



1920
to
2020

Fed Family

Saratoga Federated Church Newsletter

Contents

- 2 From Pastor Sean Book Club
- 3 Grief Recovery Workshop History Talk by Julia Morgan
- 4 Update: Sunrise Ministries Update: Sola Gracia Ministry
- 5 Practicing God's Presence Parent Recharge Life Group Resources
- 6 Lenten Offering Recipients
- 7 Care Reflection Care Update
- 8 Family Ministries Update
- 9 High School Ministry
- 10 Missionary Spotlight 100 Random Acts
- 11 Giving Tree Update Women's Fellowship Lunch
- 12 Celebrations

Important Dates

March

- 3 - Women's Luncheon
- 8 - Practicing God's Presence
- 15 - Julia Morgan History Talk

April

- 7 - Women's Luncheon
- 10 - Good Friday
- 12 - Easter
- 14 - Blood Drive
- 19 - Practicing God's Presence
- 19 - Grief Recovery Workshop

The Roots of Easter

Roots are essential, not only for a plant to have life, but because they provide stability for the soil below. Similarly, a connection with Christ is a necessity if we are to have a full spiritual life. Just as plants exhibit signs of life depending on the health of their roots, we can exhibit Christ-like qualities if we draw our nourishment from Him and His teachings.

Allanah Francis

Ephesians 3:16-19 - I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

On Good Friday, April 10, we will join in *Finding the Roots of Easter* as we contemplate the cross and explore the significance of our heritage in Christ. Our choir, orchestra and worship band join to lead one of the most impactful nights of worship of the year.

For the last several years, we have incorporated various genres of art with our Good Friday worship, and this year we invite all artists in our congregation (painting, drawing, sculpture, craft, poetry, etc.) to submit their reflections on *The Roots of Easter*. We hope to build a display with your offerings. Watch for more information to come or email Diane Allison at diane@saratogafederated.org.

**FINDING
THE
ROOTS
OF EASTER**

Roots establish a strong foundation in the dark enabling us to explore and grow and thrive in the light!

Good Friday
April 10 7pm
SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH

Women's Book Club

The March Book Club meeting will be held Thursday, March 19, at 12:15 pm in room 111. We will be discussing *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. This novel was published in 1903. The story is set in the Yukon during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush—a period when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The novel's central character is a dog named Buck, a domesticated dog living at a ranch in the Santa Clara valley of California as the story opens.



In April, the Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 16, at 12:15 pm in room 111 and will be discussing *The Swan House* by Elizabeth Musser. Mary Swan Middleton has always taken for granted the advantages of her family's wealth. But a tragedy that touches all of Atlanta sends her reeling in grief. When the family maid challenges her to reach out to the less fortunate as a way to ease her own pain, Mary Swan meets Carl and everything changes.

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

From the Desk of Pastor Sean

I can't tell you how excited we are to be here with you at Saratoga Federated Church! I'm humbled and excited to join such a great legacy and be a part of a new chapter and literally, a new century with you all.

As we head into a year of celebrations for our centennial, it's a good time to pause and be thankful for the great history of SFC and the great God we have. In fact, let me invite you to pause, right now, and think of one thing you are thankful for about SFC (if you are into social media, post what you are thankful for and tag us)! Let's honor our past and those who have gone before us. We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

In my first message at SFC, on January 12, I spoke about *Defining Moments*. (If you didn't get a chance to hear it, you can find it online at <https://www.saratogafederated.org/archive---sean-miller.html>) A defining moment is an opportunity that has the power to change our lives and offer a whole new future. I don't know anyone who doesn't want change in at least one area of their life. What will be your change—your defining moment in 2020? I also asked the question, "What will we do now, in

this generation, so that in one hundred years, people are telling stories about our faithfulness and love?" In other words, what kind of a legacy will we leave?

This year we will explore the depths and richness of scripture and find ourselves there, as participants in the great story God is writing about humanity and redemption. We will find ourselves in the old and new testaments, in the gospels, in the letters of Paul, psalms, history books and prophets. Finally, we will finish the year asking what it would be like to celebrate "Christmas Outside the Camp." We will go out and serve the greater community, reach into our own community to love and sharpen one another and reach up to God as we worship together. Another way to say this is that we will live life in God, with Others and for Others. This is the heartbeat of SFC!

