

Fed Family

Saratoga Federated Church Newsletter

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Important Dates

January

- 6 - Prayer Retreat
- 8 - Fundraiser at WillowStreet
- 14 - Congregational Meeting
- 28 - Anti-Human Trafficking
Event

February

- 4 - Life Group Sunday
- 6 - Women's Luncheon
- 8 - Village Forum
- 11 - Talent Show Fundraiser
- 15 - Lenten Soup Supper
- 25 - Serve Sunday

Special Congregational Meeting

The Elders have called for a special Congregational meeting ("the Meeting") to be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 12:05 pm, immediately following the third worship service. Two items are on the agenda for this meeting.

The first item on the agenda is to affirm the ministry and call of Matt Hall by voting to commission him as our Minister of Youth and Family Ministries. Matt has been in process towards commissioning for some time now, with the team of Brian Penzel, Tim Galleher, Kathy Storton and Spencer Sells overseeing his preparation. Commissioning is a formal step our congregation is authorized to take which results in the candidate becoming a commissioned minister. This requested commissioning is a logical next step in ministry for Matt who has served both here and previously at West Valley Presbyterian Church as Director of Youth Ministries. Matt's biography can be found on page 7 of this issue.

The second item on the Meeting agenda is to provide authorization for the Elders to move ahead with the second phase of refurbishment associated with the original 1923 church building. This phase includes renovation of the Fireside room

and bathrooms. In accordance with our current church bylaws, any expenditures in excess of \$150,000 require congregational approval. The Elders previously (in August 2017) approved \$100,000 to do Phase 1 of this renovation based on funding available, one-third from operations and two-thirds from the Foundation. Future funding of Phase 2 was not presumed at that time. Subsequently, in October 2017, the church received a generous gift from the estate of a deceased member. That gift of \$488,000 was split, in accordance with the donor's wishes, half to the General Fund and half to the Foundation for church "building, maintenance and operations." Phase 2 is estimated to cost \$160,000, so the Elders are seeking congregational approval.

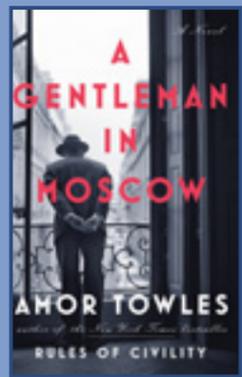
All registered members of the church are encouraged to vote either in person on January 14 or via proxy. More information on both of these matters, along with a proxy form, was mailed out to all members of the church in December. An informational meeting will be held after the first and second services on Sunday, January 7 in Douglass Hall.

Book Club

The January Book Club meeting will be held Thursday, January 18 at 12:15 pm in room 111. We will be discussing *My Lovely Wife In The Psych Ward* by Mark Lukach. This is a compelling memoir about the challenges created in a marriage and family by the sudden onset of mental illness.



In February, the Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 15 at 12:15 pm in room 111 and will be discussing *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. This is an historical novel placed in Russia from before the war to after as seen through one man's journey.



For questions or more information, contact Jeannie Hilt at (408) 984-2266.

From the Desk of Pastor Gabe

The longer I am alive and the longer I am a Christian, the more I am reminded of how messy life can be. Life is messy but life is also beautiful. Those two concepts can seem contradictory, but they are actually often interrelated and intertwined. You can see this in a child who is cherubic in one moment and throwing a screaming tantrum the next. You can see this in a lovely candlelit dinner with your spouse that is quickly followed by an intense argument about financial concerns. You can see this in church where people are loving and serving in one moment followed by deep theological disagreements and personal hurts in the next.

At SFC, we regularly start off the month of January with a series titled *Life Matters*. We do this series each year to emphasize our discipleship path with each of our life goals: Life in God, Life with Others and Life for Others. We also do this series because we know this beautiful/messy life is hard to navigate, so we look to God's word to guide us through and help us make sense of it all.

