

Tidings

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

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December 2016/January 2017

February Tidings articles are due by January 18
February Tidings will be available January 29

Dear Friends,

As I write this, it's the first Sunday in Advent. As Christians our church year begins today; today is New Year's Day for the church! I think it's somewhat telling that our church year begins not with Christmas, when we celebrate Christ's coming into the world, nor with Easter when we celebrate Christ's resurrection and triumph over sin and death, but with Advent – the season of darkness, waiting, anticipation, and getting ready. We start with preparation, not celebration.

Just what is it that we are preparing for? What are we waiting for? Our worship themes for these upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas are "Hope Fuels the Journey/Hope Fuels the Story." As I think about a hope fueled journey, I think about how we are called to put one foot in front of the other, even when we don't know where the path we are on will take us. The journey of following Jesus isn't one of knowing where exactly we are going as much as it is one of knowing that Jesus goes with us along the way. This is the thing about hope, and what I think makes it different from optimism, hope relies on God's promises, hope is trusting in something beyond ourselves, hope is being to recognize we aren't in control and that's okay. Optimism is being pretty sure that things are going to turn out okay. Hope is being sure that God is with us even when things are far from okay.

If we're journeying together through Advent, we're going to celebrate the season of Christmas (December 25 and January 1) and the start of Epiphany (January 8 and 15) by entering into the biblical story. Especially on January 1, 8, and 15 we're going to hear stories in worship about some people who were both extraordinary and ordinary all at the same time. On January 1st we will hear the stories of Simeon and Anna in the Temple as they meet the baby Jesus for the first time. January 8th will introduce us, once again, to the three wise ones. On January 15th we will celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday with John the Baptist and a reaffirmation of our own baptisms. Meeting all of these folks, hearing their joys and their questions, their hopes and their fears, will help us find our place in the story as we begin 2017 together.

My hope and my prayer for our worship experiences over these upcoming weeks is that they are rich ones filled with moments of meeting Jesus and having our lives transformed by Jesus so that we might transform the world. But worship isn't the only thing happening in this Advent/Christmas season. By the time you read this we will have just finished up the Hometown Holidays photo booth on December 3rd. On December 10th we have our pre-Christmas work day scheduled (yes, there will be donuts). This year on December 17th from 2pm-4pm Janice McOmber will host a Christmas Tea in Watters Hall. On December 22nd we will again host the Service League Cookie Pack for inmates in the San Mateo County Jails. This event begins at 9am and includes lunch (let me know if you'll be around for lunch so we can include you in the head count). There's enough going on that Finance and Ad Council are taking the month of December off! But these groups will meet again on January 16th at 2:30pm (Finance) and 3:30pm (Ad Council). Everyone is always welcome at these meetings, which are the third Tuesday of most months.

As we journey further into Advent and we enter more deeply into the story of Jesus, I wish you a hope-filled Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

See you in church,

Katie



Members: Alice Allen, Cassie Allen, Barbara Fleenor, Katie Goetz, Betty Kibbe, Helen Lomas, Mary Marchini, Helen Marin, Jean

Massing and Mary Nelson.

Absent: Bev Barr, Evelyn Berk, Carole Clarke, Anne Hinton, and Elizabeth Prasad.

We gathered together in on Monday, November 7th in Watters Hall at noon for lunch with a dessert and fruit prepared by Jean Massing and Helen Lomas. We discussed plans for our December 5th meeting. Helen Lomas offered to purchase food at Costco for a lunch in Watters Hall instead of trying to find a place to go out for lunch. Helen Marin offered to make a green salad and Betty will help with decorations. We are to bring Gift Cards from Target for teenagers who have family incarcerated during the holidays.

Bev Barr, Mary Nelson, Jane Day and Helen Lomas went to a well organized UMW meeting at the Palo Alto UMC. The program was inspirational and included singing and a slide presentation of UMW's work around the world by Reverend Paul Jefferies. He showed a young picture of Isabelle Thoburn whose missionary work in Lucknow, India is legendary.

A Mission Springs Weekend Spiritual Retreat will be held on March 31st to April 2nd, 2017.

We had a general discussion about our plans for Thanksgiving and our families.

Mary Nelson will bring pledge cards to our meeting on Monday, January 2, 2017. She is having double knee surgery tomorrow.

Twenty personal care bags have been prepared and delivered by Bev Barr to the Service League.

