



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • October 2016

Meet SVPC's Newest Adult Learning Instructors

By Judy Joy and Steve Whitney

Rev. Judy Joy and Rev. Steve Whitney will be teaching Adult Learning classes in November and December. Steve preached during the summer, and Steve and Judy are well known by the folks who were in the Crossways class, so we'd like to introduce Steve and Judy to all of you.

My husband **Ken** and I have been worshipping at SVPC since 2010 each year from November to May. The other half of the year we live on Cape Cod where our family gathers during the summer. We have three children and six grandchildren.



Judy Joy

I grew up in Needham, MA, a suburb of Boston. There I was confirmed in the Congregational Church and was married in 1966 in that same church. After graduate school Ken accepted a job in Menlo Park, and we drove across country in June of 1973. In the late '70s our neighbors invited us back

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Steve Whitney

I began worshipping at SVPC in 1994 after a spiritually difficult time. While studying electrical engineering at Stanford, I had an experience of God's call on my life. It seemed like something people wouldn't understand so I didn't do anything about it. Instead I ran away from it. Part of that running involved going to UCLA to get an M.S. in computer science. The best part was meeting my wife **Eleanor** in the UCLA choir.

In 1994, I was a software engineer and Eleanor and I were living in Sunnyvale. By

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Continued from cover, Judy Joy...

to church, and I became involved at Union Presbyterian Church in Los Altos in Bible study and women's groups; in the '80s I was a Bible Study Fellowship leader and was ordained as deacon and then elder at UPC. During that time I felt the call to ministry and began seminary at Fuller Extension in 1989. UPC affirmed my call and nurtured me throughout the process. Studying part-time meant six years in seminary ending with a year's internship at West Valley Presbyterian. I was ordained in 1997 to Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in San Jose. My responsibilities included sitting on the Music and Worship and Adult Ed committees, writing devotions for Lent, visiting, teaching regularly, and preaching occasionally. I am currently a retired member of San Jose Presbytery.

Ken and I chose SVPC because I am still committed to PC(USA) and Reformed worship and because I knew **Steve** and **Nancy Harrington** through Presbytery and by reputation. Ken wanted to be involved in choir, and SVPC music has exceeded his expectations. In 2011 during cancer treatment SVPC's prayer ministry was a source of comfort and encouragement. In 2014–2016 I was co-leader of the Crossways Bible study, a wonderful way to become active at SVPC and a blessing to work with **Maurice Sharp** and the **Rev. Steve Whitney**. Join me in November for a five-week study of the book of James.

Continued from cover, Steve Whitney...

then, I had convinced myself that God was done with me because of my stubbornness. Eleanor prayed for me, and I felt a renewed sense of God's love and grace. We joined SVPC soon afterward. We appreciated the preaching and warmth of the people here. Over the next few years, Eleanor and I joined the choir, I became a youth group advisor, and we attended the Crossways class. Around then, I was ready to consider God's call. After weeks of Wednesday-morning coffee with Associate Pastor **Steve Wilde**, I decided to become a pastor.

I earned my M.Div. degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2003, was ordained, and began eight years of roller-coaster, Holy Spirit-led ministry in West Sacramento. God did great things in that church—members' lives were transformed, new people came to love the Lord, teens found acceptance, children were loved, hungry people received food, and Latinos worshiped in Spanish. When I left there, I took an interim associate pastor position, but after that the next door didn't open. After much prayer, in 2014, I accepted a software development manager position at Amazon, and in 2015 we moved back to Sunnyvale. Now, Eleanor, our kids (**Johnny, Joshua** and **Lydia**) and I are back at SVPC. I'm looking forward to teaching and possibly preaching, and Eleanor's been working with kids. We hope to meet you on the journey! 🌿

The View From Here

by Rev. Debbie Whaley

The fall is one of my favorite times of year. The feasting festivities that surround Thanksgiving are always marked by time with family and friends. A delightful ritual in our family, and one shared by many of you, is the tradition of asking everyone to share something for which they are grateful. In that spirit, let me name a few things that bring joy to my heart this November.