Starting January 7, we will start a 7-week series looking at Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. One could easily argue that the church in Corinth was by far the messiest Christian community discussed in the New Testament letters. In this young church, there are theological divisions, disputes about lawsuits, issues with sexual immorality and so much more. In the midst of this mess, there is also great beauty as the gospel is transforming broken lives into redeemed followers of Jesus Christ.

As we delve into this series, I am reminded of the idea of the Corinthian community that worshipped as a house

church. They did not have a church building to gather but would gather in people's homes and worship together. In thinking about this, I am excited for the remodel project that is going on in our church facilities. We want SFC to feel welcoming and a big part of that will be making Douglass Hall and Fireside feel like a welcoming living room for those who visit our home. So much life takes place in these rooms, and we want it to feel comfortable and inviting so people visiting our little home church can feel like it's a place they can belong.

I am excited for all of the life springing up around SFC. As we continue to grow and change through the years, there will be disagreements and things will occasionally get messy, but as the Body of Christ, I also know that a great deal of growth and life change is taking place and that is beautiful. I hope you are excited for the journey ahead in 2018 as we focus on the abundant and eternal life that God offers to all of us.

Peace and Grace,
Gabe Gilliam, Teaching Pastor



With Our Thanks

We've just come through the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The theme of *The Art of Christmas* was, "It all depends on how you look at it." So here's how we look back at 2017:

We're better together. When many hands and minds and hearts join together with one goal, something beautiful happens. When guests comment on how amazed they are at all the talent in our church, our thoughts go to individuals like Gabriel or Betty or Jay, who didn't feel like they had much to offer, but were willing to do what they could – bake some cookies, hammer some nails or make some sack lunches. Some in our choir don't really read music, and some of our little Kids Choir people are actually quite shy. Yet when all of the elements are thrown into the mix, the end result is much greater than the sum of its parts. Ecclesiastes 4:12 gives a glimpse of what takes us beyond our expected limits:

And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. (TLB)

That third cord in the braid is God himself. It is in his strength, it is with his grace, and it is through his unconditional love that we live life with citizenship in two kingdoms. We deal with all the day-to-day stuff, but we also operate as adopted heirs of the very Creator of the Universe.

We are so privileged to rub shoulders with each one of you, to serve together, to worship together, to make each other better. We look at that, and we are pretty sure that it's going to be a Happy New Year!

With gratitude for all the help and encouragement and challenges along the way.

Bill & Diane Allison

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Psalm 106:1

Life Group Sunday

As a church we value Life in God, Life with Others and Life for Others. Life Groups are an important way of deepening our life in God and growing our life with others. Life Groups often serve together on Serve Sunday, bringing the love of Christ to those in the world around us. If you aren't yet part of a Life Group, please prayerfully consider joining one. Come learn more about this key aspect of Life with Others while enjoying a Superbowl snack on

Sunday, February 4 on the courtyard between services!



A New Year A New Focus A Prayer Retreat

Each January gives us an opportunity to experience a fresh start, to release the past year and to receive God's goodness in a new way. Join us on Saturday, January 6 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for a time of prayer and contemplation. This retreat will be led by Russ Ikeda and Sally Bryant. We will meet in Douglass Hall. There is no cost to attend this event and food will be provided. For more information and to register, contact Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or call (408) 867-1000 ext. 233.

New To Our Church?

If you are newish to our church, we invite you to attend a "meet and greet" on Sunday, January 21. There are two options for you to choose from.

1 - Immediately following the 9:30 am service, join us for a *Six Minute Dash* where you can meet all the pastors. This will be held in the courtyard weather permitting.

2 - You can join us at 11:00 am in Douglass Hall to learn more about the church.

For more information, or to register for the 11:00 am meeting, please contact Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext. 233.

Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 3

6:00 to 10:00 pm

Saratoga Community Center

\$100 / person or \$800 / table

Dinner

Dancing

Big Band

Silent Auction

including:

Restaurant Gift Cards

Vacation Homes and Trips

Tickets to Sports Events

Tickets to Performing Arts

Hotel Gift Certificates

Movie Tickets

Ski Lift Tickets

Spa Services

Golf Gift Certificates

and more!

