

# THE SPIRE

*AUGUST 2013*

## MIXON MUSES

We are a blessed congregation. When I talk to friends and colleagues in other churches around the country, it is clear that we have more resources than many and that our resources have been well-managed over the years. There are many people to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for this.

Like many churches we have a large older building. Unlike many churches, we have not significantly deferred maintenance on our facilities. Oleta and I are always pleased when the firefighters come around for their annual inspection and praise the condition of our building. I think this year one of them actually said we were not only exemplary but “stellar” in our upkeep of the building.

Because we have chosen to open our building to the community, we are likely to receive more than \$100,000 in tenant income this year. At the same time that the activities we host generate income, they also serve the community and gain us a reputation for being a good neighbor. This ministry of our facility is good stewardship. It also makes our network and influence greater than the number in our congregation would warrant.

Our Special Funds, the money that people have left as legacy over the years, allows us to sustain the life of our congregation. This money, well-managed by our Finance Committee and Special Funds Treasurer, along with our rental income, allow us to engage in ministry beyond what our annual income would support. This is a blessing from those who have gone before who believed in the life and mission of this congregation and wanted to see it continue after they were gone. It is always a challenge to consider how we use these gifts both responsibly and creatively to do God’s work in our community and in the world.

Recently, we made a decision to liquidate one of our assets, our remaining share

in the “Annex” behind the church building. Thanks to the diligent work of a task team, made up of Jane Chin, Hugh Satterlee, Nana Spiridon and Jim Alexander, we were able to sell this piece of property to the child care center for \$300,000. This is a rich return on a small piece of a small piece of property. We are grateful to this task team for its good, hard work.

This money will now go into our Special Funds and will be available for our ongoing ministry, as needed. As always, use of this money must be balanced between taking care of ourselves and serving the reign of God on earth. In the interest of sustaining this balance, I have suggested to the Council that we spend some of this money on missions. As a result they will bring a proposal to our Quarterly Business meeting for sharing some of this resource.

Many churches, when they have a capital campaign or receive a windfall gift, choose to offer a tithe of that money for missions. If we chose to do that we would be able to support some exciting mission project or projects in far more significant way than we do through our annual and special missions offerings. A large, generous donation from us could make a big difference in the life of an agency or missionary or mission project. It’s my hope that we would be moved to such generosity. That kind of giving can only be good for the “soul” of our congregation. We identify ourselves as a church whose mission is to “serve the needs of others.”

In addition to that act of generosity, I would also like to see us invest another 10% of this money in microfinance. Essentially microfinancing is a way of making small loans to people living in poverty that allows them to build businesses that lift them out of poverty. It is amazing what a loan of \$500 or so can do for a dedicated worker who wants a better life for her or his family or village. Organizations like Oikocredit, founded by the World Council of Churches ([oikocredit.org](http://oikocredit.org) or [oikocreditusa.org](http://oikocreditusa.org).) have been doing this sort of lending for almost 40 years. Their track record is outstanding. We might not make as much return on this investment as we would in the stock market, but we would still get some return at the same time we’re “serving those in

need.” It is a definite win-win situation.

Because we have been blessed we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to be a blessing to others. I hope we will see our responsibility here and seize this opportunity to share what we have with neighbors in need. It is bound to be good for us.

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Rick



---

---

## The Growth of Religious Progressives and the Future of the American Religious Landscape

By: [Emily Fetsch](#) [07.18.2013]

As Americans—particularly the political parties—contemplate their demographic future, much of the conversation has centered on questions about what rising Asian and Hispanic populations portend. But there is another important demographic change that could be equally meaningful, but that remains largely ignored: the dramatic reordering of the American religious landscape.