Helen Lomas



Stewardship 2017

In looking to the coming year, remember that rooted deeply and firmly within scriptures and our Christian tradition is the vision that we are expected to be faithful stewards of all we are and have. This can be done by making the best use of our talents, the time allotted to each of us, and the treasures we possess. Stewardship is seen as a living lifestyle.

Howard Macway

Finance News - Budget for 2017

Our income sources are from pledged and unpledged giving, plate offering, renters, property tax receipts from Montessori, Special Holiday offerings and fund raising.

Next year the budget for income based on the above will be \$193,000, due to a loss of pledging members.

Our expense sources are for Trustees (utilities, maintenance, insurance, janitorial, property taxes, landscaping and supplies), Committees, Apportionments, Office Expense, Pastoral Salary and Staff Salary.

Next year the budget for expense will be \$240,000, due to increases in insurance and utilities.

That means we will be starting the year with a \$47,000 deficit. Last year we started the year with a planned deficit of \$30,000.

The plan to cover the deficit is two fold: 1) reduce spending where possible and 2) use our reserves.

We continue to work on reducing expenses but reductions have not been enough to cover the full deficit.

Before tapping into the reserves the finance committee determined it should notify the congregation of the where we are fiscally and what our budget looks like.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS TEA
Saturday, December 17
2:00 to 4:00 pm

Please join us on Saturday December 17th, from 2:00 to 4:00pm in Watters Hall. Janice McOmber will bring tea and cookies to Watter's Hall. Come and enjoy the fellowship. If you have made hats or scarves to be given away bring them along.

CHRISTMAS
COOKIE PACK



SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, December 22, 2016
9:00 am to 2:00pm

We will hold our annual cookie pack event. The cookies we pack are given as gifts to inmates at San Mateo County Jail. This will be the only gift the inmates are able to receive on Christmas Day. Lunch is included. Save the date and join us!



In today's day and time,
it's easy to lose sight,
of the true meaning of Christmas
and one special night.

When we go shopping,
We say "How much will it cost?"
Then the true meaning of Christmas,
Somehow becomes lost.

Amidst the tinsel, glitter
And ribbons of gold,
We forget about the child,
born on a night so cold.

The children look for Santa
In his big, red sleigh
Never thinking of the child
Whose bed was made of hay.

In reality,
When we look into the night sky,
We don't see a sleigh
But a star, burning bright and high.

A faithful reminder,
Of that night so long ago,
And of the child we call Jesus,
Whose love, the world would know.



UMYF Upcoming Activities

Sunday School Schedule

Cathy Taylor's Elementary Sunday School Class will meet Dec. 4 and 18, will not meet Dec. 25, Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, and will meet again on January 15.



The Sunday School children will staff a Heifer Project table during Coffee Fellowship, through December 18. You can buy various farm animals, or shares of your favorite animal, in honor of family and friends! The animals you buy will go to poor farm families somewhere in the world, to help them improve the quality of their lives. Pick up gift cards also, that you can send to your honorees to tell them about your gift

On December 23 the teens will go hiking and then meet at the Days' house for spaghetti and a movie. They will not meet December 25 or January 1, resuming regular meetings on January 8. On January 15 they will worship at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco and help serve the church's free Sunday lunch that day.

The group has decided to participate in a Sierra Service Project next July 9-15, in the San Diego area. They hope at least 6 youth and 3 counselors can go. The cost is \$365 per person, which covers housing and food, plus helping with the cost of construction materials for the project they'll work on. They will have several fundraising activities during the coming months and hope to earn at least enough to pay for the youth who participate. They'll also apply for a grant from PUMA.

Their first fundraising project, selling See's candy, has begun. It's very good candy and can be a very welcome gift! They'll have a table during Coffee Fellowship on Sundays through December 11, where you can order. They'll also sell to their teachers, neighbors and friends. Vince Hodgens is keeping track of sales. He will take all their orders to See's on Dec. 11 and your candy will be delivered to you during the following week.

Pics of our youth



Youth Playing acksack

Their next fundraising project will be a Rummage Sale on Saturday January 21. Please donate anything that you don't use any more -- clothing, household items, jewelry, etc. Bring items to room 7 on any Sunday or call Jane Day to schedule a pickup (650-384-5607 or 650-854-0395). We'll store most donations in the locked shed behind the church. The sale will be in the parking lot along Woodside Road and possibly in Watters Hall also.

