As I reflect upon the different outreach ministries we offer…Loaves and Fishes, Downtown Cake Ministry, Sunrise Christian Food Ministry, Family Promise, Rain Tarps, and Happy Crafters / Quilts…I realize all these ministries are serving in the same way – providing care and support for the needy and the homeless – as well as providing care and support for those who are serving the needy and the homeless daily. I am moved beyond compassion and joy as I witness how God has called our church to be church, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, to be a part of God’s greater plan for creation.

Beginning in August, we began a monthly gathering to pray over these ministries, to share together in devotion and worship, and to discover how all these ministries work together to the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven. As part of our time together, we spent time witnessing and testifying to how each of these ministries have been transformational in our lives and the lives of those we are serving. We shared our visions for these ministries with each other and sought out how we can witness and testify together to grow the vision and passion for these ministries in our church.

If you are interested in finding out more about what we are doing, or you have a passion for outreach ministry, please join us for our monthly meeting. We meet after Sunday worship in the Library for devotion, prayer, worship and testimony on the last Sunday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 11:15 am on Sunday September 29, 2013.
Some church members were curious about my doctoral dissertation topic. I have been studying for Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling. By your generous and gracious support, I was able to complete my course work this past summer and my dissertation project was approved by the committee. For this month’s pastoral letter, I would like to share my dissertation topic proposal with you. Due to my special research area, I was advised to take one more class, “Loss, Grief and in Theological and Pastoral Perspectives” next summer while I am working on my dissertation. I hope my study can benefit and enrich my ministry first. And hopefully this work can be a useful resource for my colleagues and my congregation. I was deeply inspired by some sudden death situations in my congregation the last three years. The title for my dissertation project is “Sudden Grief Counseling: A Challenge for Modern Pastors.”

Pastors are supposed to handle many different challenging pastoral care situations. For example, I have experienced five unexpected and sudden deaths in our congregation last year. One was diagnosed with cancer of pancreas and given just a month to live. When that person died, she was only 50 years old. Three young men committed suicide by killing themselves with guns. And the last person died of a brain aneurysm. These sudden, tragic and painful events made me think about questions. Especially, the three young men’s suicides at their young ages shocked not only their family members, but it also devastated our congregation. This challenging situation is not unique to my personal ministry. Most pastors also have to deal with similar challenges. I have come to realize that most pastors have never had training in suicide grief. I also learned that while most pastors were trained in general grief, they were not trained in “traumatic grief” counseling methods. These painful events bring the loved ones face to face with death and the necessity to find hope, God’s mercy and grace in the middle of chaos, questions and confusion. In this dissertation project I hope to explore the pastoral challenge of traumatic grief. I hope to find and present specific suitable types of pastoral care and counseling models that I can use to support those who lost their loved one from sudden deaths like suicide.

When my grandfather and uncle died in a car accident, that event was a great personal shock to me. This tragic event made me seriously think about the meaning of life, religion and led me to wrestle with issues of ‘theodicy’: How come God lets innocent people die of a tragic accident? What is the message given to their family who are faithful to God and in their faith? Ironically, these questions and humble curiosity about God led me to study theology and psychology during my college and graduate studies including enrollment of seminary at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. I had another opportunity to wrestle with these issues in a Clinical Pastoral Education program for one year and three months. While I was in chaplaincy training my questions about theodicy were turned into practical questions of how I could comfort and support those who lost their loved ones from an unexpected and sudden death. Currently, as your pastor at the Fair Oaks United Methodist Church,
I am passionate and compassionate for those who are in grief and bereavement from suffering and hardships in their lives. Our church started a grief support ministry last year. I believe that the church is called by God to serve people not only church families, but also helping the community and those who are grieving around us.

I will explore the research and clinical literature on the nature of loss, grief and bereavement. Grief studies have evolved and changed in more recent years and I want to update my knowledge of this literature. The older concepts of “stages of grief” for example are no longer valid. Indeed, the growing cultural diversity of this nation and the church has lead scholars to see grief more idiosyncratic, than universal. In this regard I will use the recent book by Melissa Kelly, Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry. Secondly, I will explore the research and literature on trauma and traumatic grief, or grief in response to sudden losses. This is a growing body of literature, exemplified by Edward K. Rynearson and his book, Retelling Violent Death, in dealing with “traumatic grief and loss.” Since suicide is one of the more tragic types of sudden death, I want to review the sociological literature on suicide in the United States. What is happening in our culture that might be factors in the incident of suicide? How is the frequency of suicide influenced by changing cultural factors, tensions and contexts? In this regard I want to look at what is now called “disenfranchised grief,” grief in response to losses that are stigmatized in some way. Among others, I will look at Ken Doka’s Disenfranchised Grief: New Directions, Challenges and Strategies for Practice.

