



## *Grace Notes from Kristie*

Snapshots from my summer...

... Creating new folders for the 18 additional churches I now supervise, joining all the materials for the other churches. Interested in meeting all the new leaders and learning about ministries, counting on God to guide in this new adventure, that we will be bold enough to rethink, re-pray, re-trust, rely on God. The folders are starting to fill.

... Gathering with the circuit leaders for the very first time. What a moment of joy! Such fine leaders with many gifts for ministry. First commitment: to pray for one another. Reaffirmed that these circuits can be an amazing opportunity for intentional development of leaders, for building trust, for accountability of soul and work, and for BEING connectional, BEING church as we have talked and preached about for so long.

... Spending several days at the UMC School of Congregational Development in Evanston, Illinois, with Bishop Brown, all the other district superintendents, Director of Connectional Ministries Linda Wiberg and several pastors from our area (including Michael Love, Alice Oberg, and Lee Hayward). Inspired by so much: an entire communion liturgy sung in Spanish, passionate preaching by Bishops James Swanson and Hee-Soo Jung, and UMC leaders from all over the country gathered to learn together. Challenged to make church REAL, to let nothing stop us from starting new faith communities, to sit at the feet of church leaders who have uniquely transformed their churches in their own contexts.

... Standing in awe at Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park with my husband and our children and grandchildren. Reminded how God truly endures forever and ever. And, how too often we scurry like ants, missing the main thing, forgetting we are part of something grand and glorious, appreciating the care of those around us.

Anticipating with hope...

... Our next Quarterly Conference. Drama and worship and gathering and learning. Yes!  
... The beginning meetings of our circuits, as pastors come together in new ways.  
... The unfolding of love and justice in our midst in every one of your churches. Thanks for all you do.

In grace and peace,

*Rev. Kristie Olah*

District Superintendent

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## Lay Speaking Courses

The Lay Speaking Program of the United Methodist Church is available to active church members who wish to develop their gifts and find new ways to serve God in their local church and community. The classes are designed and taught by Lay Speakers and Clergy from the District. Participants may apply through their local church to become a Local Lay Speaker, or they may continue into the Advanced Classes and apply to become a Certified Lay Speaker. The process encourages continuing spiritual growth and provides opportunities to stretch in the fellowship of others from our District.

### Scheduled Lay Speaking Courses

#### Basic Lay Speaking

September 12 and 26 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Los Gatos UMC

111 Church Street

Los Gatos, CA 95030

Nina Klepac teaching

Bring your lunch

#### Advanced Lay Speaking: Preaching

October 3 and 17 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Los Gatos UMC

111 Church Street

Los Gatos, CA 95030

Rev. Lee Neish teaching

Bring your lunch

## Share Your News!

The deadline for the **October** District Spirit is **September 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit all articles, announcements, meetings and any additional information to Norah Miller at [nkmill52@cruzio.com](mailto:nkmill52@cruzio.com) by the above date!

## ANNOUNCING AN OPEN POSITION

Los Altos United Methodist Church  
for full-time, non-exempt

### Administrative Assistant / Accounting

#### Job Summary

Administrative Assistant for the Finance Department processing routine accounting transactions

#### Responsibilities include:

Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable  
Payroll  
Routine journal entries  
Month-end close  
Reports  
Special Finance Office projects as assigned

#### Knowledge & Skills Required:

2-5 years directly related experience; AA degree required, Bachelors Degree desired. Detail oriented, accurate, good communication skills, excellent working knowledge of Excel.

Please FAX resume to **(650)949-5372** or call **(650)948-1083 x112** for more information.

**The District Superintendent will be away September 17 through October 4. Please call Pam at the district office 408 295-5341 for assistance for a referral to another district superintendent.**

## Volunteers in Mission

Eleven members of Wesley UMC in San Jose spent a week with the congregation of El Divino Redentor Methodist Church in Panzacola, Mexico in July. This was the fourth trip VIM teams from Wesley made during the past three years. On this trip, the Wesley team worked on the roof, helping to complete the surface. They also completed the drainage system which started on the roof. All of this was done alongside members of the church, who gave generously of their time as well.



