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**JUNE 2009**  
**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
**Goal - \$1000**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO  
305 N. California Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94302-4105

Address Correction Requested

**THE SPIRE**

*June 2009*

**MIXON MUSES**

“We have only this short life in which to prove our love.” This timely word is from Edel Quinn, who served as a Missionary of the Legion of Mary (1907-1944). It seems timely to me for a couple of reasons. One is that we, as a congregation, and I, personally, have experienced a number of losses recently that remind us that life is indeed short. Even 90 plus years is not so uncommon anymore as Anna Starr and Ernie Parodi showed us, but is it enough? Others die suddenly and tragically like my friends Dick Jones and Tom Bettger. This time we have on earth is brief and lovely and fragile.

I have always loved Emily’s speech from the graveyard in Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*. From beyond, in an ecstatic moment, she extols the richness of everyday life as she bids farewell: “Good-bye Grover’s Corners...Good-bye to clocks ticking...and Mama's sunflowers. And food and coffee. And new ironed dresses and hot baths... and sleeping and waking up. Oh, earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you!” Is it indeed so that this earth, with all its flaws and foibles, stresses and tragedies, is still more wonderful than we can ever realize in a lifetime? This brings me to another of my favorite quotations, from the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, who writes in her long poem, *Aurora Leigh*: “Earth's crammed with heaven,/And every common bush afire with God;/But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,/The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries...”

Life is brief and wonderful, fragile and amazing. With such a precious gift given to us by our God, should we not live to fill every moment of it with love? What is the antidote to enmity and war? Love. What is the cure for poverty and homelessness? Love. What is our very purpose for existence? To love. Even the old cynic, Sigmund Freud, recognized this when he said that humans are born “to love and work.” I think what Edel Quinn is suggesting above is that our work is to love.

I suppose this may sound fatuous to some of you. It must have sounded so to Jesus’ hearers when he summarized the law as love for God and love for neighbor. How can all those rules and regulations, standards and expectations, rituals and traditions be boiled down so succinctly? Besides, we don’t have the luxury of infinite time, at least not in this mortal form, to realize this ideal.

And yet the challenge to love truly and completely is before us. It is an enormous challenge. Indeed, it is a life's work. What if we got up every morning and asked ourselves, "How can I be more loving today? In what ways can I grow in love this day? Where will my capacity to love be most tested and, therefore, most needed?" I wonder how our lives would be different and what difference such daily reflection would make in the world.

"Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it?" Emily asks the Narrator. "No," he replies. "The saints and poets, maybe. They do some." Perhaps that is our calling, to be saints and poets, to carry to a needy world a message of love and the joyful wonder of life that God has given. We might have to let go of some our certainties and our anxieties; we might have to look at sharing our resources more equitably and even generously; we might have to re-define just who our neighbor is in order to include those very folk who are the most unlike us and therefore the most likely to become our enemy; we might need to risk freeing ourselves from defensive postures and opening our arms in hospitality to the whole amazing variety of God's creation.

"We have only this short life in which to prove our love." What a challenge and what a blessed opportunity is raised by this brief sentence! Mortality is something we face every day, whether we acknowledge it or not. It is for many a frightening underlay that shapes life's patterns and practices. Death inevitably comes. But, for those of us who follow the risen Christ, we have the option of another underlay, perhaps equally frightening in its power to transform, but ultimately enlivening and empowering in its affirmation of life: love. The time is now; the need is now; the possibilities are now; the call is now.

In the amazing everydayness of our lives, as well as in the ecstasy of mountain top experiences, open our eyes, O God, to see your love at work in the world all around. Help us to join joyfully in that work, moving always toward a fuller realization of the wonder at all you have made and given us in trust. In gratitude for the love and the work. Amen.

**words of  
WORSHIP**

**WORSHIP THEMES FOR JUNE 2009**

June	7	Mysterious Encounter	John 3:1-17
June	14	Flourshing	Mark 4:26-34
June	21	In the Boat Together	Mark 4:35-41
June	28	Healing Powers	Mark 5:21-43

**JUNE MISSION OUTREACH OFFERING**

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

Did you know? This offering began more than fifty-five years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. In March 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. A remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast, and more than 75,000 churches responded the next day.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing serves people in over 80 countries around the world. Sponsored by nine Christian U.S. denominations and Church World Service, One Great Hour of Sharing makes sure that we can respond to needs as soon as they happen and that tens of thousands of people receive support for ongoing relief, rehabilitation, and development.