So I want to invite you this year, to be as much a part of our community as ever, maybe more than ever! Let's do life together and go out and change our communities by bringing the love, justice and beauty of God to the world He loves.

Sean Miller, Lead Pastor

Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11 at Noon at Wildwood Park

This year SFC is partnering with the Saratoga Odd Fellows in sponsoring the Easter egg hunt, complete with dj, hula hoop contest, face painting and other children's events. We have the opportunity to provide volunteers to help! Watch for more information to come!

Grief Recovery Workshop

Beginning Sunday, April 19, 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 19, April 26, May 3 and May 17. 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.

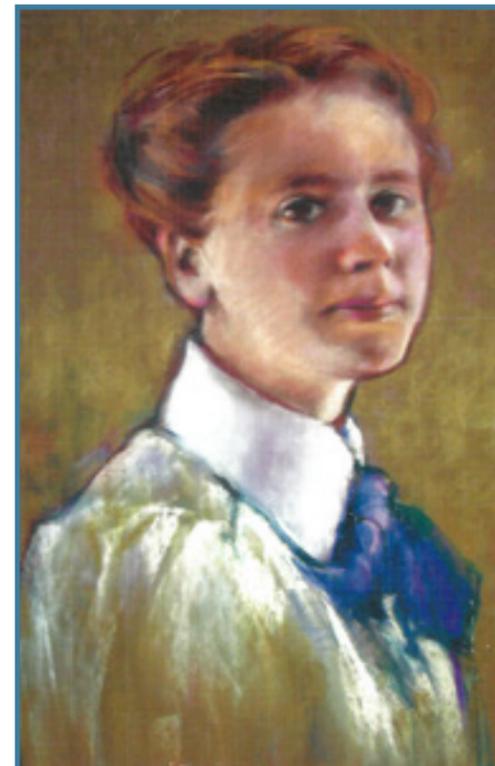
History Talk by Julia Morgan

On Sunday, March 15, at 2:00 pm in the SFC Sanctuary, "Julia Morgan" will be here to present a history talk.

This renowned Bay Area architect of the first half of the 20th century has become a California icon for her distinctive designs, her social conscience and her early success in a male dominated profession. Most widely known for Hearst Castle in San

Simeon, she also designed YWCAs, schools, homes, clubs and churches, specifically Saratoga's Foothill Club and our own SFC Chapel!

Miss Morgan visits us with the assistance of Betty Marvin. In everyday life, Betty is a historian and preservation planner. Plan to join us for this fascinating look at the person and work of Julia Morgan.



So Long

Terri Goehner has been a shining example of faithful servanthood to the body of Christ that make their home at Saratoga Federated. From our first days around here (a little over 12 years ago), she has frequently popped her head into our office and said with her infectious grin, "I'll be glad to help in whatever way I can." Terri has handled the kitchen for countless events, big and small. She ran the Hospitality Center for many years, and when the Welcome Team ministry began, she volunteered to help with that. She's led a Life Group Bible Study, has served as an Elder, has served on the Global Missions Team, jumps in to usher when needed...



and the list goes on and on. In December, Terri started a new season in her life when she moved from her long-time home in San Jose to Nipomo on the central coast. To say that "She will be missed" is an understatement. To say "Thank You" doesn't begin to express our gratitude. To say "We love you" speaks truth. To know that Terri will continue to bless the world around her in her new surroundings is a given. We thank God for Terri Goehner and cheer her on!

Bill & Diane Allison

Update from Sonrise Ministries in Uganda

In December, Damali Mirembe Manyindo travelled from Jinja, Uganda to SFC to share what God has been doing with Sonrise so far and also to share the vision He has given for what they should do next. Ten years ago, Damali, a social worker by training, felt that God was calling her to do something about all the abandoned babies she saw. She didn't exactly know what, but she stepped out in faith, rented a house, bought a few cribs and let the authorities know she was opening her home to orphaned or abandoned babies, and God began sending babies her way.

