



Fed Family

Saratoga Federated Church Newsletter

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Important Dates

September

- 23 - Bridge Builder Respite
- 24 - Membership Class
- 24 - Stewardship Seminar

October

- 1 - Explorer's Class
- 10 - Red Cross Blood Drive
- 22 - Serve Sunday

From the Desk of Pastor Gabe

Have you ever found yourself in a Catch-22? A moment when logic and reason seem to fail you? A moment when both options felt right and wrong simultaneously? The psychological term for this concept, "double bind," was coined by a study from a group of psychologists in the 1950's. This team was researching this concept specifically as it related to family dynamics but in that process they put their finger on something much larger. That team gave verbiage to the idea that we often feel deep down in our souls regarding the complicated nature of this world we inhabit and the decisions we have to make within it.

While a double bind can be understood in a negative fashion, it can also lead to freedom and enlightenment. When people start to reject false dichotomies, binary options and easy certitude, an ability to see a bigger picture is developed. When Jesus arrived some 2,000 years ago in the middle of

Galilee, one of his main teaching tools was employing parables that were often confusing while refusing to answer straight questions with direct answers. Jesus often pointed out the double binds of religion and offered alternatives by means of a bigger picture through the Kingdom of God.



This fall we will be studying the Gospel of Luke and we will keep our eyes peeled for the conundrums and mysteries of the gospel Jesus preached. My hope for this series is to further encourage you to embrace the message of Jesus despite the tensions, ambiguities and mystery of the story. I believe the more willing we are to seek God in mystery, the more he will reveal himself to us. I hope you will join me on this journey of exposing the double binds of faith while finding our answers in Jesus.

Gabe Gilliam



Book Club

The September Book Club meeting will be held Thursday, September 21 at 12:15 pm in room 111. We will be discussing *Letters Home from Stanford* by our very own Allison Carpenter Davis. Al will be joining us for our meeting, so be sure to plan to attend to hear directly from this very special author.



The October Book Club meeting will be held Thursday, October 19 at 12:15 pm in room 111. We will be discussing *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin. A novel about a man who raises apricots and apples in northern Washington, lives alone yet notices two young pregnant women stealing his fruit. He disrupts the lonely harmony of an ordered life when he opens his heart and lets the world in.

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

Unity, Diversity and Harmony

Unity and diversity are buzz words in our culture. Whether referring to race, religion, gender, politics or any number of other arenas, these qualities are touted as desirable. Though we may not actually be seeing the peaceful results of those characteristics in our society, nor do our news networks or social media reflect those seemingly positive outlooks, they do seem to be a sought-after goal.



We are actually an audience to a beautiful example of unity and diversity every Sunday as we see and hear our instrumentalists and singers lead us in worship. The instruments themselves are made of a variety of materials – brass and other metals, various kinds of wood, ivory, copper and more. The players are from many walks of life – teachers, engineers, scientists, the world of finance, students, administrators, etc. The level of musical training ranges from beginners to professionals. We are very diverse, yet when we come together to sing and play the same song, we are unified in purpose. Even so, if each

one played or sang at their own pace, or preferred volume, we would merely be producing a cacophony of sound. It is when each one submits to the leadership of the conductor that we are truly unified.

Then there's harmony. A few weeks ago we spent a few hours in the town of Harmony, CA. It's a tiny enclave of artisans who feature their local pottery and glasswork along with the work of a few other craftsmen. We purchased a couple of pieces of pottery that we were very attracted to. In fact, when we got home, we looked up the potter to see if we could learn more about him and his work. We've decided to follow him and slowly add more pieces. We were captivated by his philosophy of creating art that would not be simply something to admire on a shelf, but pieces that would become part of people's lives...to make their lives better.

As we gather each week to corporately worship our Creator, we exemplify unity, diversity and harmony. We are strengthened and encouraged to face the week ahead, infused with the beauty and power of the Holy Spirit to exhibit those qualities that might compel those around us to seek out the Master Potter, to find out more about him and to discover how their lives can be better.

Diane Allison



Worship Ministries

There are lots of ways to get involved in Worship Ministries at SFC.

