

The Chimes

*Our Purpose at Almaden Hills:
Sharing God's love, following the Way*

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Volume 5, No. 10 (Web Version)

October 2016

My dear Friends,

I want to invite you to join me in a “Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation.” This is based on Brian D. McLaren’s book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. He writes: “I believe that all of us play a role in choosing and creating our futures— as individuals and as communities. We don’t need to wait passively for history to happen to us. We can become protagonists in our own story. We can make the road by walking.” McLaren, Brian D. (2014-06-10). *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation* (p. xi). FaithWords. Kindle Edition.

I would love to go on this journey with some of you.

Here is the plan: We would meet weekly beginning in Advent (the week of November 27) for 1 – 1 1/2 hours. We will begin with the Advent passages and continue throughout the year. Each chapter is 3-5 pages and passages of scripture.

I realize that some of you will not be able to meet every time (life intervenes) and a year seems like a major commitment. But... “If you are seeking a fresh way to experience and practice your faith, if you’re a long-term Christian seeking new vitality, or if you feel out of place in traditional church circles, this book will inspire and activate you in your spiritual journey.” (Brian McLaren)

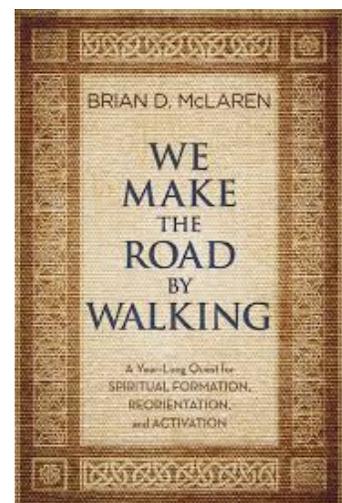
If you are interested, you can email me, let the office know, or put a note on your “Prayer and Presence” card, marked “Road.” When we find out who is interested, we will set a day and time.

In holy curiosity,

Jane

Sunday Morning Schedule

10:00 a.m. -- Worship
10:15 a.m. -- Children's Worship & Sunday School
11:00 a.m. -- Coffee Fellowship



Children's Ministries and Family Events

Discovering Disciples

Kindergarten – 5th Grade Sunday School Program

October 2 – 23, 2016

Theme: "Samuel"

Bible Verse: "And the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord."
(1 Samuel 2:21)

The boy Samuel served God and heard God's message. We can serve God and hear God's messages in many ways. By the end of this unit children will hear about Hannah, her prayer for a son, and her response to God's gift; have an opportunity to learn Samuel's boyhood story; explore ways we hear God's message today; explore ways we can serve God and help other people, as Samuel did; have the opportunity to learn that God delights in the gifts and talents of children; and learn that God worked through men and women to create a nation, and that God still works through people to create a better world.

Halloween Time at Sunday School

Sunday, October 30, 10:15 a.m.

On October 30 Judy's Art Room will be decorated floor to ceiling for Halloween, and everyone from kindergarten to 5th grade is invited to the party. Wear your "regular face" or your "funny face," or a costume, if you like. We'll have games, snacks and fun during the Sunday school time. This Halloween party will have a Christian theme.

After church that day the Outreach committee will be packing lunches for the homeless in Fellowship Hall.

We Came, We Saw, We Learned a Few Things !

On Sunday, September 11, the coffee hour was moved to the Fellowship Hall for our wonderful "Come and See" fair. More than two dozen church committees and small groups went all out, setting up clever and fanciful displays to showcase their group's activities. The children and youth stationed the cute popcorn machine near the entrance and greeted people with bags of fresh, hot popcorn. Some displays lured browsers to their posters with candies, brownies, and cookies. At the choir display, people could hear a CD of the Spring Concert, and at the Reconciling table, there was a colorful slide show of pictures. Everybody had fun, and came away knowing more about what our church has to offer.



Variety Book Study Group Meets Earlier in October

7 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, Fireside Room

The Variety Book Study Group will meet a half hour earlier -- at 7:00 p.m. -- on October 19 to draw up the new 2017 reading list. People should come prepared with titles of the books they will recommend, and dates when they can lead the discussions of those books. Then at 7:30 p.m., the group will discuss *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion: a novel* by Fannie Flagg. There are six copies of this book in the San Jose library. Our discussion leader will be **Trilbe Fortunati**. The book for November is *The Hungry Tide* by Amitav Ghosh.



