

# September 2011

# Steeple Talk

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Santa Cruz



## Ready, Rock Steady

*I'm ready, rock steady.*

*I know the Lord is with me.*

*I'm ready, rock steady.*

*By faith in God I believe.*

*Wait for the Lord.*

*I'll wait for the Lord.*

*Here I am – I'm ready!*



As I write this article the Trinity community has just completed hosting our second annual Vacation Bible Camp. What a joyous week it was! This year 21 children (almost twice as many as last year!) came to Trinity for a week of fun and growing in faith together. Each afternoon the fellowship hall was transformed into the Shake It Up Café as we explored God's recipes for life in faith. The children played games, created crafts items, shared snacks and heard Bible stories brought to life by members of our congregation.

One of the highlights of our week together was the music. We began and ended each day with singing and dancing. We sang old favorites like *"This little light of mine"* and *"I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy . . . down in my heart."* And then there were new favorites like, *"Where do I go when I need some shelter?"* and *"Give it away"*. Camp songs are not usually known for their complexity or depth, but they do have a way of lodging in our hearts and minds, ready to come to the forefront when we need them most. Each child took home a CD of the camp songs and I understand the songs are being played morning, noon and night in some households.

One song from this year's camp that has been coming to the forefront of my heart and mind with great regularity the last few days is "I'm Ready", the song I quoted at the beginning of this article. It just seems to fit so well our life together here at Trinity as we begin the fall season. Fall is often a time when we say 'I'm Ready' to the calls we hear from God to share life and faith. With renewed energy we begin new programs at the church and resume those that rested during the summer. This issue of the Steeple Talk is full of announcements that bear witness to this. We at Trinity certainly seem to be saying 'I'm Ready!' It is exciting to imagine where our 'I'm readies' will take us this fall, as individuals and as a community of faith. I look forward to the journey.

In Faith,

Evie

P.S. Take a look at some of the photos from camp on page 5 of the Steeple Talk. Thank you to Sunshine Duffus for her photography.

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## Meetings:

- Mission Committee**, September 1, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room
- Fellowship Committee**, September 7, 6:30 pm, Fireside Room
- Administration Committee**, September 14, 4:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Session**, September 15, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room
- Deacons**, September 18, following worship, Fireside Room
- Outreach Committee Meeting**, September 4, following worship, Fireside Room
- Spiritual Enrichment Committee**, TBA
- Stewardship Committee**, TBA

## Dates to Remember:

- Thursday Bible Study**, September 1, 1:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- Boutique Workshop**, First & Third Tuesday of the month, 9:30 a.m.—12 noon, Youth Room
- Sweet Pea**, September 10, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Youth Room
- Evie Macway Installation**, September 11, 2:00 pm, Sanctuary
- Pupusa Luncheon**, September 18, following worship
- Book Club**, September 26, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon**, September 27, 12 noon, Fellowship Hall

### Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Foodies had a good summer providing lunches and snacks for the Presbytery meeting in June, followed by the brunch for grads and dads. Everyone enjoyed the hot dog/hamburger BBQ with the array of side-dishes in July. We assisted Paul's daughter Marian with plans for a birthday party for Paul. You'll find us in the kitchen again following Evie's installation on September 11.

We continue to urge people to lead hikes. They're good for the body and good for the spirit!

### Session

The August 18th Session Meeting took place in the Fireside Room at 5:30 p.m. Moderator, Evie Macway, opened the meeting with prayer. For the Time of Reflection, Frank Miller gave a presentation on peacemaking and conflict resolution.

Church activities and events we can look forward to include:

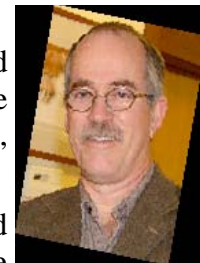
- Service of Installation for Evie Macway, September 11, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary.
- Pupusa lunch, whose proceeds go towards the El Salvador Project, September 18th.
- Bob Hope Lecture on October 8. Jim Burklo speaking. His lecture title: "The Bible and the Brain: Experiencing Christian Scriptures through the Insights of Cognitive Science"
- Bridges to Other Communities Series resumes October 9th.

