



The Response

Monthly Newsletter of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
October, 2017



Pastor's Note

Dear friends,

On a recent Wednesday night, two tables in the fellowship hall were piled high with soap, combs, toothbrushes and more as we put together 100 "Gift of the Heart" kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Each hygiene kit is a gallon ziploc bag containing a wash cloth, hand towel, bar of soap, toothbrush, nail clippers, comb and bandaids. PDA adds a tube of toothpaste at the time the kits are distributed to those who have been affected by a natural disaster. One day soon, a kit that you put together will be in the hands of someone coping with a disaster like a hurricane, flood or earthquake. In such moments, a small thing can make a big difference -- like simply being able to wash your hands and face.

In addition to the one hundred Gift of the Heart kits, which are valued at \$1500, you also gave generously to our special offering. Thanks to your financial contributions, this week Shades Valley sent a check for just over \$3500 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



August and September have brought one disaster after another, including Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and devastating earthquakes in Mexico. In times of disaster, prayer is always our first response. We pray for those affected by disasters and for the responders seeking to provide aid and services.

But we do not stop with our prayers, for our thoughts and prayers alone cannot meet the desperate human needs that result from these disasters. As people of faith, we know that our prayers must be followed by actions to help those in need in concrete ways. That's why we also do things like put together hygiene kits, contribute money for disaster assistance, work on rebuilding houses, and advocate for just policies.

May we pray without ceasing for those affected by these disasters -- and may our actions follow our amens.

Grace and peace,
Leanne

Blue hymnals that were given by you or your family are now available for pick up. Please check the table in the hall on 2nd floor. We have extra blue hymnals and these are available to anyone.

All remaining blue hymnals will be donated as of Monday, October 16.

A Future with Hope

Join us for our fall worship series!

Coming Sundays:

October 1 - Life Together

October 8 - Listening for God's Call

October 15 - The Courage to Step Out

October 22 - Life After Failure

October 29 - Living Our Mission



SPECIAL OFFERINGS PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

Peace and Global Witness Offering

This annual special offering will be received Sunday, October 1

Like millions of people around the world, Presbyterian elder Bill Campbell was moved by the heartbreaking image of a drowned Syrian boy whose body washed up on a Turkish beach in 2015. The photo of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi drew international attention to the danger and desperation faced by people fleeing the civil war in Syria. Aylan was among thousands of Syrians who drowned trying to escape the violence gripping their country.

"There must be a way I can do something," Bill told himself. As chair of the mission committee at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, Bill got his congregation involved by working with a local refugee resettlement agency to collect and assemble "welcome kits" that newly arrived refugee families find in their new homes when they first open the door. The kits include household goods such as flatware, dishes, cooking utensils, lamps, cleaning supplies, toiletries, and linens. It took two cars to haul one kit, and the congregation assembled and delivered seven of them. Moved by the needs of anxious children still in refugee camps, the congregation also helped send 5,000 teddy bears to traumatized refugee children in Jordan.

But Bill hoped the wider church could multiply the efforts of congregations like his. He and like-minded members of other churches asked San Francisco Presbytery to match their congregations' contributions to support resettlement of refugees in the San Francisco Bay Area. The presbytery agreed to match up to \$10,000 from its peacemaking fund. The matching funds were available thanks to gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. A goal was set and a nine month time frame established.

"Congregations really jumped at the chance," Bill says. More than \$20,000 was given to help impoverished, war battered families find safety, welcome, and a new life. Compassionate Presbyterians have refused to stand by idly while the world faces the largest refugee crisis since World War II.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering equips the PC(USA) to proclaim Christ's peace. Twenty five percent of the Offering is retained by congregations for local ministries of peace and witness, another 25% supports these ministries at the mid council level, and the remaining 50% supports the peacemaking and reconciliation ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Bill says extending welcome to refugees helps the United States live up to its highest ideals. More importantly, he notes, it fulfills a Christian imperative. "The Old Testament tells us to welcome the foreigner and the refugee," Bill explains. "Jesus told us in Matthew that 'what you do for the least of these you do to me.' It is part of our calling as Christians to help when we can."

Giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering is one way you can follow in the way of Jesus. Your gifts express your commitment to a more just and peaceful world.

**Love Offering & Breakfast to Celebrate
Jennifer English's Years of Service
(Deadline to contribute is Tuesday, October 3)**

We hope you will join us on Sunday, October 8 at 10:30 a.m. for a breakfast to celebrate Jennifer's ministry with us. We are so grateful for the many years of dedicated service she has offered our church family. We will be collecting a love offering as an expression of our deep gratitude. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or sent to the church office; please mark your check or envelope "love offering." Please make contributions no later than Tuesday, October 3.

Thank you!

Worship and the Arts would like to extend its profound thanks to the following people who provided their time and talent for the Glory to God Hymnal campaign: The committee members included: Leanne Pearce Reed, Jim Gray, Ty Thorton, Kyle Henderson, Gail Moore, and Gail Parrish. For extra help getting it done: Lana Lash, Marilyn Isaming, Ed Parrish, John and Jane Childers, Augusta and Bill Forbes, and Cindy Tarrant.

The Session approved moving forward with new hymnals on May 21, 2017. They were purchased and in the pews by the August Presbytery meeting, an incredible amount of work in less than 3 months. The wonderful plaques were affixed and in place for the beautiful dedication service that took place on September 10th. Good work and well done!
Jim Gray



JOIN US FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING!

Below you will see a listing of the books we're planning to use for our upcoming meetings.

- October - *Letters From Skye* by Jessica Brockmole
- Nov. - *The Mad Woman Upstairs*, Catherine Lowell
- December - no meeting
- January - *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Stroudt
- February & March - Lent (no meetings)
- April - *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman
- May - *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



OCTOBER

- Oct. 7—Ann Harvey, Augusta Vos
- Oct. 8—Clayton Adams
- Oct. 10—Drew Riley
- Oct. 11—Jeffery Rogers
- Oct. 12—Shirley Shipman
- Oct. 14—Judy Wade
- Oct. 15—Joan Buchanan
- Oct. 21—Sandy Schrohenloher
- Oct. 24—Jane Childers
- Oct. 27—John Romei
- Oct. 28—Kennedy Quick

Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs

****NOTE**WEEK DAY CHANGE THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER TO THURSDAY, Oct. 5 (Not Wednesday). Regular schedule resumes the following week.**

Dinner (Thursday, Oct. 5): Baked Chicken, Rice, Seasoned Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert
Program: Guests, Jeff and Christi Boyd

Wed., Oct. 11—Dinner: Taco Salad, Dessert
Program: Small Groups (Book Club, Bible Study)

Wed., Oct. 18—Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert.

Program: Fun Night!

Wed., Oct. 25—Dinner: Chili, Tossed Salad, Cornbread. Program: Guest Speaker, Rev. Carolyn Foster from Greater Birmingham Ministries.

Library News

A large selection of recent novels have been donated to SVPC. I have cataloged them and placed them in the Fiction Section of our library for your reading enjoyment.

Jean Archibald

**Presbyterian Home for Children
Thrift Store Donations at SVPC**

**The next collection date is Saturday, October 7.
Drop off times are from 8 am to 12 noon.**

Bring your usable discards and gently used clothing to the Presbyterian Home for Children's reception center in the rear parking lot, below the playground, of SVPC. Volunteers will be on hand to unload your vehicle and to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

ATTENTION! DINNER WILL NOT BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 4 NEXT WEEK – INSTEAD WE’LL SEE YOU ON THURSDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 5. WE WILL WELCOME OUR SPECIAL GUESTS, JEFF AND CHRISI BOYD & SIMON NTUMBA ALONG WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGO PARTNERSHIP TEAM.

Shades Valley welcomes **Jeff and Christi Boyd** who live and work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Jeff is Regional Liaison for Central Africa, facilitating support for the relationships, programs and activities of PC (USA) partners in the Congo. Christi works in Congo and several other countries accompanying global partners as they seek to remedy the marginalization of women and children.