Where is God in the tragic death? Why did God let my son take on his life? Why does this suffering happen to us? Where is God in our agony? Nevertheless, if we have to admit the reality, where can we find God’s grace and mercy? These are some of the questions that people ask when they face traumatic loss. These are questions involving “theodicy.” The case of suicide or death by sudden violence focuses these issues sharply. I believe that the loved ones of such victims can be comforted if they can be assisted with the questions of “helpless God” and “cruel God”. Loved ones often seek such answers from their pastor. We pastors are called to offer spiritual meaning, guide loved ones to find answers that are meaningful, genuine and sensitive. Further, we are challenged to help them to find God’s compassionate grace and mercy in the middle of this context. For the Biblical resource, I will explore Scripture analysis of the book of Job for touching on the issue of “theodicy” and study Theodicy in the World of the Bible (Antti Laato and Johanesse C. De Moore, 2003) for more Biblical perspective on theodicy issues. I am also going to study a theologian, Gregory Anderson Love and his book, Love, Violence and the Cross: How the Nonviolent God Saves us through the Cross of Christ (2010). The goal of these approaches is to discover how theodicy can respond individually and communally in our world.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeryn
Prayer Requests

Continued prayers for Eric Himes, John & Terri’s son. He was diagnosed with West Nile Virus. He is working a few hours a day and still does not have much energy, but the disease did not progress into encephalitis.

Bob Moore passed away recently. Please pray for comfort for his family, especially his daughter, Nancy Hayden.

Please continue prayers for comfort for Daniel Palu. He suffers with gout and arthritis. If you would like to send a card, his address is 7309 Azimuth Lane, Sacramento, CA 95482.

Prayers of healing and comfort for Sue Easterbrook who fell and broke her wrist. If you would like to send a card, her address is 8400 Buffum Court, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

Steve Robinson asks for prayers for the family of their long time friend Dean Milton who passed away after a long battle with lung cancer.

Ruby Wicker asks prayers for friends Frank and Michelle. Michelle is pregnant and they are homeless. A house has become available. Please pray that they meet the requirements and get the house.

Joy Gilberg asks prayers for her brother Jay Retes. Jay has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Please pray for Jay’s complete healing.

Please pray for John Shearer’s future job opportunities. He has worked hard unloading trucks for the past 9 years and it has taken quite a toll on his body. John is hoping for something that will spare him physically and mentally, too.

Diane Payne, the Anderson’s neighbor, recently passed away from brain cancer. Please pray for comfort and peace of mind for her friends and family, especially her husband, Darwood Payne.

Cynthia Wold's mother, Theresa Taylor, passed away in Arizona. Please pray for comfort and peace for Cynthia and Tom, Cynthia's sister Kim and all grieving family and friends.

Please pray for comfort and peace for the Stephensons. Rosanne's husband Jeff recently lost his father, Steve Stephenson in Porterville, CA.

Please pray for Mary Ann Breed and family. Mary Ann's husband Kirk passed this week after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Please pray for comfort, peace and strength. Mary Ann and Kirk had attended our Life's Challenges Support Group. They also attended church on Easter. Bob Gilberg says, “I spoke with Mary Ann and she shared with me how grateful she is to our church for our support. With the loss of her husband, she has been struggling greatly and has lost her appetite and desire to eat anything. The meals that have been provided have renewed her hope for each new day and been instrumental in restoring her appetite and desire to eat.”

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Please keep Stan and Alma Andrus, Jewel Gilmore, Lola Morphis, Sue McGee, Losaline Tu’i’ile’ila, and all of our church members and friends who may not make it to church regularly in your prayers.

Do you have prayer requests?
Contact Nancy Klanjac
(nanklan1@aol.com; 967-3427), so the members of our prayer chain can pray for you, or contact the church office
(office@fairoaksumc.org; 961-6631) to have your requests printed in the Acorn.
Little Methodist School would like to thank the Boy Scouts, Josh Klanjac, and Spencer Doty for removing the tire mulch and replacing it with the new playground fiber. We know it was a labor intensive project and we really appreciate all of your hard work.

We would also like to thank Tom Wold for his assistance in making it happen. It looks great and our students and families will love it!

♦ Lance Bach for cleaning up broken window glass before Little Methodist’s School Open House.
♦ Elaine Bach and Margo Williams for filling worship spots each month.
♦ Counters (Bill, Megan, Renee, Pat, Ellen, Judy, Mike, Elaine) for taking on the dual role of passing the offering plate on Sundays.
♦ Ed and Nancy Klanjac for folding the bulletins each week.

