

Fed Family

Saratoga Federated Church Newsletter

Contents

- 2** Reaching the Heart of SFC Book Club
Search Committee Update
- 3** Grief Ministry Workshop
Lenten Soup Supper
Care Ministry Resources
- 4** Broken Restored
- 5** Care Reflection
Advent Offering Thank You
- 6** Local Lenten Offering
- 7** Global Lenten Offering
- 8** Family Ministries Update
- 9** High School Ministry
- 10** Welcome Team
9 Arts Class
Blood Drive
- 11** Living Water International
Women's Fellowship Lunch
- 12** Celebrations

Important Dates

March

- 5 - Women's Luncheon
- 7 - Lenten Soup Supper
- 10 - Time Change!

April

- 2 - Women's Luncheon
- 16 - Blood Drive
- 19 - Good Friday
- 21 - Easter
- 28 - Grief Ministry Workshop

Broken - Restored

We are all broken. Some of our cracks are due to our choices and some are caused by others' choices. But God is in the business of mending our brokenness in a way that makes us more valuable and beautiful.

When you start to think about it, you can find many examples of things that find their source in being broken or flawed. A piece of wood that has grown around a flaw, a knothole, produces the amazing grain that makes it unique and compelling. Plants can only grow because a seed has disintegrated in order to nourish new life. Mosaics are made from broken pieces of tile or glass. The ancient Japanese practice of Kintsukuroi is the art of repairing broken pottery with gold or silver lacquer, and the deep understanding that the piece is more beautiful for having been broken. Jesus himself was broken for us.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds, you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24.

Consider joining us on Good Friday, April 19, at 7:00 pm when we remember both our brokenness and the price Jesus paid

on the cross to heal those wounds by worshipping around the cross.

Then comes Easter morning when we celebrate restoration surrounded by Easter lilies! One article said that the bulb of these flowers buried in the ground represents the tomb of Jesus and the glorious white trumpet-like fragrant flowers which grow from the bulbs symbolize his life after death. The snowy white color stands for the purity of our Savior and the joy of the resurrection while the trumpet shape signifies Gabriel's trumpet call to rebirth and new life.

The very best way to bookend the Easter weekend would be to engage in both!

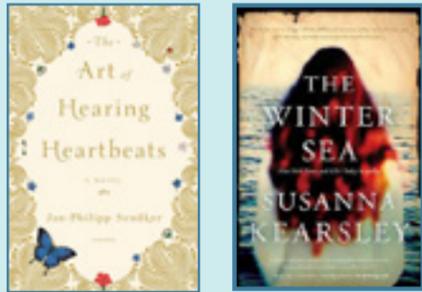
And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5:10.

Bill & Diane Allison



Book Club

The March Book Club meeting will be held Thursday, March 21, at 12:15 pm in room 111. We will be discussing *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Phillip Sendker. A poignant and inspirational love story that spans many decades. When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter has any idea where he might be until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago to a Burmese woman they have never heard of.



In April, the Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 18, at 12:15 pm in room 111 and will be discussing *The Winter Sea* by Susanna Kearsley. In the spring of 1708, an invading fleet of soldiers nearly succeeded in landing the exiled James Stewart in Scotland to reclaim his crown. Now, Carrie McClelland hopes to turn that story into her next bestselling novel. When she discovers her novel is more fact than fiction, Carrie wonders if she might be dealing with ancestral memory, making her the only living person who knows the truth.

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

Reaching the Heart of SFC

Since December, we have been listening to sermons from a series of guest speakers with different perspectives and styles but all united in their love of God. Dr. Paul Watermulder led us in December with interesting perspectives on the Advent season. Neil Mammen's series in January was very logical and rational and helped us understand why the Christian faith makes sense. In February, we heard two sermons from Rev. Sheyna Heard who encouraged us to strengthen our "with God" life.



After our Serve Sunday on February 24, we start a series of sermons from Ron Sanders who teaches Christian Ethics at

Fuller Theological Seminary. He focuses on how to honor Christian ethics in the midst of our troubled American political climate. Ron also serves as a campus minister at Stanford University.



In mid-March, we will start a four-week series with April Diaz. April is based in Southern California and was a pastor for 20 years at Newsong Church and Willow Creek Community Church. She has been involved with Fuller Youth Institute's Sticky Faith initiative for several years and has a great perspective on creating inner peace.