- The Sunnyvale Presbyterian Community—In our short time together I have enjoyed our friendship as co-disciples on the journey of faith. I have learned to love more deeply, forgive more quickly, and serve more faithfully in this past year. What a gift each and everyone one of you is to me. Thank you!
- The Church Staff—This is one of the most good-hearted and gifted groups of people I

have ever worked with. Everyone from our maintenance staff to teachers and workers in our Outreach Groups to all the people who support our ministries with administrative support—all of them are amazing! The program staff

Youth Director (see related article). And a big shout-out to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who continue to work tirelessly and prayerfully in discerning who will be the next Head of Staff for our church. Let's continue to


“My heart is overflowing with love and hope as we celebrate God’s faithfulness to us as a community and nation this Thanksgiving.”

and session that guide our church vision and programs courageously model how to remain together in Christ even as we collaborate and honor our diverse points of view. Love, love, love our leaders.

- Our Search Committees—Many thanks to our Youth Director Search Team that has done a great job bringing us **Paul Scholz** as our new

be grateful in our prayers for them!

It is pure joy to be your Interim Pastor. My heart is overflowing with love and hope as we celebrate God’s faithfulness to us as a community and nation this Thanksgiving.

What are you thankful for? 

Blessings,

Debbie

November Calendar

A quick look at what's happening at SVPC this month...


November

- 1 Parent Support Group Coffee, 9:30-10:30 AM, Coleman Room
- 2 FLASH, 6-7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7-8:45 PM, Youth Room
James Adult Learning Class, 7:30-9 PM, Soulé Hall
- 4-6 Junior High Fall Frenzy, Mount Herman, youth@svpc.us
- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends—set clocks back
Food drive for those in our community served by Sunnyvale Community Services
The Mystery of the Incarnation Adult Learning Class, 11:30 AM, Soulé Hall
- 7 Deadline for December newsletter articles
- 9 FLASH, 6-7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7-8:45 PM, Youth Room
James Adult Learning Class, 7:30-9 PM, Soulé Hall
- 10 Spice (50+ singles) dinner, 6 PM, Country Gourmet
in Sunnyvale
Israel/Palestine film, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 13 Moment with Children, 10 AM and 5 PM
Glory Choir (3rd-6th) sings, 10 AM
SAGE luncheon, 11:20 AM, Fellowship Hall
The Mystery of the Incarnation Adult Learning Class,
11:30 AM, Soulé Hall
- 15 Parent Support Group Coffee, 9:30-10:30 AM,
Coleman Room
Balance for Living exercise classes resume,
8:30-9:45 AM, Gym
- 16 FLASH, 6-7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7-8:45 PM, Youth Room
James Adult Learning Class, 7:30-9 PM, Soulé Hall
- 20 Advent Wreath Making, after 10 AM and 5 PM
services, Gym
The Mystery of the Incarnation Adult Learning Class, 11:30 AM, Soulé Hall
- 24 Community Thanksgiving preparation and dinner, 9:30 AM-6 PM, Fellowship Hall



Where is that?

Coleman Room
(Bldg 700)
Fellowship Hall
(Bldg 300)
Fireside Room
(Bldg 200)
Gym, Phoenix Center
(Bldg 700)
Sanctuary (Bldg 100)
Soulé Hall (Room 501,
Bldg 500)
Youth Room, Phoenix
Center (Bldg 700)

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- 25–26 Church office closed
27 First Sunday of Advent
FLASH AM, 10–11 AM, Gym
Advent Community Dinner, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall
30 FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
James Adult Learning Class, 7:30–9 PM, Soulé Hall

December

- 2–4 Senior High Fall Frenzy, Mount Hermon, youth@svpc.us
4 Second Sunday of Advent
Food drive for those in our community served by Sunnyvale Community Services
Alternative gift options in Trinity Court, after all worship services
Advent Community Dinner, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall
Christmas Choir Concert & reception, 7 PM, Sanctuary
5 Deadline for January newsletter articles (yes, it's earlier than usual)
7 FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
James Adult Learning Class, 7:30–9 PM, Soulé Hall
10 Advent Retreat, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Fireside Room
11 Third Sunday of Advent
Soup & Sing, 11 AM, Gym
Advent Community Dinner, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall
14 FLASH, 6–7:45 PM, Gym
CLUE, 7–8:45 PM, Youth Room
16 FLASH/CLUE Movie Night (Star Wars), Century Cinema Mountain View,
youth@svpc.us
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Advent Community Dinner, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall
24 Saturday, Christmas Eve services at 5 PM, 7:30 PM, 11 PM
25 Sunday, Christmas Day—one service at 11 AM
26 Church office closed



Rooted in Christ...