Over the past decade, God transformed those few cribs into a children's village with 60+ kids, a girls'

home with 40+ kids (but capacity for 72), two schools serving 600+ kids and a baby home that is busting at the seams. Imagine six "aunties" and 30 or so infants/toddlers under three years old living in a four bedroom, one bathroom, 1,200 sf house!

During her visit in December, Damali shared her God-given vision to purchase a two-acre lot overlooking the Nile river, and build a Baby Village. The dream is to have six individual houses, one for each "auntie" and her little brood of toddlers and enough space for their cows and gardens. The 24 of us from SFC who visited Sonrise last summer, stood on that very hill and prayed for God to provide.

With tears of joy, Damali announced on New Year's Day that they had received enough donations to purchase the land and build the first three houses, enough of a start that they will be able to move into their new accommodations as soon as they are completed. What wonderful news!! Praise God!

Thank YOU. We know this was accomplished not only through donations from people in our church but also through conversations and meals with non-church friends. The excitement for what God is doing through Sonrise is flowing out our church doors and into our neighborhoods and workplaces. God is on the move!

Update from Sola Gracia Ministries in the Philippines

This past September, Nonilo Sanchez from Sola Gratia Ministries in the Philippines was here at SFC sharing about the work God has given him to do. He is such an inspiration! Nonilo is an evangelist, teacher and pastoral supporter. Despite poor health nearly taking his life a few years ago, he presses on, keeping a travelling and speaking schedule that most healthy folks would find exhausting. Sola Gratia is primarily focused on church planting and new pastor discipleship, but they also provide tangible support for pastors (such as rice fields, motorcycles and church rebuilding) and have started a Christian elementary school.

Originally, the Sola Gratia seminary and church-planting movement started in Nonilo and, his wife, Fely's garage.

It's now expanded tremendously with new pastors starting churches all over the area. Over 28 churches have been planted since 2002, despite a notably anti-Christian sentiment in their society and some outright persecution of Christians. Their Grace Mobile School of Theology and Ministry is now bringing their train-the-trainer seminary curriculum to remote areas of the country. Over 200 men and women have participated in these mobile seminary courses, equipping themselves to reach their own local communities with the good news.

During Nonilo's Go and Tell in the fall, he very casually mentioned a desire to equip these new pastors and Christian workers with Bibles and theological books that are unavailable locally. Immediately several people

attending the Go and Tell inquired about the need and how they might be able to help.

We are thrilled to report that through the generosity of several individuals and some available funds from the Global Outreach Team's account, we were able to purchase, package and ship \$7,000 worth of new books to Sola Gratia! To God be the Glory!

As Jesus says in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Praise be to God that He is not only sending the workers out, but He is also allowing us to participate in the harvest work by equipping and encouraging His faithful workers in these Philippino fields.

Practicing the Presence of God

This series offers an opportunity to experience different ways of being in the presence of God. Our next two sessions look at the prayer of recollection and interactive scripture reading. We meet in Douglass Hall at 9:30 am, as described below.

March 8: The Prayer of Recollection led by Linda Ikeda

Like many of us, I find myself pulled in a variety of different directions by the scores of roles and responsibilities I carry. After the busyness of the holidays, I find this sense of fragmentation to particularly be the case. The Prayer of Recollection is an ancient practice of "re-collecting" all the diverse parts of ourselves so that we can focus on the one essential thing we need the most. Please join us for a time that will allow us the experience and time to practice different forms of this prayer.

Parent Recharge

Our church has a lot going on! We postponed our February Parent Recharge to March 1 so we could join the celebration of welcoming Sean on his first official day as our new Lead Pastor.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to serve together with your Family Life Group? Come join us on March 1 at 11:00 am in Douglass Hall to hear about a life-changing journey.

Last July, this group traveled to Uganda to help our friends at Sonrise Ministries build up their orphanage facilities. They built a fence, fixed a sewer pipe, repaired desks and fed babies. They built a mud hut for an elderly local man and set up computers for the Sonrise staff, but the real

transformation became clear when they got home.