Joe Madden, Elder

Search Committee Update

Our Search Committee continues to be very active in the search for our next pastor. Having defined our process for evaluating candidates, we believe we are prepared for the task of discerning who God has chosen for our church.

Our progress includes:

- Weekly Search Committee meetings
- Establishing bi-weekly phone meetings with Rob Lauer, our Agora recruiter
- Evaluating the candidates who have been brought to our attention by Rob
- Creation of a sermon rubric/evaluation sheet

- Listening to/viewing multiple sermons from candidates
- Visiting local churches and attending their services

Although we are thrilled to finally be reviewing candidates, we are still in the early stages of selecting our next pastor. Part of each week's Search Committee meeting is devoted to a brief devotional and time of prayer as we know that God is working on our hearts and on the heart of the one who will next lead Saratoga Federated Church.

We thank those in our congregation who continue to lift our efforts in prayer and for your patience and confidence as we move forward.

Grief Recovery Workshop

Beginning Sunday, April 28, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm in Douglass Hall, the Grief Ministry will be providing a workshop on self-care for those who are grieving and those caring for others who are suffering a loss. Sessions will include practical tools, stories shared by those further along the same road, spiritual guidance, recommended resources and fellowship with others living a similar experience. While our focus will be on bereavement, the workshop will be helpful for

those recovering from other forms of grief, such as the loss of marriage, employment or health. Divorcees are welcome. The workshop dates are April 28, May 5, May 19, and another to be scheduled in the summer. Consider attending with a friend.

You may register for this class by calling Peggy Beck, Grief Ministry Coordinator, at (408) 867-1000 ext. 239 or by email at peggy.beck@saratogafederated.org.

Lenten Soup Supper & Study Guide

Lent offers a much needed opportunity to prepare our hearts, minds and spirits for the painful requirement of the crucifixion and the joyous reality of the resurrection. When we recite the General Confession, we acknowledge that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We ask for forgiveness for all the evil we have done and the good we have left undone. The forty days of Lent are an opportunity to take stock of our life with God, to humbly ask for forgiveness and acknowledge our need for a Savior. We are all broken. Jesus restores us to wholeness.

We invite you to begin the Lenten season by joining us at the annual Soup Supper on Thursday, March 7, at 6:00 pm in Richards Hall. We will enjoy a meal together and a short time of worship in the Chapel, reading scripture, singing and praying. Please RSVP to Olivia DCosta at olivia@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext. 246, so we can ensure we have plenty of soup.

LifeGroup Study Guide: It's been said that it is "theologically

risky" to celebrate Easter without observing Lent and the need for Jesus' death and resurrection. In this study, we will look at six encounters with Jesus. A consistent theme runs throughout the New Testament. When people encounter Jesus, they are changed. Their lives are never the same. There is something in that interaction that forever changes them. This Lent join us as we look at six interactions with Jesus where broken lives are made whole through the grace of Jesus. This study, written by Pastor Sally Bryant, will be available at the Soup Supper and on Sundays. We hope all who call Saratoga Federated home will be part of a LifeGroup. Join us as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter!



Care Ministry Resources

Your Care Ministry has excellent resources for you, so you may confidently refer friends and neighbors to quality help. These are available online. Go to our webpage, <http://www.saratogafederated.org/care.html>, click the link to Local Agencies and Services. This format offers phone numbers and direct links to resources for mental health, financial guidance, seniors' issues, several types of addiction support groups and much more. You are encouraged to share these resources with others. At the bottom of the Local Agencies page is another link to a document listing Issue Specific Regional Leads for addiction.

Please remember, one of our greatest resources is prayer. We have a team who prays each week for situations described on the blue Welcome Cards. Always include your name, phone number or email address and indicate whether the person being prayed for has given you permission to identify them and their need. Without that assurance, we will distribute the prayer request to our prayer team with the words "name withheld."

With Care,
Kathy, Peggy, Savoy, Stephanie and Arvin

Care Ministry
care@saratogafederated.org
408-867-1000 ext. 239

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 19

7:00 PM

A night of worship around the cross
Choir, Orchestra & Worship Team

The celebration of communion

Childcare provided for children ages 3 months to 3 years

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 21

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

3 Identical Services in the Sanctuary

Sunday School for ages:

3 months to 5th grade

at 9:30 and 11:00 am

broken

RESTORED

"BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED"
ISAIAH 53:5

SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH | 20390 PARK PLACE SARATOGA, CA 95070 | (408) 867-1000 | WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG

Care Reflection: Plowing Through Grief

The first blast of news that something is very wrong stops me cold. I can't quite take it all in. I grope for words as the doctor says, "Do you understand what I'm telling you?"