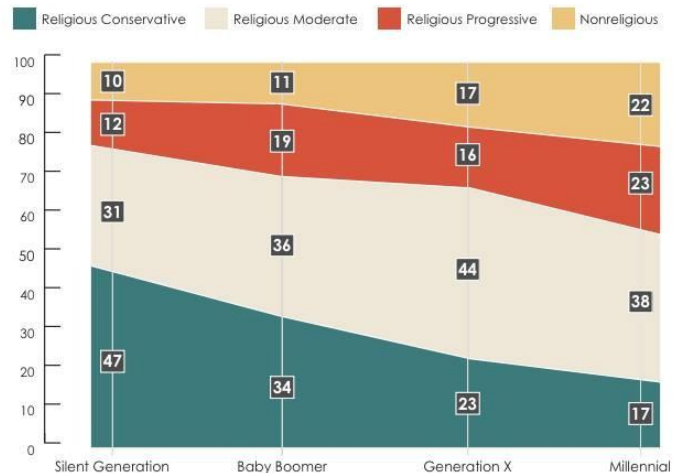
A [recent survey conducted by PRRI and the Brookings Institution](#) finds that Millennials (Americans age 18-33) are much more likely than previous generations not only to identify as nonreligious, but to be religious progressives. The survey uses a newly developed religious orientation scale that combines theological, economic and social outlooks to create four categories: religious conservatives, religious moderates, religious progressives, and nonreligious to provide a new look at the American religious landscape.

Among Americans overall, religious conservatives significantly outnumber religious progressives (28% vs. 19%). Another 38% of Americans are religious moderates, while 15% are nonreligious. Religious conservatives make up an even larger share of older Americans. Members of the Silent Generation are much more likely to be religious conservatives than religious progressives (47% vs. 12%) However, among Millennials only 17% are religious conservatives, compared to 23% who are religious progressives.

As both political parties attempt to grapple with the shifting demographic terrain, changes in religious orientation present opportunities and challenges. Younger Democrats maintain a very different religious profile than older Democrats. The majority of younger Democrats are nonreligious (23%) or religious progressives (31%). In contrast, 6-in-10 (60%) of Democrats who are 65 or older identify as either religious moderates or religious conservatives.

Younger Republicans are also less likely than older Republicans to be religious conservatives. More than two-thirds (68%) of Republicans

### Religious Orientation by Generation



Source: PRRI/Brookings Economic Values Survey, July 2013 (N= 2,002).

---

---

65 or older are religious conservatives, compared to less than half (46%) of Republicans under 40. Younger Republicans are twice as likely (15%) to identify as religious progressives or nonreligious than their older counterparts (7%).

As both political parties look to connect with younger voters, a better understanding of the generational changes in religious orientation will almost certainly require adjustments in respective outreach strategies, messaging, and policy platforms.

---

---

## Educational Ministries and Family Life

Friends of God,

The summer is underway and life at First Baptist is as busy as ever. No summer lull for us even if we pastors have been traveling a bit.

My time in Virginia was fruitful. The Doctor of Ministry students at Virginia Theological Seminary give me great hope. The student body was multi-ethnic and ecumenical comprised of Unitarian, Baptist, Episcopalian, Lutheran and Methodist pastors all "retooling" for the ever-shifting demands of ministry. We spoke about managing change, both decline and growth. We were reminded that in scripture, some leaders were called upon to lead in times of upheaval and sadness. Others were called to lead in times of growth and power. In both scenarios (and everything in between), God was present blessing the People. Like I said, it was an inspiring three weeks. I am sure I will be sharing what I learned with you all as we continue to meet the challenges of our own ministry here in the Silicon Valley.

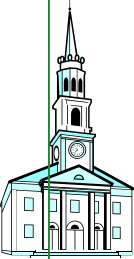
To that end, I have been enjoying all of the music that iSing has brought to us this summer. Young voices have filled our halls during the week. Jennah Delp, one of iSing's directors, also shared her gifts with us in worship. Partnering with iSing has already brought new life to our congregation. I look forward with great excitement to what the future may hold.

Naomi Schulz will be with us again one more Sunday in August. She will once again bring her energy and creativity with her. Please welcome her with our usual generosity.


The summer is not over. There's more to come. Stay tuned for other announcements.