Painting the Parsonage

The parsonage, adjacent to the church, received some care as well. The bathroom and kitchen were painted during our visit. Through the generosity of Wesley UMC members, we were able to provide funds needed to construct two restrooms on the church property. Work on the church was just part of our VIM experience. We were housed by local church families, where we had the opportunity to connect with our Methodist sisters and brothers in Mexico. Other families invited our group into their homes for the afternoon meal each day, providing us not only with delicious food, but also with the opportunity to interact with children and elders of the community.



Music is a rich tradition that binds our two Methodist communities together, and at church services we participated in the joyful hymns known everywhere. As a group we also presented a few of our favorites, including “We Are One in the Spirit” and “Amazing Grace” which we had practiced singing in Spanish and English. Members of Wesley’s Ukulele Band who were part of our group led us, and we presented a Ukulele to the church as a token of our friendship. On our last night in Panzacola we were treated to a potluck celebration complete with a Mariachi group, and if we had not realized it before, at this point we all knew that we had received far more than we gave during this VIM trip. We look forward to sending many more teams to Mexico, where the need is great and the Methodist spirit is thriving. For more information regarding possible VIM trips to the Southeast Conference in Mexico, please contact [jkawashima@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkawashima@sbcglobal.net). There is still much to be done to assist our brothers and sisters in Mexico

*Submitted by Jackie Kawashima*  
Technology Curriculum Specialist



Left, working on the roof; Above, the VIM Team



## NEWSLETTER September 2009

### THE CHURCH

#### Reaching Out

In **JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM** (DVW-856) Bill Hybels brings personal evangelism into the 21st century with a natural and empowering approach modeled after Jesus himself. Jesus offered redemption to people like us, many of whom were neck-deep in pain of their own making. This DVD is designed to equip and inspire small groups to participate in that same pattern of grace-giving by taking simple walks across rooms and extending hands of care, compassion and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God's love today.

Personal examples from Bill Hybels

are: Session 1	<b>The Single Greatest Gift</b>
Session 2	<b>Living in 3D</b>
Session 3	<b>The Power of Story</b>
Session 4	<b>Grander Vision Living</b>

#### Growing And Serving

In **FIVE PRACTICES** (DVC-820) Robert Schnase introduces and explores the fundamental practices critical to all vibrant, growing, fruitful congregations: **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.** This resource offers a comprehensive, yet flexible, plan for making the Five Practices a congregation-wide focus.

#### **FOR YOUTH ARTIST-DRIVEN BIBLE STUDIES THAT CONNECT MUSIC TO THE MESSAGE**

(DVY-548) is a DVD-driven Bible study taught by today's favorite Christian music artists. Each volume includes captivating artist discussing relevant issues from a Biblical perspective; flexible six-week study; low-preparation, high-impact lesson plans; cutting-edge video; easy-to-use leader and student materials; multimedia presentations on interactive DVD; and frank, honest discussion questions that promote peer interaction.

**STORMS** 1 in the series, show how the Bible is full of instructions on how to live our faith through life's struggles. Musicians share from their experience what it means to live it even when storms are full-blown. Featured artists are: **SONIC FLOOD, Superchick,** and **Anthony Evans.**

*Submitted by Pat Strandburg,  
Director, Media Resource Center*



#### **Senior New Ways Older Adult Groups and Activities—Mid-August—Oct. '09**

**Coming Fully Alive Series: Coming Fully Alive as You Age**—(on Finding Meaning in Life, Being Fully Alive, Aging as a Spiritual Journey, and Humor): Woodside Terrace (**Redwood City**), call for date; DVD teaching kit also available.

**Senior Health Chat at Los Altos United Methodist Church (LAUMC)**, 1st and 3rd Fridays, 10-12 noon. Caregiver University of the Alzheimer's Association, Aug. 21; Call Dona Smith-Powers (650-494-3093) or Rick Plain (650-948-1083).

**Senior Health Chat at Los Altos Public Library**, 2nd Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30pm.  
**Adult Children/Caregivers of Aging Persons Support Group**—2nd ODD month Mondays, 7:30-9pm, Los Altos UMC Room 2. Sept. 14th.

Call Judith Pruess-Mellow of **Senior New Ways** for information (650-209-1119) on any of these groups.

[www.seniornewways.org](http://www.seniornewways.org); email: [judithpm@seniornewways.org](mailto:judithpm@seniornewways.org). 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos CA 94024.