The World Relief Committee of the American Baptist General Board reviews each development request for funding from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering received from American Baptists. Gifts reach the ministries and people in need through a network of regional and international partnerships with the following:

American Baptist International Ministries

American Baptists National Ministries

Baptist World Aid - the compassionate arm of the Baptist World Alliance, supporting three areas of ministry: relief, development, and support of national partners.

Church World Service - Founded in 1946, church World Service is a relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry supported by 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. Please give generously to our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. **Goal: \$1200**

**One Great Hour of Sharing  
Together We Make a World of Difference**



## TORTURE IS A MORAL ISSUE" PANEL & CONFERENCE - Palo Alto, June 26-27 -

The Santa Clara County Council of Churches joins with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Network for Spiritual Progressives, Amnesty International, No2Torture, California Council of Churches, and other organizations to present this powerful and important event. Special speakers for event are: **Ray McGovern** was a CIA analyst for 27 years. **Jean Maria Arrigo** PhD, is a social psychologist and independent scholar. **Ben Daniel** is the pastor of Foothill Presbyterian Church in San Jose. **David DeCosse** is Director of Campus Ethics Programs for the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. **Friday, June 26, 7:30pm**, First Presbyterian Church 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, 94301



Habitat Greater San Francisco has entered into a groundbreaking new partnership with the city of Menlo Park, which is investing an additional \$500,000 in the program. With this combined initial investment of \$1.0 million, Habitat plans to acquire and rehabilitate five vacant bank-owned properties in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, with a possible program expansion following the initial pilot phase.



Robbie Turner Habitat hopes to expand the program to

other areas hard-hit by the foreclosure crisis."I have seen first-hand the impact of foreclosures on Menlo Park and know that we must take immediate action to address the problem" said Heyward Robinson, Mayor of Menlo Park. FBCPA will be helping with this project on **August 1, 2009**.

This is the actual house First Baptist will be helping to restore in Menlo Park when we volunteer on **Saturday, August, 1, 2009**.

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### FaithZone in June

**FaithZone** will be celebrating their last weekly session on **June 4 at 4:00 p.m.**

#### **FaithZone – Day in the City (SF)**

FaithZone will be taking a day trip to San Francisco. **Saturday, June 13, 8am – 5pm**  
There is no charge and we will be going to the Exploratorium. RSVP Mike soon.



Top Row: Daniel & Clara Ramirez  
Lower: Daniel Ha, Omar & Oscar Ramirez

#### **Daniel Ha and the Ramirez' Clan at Sunday School**



## SENIOR CHATS

Senior Chat provides excellent presenters on a variety of topics relating to health and well being. Learning is a lifelong opportunity and we seek to gain new information on the second and fourth Fridays, as we meet at the Fireside Room of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 670 East Meadow Dr., Palo Alto. Our sessions are from 10:00 - 11:30. Please join us - new members are welcome. For more information, call Rev. Dona Smith-Powers, 650-494-3093

**June 12** - "Identity Theft and Scams" We will have Bill Bauriedel with us to share on the topic. Bill has been in the field of Information Security for Stanford for 33 years and has studied our topic extensively. We all need to know the basics on protecting ourselves, in a world where our resources are increasingly at risk. Elders are particularly vulnerable.

**June 26** - "Tai Chi and Balance" Winslow Rouse, a Senior Care Manager, will share his expertise on this subject, also giving us some clues on "how to fall" if that is about to happen. Many of us, when we have a balance issue, have fallen and broken a wrist or leg bone and there are proven ways to help to prevent the event and to minimize the impact.

"There's  
fire in the  
ashes and  
good

things  
happening  
everywhere

There are  
reserves of  
life and  
strength



in us that we never imagine are there until we absolutely need them." *Jerry Smith, a Capuchin friar who runs two soup kitchens in Detroit that serve 2,000 meals a day.*

Activities of the Mission were discussed. Carolyn needs help with managing the Moments for Mission discussion in the service. Over \$1100 was collected for the proposed soccer field in the Gaza. A group visit to Nicaragua is in the tentative planning stages.