Peace and All Good Things, Pastor Tripp

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH




**JOINT WORSHIP and PICNIC - SUNDAY, AUGUST 4**, worship will be a joint service with Covenant Presbyterian Church in the “**bowl**” at Mitchell Park at 10:30 AM, (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE) followed by a pot-luck meal. Bring food to share. Eating utensils and beverage will be provided. This is the same place we held last year’s joint service. The “**bowl**” is just off the back of the parking lot at Covenant, 670 East Meadow, Palo Alto. There will be chairs to sit on or you can sit on the grass around the “**bowl**.” We can definitely use volunteers to help with the set up and clean up. **Set up** will begin at 8:30 AM at Covenant. For those who would like to sing in the **choir**, please come at 9:45 AM. Invite friends and relations, neighbors and strangers to join us for this great time of worship and community in the park.

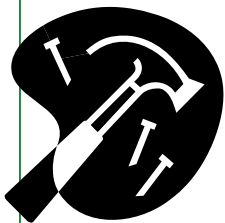


**MEN’S BREAKFAST**, Every first and third Wednesday at Hobe’s Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. All the men from our Church family are welcome. The next **MEN’S BREAKFAST**, will be on Wednesday, August 7.

Our second **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING** will be held **Sunday, August 11** after worship. Eleanor Satterlee is looking for people to help serve and clean up after our traditional light lunch on that day. Also we are looking for **volunteers** to host Patio Hour on August 25 and September 1. Please call let her know if you can help - 650.326.5289, Email: [ejgs@sbcglobal](mailto:ejgs@sbcglobal)



**BIBLE STUDY**, will begin again on **Tuesday, August 13, 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.



**HABIT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY, Saturday, August 17, 8:30 AM to 4 PM** We will be working on a home in Menlo Park. We have slots for 15 volunteers. Please let Pastor Rick know if you are able to work that day or if you can help with the lunch preparation.



**MEMORIAL SERVICE for DOROTHY AKER will be Sunday, August 18 at 2:00 PM in the FBCPA Sanctuary.**

The next **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** is scheduled for **Thursday, August 22, at 5:00 PM** in the Parlor.



Our **CHURCH CHOIR** is in recess over the summer months. In September, rehearsals will resume every Thursday at 7:30 PM in the Parlor.

**WOMEN'S BRUNCH** meets on the **last Thursday of the month at 10 AM**. All women of our church community are invited. Please join us at at Hobe's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, in the "Wine Room." All women of the congregation welcome.



Please Note that **SENIOR CHAT**, will not meet in August.

## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION DATES AND TOPICS

Meetings are on hiatus until the fall.

### words of WORSHIP

#### WORSHIP THEMES FOR AUGUST 2013

<b>August 4</b>	<b>One Bread, One Body</b>	<b>Romans 12</b>
<b>Joint worship in Mitchell Park with Covenant Presbyterian</b>		
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Stay Alert</b>	<b>Luke 12:32-40</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Fire Next Time</b>	<b>Luke 12:49-56</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Make New Friends, Keep the Old</b>	<b>Psalm 150</b>
<b>Hymn Sing and picnic "on the grounds"</b>		

Thank you

Thank you for all of the cards and calls offering your condolences upon the passing of my mother, Dorothy Aker. She was a member of this church since the early fifties, raising her children here, and active in the American Baptist Women's group for many years. She loved this church. I was glad that I was able to bring her to worship for as long as I did, and all of you were so kind to greet her each Sunday.