April 19: Interactive Scripture Reading led by Linda Connors

Are you looking for a new way of reading God's word that will enhance your understanding and bring you closer to God? Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart" (NASB). By spending time with a passage and exploring it from different angles while talking to God through prayer, scripture can transform us and give us new insight. It can also be a means for God to use old stories and old records of faith encounters to speak to us in new ways. Come join us as we journey through scripture together!

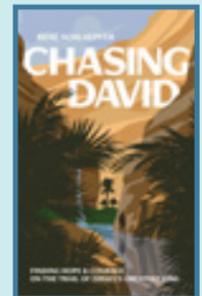
transformation became clear when they got home.

Now, when this life group visits each other, they walk into the house without knocking. They share cars and Tupperware and kids like it's all God's property. Come find out how Uganda changed everything for six SFC families. For more information, contact Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext 233.



Life Group Resources

Chasing David: Finding Hope and Courage on the Trail of Israel's Greatest King, written by Rene Schlaepfer of Twin Lakes Church is popular with many of our Life Groups! This study looks beyond the life of the legend, King David, to explore the real story of the real man. Understanding the story of David helps us understand the entire Bible. This is an 8-week series in 1 and 2 Samuel and includes small group lessons featuring videos filmed on location in Israel and daily video devotionals to start your day.



Lenten Life Group Study is now available. It follows Sean's sermon series and offers an opportunity to spend more time with the text. We will take a deeper look at one of our favorite psalms (Psalm 23) and see how the truth of this psalm is expressed in recorded interactions with Jesus. As we look at the questions Jesus asked, we are invited into a new paradigm, a new way of being in relationship with the Creator of the world, the Sustainer of life, and the Giver of all comfort.

Local Outreach Lenten Offering Called Up

Last August, Clay and Kelly Elliott launched Called Up as an offshoot of their 20 year local ministry with Fellowship of Christian Athletes that has impacted thousands of athletes in the Bay Area for Christ. This new venture enables them to work alongside their daughter, Whitney, to engage deeply in the lives of community leaders, as well as the student athletes, coaches and faculty at San Jose State and Santa Clara Universities. During the fall semester, over 700 meals were served at the Elliott house for 17

“family” dinners with a speaker for 50+ athletes at a time. Our Lenten offering will support their work as they share the Good News of Jesus through team chapels, women’s and men’s groups, weekly dinners, summer interns and leadership retreats. If you would like to volunteer one week for meal preparation, Kelly would welcome your participation. For more information, contact clay@calledup.net or go to www.calledup.net.



Global Outreach Lenten Offering AgGrandize Global

Water for Life: Returning Water, Returning Life to Sinjar Mountain

Join us in partnering with AgGrandize Global to restore water to Sinjar Mountain. We hope to raise \$20,000 to bring water back to villages destroyed by ISIS.

When ISIS terrorists attacked the Yazidi community on Mount Sinjar near the ancient city of Nineveh in northern Iraq in August 2014, the devastation was total. Tens of thousands of Yazidi men, women and children were forced to flee from ISIS, who were committed to destroying them. Thousands of men and boys were killed. Thousands of women and girls were abducted and raped as sex slaves by ISIS fighters. Amidst the chaos, some managed to escape. They travelled on foot carrying only the most essential possessions – water, maybe a change of clothes. Over 400,000 displaced Yazidi people were forced to seek shelter in refugee camps in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

ISIS not only massacred thousands of people, they sought to destroy the rich agricultural practices of the Yazidis – which are dependent on wells. ISIS stole or damaged water pumps, cables, generators and even entire irrigation systems. A local farmer who survived these attacks believes ISIS did this to send a message: you have nothing left to return to, so if you survive, don’t even think of coming back.

Today in Sinjar, about half the population prior to ISIS’ attacks has returned. Restoring agriculture is key to revitalizing this area, yet ISIS has left behind large-scale and longlasting agricultural devastation. With no seeds, no water sources, no livestock, how can the Yazidis reclaim their lives? A report by Amnesty International notes, “access to water resources is the missing link preventing farmers from enjoying their right to gain a living by work and to be able to return to their homes and farms.” Without that support and the possibility of agricultural recovery it

would bring, hundreds of thousands of Yazidis will be unable to return to their homes and way of life. Sinjar and other areas pillaged by ISIS will risk turning into dead lands.

