



# ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • October 2016

## Reflections on our Faith Journeys at SVPC

By Al Mendoza and Kelly Shaver

*On October 30 we will celebrate SVPC's 60th anniversary. Al Mendoza and Kelly Shaver help us look back on God's blessings and faithfulness over these six decades.*



*Al and Dorie Mendoza*

Our family went 'church shopping' in 1966. Pastor **Bruce Coleman** was in charge and toward the end of that service he asked us to read together the Apostles' Creed. That was a very touching prayer to me. We soon decided to join the church. My wife, **Dorie**, joined the Chancel Choir and attended Women's Bible Studies.

In 1985 I was assigned to work overseas.

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I was in the 4th grade when SVPC introduced the BLAST church school program, and I still remember my first rotation in Loaves and Fishes where we had the chance to taste foods common in Biblical times, including currants, which I enjoyed, and capers, which I definitely did not. During my time in SVPC's youth groups FLASH and CLUE, I was able to go on five mission

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*Kelly Shaver*

*Continued from cover, Al Mendoza...*

When we returned in 1993, the church had a new Senior Pastor, **Steve Harrington**. Dorie became a Stephen Minister. She also conducted the Cherub Choir. Four of our grandchildren sang in that choir and participated in many other youth programs including CARAVAN. I attended the Tuesday morning Bible Study led by Steve who was very caring and shared his knowledge with us in ways that were easy to understand.

In 1976, under the leadership of Bruce, SVPC built Life's Garden to provide housing for senior citizens. I was on the Board of Directors. Dorie and I moved there in 2001. After fifteen years, with the impetus of a major remodel, our Life's Garden era will soon come to an end.

Little did I know that Bruce's sermon in 1966 would affect Dorie, myself, our children, their spouses and our grandchildren in such meaningful ways over the next fifty years. Bruce baptized my youngest child and performed the marriages of both our daughters. Steve baptized four of our grandchildren and sadly, he and his wife, **Nancy**, performed the memorial service for our daughter, Valerie, who lost her bout with cancer in 2013. We are so grateful to be part this wonderful Christian community—for all the opportunities to grow our relationships with God and for the support during the most difficult of times. 🌱

*Continued from cover, Kelly Shaver...*

trips, six wilderness/ski trips, and two youth retreats. Those opportunities were exciting, challenging, and, at times, life changing. I'm now a BLAST shepherd and a CLUE advisor, and I've seen the hard work and sacrifices it takes to provide all of the amazing opportunities for our children and youth.

The summer prior to my senior year of high school, I went on CARAVAN (SVPC's high school mission trip) to Los Angeles. I had given up on believing in God at that point in my life, and I was actively resistant to any attempts to convince me otherwise. During the Intersections service the evening that we returned, I experienced an incredible moment of transformation and reconciliation with God that changed my life forever. I realized that God had been there all along, in my fellow students, in our advisors, and in the church family waiting for me to come home.

SVPC nurtured me and taught me about God, and when I was an angry high school student who told everyone who would listen that I didn't believe in God, the church told me that it was ok and that I was welcome regardless. When I stood in front of the congregation a week after that LA CARAVAN and professed my rediscovery of God's grace, the church rejoiced with me and has walked along side me ever since. 🌱

# The View From Here

by Rev. Debbie Whaley

As we move further into the fall, there are exciting things brewing in the church.

On October 30, we will be celebrating 60 years of ministry as a church! All of us are so thankful for the vision of people who wanted a strong witness to Christ in Sunnyvale. As they gathered to pray, support and plant this church here, they never could have envisioned how this region would become a global leader in technology, how our church would welcome countless families from all over the world, and how God has remained so steady and faithful to us with all these wonderful changes!

On the 30th, we will be having celebrations all day to honor this milestone. Look for details in the next few weeks as to how you can help us mark this wonderful anniversary.

There are so many other exciting things emerging. Our Youth Director Search Team is hard at work, as



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*“All of us are so thankful for the vision of people who wanted a strong witness to Christ in Sunnyvale.”*

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is our Pastor Nominating Committee—the team looking for our new Pastor and Head of Staff. The session has affirmed the return of our contemporary service, Intersections, to the Sanctuary. We are celebrating our growing commitment and outreach to families with the promotion of **Carol Heath** to the Director of Family Ministries.

