



Cross Currents

Sunnyvale First United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



February 2017

Multicultural Month

February is multi-cultural month at our Church. We are very thankful to have such a diverse congregation from different parts of the world. We come from all parts of the world with our various talents and gifts but with one purpose— to worship One God. The altar has been decorated with artifacts, clothing, and other items from various ethnic cultures. Please take a moment to appreciate the diversity of our church.

Every Sunday in February during the 10:30 worship service, we have the scripture of the day read in a home language of people in our congregation. Sharon Yang (Mandarin), Effiong Ibok (Ibibio-one of 250 languages of Nigeria), Susan Rao (Oriya), and Edin Joselyn (Tamil) will be reading the scripture this month.



Notes from the Pastor

Rev. Dave Schlager



A while back a young man met with me and he began the conversation by saying, "Look, you're a sort of expert on God, right? Well some things have been happening to me in my life, strange coincidences. And I am going to tell you about them. And I hope that I know what you'll say. I hope that you will tell me that this has nothing to do with God. But then again, I am afraid it might, so here goes."

Then he told me a series of odd coincidences and happenstances, weird revelations and realizations. When he finished, I said to him, "Well in my expert opinion, this all sounds suspiciously like the voice of God. I think God is intruding into your life, attempting to get you to do something for him."

"Oh, no!" The young man moaned. "I was afraid you were going to say that."

That was what he said, "afraid." He was a smart young man, and while he didn't know everything about the Bible, he knew enough about the Bible to know that encounters with a living god can be demanding. In my experience, when most people talk about wanting to get "spiritual," they mean that they want to get warm and cuddly with some amorphous, sweet, and always smiling sort of god.

But encounters with the living God cannot only be deeply moving, but also threateningly fearful, as well as life transforming. Jesus doesn't simply reveal himself to his followers, but he demands that they follow him, that they walk the path that he walks.

During the first Bush war in Iraq, I was visiting with a woman who worked as an Administrative assistant at UC Berkley. She asked me, "Got any yard work that needs to be done? Any chores around the house?" She then told me about how she had befriended an Iraqi student in graduate school at the university. Then the war started and he was cut off, totally without funds. Couldn't go home. Couldn't

continue as a student. She and her husband had taken this young man into their home and she was trying to find him odd jobs so that he



could get a little money.

What does he think about the war? I asked. "Oh he thinks we're terrible and Saddam is just wonderful," she replied.

"Well I find it interesting that you took this Iraqi into your home, wanted to care for him."

With some indignation she replied, "I decided? I wanted?"

"Well, why did you do it?" I asked.

She slammed her fist down on her desk and said, "Because I'm a Christian, darn it! You think it's easy?"

May God bless us all in the same demanding way.

Pastor David

Finance

First UMC Sunnyvale Finance Committee Report – Les Cline, Finance Chairperson – January 27, 2017

I'm sure that many of you are interested in our church's 2016 finances and the 2017 Budget. But, if you're not, or if numbers make your head hurt, you can skip to the next article. (Just kidding!)

Overall, 2016 was a very good year, many thanks to everybody for your financial support:

- Total Income was \$364,698 and Total Expenses were \$367,080. For reference, in 2015, Total Income was \$357,917 and Total Expenses were \$348,820, and in 2014, Total Income was \$350,033 and Total Expenses were \$332,991.
- We closed the 2016 financial records with a loss of \$2,382. The 2016 Budget had forecast a \$19,032 loss; during the year, the Finance Committee hoped that total donations would be larger than expected (as did happen in 2015 and 2014). But, this didn't happen in 2016, so our January meeting started with a loss of \$22,961. To reduce this loss to a manageable number, the Finance Committee moved \$16,095 (everything) in the Good Samaritan Korean Methodist Church Rent Fund to 2016 Income, as well as \$5,000 from the Columbarium Fund.
- Several major Trustees projects were completed last year, including the Sewer Repair project that was partially funded by about \$32k collected during the Sewer Repair Fundraiser ... many thanks to all of you that contributed to this project. The other projects used money from several Dedicated Accounts plus several project-specific contributions.
- The 2017 Budget looks pretty good, but our church's mid-year pastoral change adds some uncertainty ...
- In the 2017 Budget, total Estimated Income is \$386,188 and total Estimated Expenses are \$385,478. On the Expenses side, the biggest adders from 2016 are about \$8k for Staff Salaries and about \$2k for Building Maintenance and Upgrades.
- This adds up to a \$710 "profit," which is good. Something that's maybe not so good, is that only 60% of Estimated Income is donations from the congregation; the other 40% is related to groups that rent space on our church campus, including the Korean church, the Daybreak program, and the Senior Nutrition Program.
- Since we don't yet know who our new pastor will be, we don't know what salary, health insurance, housing, and other expense numbers should be in the budget for the second half of this year. So, we've budgeted for costs that are the same as our current pastor. This means that if our new pastor is less expensive than our current pastor, our church may show a "profit" for 2017 ... but, if the new pastor is more expensive, our church is likely to show a "loss" for 2017.

2016 was an outstanding year, many thanks to everybody for your support . Total Income was \$364,698 and Total Expenses were \$367,080

As we've discussed for the past few years, our church needs major upgrades that have been deferred for years due to lack of funding. The Finance Committee had been hoping to include some of the Trustee's projects in the 2017 Budget, but we had to remove them in order to balance the 2016 Budget. So, as in previous years, the major Trustee's projects for 2016 will require targeted fundraising.

If you do like numbers, here's a little more detail on the 2017 Estimated Expenses:

- General & Administrative (office supplies, copier, computers): \$13,704 (3.6% of total expenses)
- Staff Expenses (salaries and related expenses): \$226,479 (58.7%)
- Worship Service (worship supplies, childcare, vacation substitutes): \$7,400 (1.9%)
- Committees & Christian Education: \$6,443 (1.7%)
- Conference Tithe (formerly called Apportionments & Askings): \$22,000 (5.7%)
- Church Physical Plant (insurance, utilities, repairs): \$82,572 (21.4%)
- Parsonage (mortgage, taxes, repairs): \$16,880 (4.4%)
- Senior Nutrition Program Support: \$10,000 (2.6%)

Church and Society

The Black Female Mathematician Who Sent Astronauts to Space.

By Ballard George, Church & Society, for Black History Month.

On November 24, 2015, President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, considered the nation's highest civilian honor, to 17 men and women. Among them was 97-year-old African-American mathematician, Katherine G. Johnson, selected for her contributions to the space program, starting with the Mercury missions in the 50's and ending with the space shuttle missions in the mid-80s. Among other things, she calculated the trajectories of America's first manned mission into orbit and the first moon landing.



Awarding Johnson this well-deserved honor doesn't just shine a spotlight on a single female STEM pioneer. It also illuminates an

obscure but important piece of history. Johnson was but *one of dozens* of mathematically talented black women recruited to work as "human computers" at the Langley Memorial Research Laboratory in the 40s and 50s.

They were so named because before machines came along, they crunched the numbers necessary for figuring out everything from wind tunnel resistance to rocket trajectories to safe reentry angles.

In fact, all of Langley's hundreds of "human computers," whether black or white, were women. It was an era when, as Johnson put it, "the computer wore a skirt." Considering society's long held prejudices about women and math, it may surprise some that NASA (then NACA, or the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics) would allow these "skirts" to work there in the first place. But the same man shortage that handed Rosie the Riveter her rivets when the U.S. entered WWII in 1941 handed the human computers their slide rules.

Though the job (at \$2,000 a year) was far better than most available for educated women at the time, such as nursing or teaching, the black mathematicians, or computers, faced segregation in Hampton, Virginia, where NACA set up its research lab. They worked in a separate facility from the white computers, had to use separate washrooms (a mile away), and had to sit at a colored table in the cafeteria. The lab was even on the site of a former plantation. But the mathematicians kept calculating.