# Tongan Ferry Disaster

Dear Friends,

Let us continue to hold in prayer the many affected by the ferry disaster in Tonga. All our Tongan congregations are in prayer and seeking to find ways to support those who lost family as the ship went down. As you may know, crew and men sleeping on board were able to jump overboard, but the women and children were trapped below. As many as 93 persons may have lost their lives.

In particular both Rev. Sifa Hingano (pastor, San Jose Genesis UMC) and Rev. Sifa Setoki (pastor, San Carlos Fale Hufanga Tongan UMC) lost family -- 3 cousins of Sifa Hingano are lost and a cousin of Sifa Setoki lost his wife and three children. These two pastors are both from the islands named Va'vau, where the ferry was headed, and the whole island is in mourning. Other area church members have also lost family and close friends.

You may also know that an ambulance went down with the ship. This ambulance was donated by Rev. Hingano and the City of Sanger and filled with medical supplies by various UM churches in the Central Valley. First UMC of Bakersfield, under the leadership of Rev. Richard Thompson, and Sanger UMC, Rev. Hingano's former church, took the lead in this effort. After two years of collecting supplies, they are deeply saddened by the loss of life and the inability to see their efforts make a difference in so many lives.

Our Tongan communities are gathering to mourn and to develop plans to help in their home country. On Sunday, August 9, the King of Tonga attended a special service for him and all the Tongan people of many denominations. That service had been scheduled before the disaster. It was held at Fale Hufanga UMC.

Please hold all our Tongan brothers and sisters in prayer in your churches and your personal devotions. In their grief, may God comfort them. In their losses, may they feel the power of our care and God's hope for each of us through Jesus Christ.

In peace,  
*Rev. Kristie Olah*  
District Superintendent

- **Did you know---**?  
**A key speaker at the 2010 Annual Conference Session in Sacramento: Bishop Robert Schnase, author of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.**
- **Looking ahead: November 7 Quarterly Conference**  
**Pick Up the Towel: Developing Servants Who Make a Difference**  
***Save the date!***

**Quarterly Conference flyer goes here**

**Sent separately by email**

## Another VIM Trip...to Africa

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District Spirit

returned after several weeks in Africa. The transit journey from San Francisco to Bulembu, Swaziland is over 30 hours long, or 10,000 miles afar. And yet, now that we have experienced Bulembu, we are only a heartbeat away.

11 United Methodist women (10 from San Jose District, one from Delta District) participated, plus one woman serving as an individual mission volunteer to Swaziland (from Texas conference).

Our ministry and purpose was connectional: to serve by supporting this community, designed to address the needs of Swaziland's growing orphan population. Mornings we lead vacation bible school for the local care point ministry of upwards of 50 children. In the afternoons we visited ministries serving the community: Abandoned Babies for Christ ministry for infants, Jacaranda House for abandoned and abused girls, Bulembu Ministries Homes for orphans, Bulembu Christian Academy School, and the local medical clinic. We brought books, supplies, served meals and organized activities for the children. On Thursday afternoon, we were invited to join the Manyano (meaning Unity) Methodist Women in fellowship. Some of these women traveled over 60 miles to meet us. We participated in over 3 hours in praise, song and testimony together.

We ended the week with a side trip to Kruger National Park where we saw the "Big Five" animals: elephant, water buffalo, leopard, lion and rhino.

Check out our team blog for more photos and team testimonies.

<http://swaziland2009vim.blogspot.com/>

*Submitted by Rebecca Perry*



Christian and Majaha

# CALENDAR

# September 2009



*The District Spirit* is published September through June by the San Jose District 408 295 5341. The purpose is to keep district churches connected with information on activities and news happenings around the local churches, District and conference. Send your church information to the District Office at [sjdist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjdist@sbcglobal.net) or email Norah Miller at [nkmill52@cruzio.com](mailto:nkmill52@cruzio.com)

August 22 10-noon  
**DCOM, Calvary UMC, San Jose**  
August 26 10 am to 1:30 pm  
**Circuit Leaders Meeting, Almaden Hills UMC, San Jose**  
September 3, 10-12  
**District Superintendency Meeting, Calvary UMC, San Jose**  
September 9-10 **Cabinet**  
September 12,  
**District Quarterly Conference St. Paul UMC, Fremont**  
September 14 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Northern San Jose Church Extension Society, Calvary UMC, San Jose**

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San Jose District  
California-Nevada Conference  
Of the United Methodist Church  
729 Morse Street  
San Jose, CA 95126

