

# Tidings

The Newsletter of Woodside Road United Methodist Church  
"We Seek God, Welcome All, Love and Serve Our Neighbors"

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## November 2015

December/January Tidings articles are due by November 15  
December/January Tidings will be available November 29

Dear Friends,

In one of my first sermons this past summer, I talked about how a Methodist gives thanks. Giving thanks to God is a spiritual practice that we engage in on a regular basis, but thanks to a combination of events in the church and secular world that happen in the month of November, we especially give thanks during this month.

We begin giving thanks during the month of November with All Saints' Day on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup>. In worship that morning we will have two specific opportunities to remember and give thanks for the saints in our lives. In the sanctuary there will be a table for pictures and a table for candles. Before the worship service begins you are invited to bring photographs of your loved ones who have passed away to remind us that the community of the community of saints who now worship God in heaven. On the second table will be a number of votive candles. After you receive communion you are encouraged to light a candle in memory of the saints in your life. This table, too, will remind us of the resurrection hope that we share in Jesus Christ. We will also name those members of our faith community who have died during this past year during the communion liturgy.

Thanksgiving, of course, is the date on the secular calendar that calls us to give thanks at the end of November, this year on the 26<sup>th</sup>. As we prepare for this holiday we are called to be mindful of the things in our lives that we are most grateful for as well as the many people in our world who lack some of life's most basic necessities. I have often seen friends use Facebook in November as a gratitude journal. Throughout the month of November people make it a spiritual practice to name one thing for which they are grateful. I think there is something pretty cool about using social media as a way to grow one's spiritual practice.

Our worship themes in November will loosely follow these themes of gratitude, also with an eye towards stewardship and how it is we tend to God's resources in the world. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, when we worship in Watters Hall and read scripture across the generations, we will look at stories from our Bibles of labor and rest – I am grateful for your on-going suggestions and tweaks to this new style of worship. November 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> will focus on community and justice and just how it is that we practice "enough." And then, all of a sudden it is November 29<sup>th</sup> and the first Sunday in Advent. I will say more about this elsewhere in the newsletter, but on the 29<sup>th</sup> we will launch a new small group opportunity as part of our shared journey towards Christmas. (I am amazed that it is already time to be talking about our journey to the manger once again.)

Friends, our opportunities to worship deeply, grow spiritually, and serve our neighbors (see elsewhere in this newsletter) are rich this month and in the months to come. I am so grateful to be on this journey with you.

See you in church,

*Katie*



**Members:** Alice Allen, Cassie Allen, Bev Barr, Evelyn Berk, Barbara Fleenor, Betty Kibbe, Helen Lomas, Mary Marchini, Helen Marin, Jean

Massing, Mary Nelson.

**Absent:** Geneva Anderson, Doris Bogart, Carole Clarke, Elizabeth Prasad, Doris Rotella and Irene Zinkel.

Eleven Circle members met in Watters Hall at 12:30 pm for lunch. Bev Barr was our hostess and provided apple pie with cheese, fruit, coffee and tea. We signed birthday and get-well cards for our members.

Bev reported that she has not had any communication from Church Women United locally. Unless we hear from the president or have a report on the finances of the organization, the circle members agreed to no longer make a yearly donation of \$25.

Bev spoke with the San Mateo Service League representative about the cookie packing. He thought it would be December 22nd. Bev will speak with Katie regarding a Service League program on Sunday morning. We will continue to give gift cards for teenagers whose parents are incarcerated at Christmas time.

Jean will contact Donato's Restaurant regarding a possible reservation on December 7th for our Christmas luncheon.

There was general discussion about current affairs, particularly regarding the Pope's visit to the US. Betty talked about her Bible study group of 400 women who are currently studying "Revelations".

Prayers were offered for Doris Rotella who is on Hospice care and her family (editor's note: Doris passed away on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. Her life was celebrated in our Sanctuary on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.) Geneva Anderson, Irene Zinkel, Doris Bogart and Elizabeth Prasad. Helen Marin and Helen Lomas will take a plant and food to Doris after the meeting.

