at 7:50 or 10 AM this
Sunday (no 5 PM worship service)
No Church School
- 8–14 Be Our Friend Week at The Music School
- 9 FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- 13 Food drive for those in our community served by
Sunnyvale Community Services (note: 2nd
Sunday in September)
Teacher Dedication Sunday
FLASH AM, 10 AM, Phoenix Center Gym
Church School resumes at 10 AM and 5 PM services
for preschool–6th grade
Church School Choir resumes:
Cherub (3s and 4s) in Room 802 from
11–11:15 AM
Rainbow (K-2nd grade) in Room 405 from
11–11:20 AM
Glory (3rd-6th grade) in Room 203 from
11–11:25 AM
- 14 Articles due for the October newsletter
- 16 Community Bible Study kick-off, 9:15–11:15 AM,
Foothill Covenant Church, Los Altos
JAM kick-off, 9:30–11:30 AM, Coleman Room
(Bldg 700)
FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room

- 20 FLASH AM, 10 AM, Phoenix Center Gym
Safe Church Training, 11:30 AM–1 PM
- 23 FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- 27 FLASH AM, 10 PM, Phoenix Center Gym
Young Adult Dinner, RSVP to stephanie@svpc.us
- 30 JAM, 9:30 AM, Coleman Room (Bldg 700)
LOGOS begins
FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room

October

- 2-3 Mobile Pack, Phoenix Center Gym
- 3 Northern California Ecumenical Media Resource
Center Open House, 10 AM–12:30 PM, Campbell
United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester
Blvd., Campbell
- 18 Mission & Service Faire, 11 AM and 6 PM, SVPC
campus

No Intersections Worship on September 6

Because a large number of the congregation will be at All-Church Camp over Labor Day weekend, our 5 PM worship service will not be held on Sunday, September 6. If you are not at All-Church Camp, please plan to join us for the 7:50 or 10 AM worship service.

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, September 14, for the October 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,

From my vantage point, bikes, backpacks, and an increase in morning traffic means that school must be back in session. Whether it is our youngest ones making their way to our PELC (Presbyterian Early Learning Center) or our older youth heading off to college, all of us can sense the excitement of the fall. New possibilities abound for relational, intellectual and spiritual growth. Fall is the classic “do over.” You leave behind the challenges of the year before and look with expectation to a new school year where you get to start fresh!

Our church is getting ready for fall as well. We are cleaning classrooms, training teachers, recruiting mentors, and planning new sermon series for our program year which starts on September 13.

But what about the other transitions we are making as a church? Our Ministry Renewal Team is putting the final touches on our Mission Study Report, which will pave the way for new vision and new pastoral leadership in the years to come. Our leadership has been in prayer as God has been enlarging the scope of our outreach and mission for

Silicon Valley. Not unlike kids getting ready for a new school year, we have been wondering about what is next. Whom will God call to be our next senior pastor? What new initiatives and ministry is God calling us to foster in this next season? What part will each of us play in God’s vision for Sunnyvale in the future? What will our community of faith look like five, ten, or twenty years from now?

As we wait, listen, and dream together, our most important work is prayer. If we can commit to take time to listen for God’s quiet voice as well as agree to give one another courage to follow in God’s footsteps of service, we will be well prepared for the season of transition that is still before us. Join me as we all enter into the school of prayer this fall. 🌱

Blessings,

Debbi

“As we wait, listen, and dream together, our most important work is prayer.”



Rooted in Christ...

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

Choir of Bells

Interested in music? Have an interest in playing (or learning to play) hand bells? If so, come join the Choir of Bells for their fall season and make a joyful noise unto the Lord! The Choir of Bells rings at the 10 AM service on the third Sunday of each month, and in a prelude prior to the 11 PM service on Christmas Eve.

Practices are Tuesdays from 7–9 PM in the sanctuary (and typically include a break midway for chocolate!) The first rehearsal is Tuesday, September 1. All levels of experience are welcome; the first few rehearsals will cover introductory material. If interested or if you have questions, please contact **Gretchen Rauch** at grauch@me.com, or **Jeff Reilly** at jreillyhome@gmail.com.