Johnson did not have to work in a separate building for long. Hired in 1953, she was first put in the computer pool, but in just weeks was working more closely with engineers, a promotion she credited to her asking them incessant questions about the material. One such question was: Why weren't women allowed to attend meetings and briefings? Was there a law? There wasn't. Three years later, in 1961, Johnson's calculations for Alan Shepherd's capsule played a crucial role.

Meet Susan Rebecca Rao

A little background about yourself and your family.

I was born and brought up in a city called Cuttack, India. I finished my school in Cuttack and completed my Bachelors in Engineering in Bhubaneswar, India. I started working in Infosys as a software engineer in 2009 and moved to California in 2014!! My father is a teacher and happens to be the first teacher I know.... But most importantly he has been a great dad. My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me. My Mother is a homemaker. Both of them have equal roles in making me what I am today.

My mother being a Bishops daughter constantly instilled patience, perseverance, and kindness and my dad shaped my life with his moral values. I am blessed with an elder sister who is my guardian angel and of course my forever best friend. She is my role model and my inspiration in everything I do.

We all know "Everything is beautiful in His Time". I am blessed with a loving, caring and understanding better half Rabindra, who makes my life even more beautiful.



Since when have you been worshipping here and your experience?

I have been worshipping here from May 2015, close to 2 years now. After traveling into this alien world my heart always searched for a church which would give me the similar feeling as the church I used to attend back in Cuttack. Yes, I must agree this church did give me that warmth my heart was looking for, with members so cordial and accepting. The one thing I like I most about this church is members having their pre-defined seating location. :) I am happy to be part of this lovely congregation.

What does "Church" mean to you?

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20
To me its a House where I feel his presence. Many a times, He has give me many answers through someone's action, words or deeds. Its a house where I can make my hearts transparent to him to show Him my transgressions, my apprehensions and of course my gratitude. It's the house where I have a personal relationship with Him and where I feel I get a strong direction on my life from the Almighty!!

Anything you feel the congregation does not know about you and would find interesting like a hobby or an adventure you have had.

Rather than sharing hobbies or adventures I would like to share the few among the many wonderful miracles that He has done in my life in some way or the other. As kids , we were never privileged to have the best things in life. There was trouble, hardships, and many a time we were looked down by relatives. Economically deprived we always had our own set of inhibitions. Then, my sister and me were class toppers, general proficiency awards winners throughout school and we always made sure we trusted upon Him and never let our aspirations cross our inhibitions. I dreamt of pursuing engineering without a penny in my hand...and guess what "God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength but with your testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13) I graduated from a decent engineering college, got multiple job offers, excelled in any thing that I did and finally I am here in California working for Apple.

My parents always gave me the liberty to choose my own life partner. I chose a person who was not a Christian. I planned my own dream wedding, but it never went the way I planned and I could never get dressed up as a bride !!

There is a inner story to it, God was so close to me he very well knew what my heart desired. He knew things I never wanted to do and things I was doing to please people around me. He took me out of that way although it was the most difficult day of my life !! At the end I am with the same person I wanted to marry and live minus the rituals & customs which I don't believe in, the negative people who never wanted our happiness. All I learnt, His Plans are always bigger than Ours!! Miracles do happen!!

Here's my favorite quote in my adventurous life :

**"There is no thrill in easy sailing, where the skies are clear and blue.
But there is a satisfaction that is mighty sweet to take,
when you reach a destination, you thought you couldn't make".**

Bishop's Note on Immigration



The United Methodist Church
San Francisco Area California-Nevada Conference

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño
Resident Bishop

February 3, 2017

A Message of Love and Support to Our Muslim Brothers and Sisters

Beloved Ones,

We bring you greetings in the name of your brothers and sisters of the 370 United Methodist Churches that live and serve across Central and Northern California and Northern Nevada. Our hearts are burdened by the discrimination that you our Muslim brothers and sisters have experienced in the last few days. We recognize that recent Executive Orders signed by President Trump that have stopped the resettlement of refugees and prohibited the admission into the U.S. of persons from seven majority-Muslim countries have brought great suffering to you, your families and others. We come to extend to you our love and support.