Christmas Faire

Bakers, crafters, artists -- offer your wares! The annual Mission/Outreach Christmas Faire needs your finest. Start now to create your favorite knitted, crocheted, sewn, painted, or handcrafted items. **Terri Sawdon** is ready to collect your arts and crafts. **Junetta McKewan** is chairing the baked goods section, and would appreciate your sign-ups to bring some sweet treats. The soup luncheon is a Christmas Faire tradition, and **Garnet Martinez** is organizing the soup makers. Please let them know if they can count on you for some help.

Income from the sale of Christmas Faire items supports our mission and outreach projects.

Auction Echoes -- A Rocky Mountain Cafe Menu

On Saturday, August 20, **Trilbe & Leonard Fortunati** hosted their Italian dinner taken from a menu served at the famous Rocky Mountain Cafe in Meaderville, Montana, before the area was destroyed for open pit mining. Trilbe and Len are both Montana natives, and had dined at this cafe themselves. Leonard was born there and lived there until he was 9 years old. Then he moved to my hometown but it was "the place to go" for dinner while we were growing up there.

Appetizers included antipasto, salami and cheese, green onions and radishes, avocado and chips. At the dinner table guests were served shrimp cocktails, salad, spaghetti, and garlic bread.

Those attending watched a video of the Butte, Montana, area during the time of copper mining. Guests were **Carl Hudson, Gary & Suzanne Jones, Dick & Junetta McKewan, Jean Pricolo, Don Chamberlin, Patti Skavdahl, Dan & Wendy Hendry, and Bob Sprenger.**

United Methodist Women -- A Mission U Reunion

On Friday evening, August 19, **Debbie Ow, Julie Asada, K Stone, Leslie Hallenbeck, and Doris Warren** drove to San Rafael for an overnight stay, so they would be on time for the Mission u session the next morning. **Lilian Guansing** drove over from Woodland to join them. The six were looking forward to attending their Mission U classes, and this reunion of long-time friends was the bonus. Here are their impressions of the day --

Leslie Hallenbeck & Doris Warren -- The session on climate justice was led by retired United Methodist minister and activist Sharon Delgado who taught us that the most affected by climate change are generally the most vulnerable in our population and gave us tools to fight climate change in our churches and communities.

Julie Asada -- "The Bible and Human Sexuality" was a wonderful class for the interactive way in which it was conducted. Led by Jo Ann Lawson, we looked at the story of Sodom and Gomorrah and questioned why Lot would give his virgin daughters to the mob of men who sought sexual/homosexual activity with Lot's household. And I learned that in a way, Lot was punished by God later when his daughters got him drunk and took advantage of him. In the book Song of Songs (also called Song of Solomon), we viewed this erotic love poetry as God's way of showing us that sexual love is good, not sinful, when enjoyed in right relationship with another human being. We also talked about modern day issues such as human trafficking, child molestation, LGBTQ rights, pornography on the Internet, and so much more.

K Stone -- Hard to believe the story of Lot and his two daughters. Is it true?

Debbie Ow -- The most enjoyable and memorable part of the trip for me was the church itself and the wonderful Fijian women who hosted us. The church is over 150 years old and was built in the mission style with red tile roofs, thick cement walls and beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The pews (not original) were arranged as three sides of a rectangle so that many of the congregation faced each other, rather than the front altar. The sanctuary was not large and was probably built when congregations stood during the services. The Fijians have been in the church for 17 years, and share it with another congregation.



World Communion Sunday is October 2

For ethnic students who will be the first in their families to attend college, the road toward education has often been unwieldy. On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess in the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty.

Together, we enable national and international graduate students to change the world.

Retro Rockets Auction Is Almost Here!

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Plan to *have a blast* with your church family October 15, and help the church budget by bidding on *out-of-this-world* items and events.

Auction Donation forms are due October 2, so there's still a little time. Forms are available in the office, online at <http://www.almadenhillsumc.org> or after church at the auction table. Your donations are the fuel that makes this rocket rise!

Bidder tickets will also be available after church at the auction table...only \$5 if purchased by **October 9** or \$10 after that date.

Please bring snacks to share:

- Last name beginning A-L bring finger desserts
- Last name beginning M-Z bring finger appetizers

Come at **6:00 p.m. for snacks** and opportunities to bid on **silent auction** items. The **live auction begins at 7:00 p.m.**

Let's hit the *stratosphere* with this event!