Carolyn Shepard



## Congregation Photos

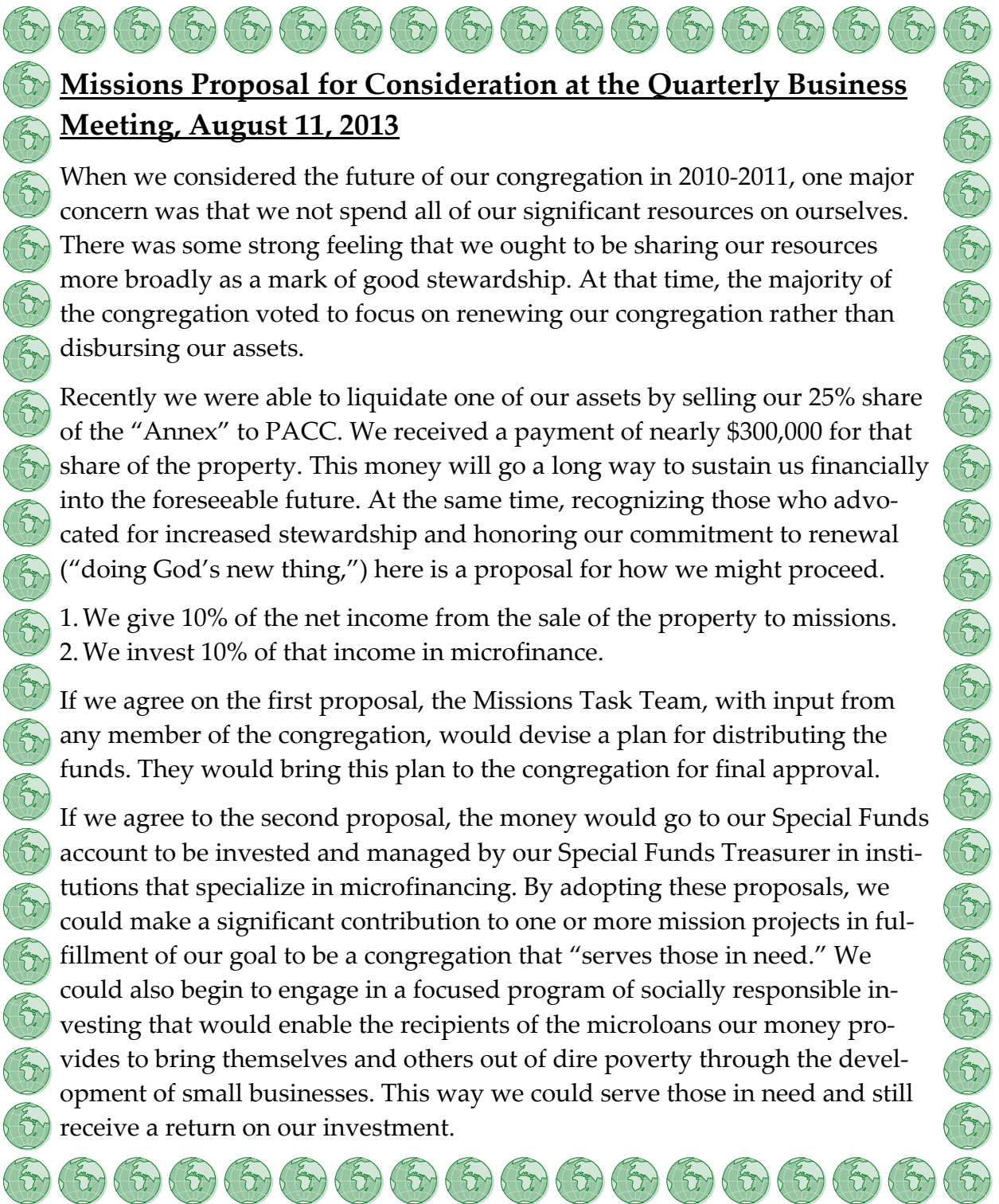
**7-14** — My camera battery went weak and I missed an important scene during A Time with Children and Youth. We also had former Pastor Charles Syverson on the floor with Pastor Rick Mixon and Minister of Faith Formation and Family Life Tripp Hudgins. We had our first patio hour this summer. Jin



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday* this month to:

<b>Charlie Lemke</b>	<b>August 2</b>
<b>Don Ha</b>	<b>August 3</b>
<b>Oleta Proctor</b>	<b>August 3</b>
<b>June Lee</b>	<b>August 6</b>
<b>Clara Ramirez</b>	<b>August 12</b>
<b>Alex Spiridon</b>	<b>August 13</b>
<b>Hal Sebring Jr.</b>	<b>August 16</b>
<b>Jesse Tuan</b>	<b>August 18</b>
<b>Paul Berry</b>	<b>August 24</b>
<b>Lorraine Barry</b>	<b>August 28</b>
<b>Lucille Towner</b>	<b>August 29</b>
<b>Steve Shi</b>	<b>August 29</b>



## Missions Proposal for Consideration at the Quarterly Business Meeting, August 11, 2013

When we considered the future of our congregation in 2010-2011, one major concern was that we not spend all of our significant resources on ourselves.

