

MIDWEEK MESSAGE

October 2, 2013

Words to Consider: *"It is the combination of both power and love which makes a community workable and sustainable. It is the combination of power and love which Christians call the Spirit, and which empowers us to shape our common future for the good of all."*

Anne Primavesi

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ **NO CHURCH CHOIR Thursday, October 3.** We will resume on **Thursday October 10** at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. All are welcome to join in song (and fun).
- ❖ **REDWOOD GLEN, 55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BANQUET, Saturday, October 5, 5:00 – 7:30 PM,** Santa Clara First Baptist Church, 3111 Benton Street, featuring Don Ng. Tickets are \$30 (\$15 for children 12 and under.) Reservations at <http://redwoodglen55th.brownpapertickets.com>
- ❖ **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 10:00 AM. Worship:** World Communion Sunday, *"We've a Story to Tell"* and **Sunday School** for children and youth. You are encouraged to wear something from another culture or tradition, either of your own place of origin or a place you have visited. **Adult Spiritual Formation:** "If you ask me, 'Is God real?' I first have to ask you, 'Which God are we talking about?'" led by Pastor Tripp with a video of Brian McLaren.
- ❖ **FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet **Sunday, October 6 at 12:30 PM** in the Parlor.
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, October 8, 10:30 AM** at the Terraces of Los Altos at Janet Maxwell's apartment. The address is 373 Pine Lane, #2106, Los Altos. Let Pastor Rick know if you need transportation.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

- ❖ **SENIOR CHAT, Friday, October 11:** Most of us can only imagine how it would feel to leave our home country to make it possible for our family to survive and thrive. It takes great courage. **Maria Marroquin** is a dedicated and charismatic woman who is well known as an advocate for the immigrants in our area. She has helped with the **Day Worker Center** in Mountain View since its inception and has been the Executive Director since 2005. An amazing statistic: 950 job placements per month. Come and

meet this dynamic woman and hear the story of how you might employ a good day worker for your home or business or church. Held in the Fireside Room of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 670 East Meadow Drive. For information, Dona Smith-Powers, Coordinator (650) 494-3093.

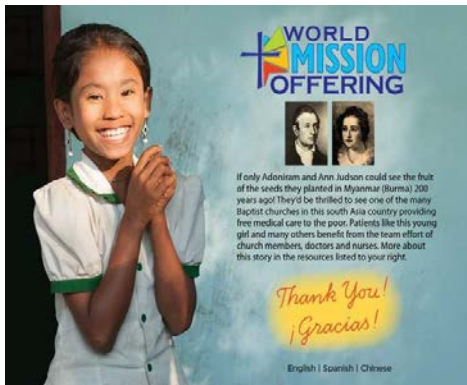
❖ **BAPTISTS LUNCHING TOGETHER, Wednesday, October 16, Noon – “Panel on Chaplaincy,” featuring Esther Hargis (seniors) and Dave Robinson (jail).** Grand Lake Gardens in Oakland. Lunch is \$8.00. For reservations contact Joan Thatcher, (510) 350-7008. If you would like a ride let Pastor Rick know.

❖ **CHURCH COUNCIL meets Thursday, October 17 at 5:00 PM** in the Parlor.



Save the date! **POTLUCK AND PUMPKIN CARVING, Friday October 25 at 6:00 PM** for folk of all ages in the Fellowship Hall. “From ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggedy beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord, deliver us!”

September’s Special Mission Offering for InnVision and the Opportunity Center: to date we have received **\$610** toward our goal of **\$600**.



October’s Special Mission Offering is our annual **WORLD MISSION OFFERING**. American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (operating as International Ministries (IM) began its pioneer mission work approximately 200 years ago in Burma and today works in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. More than 100 full-time missionaries along with short-term missionaries and mission partners serve in more than 70 countries. Its central mission is to help people **come** to faith in Jesus, **grow** in their relationship with God and **change** their worlds through the power of the Spirit. This year’s theme is **Embrace the Cause** and our goal for the offering is **\$1,000**.

IN THE WORLD

DAN BUTTRY, IM PEACE ADVOCATE ON THE ROAD: In November 2012 Dan led a training session in Chiang Mai, Thailand for 24 people from 8 countries in Asia and the Pacific. "That was one of the greatest training experiences I've ever had -- an incredible high-functioning group!" he said.

Nancy and Steve James, missionaries in Haiti, had heard about Dan Buttry's earlier efforts to empower Christian leaders in the Naga Hills, Northeast India to resolve their problems peacefully.

They felt his skills could help groups and individuals in Haiti as well. Pastor Emmanuel Pierre invited Dan to the Haiti Pastors' Conference where he led a 3-hour workshop introducing the concept of conflict resolution and how it can be a positive and effective method of resolving problems. They appreciated his interactive style and the new ways of dialogue and listening and they plan for more teaching and training. "We are excited about what God might be doing in Haiti", Nancy James said.

Recently, Dan was back in Kenya for the fourth time in 3 years! This year, on September 13, Sharon Buttry joined her husband in a 10-day Intensive Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers with 32 key Christian peacemakers from 7 African countries in Nairobi on how to facilitate training of the principles and skills of conflict transformation using experiential education methodologies. Leaders from Angola, Burundi, Liberia, Uganda, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Kenya along with some Central Seminary, Kansas City students were involved in training that they said was "transforming their lives".

Sharon has been endorsed by International Ministries to become a part-time missionary, as a Global Consultant for Community Transformation, spending 2-3 months/year teaching and doing community work abroad with Dan.