From Linda Robinson:

Thank you to all my church family for the get well wishes and prayers for my surgery. I would like to especially thank Sue and Dick Easterbrook, Nancy Klanjac, Betty Phillips, Diane Sommer, Lora and Jim Allen, Bob and Joy Gilberg, Norma and Roger Bennett and Joann Owens for all the delicious meals. Also, thank you, Joann Owens, for all you did on a daily basis for my caregiving and Loretta Dodge for taking me to doctor appointments.

From Ruby and Wayde Wicker:

Thank you to everyone who has donated tarps or money for our outreach ministry. Your support and prayers are very much appreciated!

From Elizabeth Avery-Hammond:

Little Methodist School would like to thank the Boy Scouts, Josh Klanjac, and Spencer Doty for removing the tire mulch and replacing it with the new playground fiber. We know it was a labor intensive project and we really appreciate all of your hard work. We would also like to thank Tom Wold for his assistance in making it happen. It looks great and our students and families will love it!

Many of our church employees are also church members. Please be respectful of boundaries that they establish so that they may enjoy fellowship and worship as members, not just employees!

Thank you!
The big news this month is the Eagle Scout project, the front patio area in front of the narthex, is nearing completion. (Please see the Pack 215 Eagle Scout News article on page [ ] for more details.) Steel sleeves were inserted during the process so a railing could be constructed in the near future.

The Little Methodist School playground has a new look. The old ground tires are being removed and new bark is being installed. It was determined by a county inspector that the ground tires were unsuitable for a playground base. This should give the whole playground area years of service.

The kitchen has a new garbage disposal. The previous disposal was replaced by Mr. Loc of the Korean Church at an excellent price. Many thanks to Mr. Loc as he has helped on numerous occasions with our plumbing problems.

As always, your Trustees stand ready to help with the church maintenance and any problems as they arise. See a problem? Let us know or contact the Church Office.

As we sat at Church Council recently, we were reminded that everything we do is a Ministry. And that includes Finance. Sometimes I need that reminder and perhaps many of us could benefit from the reminder as well. For everything we do, we do as many parts of one organization, Fair Oaks United Methodist Church.

1 Corinthians 12:

The human body has many parts,  
buts the many parts make up only one body.  
So it is with the body of Christ.

July began a new fiscal year for our church. We are reviewing our income and expenses to determine what our budget will be for the coming fiscal year.

For the month of July, our Income was $12,370 and our Expenses were $12,861.
Music Notes
By Samantha Arrasmith, Music Director

I am excited to welcome the choir back to services at Fair Oaks United Methodist Church! Our first service will be on Sunday, September 8. Choir practices have just begun, so please join us if you have any interest at all. There’s no commitment necessary and no audition. We have wonderful singers who can help if you aren’t familiar with reading music. I have already ordered music for the Christmas cantata and would love to have as many singers as possible for our Advent concert in December. Practices are on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in the sanctuary. Hope to see you there!

Please contact me at s.arrasmith14@gmail.com if you need more information or have any questions.

Usher’s Corner by Jeff Couch

Ushers:

I am looking for a few people who would be willing to fill in as an usher some Sundays. Josh Klanjac has a new job and transportation issues which make it difficult for him to be at church on Sunday. Ed Klanjac has been filling in for Josh, but he would like to retire from being an usher. I want to thank him for all of his help over the years. Due to my work schedule, there are some Saturday nights where I get off work too late to be able to get any sleep for me to make it to church on Sunday. The ushers’ main duties include setting up the church before service, handing out bulletins, running the sound system, picking up attendance books and cleaning up after service. (Women can be ushers, too!)

Hymnals:

We have large print hymnals in the back for people who need them. We have eight large print black hymnals and two large print red hymnals. One large print red hymnal decided to take a break from working a couple years ago and never came back. If you know where it is, please encourage it to return to duty!

Microphones:

The microphones have two purposes during the service. One is so people can hear you. The other is for the recorder to hear you. If you don’t use the microphones, people who listen to the recording of the service miss valuable information. Please also remember, there are people that can’t hear as well as others and voices don’t carry as well as you think in the church.
A New Group is Forming
for Folks 80 (or thereabouts) and Older!
By Mary McCollum

WHAT’S NEW? Here’s what’s new!

A new group is forming for folks 80 (or thereabouts) and older! We’re in the planning stages and want you to be a part of it! So the first “Gathering of the Elders” will be dinner at the Cossairt’s home on Saturday, September 14 at 6 pm. (We’ll have Tipsy Laird for dessert!) Please RSVP for dinner with Joanne Cossairt at 725-3654.