"No, I don't understand. How can this be?" I reply. "My husband has chest pain that sometimes bothers him, and now you're telling me that he has lung cancer with only a few months to live!" The shock is too great.

Fred dies in spring when the daffodils and lilies are blooming. Fred was a much beloved surgeon who had given many patients a new chance to live. Ironic that he should die in the prime of his life.

Grief absorbs my whole being. Every activity is dwarfed by the hollowness, the intensity and the memories when I try to do those chores that were his alone. Even trying to tackle my tasks like grocery shopping, paying bills and washing clothes seems insurmountable. Still I know all aspects of my life are up to me now. I start a journal and reread favorite Bible verses from Psalms and inspiring books people recommend. Gradually I try to find some stability without him. I don't hurry the process.

Daily I walk or swim. I meet with a counselor who helps me gain a new perspective on managing alone.

About six months later, my minister calls with an invitation. He says, "I've been watching you move through the grieving process, and I think you can be helpful to others. Would you consider setting up a course dealing with grief?" I was shocked. "Me?" I think about it for a week and then decide. If I can convince experts, such as financial advisors and counselors to speak, I can open the course with my personal experience and close it with what I learn in the process. Each session will leave time for questions. The fall after my husband dies, I offer the course. Attendees say that it made a difference in plowing through their grief. I regain a new stability and sense of purpose.

I know grieving doesn't end with a course, but it can reveal tools to make decisions that need to be faced and courage to face them.

After reviewing my finances with a financial advisor, I realize I have to find at least a part-time job. At a church retreat, I meet my future boss and become an associate editor for a Christian mission organization. This is a fantastic opportunity! I love writing and interviewing. As I pour myself into the job, I watch my grief recede. While I will always cherish the years my husband and I shared, I realize I can find new rewarding interests that replace the acute pain of loss. I am on the road to recovery in a way I never expected. Eight years later, I marry again and greet a whole new way of life.

Jan Kyne



Advent Offering Thank You!

**Thank you for
your generous support
of Sonrise Ministries!**

Thanks to you, Sonrise is closer to its goal of becoming self-sustaining. Your gift of \$26,525 enabled them to start a small 20 acre sugar cane farm, yielding more than \$25,000 each harvest. It's an investment that creates local jobs, supports the local economy and provides support for the more than 100 babies and children previously abandoned, neglected or abused. What a joy it will be for our team of 24 traveling to Sonrise this July to see the sugar cane farm in production!

**Thank you for
your generous support of
the Children of Oakland!**

Thank you, the congregation of SFC, for all you do for the children of Oakland! You are amazing in the ways you offer love and hope to these young people. Your Advent offering will enable the Points of Light pastors to make weekly contacts with and provide programs for over 1,000 youth in the urban areas of Oakland. The wrapped gifts you provided were given out to more than 500 children and, in many cases, this was the only gift they received for Christmas. Through your generosity, you continue to be a blessing to these children. Thank you!

Daylight Savings Time

Spring Forward

March 10

Don't be late to church!



Time to
Spring Ahead

Local Outreach Lenten Offering Annika and Josef John, Local Missionaries

Annika John grew up at SFC as the oldest of Craig and Carrie Elin Awbrey's three daughters. She and her husband, Josef, are inner city San Jose missionaries with Servant Partners. We are asking the congregation to support their ministry with \$20,000 in giving this Lenten season. Annika's passion for missions grew from Pastor Tim Galleher and Mexico trips, The King's Academy and Intervarsity at Occidental College. After graduation, she interned with Servant Partners in South Central Los Angeles and has now worked in ministry for over five years.



Their San Jose home houses ten people and multiple ministries including youth and young adult Bible studies. Annika uses professional training to help students define and pursue their college educational goals. She is helping students who are the first in their family to attend college. Some plan to attend Christian colleges and dedicate their lives to serving God vocationally. Annika and Josef's passion for the Gospel shines through their lives, their home and their service.