Sunnyvale Presbyterian offers everyone an opportunity to connect with the church community.

Welcome Paul Scholz, Director of Youth Ministry!

SVPC Youth Ministry is excited to welcome **Paul Scholz** as our new Director of Youth Ministry. Paul's first day will be November 28. Paul has been working with students for 10 years, in the church and on school campuses. He began ministry with Youth for Christ and Campus Life going to schools at lunch to support clubs, hanging out with students, and volunteering at schools however needed. While doing this, Paul completed his BA in Bible and Theology at William Jessup University and his MA in Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. The most notable of his academic experiences was studying the book of Romans in Rome and the book of Corinthians in the Greek Islands. He is committed to leading through example, inviting teens from all spiritual journeys, challenging in discipleship, and to being humble to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Paul writes, "I am so excited to come on board at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church! I am committed to serving students in this important season in their life. My goal is to know each student as they have been uniquely created and gifted by God. I want to encourage them to become the person that God made them to be. **Jessica** and I are truly blessed and ready to serve this community."

Paul and Jessica have been married for 6 years and complete their family with their black cat named Shadi. They enjoy great food, great friends, and trips to Chicago!





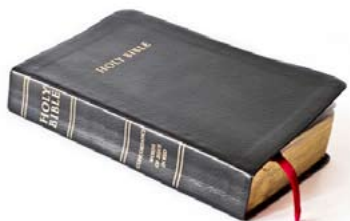
All-Church Family Advent Wreath Making Activity

Sunday, November 20, 11 AM and 6:15 PM,
Fellowship Hall

We will be making advent wreaths in the gym following the 10 AM and 5 PM services. Advent materials will also be available for you to take home to help your family prepare for the Advent season. We hope you'll join us for this fun way to start the season!



Eighteen Bibles Presented to Third Graders



On October 9, 18 third graders received Bibles in front of the congregation at the 10 AM and 5 PM services. What a joy to see the excitement they had as they paged through their brand

new Bibles. Several of our third graders were unable to be in attendance, so we will be sure that they receive their Bible from our church soon.

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, November 7 for the December edition, and Monday, December 5 for the January newsletter. Articles may be up to 120 words in length. Send your article to newsletter@svpc.us, and, if possible, include a photo with your article.

Go green!

Go Green! Consider joining the more than 400 individuals and families that now receive their newsletter electronically. The online edition arrives sooner, contains the same articles plus vivid full-color photos and live links, and can be easily shared with family and friends, all while helping reduce our carbon footprint! *Opt-in* by sending an e-mail to newsletter@svpc.us with your request. 

Mark your Calendars for these Annual Retreats at Presentation Center in Los Gatos

Men's Retreat
January 27–29, 2017

Women's Retreat
March 3–5, 2017

The men's weekend retreat is a chance to bond with one another and explore journeys of faith while stepping away from the stress and pressures of the valley. For questions contact **Scotty VanSickle** at mens_retreat@svpc.us.

The women's retreat is a time of refreshment and an opportunity for a reprieve from the demands of everyday life and to connect with the women of our church community. For questions contact **Julie Clinton** at womens_retreat@svpc.us.

Fall 2016 Adult Learning Programs

The Book of James

Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30, and December 7,
7:30–9 PM, Soulé Hall. Taught by the Rev. Judy Joy

The small book of James placed after the book of Hebrews and before 1 Peter in the New Testament letters is a fascinating book to study because of its many different elements. Martin Luther wanted to remove it from the canon of scripture because he believed it contradicted Paul's presentation of the gospel and the Reformed emphasis on faith alone. John Calvin accepted the book. Most contemporary commentators find it rich in wisdom for the Christian life today. The book of James is described as a letter, but it is not addressed to a specific church. The book has the flavor of wisdom literature in some of its succinct aphorisms and is also filled with imperatives telling us how to live and practice faith. In this class we will study James' message to discover how God is speaking to us today.