Lois Ville, new chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee, consisting of Lois, Jane Chin, Charlie Clark, Elizabeth Pipkin, and Lionel Kirton (ex-officio), described discussions, noting the various concerns within the congregation and those of the pastor. She said that the committee will provide feedback for requests or other inputs. Charlie Clark expressed concern about the status and duties of the committee considering that the committee is not always operating per the existing church constitution. Discussion indicated that revisions to the constitution are contemplated, but should be based on experience now accumulating under the current streamlined governance scheme. While the situation is confused now, it should be clarified later in the year.

Rick fielded discussion about his own activities. He noted that concern about worship involve a very diverse range of opinions, sometimes strongly held. Rick asked people to visit him and to talk to him about their feelings, expressing them directly.

Rick then closed the meeting with a short prayer.

Hugh Satterlee  
Clerk

**SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING LETTER CAMPAIGN** Join us in collecting letters to President Obama urging him to end America's affordable housing and homelessness crisis by building public housing, increasing section 8 vouchers, funding the National Housing Trust Fund, and stopping foreclosures. The "Letters to Obama" campaign has collected over 900 letters with stories and photos. Visit their blog to read the letters. Everyone who believes in ending homelessness is encouraged to participate. Photos and personal stories make the message most effective. Council of Churches of Santa Clara County - <http://www.councilofchurches-scc.org> 1710 Moorpark Avenue - San Jose - CA 95128 - (408) 297-2660 Co-Executive Directors: Rev. Margo Tenold and Rev. Dr. Diana Gibson

**FBCPA**  
would like to sponsor a group  
trip to see these treasures.  
Contact the office for details.



**de Young Museum San Francisco** June 27, 2009–March 28, 2010

## ***HOMECOMING SUNDAY***

September 13, 2009  
Special Music, Special Guest,  
Great Memories!

**“So powerful is the  
light of unity that it  
can illuminate  
the whole earth.”**

*“Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as sisters and brothers, be compassionate and humble.” I Peter 3:8*

## **THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**SUNDAY JUNE 7**, we welcome to the pulpit our **Stina Miller**. Stina grew up in this church and now serves as a chaplain at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City. It will be treat to have Stina preach for us and serve at the table. It is also a Sunday we will feature our choir as we wind down the choir’s season. We will be singing two wonderful anthems. Bring yourself and bring a neighbor friend or loved one.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** meets in the Parlor on **Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM**. We study the lectionary texts for the following Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join us for this lively exploration of biblical texts.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST, Wednesday, June 3 and 17, 8 AM**, at Dinah’s Poolside Restaurant, 4261 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. All the men from our Church family are welcome.

The **ADULT CHOIR** will meet **Thursday evening June 4, at 7:30 PM** in the Parlor for their last rehearsal of the season.



**JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**OLD**  
**FASHIONED**  
**PICNIC**  
**11:30 A.M.**  
**TO**  
**3:00 P.M.**



**Four in One Jump – Lawn Games  
Pop Corn, Snow Cones, Hot Dogs**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes**  
**May 3, 2009**

At the request of the Moderator, Lionel Kirton, and after a light lunch prepared by Mary Granholm, the Pastor, Rick Mixon opened the meeting with a short prayer at 11:35 AM.

Lois Ville moved and Jane Chin seconded that the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting be approved. This was approved by a voice vote.

Jane Chin reviewed the Financial Report, noting that the church's investment portfolio has dropped 6% since the first of the year, and that the total drop is 38%. She invited attention to the fact that the current budget, approved by the Council, is over \$12,500 smaller than the budget approved in the annual meeting. The main savings stem from adding the duties of Director of Education and Family Life to Mike McGuire's duties as Church Administrator. The added \$10,000 in salary is less than had been previously budgeted for hiring another Director of Education and Family Life.

Jane also noted that requests made at the Annual Meeting were honored to list individual salaries in the budget.

Lionel reviewed the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Town Hall. He noted that the congregation voted: (1) not to cease operation as a church, (2) continue to partner and cooperate with other churches in worthwhile projects where more people available will improve results, and (3) pursue activities leading to a better appreciation of our church by neighbors, and thus a hope for growth.

He then led a discussion of the report of the survey of responses to discussions at the Town Hall. Results are published in the report of a Council committee (Kathy Gillam, Marilyn Hunwick, and Hugh Satterlee). Principal results point to a need for significant discussion to arrive at a satisfactory consensus about the design of our worship services. One possibility is to engage a consultant to gauge the diversity of opinions and suggest changes.