There was some strong feeling that we ought to be sharing our resources more broadly as a mark of good stewardship. At that time, the majority of the congregation voted to focus on renewing our congregation rather than disbursing our assets.

Recently we were able to liquidate one of our assets by selling our 25% share of the "Annex" to PACC. We received a payment of nearly \$300,000 for that share of the property. This money will go a long way to sustain us financially into the foreseeable future. At the same time, recognizing those who advocated for increased stewardship and honoring our commitment to renewal ("doing God's new thing,") here is a proposal for how we might proceed.

1. We give 10% of the net income from the sale of the property to missions.
2. We invest 10% of that income in microfinance.

If we agree on the first proposal, the Missions Task Team, with input from any member of the congregation, would devise a plan for distributing the funds. They would bring this plan to the congregation for final approval.

If we agree to the second proposal, the money would go to our Special Funds account to be invested and managed by our Special Funds Treasurer in institutions that specialize in microfinancing. By adopting these proposals, we could make a significant contribution to one or more mission projects in fulfillment of our goal to be a congregation that "serves those in need." We could also begin to engage in a focused program of socially responsible investing that would enable the recipients of the microloans our money provides to bring themselves and others out of dire poverty through the development of small businesses. This way we could serve those in need and still receive a return on our investment.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

### Council Meeting Minutes, July 11, 2013

Pastor Rick began the meeting at about 5:10 PM with a thoughtful reading from a resource book.

Present: Dan Cudworth, Jane and Jin Chin, Marilyn Hunwick, Pastor Rick Mixon, Eleanor and Hugh Satterlee, and Moderator Carolyn Shepard.

Rick reported on current health status of Dorothy Aker and Bob Towner, He noted that pastor Tripp has returned from his three-week stint in Virginia, and indicated that Tripp will be away again for a week centered on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. He has been invited to give a lecture at Oxford in England. Naomi Schultz will fill in at that time.

Bible Study will resume in August, but will be moved to The Terraces.

Rick will leave for Peace Camp in Spokane on July 14<sup>th</sup> and from there to Boise for an early celebration of his mother's birthday. Rick agreed to clarify staff comings and goings to a timeline on paper.

The Council, after some discussion, agreed that Rick should attend a National Conference on Progressive Church Renewal to be held in Atlanta in August. He will not be away over a Sunday.

Jin reviewed the distributed Treasurer's report. Pledge income is now about \$700 over the budget plan. \$15,000 has been drawn from Special Funds to cover the insurance bill principally. Rental income is about \$13,700 ahead of budget because some tenants have prepaid, especially those wishing to reserve space for concerts into 2014.

Carolyn reported that she has been alerted to sign the final papers for sale of the Annex. These have been held up for bureaucratic and other minor reasons. Discussion again ensued about tithing 10% of the proceeds of the sale to a mission activity and also investing a like amount in socially useful microfinance programs. The latter would be held as an investment in Special Funds. This will be discussed at the next Quarterly Business Meeting. The congregation is

urged to participate in discussing this matter.

The Council agreed to ask the membership at the upcoming Quarterly meeting to permit expenditures from the earnings of the Lucile Lundquist Fund to begin work on segments of the patio project and improvements to the sound system in the church.

Signups for Patio Hour, which begins on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, were discussed. The Council is responsible for refreshments on that date and Nana Spiridon will furnish them the following Sunday. Remaining Sundays remain to be chosen. Preparation for the joint service with Covenant Presbyterian on August 4<sup>th</sup> is still in the planning stage.

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM. The second Quarterly Business meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2013.

Rick closed the meeting with a short prayer with thanks for graces flowing our way.