Jean Massing will be in charge of jewelry donations. She once sold jewelry for Nieman Marcus, and will help with pricing and selling those. They will be kept in the church safe until the sale.

Hiking Castle Rock Park



Volunteers for the Rummage Sale will be very welcome! Our youth have not done this before, and will be grateful for help with sorting, pricing, displaying and/or selling. We'll have a signup sheet in Watters Hall on Sundays.



Work Day
Saturday, December 10th
9am to noon

You can come late or leave early if you can't make the full three hours. Any little bit helps.

Please mark your calendars and set aside time to come help get everything in tip-top shape!

WRUMC Trustees



Spirit Care Ministry to Seniors and WRUMC

Did you know that Woodside Road UMC has an active ministry with seniors living in retirement communities, assisted living, and memory care facilities? Through SpiritCare (spiritcareministry.org) and the musical leadership of our own Jan Ireland members and friends of WRUMC are invited to participate in worship services at a variety of facilities that care for seniors in our community. Jan leads music at different locations throughout the month including on Sunday afternoons and during the week.

If you are interested in volunteering alongside Jan let her know at (janisireland@yahoo.com). If you are interested in volunteer opportunities outside of the worship setting (visiting, arts and crafts, etc) check out the SpiritCare website.



*The average family pays off
\$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700
within the first 90 days!*

Financial Peace University

9 weeks - begins January 23, 2017

Do you need help with the basics of budgeting, eliminating debt and planning for the future?

Rob and Sarah Blatner are hosting a Financial Peace University class starting on January 23, 2017 in Watters Hall. Developed by Dave Ramsey, this class will help you with all of the above and more. Meeting with a small group of people will help you stay motivated, be encouraged and learn ideas from others.

The cost of \$75 for the materials is an investment in yourself and your future. Rob and Sarah are volunteering to host the class. Childcare will be provided.

Questions? Please call or e-mail Sarah at 650-361-1602 or sblatner@gmail.com.



Senior Fellowship

There will be no Senior Fellowship lunch in December.

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



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

January

Marc Guarino	January 2
Nita Petelo	January 7
Mary Nelson	January 9
Jan Ireland	January 18
Emily Tate	January 20
Gretchen Fermer	January 21
Helen Lomas	January 31

February

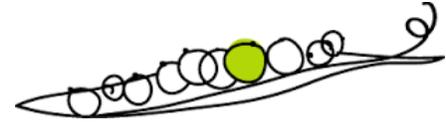
Glen Christoffersen	February 3
Georgi La Berge	February 4
John Hinton	February 6
Nicola Guarino	February 12
Doug & Mary Ellen Pense (A)	February 14
Lois Swanson-Nottingham	February 17
Alexand Nelson	February 18
Walter & Jane Day (A)	February 22
Jeff Riley	February 22
Daryl Williams	February 27

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.



1 IN 10 PEOPLE

in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties receive food from Second Harvest.



SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Children's Nutrition provides children who are at risk of chronic hunger with the food they need to grow up healthy.

- **Youth Programs** that our partners run receive nutritious, kid-friendly food to provide to low-income children that are involved in residential, after-school, and summer programs.
- **Kids NOW (Nutrition on Weekends)** provides an assortment of healthy, ready-to-eat food each Friday for children and their families.

Family Harvest provides supplemental, nutritious food every month to low-income families with minor dependents. Volunteers help distribute food.

Brown Bag, a program for seniors and run by seniors, provides low-income seniors (age 60 and above) and disabled individuals (age 55 and above) with healthy groceries twice a month. In addition, volunteers also deliver food to homebound Brown Bag members.

Partners in Need (PIN) provides food assistance to low-income Food Bank volunteers who work at our San Jose or San Carlos distribution centers.

Produce Mobile delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income individuals each month to improve health and nutrition in underserved communities.

CalFresh Outreach conducted alongside the Santa Clara and San Mateo County Social Services Agencies assists applicants to the CalFresh program. Applications are taken by Food Connection and Outreach staff by phone and in the community. The program provides an EBT card (which works like a debit card) so low-income households can purchase food at grocery stores and farmers' markets.

Nutrition Education is provided to clients through cooking demos, recipe cards, nutrition classes, and food safety training.