Designed for those of us who don’t want to miss anything we hope to gather quarterly (fall, winter, spring, and summer) for food, fellowship and fun. We also want to build in a meaningful program designed to our interests and adding a mission aspect to our efforts. We’ll need a name perhaps, so be thinking. Also be thinking of what might interest us in the way of speakers, inspiration, what kind of projects we might undertake that we could do to make another imprint on life in our neighborhood. So much to design and fashion! Even envision where we might meet and how we might coordinate our efforts.

We want everyone to be a part of creating this exciting time. So don’t miss out. Mark your calendars: Saturday, September 14, 6 pm, Cossairt Home, 6952 Birchwood Circle in Citrus Heights.

(Mary McCollum, Doris Ashworth, Virginia Grabbe, and Joanne Cossairt — beginners)

Adult Sunday School and Bible Study
By Loren Guffey

The Adult Sunday School and Bible Study class meets in the library 9:00 to 9:45 Sunday mornings. The theme for the quarter beginning in September is "First Things." The scriptures come from both New and Old Testaments but primarily from Genesis and Exodus. You will be surprised by what God's people at FOUMC (we are middle things) can discern from first things.

"If God is in control of 'first things' (creation), then 'middle things' (the present) have purpose and 'last things' (the future) are in His hands as well."
Worship Needs You! by Margo Williams

WORSHIP NEEDS YOUR HELP! We can not have church without your participation. Every Sunday we need:

♦ A Liturgist to lead us in prayer and read the scriptures.

♦ Flowers for the altar. They don't need to be fancy; flowers from your garden would be beautiful!

♦ Children's Time Leader. It only takes about 5 minutes and there is help available to plan it.

♦ Greeters who welcome us to worship at the door.

You can find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex each Sunday. If you have any questions or need help just ask Margo Williams, your Worship Committee Chairperson. Thank You!
Outreach Ministry: Tarps for the Homeless

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, Ruby and Wayde Wicker reach out to the homeless community in Fair Oaks, Carmichael, and downtown Sacramento by providing tarps for shelter in the winter and shade in the summer. They have become known for their ministry and are recognized by people in need. However, Ruby and Wayde need our help to continue helping others. Tarps may be dropped off in the collection bin in the Narthex. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate. (Please write “Tarps” in the memo line of a check or on the outside of an envelope for a cash donation.)

Ruby and Wayde also take clothing to the homeless community. Sandals or even flip-flops are needed this summer. Wintertime sees an increase in the need for gloves and hats. Clothing items may also be left in the “Tarp” collection bins in the Narthex.

For more information about this outreach ministry or how you can help, please see Ruby or Wayde. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Outreach Ministry: Downtown Ministries

Downtown Ministries provides a motel-voucher program and services for homeless families. The ministry’s outreach focus is at low income motels to feed, clothe and provide other necessities. Bible studies and counseling are offered. Downtown Ministries also seeks to fully furnish apartments for families transitioning into homes. In addition, summer day camps and enrichment activities are held for children. Fair Oaks United Methodist Church Cake Angels bake, donate, and deliver cakes to Downtown Ministries.

Donations are subject to discretion in use or sale. The homeless have priority. Overflow sales will provide more shelter, food and services to those in need.

Examples of needs: funds to run programs, Winco certificates, Depends for teen boy with cerebral palsy, Bibles for kids, allergy medications, diapers, beds, pillows, toiletries, couch set, dining set, cookware, towels, etc.

Please call 916-631-4357 to schedule a drop off or pick up and to confirm what their current needs are.
Volunteers bake birthday cakes for homeless children each month. We have a commitment to do ten (10) each month. They are distributed by Downtown Ministries, a Christian organization, who work with families in transit waiting for housing. The majority of these families are living in motels on vouchers until housing can be found.

Downtown Ministries works with the families, gets them housing vouchers, dispenses school supplies, Winco gift certificates, furniture and household goods when housing is made available to a family. They accept household linens, twin beds, dressers, etc. They provide many more services, as you can read in their monthly newsletter posted on the Hall Bulletin Board.

Our Lora Allen has made over 500 quilts for the homeless. Many of them given to Downtown Ministries.

Our August cakes were used for a community birthday celebration the last day of the Day Camp they held at Hagan Park. It happened to be the teenage group and it was a celebration of the birthday of Jesus and the individual birthdays of the participants.

Normally, the cakes are handed out on an individual basis to a child or sometimes shared with another child, to celebrate their individual birthday. Many have never had a birthday cake before.

Cake pans are handed out the second (2nd) Sunday each month, with the return to be on the third Sunday (3rd). I deliver them to Downtown Ministries on the third (3rd) Monday.

Two cake pans fit in one oven. It takes two cake mixes; however, one can of prepared frosting will cover both cakes.

Our “Cake Angels” are truly appreciated. Some of our regulars are not able to continue baking, so I’m asking for new volunteers to this mission. You don’t have to commit to each month, just take a pan or two on the second Sunday of the month when I’m handing them out.