### Deacons

Keep your eyes open in September for the Deacons' new fundraiser project - which could overlap with the Mission Committee as an outreach/eye opener project. We will be selling very useful, very nice, bright blue Tote Bags complete with Trinity's logo in white. Please buy one or two and use them for your grocery or any other kind of shopping and any time you are lugging stuff around. Maybe someone will notice the Trinity logo and be moved to come to church! (That's one of the ideas behind this - another is just to help us all be more conscious of using our own bags for shopping). They will be \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. If you write a check for them please make it to the Deacons' Fund. Happy shopping!

### Bob Hope Lecture

Trinity's Mission Committee is pleased to announce the Inaugural Bob Hope Lecture, scheduled for Saturday, October 8th, at 7:00 p.m.



The Inaugural lecture will be presented by the Reverend Jim Burklo, Associate Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California. Jim is originally from the Santa Cruz area and is a good friend of several of our members. Jim's intriguing topic is, "The Bible and The Brain; Experiencing Christian Scriptures Through the Insights of Cognitive Science."

During the 2010 Stewardship Drive the congregation expressed a desire to begin a lecture series to bring to Trinity outside speakers and share these events with our greater Santa Cruz Community. A sub-committee of the Mission committee was assembled and has met several times to plan the first event. It is fitting to name the lecture series after the late Bob Hope, a beloved long time Trinity member known for his deep Christian beliefs as well as his continuous quest for spiritual knowledge and insight.

We hope this lecture will kick off a successful annual event through which Trinity is able to welcome and interact with interested members of the greater Santa Cruz community. With this in mind it will be important to have good attendance from our congregation, so please . . . Save the October 8th date!

As an added benefit, Jim has graciously agreed to be the guest preacher at Trinity on Sunday, October 9th, which provides another special opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join us in worship.

### Santa Cruz al Salvador Pupusa Luncheon

The Third Annual Santa Cruz al Salvador fundraising Pupusa Luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 18th. Please plan to stay after the worship service for a taste of El Salvador, prepared by our Salvadorian friends and members of the delegation, who will be returning to El Salvador in November. Funds raised will go toward medical supplies and scholarships for the Guillermo Ungo school community. Please invite some friends or neighbors to come enjoy the lunch and pictures of past trips.

## Things That Make Us Happy



- To have Fatima Molina Miranda visit Trinity Presbyterian Church last month. Fatima is a resident of Guillermo Ungo, El Salvador, one of the communities our Santa Cruz al Salvador delegation visits each year. Fatima came to visit Weston Gomez and his family and participated in worship with us two Sundays in August.
- To see all the happy campers and workers at Vacation Bible Camp last month. It was a joyful week of camp with 21 campers and 25 volunteers taking part!
- To hear that Meghan Collins began college life at Chico State last month. Congratulations and blessings to Meghan as she begins her new life.
- To hear that Iris Hanson celebrated her 90th birthday with a wonderful party thrown by her daughters. Iris' birthday was August 4.

## New Address

Meghan Collins has a new address. Contact the church office.

## Book Club

The Book Club will meet in September on the 4th Monday evening of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside. They will be discussing the book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot.

## Church Membership Exploration Class

A new church membership Exploration class will be forming this fall. If you are interested in learning more about Trinity Presbyterian Church or are considering joining the church, please speak to Evie or contact her by email at [trinitypastor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trinitypastor@sbcglobal.net) or phone the church office at (831) 423-8995.

## Choir Note

Joseph and the choir will be returning to provide musical leadership for our worship services beginning September 4. We look forward to having their leadership once again. If you have not been in the choir and would like to join or try it out, now would be a great time. The choir meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for rehearsal. No try outs—just a joy of singing required!

## Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon Resumes

Senior Citizens Legal Services will provide an interesting program for our September 27th Senior Luncheon at 12 noon. Please invite a friend and come join us for good food, music, informative program, and fine fellowship.

## Peacemaking Offering

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the PC(USA)'s General Assembly.

Most churches receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 2.

Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

## Ecumenical Taize service in Santa Cruz

Members of Trinity are invited to come and be a part of a new ecumenical evensong service of song, chant, prayer, and praise in the manner of Taizé. Beginning on Sunday August 21 and continuing every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Calvary Episcopal Church (532 Center Street at Lincoln, in downtown Santa Cruz) people from many local congregations will come together for joyful contemplative worship. Mark your calendar – and if you'd like to join a small chorale to help lead the singing, contact Jim Weller via e-mail at [jweller@cruzio.com](mailto:jweller@cruzio.com).)