Your Lenten gifts will help support these efforts to transform difficult neighborhoods with hope through Jesus and promoting education.

This can facilitate SFC volunteer opportunities, paid internships growing toward pastoral service, lay leadership training, tutoring programs, school supplies and college counseling.



Servant Partners' work in the Mayfair and Guadalupe-Washington neighborhoods have resulted in planting an active church, Shalom Iglesia del Pacto. In addition to Sunday afternoon services, the church offers weekly neighborhood Bible studies, programs for youth (including tutoring and music lessons), English classes and pastoral counseling. Annika and Josef engage in direct ministry with their neighbors, mostly around the theme of building friendships of mutual blessing between those with diverse economic backgrounds. This is an innovative approach where all are trained to understand one another and build mutually transformative relational networks. They invite neighbors to participate in a sixteen week life-skills training course where they determine a specific goal. They are matched with allies from Silicon Valley who can help them meet that goal.

Annika and Josef's team hosts urban ministry interns regularly. These young adults explore what it means to follow Christ's call to love their neighbors, locally and globally. This creates an opportunity for those new to urban ministry to develop skills and understanding while living in Christian community.

Servant Partners is a global ministry based in Pomona, California. The ministry sprung from a renewal movement that spread across colleges in the 1980s and 1990s. It was inspired by John Perkins and Viv Grigg, established Christian leaders, who have been led



by God to spiritually invigorate inner city neighborhoods.

The SFC Local Outreach Team is privileged to support Annika and Josef as missionaries in San Jose as a model of good Christian teaching returning to share Jesus' Good News. They look forward to partnering with Pastors Tim and Matt on service, training and outreach projects for many years to come!



Global Outreach Lenten Offering New Generations

Clean Water Brings Health. The Living Water Brings Life.

Jesus commands us to love God, love our neighbor and teach others to obey all that he commands. With a task this big, we often ask, "How do I do this?" Our Lenten Offering recipient, New Generations (formerly Cityteam International), is obeying this command by working to meet the physical and spiritual needs of two communities in Uganda and Ethiopia. When Jesus said the whole law is summed up in loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself, he removed any distinction between social and spiritual ministry. They are two parts of the same heart. If one part is missing, the heart is broken. For the gospel to be "good news" to hurting people, it must be something they experience, not just hear. The doors to communities swing open when love knocks – whether that love is expressed through meeting physical needs by providing clean water or meeting spiritual needs by introducing people to the love of Jesus.

Equipped with new water and a gospel that brings new life, New Generations is starting "new streams" of Disciple Making Movements (DMM) within Ethiopia and Uganda. They are relieving the ache of hurting people today while bringing eternal life for tomorrow and sparking a powerful reproducing process. Helping communities get clean water creates an opportunity for New Generations to visit every home, address the water problem, meet community leaders and launch the DMM process.

In 2005, New Generations made a commitment to reach those who had been considered "unreachable"

focusing primarily in Africa. Their approach creates a chain-reaction of disciples making disciples resulting in a cascade of churches planting churches. Their work has resulted in 61,645 new churches, 1,518,227 new disciples and 117 "movements." They define a "movement" as at least 100 churches which have multiplied to the fourth generation in a given location or people group. The longest of these movements is now 27 generations of churches planting churches. Around the world, DMMs are impacting the Kingdom in unprecedented ways. Muslim Imams are becoming church planters. Former witch doctors are multiplying disciples of Jesus and illiterate laborers are launching generations of new churches.

At the heart of the Disciple Making Movement is Discovery Bible Study. Spiritually interested people meet together to study the Bible through asking the following questions: "What does this passage say? What does it mean? What will I do? Who can I tell?"



Over 1,000 new believers being baptized.

This is the foundation that underlies the amazing statistics of 1,518,227 new Christ followers.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to help bring both clean water and "living water" to these communities which have struggled without either. If you would like to give, please write "Lent" in the memo section of your check, and please pray for this work. Jesus reminds us in John 15:5, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." New Generations puts significant staff, time and resources into mobilizing and training intercessors. To date, they have well over 10,000 dedicated prayer warriors, but as their ministry expands, so must their foundation in prayer. Will you join them in praying?

Thank you for being part of this amazing work! You can read more about the ongoing work of New Generations at newgenerations.org.