The Mystery of the Incarnation


Sundays, November 6–20, 11:30 AM, Soulé Hall.

Taught by the Rev. Steve Whitney

Angels and shepherds, Herod and the Wise Men, “In the beginning was the Word”—many of us know the Christmas Story well. And rightly so. The Incarnation may be the biggest miracle there is. In Jesus, God took on human flesh and lived with us. But have you ever wondered why the three Gospels that mention Jesus’ birth tell the story so differently? In this three-week class, we’ll look at the way Matthew, Luke, and John describe Jesus’ coming into the world. We’ll explore the struggles described in each Gospel and the Glory of God that each reveals. We’ll also look at what each author emphasizes, what it meant to the people of the time, and how each story holds together on its own and also works with the others to make a greater whole.

Going Deeper: Practices for Spiritual Growth (An Advent Retreat)

Saturday, December 10, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Fireside Room. Led by Jim Peterson and Judy Beggs

This half-day retreat will explore, through presentations and exercises, a few spiritual practices that can open one up to a deeper relationship with God. The retreat will provide opportunities for learning, personal reflection, and the chance to learn from one another’s experiences. The goal of the retreat is to have participants leave with a sense of the next step each wants to take on the path of deeper relationship with the divine, both personally and in community. 



Reaching Out In Love.

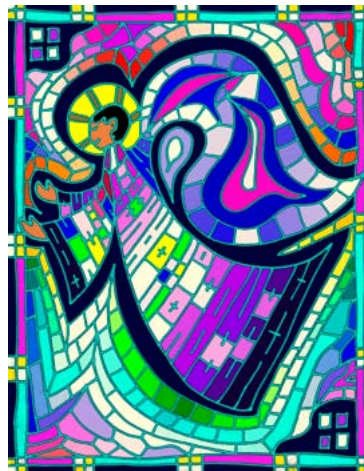
Christ commands us to love one another as He loves us. Here's how.

Christmas Choir Concert

December 4, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Invite your friends and family to share the joy of the Advent season. Plan to attend the festive, annual Christmas Concert presented by our Chancel Choir. Child care will be provided, and all are invited to a reception immediately following the concert. A free-will offering will be collected to help offset the concert costs.

The concert will feature Antonio Vivaldi's joyful *Gloria*, Kirke Mechem's exquisite *Seven Joys of Christmas* (seven carol settings), several beautiful pieces with harp, and the ever-popular carol sing-along. Soloists, orchestra, harp and organ will join the choir for this evening of glorious Christmas music.



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\$947k Income
-\$844k Expenses
<hr/>
\$103k Surplus

Financial Update through September

Tavie Armfield, Church Comptroller

We are halfway through our fiscal year, which began in April, and here's what our church finances look like so far. Many of you are giving beyond your financial commitment to the church and some have given earlier than usual. This is good news! On the expense side, we have had lower expenses than planned due in part to the open Youth Director position since June and other lower staff expenses. We are ever grateful for your faithfulness and generosity to this church. Thank you! 🌱

Fall Film Series

Thursday, November 10, Fellowship Hall, 7 PM
PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE!

The Occupation of the American Mind is for all who seek truth about Israel/Palestine. The filmmakers' research convinced them that the American people needed to know about the four-decade campaign to manage negative perceptions of Israeli human rights violations. Americans have a right and responsibility to make up their own minds about the conflict. See public relations and propaganda efforts, how they work and were developed, whose interests they serve, and why they were successful in shaping media coverage in the United States.



After the 85-minute film, there will be a panel for Q&A. Sponsors include the [Pilgrims of Ibillin](#), [South Bay Jewish Voice for Peace](#), and the Presbytery Peace & Justice Task Force. For more information, contact **Miriam Kishi** at miriamekishi@gmail.com.

Spice Dinner for 50+ Singles

November 10, 6 PM, Country Gourmet, Sunnyvale

Our 50s+ Singles Group, [Spice](#), will have a dinner at Country Gourmet in Sunnyvale on Thursday, November 10 at 6 PM. Come join us and enjoy a pleasant meal with the group. This is a wonderful way to make new friends and enjoy an evening out. For more information contact **Melanie Prolo** at 408-394-9311 or melanieprolo@gmail.com.

