



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • April 2017

Focus on Mission

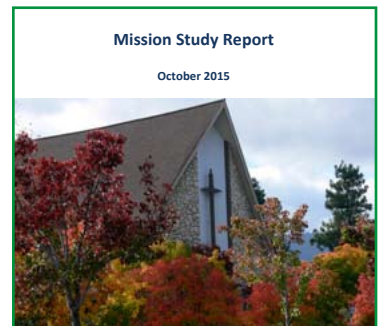
By Gary Ruschke, Lead Elder Mission & Service Ministry

The Mission & Service ministry team has been at work refining our congregation's focus. We were guided by the 2015 Mission Study Report that was done as the launch of the search for a new Head of Staff that noted "a call to help catalyze individuals to engage more fully in the people and issues of our community."

Energized by this report and strengthened by the leadership of **Pastor Karin**, the Mission & Service ministry team set out on a journey to discern how to address the report findings and energize every member of our congregation to be active in the service of others and through service to be a witness to the love of God through Jesus Christ in the world.

To do that effectively, we decided we needed increased focus. We currently support many people, organizations, and causes, all of whom are doing excellent work in the name of Jesus Christ; but the result is that we are scattered, less effective than we might be, and lacking a clear identity as a church with regards to mission.

So, how to obtain focus? Our conclusion was that the Holy Spirit is leading us as a congregation to protect, serve, empower, and advocate for the most vulnerable members of our community and beyond. So whom shall we protect, serve, empower, and advocate for? The hungry, the homeless, the refugee, and the immigrant.



SVPC has a deep tradition of battling food insecurity in our community and beyond. We have a history of providing shelter and comfort for the homeless. Our refugee ministry and our emerging focus on immigrants align with the Bible's teaching on welcoming the stranger. These groups—the *hungry*, the *homeless*, the *refugee* and the *immigrant*—form

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the basis for our renewed mission focus.

In the coming weeks and months, you will be hearing about opportunities to protect, serve, empower, and advocate for these vulnerable members of our community and beyond. In particular, we are forming leadership teams for each area to more effectively engage with each group in our community.

Our journey continues. We are excited to see how the spirit might move you to join us. 🌱



April Calendar

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

April

- 1–30 SVPC hosts Rotating Shelter
- 2 Food drive for those in our community served by Sunnyvale Community Services
Lenten Community Potluck Dinner, 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 4 Parent Support Group, 9:30–10:30 AM, Coleman Room
- 5 Just Among Moms (JAM), 9:30 AM, Coleman Room
FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- 9 Palm Sunday—One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)
All Children's Choirs sing
Children should bring OGHS fish banks to church
Last Lenten Community Dinner (not a potluck), 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 10 Deadline for May newsletter articles
- 13 Spice Dinner, 6 PM, Armadillo Willy's in Cupertino
Maundy Thursday service, 7:30 PM
- 14 Good Friday service, 7:30 PM
- 16 Easter Sunday services, 6:30 AM, 9 & 11 AM, 5 PM
Family worship at 9 & 11 AM, 5 PM
Child care available for 6 months–6 years
- 18 Session meets
- 19 Just Among Moms (JAM), 9:30 AM, Coleman Room
FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- 20 Parent Support Group, 7–8:30 PM, Library
- 21 CLUE Broomball, 11 PM–midnight, Vallco Ice Chalet, Cupertino

- 23 FLASH DPA last meeting, 11:05 AM, Gym
The Bible in 90 Days begins, Sundays through July 9,
11:30 AM, Soulé Hall
- 26 FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- 30 FLASH AM last meeting, 10–11 AM, Gym

Looking Ahead

- May 3 FLASH End of the Year Party, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- May 8 Final youth small group meetings
- May 10 CLUE Senior Night, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
- June 12–16 Vacation Bible School
- June 25–30 Zephyr Experience
- July 15–22 CARAVAN

Where is that?

Coleman Room
(Bldg 700)
Fellowship Hall
(Bldg 300)
Fireside Room
(Bldg 200)
Gym, Phoenix Center
(Bldg 700)
Library (Bldg 200)
Sanctuary (Bldg 100)
Soulé Hall (Room 501,
Bldg 500)
Youth Room, Phoenix
Center (Bldg 700)

Holy Week

Palm Sunday—April 9
Services at 7:50 AM,
10 AM, and 5 PM
Maundy Thursday—
April 13
Service at 7:30 PM



Good Friday—April 14
Service at 7:30 PM



Easter

Sunday, April 16
Services at 6:30 AM,
9 AM, 11 AM,
and 5 PM



Details on back cover

The View From Here

by Rev. Debbie Whaley



LENT

Dear Friends,

We are half-way through Lent and we are now enjoying the signs of spring. The blossoms are out, daffodils are on display, and Easter is just around the corner. The new life promised in the resurrection of our Lord is proclaimed in creation. Now is our turn to think about how we tell that story of hope to our neighbors, families, and co-workers.