Family Ministry

We are excited to offer classes like Love and Logic and our monthly Sunday Parent Recharge to support our parents and families. We recently launched a new idea: Online Parent Classes. Every month we will send out two emails with resources about issues families face.

For example:

- Helping Your Child Handle Money
- Cyberbullying
- Becoming the Advisor Your Teen Needs
- Leveraging the Dinner Table
- Preparing for Puberty
- Discipline vs. Punishment
- Developing Good Study Habits
- Discipling Your Child
- Strategies for Blended Families
- And much more!

Each email includes thoughts and resources along with a 4 to 5 minute video to challenge you for the month. We hope these challenges help you stay sharp in your parenting. If you have a specific topic request, please email me at tim@saratogafederated.org.

Tim Galleher, Family Pastor

Village Preschool

We are so excited to welcome spring at Village Preschool.

The children couldn't be more enthusiastic with the opportunities to have more creative outside time, making kites, windsocks, rainbows and the Greene Academy of Irish Dancers visiting on March 15.

Chapel time with Miss Sarah is so heartfelt as the children really love and embrace her spiritual heart and message each month. She teaches the children how we can love our friends and serve others as well as reflecting on the Easter story that emphasizes the promise of eternal life that God has given us through his son, Jesus. As we work hard to develop the whole child, we continually see the value of the spiritual message and connection that they experience each month. There are so many special sharing moments that come out during our Chapel time. One of the most common questions asked is, "Where is God?" One of our children pointed to Miss Sarah and said, "There is God!" How blessed we are to be in the process with them each day and making a difference.

Linda Kerin, Village Preschool Director

Junior High

Though we just returned from snow camp, MadHouse is gearing up for summer, those lazy days of summer with friends and family. MadHouse is just the place to hang out. On Wednesdays, we have pool parties, scavenger hunts and other fun experiences. We also have great camps! In June, students can join CIT (Counselors in Training) Leadership BootCamp. As a CIT, students serve at VBS while training to be servant leaders for Jesus. In July, students can join MH Summer Camp – our theme is "Outback Survivor." At camp, students get to kayak, zip-line and investigate Jonah's story and what it means to be a "survivor." Later in July, students can join Senior Serve Camp where we make treats for the elderly and shut-ins of SFC. This is an awesome opportunity for students to give joy to others. As you can see the MadHouse summer is packed with activities to keep your student close to church, close to Christian friends and mainly close to God. If you know of any junior high student looking for a place to land this summer, introduce them to MadHouse. We'd love to meet them!

Yvette Lee, Director of Junior High & Family Ministries

Children's Ministry

Power Up VBS is June 24 to 27, and we could not be more excited about it! Sure, the decorations are wild and the songs are silly, but what we get most excited about is seeing God working in people's lives as they experience Christian community.

One family came to VBS last year from Village Preschool. They didn't really have a home church, and they were looking for a place to belong. They had two sweet little children under four years old who loved coming to Village Preschool! They started learning more about SFC and signed their family up for VBS. From there, the parents joined the snack team and started becoming more connected to the community. Now they come to church on Sundays and recently had their kids baptized at SFC surrounded by their new church family and their Village Preschool friends.

This is just one story of a family who came to VBS and had the opportunity to experience God's family as we were designed to live; loving one another as children of God. We cannot wait to learn how God works in the lives of our families this VBS! To join the team, please contact Sarah Silva at sarah@saratogafederated.org.

Sarah Silva, Director of Children & Family Ministries

High School

This December my one-year-old, Charlie, got sick for the first time. Kids that age don't run for a bathroom, they just vomit wherever they are. So on top of caring for a sick kiddo, my wife and I were doing a lot of laundry. At least we were until my dryer went out of commission. I needed a part, and no local store had it, so I ordered it on Amazon and resigned myself to wait.

While I struggled with patience, I turned to Facebook to let my friends know about my predicament. I imagine my lament was a welcome break from memes, political ranting and requests for funds. Truthfully, I was looking for some sympathy, but appreciated the encouragement and prayers.

One friend offered to drive across town to pick up our laundry and then bring it back clean that same night. Two months later, I still think about it often. This friend is one of the saints of our church, a faithful Sunday school teacher - one of my teachers when I was a kid. This woman poured into me as a child. She taught me the Bible, telling me about and showing me Jesus' love - and she continues today.