Rick, in Nana Spiridon's absence, reported for the Outreach Team which has met three times recently. He described three activities: (1) a 5<sup>th</sup> of July party in front of the church with a jumper and a barbeque picnic to benefit the neighborhood, (2) a Habitat for Humanity workday on August 1<sup>st</sup> in cooperation with other churches, and (3) a homecoming celebration on the Sunday after Labor Day...Stay tuned.

Rick also reported for Mike, absent visiting his mother and family, noting the start of the second round of Faith Zone, a recent "lock-in" in the newly redecorated dressing room above the choir room, and a recent bowling party. Faith Zone will visit the Exploratorium in San Francisco on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Elizabeth Ramirez is now leading nursery activities on Sunday mornings.

**AMERICAN BAPTIST NEWS**

**REV. VICTOR MERCADO DIES**

Rev. Víctor Mercado, long-time American Baptist pastor and leader, died April 27, 2009. In 1975 he joined International Ministries as area director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in 1984, became associate director of the Overseas Division. Mercado focused on training leaders and was passionate about a holistic approach to evangelism, including prophetic and justice concerns. In 1992, Mercado received the Arturo Parajon Order award, and many other honors and commendations. Reid Trulson, ex. director of IM, said, "Victor was a wonderful inspiration. His strong voice for justice was both powerful and prophetic. He leaves a rich legacy of faith and leadership in the Am.< /font> Baptist Churches, and his work will continue to bless International Ministries and our partners for years to come."

**NEWS FROM BALASORE TECHNICAL SCHOOL, ORISSA, INDIA**

The 30 students from Kandhamal who were given complete scholarships to BTS are doing well but some of their parents remain in govt. relief camps following the communal violence. However, with new elections and a new majority party, there is hope for an end to the violence, says Ramesh Kumar who sends his thanks for prayers on their behalf. The new hostel, to which FBCPA contributed, will be ready for occupancy in June.

**NANA'S REPORT ON THE CHETTIS' AND THE BAPTIST SEMINARY in Beirut**

The seminary is very well equipped with meeting rooms and classrooms. One room in particular had earphones that would transmit to the person of a certain country in native speech translated on the spot. It reminded me of the United Nations meeting hall but of course in miniature. The seminary contains around 35 guest rooms where guests can stay for a minimum charge. They were getting ready for a big conference that is being held now ( I think). I met the new head of the seminary. He is Lebanese and was Dan's student. He got his doctorate in England. I met a few of the other staff members as well. I was very impressed by the library! The seminary is around 73 acres large! In the recent past, they acquired the land in front of the building. ( Hezbollah was planning on purchasing it to establish a radio station. When they knew of the plan, they were able to gather enough money to buy the land). The land is vacant and gives them a clear view of the distant area with no disturbance from anybody.

Dan mentioned a few times that they have very good relations with the different religious groups and do meet with them and have established positive rapport and continuous communications. According to Dan, he preaches each Sunday at a small church behind the AUB ( American University of Beirut). He lives, though, in the Seminary. He is planning on visiting Oregon this summer. He would like to be able to visit our church during his visit to the States.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday* this month to:

Dorothy Aker	June 4	Marcia Heydon	June 17
Ann Hillier	June 4	Relda Poffenroth	June 18
Dona Smith Powers	June 5	Bob Towner	June 25
Kathryn Gillam	June 8	Thelma Tuttle	June 28
David Shi	June 16		



## FBCPA LIBRARY

**Books for Everyone!**



## UP AND COMING EVENTS

**BPFNA SUMMER CONFERENCE 2009** Our 2009 Summer Conference is being built around the theme "When There Is Justice, Then Peace Will Come". The **July 20-25** gathering at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, is part of BPFNA's 25th Anniversary celebration. Affectionately known as "Peace Camp", our conference regularly inspires attendees with a new vision for the work of peace and equips them with new skills with which to do that work. Ken Sehested, Rita Nakashima Brock, Paul Dekar and Kate Campbell are just a few of the outstanding leaders scheduled for the week

**DAN BUTTRY, IM GLOBAL PEACE ADVOCIATE AND MISSIONARY** who traveled to Orissa twice in 2008 to encourage and provide training in nonviolence and trauma recovery for Christians victimized by Hindu militants, had to cancel his plans to return to Orissa in June due surgery for prostate cancer.