For our Lenten offering, we are partnering with AgGrandize Global. Our offering will help AgGrandize Global restore water infrastructure on Sinjar mountain, repairing water tanks, water pumps and piping. They anticipate that each village will require about \$10,000 to restore functionality.



Care Reflection: Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Are you pondering if staying in your home is right for you or your parents as physical challenges increase? Is moving into a retirement community the right choice? A move seems so daunting! There are many factors to consider when evaluating this decision.

Recently I sat down with Andy Eschenfelder, who is passionate about making the most of his later retirement years, to discuss this quandary. He suggested the first thing to do is to examine your life and determine what would make you well and happy. Ponder what will meet your current and future needs – medically and for daily living. Andy suggested thinking about how you spend your time and how you use your current space. Think about what sorts of activities you will enjoy and the type of space you may want if your health declines. The options most people consider are moving into a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC),

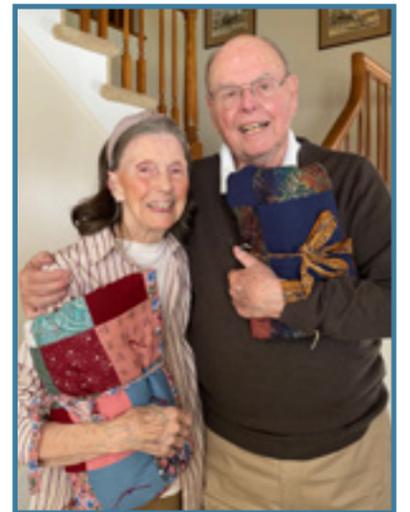
staying in their home with assistance or moving in with relatives.

The next step is evaluating the pros, cons and costs of each option. Andy noted that sometimes the costs can be hard to calculate. What would you save by not having to maintain your home? What services, if any would your medical or long term insurance cover? What services are included in the CCRC’s fees? Another key consideration is transportation. Some CCRCs offer transportation for additional fees. If you stay in your home, what transportation options are there?

Andy suggests a couple other things to keep in mind. It is harder to get into CCRCs the longer you wait as most communities have specific health and age requirements to enroll. The wait lists for assisted living can be long. He encourages people to go visit communities you are considering

armed with your questions. And finally, although this process can be daunting, seek God’s will in all your decisions and stay hopeful.

*Peggy Beck
Care Associate for 70s and older*



Rae Downey and Andy Eschenfelder showing appreciation for the quilts the SFC Quilters made for them.

Care Update: Resources for Senior Living

The Care Ministry has collected information and resources that can assist those going through many different difficult situations. We also have resources for normal life situations, such as moving into a retirement community.

A few resources available from the Care Team that may benefit you if you are weighing future living situations are transportation options, food resources for seniors (home delivery options and more) and tips for hiring in-home care. Although there is no substitute for personal research and interviewing care providers, we do have some recommendations that others have given us. The New Lifestyles

Directory of Senior Living and Care Providers is available in our office and an online version is available at www.newlifestyles.com. Visit our website for more resources: www.saratogafederated.org/care.html.

A recent transportation discovery is the concierge service, GoGo Grandparent. GoGo enables the use of companies like Lyft without a smartphone. You or a family member can set up an account with custom pickup and drop-off locations and then you use a regular touch tone phone to call for a ride 24/7. The emergency contact on file can stay informed about rides ordered. To register, call (855)

GOGO-USA or go to their website: gogograndparent.com.

The Care Team strives to mobilize mutual care in our church. The best resources are those in our church who have walked the path. If you are willing to share your experiences of moving into a continuing care retirement community, bringing care into the home or other resources you have found helpful, please contact the Care Team at care@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000 ext. 239. We would love to connect you with someone starting on that path who could benefit from your experience.

*Peggy Beck
Care Associate for 70s and older*

Children's Ministry

We are excited to be able to announce this year's vacation Bible school theme...*Rocky Railway-Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!* Mark your calendars for June 22 through 25. Stay tuned for more signup information about our VBS.