Online: What's at svpc.us

- Happy Video— www.svpc.us
- Monthly Food Drive— www.svpc.us/turntables
- Safe Church— www.svpc.us/difference/safechurch

E-mail— info@svpc.us

Like us on Facebook:

SVPC— facebook.com/SunnyvalePres

Youth— facebook.com/SVPCYFM

Children's— facebook.com/SVPCMWC

JAM— facebook.com/groups/JAMSunnyvale



Session Summaries

August 18 Session Meeting

Session accepted the resignation of Elder **Lukas Resch** and wished him well as he leaves for college. Session looked at the Ministry Renewal Team's preliminary report, noting that the congregation sees the church's strengths in the areas of worship, youth, and children's programs, and opportunities for growth in the areas of young adults/college age, evangelism, mission, senior adult ministry, and discipleship. Session heard about the thinking/dreaming of the Personnel Committee, Program Staff, Ministry Resources, and Session Council concerning these strengths and opportunities. Session then focused on how the strengths could be reinforced, while the opportunities could become more fully a part of the Sunnyvale Presbyterian culture.

 www.svpc.us/who/session

Church School Kicks Off for Preschool–Sixth Grade

It's almost time for a new year of Church School to start! We will kick-off on September 13 with tables set up in Trinity Court before and after the 10 AM and 5 PM worship services for parents to pick up welcome packets and check that your child(ren)'s information is correct. We still have open spots for teachers and volunteers. Please contact Director of Children's Ministry at carol@svpc.us.



Spotlight on Staff— Michelle Wang, Accountant

Michelle came to the United States from Taiwan to attend school twenty-five years ago. She became the church's Accountant in July 2007. Michelle handles all aspects of accounting for the church, PELC and The Music School.

She enters financial transactions into the accounting system and provides reports regarding the expenditures and receipts to the Comptroller and those who are responsible for particular budget areas.

In addition to maintaining the financial records for the church, Michelle provides information regarding payroll, such as benefits and hours worked, to the data processing firm that issues employee paychecks.

If you need to contact Michelle, she is on site from 8 AM to 3 PM each weekday except Wednesday, when she leaves at 12:15. Her email address is accountant@svpc.us.



Good-bye, Grace!

It is with sadness that we share that **Grace Sunukjian** will be leaving her role as Assistant Director of Youth Ministry for a full-time position at Mount Hermon, where she will be coordinating retreats for large groups. Grace has blessed us with her humor and service, and above all, deep love of the students. Grace's position was originally created as a position that was funded by the interest from the Endowment Fund. This has served youth well as Grace was able to provide excellent support to the youth ministry programs, including small groups, FLASH, CLUE and CARAVAN. We will miss Grace deeply, and wish her the best!



Ministry Renewal Team Update

Jean Ranck

Five months ago, nine members of our congregation—myself included—answered the call to be part of the Ministry Renewal Team (MRT).

Our first task was to talk to as many people in our community as possible. Through more than 35 meetings we heard from over 300 people including program and support staff, elders and deacons, long-time members, new members and visitors, young adults, high school and middle school students and more. Next we interviewed ministry partners and community leaders including the Presbyterian Early Learning Center (PELC), Bill Wilson Center, Sunnyvale Community Services, a high school principal, and the mayor of Sunnyvale.

On June 7 we launched a survey with questions formed from the responses we received from the reflection discussions we conducted in April and May. The survey

ran for three weeks and we received 305 hardcopy and online responses. The results from the survey are now posted on the church's website.

In July we started the somewhat daunting task of prayerfully synthesizing and analyzing all the responses we collected. We greatly appreciate the time and thoughtfulness with which you responded to our questions, both in the discussions and on the survey. To give you an idea of just how much you did respond, one open-ended question on the survey, "What are your hopes

for our church's future?" generated eleven pages of responses!

The next steps for the MRT are to complete the analysis and write a Mission Study Report by September which, once approved by Session and the Presbytery, will be used by the Pastor Nominating Committee in their search for the next head pastor.

Thank you for entrusting this important work to the MRT. We greatly appreciate your continued support and prayers.



Where We Are In Our Time of Transition

Eric Lanzendorf, Council Elder and Chair of Personnel Committee



In January, Session formed and commissioned the Ministry Renewal Team to help the congregation reflect on who SVPC is as the family of God in our congregation, the community, and beyond. Their efforts, together with those of our congregation and ministry partners over the past months, are coalescing into a Mission Study Report that Session hopes to receive in final form as early as

September.

In late March of this year, our interim pastor, **Debbie Whaley**, joined us and has brought an engaging and inclusive presence to SVPC, relating with congregants both individually as well as in the many groups that make up our church community. In addition, Debbie has connected with and is listening to our staff and is actively involving herself in the day-to-day

processes of our church. Together with the church staff and the Personnel Committee, she has been reviewing staff roles and responsibilities. The result of these activities is an overview of staffing presented to Session in August.

As we move into the fall, Session will reflect on the Mission Study Report. This time is crucial not only to develop the vision put forth in the report, but also to discern the staffing and budgetary implications of implementing this vision. As this is comprehended, it will be communicated to the congregation, and then the Mission Study Report will be submitted to Presbytery. In parallel, the Nominating Committee will begin the process for receiving and selecting candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

The hoped-for result of all of these orchestrated activities is the seating of a PNC by early 2016.