SAGE Luncheon

November 13, 11:20 AM,
Fellowship Hall

Inviting all SAGEs to lunch and a wonderful musical performance. The music will be solos and duets sung by **Kathleen Newby**, soprano, and **Greg Spear**, tenor, with our own **Valerie Sterk** on the piano. Kathleen has sung solos in church, at weddings and other services. Greg is an aspiring singer with Opera San Jose. The lunch will include homemade seasonal soups and cornbread. The cost is only \$5. Bring a friend!

Save the Dates!

Spice Dinner—Nov. 10
SAGE Luncheon—Nov. 13
Soup-n-Sing—Dec. 11
SAGE Luncheon—
Feb. 26, 2017
Congregational Meeting &
Lunch—March 19
SAGE Luncheon—May 21

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Hosts Rotating Shelter

We will be hosting the Faith In Action Rotating Shelter the month of November. There are opportunities to provide meals, shop, host and visit with our guests.

Guests of the Rotating Shelter sign a contract agreeing to seek or maintain employment, to remain clean and sober, to build up their financial reserves and work toward housing. The goal is to help our guests move into permanent housing by the end of their stay. Since re-opening the shelter in March of 2012, Faith In Action has sheltered more than 207 men and moved 108 of them into permanent housing situations.

This is a great group of guys and they are good company, so anyone, any age, including children and youth, can volunteer to help. Please use the Sign-Up Genius link to see how you can help, or contact **Cathey Edwards** at cody36@yahoo.com.

 www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aa9a72ea13-2016




2016 Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 24

Have you ever been to our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner? It is

an amazing way to celebrate Thanksgiving. For more than 20 years we have been celebrating together a day filled with cooking, decorating, hanging out watching football, and preparing and serving a meal that is a beautiful collaboration of love and good energy. Please come and bring your family and friends to “our house” for dinner this year and think about inviting someone who might be alone during the holidays.

We begin cooking on Thanksgiving morning at 9:30 AM and dinner is served from 4–6 PM. We will need a “village” of volunteers to cook, set-up, clean up, decorate, serve, provide music and share the bounty of our efforts at dinner. Consider expanding your “family” celebration this year and join us in sharing the collective spirit of thanks and gratitude for blessings that abound. Please check the webpage below for the Sign-Up Genius link for ways to help, or contact **Cathey Edwards** at cody36@yahoo.com.

 www.svpc.us/thanksgiving

“I am a part of all that I have met.” —Lord Tennyson

Alternative Gift Options

December 4

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for someone who has it all? Want your holiday giving to benefit others in our local or global community? SVPC Mission and Service Ministry team will present you with alternative gift options after all three services on December 4. Stop by our tables in Trinity Court to learn about [Alternative Gifts International](#) and the [Presbyterian Giving Catalog](#), order Fair Trade products, olive oil and soap from Palestine, or [Luci Lights](#) for the children of Gaza. There will also be opportunities to learn how you can support local community organizations. This event replaces the Alternative Gift Fair held in previous years (you will still be able to order directly from Alternative Gifts International via their catalog or [website](#)).



Christmas Eve Pageant is Happening Again

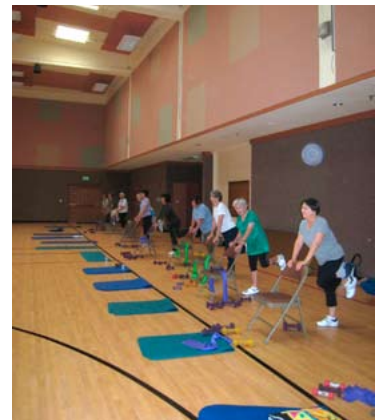
Children's Ministry is excited to start spreading the word about our 5 PM Christmas Eve service. Everyone (especially children) is invited to come to church that evening dressed as one of the characters from the Christmas story. Dress as Mary and bring your baby doll. Dress as a shepherd or an angel or an animal. Maybe a townspeople, Joseph, or a Wiseperson. (If you don't have a costume, we will have some in the entryway to choose from.) During the service, all will be invited to be a part of a Christmas Pageant. Our intention is to have this service be especially child-friendly and a great opportunity to invite grandkids, neighbors and friends. Questions? Contact [Carol Heath](#).