SVPC is overflowing with new life. **Paul Scholtz**, our new youth director, is creating more intentional discipleship programs for our young people to grow in their faith. Our children are being loved well. Our new emphasis on the integration of youth and children

“Now is our turn to think about how we tell that story of hope to our neighbors, families, and coworkers.”

under the banner of families is bringing a new energy to families as a primary place of discipleship. Our mission department is on fire and dozens and dozens of people are being galvanized for deeper outreach to refugees, immigrants, the homeless, and those who struggle with food scarcity. Our welcome and hospitality ministry is helping us welcome new folks into our church.

Creation is proclaiming new life. Our church is embodying renewal. Our Lord is out of the tomb and at work in all of us. All this comes into full focus at Easter.

So invite your family and friends to journey with us as we celebrate God’s gift of new life in Christ! You will not want to miss a moment

of Holy Week so plan to join us for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and, of course for Easter Sunday! 🌱

Blessings,

Debbie



Rooted in Christ...

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

Personnel Committee

by Judi Pogue

The Personnel committee has been newly designated by session as a ministry team. As the Personnel committee, the group was identified as advisory to the Head of Staff. Now, as a ministry team the team's charter states:

Personnel ministry team is charged with ensuring that appropriate plans, policies, and structures are in place for the fair and compassionate management of the church staff, including SVPC Outreach Groups (the Music School and PELC).

Members serve three-year terms. Current members of the team (and their term end date) are **Bill Coleman**–2019, **Richard Collins**–2019, **Amy McFarland**–2018, **Alane Mohn**–2017, **Lynn Thomas**–2017, and Co-chairs **Nancy Moffett**–2018 and **Judi Pogue**, Council Elder–2018.

Staff members are **Ginna Traina**, Church Administrator and **Debbie Whaley**, Interim Pastor. Concerns regarding personnel issues may be brought to the attention of any of the team's members.

A major goal of the team is working collaboratively with the Ministry Resources team on annual budget impact for benefits and compensation.



Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, April 10 for the May 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 nearly 430 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.

Vacation Bible School— **Summer Surfin' Safari: Joseph's Story!**

June 12–16, 9:30 AM to noon,

For 4 years old (by 9/1/17) through entering 4th grade.

We invite older students *who attend our church* to be youth counselors.

Come on a surfing safari with us on our continuing search for greater understanding of the love and life of Jesus Christ. In this year's program, children will learn about the events in Joseph's life through stories, songs, crafts, music and worship. Your child will have an opportunity to be part of a fellowship of loving and caring people committed to the Christian education of our children.

The cost for the week is \$60 per child. This fee is waived for full-time teachers/leaders. Sign up early to get your preferred teaching or full time volunteer spot by contacting **Carol Heath** at carol@svpc.us or 408-732-1892.

➤ www.svpc.us/vbs



(© Can Stock Photo / Helioshammer)



Palm Sunday

April 9

All children's choirs will be singing at the 10 AM service. At the 10 AM and 5 PM services children will be part of the palms processional with their fish banks. Continue to collect coins and plan to bring your fish bank with you on April 9.



Spice Dinner

Thursday, April 13, 6 PM, Armadillo Willy's

Our 50s+ singles group, Spice, will enjoy a no-host dinner at Armadillo Willy's in Cupertino. Join us and enjoy a pleasant meal with the group. This is a wonderful way to make new friends and enjoy an evening out. We'll finish dinner in time to attend SVPC's Maundy Thursday service at 7:30. For more information please contact **Melanie Prolo** at 408-394-9311 or melanieprolo@gmail.com.



The Bible in 90 Days

Sundays, April 23–July 9, Soulé Hall (not meeting June 11)

Led by the Rev. Dr. Libby Boatwright

Numbed by Numbers, confused by Chronicles, puzzled by Philippians, and the prophetic voice of Revelation? This course will challenge you to navigate the uncharted waters of books you never thought you could read. Join us for the adventure of a lifetime—reading the entire Bible in 90 days. Each day read approximately 12 pages of text and then join us for a video and small group time on Sundays after 10 AM worship. You can do this—and cross it off your bucket list forever. Participant's guides will be available for purchase in Trinity Court starting April 9. The class begins on Sunday, April 23, and goes through July 9, with a celebration on the last day.

🖱 Sign-up online at <http://bit.ly/BibleClass>.



Session Summaries

February 21 & March 21 Session Meetings

February and March session meetings opened their worship time with reflection and prayer, John 12:46, lighting of the Christ candle and affirmation of the church's vision. Session reviewed and approved each month's consent docket and received financial reports from the Comptroller.

At February's session meeting members received a Presbytery meeting report from **Val Weirauch**, a personnel ministry team report from **Judi Pogue**, a pastor nominating committee update from **Joe Don Heath** and **Marsha Dyslin**, a ministry resources and personnel update from **Judi Pogue**, and a mission and service ministry team report from **Gary Ruschke** and **Karin Hejmanowski**.

At March's session meeting the 2017–18 annual budget was approved, **Judi Pogue** presented a report on the outreach groups, and a separate report on a worship director position and a strategic plan for a second associate pastor. Session approved the worship director position.

Session's time together included reflections on where individual session members have seen God at work, noting small groups, LOGOS, music, concert, youth ministry, Ash Wednesday service, and session. February and March times together were closed with prayer in small groups for the congregation and corporately with the Lord's Prayer.