My Experience on the Pastoral Care Team

Judy Beggs

For the last few weeks, the Pastoral Care Team (PCT) has been calling, visiting, encouraging and praying with many of those people in our church family who are going through illness, loss, or a struggle of some kind.

When I was invited to be on this team, I was honored to serve in this way. Having trained and served as a Stephen Minister and a Spiritual Director, I felt prepared to be a compassionate and caring listener. I was surprised, however, by how much joy I am experiencing as I listen to others' stories, while encouraging and praying with them. I feel God's presence and a growing bond with those I have contacted. What a gift!

The PCT has received feedback from many of those contacted, telling us how meaningful and comforting our conversations have been to them. I hope that you will be willing to contact the PCT if you find yourself in a situation where one of us can reach out to you with the love of Christ on behalf of our church.

To reach the Pastoral Care Team, contact **Jean Ranck** at 408-739-1892 or pastoral_administrative_asst@svpc.us.





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. For questions, call **Joanne Papoulias** at 408-737-1749 or **Wilna Derr** at 408-735-1176. To enroll, contact **Shirley Edwards** at shirleyedwards@mac.com or 650-962-9540.

Northern California Ecumenical Media Resource Center (MRC)

Open House, Saturday,
October 3, 10 AM–12:30 PM

Come to the MRC Open House to pick up a free resource and see DVDs, videos and books for group or individual study. SVPC is a member of the MRC so any of us can borrow resources free of charge.

Resources include 20-minute Focus Sessions on using social media to enhance your ministry, Advent and Christmas program ideas, classic Christian videos that are difficult to find elsewhere, and more. Find a link to the MRC on the [SVPC website](#) under the Resources tab > [Library](#) > [MRC](#). Resources can be mailed to you or picked up.

For questions contact **Miriam Kishi**, member of the MRC Board, at 408-246-4664.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Northern California Ecumenical Media Resource Center. At the top, there's a header with the center's name and navigation tabs for DVDs, Videos, Books, and Activity Kits. Below this is a navigation bar with links like Home, What's New, Services, Catalog, Join Us, About Us, and Contact Us. The main content area features a 'Welcome to Our Library' section with a search bar and contact information. It also includes an 'Upcoming News and Hot Topics' section with a photo of a library interior.

Northern California Ecumenical Media Resource Center

DVDs Videos Books Activity Kits

Home What's New Services Catalog Join Us About Us Contact Us

Welcome to Our Library

Welcome to the Northern California Ecumenical Media Resource Center. We provide our community of churches with workshops, staff consultation, and the media resources to support their Christian education, Outreach, and other Church Ministry programs.

We are a nonprofit library and invite churches of all faith families to join and share the resources. We enjoy the active support of three denominations: Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist. See [Join Us](#) to learn about membership.

Our inclusive library consists of approximately 3000 resources that include all types of materials: DVDs, videotapes, books, activity kits, sample curricula, and games. This diverse collection helps our members with their Church School and Christian education programs.

Upcoming News and Hot Topics

Learn about [upcoming events](#) open to the general public that are hosted by our member churches or local organizations and read our [monthly media updates](#) and past [quarterly newsletters](#).

Hot Topics

This year, we're focused on [Women in the Bible](#). We have assembled a list of appropriate resources on this topic geared towards children, [click here](#). We also have many resources useful for adult study on this topic, [click here](#).

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Campbell, CA 95008

Phone: (408) 378-2532
Fax: (408) 378-2652
Email: emrcvideos@aol.com

Hours
10 am to 3 pm
Tue, Wed, Fri

Closed Holidays

Our Location

Reaching Out In Love.

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

Be Our Friend **Week at The Music School** September 8–14




We invite you to visit our early childhood and after school classes and choirs. All you need to do is contact The Music School office and let us know which class you would like to attend.

Registration is now open for classes, private lessons, choirs and bands. We have programs for ages 12 months through adult right here on campus.

Our students perform in choral concerts, pops concerts, recitals, and even a musical. Our teachers are all music educators who love teaching. We hope you will come visit us. Contact us at 408-739-9248, or the_music_school@svpc.us.

The Music School is an outreach ministry of the church and offers scholarship assistance.

 www.themusicschool.org

A Season Of Peace

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has designated the first Sunday in September thru the first Sunday in October as “A Season of Peace.” During the Season of Peace, bulletin inserts will address “Peace Begins with Us” and “Help Bring the Peace of Christ to Communities of Conflict.” On September 20, the Focus on Ministry will provide more information about our commitment to peacemaking.