Twenty personal care bags were packaged, and Bev will drop them off at the Service League's office this afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Helen Lomas

## Growing Together Spiritually



We have two new upcoming opportunities for faith formation here at Woodside Road UMC. On Sundays November 1st, 8th, and 15th we will gather after worship for a brown bag (that means bring a lunch if you want) study group around issues of stewardship. But we actually won't spend a whole lot of time talking about money. Instead we will explore what it is we value, how we participate in labor and recreation/rest, and how we go about creating just communities. This series will be loosely based on *Money Enough: Everyday Practices for Living Faithfully in the Global Economy* by Douglas A. Hicks, but it isn't necessary to buy the book. Katie Goetz will lead this study.

Beginning on November 29th (the first Sunday of Advent) we will start a new small group opportunity where we focus on "watching over one another in love." We've spent a lot of time this summer and fall talking about Methodist movement founder John Wesley and how he understood the Christian journey. This group, which will also meet after worship – probably in the chapel, will practice holding one another accountable to growing in faith in the Wesleyan tradition. Together we will share a Bible story and pray, but mostly we will have the opportunity to ask one another, "How have you done no harm, how have you done good, and how have you engaged in spiritual practices?" While many study groups focus on information (see above regarding stewardship and *Money Enough*) this group will focus on personal and communal transformation. Katie Goetz will begin as the leader of this group with the training of additional leaders being a secondary focus of our work together.



Congratulations to Howard Macway who is receiving an *Unsung Hero* award from the Interservice Club Coordinating Council of Redwood City on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at the Veteran's Memorial Senior Center (1455 Madison, Redwood City).

## How We Fight Hunger

**Bay Area Food Banks** acquire millions of pounds of food for distribution by collecting donated food through community food drives, by trucking in donated surplus groceries and fresh produce from manufacturers, wholesalers and produce growers, and by purchasing selected food items that are needed for food assistance programs in the community. We depend on thousands of volunteers to help us sort, pack and deliver food.

Though most of our food is donated, we are able to obtain purchased food at low cost so that every dollar donated goes even further. In addition, each food bank serves targeted geographic areas, which prevents duplication of food distribution efforts and makes us highly efficient in providing nutritious food to adults, seniors and children who are in need.

Food banks are successful at reducing hunger because of tremendous local support. We depend on donors who generously give money and food, volunteers who sort and pack food in our warehouses and distribute bags of groceries, and advocates willing to speak to public officials and the media about solutions to hunger. Your help is needed more than ever as thousands of people in our community are living on the margins, barely holding on.



### NOVEMBER

Sara Dumanske	November 1
Tiernan Weaver	November 1
Katie Goetz	November 3
Gordon Kibbe	November 6
Jeff & Debra Clark-Trimble (A)	November 7
Georgina Dussau	November 23

### DECEMBER

Glenn Nelson	December 2
Howard Macway	December 5
Muriel Willey	December 7
Jorge L Ruiz Jr	December 16
Barbara Black	December 21
Margret Christoffersen	December 22
Martha Moore	December 22
Doug Pense	December 23
Angelica Petelo	December 26

If you do not see your name listed, it's because we don't have your birthday or anniversary information. Please let the church office know your information so that we may correct it.

**The holidays are coming which increases the need in our community. Please remember to bring in your donations and put them in our food barrels in the narthex. Thank You!**

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat  
please put a penny in the old man's hat.  
If you haven't got a penny, a ha' penny will do,  
if you haven't got a ha' penny, then God bless you.



### Help Us Bring the Advent Fair to Hometown Holidays

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Redwood City celebrates Hometown Holidays in downtown Redwood City, and Woodside Road UMC will be part of the celebration. Our booth will offer children the opportunity to participate in Christmas crafts and be part of the Christmas story -- whether as Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, or an angel.

**We need volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and staffing the booth.** Shifts are approximately two hours long beginning at 8am and ending about 4pm. We'd love to get as many people as possible involved in bringing the Christmas story to downtown Redwood City.

Please contact the church office:  
([wrumc@prodigy.net](mailto:wrumc@prodigy.net) or 650-368-3376), Katie  
([katiemgoetz@gmail.com](mailto:katiemgoetz@gmail.com) or 650-260-3414, or  
Elaine ([elainestern@hotmail.com](mailto:elainestern@hotmail.com)) to sign up.