One of our young mothers told me she used the opportunity of teaching her daughter the art of giving by making a cake for the family and a cake to give. What a wonderful idea.

I hope you will join the Cake Angels in this mission in the future, if you aren’t already wearing your wings.
**FILL AN ARK**
for Needy Families through Heifer International

By Virginia Guffey

Do you know about Heifer International? In 1944, a man had a vision of providing a pregnant heifer to a family in a third-world country. The family would benefit from the milk and would pass on the first-born heifer to another family, who would do the same, and so on. This was so successful that the idea was expanded to other livestock, depending on the best livestock for a particular country, with the same success. Heifer International has helped more than 13.6 million families in over 125 countries improve their quality of life. Children of these families are no longer malnourished and are able to attend school; the family may sell part of the milk, eggs, wool, etc., and be able to help others in their villages.

We lived in Conway, Arkansas, for 46 years and were involved with Heifer International in a number of small ways through our church and community organizations. The Heifer Ranch is in Perry County, Arkansas, less than 20 miles from Conway; and the Heifer International Headquarters is now in Little Rock, just 30 miles from where we lived. It was the first “green complex” (building, grounds, and parking lots) to be built in Arkansas. In July 2011, Dedra and Erik Beauchamp, with Larissa and David, were in Arkansas; and we all had the opportunity to tour Heifer International Headquarters -- very impressive!

Since Carol Spiker has been asked to chair the Reconciling Ministry, I was asked to head up the Heifer International Ministry, which also has some new volunteers: Tracy, Mike, Abbie, and Amanda Mittendorf; Dedra, Larissa, and David Beauchamp.

We have met, brain-stormed, made some decisions, and changed some things in the Narthex. Have you noticed them?

The biggest decision is for a church-wide campaign to **FILL AN ARK**. This costs $5,000. (Did I hear some groans?) I understand money raised by Carol and her committee already amounts to $3,584.62. Isn’t that fantastic?

We have stream-lined the free table so its emphasis is clearly the “Heifer International Table” -- there are wonderful leaflets (Ducks and Geese give Results, Llamas Lighten the Load, Pigs Root out Hunger, and Rabbits Breed Success). There are also Heifer’s World Ark magazines and other interesting items. Go by the “Heifer International Table” and pick some up!

If you are interested in actively helping with the FILL AN ARK project (no regular meetings, probably mostly e-mail or phone contact), let me know at 390-4340.
A Heartfelt Request to My Church Family

Dear FOUMC Family,

There has been a common issue that myself and previous secretaries have shared – how to balance being a church employee Monday through Friday and a church member on Sunday. I have recently struggled with this balancing act and would like to ask for your help in keeping things on an even keel.

I understand why you want to ask me questions on Sundays. I’m there and you’re there, why not just ask a quick question and get whatever it is taken care of and off your to-do list? You work during the week, take care of your own families, lead full and busy lives and can’t always call me during office hours. Sunday is a day when you are at church and thinking about your involvement in the church.

There are several reasons why you should not ask questions related to my role as church secretary on Sundays. First and foremost, you probably won’t get an accurate answer. I don’t have notes, files, emails, calendar, etc. handy to look up and verify information or to jog my memory as to where things are at on whatever topic you are asking about. I also won’t remember on Monday what we discussed on Sunday. So giving information to me on Sunday, even though you aren’t asking me to do anything with it until Monday, is not very effective either.

My work hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 1 pm. That is 20 hours of the week that I am more than happy to help you with your tasks and questions. Please allow me to have a couple of hours on Sunday to focus on the spiritual aspects of being a member of FOUMC rather than the practical aspects of being an employee of FOUMC.

Thank you so much for your support and your help in balancing these dual roles in my life!

Dedra Beauchamp

What to ask me about instead:

♦ Banned book project
♦ Beaded backpack charms & craft fairs with Larissa
♦ Taekwondo
♦ Art Docent/school volunteering
♦ Cub Scouts with David
♦ Heifer International
♦ My Dream Vacation to Alaska

My job on Sunday:

♦ Worship God
♦ Keep my kids from eating all the brownies
♦ Spend fellowship time with church friends and family
♦ Pass the offering plate
On July 20, 2013, members of our youth group embarked upon an adventure with plans to get involved with helping impoverished and homeless people living in San Francisco & Oakland. 25 to 30% of San Francisco’s homeless population is families with children. Of those currently homeless, 15 to 20% are employed in full- or part-time jobs. San Francisco’s homeless population typically consists of long-time residents of the city. One third are mentally ill, another third are addicted to some type of substance, and the rest find themselves displaced due to personal issues such as soaring housing costs or loss of income.