Dan and Sharon Buttry



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Diane Kirton (October 4), Jo Ford (October 8)
- ✚ Lois Ville for the compassion and warmth shared in the monthly Women's Brunch
- ✚ Virginia Herbert for the return of Joanne Jones to worship and choir
- ✚ Eleanor Satterlee for the hospitality provided by Jane Chin and Thelma Parodi and the other women of the church
- ✚ Lois Ville and Thelma Parodi for good visits with Carl Schilling and the Granholms

Concerns – New:

- ✚ Thelma Parodi for her daughter, Lee, facing back surgery, for Lee's husband and Norm and for her disappointment that Lee can't visit right now
- ✚ Lucille Towner for Bob Towner (currently in El Camino Hospital) whose surgery was postponed due to complications

- ✦ Lois Ville for Patrice Heath who is home after a brief hospitalization; for she and Richard as she continues to live with the affects of cancer
- ✦ Marilyn Hunwick for Ramesh Kumar who is recovering from brain tumor surgery
- ✦ For those affected by ongoing civil war in Syria that peace with justice may be realized
- ✦ For the residents of the Terraces at Los Altos as they go through a time of transition
- ✦ For our American Baptist missionaries serving all over the world through the Board of International Ministries, especially Dan and Sarah Chetti and their mission work in Lebanon and Dan and Sharon Buttry who work as a global peace advocates

Ongoing:

- ✦ Laura Garcia for Janice and other family members with health concerns
- ✦ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns
- ✦ For Don and Mary Granholm, Ruth Clark, Earl and Virginia Knechtel, Carl Schilling
- ✦ For Ruriko Uda's congregation, Izumi Parktown Church, in Sendai , Japan
- ✦ For Ramesh Kumar and the ministry of Balasore Technical School in India
- ✦ For our sister church in Corinto, Nicaragua
- ✦ For the work with the homeless of the Opportunity Center and InnVision
- ✦ For refugees and all victims of war and disaster everywhere
- ✦ For the well-being of our church: wisdom and guidance for our leaders and its future
- ✦ For the economies of which we are a part (global, national, state, local)
- ✦ For the care of the earth
- ✦ For the peoples of the world striving for freedom and dignity
- ✦ For peace in a war-torn world, food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, justice for the abused and oppressed, and hope for the future
- ✦ For those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways these make us less safe and less free

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2013

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

"We've a Story to Tell"

Lectionary reading for the Week: Psalm 137; Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26; Luke 17:5-10;
2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14. (Focus scripture for this week is in bold.)

The Epistle reading is a love letter from an older sage to young Timothy. He is truly the beloved follower of the author (identified as the Apostle Paul). Paul gives thanks for the faith of Timothy's mother and grandmother, who have been this young man's models in discipleship. He reminds the young man that the faith of Christ must be rekindled and from that burst of fire new energies emerge. The laying on of hands conveys God's presence in ways that renew our spirits and give us power to be God's agents of creative transformation.

Paul is able to face his sufferings because of his faith in Christ. He knows that whether he lives or dies, he belongs to God. God's vision of salvation in Christ nurtures and sustains him and enables him to face suffering with hope.

Paul's words are highly countercultural today. Christians in North America seldom suffer for our faith. Our churches receive non-profit status and pastors receive tax benefits. This text asks us: For what are we willing to suffer to be faithful to the way of Jesus? Where might we trust God and place ourselves in the position to suffer for the Gospel?

These passages point to the importance of living in the spirit of Jesus and aiming high in our faith journeys. Aiming low leads to personal and social destruction. In contrast, a life of faithful discipleship creates circles of well-being that transform families, communities, and nations. (Bruce Epperly, "Aiming High," The Adventurous Lectionary. 10-6-2014, *patheos.com*).

Prayer: God of all the ages, you have revealed your grace in our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we wait patiently on your mercies, strengthen us to live in your justice, that with open hearts we may hear and accomplish your will, through Christ, who lights the way to life everlasting. Amen.

Dan and Sarah Chetti



A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

This month of October begins something of a journey outward as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and take our annual World Mission Offering. Sunday you are invited to wear something from your native country or a country you have visited as we acknowledge our common bond with Christians all around the world. The music, liturgy and décor will reflect this multicultural emphasis. And it is particularly significant for us as we continue to claim our identity as a multicultural congregation.

The World Mission Offering not only supports the work of the American Baptist Board of International Ministries as a whole, we also share the money raised between our two special interest missionaries. Dan and Sarah Chetti do remarkable work both in the Arab Theological Seminary in Beirut and in ministry to the women who are brought to Lebanon to serve as domestic workers. Dan (and now Sharon) Buttry travel all over the world, planting and nurturing the seeds of peace in conflict-ridden situations. (See a summary of their recent work above under "In the World.")

The worship focus for Sunday is taken from an old hymn we used to sing, "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations." I assume we have stopped singing that hymn because of its overtones of an arrogant kind of Christianity that many of us have struggled to let go of and leave behind. Modern missionaries very much see themselves as partners with those they serve. The wisdom of the West is not automatically superior to the rich resources and traditions of people from other parts of the world. Still, when Ann and Adoniram Judson left Massachusetts in 1813, headed for the Indian subcontinent, they believed with all their hearts they had a story to tell. What was the essence of that story for which they were willing to risk their lives? Do we have a story to tell today? What is it? How do we share it? What, if anything, are we willing to risk for it?

Please join us at 10:00 AM on Sunday. Bring along a family member, friend, colleague, neighbor or stranger to share in worship; then, stay for Adult Spiritual Formation when Pastor Tripp will lead us in the second of a series, this week featuring a video of Brian McLaren and a discussion of the question, "If you ask me, 'Is God real?' I first have to ask you, 'Which God are we talking about?'"

May God's new thing flourish within us and among us.

Pastor Rick