The kids in the Clubhouse have been learning so much and are having fun along the way. Our third graders are continuing their journey along Route 66 learning the books of the Bible and their significance to us. Our preschoolers have started the new year by moving from old testament stories to the life and lessons of Jesus. Our upper grades just finished a unit about knowledge and wisdom and are now focusing on staying connected to Jesus. The nursery is looking forward to watching babies grow and welcoming new ones in the spring! Our offering for the winter went toward toys for CityTeam's House of Grace. Each week the kids got to see what new toy was able to be purchased with their offering. We are now giving toward our Mexico Amor house building trip where the kids will be able to serve the families who will be getting new houses. These children are amazing, and all the teachers, mentors and other workers are blessed to be able to work with them.

Amy Sells, Interim Director of Children & Family Ministries

Village Preschool

We are so excited to welcome spring and warmer weather to Village Preschool.

The children are busy making kites, windsocks, rainbows, planting and celebrating St.Patrick's Day and Easter. Our Irish dancers will be coming to Village on March 17 to kick off the festivities. With Easter just around the corner, Miss Amy is welcoming the children into chapel with a wonderful message of how God makes new things, and the promise of eternal life that God has given us through His son, Jesus. Through the loving hands and heart of Miss Amy, the children have enjoyed coming to chapel and look forward to the story, songs and prayer each month. They are beginning to feel comfortable sharing their stories about their faith with their families. The one I love is sharing that "God created them and lives in their hearts."

How blessed we are to be in the process with them each day and making a difference.

Blessings to you all.

Linda Kerin, Village Preschool Director

Junior High

MadHouse is about coaching the next team for the game! Let me explain. On Wednesdays, junior high students meet for Studio Night. This is our kickback time to enjoy a meal together, catch up on life, play games and explore our belief in God. Mostly we play games or do projects, but we also talk about God, Jesus and the Bible. This spring we are tackling 1 Corinthians 13 and figuring out what Jesus means when He says, "Love your neighbor."

At first, students thought that God's love is just about family and bff's, but as we explored the love chapter, students began to see that loving and caring for others goes beyond their immediate community. One student remarked that love is about serving others in Jesus' name. Of course the next question is how do we put this principle into practice? Does love include patience to hold the door for a slower person? Picking up after a bunch of kids who leave a mess? Does love include being kind to someone who ignores you? What does it mean to truly love someone? Well according to MadHouse students, loving is about meeting the needs that God guides you to. So now you can see what coaching in MadHouse is all about, encouraging students to get in the game and apply Godly concepts to their every day lives.

Next MadHouse "coaching" event: Counselors in Training – CIT Leadership Camp/VBS – June 22-25

Yvette Lee, Director of Junior High & Family Ministries

Route 66

Ready? Time for a pop quiz! How many books in the old testament? How many in the new? Can you name all 66 books in the Bible? Well chances are if you are in third grade at Saratoga Federated, you could!

Each Sunday during the school year, our intrepid third graders take off on an epic journey learning the Bible – how to use it, a brief synopsis of each book, who the important people are and how they can apply lessons of long ago into their lives now and forever.

Their three teachers, Mary Priest, Doug Bloom and Stephanie Giamanco, and teacher's aide, Nancy Carlson, meet with the students, teaching and guiding them through the Bible. Along with prepared lessons, there are videos, crafts, skits and games to reinforce their learnings.

If you ever need a Bible refresher – talk to a third grader! They definitely can help you out!

High School

Since January, the high school group has studied the *9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations*. Pastor Sally has been facilitating this program for adults for years. In response to her desire that everybody take the class, I asked if we could co-teach it to our students. It has been a fun partnership.

One of my favorite arts is listening. When you listen, you communicate that the other person is worthy of your focus and attention. The Bible says, "My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger," James 1:19 (CSB).

Also, Jesus Himself knew the power of listening. In the gospel of Mark, Jesus was traveling when a woman, who had been bleeding for twelve years, touched Jesus' clothes and He stopped everything. He was looking around to see who had done this. The woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth. "Daughter," He said to her, "your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction." Mark 5:32-34

She told Him the whole truth, and He listened to her. He stopped what He was doing to listen. In the middle of the huge crowd of people, Jesus made eye contact, focused His attention and listened to her.