Kids Choir

All kids, from kindergarten through fifth grade, are welcome to participate in this training ground for worshippers. It's a fast-paced, energetic hour of movement, singing, learning music fundamentals, making friends and imbedding God's word in young hearts. SFC kids are joined by a good number of kids from our community, and the diversity is exciting. Lindsay Roush, our 9:30 am service worship leader, holds a masters degree in music and is incredibly gifted at bringing music education to a kid's level. She's engaging, fun and the kids love her.

This fall they'll be singing in church twice and preparing for their part in our annual Christmas in Saratoga event to be held on December 8, 9 and 10. Kids Choir has their kick-off on Wednesday, September 20 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in Douglass Hall.

9:30 Worship Team

Lindsay and Iain Roush head up this team with skill, an encouraging spirit and a passion for authenticity in worship. Participation on this team requires an interview/audition. They would love to engage and welcome more people to join them, both instrumental and vocal. This team works on a rotating schedule and rehearses on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am, prior to leading worship at the 9:30 am service.

Choir and Orchestra

These groups lead worship each Sunday in our 11:00 am service and are the backbone of most of our seasonal music and drama events. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings and kick off their season on September 6. The

beauty of the choir is that we really are better together! We are a perfect example of people who don't feel they have much to offer, but when all of our voices join as one, we end up offering something much greater than the sum of all our parts! The camaraderie is great and some have told me that rehearsal is one of the high points of their week.

A high-school level of reading music for your instrument is needed to be part of the orchestra, though we have welcomed younger players as a training ground. Choir and orchestra rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 pm. We are praying for some trombones, saxes, a violin, a cello and a French horn. We'd really love to welcome some new faces to our ranks!

And more...

For those of you who prefer a way to serve behind-the-scenes, there are a myriad of ways to serve...and your help would be welcome! Training is provided, where needed:

- Preparing communion
- Running the Sunday morning media
- Videotaping Sunday's service
- Cleaning the pews between Sundays
- Arranging flowers for Sunday services
- Ushering on Sundays or special events

For more information, contact Diane Allison at diane@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext. 238.

Bill Allison

Bridge Builders Respite Day

Saturday, September 23

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(volunteers arrive at 8:15 am for training and breakfast)

Parents:

Take a Break

Relax

Breathe

Children:

Games

Crafts

Music

Snacks

and More!



Parents, please register your children as soon as possible as we do fill up quickly.

Volunteers, please sign up early so we know how many families we can serve.

No Cost

Must Pre-Register

Space is Limited

Volunteers Needed!

To register your children or to volunteer to serve, please contact Debbie Lillo at dlillo@comcast.net or (408) 252-4160.

Care Reflection - Held Fast

There I was driving an overloaded rental truck north on the 152 freeway, pulled over on the side of the road at an abandoned truck stop. The strap, which was fastening down our queen-sized mattress, had somehow been jarred and was now dangerously loose.

Traci, my wife, and I were moving back to San Jose where we grew up; we had work at a Christian camp in Scotts Valley. She'd be the nurse to children with bee stings, skinned knees and a 19-year-old counselor who would find out she had cancer. After completing my masters degree in preparation for pastoral ministry, I looked forward to facilitating a discipleship group for young people from rural California who had experienced shootings and gang violence. That camp served as our home for the summer and allowed a "trial" move back to the Bay Area. This became permanent in the fall when we moved in with my sister and her husband. My wife took a position at a local hospital and because I was not

able to find work in my field, I began work at my aunt's catering company.

During this time, the church reached out and asked me to be a Care Deacon. I knew we needed a place to belong, and I had found belonging before at SFC. Pastors like Russ Ikeda, Tim Gallaher and Arvin Engelson had shown me so much care. I began to network with a woman named Javonne, who despite barely knowing me, advocated for my employment, and reminded me that I had potential, talent and skills. I decided to start a small group facilitating a space that could offer stability in the chaos that was my life. Soon, Traci and I signed a lease for an apartment on Race Street near the Fish Market. Unexpectedly, I was laid off from my job due to my aunt having to lay off half of her company.