God is calling us to trust Him in the midst of these

wonderful opportunities and changes. Like the great King David when faced with enormous challenges, we must develop muscles for a faith that moves. As we enter into October, let’s hold to our commitment to be a Worship + 2 community, one that is rooted in Christ and reaches out in love. 🍃

Blessings,

*Debbie*

# October Calendar

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

## October

- 2 World Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering  
New Members Class #2  
Food drive for those in our community served by Sunnyvale Community Services
- 4 Special Needs / Parent Support Group, 9:30–10:30 AM, Room 702
- 5 Just Among Moms (JAM), 9:30–11:30 AM, Coleman Room
- 6 Israel/Palestine Film Series, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 9 Moment with Children  
Rainbow Choir (K–2nd) Sings  
3rd Grade Bible Distribution
- 10 Newsletter articles due for the November edition  
Energize Sunnyvale, 7–8:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 14 Ugo Sforza Organ recital, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary
- 15 CLUE Halloween Haunt, 5–9 PM, Great America
- 16 New Members received in worship
- 19 Just Among Moms (JAM), 9:30–11:30 AM, Coleman Room
- 21 FLASH Event, 7–8:30 PM, Laser Quest
- 23 FLASH AM, 10–11 AM, Gym
- 28 Senior High Fall Frenzy sign up deadline
- 29 Trunk or Treat, 7 PM, Church Parking Lot  
Rotating Shelter begins their 4-week stay on the church campus
- 30 Stewardship Sunday  
All-Family Worship, 10 AM and 5 PM  
SVPC 60th Anniversary Celebration

### *Where is that?*

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




## Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, October 10 for the November edition. Articles may be up to 120 words in length. Send your article to [newsletter@svpc.us](mailto:newsletter@svpc.us), and, if possible, include a photo with your article.



## Go green!

Go Green! Consider joining the more than 410 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](mailto:newsletter@svpc.us) with your request. 

## November

### Adult Learning

The Book of James  
Wednesdays beginning November 2

The Mystery of the Incarnation  
Sundays beginning November 6

- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 10 Israel/Palestine Film Series, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 24 Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- 27 First Sunday in Advent

## December

- 4 Chancel Choir Advent Concert
- 10 An Advent Retreat—Practices for Spiritual Growth
- 11 Soup & Sing Advent Celebration



## Mailing Update

Beginning this month all *Along the Way* paper newsletters will be mailed bulk postage. This means that for some recipients the mailed newsletter may take a couple of extra days to be delivered. You can always [see the newsletter online](#) as soon as it's posted each month—look for the newsletter [link](#) at the top of any [www.svpc.us](http://www.svpc.us) website page. This move to bulk mailing will save the church substantial postage each month.



# Rooted in Christ...

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

## Women's Retreat— Save the Date!

March 3–5, 2017,  
Presentation Center,  
Los Gatos

Mark your calendars for our annual retreat. The women's retreat is a time of refreshment—an opportunity for a reprieve from the demands of everyday life and to connect with the women of our church community. For questions, contact **Julie Clinton** at [womens\\_retreat@svpc.us](mailto:womens_retreat@svpc.us).



## Spotlight on Staff—Diane Schouten, Thursday/Friday Receptionist

A familiar face has been greeting visitors to the church office on Thursdays and Fridays since July.

**Diane Schouten** replaced Julieanna Latman as the front desk receptionist in July. Diane is also the Memorial Coordinator, currently serves on the Pastoral Care Team, and has been a Deacon. She and her family have been members of the church for nine years.



Diane served 24 years in campus ministry with Intervarsity prior to assuming her role as CEO of the Schouten household. Her staff at home includes her husband Dale, son Ben and daughter Alisa.

When asked what she likes about working at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Diane listed being in the house of God, interacting with staff members and helping the gears of the church run smoothly.

When Julieanna returns from her maternity leave she will resume her part-time position with the Youth Staff.

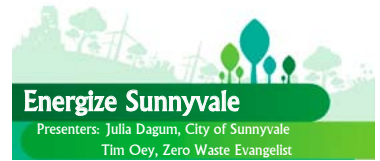
## Announcing a bit of a change... Director of Family Ministries



The latest SVPC news includes the promotion of **Carol Heath** to the Director of Family Ministries. Carol will still have direct and primary oversight over the Children's Ministry program, but will now supervise the Youth Director and have broad oversight over programs that impact families with children and youth. We are working on how to bring what were two

distinct but related ministry areas into a more comprehensive and unified vision for families. It likely means there will be a Family Ministry Team that holds things that currently overlap between the two ministry areas (i.e., Safe Church and Special Needs Ministry). This new combo ministry area will also facilitate collaboration and coordination of things like ministry calendar/events, parenting support, training, and communication. The Youth Director will still have full responsibility and accountability for the middle and high school program.