Cocktail Attire

To register visit:

[http://bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/MexicoDinnerDance)

MexicoDinnerDance

All proceeds will benefit the 2018 Mexico House Building trip and Amor Ministries.



Mexico Outreach – April 2018

We are very excited to announce our 18th trip to build homes in Mexico. This year's trip will be held April 7-13. Over the past 17 years, we have been able to complete 152 homes in communities east of Tijuana, Mexico with Amor Ministries. We not only are able to build homes for incredible families, but God teaches us many lessons.

Why do we build houses?

Promotes Health & Education

Having a cement floor and shelter that protects a family from the elements dramatically increases their health. Kids are more likely to attend school when they aren't sick, and with the solid foundation of a concrete floor they aren't as sick as often. A home helps children get education that could break the cycle of poverty.



Promotes Dignity

Parents want to provide for their family. Being in a position to receive handouts of basic necessities chips away at dignity. A job that provides a living wage allows a family to care for itself.

Battles Extreme Poverty

Shelter is a basic need and lack of it creates stress. When someone receives a home, a basic need is cared for that allows them to put their energies and resources toward activities that will further provide for their family.

This allows them to plan and dream for a hopeful future. A home is a stepping stone.



Strengthens Communities

Creating jobs allows individuals to provide for themselves and their families, and this in turn creates a thriving community.

The Mexico trip is such a wonderful opportunity to serve the pastors in Mexico in bringing homes to their communities. We learn how to build a house and to build up each other in love and grace.

Are you ready to come with us this year or to support us in our mission? If so, please take a look at the list below and see where you can help.



• Join our team! The trip dates are April 7-13, 2018. You and your family will experience many blessings by serving the families in Mexico.

• Give of your time! Volunteer to help us prepare for the trip both in the weeks before through the Saturday we return home. You will find more detailed information on the SFC website under Mexico 2018. Better yet come to any of our Mexico Information Meetings to see how you can help: December 10, January 7 and January 28 at 12:15 pm in Richards Hall.



• Give of your financial resources. In January, envelopes will be provided in the pews that can be used for your designated donation to Mexico 2018, or you can contact Tim Galleher for donation details.



• Support our fundraisers:

Willow Street Los Gatos Lunch and Dinner Fundraiser - Monday, January 8 and Monday, January 29.

Talent Show - Sunday, February 11

SS Saratoga Dinner Dance - Saturday, March 3.

We want to thank you in advance for your continuing support and please don't hesitate to invite a friend or family in the community to come on the trip with you!



WillowStreet Fundraiser

Mondays, January 8 & 29
WillowStreet, Los Gatos

Have lunch or dinner at WillowStreet and support the 2018 Mexico House Building Trip.

Grab a flyer in the Narthex or download one from our [website](#) and show it to your server.

Treat some friends to a yummy meal and support the Mexico trip and Amor Ministries!



7th Annual Talent Show Spectacular

Sunday, February 11
6:30 pm in Richards Hall

Featuring the talents of SFC Youth and Special Guests. Tickets will be available on the courtyard beginning January 7, on the SFC [website](#) or from the Youth Ministry office.

\$10 for Adults

\$8 for Students

\$4 for Children 11 and under. Come support our students as they amaze you with their incredible talent. All proceeds will benefit the 2018 Mexico House Building trip and Amor Ministries.

Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Month

In honor of January's National Anti-Human Trafficking Month S.T.O.P is sponsoring *Hope In The Darkness: Lighting a Path for Victims* out of Human Trafficking on January 28, 2018. This event will be held in the SFC Sanctuary from 2:00 to 3:30 pm followed by a reception in Douglass Hall. Together will we learn from experts about the challenges in eradicating modern day slavery in our community.