As people of Christian faith we condemn all overt and covert forms of religious intolerance. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other. We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God.

In you we see brothers and sisters for we know that we have all been created by the same Creator in whose sight we are all of equal value. We believe that we are all created in the likeness and image of God, and that our Creator God calls us to love one another and care for each other.

With humble hearts we come to extend to you a hand of friendship, brotherhood and sisterhood. We stand with you in your suffering and ask that you stand with us as we advocate for others who today face discrimination, separation from their families and the land of their birth, and find themselves in a foreign land without a welcome.

Here and now we commit ourselves as your Christian brothers and sisters to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another. Let us join our prayers and our actions that such a day may come.

Sincerely,

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

United Methodist Women

March 7, Tuesday Executive Committee meets in Ralston Room for lunch at 11:30 am followed by the meeting at 12:15 pm.

March 13, Monday: Mary Elizabeth Circle will meet in the Fireside Room.

March 14, Tuesday 1:30 pm: Martha Mary Circle will meet in the Fireside Room.

March 31-April 2, Mission Springs Spiritual Retreat will be held at Mission Springs in Scott's Valley.

Retreat Leader Rev Linda Holbrook, 1st Palo Alto UMC.

See Nancy Cline for more information, if you are interested in going.

Holiday Faire meets every Thursday for 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Johnson/Shaner Room.

Come and join us.

Communications: Pat Switzer and Pam Hardin

Missions

News from Nepal

The average person in Nepal has had to endure 8 - 12 hours a day in rolling blackouts for the last ten years. Strangely, some industries enjoyed no blackouts.

Last September, new Prime Minister Prachanda took over promising change. He appointed Kul Man Ghising (an electrical engineer) to "fix" Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the country's power distribution monopoly. He quickly uncovered and dismantled a web of corruption bringing blackouts almost to an end in the biggest cities.

The NEA had exaggerated a largely manageable power crisis to tap into the power inverter industry and alternative sources like solar. The Himalayan nation has water resources that can generate much more electricity than it needs. Homeowners and small businesses are happy that the industry has finally created a level playing field.

Cross Currents

This is a MONTHLY newsletter. Its purpose is to inform you of what is happening in our church family with short news items. We are reaching out to members, friends and neighbors.

**We can mail it to you first class
for just \$10.00 a year**

First United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd.

Sunnyvale, CA 94086

(408) 739-0826 FAX: (408) 739-3390

E-Mail: sunnyvaleumc@comcast.net

OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Tues-Fri)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 AM

Adult Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Child care available at both services

All visitors are welcome

WEB SITE

www.sunnyvaleumc.org

Senior Citizens Nutrition Program

Site Manager: **Debbie Witt**

(408) 739-0833

11:15 AM – Lunch, Mon-Fri

9:30 AM – Live band & Dancing

Pastor: Rev. Dave Schlager

Choir Director: Tonya Oravetz

Organist: Don Cardoza

Bookkeeper: Terry Won



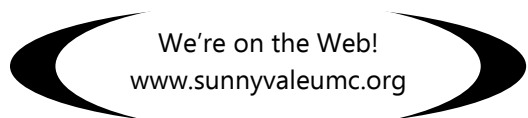
The Men's Club meets Monday evening, February 20, at 6:30 p.m. for dinner (Johnson Shaner Rm). The speaker will be Rev. Evelyn Vigil, congregational minister. She has served as chaplain for the San Jose Main Jail. All men are invited.

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Next article due date is March 7

Birthdays & Anniversaries

9 David McAllister	22 Janet Clifton	
10 Harriet Gammon	24 Anusha Goldi	
12 Ruth Riley	26 Tomasi Panisi	
13 Abigail Ting	27 Russell David Snead	
14 Ellie Green Jayce Jeyapalan	28 Rev. Dave Schlager	
20 Shobana Sylvester	31 Stephen Boaz	

20 George Dorrance & Song Bridges
23 Bobby & Satheesh Kumar

Ash Wednesday Service
March 1: Noon-1p.m
Join us for quiet meditation and imposition of ashes.