Carol is uniquely qualified for this role. Not only does she have extensive experience with creating, sustaining, and growing quality programs for children and their families, she has worked with youth staff over the years as a respected peer and partner in ministry. Her passion for families with kids of all ages, her amazing mentoring and leadership skills as well as her love of bringing others to Christ make this a great next step for our vanguard ministries.



## Energize Sunnyvale

**Monday, October 10,  
7–8:30 PM, Fellowship  
Hall. Presented by the City  
of Sunnyvale and SVPC  
Member Tim Oey.**

The City of Sunnyvale will discuss the Energize Sunnyvale program as Sunnyvale competes to win the \$5 million Georgetown Energy Prize. They will show how to reduce energy use and save money. **Tim Oey**, one of our church members, will share tips and techniques on how to get to zero waste—energy, water, transportation, and garbage—and save money as well. Tim's household takes out the trash just a few times a year. Let's all work together to take better care of the Earth God created. 🌱

## Adult Learning Classes are a Part of Worship + 2

Wondering how to take the next step for the +2 part of Worship + 2? We have three opportunities for you to “Go Deeper” in your faith—two classes and an Advent retreat.



WORSHIP + 2

### **The Book of James**

**Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30, and December 7,  
7:30–9 PM, Soulé Hall. Taught by the Rev. Judy Joy**

The small book of James placed after the book of Hebrews and before 1 Peter in the New Testament letters is a fascinating book to study because of its many different elements. Martin Luther wanted to remove it from the canon of scripture because he believed it contradicted Paul’s presentation of the gospel and the Reformed emphasis on faith alone. John Calvin accepted the book. Most contemporary commentators find it rich in wisdom for the Christian life today. The book of James is described as a letter, but it is not addressed to a specific church. The book has the flavor of wisdom literature in some of its succinct aphorisms and is also filled with imperatives telling us how to live and practice faith. In this class we will study James’ message to discover how God is speaking to us today.







## **The Mystery of the Incarnation**


**Sundays, November 6–20, 11:30 AM, Soulé Hall.**

**Taught by the Rev. Steve Whitney**

Angels and shepherds, Herod and the Wise Men, “In the beginning was the Word”—many of us know the Christmas Story well. And rightly so. The Incarnation may be the biggest miracle there is. In Jesus, God took on human flesh and lived with us. But have you ever wondered why the three Gospels that mention Jesus’ birth tell the story so differently? In this three-week class, we’ll look at the way Matthew, Luke, and John describe Jesus’ coming into the world. We’ll explore the struggles described in each Gospel and the Glory of God that each reveals. We’ll also look at what each author emphasizes, what it meant to the people of the time, and how each story holds together on its own and also works with the others to make a greater whole.

## **Going Deeper: Practices for Spiritual Growth (An Advent Retreat)**

**Saturday, December 10, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Fireside Room. Led by Jim Peterson and Judy Beggs**

This half-day retreat will explore, through presentations and exercises, a few spiritual practices that can open one up to a deeper relationship with God. The retreat will provide opportunities for learning, personal reflection, and the chance to learn from one another’s experiences. The goal of the retreat is to have participants leave with a sense of the next step each wants to take on the path of deeper relationship with the divine, both personally and in community. 



## Automatic Withdrawals

**Tavie Armfield, Church Comptroller**



An easy way to simplify your giving to the church is to set up automatic monthly payments via Billpay through your bank or an automatic withdrawal (ACH) from your bank account. If you are interested in learning more about these, please contact **Tavie** at [tavie@svpc.us](mailto:tavie@svpc.us) or 650-996-9747.

## Financial Update through August

We are 5 months into our fiscal year, which began in April, and we have much to praise God for. Our surplus has continued to grow over the summer months and is so much healthier than we normally see for this time of year. Having lower expenses than expected and a VERY generous congregation are the reasons.

