



“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.”

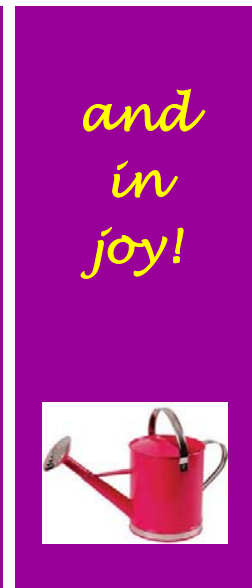
~ Matthew 7:7-12

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.”

~ Luke 20:22



in faith, in love,



Lenten activities at our church:

- **Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**
- **Wednesday, February 20, 27 and March 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., SOUP SUPPERS: Heroes in our Midst**
- **Sundays, February 17 - March 24, after worship and fellowship Lenten Bible Studies for everyone:**



1. **The Prophets of the Bible, led by Don Choi,** our Pastoral Intern - for people with some Biblical experience
2. **Bible Basics,** led by Pastor Sharon - For people with limited amount of knowledge about the Bible and its contents

- **Monday, February 25, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - BOOK TALK** on Anne Lamott's latest book “**Help, Thanks, Wow**”
- **Sunday, March 24 - PALM SUNDAY Biblical Feast after worship** (snacks dating back to the time of Jesus)
- **Thursday, March 28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY Seder Dinner** (more details to come)
- **Sunday, March 31 - EASTER.... Hallelujah! Annual Easter Congregation Photo** in front of church (bring your smile :-)



Sharings from Sharon



Dear Friends:

On February 13th we begin our journey towards Easter through the Season of Lent. In many traditions people are encouraged to sacrifice something during the Lenten Season, so they often give up things like Chocolate, or Soda. In our culture of abundance I would suggest that in the Protestant tradition rather than giving something up, we add a daily time of Renewal and Spiritual Growth to the six weeks of Lent.

We will be providing opportunities as a community of believers to experience “**Renewal and Spiritual Growth**” during the six weeks of Lent. We begin on **Ash Wednesday, Wed., Feb. 13th at 6:00pm** to

enter Lent with a service of repentance and reflection. It will be a quiet service of candle-light and scripture as we take a period of time to acknowledge who we are before God and how very much God loves us. Please plan on attending this service as we begin our journey together.

I also have several “**Lenten Devotional Guides**” available to enhance your daily time of Renewal and Growth. The devotion is published by our Denomination through the *Presbyterians Today* publication. The Devotion invites us to come and sit at the feet of Jesus during Lent and explore his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. It is an excellent publication and will give you new insight in your daily time of Renewal and Growth.

On Sundays you are encouraged to join one of **two Bible Studies**. Don Choi, our intern, will be teaching a class on the **Prophets**. I will be teaching a course that will **introduce the Bible** ----what it contains, who wrote it, why, and how it can be used as a guide to living the Christian Life. I will also introduce an ancient way to connect with the Scriptures that many have found to be a profound way to hear God speak through the Scriptures.

We will, once again, have the opportunity to gather for our annual Soup Suppers. The Mission Committee has been putting together a program that will inspire and enhance our Renewal and Spiritual Growth.

Our Prayer Wall in the Sanctuary has been renewed and we are all encouraged to write our Prayer Concerns on Post-It notes so that we can pray for one another.

During Lent, I also encourage you to add an act of service to your life. We have opportunities daily at church to put lunch bags together, to hand out lunches, and/or prepare boiled eggs to add to the lunches. We also have many people who could use a ride from time to time, or a friend to share a moment with on the phone or a cup of tea with in your home.

To be Renewed and to experience Spiritual Growth does not happen automatically----it requires discipline and commitment. Please make the 6 week commitment to God, to yourself and to your church as we journey this road together.

Joyfully, in Christ's Service
Pastor Sharon



February Birthdays!

Peter Wendt	Feb. 3
John Capuchino	Feb. 6
Kelly Hibbard	Feb. 8
Madeline Davis	Feb. 22
Carol Lathrop	Feb. 23
Judy Lococo	Feb. 24

Lovely Landscaping !



Rich Stewart recently **greatly** improved the front of our church with loads of flowers and the removal of aging bushes.