A Successful Yard Sale

Once again, Fellowship Hall was filled with "good stuff" collected from the many closets of our members. August 18 and 19 were busy sorting-and-pricing days getting ready for the big sale on the 20th. There were many hard-working helpers all three days. Much publicity preceded the sale, costumed volunteers stood out on the sidewalk motioning buyers in, some loyal helpers worked every day, many shared their special expertise to arrive at the correct price. The list goes on and on. Before the Salvation Army truck came to pick up the unsold items, several bags of good clothing were packed and delivered to Sacred Heart Community Service. The proceeds amount to a little over \$2000, but the best reward is the joy of working with such dedicated and caring members. A great big THANK YOU and a million HUGS to all who contributed.
 ~ Susan Revers and Junetta McKewan



Wednesday Morning Women

On Wednesday, August 31, the group met for breakfast and a happy reunion with former member **Jacque Mahan**, currently residing in Colorado. It was fun hearing about her home and family, and the different activities and events occurring in her new church. There are plans to reunite again at some point in the future.

You are invited to join this early morning group of women at any time. You don't have to wait until we start a new book. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Add your thoughts to our conversations! The current book, *Authentic Happiness* by Martin Seligman, has explained why happiness is important and has provided us with several self-assessments to help us learn about our own levels of happiness.

Summer Share

On Sunday afternoon, August 21st, the Willow Glen church fellowship hall was filled with Joint Youth Group members, their families and supporters for the annual "Summer Share" event. As the attendees finished their dinners, slide shows and videos of the youth group's summer events were shown, and the youth told briefly about their experiences at the High School Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge Lakota reservation in South Dakota in June, at the Hartland Junior High Camp in July, and at the Magical Mystery Tour in August. Below are some notes about the three summer activities. --

High School Mission Trip

From notes written by our **Almaden Hills youth**, where they thanked our church for our prayers, time, finances, love, and notes of encouragement in support of this mission trip. --

Camille, 11th grade -- Because of you, I was able to experience the culture of the Lakota Sioux in South Dakota, and form bonds with other volunteers from across America. At my worksite, we worked on remodeling a trailer that belonged to a middle school teacher and prison minister working on his second college degree. Although we only finished one wall, the conversations we had with the teacher had an impact on us that will last forever. On Thursday night we split between genders. Lisa asked a general person question and we answered in a circle. Seeing people vulnerable for the first time releasing their emotions was beautiful.

Jason, 12th grade -- Although this was my fourth mission trip, it was vastly different from the others. There was a huge amount of community outreach, and I felt that I was able to connect and understand a lot about native American culture and life. We were building the side wall on a trailer for a teacher at a local school. He was a very smart man, and had two bachelors degrees and was studying for his masters. His goal was to become a principal and he was working on a thesis about teaching life skills and soft skills in school.

Arthur, 9th grade -- The mission trip to South Dakota was one of the best and most exciting weeks of my life. The project we were assigned to was finishing a deck for a woman named Pansy. The previous crew had built the base of the deck, and our job was to lay down all the deck boards. There were two big golden retrievers named Bonnie and Clyde and a little puppy named Stewie that were great to see every time we arrived.

Phil, 11th grade -- This week was one of incredible journeys and fun adventures, from demolishing a rotted trailer to singing away in a sweaty worship hall. This trip couldn't have been done without the support of our churches.

Anika, 9th grade -- This was my first mission trip as a freshman. I was on Crew 3, the Wasp Whisperers. We worked on Aimee's house finishing the floor and building walls and the sides. As the week progressed, we had to build the same wall three times. It was very frustrating, yet my crew persevered. Even though we were drenched in sweat and covered in dirt every day, I wouldn't trade this experience for the world.

. . . and these words from **Willow Glen teens** --

-- We focused on community and cultural immersion. We also visited the work-in-progress Crazy Horse Monument, experienced a spiritual ceremony atop Wounded Knee, and kissed a buffalo. I worked to build onto a male rehab center, "Hands of Faith," whose mission is to get males who have had struggles with substance abuse or with the law to become men who are the heads and supporters of the family.

-- In addition to all of this work we had a great worship program led by an amazing band and great talks given by the emcee.

-- I danced without caring and let my heart soar when everyone danced together in a Lakota round circle, under a teepee-like roof that opened up to Heaven above.