Keeping pledges current and making additional gifts enable our church to be financially healthy. Thank you! 🌱

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|------------------|
| \$818k Income    |
| -\$714k Expenses |
| <hr/>            |
| \$104k Surplus   |

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## Session Summaries

### August 23 and September 20 Session Meetings

In August and September session opened their worship times with prayer, John 12:46, lighting of the Christ candle, time for silent reflection, and affirmation of the church's vision statement. In August there was a discussion of Romans 13:8–10, and in September session reflected on the Sojourners painting by **Carol Aust**. September study time was completed with prayers in small group for the church family.

In their work and ministry time together in August, ministry report updates included: Financial/Budget, General Assembly and Presbytery, Youth Director Search, and PNC.

**Pastor Debbie** facilitated session's continuing discussion of LGBT issues. Prayers for the church were offered and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

In their work and ministry time together in September, ministry report updates included: Financial/Budget, Endowment, Personnel, Youth Director Search, PNC, and Worship (Intersections location). Pastor Debbie facilitated session's continuing discussion of LGBT related issues. The meeting was closed in prayer.

 [www.svpc.us/who/session](http://www.svpc.us/who/session)

# Reaching Out In Love.

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

## All-Church Camp

Chuck and Lisa McManis, 2016 Camp Directors

Over 300 campers enjoyed SVPC's 54th All-Church Camp at Redwood Glen over Labor Day weekend. The weather was cool, but hearts were warm as we enjoyed friends new and old, music, games, and learning from our program speaker **Dave Rohrer** and youth speaker **Cassie Carroll**.

One of the camp highlights was our annual Talent Show. MC **Bill Perry** hosted his 10th and final show and with MC alumnus **Jim Traina**, Bill passed the microphone to **Scott Clinton** to carry on the tradition of "feel the love" at the Talent Show.

Mark your calendars for All-Church Camp next year, September 1–4, 2017, with registration starting in April. Incoming directors **Anneka** and **Stephen Bear** will put together another great camp experience.

Are you on Facebook? You can join our camp Facebook group and see more camp pictures and memories and help you look forward and plan for 2017. Go to [www.facebook.com/groups/SVPCAllChurchCamp](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SVPCAllChurchCamp) or scan this QR code with your phone.



## Volunteer Opportunity

Friends for Life needs a volunteer to drive three or four Life's Garden residents grocery shopping the first Tuesday of the month from 9:45–11 AM on a regular basis. This is a fun job where you can do your own shopping at the same time or enjoy a Starbucks while you wait. Contact **Sue Slavik** at 408-735-9720 or [ssslavik@comcast.net](mailto:ssslavik@comcast.net) to learn more about this special volunteering opportunity. 🌿

# A Season of Peace

By Judi Pogue

PC(USA) has designated the first Sunday in September through the first Sunday in October as “A Season of Peace” in preparation for receiving the Peace and Global Witness Offering on October 2.

For over thirty years Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church has shown Christian love through generous giving to the Peacemaking Offering, which has been renamed Peace and Global Witness Offering.

Local, national and international recipients have been selected to share our portion of the 2016 offering. They are City Team Ministries of San Jose, which cares for homeless ([www.cityteam.org/san-jose/](http://www.cityteam.org/san-jose/)), the United Negro College Fund, which supports minority education ([www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)), and She Is Safe, which works to prevent, rescue and restore women and girls from abuse and exploitation in high-risk places around the world, equipping them to build a life of freedom, faith and a strong future ([sheissafe.org](http://sheissafe.org)).

Contributions to Peace and Global Witness are accepted through November 6. 🌿



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

## SVPC's Group for Moms – JAM!

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

JAM, Just Among Moms,\* is a place for moms to join together in a space to be real and honest about the joys and challenges of life. We 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! If your children are not in school during this time, we offer child care by Safe Church-trained staff for the duration of the meeting.

For more information please visit the church website or email **Valerie Rye**, **Leslie Gross** or **Michelle Schmidt** at [jam@svpc.us](mailto:jam@svpc.us).

\*Please note this is a group for moms of ALL ages, not just moms with young kids!



# Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 29 at 7 PM at SVPC



## Trunk or Treating

All children are welcome to Trick or Treat in the church parking lot on October 29 beginning at 7 PM. Invite your friends and come enjoy a night of trick-or-treating in a fun and safe environment!

Can you help us with this fun event? We are looking for people from our congregation, young and not so young, to bring their car trunks and some treats so that children can come and safely trick or treat in our church parking lot. You can make this as simple or as elaborate as you like. Dress up and decorate your cars and then enjoy handing out treats to the kids from our church and community.