Visitor from Greater Birmingham Ministries—Wednesday, October 25

Our guest speaker on Wednesday, October 25 will be Rev. Carolyn Foster. Rev. Foster is the Faith in Community Coordinator for Greater Birmingham Ministries.

SVPC has been involved with GBM for many years. During that time, our primary focus of support has been their food pantry and Christmas gifts. We have averaged over 100 food items a month and over 100 bicycles each year for the past five years.

GBM has other areas of support that we have not been directly in and Rev. Foster will bring us up to date on their entire range of community programs that SVPC could become involved in.

Bicycles for Greater Birmingham Ministries

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church will be accepting donations to purchase boys’ and girls’ bicycles to provide to GBM. They will hand these out with Christmas items provided to local families in need.

During this annual event for SVPC, we were able to purchase and assemble 103 bikes last year and deliver them downtown. Your donations will start this project and be accepted until Sunday, November 19. Please make checks payable to SVPC and note “bikes” in the memo line of your check. Checks can be dropped off in the Sunday offering or mailed to the church office. We’ll need volunteers to help in the assembly and delivery at a date to be determined after Thanksgiving. If any questions, please call the church office 871-7309 or check with Mike Wade.



Birmingham Youth Group (BYG)

The Birmingham Youth Group brings together middle and high school youth from six Presbyterian churches, including SVPC. In October, Birmingham Youth Group will meet at Oakmont Presbyterian! For more information, contact Leanne at leanne.svpc@gmail.com.

October 1: "Welcome Y'all": An exploration about how we share this youth group with others! 5pm-7pm

October 8: Game Night: A night of play, creativity, and silliness as we cherish fellowship with each other! 5pm-7pm

October 15: ACE Night--"Team-Work": ACE returns to help us identify gifts and skills we need to develop our service learning project which will impact our community with the love and peace of Christ! 5pm-7pm

October 22: Presbyterian 101: In anticipation of reformation Sunday we learn a little about our "Reformed" Presby-roots and a guy named John Calvin.

October 29: Fall Festival at Oakmont! A service project that will help Oakmont reach out to its neighborhood with love and care! Special Time: 3pm-7pm (Come late or leave early as your schedule allows! Don't forget your costume either!)

Would you like to see a worship service you missed? You can go to our website at www.svpcusa.org under Worship and click on sermons. Select your date and enjoy the recording.

Notes from the Session Meeting on September 11, 2017

Rev. Reed opened the meeting with a devotional and a lesson from John 12:23-25 about how we need to be aware of loss associated with growth and change and to be sensitive to those who grieve such loss.

There was much discussion about the role of Youth Director and what it entails, especially in connection with our involvement with the Birmingham Youth Group, a very active collection of youth groups from six churches in the Presbytery, which is led by Ben Acton from Southminster.

The Session appointed Jim Gray as Commissioner to the next Presbytery Meeting on Nov. 9, 2017 at Living River.

We had written reports from all Ministry Units, and the Session took the following actions:

- Passed a motion to have Worship and Arts pursue hiring 4 people, one for each voice, for the choir.
- Passed a motion to carry forward any surplus in the 2017 Property budget to the 2018 Property budget.
- Passed a motion to change the quorum for a Congregational Meeting to 10% of total membership instead of 25%.

Dinner will be on Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017 instead of Wednesday, Oct. 4 so that we may have Jeff and Christi Boyd, our Missionaries to the Congo, as the after dinner program.

Someone will be here on Sunday, October 1 from DC Communications to take pictures of activities and functions around the church for our new website.

(continued next column)

(Notes from the Session Meeting continued)

Ray McIntosh reported for Finance that we are still well ahead of budget through August in both increased giving and reduced expenses for this year and are well ahead of the same period last year, including after paying for all of the painting that has been done (see the financial summary). Also, Stewardship, with Anne Doty as Chair, will now serve as an independent unit and be more active throughout the year and not just at "Stewardship time".

Sunday Morning Study Opportunities for Adults and Children each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Larry Richardson Class, Room 208 Led by Jack Riley
This class is exploring Paul's letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians, drawing on William Barclay's commentaries.