Although we can’t write about everything we did in one article, I hope it will be enough to encourage you to ask our SWAG members about what we did and what we experienced. One of the favorite experiences we shared was working at Saint Vincent’s Day Home in Oakland. Saint Vincent’s Day Home provides comprehensive programs for toddlers and preschoolers primarily serving single parent families who struggle at or below the poverty line. Through this experience, we realized children from different ethnicities and backgrounds are no different than any other children we know; they love to talk, and play, and share with you what they know.

Another favorite was working at the San Francisco and Alameda Food Banks. The SF Food Bank delivers food to over 600 community food programs including 191 neighborhood pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers, homeless shelters and youth programs while the Alameda food bank serves 49,000 people each week. We learned the value and impact we can have to support those in need without ever meeting the people we are helping as well as to support and renew hope for those who are working everyday to feed the needy in their community.

We volunteered at AgeSong. AgeSong is an assisted living residence which greatly values the aging process as a means of affording people the ability to mature, to become more fully and truly human. Aging is understood as a positive attribute to living, as a deepening of our awareness of life, of meaning and purpose. At AgeSong we visited with residents, spent time doing arts and crafts with them, and made their lives a little bit brighter by hosting a Wheelchair Wash. We learned that which is most life giving is the gift of presence and time.

Continued on page 15
We worked at the Salvation Army Service Center located in the heart of San Francisco’s Tenderloin District. We helped sort boxes of donated toys to be given away to those in need and sorted through used shampoo, conditioner, and lotion bottles donated by the local hotels; we refilled the bottles from available samples and cleaned them like new to be used for hygiene kits. Through this service we learned the value of supporting those working daily to help others in need and realized how much of an impact we can make on the lives of other people without ever meeting them.

Another favorite experience for our group was working with Project Open Hand (POH). POH delivers hot meals and groceries daily to over 2,000 homebound people living with HIV, AIDS and other disabilities and illnesses in San Francisco and the East Bay. While working with POH, we delivered meals to people living in the Tenderloin. It was a big eye opener to the living conditions of low-income residents in San Francisco. Through this service, we learned to exercise compassion and grace without judgment or criticism.

Above all, through this experience were given the chance to re-examine our life priorities in light of what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a hurting world. We’ve learned to look at our own community with new eyes — sensitized to see the ethnic diversity and pockets of poverty that escaped our notice previously. We’ve come home with a new vision for how our faith can impact our home life and community at large. Finally, we learned what God is doing to foster and further His Kingdom in the city and our community and how we can become a part of that.

We are very grateful to our church for sponsoring us and sending us out to be the hands and feet of Jesus...to share the love and compassion of Christ with those who are in need.

Thank You, Fair Oaks United Methodist Church!

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Escape by Amber Rain

**The First View**
The beautiful night has the shadows of those who hurt; though they don’t speak, you can see the pain in their eyes. Some are lost.
Not sure whether they’ll have a bed, or a sidewalk.
Although some seem content where they are, they don’t seem like it’s all ok.
There’s something behind those dry and powerful tears,
A story. One of millions.
One that could quite possibly change your view on everything.
I hope that one day,
We can change this, turn this beautiful city into one that can mend broken hearts.
So that once you can look around, you’ll cry tears of joy.

Written as a devotion during our CSM Urban Mission trip in San Francisco and Oakland the morning after we were led on a night prayer tour of San Francisco. On our first night, Sunday evening, we set-out in our cars on a silent city prayer tour.
Our hosts Susan and Katie guided us around the city including China Town, Little Italy, Wall Street, and the Tenderloin. They pointed out struggles the city was having in each area as we prayed silently for the people and organizations living and working in San Francisco. This experience opened our minds, our hearts, and our eyes to the suffering, strife, and challenges to the homeless and low income residents in San Francisco.
Introducing Girl Scout Troop 2427

By Christie Parker

Our troop has been meeting at FOUMC since February and have appreciated the warm welcome we have received! We are gearing up for our second program year and are looking forward to seeing friends, doing fun activities and helping out where we can!

Our troop consists of fourteen girls ranging from kindergarteners to third graders. Although most troops are comprised of a single grade level, we are a combined troop of Daisies (kindergarteners and first graders) and Brownies (second and third graders). Having a range of ages has been fun for the girls and provides valuable life experiences in learning to work together.

Girl Scouts is very much about leadership development, and we make every effort to include the girls in the activity planning process. Last year we took a ceramics class, did a trash pickup at the river, sang Christmas carols for children at Shriner’s Hospital, learned about insects in our back yards, made a first aid kit with the help of a firefighter paramedic and did lots of fun craft projects. I am looking forward to sharing the creative and engaging ideas the girls come up with for this year!