I attempted to offer care to my small group, and believe that I did, but the unexpected part was the empathy and care they returned to me. My small

group buoyed me during my stormy time. The journey of the last few years left me lonely and seeking friendships, and the small group has meant so much to me through everything. It grants us a space to talk about our liberal postmodern culture, our lives and the storms we are going through in our personal lives. We pray for each other, we are on each other's teams and have a regular place to belong on Thursday nights. Since then, I have found work and currently fill the role of Academic Counselor at Valley Christian Schools, and our small group still meets regularly.

That day driving north on 152, I fastened down the mattress and made it safely to our destination. My past few years have had bumps and bruises and knocked me loose at times. However I did not fly off, my small group and relationships with the church fastened me in.

*CJ Clark, Care Deacon
Team 1 For ages 20's to 30's*

Welcome Ministry

Romans 15:7 tells us to "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Our hope is that everyone, especially those who are new to our church, feel like they are genuinely welcomed as they come to worship each Sunday. Our hosts on campus, wearing the blue name tags, are there to provide a warm welcome to all who attend our church especially guests.



are the three minutes before the service and the three minutes after the church service. This is an opportunity for church members to extend a welcome to others as Christ has welcomed us.

It's an opportunity to show the love of Christ in action.

God entrusts his work here on earth to us. We are to welcome one another in the same way that Christ

has welcomed us into his family. Imagine being given the opportunity to extend the love of God to each person who steps foot on our campus. That is the opportunity we have each Sunday.

If this makes your heart say, "Wow!" then join us! Our next training session is Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Susi and Richard Reaves at angelchild2053@gmail.com or pastor.rich.123@gmail.com, or call Sally Bryant at (408) 867-1000 ext 233.

Fall Season of Music Begins

Choir & Orchestra rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 pm.

Kids Choir starts on Wednesday, September 20, 5:00 pm.

The Christmas Company (Jr High/High School) rehearsals start Sunday, October 8.

Interested in worship team, handbells, serving on the tech team, ushering?

Email Diane Allison at diane@saratogafederated.org for more information.

CSIX

Looking for a job? Hiring? Please consider attending a CSIX meeting! CSIX Connect is still going strong and has a weekly meeting on our campus Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in Richards Hall and includes lunch. Each week a speaker presents tips or other relevant information about finding a job and marketing yourself. Networking and helping each other find jobs are their focus. A \$5 donation to help support the program would be appreciated.

For more information, visit www.csix.org or contact Hamid Saadat at hamid@csix.org.



linkAges

Do you ever wish you could find a little help for a project or offer your own skills to the SFC Community? We have a little secret to share. SFC has its own linkAges community, a private website for our SFC family to share requests and offers for help. Because we have not yet fully launched, we caution your expectations. As we grow in numbers of members and activities, this could be a great tool for building community over common interests, sharing and receiving help and teaching or learning skills. If you are already on linkAges, look for the private group SFC Cares. For more information, please contact Kathy Kroesche at care@saratogafederated.org.



Interested in Membership?

Want to become a member? Our next membership class is Sunday, September 24 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.

For more information or to register, contact Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext 233.



Explore SFC

Whether you've attended SFC for 4 weeks or 40 years, you may have questions about our various ministry areas. Our ministry stretches from downtown San Jose to Africa and Asia, and covers every aspect of life from birth to end-of-life concerns. Want to know more or get more involved? If so, attend our Explorer classes on Sunday October 1 and 8 at 9:30 or 11:00 am. For more information, please contact Sally Bryant at (408) 867-1000 ext. 233 or sally@saratogafederated.org.



Serve Sunday - October 22

Projects - Provisions - Polos

What do these have to do with Serve Sunday?

Projects are primarily what we do that day. Preparations are well under way for our next Serve Sunday, to occur on October 22. Check our Serve day webpage at www.saratogafederated.org/serve for more information including a link to our sign-up form. Pass this information on to your neighbors, invite a friend, please help make this truly a community building event. If you know of a deserving project, please let us know. A project idea form is available on our Serve day webpage.

Provisions reminds us that we host a food drive now for each Serve Sunday. This month's recipient will be West Valley Community Services, Inc. (WVCS). WVCS is a non-profit, community-based agency that has been providing direct assistance and referral services to the west valley

communities of Santa Clara County for over 40 years. Founded in 1973, WVCS provides a continuum of basic needs, family support services and housing services including: information and referrals, food pantry, transitional housing, affordable housing, financial assistance, family support and case



management services. WVCS serves the west valley communities of Cupertino, Saratoga, West San Jose, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and the surrounding mountain regions. Please help our local needy by bringing dry and canned goods for this drive. A list of preferred food items is available on our Serve webpage – www.saratogafederated.org/serve.