Yet to be seen are 200 bulbs planted around the church by **Rich and John Capuchino** which will grow up to be appreciated between now and Spring :-)



Lenten Soup Suppers 2013

Heroes...



he-ro (Noun)

1. One who possesses admirable, courageous, memorable qualities; one who makes a big difference in the lives of others.
2. Contemporary or biblical
3. Local, loveable, and living :-)

Join us on 3 Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. for a **delicious soup dinner** and a discussion of heroism both today and in the Bible. Sign up in the Narthex to bring soup, bread or dessert to one or several of these events.

Wed., February 20 - Come and see one of our own members (this is a surprise!) who daily, it seems, exemplifies servant leadership in our church. This person is a hero to all of us and what is coming this evening will make you smile. This member is a great church member always looking for ways to help out. He is a friend to all and thinks about those of our community who have special needs.

In this way, this member is like Paul's description of the body of Christ, how we each are gifted differently and use our gifts in combination and in benefit to each other and our service to God. (1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

Wed. February 27 - Come and see **Dan Guhl**, a leader in the local **Salvation Army** social services unit down the street from our church on North Fourth St. Dan once was addicted and troubled and was not coping well with life's problems. Somehow he found the Salvation Army and their ministry helped not only cure him of his addictions, but trained him for leadership. These days Dan runs Emmanuel House, the Army's transitional home for people with addictions. He patiently cares for men going through the same hard times he faced, and helps to lead them to sobriety and a better life in Jesus Christ. Dan is a Kiwanis colleague of John Fukasawa and a partner in our annual school supply give-away to Washington School students.

In this way, Dan exemplifies the life of **Moses** who was a reluctant leader who had murdered someone in his past. But God saw Moses as a leader and equipped him with the skills necessary to lead the Hebrew people to a better life. (Exodus Chapters 2-13)

Wed., March 6 - Come see and meet **Sister Marilyn Lacey**, author of the stirring book *This Flowing Towards Me*, leader in the field of refugee resettlement, and now leader of the international charity, *Mercy Beyond Borders*, which benefits women and girls in Sudan, Africa and Haiti. Marilyn, a Catholic Sister of Mercy, has spread the notion of caring for the "least of these," refugees, and people adrift because of wars and strife.

In that way Sister Marilyn exemplifies the **woman at the well**, (John 4:4-26), a Samaritan woman Jesus met with and who spread the word about his ministry throughout her community.



Front Door Ministry

In January we made and gave out **1,348** lunches for some **389** people.



Monthly Food Drive for the Hungry People Served by Sacred Heart Community Services

So far in February, we have given **40 lbs.** of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated **85 lbs.** of food, and **4,160 lbs. of food** since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.



Landscaping and Lighting Improvements at the Church

Some terrific improvements have occurred around the church lately. Under the leadership of **Rich Stewart**, Facilities elder, new landscaping (see page 2) has been accomplished in the front and the back of the church. The tired bushes in

front of the church have been replaced by colorful flowers.

New bright lights have been added to the front of the church to aid in visibility and increase security. Inside the church lights are brighter thanks to new, brighter bulbs in the fixtures in the Sanctuary and Social Hall. **THANKS RICH!**



The Miracle of Nature

One of our new little trees has a tangerine growing on it!

Amazing!! God is good :-)



LET THE WORDS OF
MY MOUTH
— AND THE —
MEDITATION OF
MY HEART
BE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU,
O LORD,
MY ROCK
— AND —
MY REDEEMER.
PSALM 19:14, NRSV

Bright Future



Our Bright Future Team has been meeting every few weeks to advance plans for the church future. We continue to plan a non-profit bakery which can train people in need of a job in the bakery business and sell delicious cupcakes to businesses and groups downtown. Gerry McKenna leads this effort and so far we have a business plan and plans for fund raising.

Gerry McKenna is also sharing with us fund-raising possibilities on **eBay**. One thing that will happen soon, as people buy things on eBay they will be encouraged to contribute to our ministry... we are hoping lots of people do!

Two new meetings of *Weight Watchers* started in January at the church, bringing in an extra \$400 in rent each month, AND a whole new group of people are enjoying our hospitality!

The Bright Future Team will keep the congregation informed as plans are made for the future.

Fill Her up!



Each week **Greg Plant** goes to *Second Harvest Food Bank* to get their contributions to our *Front Door Ministry*. Some weeks, like this one, there is almost too much to bring back to church. These contributions lower the price of each lunch from about \$1.50 each to more like \$.45!! What a savings!

Prayer While Cooking

Dear God, thank you for all of these ingredients (name each one). Be present in the preparing and eating of this meal, and be present with all those who have no food today. Show me how my life can be a blessing to them, and lead us all toward that day when no one will suffer from hunger anymore. Amen.