Like any skill, to get better at something, you must practice.

1. Practice Active Listening

Active listening is a strategic form of communication that lets others know that you are "with them." It can be non-verbal nodding and facial expressions. It can be repeating

back what you heard or asking for clarification.

2. Put Yourself In Their Shoes

This is simply asking yourself, "How would I have reacted in a given situation?"



3. Be Present Physically and Mentally

Work can wait, put your phone down and give all of you in the moment. Eye contact is key.

4. Take Note of YOUR Body Language

It is important when you are listening to pay attention to your posture. If your arms are closed, it may be communicating that you are closed off to them. Try and mirror the body language of who you're listening to as they talk.

5. Show Curiosity

Showing curiosity about what someone is interested in is a great way to build trust and have conversations that may otherwise not happen.



When you are talking, actively pursue more information. This lets them know that what they are saying is important and that their opinions matter. Sometimes you have to fake it, but sometimes being curious can lead to some of the most meaningful conversations.

In LifeHouse Bible studies, sometimes the most fruitful conversations are the tangents that students take us off on. A little detail in a passage of scripture may stir up a bigger question. It's important to allow the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation to do His purposes but also to express value in the student.

As you're in a relationship with others, listen well to people and to the Spirit. Being a good listener is not easy; it takes work to be a good listener, but people are worth it. My prayer is that our community may be known as a place where all are heard, and their value is made clear.

Fred Rogers, of Mister Rogers Neighborhood, said:

"Listening is a very active awareness of the coming together of at least two lives. Listening, as far as I'm concerned, is certainly a prerequisite of love. One of the most essential ways of saying 'I love you' is being a receptive listener."

Matt Hall,

Minister of Youth & Family Ministries

Missionary Spotlight

Steve and Renee Grubb Working with One Challenge

Renée grew up in Saratoga, involved in SFC from an early age. Steve was born and raised in South Korea (missionary parents). In 1980, they married at SFC. They have two adult children and six grandchildren.

Steve and Renée have been missionaries with One Challenge since 1984. After 12 years in the home offices, they served another 12 years in Germany in an international boarding school community.

Since early 2010, they have served the OC Europe Area Team, based in Worthing, England.

Ministry Roles:

- Missionary care – ongoing preparation, equipping and empowering of missionary families

for effective and sustainable life and ministry.

- Young adult community-building – facilitating a home group spanning multiple local churches. Mentoring, counseling and practical help for individuals, couples and emerging families.
- Logistical support for OC and local church – financial accounting, IT assistance, office management
- Assisting with various events (i.e., Global Church Planting Network international consultations)
- Hospitality – home open to visiting missionaries, their children and others seeking encouraging fellowship
- CMA (Christian Motorcyclists Association) – participation in outreach events related to this subculture. Steve



also is on the local branch leadership team, as treasurer.

Want to hear more about their ministry? Join us for a Go & Tell on Sunday, March 8, at 12:15 pm in Douglass Hall. A light lunch will be served.

100 Random Acts of Kindness

Malcom Gladwell says in *The Tipping Point* that small things really do make a difference. If each one of us practiced a random act of kindness, we could change our neighborhood. Here's a story of a recent random act of kindness:

Jerry Bruce was in line to check out at his grocery store recently when he noticed the person behind him had only one item. He let that person go ahead of him in line – a small act, but one that brought joy to the other person. That person shared it with the checker and walked out of the store with a new attitude. One small act of kindness can make a greater difference than you might ever know.

As we look forward to the next 100 years, let's bless the community around us by practicing 100 random acts of kindness. Look for opportunities to bless strangers, neighbors, friends and family. A random act of kindness might be holding a door open for someone, buying a cup of coffee for the person in line behind you at Starbucks, allowing a driver to ease into the line of traffic on highway 85, bringing cookies to a friend....the possibilities are endless! We hope that everyone who calls SFC home will join us in practicing these random acts of kindness, and we want to hear about them! Please email Sally Bryant at sally@saratogafederated.org to share your practices and experiences.

