



The Chimes

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

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Derek Lang, Minister of Discipleship
Lisa Jacobs, Youth Director
Katrina Kraynick, Associate Youth Director
Peggy Dile, Director of Children's Ministries
John Hess, Director of Music
Linda Solis, Office Manager
Garnet Martinez, Parish Nurse

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November 2016

Fearless Generosity

*"Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come follow me and I will give you rest."*

"Fearless Generosity" is the theme of our annual Finance Campaign for 2017. Ted Pierce, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, introduced the theme during Sunday announcements on October 9. He spoke about his own fears of not having enough money to support his family in the future. That got me thinking about my own fears around money and from where those fears come.

Suze Orman, an author and financial advisor, says that our attitudes toward money are formed early in life. She suggests that you think back on your first experiences with money and that will tell you a lot about how you handle money in your adult life. One man shared that he lost a ten-dollar bill on his way to the market when he was a little boy and had to go back and tell his mother. From that experience, he started believing that he could never be trusted with money. It has followed him all his life. ([Nine Steps to Financial Freedom](#), Suze Orman)

I thought about my early experiences with money. My mother and father divorced when I was about 5 years old. My mother was a single woman raising 4 children in the 1950s. The only financial support we got from my father was \$25/month per child. No health or dental insurance. She became quite an expert at juggling bills. But I remember the phone calls from bill collectors and the struggle to make ends meet. Though I am sure others had it much worse. To this day, I worry about money and not having enough.

But you know, there has always been enough. I have always had a house to live in, food on the table, clothes to wear. God has always provided. And I know that because the church has always been there to remind me of God's generosity to each of us. I didn't need to fear.

I understand and the church understands that living in Silicon Valley is expensive. We also understand that there are those living on fixed incomes who need to make financial choices carefully. We have all had to make hard choices about where the money goes. Our church makes the choices as well.

My challenge to all of us is *NOT* to make the decisions of our gifts, tithes and offerings to the work of the church based on fear, but as a response to the generosity of God – in thankfulness for all the blessings we have received. The work of God does not end with us. God's generosity does not end with us nor is it only for us. The future lies before us for generations to come. Join us in stepping out in faith and thanksgiving,

Your sister on the journey.

Jane

Children's Ministries and Family Events

Discovering Disciples

Kindergarten - 5th grade Sunday School Program

November 6 - 27 - "Dance for Joy" (A Healing by Peter and John)

Bible Story Reference: Acts 3:1-10

But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." (Acts 3:6)

Main Idea: After being healed in the name of Jesus, a man who had been lame from birth began leaping, and praising God.

Children will explore the following concepts:

- * The Book of Acts tells of early Christians who continued Jesus' ministry.
- * Peter and John gave a man lame since birth a gift more valuable than gold.
- * The power to heal came from Jesus, not from Peter.
- * The man walked, leaped, and praised God.
- * Many people saw the change in the man who was healed, and they were amazed.
- * Christians today continue Jesus' healing ministry.

Bible Sunday

On Sunday, November 20, we will be celebrating Bible Sunday. During our 10 a.m. worship service we will present Bibles to our 3rd grade children, and to older children who have not yet received a Bible.

If you have a child who is in 3rd grade, or know of one who is older and has not received a Bible, please contact **Peggy Joy**. Phone the church office (408) 269-2345 or e-mail pjdile-ahumc@yahoo.com



It's That Time Again -- "Fall Back" on November 6

It's time again to "Fall Back." Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 6. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.



Retro Rockets Auction... Mission Success

The 26th Annual Auction had a clean blast-off and smooth landing on October 15. We had good fellowship, tasty treats, and we raised over \$16,000. A special thanks to **Libby Rettner** for digitizing all the auction donation form information, **Len Fortunati** for running the data processing system, **Gary Jones** and his crew for recruiting donations from external donors, **Don Chamberlin** and **Mike Dile** for keeping our progress reports up to date on the web site, **John Hess** and **Peggy Joy Dile** for being awesome auctioneers, and numerous others who stepped forward to make our journey a success when we were in the midst of "crunch-time." Lastly, we want to thank our families for supporting us in this bold adventure.

Barton Wilson and **Travis Williams**

Mission Outreach Spirit

Put This On Your Wish List

For many, many years it was a United Methodist Women tradition to hold a Lenten retreat in March at the Mission Springs retreat center in the redwoods, outside Scotts Valley. It was a wildly popular event. For the past few years Mission Springs was not available to us, but this year . . . it is !