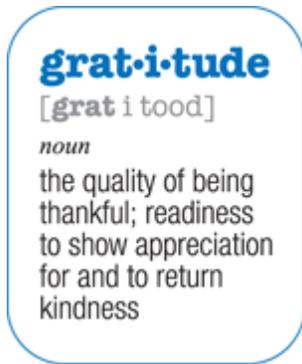
### Triple S...with a Twist

Triple S will have its annual Christmas Ornament Exchange this year on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be having dinner at Cibo Restaurant located at 3398 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (just south of Page Mill Road.) at 6:30pm. Dinner includes salad, entree of fish, chicken or beef with rice and dessert.

In years past, it has been our tradition to bring a wrapped ornament for a secret exchange, and we are still going to do that....but this year we're going to add a twist! Joining a tradition that our UMW sisters in the Thoburn Circle have done for years. We are asking that you bring Target gift cards in \$10 increments. These gift cards will be given to children whose parents are incarcerated, so they will have a Christmas gift if their parents can't provide one.

If you are planning on attending please contact Carla Sillin 650-799-1651 or [csillin@aol.com](mailto:csillin@aol.com) or Janice McOmber 367-7799 or [Jmcomber@aol.com](mailto:Jmcomber@aol.com).

# The power of gratitude



Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

—Melody Beattie



Stewardship takes thought and planning. It is not nebulous, something on which we all agree, but about which we do nothing. We do not just get around to stewardship someday. Stewardship includes time and talent as well as money. Life itself is a stewardship given to us in trust from God. All we have has come from God. That is the reason for reflection before planning. We need to reflect upon or pray about what God has given to us. Then we respond as good stewards by properly sharing what God has given us.

Please look for the kick-off of the stewardship series next week. The stewardship luncheon will be on November 22 after worship.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial Status as of 10 /19/15:

Income: \$139,606

Expense: \$134,419

Difference: \$ 5,187



### Senior Fellowship

There will be no Senior Fellowship lunch in November or December.

Call Jean Massing 650-368-0561 for any questions.

## Report on Faith Xtreme Youth Retreat at Mt. Hermon Sept. 25-27

Faith Xtreme is an annual weekend retreat for teens in our CA/NV Conference, and it was action-packed and wonderful. Four worship services were led by Kris Marshall, pastor of Reno First UMC ([renofirstmethodist.org](http://renofirstmethodist.org)), and Jeremy Schulz, director of the music team at Point Pleasant UMC in Elk Grove, CA ([ppumc.com](http://ppumc.com)). The youth also participated in high energy games and service projects that included packing school and other supplies for homeless families, writing thank-you notes to firefighters and writing friendly greetings for people in care facilities. The woods were beautiful and there was a little time for short trail walks. The facilities and food were also very good.

Kris challenged us to take Jesus seriously and commit to lives of faith, joy and service. She spoke about what faith is, how it grows, and how we can live our faith in the world. In her resume, Kris describes her Reno church as “an urban church nestled between a bar and a casino... in other words, exactly where Jesus would have hung out.” She is one of the moderators of the DreamUMC conversations on Twitter and Facebook. These are venues for those who work to develop vision, innovation, and leadership in the emerging church. She thinks we shouldn't do ministry that isn't fun (although she still attends committee meetings)!

Jeremy is a professional Christian singer, guitarist and songwriter, featuring thoughtful lyrics in a contemporary Christian style. He's an excellent song leader, the band was great, and the music was inspiring.

This retreat was planned by a team led by Kelly Peterson, Director of Young People's Ministry & Camping for our Conference. It is an awesome annual event for teens and a time to serve and grow with other youth. Visit <http://www.cnumc.org/youthministries> to learn about other opportunities for youth to serve and grow. One of these is the Sierra Service Project, which our pastor Katie Goetz hopes our youth can participate in next summer.

Our youth at the retreat.



Rebecca Frost, Jane Petelo, Andre Antoine,  
Kilifi Leaaetoa, Katie Goetz



Rebecca and Jane writing notes.