Scouting News

Troop 215
Eagle Scout News

Candidates Woong Hui Won and Daniel Lee have completed their portions of the church’s front deck and are in the process of documenting and wrapping up the project. The cement was delivered by Dick Cossairt and it was poured under the direction of the Eagle Scouts and Glen Cramer of Cramer Concrete who came highly recommended by Dick Easterbrook. Mr. Cramer donated the labor costs of two of his workmen to put a finish on the cement. Mr. Cramer can be reached at 916-871-2561 or 916-354-1648. You can see examples of his extensive work in the Sacramento area at www.cramerconcrete.com.

Pack 215
Cub Scout News

The car wash held at the church in late July worked out well. The setup in the parking lot was a good arrangement, and they made $1,231! The proceeds will defray camp costs for those that participated in addition to purchase of needed camp equipment.

The annual popcorn fundraiser has begun with site sales in front of local stores. Information on the popcorn order form states, “Seventy percent of your purchase goes back to local Scouting to fund programs and camping activities for Scouts in your community.” For a more thorough explanation of how funds are used, please contact Cubmaster Steve Parsley at 916-436-6338. Boy Scouts in Troop 215 and Cub Scouts in Pack 215 will be happy to place an order for you and thank you for your support! (article corrected 9/3/13)
Hard at Work...Inside and Out!

Jiffy Fixers Jim and Renee routing sprinkler lines around the new Eagle Scout deck.

Jiffy Fixer Sandy cleaning and organizing the maintenance shed.

Look how far we’ve come! Photo taken in April BEFORE parking lot stripes painted, parking lot sign installed, Eagle Scout deck begun, directional sign at edge of campus created, etc.

Jim and Jeff creating a new sanctuary cross for us.
Summer Fun and Vacation Memories

From Renee Meyer: “I was first at a family reunion in Gulf Shores, Alabama and then went to see the Bodners in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Steve and I did a 5K together and we both medaled in our respective age groups!!! Their dog Shelby, was a stray who found them and they kept each other!! They are enjoying retirement and doing very well!!!”

Keep the photos coming! Let’s see all those first day of school smiles, Labor Day cookouts, fall sports competitions, and more for our Fall is Fantastic photo page in October's Acorn!

New Address for Vicki Walker

Vicki Walker
1133 Florida St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
vickilynnwalkervlw@hotmail.com
916-914-3610

2013 DEADLINES

- ACORN NEWSLETTER:
  - September 25 at 9 am for Oct. Acorn
  - October 23 at 9 am for Nov. Acorn

- November 27 at 9 am for Dec. Acorn
  (This is the day before Thanksgiving.)

- Dec. 26 at 9 am for Jan. 2014 Acorn
  (This is the day after Christmas.)
Hello to all of you, from Florida! (and Dan Hardt!)

Hello to all of you, from Florida!

It was almost three months ago that Julie and I arrived in our part of Florida; ten days later we moved into our house. Sometimes it seems like only 2 hours since we moved in, and other times it feels like a couple years (for example, when we look at the still unpacked boxes)…..

We have now settled into our house and have opened most of the boxes. When we chose the house, we knew it was smaller than the Sacramento house, but we didn’t notice that it has only a small amount of storage space and wall space. So, our trips to Goodwill continue as the downsizing process keeps going. We’re enjoying the weather (although it has rained most days), the house, the neighborhood, and the local pool--the town we live in has about 60,000 people (it’s an over-55 community, so the people are largely in their 70’s and up), 64 community swimming pools, 42 golf courses (we don’t play golf), and 2,000 clubs/groups/activities. It’s easy to keep busy!

Julie and I are doing a little better now. The packing, driving, and unpacking took its toll, and we are both limping around like we belong in an old-people’s town. We’re still more tired than usual, but that is improving. The pool (3 blocks away) is a good place to get some sun and exercise and meet the neighbors. We have begun the process of finding a new church. The one we visited yesterday is a little different from FOUMC. It has 4 pastors and a sanctuary that seats 1150 people---quite a change! We’ll try some other Methodist churches, too, before we decide. But nothing will be as fine as FOUMC.

I hope all is well with you. I miss you and our “little church on the hill” very, very much. After 21 years it was awfully hard to leave. Thank you again for all you gave me. Whenever I needed you, you were always ready and willing to hold my hand. I will never forget that.

Love, Dan Hardt

---

Dan Hardt
1999 Rolling Oak Ave.
The Villages, FL 32162
nuevodia@mac.com
916-616-4828

One of several small lakes in The Villages.
Join us on **Monday, September 23 at noon in the Church Library** as we discuss *The Dressmaker* by Kate Alcott. From Amazon.com: “Tess, an aspiring seamstress, thinks she’s had an incredibly lucky break when she is hired by famous designer Lady Lucile Duff Gordon to be her personal maid on the *Titanic*. Once on board, Tess catches the eye of two men—a kind sailor and an enigmatic Chicago businessman—who offer differing views of what lies ahead for her in America. But on the fourth night, disaster strikes, and amidst the chaos, Tess is one of the last people allowed on a lifeboat.