Promise yourself that you will not let this opportunity get away. No one knows if we'll have the chance again. Mission Springs is located in a beautiful redwood forest. The rooms for our overnight stay are comfortable. Someone else does the cooking, and the meals are delicious. We sing, hike, and listen to inspiring talks. There's plenty to love about this retreat !

The dates are Friday evening, March 31 to Sunday noon, April 2. Mark your calendar so you won't forget, and start saving your pennies so you'll be ready to register in the spring.

Early Chimes Deadline in November

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Chimes deadline will be one week earlier than usual -- on Sunday, November 6.

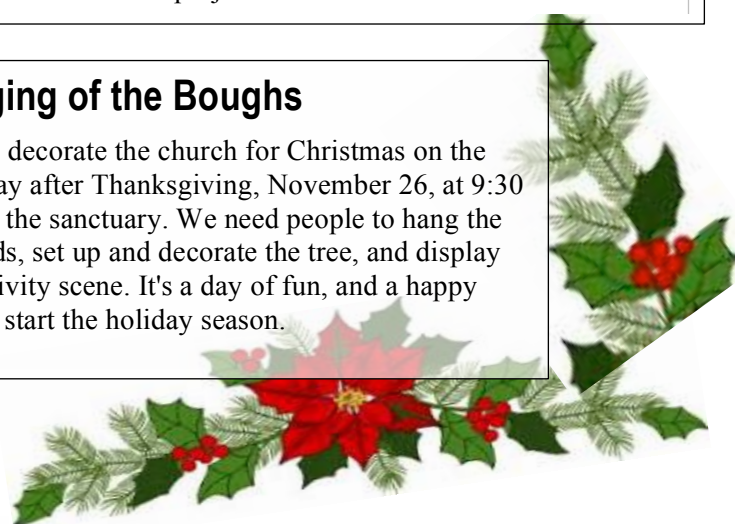
Christmas Faire Sunday, December 11 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.

Hanging of the Boughs

Plan to decorate the church for Christmas on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. We need people to hang the garlands, set up and decorate the tree, and display the nativity scene. It's a day of fun, and a happy way to start the holiday season.



Cooking Classes for our Joint Youth Group

When choir member Jean Pricolo injured her right arm in September, she found it difficult to do the most simple things. Imagine her surprise when the Joint Youth Group arrived at her door with a full dinner that they had prepared at our church during their “Feed the Need” event. This is what she wrote in response --

“The whole choir could dine from all the food the Youth Group brought to me last night! What a feast! There was BBQ chicken, BBQ pork loin, potato salad, corn and black bean salad, cut-up veggies (even Brussels sprouts tasted good), Texas toast, a whole watermelon, and the very best chocolate cream pie. The refrigerator is packed so tight nothing slides forward, backward or sideways! I will not be eating the same thing two days in a row. I'm so spoiled.”

Not only do the youth group members learn to cook, but they also have lessons on how to set the table properly. They are preparing themselves to be self-sufficient, while also learning how to make other people's lives better.



Walk-A-Thon

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

If you have not yet sponsored a Joint Youth Group member for the upcoming Walk-a-Thon fundraiser, we hope you will consider it. Put the dollar amount you plan to donate in your wallet, or have a check ready, made payable to JYM-WGUMC, so that you will be prepared when a student is bold enough to ask you. Once you've reached your pre-determined limit, kindly let the students know. The money raised will provide scholarships for summer camps, mission trips, and other Joint Youth Group activities. These events make a big impact at pivotal moments in these kids' lives.

Social Events

Adult Education

What is the Plum Pudding Festival?



“Plum Pudding” is ...

- * an old English tradition, dating back to the 17th century.
- * a Christmas carol sing-along.
- * a choir performance.
- * a children's Christmas story.
- * Christmas cookies, apple cider, and (of course) plum pudding.
- * Christmas greens and candle light.
- * a festive evening for all ages.
- * an opportunity to bring family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to a delightful Christmas event.

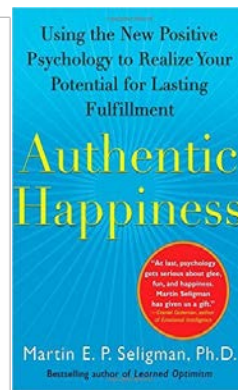
Our annual Plum Pudding Festival is on the first Sunday in December -- **December 4 -- from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.** -- in our Fellowship Hall.

Bonnie Home will begin selling tickets on Sunday, November 13. Prices are \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Please, please, please buy your tickets in advance so we will know how to plan.