Our guest speakers will be District Attorney, Jeff Rosen who will share how Santa Clara County is combatting the evils of human trafficking within the legal system and Bryanna Pellizzer, Residential Manager for The Nest who will explain the loving and complicated care necessary to heal children from the victimization of sexual trafficking.

Jill Raney, founder of Out of Egypt Ministry and a speaker at last year's event, will host a table sharing information with owners and managers of rental property to recognize the signs of human trafficking in rentals.

Our church partners with St. Andrew's Church to help prevent human trafficking in Santa Clara County. Our task force, S.T.O.P. or Stop Trafficking on Planet has a twofold mission:

1. We work to bring awareness to our churches and extended communities.
2. We volunteer and fundraise for The Nest.

The Nest, one of Advent Ministries' group homes, specializes in the care and healing of under age girls rescued from sex trafficking. The levels of trauma these girls experience is shocking and requires unique aftercare involving carefully crafted phases: Rest, Restoration, Empowerment and Reintegration.

The specialized care that is necessary for healthy reintegration into society is complex. Homes like The Nest are challenging to operate for several reasons. There are virtually no programs to model such distinctive care thus the team at Advent seeks training and wisdom from many

organizations. Additionally, the State of California is no longer issuing group home licenses making The Nest a rare opportunity to shine God's love on these children. Serving this particular population is more expensive than traditional drug and alcohol programs for minors. Despite all of these challenges, the Advent Ministries board and staff are heroically committed to serving these children.

While such needs can seem overwhelming, there are tangible ways to help. Please pray for the healing of these girls, the stamina of the staff, and funds for a trauma specialist.

Visit our table on the courtyard during the month of January and learn how you can bless the incentive program at The Nest where girls earn points through good behavior that convert to gift cards. Please plan to attend the January anti-trafficking event.

Terri Goehner, Bev Poellet, Mary Benson, Laurel Perusa, Becky Clewett, Patti Hewitt, Karen Lekashman, Jean Cherniss, Virginia Apt and Debbie Lillo

Commissioning of Matt Hall

Matt Hall is our current Director of Youth and Family Ministries. In January the congregation will be asked to affirm the elders' recommendation to commission Matt as a minister. Matt's family began attending Saratoga Federated in 1989 when he was in kindergarten. As a teenager in our Youth Ministry, Matt responded to the gospel and acknowledged a call to ministry. Matt explored that call in our youth ministry, first as a student leader and then as a volunteer. Matt went on to serve in different church and para-church roles. Matt returned to Federated in February of 2015 when he joined the Family Ministry Team.

Matt attended William Jessup University graduating with a degree in Christian Leadership. He is currently completing a Masters of Art in Theology and Ministry at Fuller Seminary.



Matt met his wife Tracy at West Valley Presbyterian Church. They were married in 2014. Tracy is a teacher at Leland High School. At Saratoga Federated, she leads a high school Bible study and plays in the handbell choir. Matt and Tracy are expecting the arrival of their first child in January.

Serve Sunday

We are gearing up for our next Serve Sunday on February 25. We purposely choose to worship God as a congregation on Sunday morning by actively loving our neighbors. In this process, we pursue our three-fold goal of Life in God, Life with Others and Life for Others.

If you know of projects in the community that need doing or are willing to "captain" one of our projects, we would love to hear from you. Visit our web page at www.saratogafederated.org/serve-sundays or email Jerry Bruce at jerry@saratogafederated.org.

Projects that we already know we will have include: stuffing Easter eggs for the kids of Oakland; packing hygiene kits for the South Bay homeless; gardening at Heritage Home in San Jose; prayer and preparing greeting cards for our soldiers serving away from home. Additionally, we have a food drive as part of Serve Day. Our recipient for this food drive will be West Valley Community Services.