Polos and t-shirts with the SFC logo or the Serve day logo are also available to order on that same webpage. The polos have our logo on the front (with nothing on the back) and are \$10 each. The t-shirts have our Serve day logo on the back (nothing on the front) and cost a mere \$5 each. We have most sizes in stock and will re-order any sold out sizes in time for you to wear on October 22. Both styles are in navy blue with white lettering. Order your shirts now and wear them any day of the week.

What I did on my summer vacation.

I am so thankful for SFC and their willingness to support a sabbatical program for the pastors. I had a wonderful summer learning, growing and spending time with my family.

What did I do?

I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Fuller Seminary and do research for an upcoming project called *Growing Young Families*. I spent my summer interviewing incredible parents across the country about their families and their spiritual practices. I was both humbled and encouraged to talk to parents who are trying to be intentional with their kids but also hearing them be real about the challenges of raising

kids to love Jesus in our culture today. I remember talking to one family who did all the perfect things. They brought the kids to church, brought them to the youth group, went on service trips, but their children still struggled with their faith. To me this was a great reminder of why we need each other and why parents at a church like SFC need to bond together for encouragement and support.

I will be sharing what I learned this year through the Parent Recharge meetings and parent seminars and hope to develop some other programs and parent connections.

On top of all of that, we had a great family vacation, which is always an adventure when your children become young adults. As a family, we had many fun adventures and it was great to have the opportunity to spend uninterrupted time together exploring and eating lots of food.

I invite you to ask me to get a cup of coffee and hear more about my summer, but thank you again for allowing me and the other pastors to experience a sabbatical.

Tim Galleher

Free Legacy Stewardship Seminar

Your SFC Foundation is offering a new edition of its popular free seminar on the basics of legacy stewardship. Would you like to know how to best utilize your accumulated assets to pass along your values? Learn about the latest tax-sensitive tools available to effectively manage your legacy giving. The content will be presented in easy to understand terms. You will hear examples of how it may be applied to your situation or to that of a close relative.

Our presenters will be Lloyd and Larry Copenbarger from the firm Copenbarger and Copenbarger. The Copenbarger law practice has been focused on estate planning for two generations, and they bring a Christian perspective to everything they do. They have over 240 years of combined attorney experience and come highly recommended by some of our members. If you have attended one of our seminars in the past, but it has

been more than a few years, you will find this helpful.

Attendance at the seminar is free and there is no obligation. The SFC Foundation provides this seminar periodically as a service to the congregation and to the community. Anyone is welcome, so feel free to invite a friend. This seminar will be held shortly after the third worship service on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 pm in the Library. A light lunch will be served. In order for us to plan appropriately, please pre-register for this seminar.

Register using the online form (<https://sfc.ccbchurch.com/form>)



[response.php?id=60](http://www.saratogafederated.org/response.php?id=60)) or contact Olivia DCosta at (408) 867-1000 ext. 246 to reserve your space.

For more information, contact any member of your SFC Foundation as listed below. You can also find out more about the Foundation on our church website at www.saratogafederated.org/foundation.html.

- Darlene Wood, Chairperson
- Terry Johnson, Secretary
- John Crawford, Treasurer
- Carl Agers
- Craig Awbrey
- Chris Clark
- Jerry Bruce, staff liaison

New Life Group Starting in September!

A new life group is starting Thursday, September 14 in Cupertino. They will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and will be studying the sermon series.

For more information, contact Sue Ranney at (408) 777-8788 or sue@theranneys.com.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will begin circle meetings on Tuesday, September 19. Your circle leader will be contacting you with time and location. The fall kickoff luncheon will be on Tuesday, October 3 at 11:00 am in Richards Hall. Peggy Beck will be sharing her story with us. You won't want to miss it!

If you are not part of a circle and would like to be, call Joan Leonard at (408) 741-0213. All women are welcome.