Boomers and Beyond, Room 110 Led by Bill Kimrey
The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion
by Martin Thielen

Fellowship Class, Room 209 Led by John Eagan
Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton

Fidelis Class, Room 207
Led by Jennings Marshall; Shirley Childs
The Present Word: the Bible and its application for today

Children's Sunday School, Room 109
Elementary age children gather for fun and learning as we explore God's Word together.

SVPC Summary of Income and Expenses YTD through August, 2017

| Income | August YTD 2017 | Budget YTD 2017 | August YTD 2016 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| General Offerings | | | |
| General Offerings | 283,689 | 263,503 | 282,356 |
| Interest Revenue | 24 | 50 | 93 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 0 | 767 | 194 |
| Total Income | 283,713 | 264,320 | 282,643 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Personnel | 154,839 | 159,619 | 190,520 |
| Operating Expenses | 105,662 | 104,883 | 95,974 |
| Build, Bond, & Go Beyond | 9,661 | 24,047 | 9,397 |
| Session & Misc. & Pulp. Nom. Comm. | 298 | 67 | 0 |
| Total Expenses | 270,460 | 288,616 | 295,891 |
| Net Total | 13,253 | (24,296) | (13,247) |

NOTE: The Session approved a modest deficit budget at the Session meeting on March 19, 2017 and will work to balance it by the end of the year. However, so far we have a healthy surplus because of increased giving, and expenses are under budget, including all the painting that has been done.

Finance Committee: Anne Doty (Co-Chair), Ray McIntosh (Co-Chair), Jim O'Connor, Mary Wyatt Bowers, John Childers (Treasurer), and Henry McPherson

October 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|-----|
| <p>1 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p> | <p>2 10:00 a.m.—Rotary Club Set-Up/Meeting, F. Hall 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p> | <p>3 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Men's Bible Study</p> | <p>4 SPECIAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK (NO DINNER TONIGHT). See Thursday schedule.</p> | <p>5 3:30 p.m.—Property Mtg. 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p> | | |
| <p>8 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 9:30 a.m.—Personnel Mtg.</p> | <p>9 10:30 a.m.—Circle 2/3, 4 4:00 p.m.—Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.—Circle 7 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p> | <p>10 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 12:00 p.m.—Circle 5 5:00 p.m.—Handbells 5:00 p.m.—GBAC</p> | <p>11 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p>12 5:00 p.m.—Firehouse Shelter Meeting, F. Hall</p> | | |
| <p>15 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p> | <p>16 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p> | <p>17 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support 5:00 p.m.—Handbells</p> | <p>18 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p>19 10:00 a.m.—Berman Museum Trip. Please sign up.</p> | | |
| <p>22 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p> | <p>23 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p> | <p>24 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 5:00 p.m.—Handbells</p> | <p>25 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27 7 a.m.—Men's Breakfast and Bible Study</p> | |
| <p>29 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School</p> | <p>30 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg 6:30 p.m.—Handbells</p> | <p>31 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 5:00 p.m.—Handbells</p> | | | | |

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The deadline to submit articles for the NOVEMBER issue of the Response is Thursday, October 19 at 9 a.m. Articles received after the deadline will be held for the next newsletter or used in our weekly congregational emails.

OUR VISION

*Shades Valley Presbyterian Church exists through God's love to
BUILD a strong spiritual foundation,
BOND together in Christian fellowship,
GO BEYOND our walls to serve in Mission and bear Witness
to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ..*

THE SESSION

Moderator, Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

Class of 2017: Courtney Brown, Anne Doty, Jim Gray, Mark Nelson, Cindy Tarrant • Trustee: Ed Parrish

Class of 2018: Martha Ann Cooper, John Eagan, Jim Isaminger, Elaine Peavy, Jennifer Riggs • Trustee: Lydia Wilfong

Class of 2019: Mary Wyatt Bowers, Laura McDonald, Ray McIntosh, Dot Riley, Joe Rives • Trustee: Augusta Forbes

Armed Services: Lt. J.G. Erin Bischoff, Lt. Col. J.B. Marshall
Mission Co-Workers in Congo: Bob and Kristi Rice; John and Gwenda Fletcher