As a Minister, I run a lot of programs with the goal of helping our

teenagers establish a life-long faith, but the programs are only a piece of the equation. Research shows that intergenerational relationships are crucial for faith development. The Family Ministry tries to foster these relationships through our programs. It is in those relationships that significant character and faith formation happens. It is in prayer, encouragement and acts of service.

The loving care of the church has shaped me more than any single sermon:

- The Sunday school teachers who taught me the Bible
- The youth leader who challenged my simplistic faith
- The pastor who gave me endless leadership opportunities
- The woman who sat me down and helped me see the educational path that would allow me to pursue my life's purpose
- A parent of a student who slipped my then-fiancée a marriage book to help us get started
- The couple who shared their story of infertility when I revealed our struggle

- The group of older women who threw my wife a baby shower

- The meals provided when we brought our son home

- The elder who coached me as I talked about finding a balance between work and family life

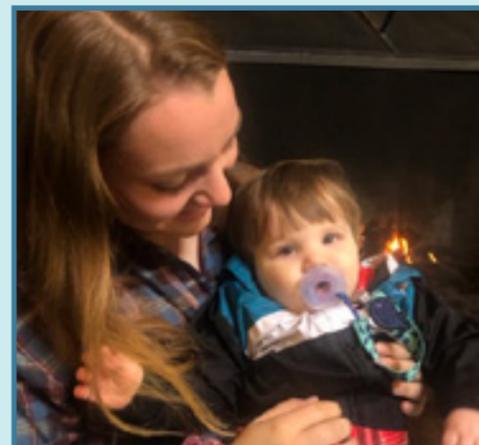
- The saint who offered to do my laundry when I had a sick kid and a broken dryer

God has used each of them, and many more, to minister to me.

Friends, we need each other. Church is not an hour on a Sunday, but it's a family that comes together. Hebrews 11:25 says, "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another." My encouragement to you is to get involved with the life of the church. Show up on Sundays, join a LifeGroup, find a place to serve, get to know your family of faith. Just as I need you all, I know our students need us and that you need us too.

Matt Hall,

Director of Youth & Family Ministries



LifeHouse Programs That Help Facilitate Community

- Sunday Mornings
- Bible Studies
- Community Service
- VBS & Summer Camp

If you would like to help your high school student find their place in the church, please contact Matt Hall at matt.hall@saratogafederated.org.

Welcome Team

Warm, welcoming and willing to help are just a few of the adjectives that describe our SFC Welcome Team. When we began this ministry two years ago, our hope was that everyone, especially those who are new to our church, would feel like they are genuinely welcomed as they come to worship each Sunday. Our hosts on campus, wearing blue name tags, have been there each Sunday the past two years to provide a warm welcome to all who attend our church, especially to our guests.

Why did we start this ministry? Recent research tells us that newcomers make up their minds regarding a church in the first ten minutes of their first visit. Often even before they have experienced a moving worship song or heard a meaningful message, they have made up their minds whether or not to return, and their decision to return is

usually based on how warmly they have (or have not) been welcomed. The six most important minutes of a church service, in the eyes of a first-time guest, are the three minutes before the service and the three minutes afterwards. These times provide a unique opportunity for the SFC family to extend a welcome to others as Christ has welcomed us. It's an opportunity to show the love of Christ in action.

Two years later, people comment that they see a change in our church's DNA. We are a more welcoming congregation. This didn't happen by accident. We have trained 56 hosts to notice people, greet them, help them find their way, provide event information and even share umbrellas during rainy weather.

Could you be a host? The Welcome Team provides training to those who

want to become more effective in creating that sense of welcome at SFC. Join us at our next training event Sunday, March 10, from 9:15 am to 12:00 pm in Douglass Hall. If you are interested in participating in this training, contact Richard Reaves at pastor.rich.123@gmail.com or Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org to reserve your place. Training materials and snacks are provided. If this time will not work for your schedule but you would like to attend in the future, let them know, and you will be contacted for our next training opportunity in May.

We pray Saratoga Federated is known as a truly warm and inviting place to all who come to worship. Prayerfully consider how God might want to use you to make that more of a reality.

9 Arts of Spiritual Conversation

Love God, love people. Could evangelism really be that simple?