~ Sarah Turner

Alvin Davis



Alvin Davis was born in Gettysburg, South Dakota on Dec 2, 1932. He was reunited with his late wife Ursula Davis on Jan 30, 2013 in San Jose.

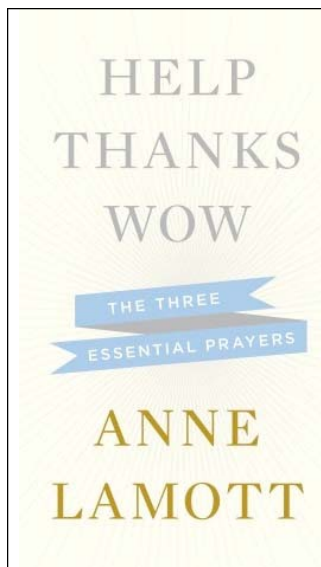
Alvin and Ursula had five children **Duane, Andy, Kathi, Pattie, and Gail** (Pictured above with Alvin on his birthday last December). There are 15 grand children and 2 great grand children.

Alvin's Memorial Service is **Monday, February 11 at 11 a.m.** at our church. A pot luck reception follows the service.



“Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make an important decision when you're in a bad mood. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come.”

~ Robert Schuller



Book Club Discussion Nights

Winter Read and Discussion
Monday Feb 25, 7pm
at FPC
Help, Thanks, Wow
The Three Essential Prayers

The FPC Book Club has chosen “**Help, Thanks, Wow**” as its first book choice for 2013. Join us in reading the newest book by beloved author and fellow Presbyterian, and Marin County native,

Anne Lamott.

New York Times-bestselling author Anne Lamott writes about the three simple prayers essential to coming through tough times, difficult days and the hardships of daily life.

If you've read Anne Lamott's work before, you know she is funny and perceptive writing about her own faith. It's these three prayers – asking for assistance from a higher power, appreciating what we have that is good, and feeling awe at the world around us – that can get us through the day and can show us the way forward.

In her new book, Lamott recounts how she came to her insights on prayer, explains what they mean to her and how they have helped, and explores how others have embraced these same ideas.

The SJ Public library does have copies of this book. Copies of the book are also available in hard copy or e-copy through Amazon.com, or at your local bookstore.

Our meeting will be at our church. **Join us and invite your friends!**

For more info contact **Lori Tierney** or the church office at 408-297-7212 or fpcs@yaho.com



February 18



BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Book Discussion February 12, 7 pm at FPC

Everyone is welcome for a discussion on the book “**Bridges out of Poverty**” by Dr. Ruby Payne, PhD.

This book is a powerful tool for anyone who works with the poor. Dr. Payne discovered there are different speaking patterns and meaning behind communication that makes communication difficult between middle class and poor people. This book is a valuable tool for anyone wanting to help the poor rise out of poverty.

Seminarian and local urban ministry leader **Andy Singleterry** will lead the discussion. Come even if you haven't read the book.

Admission: for this event is \$20. Or \$8 if you already have the book)

(Make check payable to “**Presbytery of San Jose**”, pay at the door. Admission includes the cost of the *Bridges* book. If you have the book already, the workshop fee will be \$8)

- Understand how poverty affects more than just a persons finances
- Learn about the differences among people in poverty, middle class and wealth
- Hear how those classes use words differently, which often leads to misunderstanding
- See how you can apply this in your church and community through **San Jose Bridge Communities and Open Table**

Sign up to attend with **Pat Plant** at pat@sanjosephy.org or call (408)702-0785.



2012 photo



3rd Annual Congregational picture

After the Easter worship service on March 31, we will again gather in front of the church for our congregational photo. This year our theme is “**GROW! In faith, love, peace, and joy.**” We’d like everyone who can to bring pots with either flowers or vegetables in them to hold in the photo.

As always we will use the photo in various ways, among them the church birthday and thank-you notes.

Soon we will create a wall of these photos of our church family in the narthex.



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” ~ Ephesians 1:3-6

A Cold Sunday in January

Sunday, January 13 was cold, not just outside... but in the Sanctuary as well. Pastor Sharon, ever the quick thinker, moved worship to the warmer Social Hall and all went well in our new warmer home for the day.



Pastor Sharon preached from the old lectern from our original church (see right) It usually just hangs out in the hallway holding a church history book. It was good to bring it into full use that Sunday.