Reaching Out In Love.

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



Zephyr Experience

June 25–30, Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, Lake Tahoe

Zephyr Experience is a wonderful opportunity for a family retreat this summer at the beautiful Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Designed and supported by four Presbyteries in Northern California, Zephyr Experience has brought together a community of progressive Christians for over 20 years. Zephyr Experience will offer five days of morning classes for adults and youth, with afternoons free to explore the beauty of Lake Tahoe and evenings that offer a time to sing and worship. This year, San Francisco Theological Seminary Professor **Greg Love**, the **Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr**, the **Rev. Ben Daniel**, and the **Rev. Bev Brewster** are among the amazing class leaders.

Some scholarships are available upon request. For additional brochures or more information about this conference, contact **Sue Tracy** at trasea7@aol.com. The Zephyr Experience Organizing Committee looks forward to you vacationing with us this summer.

🖱 Register online at www.zephyrpoint.org

Hands Around the Mosque

A Small Step in Bridge Building
by Lynn Peterson

On March 19, my husband **Jim** and I participated in a show of solidarity with Muslims at an interfaith and intercommunity gathering at the Muslim Community Association (MCA) in Santa Clara, co-hosted by MCA and the American Muslim Voice Foundation.

Hundreds of people attended, forming a human circle around the outside of the building. Back indoors, we enjoyed refreshments and took part in the 5 PM prayer service.

Following the service, more than 20 speakers, including the **Rev. Joey Lee**, our Executive Presbyterian, spoke to show friendship with and support for our Muslim neighbors. This uplifting event was, for us, a small step in bridge building.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Palm Sunday, April 9

During Lent, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church, one discipline we practice is to support the least of these through One Great Hour of Sharing. Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. This year the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 9.

➡ <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs.html>

CARAVAN 2017

July 15–22

Listen. Empathize. Love.

This summer, we are excited to be partnering with S.L.A.M. Ministries on the Yakama Reservation in Yakima, Washington. S.L.A.M. Ministries is dedicated to Christ-centered cross-cultural mission experiences. On this trip as we are immersed in the Yakama culture we will open our hearts to *listen*, *empathize*, and *love*. Here's how you can join us on the journey:

- Parents and 8–12th grade students
 - For more information and to sign up for the trip, visit www.svpc.us/caravan
 - Sign up for text updates by texting CLUE CARAVAN to 51400
- Our SVPC family—please pray that our hands will be ready to work and our hearts will be ready to learn. Watch for opportunities to sign up to be a CARAVAN prayer partner.



YOUTH Spring Calendars

➡ <http://bit.ly/Spring2017-CLUE>

➡ <http://bit.ly/Spring2017-FLASH>

Rotating Shelter

by Cathey Edwards

The Faith In Action Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter is returning to SVPC's campus in April. We changed our host month from November to April, and our guests will be moving in April 1. Please see the SignUpGenius link below if you would like to provide a meal for the guests of the Rotating Shelter. See the Faith In Action website, www.faithinactionsv.org, for more details about how you might help with this program.

 <http://bit.ly/FIASVRS>

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

For continued prayers: **Ann Coleman**

For recovery: **Marilyn Beck, Dorothy Funk, Steve Haughey, Ralph Robinson**

For cancer treatment: **Randy Fletcher, Trina Grube-Liu, Bob Meyers, Nancy Norris**

For the loss of loved ones: **Lisa Callan's** stepmother (**Joan Cook**); **Steve DeBrock's** daughter-in-law (**Kristine Pierce DeBrock**); **Vern Tucker's** brother (**Stevens Tucker**); **Fay Wiggin's** husband (**Lyle Wiggins**); The family of **Jean Brown**; The family of **Neal Enault**

Celebrations...

We celebrate the birth of **Cecilia Marie Joy** to parents **Matt** and **Jessica Joy** and grandparents **Ken** and **Judy Joy** and the birth of **Brexton Gaul** to parents **Girard Gaul** and **Tiffany Green** and great-grandfather **Steve DeBrock**.

Online: What's at www.svpc.us

- Annual Report and Slideshow— www.svpc.us/annual_rep
- Bridge to a New America—www.svpc.us/JimWallis
- Dementia and Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Groups—www.svpc.us/groups/dementia

E-mail—info@svpc.us

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 9—7:50 AM, 10 AM‡, 5 PM‡

Holy Week begins with the remembrance of Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as the crowds waved palm branches.


Maundy Thursday, April 13—7:30 PM*

At this service we remember the Last Supper, the Passover meal shared between Jesus and His disciples in the upper room.

Good Friday, April 14—7:30 PM*

A somber service in which we reflect on Jesus' death on the cross and what it means to be bereft of hope.

Easter Sunday (Family Worship), April 16—6:30 AM, 9 AM†, 11 AM†, 5 PM†

A celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. 

‡ Child care provided for ages 6 months–2 years. Church School for preschool–6th grade.

* Child care provided for ages 6 months–kindergarten.

† Child care provided for ages 6 months– kindergarten. No Church School.