Living Water

Living Water International recently reported that over 1 billion people in the world lack access to safe water. This lack of access to clean water often leads to disease, limited educational opportunities and often results in a lifetime of reduced economic circumstances. This year we are hopeful to put together a group of about eight people who would be willing to go on a short term (one week) mission trip to Central America. We already have a drilling project fully funded but need volunteers to help with the drilling. If you are interested in this noble cause, please contact Dave Loomis at davidjloomis@gmail.com.



Lent Soup Supper

Lent begins February 14, and we will kick off the season with our traditional Lenten Soup Supper on Thursday, February 15 in Richards Hall. All are welcome to enjoy a meal of soup and bread and a brief service in the Chapel following dinner. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm.

New Life Groups will be forming for Lent. If you are interested in leading a group, or want to join one, contact Sally Bryant at (408) 867-1000 ext. 233 or sally@saratogafederated.org. The study will be written by Sally and be based on Gabe's sermon series.



Membership Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of the church, or just want to learn more about it, please join us Sunday, January 28 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm in Douglass Hall. We will cover the history of the church (including how the name Saratoga Federated came into being) and look at our core doctrine, including scripture, baptism and the Trinity. All are welcome to this informational no-pressure class! Snacks and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, please contact Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext. 233.

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. Matthew 10:42

Family Ministry

The Only Six Words Parents Need to Say to Their Kids About Sports—Or Any Performance by guest columnist Brad M. Griffin from Fuller Youth Institute (Some wise words about Youth Sports from my friend from Fuller Seminary-TKG)

Based on psychological research, the three healthiest statements moms and dads can make as [kids] perform are:

Before the competition: Have fun. Play hard. I love you.
After the competition: Did you have fun? I'm proud of you. I love you.

It gets even better. Researchers Bruce Brown and Rob Miller asked college athletes what their parents said that made them feel great and brought them joy when they played sports. Want to know the six words they most want to hear their parents say? "I love to watch you play."

That's it. Nothing aggrandizing like, "You're an all-star," and nothing discouraging like, "Here are a couple of things I noticed that you can work on." Just "I love to watch you play."

As I gear up for t-ball, band concerts, gymnastics practice and everything else I'll be watching my three kids do this year, I'm internalizing these six words. I'm sure I'll say other things, some that are helpful and some that aren't, but I want my kids to hear that doing what they do, and learning about who God created them to be, is a joy to watch as it unfolds.

Tim Galleher, Family Pastor

High School

Fuller Youth Institute recently researched churches that were meaningfully engaging young adults (ages 15-29). In response to their findings, last year they published a book, *Growing Young*. The book emphasizes the importance of "giving the keys" to young adults allowing them to lead. This has long been a value of our youth ministry who hands "keys" to our students in many of our programs. One example is this fall, Jen Kepler, a high school senior, was given the opportunity to teach her peers on a Sunday morning. I met with Jen in advance, providing some guidance. We then met again to go over her outline. Jen delivered a thoughtful message that was so well received we had her teach again. We want young adults to feel a sense of ownership of our church and acknowledge their giftings. As you lead, be on the lookout for young people who are ready for their own set of keys.

Matt Hall, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Village Preschool

After celebrating baby Jesus being born at Christmas time, our New Year brings joy and happiness for our children as they learn about how God's love is so powerful. In February during chapel time with Miss Sarah, she will be teaching how Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend. The ever present theme of showing our love to friends, how to be a good friend and make a good friend is showing up in chapel and in the classrooms. We often hear the song *Two Good Friends* being sung as the children head out to the playground. The messages that Miss Sarah shares with the children always seem to spark their curiosity and then the sharing begins. One child mentioned, "Whenever I have a bad dream, I just wake up and pray to God."

Other questions are "If God made us, who made God? How long has God been alive? Why doesn't God just live on the earth?" We at Village Preschool thank God everyday for the privilege of being able to mentor and give these families and their children the joy to learn.

Linda Kerin, Village Preschool Director

Junior High

One of MadHouse's annual Friday events is a live *Clue* game for our junior high students. Several adults dressed up as characters walking the halls and answering the students' questions.