Wednesday Morning Women

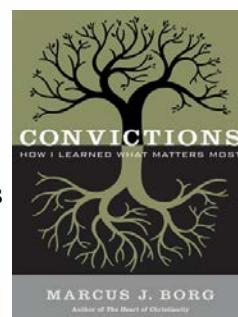
Many of the group joined former member **Jacque Mahan** at her home in Westminster, Colorado, for a two-day retreat. Jacque's house was set up to accommodate them and they enjoyed sight-seeing as well as each other's company.

The group is continuing the study of the book, *Authentic Happiness*, learning more about how we can influence our own happiness levels. Join us at 7:00 am on Wednesday mornings in the Fireside Room.



Tuesday Morning Book Group

Our next book for the Tuesday morning book group is titled *Convictions*. Its author, Marcus Borg, is a preeminent theologian and Bible scholar. He writes near the end of his life about “how I learned what matters most.” You are welcome in our group to explore the meaning of Christianity. We meet weekly at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. For more information contact **Sue Baird**.



Meet Our New Parish Nurse – Garnet Martinez

A parish nurse is a registered nurse with additional preparation in holistic ministry who assists members of the congregation to become more aware of their health and to move toward a fuller sense of wholeness. Parish nurses serve as health counselors and educators, community resource liaisons and facilitators.



Few churches are as blessed as Almaden Hills church to have a Parish Nurse to take special care of the congregation. We are pleased to announce that Garnet Martinez has taken on that role.

Garnet was born in North Dakota and graduated from nursing school there, having earned her degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LVN). She enjoyed working in California’s convalescent homes, but wanting some acute care experience, she took a position at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in 1978 in its “continuing care” nursery for premature infants. That work inspired her to go back to school at San Jose State to earn her degree as a Registered Nurse. Immediately after graduation in 1984, she and husband Mario were married in our sanctuary by Rev. Bob Hawthorne. From 1985 to 1989 Garnet worked in Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). She also worked in UC Davis in Sacramento and later at Kaiser Sacramento in the NICU, before returning to San Jose to work at Kaiser Santa Clara, where she is still employed. Ten years ago she took Stanford’s special “NIDCAP” training – Neonatal Individualize Developmental Care and Plan – and worked as a Developmental Case Manager. In February she left that position and now works full time in the Kaiser California Children’s Services office as a liason for low-income children ages newborn to twenty-one years, who require specialized medical care.

Son Alex was born in 1986, son Greg in 1989, and daughter Missy in 1990. The children attended our Almaden Hills Parents Day Away preschool. Now two are married, and Missy is a mom herself.

Garnet’s full-time job, along with caring for husband Mario and new granddaughter Riley, means that her free time is limited, but she does enjoy container gardening, reading and church activities.

Her vision for her Parish Nursing position is to coordinate additional volunteers to help with home visits of our church family. She would like to establish a phone tree to be employed during emergencies of all kinds. She plans to teach classes on how we can keep ourselves healthy as we age. We are grateful to Garnet for taking on this challenge.

Our Almaden Hills Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 20, 11:15 a.m.

It couldn't be easier to attend this year's annual church meeting, since we will already be at church. In this important meeting we will accomplish the following:

- * Review the accomplishments of the past twelve months.
- * Look at the church budget.
- * Set the pastoral compensation for 2017.
- * Remember those who have passed away this year.
- * Elect our officers and leaders.

This gathering is a beautiful time to ponder and reflect on what we are doing and why we are here. It's also an opportunity to pick up your church conference packet which names all of our committee members and includes the year's budget details. Don't miss this important event !

AHUMC Financial Snapshot

| August, 2016 Year-To-Date | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
| Total Income | \$ 300,501 | \$ 293,332 | \$ 7,169 |
| Total Expense | \$ 290,587 | \$ 304,620 | (\$14,033) |
| Conference Tithe Obligation (Apportionments) | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Expected</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
| | \$ 26,968 | \$ 30,050 | (\$3,082) |

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

United Methodist Student Day Offering -- November 27

Right now there are young people in college who did not have the resources to attend that school without the support you gave them when you made your offering last year on United Methodist Student Day. While no person or congregation alone might make this a possibility, together we can educate students so they can make a difference in the world, preparing for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

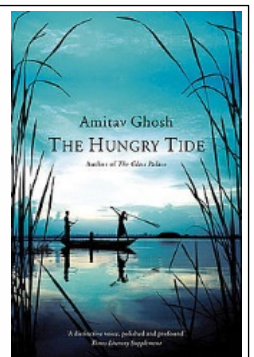
The son of two addicted parents, Ricky Blue had grown up without much hope for a future. But Ricky’s church family—Louisiana’s Luling UMC—raised \$4000 for Ricky to begin college. The Gift of Hope Scholarship, made possible only by your generous giving to United Methodist Student Day, allowed Ricky to continue. Today Ricky is a certified candidate for ministry in the Illinois-Great Rivers Annual Conference.