-- My favorite part of the drive was Mount Rushmore and looking at the wilderness. On the way back we saw the coolest sunset ever with lightning, thunder, rain, and a double rainbow.

Magical Mystery Tour

This year's tour included hikes along the gorgeous Point Lobos trail, kayaking on the Elkhorn Slough, snacks at the Salinas Strawberry Festival, working at the Salinas food bank, and fun at a unique bowling alley. The youth stayed overnight at United Methodist churches in Carmel and Pacific Grove. Zoe Martin took short Go-Pro videos of the trip and her video was shown at the "Summer Share" dinner.

Joint Youth Group Walk-A-Thon

Sunday, November 6, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at Cambrian Park United Methodist Church



Our youth are asking for your support in their efforts to raise money for summer camp, mission trips and other Joint Youth Ministry activities. **Be as generous as you can!** Know you are having a big impact on these kids' lives at a pivotal moment!

Say "yes" when a youth asks for sponsorship! You can also sponsor our youth online at www.jointyouthgroup.com

Questions, contact **Kiersten Manuel**.

Hartland's Junior High Camp

Sarah Asada is moving on from 7th grade to 8th grade. This was her first summer at Hartland Junior High Camp.

This summer I had the best time of my life. I not only became closer to God, but I had fun with friends. My favorite memories are dancing with the JYM group during chapel to the fun upbeat music that the band "Undone" played, going on the giant swing, and just hanging out with the girls. As I said earlier I grew closer to God. The main way that happened was that when the speaker Eric spoke, I had to ask myself what I believed in and what I disagreed with because he said things that I did and did not agree with.

Although when one might think of church camp as very serious most of the time, that's not entirely true. At Hartland, different cabins are separated into different groups which compete at fun activities that bring people together. For example, one day each group had to help a person across the swimming pool while they stepped on wooden planks held up by pairs of people. The last night, though, was the most inspiring night because each person was asked to write down one or a few sins, then either throw it into the fire or nail it to the cross. As a closing, a single candle was lit, then was passed on to people all throughout the whole circle of campers, leaders, youth group pastors, and many others until there was not one person who did not have a candle lit. This service was very moving and brought many to tears, but it also made many feel free and lighter. If anyone is thinking about going to camp next year, I would encourage you to do so.

Daphne Warren has graduated from 8th grade, so this summer was her last one at Hartland's Junior High Camp.

Camp was amazing. It was a fun "last year" and I really grew in my faith while I was there. It was so much fun making new friends and even more fun becoming closer to others. What I loved was how the speaker really told his story about his life. It was sad and I kinda felt a connection to it. Though most of the time I disagreed with where he believed every negative thought came from, I agreed that when we felt hate towards ourselves or dislike ourselves that God would grieve and be sad. The last night was extremely emotional and heart lifting. There were many tears about everything that had happened over the year and hearing everyone say things they would ordinarily never share. It was so spiritual. I'm gonna miss all the mud, and the crazy things like riding a bike off a ramp into the river which was terrifyingly fun. But now I can move on to the mission trips next summer, and I can't wait.



Morgan used power tools during the High School Mission Trip



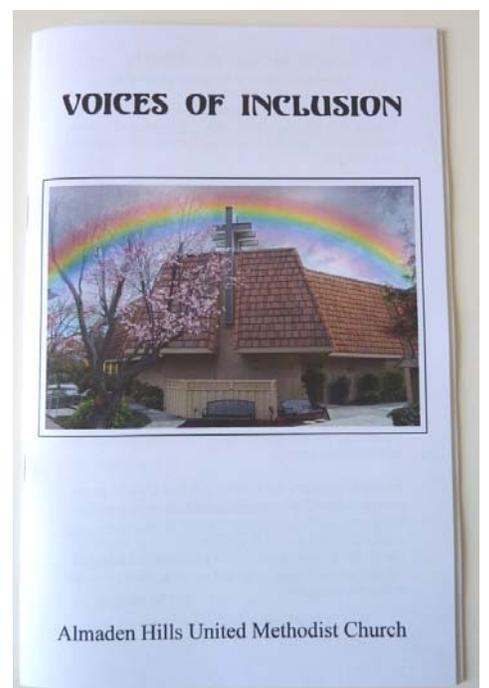
Junior High Camp at Hartland Christian Camp