This year we saw a gardener, a dog catcher, a queen and even a snowman! But the most important aspect is the intergenerational interaction. Adults stop and look students in the eye and hear their voices, watch their mannerisms and interface with different student styles. Students also eagerly wait their turn and chat with adults whom they might never talk to otherwise.

My favorite moment this year was when a student said to a friend, "I didn't know that was your mom. She's really nice."

Sometimes ministry is teaching scripture, but other times it's living the gospel and loving young people right where they are. Just like these wonderful *Clue* characters did by giving a few hours of their time to our junior high students. Thank you to the adult volunteers who helped make MadHouse Mystery Night amazing!

Yvette Lee, Director of Junior High & Family Ministries

Children's Ministry

Happy New Year! This is the time of year we celebrate new beginnings and make resolutions to eat healthier, read our Bibles more, be more intentional about inviting our neighbors over for dinner and actually go to the gym! While these are great goals, if you are anything like me, we might get discouraged after a few weeks when our old habits overwhelm our lofty aspirations and we find ourselves defeated.

Fortunately for us, we have grace through Jesus and a community holding us accountable and our idea of success looks a little different than others. Goals are important, but accomplishing your goals without a plan is an uphill battle. At Saratoga Federated Church, we know we need accountability, encouragement and celebrations for the little wins along our faith journey. A life-long relationship with Jesus is not a sprint, it is a marathon and we are grateful to partner with families with our Family Milestones to better equip families for the journey so they aren't discouraged before they start! Milestones provide resources and support for families from Baby Baptism to College and beyond. Our Milestones aren't only designed to help families be intentional, but it

is an opportunity for the larger church family to support, mentor, nourish and be a part of their faith journey.

Every milestone includes parents meeting with the Family Pastor and ministry directors, children and student curriculum, mentors and adult leaders, and a celebration with the larger community. That last part is important, so don't miss it. The congregational piece is no spectator sport. Our families need the larger church community to love on them to know they belong to a body larger than themselves. Through Jesus, we are one body and one church family. Our

kids need to understand that saying yes to Jesus means they have been adopted into an extended family with hundreds of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents and that is the ultimate goal. As one imperfect, loving family, we can guide our kids to know God's love not through their achievements, but because of their identity as God's children.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and

good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging

one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24 – 25



Join us as we support our families at every Milestone along their faith journey. To partner with us as we spiritually mentor families, contact Sarah Silva.

Milestone Celebrations Winter/Spring 2018:

Baby Baptism/Dedication – Sunday, January 21

Eighth Grade Confirmation – Sunday, March 18

Third Grade Milestone Celebration – Sunday, April 22

Fifth Grade Milestone Celebration – Sunday, April 29

Project 2018 Celebration – Sunday, May 20

Sarah Silva, Director of Children & Family Ministries



The Story Behind Our Sustenance Fund

Thirty-five years ago, Dale and I were at a dinner party. It began with an ice-breaker question: "If you could have any vocation other than the one you have, what would it be?" On my turn, I said: "A philanthropist" because virtually every week I encounter situations where a few hundred dollars could create hope or a few thousand could change a person's destiny.

My answer was not a passing notion because of a lesson learned long ago. Sometime during the half decade when the Spirit overcame the doubts of my mind and acquired the affections of my heart, it became apparent that momentary insights were to be honored. It was as if the Spirit said, "Never waste a noble longing. Don't let it fade away beyond memory." I have come to see brief existential convictions as gifts from the Holy One. Since then, I've tried to find a place for "noble longings" in my life style, work habits or stewardship.

More than you know, you have helped me to fulfill my longing to be a philanthropist. For almost four

decades, I have managed a little-known church account called the Sustenance Fund. It exists to find practical tailor-made solutions for individuals at a financial impasse. Sometimes the well applied help has literally altered a person's future. This quiet account is not supported by our church budget. It is funded by members and friends of SFC who hear stories about its timely impact on private lives.