Giving Tree Update

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

I am sure that many of you who so generously put your wrapped gifts under the Christmas Giving Tree are wondering if they were well received and the reaction of the recipients. Let the attached picture be a partial answer to your question! On a more statistical nature, we were gifted by you almost 550 wrapped gifts and were able to give out each of these gifts along with the 850 stockings which you stuffed as a part of our Serve Sunday event last October. Some of these wrapped gifts were given to the infant children of mothers who are living in the two CityTeam homes. The remaining 500+ gifts were given out at the all-city Christmas event put on in Oakland by the Points of Light program. Please take a look at the Points of Light web site (poloakland.org) to see more of the efforts that POL makes to help the

youth of Oakland stay off drugs, out of gangs, alive and knowing that they are loved by and are the children of God.

Points of Light is also aided in its efforts by your giving to the SFC Local Outreach team. In spite of the improved economy, it is getting hard to secure gifts from other organizations for our program and every single one of your wrapped gifts was given to a young person and, in many cases, represented their sole Christmas gift. Your gifts and your support help to make a difference in the lives of these kids. Thank You!



Child Hope Update

THANK YOU from Child Hope in Nepal and the Global Outreach Team.

God is doing amazing things through your generous Advent offering! This year we set a goal of \$25,000 in order to start two new Child Hope homes in Myanmar and one in Nepal and provide support for two years. Can you believe we collected \$51,108 instead? Amazing!

So in addition to the three new homes we planned on, we will also be starting two additional new Child Hope homes in Nepal and supporting them each for one year. One of these homes has 10 children, twice the size of most. It was started by a pastor and his wife who took in this group of children

orphaned by the 2015 earthquake. They began without knowing where the financial means to care for them all would come from. When Child Hope learned of their situation, they decided to graft them into the Child Hope family, and now they will be fully supported for a year. Your offerings are a wonderful, tangible answer to their prayers!

The remaining \$3,000 or so will be used to finance the nursing school education for one Child Hope graduate and to support Child Hope's new anti-human trafficking awareness training for churches in the region. From all of us on the Global Outreach Team (GOT) and everyone at Child Hope, THANK YOU!

Women's Fellowship Luncheon

The Women's Fellowship luncheon on Tuesday, March 3, at 11:00 am in Richard's Hall will feature Bev Boxell-German, associate Chaplain at the Correction Institute of Santa Clara County. This ministry attends to the spiritual needs of both adult and teen inmates at our jails.

The Women's Fellowship luncheon on Tuesday, April 7, at 11:00 am in Richard's Hall will feature Greg Fahrner from Darling Fisher. He will speak about final wishes and planning *A Gift to Your Family*.

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.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 14
12:00 to 6:00 pm
Make plans now to help save lives.



Sign up online on our website or call 1-800-RED-CROS.

We've Moved

Keep in Touch

**Susan Loughridge &
Steve Gardner**

2555 Seeforever Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Terri Goehner

243 Chaparral Lane
Nipomo, CA 93444



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 1, 2020	May/June Issue
Jun 3, 2020	Jul/Aug Issue
Aug 5, 2020	Sep/Oct Issue
Oct 7, 2020	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	40 years
Earl & Carol Thompson	March 10	47 years
Ron & Linda Ringsrud	March 10	26 years
Joe & Ruthanne Martinez	March 14	5 years
Tony & Jane Hoffman	March 15	40 years
Steve & Shirley Bragonier	March 19	37 years
Steve & Darlene Wood	March 20	37 years
Marvin & Kelly Blough	March 30	24 years
Michael & Veronica Miller	March 31	41 years

April Anniversaries

Tony & Martha Gregory	April 1	31 years
Mark & Debbie Lillo	April 2	42 years
Peter & Carol Presunka	April 4	39 years
Mike & Jan Elder	April 7	52 years
Eric & Tracy Leonard	April 9	32 years
Kevin & Lynn Duisenberg	April 13	24 years
Brent Fairbanks & Christy Rohrig	April 14	13 years
Charles & Yvonne Goss	April 20	45 years
John & Norma Crawford	April 21	36 years
Alex & Ann Ross	April 23	26 years
Mark & Paula Draper	April 25	39 years
David & Julie Akina	April 28	36 years
David & Yvonne Wong	April 30	32 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.