Monday Moms

Moms, if you are looking for community as well as time to share with other moms and pray for your kids, join us on Mondays beginning September 18 from 9:15 to 11:30 am in room 109. Childcare is provided for ages 3 months to three years.

Our study will follow the sermon series and no homework is expected!

For more information, contact Sarah Silva at sarah@saratogafederated.org or Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or call (408) 867-1000.

Life Group Studies Available

We have several dvd-based Life Group studies available for you to check out in the Library. Studies include:

Jennie Allen's *Chasing After the Heart of God*

Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott's *Parenting: The Early Years*

Shaunti Feldhahn's *The Life Ready Woman*

We also have several by Beth Moore including:

Living Beyond Yourself
Esther

Breaking Free

To Live Is Christ

Daniel

Jesus the One and Only

Breaking Free

Stepping Up

Here and Now and Then and There

Annointed, Transformed, Redeemed

Believing God.

If you are interested in using any of these studies, please contact Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext. 233.

A Woman of Peace

What a difference a person of peace can make! I have just returned from Malawi (my 8th trip) where I had the opportunity to meet a woman of peace, the village chief in her majority Muslim village. Pastor Arnold, Empower Malawi Coordinator, asked the chief last year if he might start a school to teach the children basic educational skills as well as teach them about Jesus. She said yes. Previously, the only schools in the vicinity of the village were madrassas (Islamic learning centers). The school is now attracting children of the local sheiks, who find that their children are learning math and how to read and write in Chichewa (their local language) as well as English. Since last year, the school has expanded to include an orphanage hosting 15 children all from neighboring villages.

Many obstacles often block the opportunity to get an education. Some of these are gender-based; the result of the Fall which created strife between man and woman. Too often parents chose to educate a son rather than a daughter. Girls without an education tend to marry early and have children early – often when they themselves are still children. Children born to mothers who have limited education are 40% more likely to die before they

reach the age of five. However, children of educated mothers are more likely to be vaccinated and less likely to be stunted because of malnourishment.



If you educate a daughter, you educate the country. If we want strong countries, we must have strong communities. Strong communities require strong families, and strong families require a biblical understanding of man, woman and God's original intention in creation.

Girls and boys who learn to read, write and count will provide a better future for their families and country. Education is a powerful thing, especially when joined with the life-saving gift of Jesus Christ. Thanks to



this woman of peace, the chief in a predominately Muslim village, these children are getting both an education and an invitation to know Jesus.

Teachers Alice and Mary are truly doing an amazing job teaching with no resources! Imagine trying to teach with a very rough chalk board and limited chalk...and nothing else. They have no books, no paper or pencils, no DVDs.

I was invited to give a "Train the Teacher" workshop, giving them ideas on how to teach with extremely limited resources. Thirty-five men and women attended the three-day workshop. One of our highlights was learning to "cross the midline." The "midline" refers to the midline of one's body, an imaginary line running vertically down the body. When we read (or tie our shoes), we must cross the midline of our body. Recent research has shown that learning to cross the midline is an essential skill for children to master as they learn how to read. Without mastering this skill, children often get lost in the middle of a line of text. When their eyes



reach the middle of the line, they are unable to continue and may return to the beginning of the line. We enjoyed much laughter as we practiced this while standing in a circle. This is one example of teaching without resources.

Pastor Arnold was very pleased with the training, and is hoping to expand the training into other villages next year. Please keep these men and women in your prayers as they bring education and the love of Jesus to precious children.

Sally Bryant



Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, October 10

Our church is hosting a vital Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, October 10, from noon to 6:00 pm. There is currently a severe shortage of blood supplies. We need your help.

It takes about an hour from your day to give blood. Each donation saves as many as three lives. The average adult can safely give blood every eight weeks.

Sign up on our website or at www.redcrossblood.org/give. Also you can call the Red Cross blood line at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule an appointment with a live person. You can schedule an appointment time that is convenient for you.

Take a moment, save a life! This is a great way we can help life thrive by living Life For Others. Thank you.



Family Ministry

Run the Race with Endurance

I am very thankful for the opportunities that I have to connect with students. I think the joy for me in doing ministry with children and teenagers, is to watch them grow in their relationship with Jesus. I also know that sometimes it can be very painful and discouraging to see our kids get side tracked in their relationship with Jesus and then walk away from the faith they have grown up with.