Often it doesn't seem so. It can feel scary, awkward and uncomfortable as we try to navigate loaded questions and different perspectives. Even the most faithful of believers sometimes get stumped. Can you imagine if we, as Christians, simply spent time with people who are far from God and provided a safe place to talk about spiritual matters? If we listened to them and discovered what was really important to them? After all, it's what Jesus did, and it's what you can do too.

Drawing straight from the life and ministry of Jesus, The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations offers simple practices to help you build relationships with people who believe differently. We look at the 9 Arts of Noticing, Praying, Listening, Asking Questions, Loving, Welcoming, Facilitating, Serving Together and Sharing. Learn how these arts can help create a safe space to have natural, loving and spiritual conversations with others.

Want to know more? Contact Richard Reaves at pastor.rich.123@gmail.com or Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or call her at (408) 867-1000 ext. 233.

Living Water International

Drilling a Well in Guatemala

Did you know that SFC has sponsored multiple wells in El Salvador and Guatemala through Living Water International? We are sending a team to Guatemala from April 27 to May 4 to bring clean water to a village and share the Gospel with them. We are putting together a team from SFC and Westgate Church.



failure due to the pesticides used in the sugar cane fields. Based on his experiences, our wells can be traced to saving hundreds of lives!

At the same time, Living Water does a great job helping American volunteers teach hygiene, Bible stories and basic reading and writing skills to the local children. Their puppet shows of funny Bible stories are extremely popular with the families! It's a great combination of helping them here on earth but also connecting at a deeper level.



On our last trip to El Salvador, I was lucky to have the opportunity to talk with a local public-health doctor. He told me that one in every ten children in El Salvador will die from kidney



It's not too late for you to come with us! Contact Joe Madden at jm@mobile-experts.net if you would like to join this trip. No experience is necessary. You don't have to speak Spanish or have any experience with drilling.

Joe Madden, Elder

Women's Fellowship Luncheon

The Women's Fellowship luncheon on Tuesday, March 5, at 11:00 am in Richard's Hall will feature Norma Crawford who will share experiences from her recent trip to Africa where she volunteered on the Mercy Ships. Amy Nyquist from Mercy Ships Resource Development will also tell us about this organization that provides surgeries for children in the world's poorest countries. Hear Norma tell how she volunteered and how you can also.

The Women's Fellowship luncheon on Tuesday, April 2, at 11:00 am in Richard's Hall will be "Beginnings - Birthdays and Genealogy." We will sit with others who share our birthday month as we gaze at a yummy homemade birthday cake. We will then have four speakers who are genealogy buffs, including three ladies from our group and John Cellar, a Mayflower descendant. Fascinating and fun stories will be shared about what we have learned about our ancestral roots.

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

If you would like to be a member of a circle, which meets monthly, call Joan Leonard at (408) 741-0213.

All women are welcome.

We've Moved

Keep in Touch

Updated Phone Numbers

Mary Priest (408) 319-7729

Tom Priest (408) 319-0089

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



Fed Family Deadlines

Apr 3, 2019	May/June Issue
Jun 5, 2019	Jul/Aug Issue
Aug 7, 2019	Sep/Oct Issue
Oct 2, 2019	Nov/Dec 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

Congratulations!

March Anniversaries

Bob & Linda Connors	March 8	39 years
Earl & Carol Thompson	March 10	46 years
Ron & Linda Ringsrud	March 10	25 years
Joe & Ruthanne Martinez	March 14	4 years
Tony & Jane Hoffman	March 15	39 years
Steve & Shirley Bragonier	March 19	36 years
Steve & Darlene Wood	March 20	36 years
Marvin & Kelly Blough	March 30	23 years
Michael & Veronica Miller	March 31	40 years

April Anniversaries

Tony & Martha Gregory	April 1	30 years
Mark & Debbie Lillo	April 2	41 years
Peter & Carol Presunka	April 4	38 years
Mike & Jan Elder	April 7	51 years
Eric & Tracy Leonard	April 9	31 years
Brent Fairbanks & Christy Rohrig	April 14	12 years
Charles & Yvonne Goss	April 20	44 years
John & Norma Crawford	April 21	35 years
Alex & Ann Ross	April 23	25 years
Mark & Paula Draper	April 25	38 years
David & Julie Akina	April 28	35 years
David & Yvonne Wong	April 30	31 years

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 no longer receive a hard copy, please contact Debbie Sturm at (408) 867-1000 ext. 250 or debbie@saratogafederated.org.