## Service of Installation for Evie Macway

Sunday, September 11, at 2:00 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church will host a service of installation for Evie Macway. At this time Evie will officially become the next installed pastor at Trinity. Please plan to come and be a part of this special service in our life together. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

## Donations Needed for Homeless Center

Due to budget cuts the Homeless Center is in need of donations more than ever! The following items are needed: *clean clothing (especially men's clothing), blankets, sleeping bags, nonperishable food items, and toiletry items.* They can be brought directly to 115 Coral St. or to the church.

Also, Trinity provides help in serving lunch at the Rebele family center every Tuesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. If you would like to help with this service contact Charlie May via the church office.

## Minutes for Mission

The Mission Committee is now scheduling Minute for Mission speakers for the next months and wants to include you! If you are associated with an organization that provides a service or resource to the community, please consider bringing in a speaker to tell us about the organization's work. We think it will be an opportunity for us to learn about Santa Cruz organizations, to provide inspiration for volunteer opportunities, and to learn more about each other.

Leave a message for Nancy Abbey at the church office for more information or to schedule a speaker.

## Bridges To Other Communities This Fall

We'll start this year's series of "Bridges to Other Communities" on Sunday, October 9. Our guests will be people recently released from a Santa Cruz jail or prison and their mentors from Friends Outside. The panel will meet with us in the Fireside Room from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to share their stories and discuss the problems they face reentering society after incarceration.

Friends Outside has recently initiated a new program matching recently released 18-25 year old men with mentors. This is part of a recidivism reduction project funded by Santa Cruz County Probation Department that will provide funding for sober living environments, substance abuse treatment, job training, education, and family reconciliation groups.

### Year to Date Finance Report

January through July	
Total Income	\$137,498.00
Total Expense	126,664.00
Net Income	10,834.00



## Exploring the Sacred in Poetry and Prose

Since the first Sunday in July we have been having 9:00 a.m. breakfast and discussion sessions in the Fireside Room. These were billed as "Adult Sunday School" in the worship bulletins, and though that might have been off-putting to some, attendance has been consistently good. We have learned a lot, had lively discussions, good fresh bread and pastries, fruit, coffee and a generally good time. In fact, with the resumption of choir in September, those of us who sing will miss these gatherings. As for those who do not, perhaps there could be a way to keep something of the sort going.

Our subject matter has rotated through four specific areas of study: Psalms, poetry, the Parables and stories. At the second Psalms session we heard, and felt, the depth of this great human expression as a cantor friend sang parts of the traditional Jewish liturgy for us. At sessions on poetry we learned about how Robert Frost saw his art and how the element of surprise plays an essential role. "No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise for the writer, no surprise for the reader. For me the initial delight is in the surprise of remembering something I didn't know I knew," he tells us.

In fact *surprise* turned out to be a theme that relates all of what we have been experiencing. Whether in poetry or prose, biblical or secular literature, there can be a shock of recognition, an "aha" that comes when something that has been read or heard many times is suddenly seen from a new perspective or in a new light. That experience, to say nothing of the good food and fellowship, has made these Sunday mornings special events.—Juanita and Paul

### Trinity Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### September Birthdays      September Anniversaries

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 Dave Macway              | 3 Mark & Beth Hooley  |
| 9 Meghan Collins           | 9 Frank & Kate Miller |
| 19 Patti Maraldo           |                       |
| 23 Jerry FitzGerald        |                       |
| 27 Bob Scott, Ellen Towner |                       |



If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed please email [trinitysc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trinitysc@sbcglobal.net) or call the church office at (831) 423-8995.



# September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> Mission Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS	<i>2</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> Worship 10:30 am <b>Outreach Committee Meeting</b> , following the service AA, 8-9 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>5</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>6</i> Boutique, 9:30 am—12 noon, YR AA 5:00 pm, FH Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>7</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library <b>Fellowship Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, FS</b>	<i>8</i> Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS	<i>9</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>10</i> Sweet Pea, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Youth Room
<i>11</i> Worship Service 10:30 am Installation Service, 2:00 pm, Sanctuary AA, 8-9 pm, FH	<i>12</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>13</i> AA 5:00 pm, FH Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>14</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library <b>Administration Committee Meeting</b> , 4:00 pm, Fireside Room	<i>15</i> Cub Scouts Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS <b>Session Meeting</b> , 5:30 pm, Fireside Room	<i>16</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> Worship 10:30 am <b>Deacon's Meeting</b> , 11:45 am, FS Pupusa Luncheon following worship AA, 8-9 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>19</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>20</i> AA 5:00 pm, FH Boutique, 9:30 am—12 noon, YR Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>21</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Neuropathy Group, 1:00-2:30 pm, Fireside Room	<i>22</i> Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS	<i>23</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>24</i> SJ Presbytery Meeting, 9:00 am, West Valley Presbyterian Church, Cupertino
<i>25</i> Worship 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, FH	<i>26</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30-9:00 pm Youth Room Book Club, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room	<i>27</i> AA 5:00 pm, FH Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon, 12 noon, Fellowship Hall	<i>28</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Ombudsman, 12 noon -2:30 pm, Fireside Room	<i>29</i> Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS	<i>30</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	
					<b>Room Key:</b> FS Fireside FH Fellowship Hall L Library YR Youth Room	