The good news is they can come back.

I had a wonderful talk with a student recently who told me that through all their difficulties they had come back to Jesus and is more excited than ever about God's love for them. An amazing turnaround, and I was more than encouraged. It reminded me that my job (and our job) is to continue to love our kids through the difficult times, and love them even when they don't respond to Jesus like we want them too.

I hope as a church we can practice unconditional love for our kids regardless of where they are on their journey of faith! My encouragement to all of us is to keep praying for our kids and to never give up!

Tim Galleher, Family Pastor

High School Ministry

Our community has a reputation for academic excellence, but this distinction comes with tremendous pressure. It is not unusual for students to be involved in multiple activities on top of their school work, with the goal of getting into an elite college. In the midst of this meritocracy, our programs counter this message by telling our students that their value comes from Jesus, not what they accomplish.

Please be praying for the success of our Milestone events, where we have an opportunity to share and expand upon this message of grace. In the Confirmation Class, our students are being asked to explore their faith, and our seniors are being prepared to carry their faith with them to college in Project 2018.

This year in addition to these two returning programs, we held a lunch for freshmen and their parents to help them thrive in high school and to keep their life in perspective. Jesus loves us for who we are not for what we accomplish. This is an important message for our youth but also for us all.

Matt Hall, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Village Preschool

Village Preschool is excited to start our new school year and we are kicking it off with a "Family Fun Night" in September. We are looking forward to spending time and getting to know our new families as well as reconnecting with our returning families. We have been so blessed at Village with a community of families that have embraced our philosophy of "play as the highest expression of human development." With the support of our dedicated Family Ministry Team, we have found the winning combination of love, nurture and encouragement that our young ones all need to have as the best possible start. One family has shared with me how they have realized the gift of being home with their children. They were so thankful for Village and how we have treated them like "family."

Linda Kerin Garvey, Village Preschool Director

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)

Children's Ministry

Summer for families brings a whimsical innocence of blissful relaxation as we downshift from our busy lives. With VBS, Day Camp and Park Days kids were encouraged to take a breath, refocus and connect. We were able to build relationships with friends, family and God through listening and loving well. Those meaningful relationships take time and are worth investing in. In the book of Luke, we learn about how Jesus encourages us to spend our time when Martha is upset at Mary because she is spending time with Jesus instead of making plans for their guests. Jesus says, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42). This summer, SFC kids took time to invest in relationships that matter, like Mary, in an otherwise Martha world. Our hope for the fall is that we won't lose the value of investing in relationships, even when life gets busy again, as time with God and with each other is never wasted.

Sarah Silva, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Junior High Ministry

Spiritual indifference is an epidemic in Silicon Valley and in the church. It isn't that people don't show up on Sunday from time to time, but church has become optional. It's as if church is on a laundry list of activities, like sports, drama and service projects. "Let's plan on attending unless something more important or better comes along." But let me ask you a question. What are we teaching our students about committing their lives to Jesus Christ?

In MadHouse, we are combatting spiritual indifference by encouraging students to get to know God daily. We show students that building a relationship with Jesus isn't optional and that he has so much to pour into their lives, but he can't do this in 60 minutes once or twice a month. Students and children need consistent church attendance to develop a firm foundation in Christ and until they are ready to attend on their own, parents have been appointed by God to bring them.

In Youth Ministry, we can clearly see the difference regular church attendance makes in a student's life. When a student consistently shows up, they are excited to be a part of MadHouse. They participate in Bible study and make perceptive comments that challenge themselves and others. In a conversation about walking with God, a student stated, "We are like narcissists. Rather than pay attention to God, we focus on ourselves." Having a place to talk about Biblical topics and moral matters is necessary to the steady spiritual growth of our teens.

In addition to Sunday attendance, MadHouse Studio Nights and Friday Fellowship are opportunities for students to build friendships with

peers and mentors that help them perceive their need for Godly community. Students often comment that church is a safe place where they can be themselves and not feel like they are living up to socially imposed standards. As one girl shared, "At least here, I don't feel ignored. There's always someone to talk to." What better place to be than somewhere you are wanted?