Fireside Room Doors Looking Nicer

Our thanks to **Len Fortunati, Trilbe Fortunati, Cindy Skrivanek, Suzanne Jones, Junetta McKewan** and **Diane Moots** for sprucing up our Fireside Room's sliding glass doors and for replacing the sliding screens for those doors. The women spent several hours scraping off the adhesive film which had bubbled over time. Now the glass is clean and smooth. The new sliding screen doors replace the old ones which were ripped and torn.

Variety Book Study Group
Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.
Fireside Room

The book for November is *The Hungry Tide* by Amitav Ghosh. Our discussion leader is **Amy Fisher**. Anyone who has read the book is invited to attend.





Sympathy

Velma Perry's sister died in late September, and her brother-in-law died two weeks earlier. Cards and notes of care may be sent to Velma Perry, 346 Mill Pond Drive, San Jose CA, 95125.

Long Distance Calling -- Autumn in Paradise

The Dietrichs write from Paradise, California, that they are enjoying the fall season. Lee Ann and her friend, Martha, have appeared at the last of their autumn crafts fairs -- this one as a benefit for the Magalia Volunteer Fire Department. Lee Ann sells the light and lacy mohair scarves, hats, and fingerless gloves that she knits. In the spring they will appear at their yearly Chocolate Fest. Fred is teaching a couple of classes for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute -- one on Shakespeare's language and imagery, and one on the Romantic poets. Lee Ann is an OLLI student, and took a photography class.

A Visit with Kay Fuller

On Wednesday, October 5, **Rosemary Fujimoto** drove **Sue Baird** and **G.A. Hawthorne** to San Rafael to visit **Kay Fuller**, wife of our former AHUMC pastor. Kay lives at Nazareth House, where the four long-time friends enjoyed lunch together on the patio. Later they were joined by Cathi, one of the Fuller daughters. Lots of pictures were exchanged, and Kay sent greetings to folks at AHUMC.



A gracious thank you is extended to everyone who sent cards, prayers, flowers, and words of support during my recent heart surgery. You have made my recovery less difficult, and I am blessed by all of you.

Betty McGowan.

A Heads Up for the End of the Year

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee and I pondered what the best way to set expectations might be, and the best thing we came up with was an article for The Chimes. It is still a bit away, but we want to let you know that the expectation between me, the District Superintendent and the church for my assignment this year was that I would serve as Minister of Discipleship at Almaden Hills until the end of the calendar year instead of the appointment year.

When I began my ministry as a Conference Lay Ministry (CLayM) pastor, I was single with a steady job. I was able to cut back on my regular job hours to 3/4 to 1/2-time to allow me time to serve as a part-time pastor, and still had time and money for a bachelor's life. Since then, my work and family situations have been changing, and it is a challenge to find balance between work, church, and personal life. After much discernment, I decided I need to take a break from pastoral ministry.

I cannot tell you how huge of a blessing it has been to serve at Almaden Hills. You have all been so welcoming and loving. I have many thank you's for you later. For now though, I hope we can focus our attentions on getting some ministries on sure footing before I leave: welcoming committee, adult education, and small groups. These have been important ministries for the church and will continue to be. So please let me know if you are feeling a call to help these ministries along.

December was my original transition date. But Advent/Christmas seasons and some possible family activities make December a bit too chaotic. So I am targeting January 29, 2017 as my last Sunday. We will keep you posted. Thanks for your understanding and please keep my wife and me in your prayers.

Blessings,
Pastor Derek

Lilian's Story in "Response" Magazine

You may have noticed copies of "Response" magazine on the coffee table in the church office reception area. Now you have a good reason to pick up the October issue and turn to page 15, because on that page there is a photo of **Lilian Guansing** and a story about her medical mission trip to the Philippines. We've always been proud of Lilian's selfless work in helping other people, and now the whole country knows! "Response" magazine is published by the United Methodist Women, and articles written by photo-journalist Paul Jeffrey also appear in the magazine.

A copy of Lilian's page is posted on the bulletin board near the Fireside Room door.

Words of Faith

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare, you will find your welfare." ~ Jeremiah 29:7

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**Early Deadline for Next Issue:
November 6**