Please contact **Colleen** ([colleen@svpc.us](mailto:colleen@svpc.us)) to sign up to participate or if you have any questions.

## Third Graders Receive Bibles October 9

Third graders, please plan to be present at either the 10 AM or 5 PM service for your Bible presentation. Arrive early and meet in the entryway to get your nametag and instructions on where to sit.





## Israel/Palestine Film Series

Thursdays, October 6 & November 10, Fellowship Hall,  
7:30 PM

Join us as we examine the situation in Israel/Palestine. In October, we will view the film *Detaining Dreams* and hear a presentation about incarcerated Palestinian children by **Beth Miller** from Defense for Children International—Palestine. In November we will view *The Occupation of the American Mind* followed by a panel-led question and answer session. This series is sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin, Jewish Voice for Peace, and the San Jose Presbytery Peace and Justice Task Force.



## Luci Lights Brighten the Future of Gaza's Children

Rebuilding Alliance is sending solar-powered inflatable lights to the children of Gaza; they're on their fourth shipping container now. Three Palestinian NGO's distribute the lights. Only four hours of electricity are available each day, so the lights allow the children to do homework in the evening and bring comfort and hope to those who experienced bombing and displacement.

See Luci Lights at our Fair Trade display the first Sunday of each month and occasionally other Sundays. Buy one light for \$20 (including \$5 donation) or contribute to the purchase of lights for the children. Almost \$500 was donated by SVPC in September. Your help is needed to send a light to every child in Gaza.

For more information about the film series or Luci Lights, contact **Miriam Kishi** at [miriamkishi@gmail.com](mailto:miriamkishi@gmail.com) or 408-246-4664. 🌱



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

*For the loss of loved ones:* **Joy Beall's** husband and **Vicki Anderson's** father (**Roger Beall**); **Ruel Lefler's** wife (**Barbara Lefler**); **Lynn Peterson's** mother (**Margaret Post Smith**); **Harry Shaver's** sister-in-law (**Sara Shaver**); **Shawn Wang's** father (**Ji-Liang**)

*For cancer treatment:* **Bob Meyers, Sally Morefield**

*For recovery:* **Maritza Lam, Richard Steffen**

## In Celebration...

We celebrate the births of **Joseph Anthony Grube** to parents **Jeff** and **Emily Grube**, sister **Michaela Rose** and grandparents **Mark Liu** and **Trina Grube-Liu** and **Penelope Jae White**, great-granddaughter of **Paula White**.

We celebrate the wedding anniversaries of **Charles** and **Kathleen Newby** (25 years); **Charles** and **Judy Munnerlyn** (53 years); and **Ralph** and **Madeleine Robinson** (74 years).



## Thank You...

I cannot put into words the depth of my gratitude for your prayers, cards, and expressions of love during this sad time in my life. It is a huge blessing to have such a wonderful church family. Thank you, thank you!

—**Beth Pole**

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## Keep in touch!

*E-mail*—[info@svpc.us](mailto:info@svpc.us)

*Like us on Facebook:*

SVPC—[facebook.com/SunnyvalePres](https://facebook.com/SunnyvalePres)

Youth—[facebook.com/SVPCYFM](https://facebook.com/SVPCYFM)

Children's—[facebook.com/SVPCMWC](https://facebook.com/SVPCMWC)

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

The Table—[facebook.com/TableSVPC](https://facebook.com/TableSVPC)





# SUNNYVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunnyvale, CA.

## Toiletry Donations

**Gary Ruschke, Mission & Service Lead Elder**

Where do those toiletries I donate end up? Throughout the spring, summer and fall most of our toiletries go to First Presbyterian Church San Jose which hosts a mobile shower for the homeless twice a week called Dignity on Wheels, a collaboration between Project WeHOPE, Downtown Streets Team and Trinity Church in Sunnyvale. While people are showering, their laundry is put into mesh bags for washing. Most people might take a hot shower and clean clothes for granted, but for the region's homeless, both are often luxuries. Your donation of toiletries helps support this caring ministry. During the winter, we also donate toiletries to the Faith in Action Rotating Shelter and the Home First Winter Shelter. So please remember the homeless when you travel and bring home the unused toiletries from your room or pick up an extra bar of soap or bottle of shampoo when you're out shopping. Toiletries can be dropped off during the food drive or at the church mail room.

 [www.dignityonwheels.org](http://www.dignityonwheels.org)