Probably the best example of spiritual health is during service projects like Senior Serve Camp.

After visiting and praying with a shut-in, a student said, "I never realized how much elderly people need us. We should be meeting with them every week." Without being a part of such a unique opportunity, this student might never have understood a real felt need in our church community.

Let's not contribute to spiritual delinquency in our students' lives. Let's show them the way to Jesus and help invest in their spiritual future by making him a priority every day of the week, including Sunday.

Yvette Lee, Director of Junior High & Family Ministries



Fed Family Deadlines

Oct 4, 2017 Nov/Dec Issue
Nov 15, 2017 Jan/Feb Issue
Feb 7, 2018 Mar/Apr Issue
Apr 4, 2018 May/Jun Issue

We're Moving

Keep in Touch

Tom & Michelle Ruby
2200 Pacific Avenue, 6C
San Francisco, CA 94115

Connected?

Want to reach others at SFC?

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.



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!

September Anniversaries

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Tim & Lisa Furlong | September 5 | 8 years |
| Jerry & Mary Jane Bruce | September 6 | 37 years |
| Corky & Al Davis | September 6 | 37 years |
| AJ & Stacey Szenda | September 6 | 14 years |
| Michael & Meghan Goss | September 6 | 9 years |
| Steve & Dorothy Vidlock | September 7 | 32 years |
| Roy & Ana Cook | September 7 | 15 years |
| Horst & Janet Brenner | September 9 | 39 years |
| Jeff & Tracy Fell | September 9 | 21 years |
| Joe & Kari Charvez | September 10 | 6 years |
| Jeff & Rebecca Bond | September 11 | 18 years |
| Bob & Lois Tomlin | September 12 | 53 years |
| Ron & Cathy Oleson | September 12 | 36 years |
| Richard & Julia Moss | September 12 | 30 years |
| Shaun & Sandy Collard | September 13 | 21 years |
| Jim & Norma Marshall | September 14 | 65 years |
| Jean-Pierre & Lisa Wuelser | September 14 | 26 years |
| Nick & Gail Kepler | September 14 | 21 years |
| Mark & Heather Regoli | September 14 | 15 years |
| Rick & Cathy Ridder | September 15 | 43 years |
| Dave & Christie White | September 15 | 38 years |
| Kevin & Carole Payne | September 15 | 27 years |
| Timothy & Susan Hall | September 17 | 34 years |
| Matthew & Mandi Chase | September 17 | 8 years |
| Nick & Stacy Bignardi | September 24 | 6 years |
| Lance & Amy Archer | September 25 | 13 years |
| Scott Kamsler & Linda Bishop | September 26 | 30 years |
| Lance & Debi Chapman | September 26 | 25 years |
| Dave & Nancy Sheets | September 28 | 54 years |
| Denny Huebner & Wendy Mbagara | September 30 | 6 years |

October Anniversaries

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Orv & Karen Burley | October 3 | 36 years |
| Jerry & Marilyn Nistler | October 5 | 49 years |
| Don & Judy Simpson | October 5 | 26 years |
| Keith & Cindy Mueller | October 5 | 15 years |
| Bob & Joan Leonard | October 6 | 55 years |
| Josh & Becky Cormier | October 11 | 3 years |
| Chris & Hally Clark | October 12 | 36 years |
| Carl & Sharon Babb | October 12 | 10 years |
| Andrew & Sylvia Aldridge | October 13 | 38 years |
| Rob & Cheryl Guzzetta | October 13 | 33 years |
| Daniel & Dorothy Araldi | October 16 | 13 years |
| Paul & Helen Jackson | October 17 | 25 years |
| Harvey & Elaine Knoernschild | October 19 | 37 years |
| Bruce & Jeane Johnson | October 21 | 66 years |
| Eric & Dee Dee Dunstan | October 21 | 11 years |
| Joe & Sarah Silva | October 24 | 2 years |
| Dan & Cyndy Linebarger | October 25 | 31 years |
| Russ & Lauren Spence | October 25 | 31 years |
| Rex & Elizabeth Jackson | October 28 | 28 years |
| Stan & Debra Sells | October 28 | 22 years |
| Nate & Katie Currie | October 28 | 17 years |
| John & Erika Helm | October 29 | 57 years |