**AT THE ABCUSA BIENNIAL IN PASADENA, June 26-28**, along with music, speakers, and workshops, one important item of business will be conducted – a vote on by-law changes. The ABC General Board and the General Executive Council have worked hard for three years to bring changes. The large “overlapping/ interlocking” General Board (whose members also are members of the national program boards) will be disbanded. A new smaller Board of General Ministries will oversee the Office of the General Secretary and its budget, see that our common ministry and identity are attended to, and carry out the tasks of the Mission Summit and Mission Table. Each Region will have a representative and for Evergreen, this will be Rev. Perla Belo. The Boards of National Ministries and International Ministries will also have smaller boards, in an attempt to economize and work in new ways. (Excerpts from “Biennial Corner” in Evergreen’s newsletter, by Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton.) A.Roy Medley, Gen. Secretary of ABC, writes“ ...we believe the proposed structure does provide us the best way forward and maximizes our opportunities for fidelity to our New Testament charter, for growth and for strength , as movement/denomination we pursue our focus statement...:**American Baptist Churches are “HEALTHY MISSIONAL CHURCHES THAT NURTURE DEVOTED DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO LIVE THEIR LIVES IN MISSION AND MINISTRY FOR THE HEALING OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE LOVE OF GOD.”**(From American Baptist Quarterly, Winter 2008, from “My Position and Perspective”, A. Roy Medley) by, Lynn Hunwick, FBCPA representative to Evergreen Region

**THE COUNCIL OF BAPTIST CHURCHES IN NORTH EAST INDIA (CBCNEI)** recently reported that they are closing in on the one-million-baptized-member mark. That’s comparable to the approximately 1.4 million American Baptists in the entire U.S. today but situated in a geographic area the size of New England. The annual meeting was hosted by the Manipur Baptist Convention.

# JUNE 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1.9am Walking Group</b> <b>1:00 pm Church Council</b> <b>6:00 pm Macro</b>	<b>2.10:30 am Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 pm Kara</b> <b>7:00 pm Tues Tango</b>	<b>3.8:00 am Men's Breakfast</b> <b>5:00 pm Kara</b>	<b>4.4:00 pm FaithZone</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir rehearsal</b>	<b>5.9:00 am Walking Group</b>	<b>6. Ernie Parodi Memorial</b>
<b>7.10:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School.</b> <b>3:30 pm -Jerusalem Church</b>	<b>8. 9:00 am Walking Group</b> <b>6:00 pm Macro</b> <b>6:30 pm Kara</b>	<b>9. 10:30 am Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 pm Kara</b> <b>7:00 pm Tues Tango</b>	<b>10. 5:00 pm Kara</b>	<b>11.</b>	<b>12. 9:00 am Walking Group</b> <b>10:00 am Senior Chat</b>	<b>13. 8:00 am FaithZone Day Trip to San Francisco.</b>
<b>14. 10:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School.</b> <b>Pastor's Retreat in Guerneville</b>	<b>15. 9:00 am Walking Group</b> <b>6:00 pm Macro</b> <b>Pastor's Retreat in Guerneville</b>	<b>16. 10:30 am Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 pm Kara</b> <b>7:00 pm Tues Tango</b> <b>7:00 pm Huntington Group</b>	<b>17. 8:00 am Men's Breakfast</b> <b>5:00 pm Kara</b>	<b>18.</b>	<b>19. 9:00 am Walking Group</b>	<b>20.</b>
<b>21. 10:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School.</b> <b>3:30 pm- Jerusalem Church</b>	<b>22.9:00 am Walking Group</b> <b>6:00 pm Macro</b>	<b>23. 10:30 am Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 pm Kara</b>	<b>24. 5:00 pm Kara</b>	<b>25.</b>	<b>26. 9:00 am Walking Group</b> <b>10:00 am Senior Chat</b> <b>ABC Biennial in</b>	<b>27. ABC Biennial in Pasadena Ca</b>
<b>28.10:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School.</b> <b>ABC Biennial in Pasadena Ca</b>	<b>29. 9:00 am Walking Group</b> <b>6:00 pm Macro</b>	<b>30. 8:00 am Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 pm Kara</b> <b>7:00 pm Tuesday Tango</b>				