“The survivors are rescued and taken to New York, but when rumors begin to circulate about the choices they made, Tess is forced to confront a serious question. Did Lady Duff Gordon save herself at the expense of others? Torn between loyalty to Lucile and her growing suspicion that the media’s charges might be true, Tess must decide whether to stay quiet and keep her fiery mentor’s good will or face what might be true and forever change her future.”

**Bring your lunch and join in our lively discussion!**

Lynn and Gloria Phinney will host pinochle on **Friday, September 13 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary**. Please come out to the church’s monthly game night. Our “professional” pinochle players are more than happy to teach newcomers the game!

### Looking Ahead: Mark Your Calendar!

- 9/03  Little Methodist School Fall Session Begins
- 9/08  Welcome Home Family Breakfast
- 11/17  Legacy Sunday
- 12/01  Advent Begins

**Save the Date:**
Chili Feed on 2/15/14!
**SEPTEMBER MINISTRIES**

Who’s doing what, each Sunday of the month.
Please note open items; call the Church office to volunteer.
Use this page as a reminder of what you’ve signed up for.

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<th>GREETERS</th>
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<td>1  Elaine Bach &amp; Bill Floyd</td>
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<td>8  Ellen Frosch &amp; Judy Shearer</td>
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<td>15 Mike Myatt &amp; Renee Meyer</td>
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<td>22 Megan Cambridge &amp; Bill Floyd</td>
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<td>29 Renee Meyer &amp; Elaine Bach</td>
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<td>Ruby Wicker</td>
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<td>Barbara Damon</td>
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<td>Bill Floyd, Elaine Bach</td>
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<th>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</th>
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<td>Lower Grades</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Phyllis Martin</td>
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# September 2013

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<tr>
<td>Library 9:00a - 9:45a Bible Study</td>
<td>Potter 4:30p - 8:30p Women's Support Group</td>
<td>Little Methodist School Fall Session Begins</td>
<td>Library 6:00p - 7:30p Life's Challenges Support Group</td>
<td>Library 11:00a - 12:00p Centering Prayer</td>
<td>Potter 4:00p - 8:15p SWAG - Students Worshipping an Awesome God</td>
<td>Sanctuary 9:00a - 11:00a Trinity Band Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Library 9:00a - 9:45a Bible Study</td>
<td>Spencer 7:00p - 8:30p Board of Trustees</td>
<td>Library 4:30p - 6:30p Congregational Caring Ministry</td>
<td>Spencer 6:30p - 8:00p Pathway to Renewal</td>
<td>Library 10:00a - 12:00p Hospitality Committee</td>
<td>Sanctuary 6:30p - 9:00p Pinochle</td>
<td>Sanctuary 7:00p - 9:00p Over 80s Dinner at the Cossairt's home</td>
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<td>Library 9:00a - 9:45a Bible Study</td>
<td>Potter 4:30p - 8:30p Women's Support Group</td>
<td>2:00p - 3:00p Pre-Council meeting with Pastor and Council Chair - Pastor's Study</td>
<td>Library 6:00p - 7:30p Life's Challenges Support Group</td>
<td>Library 11:00a - 12:00p Centering Prayer</td>
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<td>Library 12:00p - 2:00p Book Club</td>
<td>Spencer 6:30p - 8:30p Church Council</td>
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<td>Library 11:00a - 12:00p Centering Prayer</td>
<td>Spencer 12:00p - 2:00p Nominations and Leadership Development Committee</td>
<td>Sanctuary 7:00p - 9:00p Tongan Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Sanctuary 7:00p - 9:00p Tongan Choir Rehearsal</td>
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**Display:** Month | Block | Abs | Slide | Print View | Calendars: | Select | Filter | **Administer:** This Calendar
Q: Why do we have a business directory in a church newsletter?
A: The donations provided by the above businesses help offset the cost of publishing a monthly newsletter.

Q: Who are the people behind these businesses?
A: They are members or regular attendees who consider FOUMC their church home and wish to share their business talents with their church family.

Q: Can I be listed in the business directory each month?
A: Yes! Contact the church office at 961-6631 or office@fairoaksumc.org to learn more.
The Fair Oaks’ ACORN is published monthly by the Fair Oaks United Methodist Church and is distributed at the end of each month.

**Next Deadline: Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 9 am.**
Submit articles to the church office in person or by email at office@fairoaksumc.org. Submissions may be edited for accuracy, length or clarity.