Submitted: Hugh Satterlee, Clerk

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST NEWS**

### **AMERICAN BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES TO RETURN TO BURMA (MYANMAR)**

The Rev. Dr. Yam Kho Pau, General Secretary of the Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) has invited International Ministries (IM) to renew its ministry in Myanmar (Burma). The last ABC missionaries to Burma were expelled in 1966 by the country's military regime. Dr. Pau stated that the MBC believes God is opening the door for IM to once again join them as co-laborers together in Myanmar. The ABC Mission Summit/Biennial marked the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Adoniram and Ann Judson in Burma. This event will be celebrated in Yangon, in December 2013 when Reid Trulson, Executive Director of IM will visit.

## Our August Mission Outreach Offering

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREATER SAN FRANCISCO – GOAL: \$600.00**

The mission of the Greater San Francisco Habitat for Humanity is to make the dream of home ownership a reality for low-income families - a virtually unattainable dream for the majority of residents in San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula.



Here are the current Mission, Vision and Values Statements for Habitat for Humanity of Greater San Francisco:

### **MISSION**

*Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco partners with working families and the community to build affordable ownership homes in San Francisco, Marin, and the Peninsula.*

### **VISION**

With input from volunteers, partner homeowners, donors, community leaders and staff, Habitat Greater San Francisco's Board of Directors approved a plan to meet ambitious goals by 2020.

Under the 2020 Vision, we plan to:

Build 400 more homes in Marin, San Francisco and the Peninsula: several new developments have been proposed in all three counties served by the organization.

Deepen our community impact by renovating 200 more homes and 50 neighborhood facilities, and helping more families to qualify for homeownership through financial skill-building programs.

Leverage Habitat's highly visible brand to raise awareness of the local Habitat Greater San Francisco affiliate and stimulate more involvement through volunteerism and philanthropy.

Dramatically increase revenue generation through fundraising, community support and a new Habitat ReStore.

## VALUES

Habitat Greater San Francisco provides a hand-up, not a hand-out for families in desperate need of improved living conditions. Our homeowners invest 500 hours of "sweat equity" to help build their own homes as well as additional time for homeowner workshops. Houses are sold to partner families at no profit and are financed with affordable, zero interest mortgages.

## HOMES IN DEVELOPMENT



Currently, construction has started on Habitat Terrace, Habitat Greater San Francisco's largest development in San Francisco and our first in the Oceanview neighborhood. At Habitat Terrace, we will build 28 detached single family homes (17 3BD/2BA and 11 2BD/2BA) on approximately 1 acre of land. This development will include many green building features, such as solar panels, native species landscaping, tank-less water heaters, and public car share spaces. All units will be GreenPoint rated through Build It Green and Energy Star Certified.

This development is made possible by the support of donors and volunteers who believe that investing in our neighbor's quest to become homeowners benefits the entire community. We look forward to providing affordable and stable housing for 28 hard working, Bay Area families.

### **ReStore**

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a volunteer-driven home improvement store that accepts and resells new and gently used building materials, appliances and furniture to the general public at a fraction of their normal retail price. Our first ReStore is based out of San Carlos, and all proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco to fund the construction of homes in San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula.

Please help us spread the word about the ReStore! Tell your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers they can help by volunteering, donating quality used building materials or simply by shopping at the Habitat ReStore.

### **HABITAT WORK DAY, Saturday, August 17, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.**

Save this date for our annual work day with Habitat for Humanity. This year we are scheduled for a full day's work on a remodel in East Palo Alto. There are 10 work slots. If we have more volunteers, there may also be the opportunity to help out in the "ReStore." If you're interested sign up on Sunday or let Pastor Rick know. If you're not available to work, you may volunteer to help the Missions Task Team with the lunch preparation. More information to follow.

**Minister: Rev. Randle (Rick) Mixon**  
**650-327-0561; FAX 650-327-1562**  
**Email: [fbcpaloalto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbcpaloalto@sbcglobal.net)**  
**Web Site: [www.fbc-paloalto.org](http://www.fbc-paloalto.org)**

**The August 2013 Special Offering is for**  
**Habitat for Humanity**  
**Our Goal is \$ 600**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO  
305 N. California Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94302-4105

Address Correction Requested