Jackie is Back—Time to Exercise!

Jackie Hirsch is grateful for the prayers and support of the church as she regains her strength after surgery. She is ready to begin Tuesday and Friday [Balance for Living](#) classes on November 15.

Plan to come from 8:30–9:45 AM to the Phoenix Center Gym for a good workout emphasizing muscle conditioning. Using a combination of dumbbells, yoga, and Pilates moves, participants strengthen all the muscles in their bodies. Abdominal and back strengthening, as well as stretches complete the workout. The cost is \$5 per session.

Jackie's goal is "keeping people functionally fit as they age." These are great classes for men and women of all ages.



Supporting Life's Garden Seniors

You can help Friends for Life, the organization which supports the residents of Life's Garden, the retirement community founded by our church. Friends for Life provides six activities each year to bring the community together for entertainment and fellowship.

Major events include a Christmas tea in December, an ice cream social in June, and a luau in September. Three additional Tuesday evening programs complete the year. If you could be on a volunteer list to be invited to help when you're able, please contact **Dorothy Funk** at 408-732-5354 or daf928@sbcglobal.net.

You can also be a member of Friends for Life by contacting **Charles Hopkins** at 408-252-8690 or charlesvhopkins9@aol.com.

Parent Support Group Coffee

First Tuesday of the
Month, 9:30–10:30 AM in
the Coleman Room

The Special Needs Ministry hosts a monthly coffee to offer a safe, enriching place for parents of children with special needs. Come learn about resources, share frustrations, ask questions, share joys and accomplishments or just listen about others' journeys. Those who wish to share or just simply listen are invited to attend. Join **Sara Grignon** and **Julie Clinton** at the next meeting on November 1. For questions, please contact Sara Grignon, Special Needs Coordinator at sara@svpc.us.



Knit/Crochet for Kids

Marilyn Kunz

Because of the generosity of our knitters and crocheters this year, we were able to distribute 90 beautiful sweaters and 4 infant caps. The infant caps and 65 sweaters were shipped to World Vision and 25 sweaters were sent to **Jonna** in Central Asia. We feel honored to have so many who share their time and talent with kids in need around the world. Each sweater will wrap a child with our love and keep them warm on many a cold day.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

For the loss of loved ones: **Elsa Amboy's** mother (**Juliana Bejarin Amboy**); **Robert Blair's** mother (**Barbara Blair**); **Bess Crowe's** brother (**Michael Cavallaro**); **Steve French's** aunt (**Jane Blaisdell**); **Carol Gielow's** husband (**David Gielow**); **Doris Harry's** sister (**Alnora Johnson Snedeker**); **Ken Kishi's** mother (**Yo Kishi**); **Kimberly Ptarcinski's** father-in-law

For cancer treatment: **Bob Meyers, Sally Morefield**

For recovery: **Ruth Smay**



In Celebration...

We celebrate the births of **Grace Margaret Matthews** to parents **Kristin** and **Ned Matthews**, brother **Connor** and sister **Sophia**, and **Isaac Anderson Prior** to parents **Tiffany Florvil** and **David Prior** and grandparents **Bill** and **Peg Prior**.

We also celebrate the 90th birthday of **Ann Coleman**.



Thank You...

Thank you to all of you who prayed for my son-in-law, **George Wooster**, at the time of his heart surgery in August. The surgery was successful, and in spite of other ongoing health issues, it has improved the quality of his life. Thank you for your expressions of concern for and interest in him and my daughter and their family. We are blessed to have such a caring church family.

—**Jackie Mattison**

Keep in touch!

E-mail—info@svpc.us

Like us on Facebook:

SVPC—facebook.com/SunnyvalePres

Youth—facebook.com/SVPCYFM

Children's—facebook.com/SVPCMWC

JAM—facebook.com/groups/JAMSunnyvale

The Table—facebook.com/TableSVPC





SUNNYVALE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Thanks for saving paper and postage by reading this online!

Save the Date!

Youth & Families
Winter Party

Sunday, January 8

6:15-8:00 p.m.