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church has shown Christian love through generous giving to the Peacemaking Offering. This special offering has been renamed Peace and Global Witness to reinforce the Presbyterian commitment to peacemaking through support of congregation and Presbytery peacemaking initiatives, as well as peace practices and reconciliation throughout the nation and the world. Presbyterian churches across the nation will receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 4.

In mid-September you will receive a letter naming the organizations designated to receive our local share of the 2015 offering.



Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church to host Silicon Valley Mobile Pack

October 2–3



SVPC is partnering with Orchard Valley Christian Church and Feed My Starving Children, a Christian charity, to host the Silicon Valley Mobile Pack. We will be packing 100,000+ nutritious meals for people in need and having fun doing it! Volunteer opportunities are available for two-hour packing shifts, set-up, cleanup and hospitality. This is a great event for individuals, friends and small groups. There are ways for volunteers of any age and ability to contribute.

More information about the event and online registration is available on the church website.

 www.svpc.us/difference/mobilepack

Online registration—<http://bit.ly/1TZ2c9n>, then use Access Code **svmp2015** to register. Each individual in a group or family must be registered separately.



PELC Families Collect School Supplies

With great encouragement from PELC teacher **Debbie Klein**, PELC children and their families collected school supplies to fill numerous backpacks for children served by Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS). Each school year PELC's children participate in SCS projects. Last fall we collected cereal and this spring we bought and filled backpacks.

PELC's motto is "Where love and learning go hand-in-hand" and that isn't just in the classroom or on the playground. Starting at a young age, PELC encourages children to learn about their neighbors and ways to be helpful to each other and in the community.

Collecting, counting, sorting and packing supplies provides solid learning experiences and gives support to those in our community.

This year 1300 children came to SCS on August 6 and selected backpacks filled with the grade-appropriate school supplies they will need. We helped! PELC children and their families are making a difference!



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Marge Connell, whose husband, **George Connell**, passed away; **Jo Goslow**, whose husband, **Bob Goslow**, died; **Elsa Amboy**, **Steve Harrington**, and **Suzanne Ungson**, whose fathers, **Guillermo Amboy**, **Don Harrington**, and **Robert Shreve**, passed away; **Carol Heath**, whose grandmother, **Vivah Walters**, passed away; **Thelma Watkins**, who was in the hospital; **Nancy Koski**, **Connie Adler**, and **Herb Ebhardt** who continue to receive care.



Celebrations...

We celebrate the birth on July 23 of **Charley Kate Brackett**, daughter of **Matt** and **Julie Brackett** (who recently moved to Felton, CA), and **Grace Elizabeth Stapleton** on August 11, daughter of **Shane** and **Amy Stapleton** and first grand-child of **Bob** and **Debbie Stoddard**. We also celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of **Jack** and **Jeannie Cole** on July 3, and the 60th wedding anniversary of **Al** and **Dorie Mendoza** on July 31.

Freedom House Seeks Volunteers

Training begins September 12

Freedom House is a Bay Area nonprofit with a mission to bring hope, restoration, and a new life to survivors of human trafficking by providing a safe home and long-term aftercare. They are seeking advocacy and shelter volunteers to help in their mission. Training is required, but the impact on their lives and your life can be limitless. To learn more, contact **Gary Ruschke** at missioneldergary@gmail.com.

 www.svpc.us/difference/wayofservice

My Service Trip to Ecuador

Catherine French

This past spring, with the support of SVPC, I was given the opportunity to share the gospel with various jungle communities in the Amazon Basin of Ecuador with 24 other students from my school, King's Academy. Some of the highlights of my trip included clearing fields using machetes, hosting VBS at an orphanage in Quito and three jungle villages, digging septic tank holes, building a cement walkway, hosting a "Parade of Nations" at a native mission school, and singing worship songs in both Spanish and English. I am so grateful for the support of my church community!





SUNNYVALE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Come to the Faire!

Mission & Service Faire, October 18, 11 AM and 6 PM

Aligning with “gen-er-ous,” one of our fall sermon series, the Mission & Service ministry is inviting our mission partners to visit the church campus to provide an opportunity for you to learn first-hand how you can use your spiritual gifts to have a positive impact on people’s lives. Ministries that care for the needs of the poor, homelessness, hungry, refugees, human trafficking victims, and prisoners will be on exhibit. Middle East peace-making, affordable housing, and fair trade goods will also be represented.

Come to the faire and find an opportunity that matches your gifts so you can be a “gen-er-ous” doer of the Word. There will be a light meal served after Intersections.

spiritual gifts
evangelism
faith leadership
discernment
wisdom
mercy
giving
helps
teaching
knowledge
service
encouragement
music
prayer
compassion



But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves (James 1:22).