It is not uncommon for donors to name a kind of need or a particular population that they want their gift applied to. I keep records of such preferences to ensure their gift reaches those they are convicted to help. During the height of the recession, more than twenty households with unemployed providers received assistance grants. The Local Outreach Team made a donation dedicated to this purpose.

A suddenly single mother of young children had to work three jobs when her husband died. When her fortunes changed, she contributed to the Sustenance Fund for several years with

guidance that her funds would go to women surviving an unexpected crisis.

One of our Life Groups developed a shared concern for seniors facing underfunded retirement. They described the situations they want served. Two South Bay men who found jobs through our Thursday job-seekers network gave donations to this fund from their first paychecks. A wise father brought his son to meet with me and asked me to describe several lives with current desperation. Then he involved his son in the choice of the lives they wanted to help with a financial gift.

My wife and I think this is one of our most practical care ministries. When capital has been inadequate for compelling opportunities, we take our turn funding the reserve. Thanks to you, managing the Sustenance Fund has allowed me the joy of being a small-scale philanthropist. Please give as you can, and feel free to name the human needs that matter most to you.

Arvin Engelson, Pastor of Care & Counseling

2 or 3 Gatherings

Saratoga Federated Church wants to support all members of our congregation as part of the family of God. Some people have no problem reaching out to share struggles or concerns in any of the many avenues that are part of SFC. However some people are not part of a life group and/or may be reluctant to reveal their struggles in writing as invited to do during worship.

The Bible tells us where two or three are gathered in his name, the Lord is in their midst (Matthew 18:20). It is this assurance that leads us to offer informal gatherings once a month for people who would like a listening ear

and a prayer partner without involving a larger group.

Here are the dates we have reserved for you: Tuesday mornings with Bonnie Noehr at 10:00 am in room 110 on January 16 and February 13 and a Sunday hike at 12:30 pm with Sandra Tang at Villa Montalvo at parking lot 4 on January 21.

The Team 2 Care Deacons host these gatherings, and all are welcome.

We invite your suggestions for future 2 or 3 Gatherings. Contact Kathy Kroesche at (408) 867-1000 x 239, or care@saratogafederatd.org for suggestions and inquiries.

*Bonnie Noehr, Care Deacon
Team 2 for ages 40s to 60s*

Care Update: Senior Resources

The Care Ministry has many resources available to help our members with different needs, including several resources that may be of use to our seniors. We have packets of information about Senior Living Options, Senior Support Services, Transportation Options and others. There are also links on our website to information you may find helpful under the Care link.

Recently I learned about some other helpful resources. There is a new senior transportation service for the West Valley communities called RYDE (Reach Your Destination Easily), which is a curb-to-curb transportation and local trip planning service for adults 55+. RYDE fees are fixed based on the number of miles you travel to a destination. Discounted fees are available to those who qualify. To register for the service

and get more information, visit www.wvcommunityservices.org/ryde.

The Saratoga Area Senior Center has many useful programs for seniors. A fairly new addition is a Grief Support group that meets every first and third Wednesday at 2:00 pm. It is led by Rev. Erik Swanson, Pastor of Westhope Presbyterian Church. To sign up, call the Senior Center at (408) 868-1257. We will have our own Grief Recovery Workshop in the spring, but if you are looking for something now, this might be an option for you.

We are collecting tips all the time, so if you have a need or question, call the church and ask for the Care Team or email the Care Team at care@saratogafederated.org and we will do our best to help. If you learn of interesting and helpful resources, let us know that, too, so we can share them with others.

Peggy Beck, on behalf of the Care Team

Women's Fellowship Luncheon

The next Women's Fellowship luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 6, at 11:00 am in Richard's Hall.

Our guest speaker will be Lila Rose, founder and president of Live Action. Lila started Live Action when she was just 15 years old from her family's living room. Since that time, Live Action has grown to



become one of the leading national pro-life and human rights organizations in America, dedicated to ending abortion and inspiring a culture that respects and defends life.