"Voices of Inclusion" -- Our Path to a Reconciling Church

When the idea for the "Voices of Inclusion" booklet was first conceived, I thought it would be called something like "Telling Our Stories -- Why we became and still are a reconciling church." Craig Mosher came up with a much better title and I love it. He also gave our stories names and was "spot on" with the titles. The reason for the book was to keep from losing the stories of those who blazed the trail, and to inspire all those who came after. To keep, maintain and improve the path forward, I also felt it important to let anyone looking for a new church home to know us better and more quickly than one or two visits could provide. I believe all of this has been accomplished, and we have a booklet that is beautiful in word and presentation. I did not do this alone. Craig was invaluable, and if it hadn't been for Bonnie Home who did the layout and worked tirelessly with me to assemble 300 copies, it would have never gotten done. It was a labor of love for me and I was happy to do it.

Copies can be found in the narthex and office and Fireside Room. If they are not there, let me or the church office manager know and we'll put some more out. Thank you for your stories and support. They are the reason I come to Almaden Hills UMC.

~ Paulette Wilkey



Long Distance Calling

Margot Brockmeyer wrote this note from their summer home in Iowa ~

Through August Sundays our Belmond church was treated to the music of the Almaden Hills choir, handbells and John's organ from one of my CDs, thanks to our sound tech's ability to download it. Enjoyed by all, especially me!

We are enjoying our summer. Our little garden keeps us in veggies and we've had wonderful local sweet corn. I've done "Meals on Wheels" and frequent Sunday coffee treats for church. We both have been liturgists and ushers. They use us when they can get us!

Family reunions, Roger's cribbage group, our coffee group, special books from our wonderful library, and visitors have all been fun. We are leaving soon for Maryland to see our children and their families so we will have gone coast to coast this summer. Have enjoyed emails and AHUMC news. See you in November.

Long Distance Calling

Lilian Guansing has returned from a two-week Central and Western European trip which included Munich, Prague, Slovakia, Budapest, Vienna and Austria -- beautiful places, rich in history. She will spend the upcoming fall and winter months in Wisconsin, and will return to Woodland, California, in January.

Long Distance Calling

Jacque Mahan writes from Colorado that retirement is "the best ever!" The Mahans moved away to be closer to the grandchildren, and Jacque is making the most of it. She and two of the grandchildren have joined the Gem & Mineral Club, following in the footsteps of Jacque's lapidist grandfather who made jewelry from the gems and minerals he collected. Jacque and another granddaughter are building little doll house rooms, and plan to attend the two-day Denver Dollhouse and Miniatures Show. The two youngest granddaughters are making doll clothes with their grandma. Jacque got the grandchildren hooked on Dungeons and Dragons, and as Dungeon Master she makes up the adventures for them -- no electronics involved. "Their imaginations are on fire!" she says. The Mahans have joined Broomfield UMC. Jacque has signed up for five small groups at the church. For one of them she is discussion leader for the book, "Jesus the Jewish Theologian." For another she writes three "morning pages" each day, following the methods of "The Artist's Way" movement. In October she will begin training for the Stephen Ministry, and will also attend a three-day conference with John Dominic Crossan. "How did I ever have time to work?" she asks.

Thanksgiving for New Life

Ellanor Catherine Lynn Jahns was born on August 15 to Chris and Kristy Jahns of Santa Rosa. The baby's middle names are in honor of her two grandmothers. Her brother is 3 1/2 year old Dean, and her grandparents are Gary and Sharon Jahns.

Words of Faith

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares . . .

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

-- Hebrews 13: 2 and 16

Last Minute Reminders

Saturday, October 1, Noon -- "Change the World" Summer Barbecue at Willow Glen UMC

Sunday, October 2, 5 p.m. -- Bobby Jo Valentine Concert at Almaden Hills UMC

Saturday, October 22, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. -- District UMW Celebration at First UMC, Palo Alto \$13. Registration forms in the church office. Deadline is Oct. 15.

Sunday, October 23 -- UMC Photo-Journalist Paul Jeffrey speaks at our church.

AHUMC Financial Snapshot

June, 2016 Year-To-Date

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Total Income	\$ 229,024	\$ 219,280	\$ 9,744
Total Expense	\$ 221,274	\$ 228,110	(\$ 6,836)
Conference Tithe Obligation (Apportionments)			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$ 22,240	\$ 22,902	(\$ 662)

Note: Apportionments are paid in all months except January and July

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**Deadline for Next Issue:
October 9**