Sign up on the patio or contact Nancy Kamalski at (408) 255-3627 or nancykamalski@gmail.com.

All women are welcome!

Village Forum

The next Village Forum will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Foothill Club. The topic will be *Scientific Evidence for a Creator*. The presenter will be Dr. Michael Strauss who is professor of Physics at Oklahoma University, currently David Ross Boyd Professor, a position named after the first president of Oklahoma University. Dr. Strauss does research in the high energy research group and has done work at the Fermi National Accelerator Center (FermiLab), at CERN using data from the Large

Hadron Collider (LHC). He also has done research at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC).

Dr. Strauss will discuss how some of the significant breakthroughs in modern science over the past 50 years, such as the discovery of a beginning to the universe and the fine tuning of laws of physics actually point toward some intelligence behind the universe. There will be a Q & A time after the presentation.

The Village Forum is designed to discuss the big questions of life. It is an ideal forum to bring someone who has their own questions regarding life and faith. Please invite someone to join you. Food and beverages will be provided.

Tickets for this event are free and you can request them by emailing thevillageforum@gmail.com.

We've Moved

Keep in Touch

Marilyn Loomis

1110 West 1st Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336

Ann Chalmers

1807 N Creek Circle
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Let us know if there is a move in your future. Please send your new address to Debbie Sturm at debbie@saratogafederated.org.

Congratulations!

January Anniversaries

Joshua & Lacey Bruce	January 2	7 years
Shannon & Renee Hart	January 5	27 years
Sam & Shirley Sells	January 8	58 years
Mike & Lisa Hanson	January 8	13 years
Bill & Diane Allison	January 9	36 years
Bob & Jeanne Pitman	January 14	34 years
Steve Flaten & Diane Bogart	January 15	41 years
Craig & Helen Mossman	January 15	7 years
John & Debra Cellar	January 17	31 years
Richard & Susi Reaves	January 22	41 years
John & Diana Bond	January 24	48 years
Jim & Cheryl Bailey	January 26	24 years
Tom & Weegi Wilson	January 27	50 years
Tim & Nancy Coad	January 27	39 years
Tom & Michele Ruby	January 28	29 years
Ken & Muriel Spring	January 30	64 years
Randy & Marjo Spencer	January 31	53 years

February Anniversaries

John & Barbara Cellar	February 2	61 years
Bill & Jill Rollinson	February 2	33 years
Ron & Karen Cassel	February 3	56 years
Dick & Sybil Wolden	February 10	50 years
Ben & Kathy Morway	February 12	24 years
Bob & Dru Totman	February 13	69 years
Mark & Michele Brading	February 14	30 years
Dan & Pam Johnson	February 15	32 years
Kent & Espe Paxton	February 18	35 years
Morgan & JerriAnne Rees	February 18	8 years
Russ & Linda Ikeda	February 25	40 years
John & Karen Lekashman	February 26	29 years

Fed Family Deadlines

Feb 7, 2018	Mar/Apr Issue
Apr 4, 2018	May/Jun Issue
Jun 6, 2018	Jul/Aug Issue
Aug 8, 2018	Sep/Oct Issue



Saratoga Federated Church

(408) 867-1000

www.saratogafederated.org

Church Office:

20390 Park Place
Saratoga, CA 95070

Business Office:

14370 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Connected?

Our church database is readily accessible from your mobile phone. If you already have a login and password just go to https://sfc.ccbchurch.com/mobile_login.php in your phone's web browser. If you need to sign-up first, go to https://sfc.ccbchurch.com/w_sign_up.php in your phone or computer web browser.

We also encourage you to update your information in your church database profile. Correcting your address, phone numbers and names of family members residing at your address is greatly appreciated.

If you need assistance updating your profile, please contact the church office at (408) 867-1000. If you wish to receive the newsletter by email only and longer receive a hard copy, please contact Debbie Sturm at (408) 867-1000 ext. 250 or debbie@saratogafederated.org.