## The Non-Prophet Corner

Rev. Darrell Yeane—Parish Associate

### “Comforting the Disturbed and Disturbing”

The title of this article is drawn from a frequently quoted bit of homiletical advice for pastors. The sermon, it is said, should contain elements that will comfort those in the congregation who are upset or disturbed about personal matters, and at the same time it should stir up those who are so comfortably set in their ways that they ignore the challenges of the gospel message. Of course, the former task is much easier and safer to achieve than the latter, both in a sermon and in the daily practice of Christian living.

Speaking sympathetic words and doing helpful deeds in support of those among us who are experiencing pain and suffering such as the loss of family members, financial need or physical pain is a very important ministry. The members of Trinity Church are quite good at carrying out this aspect of Christ’s ministry both within the church and outside it. Many examples could be given including the pastoral work of our minister and our Deacons.

However, disturbing the comfortable from our complacency to confront injustice and self centeredness - what the church used to call “sin” - is another matter that is much more delicate and difficult requiring a skilled combination of truth-telling, compassion and humility.

Recently, the Peace and Justice Task Force of the Presbytery of San Jose has offered some assistance in this task by sending to pastors, who request it, a “Lectionary of Peace and Justice Issues” that tries to apply some of the ethical insights of the assigned Biblical texts to some of the major social, political and economic issues of our nation and world.

A recent issue of this social justice lectionary has drawn our attention to the crisis of the growing inequality in our American society and its link to the

Biblical portrayal of jealousy and the lust for power in the Old Testament texts that describe Joseph’s brothers dropping him into a pit and then selling him to slave traders who in turn sold him as a slave in Egypt. God’s later vindication of Joseph is, of course, intended to inspire hope to God’s faithful in the midst of dire human circumstances. But that does not clear the brothers of their sin nor excuse God’s people from responsibility.

So it is that today we Christians find ourselves citizens of a society where, according to a new Pew Foundation study, the median wealth of Hispanics has declined 66 percent. Asian immigrants’ wealth has declined 54 percent, and African-Americans are down 53 percent. White decline during the same recession period (2005-2009) is down only 16 percent. As a result of these declines, the typical black household had just \$5,677 in wealth (assets minus debts) in 2009; the typical Hispanic household had \$6,325 in wealth; and the typical white household had \$113,149.

The Task Force report concludes “We encourage pastors to help their congregations understand what is happening and raise their voices in the public square of our civic conversation. The details of the shocking Pew survey sound an alarm about growing national and global disaster.”

We at Trinity are fortunate in that our pastor does just that with a skillful combination of truth-telling, compassion and humility. Hopefully, we who are well off and comfortable, will – with God’s help - rise to meet the challenges of our time.

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
420 Melrose Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Phone: 831-423-8995  
Email: [trinitysc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trinitysc@sbcglobal.net)



If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send us an email or give us a call. Thank you!

## Sunday Saints



### Sign Up

If you have an abundance of flowers in your yard, or just like arranging flowers, consider signing up to provide an arrangement to enhance the Sunday worship experience. Look in the narthex for the sign-up poster.

	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
<i>September 4</i>	Frank & Kate Miller	Charlie & Gwen May	Darrell & Sue Yeaney	The Mays
<i>September 11</i>	Charilie & Gwen May	Betty Gangware	Wayne Norton	Carolyn Brothers
<i>September 18</i>	Carolee Todd Iris Hanson	Reed & Sunshine Duffus	David Gomez	Peggy Minier
<i>September 25</i>	Vera Hope	Jane DeVette	The Blanchards or The Scotts	The Duffus Family

#### September 4 Communion Servers

Elders— Peggy Minier  
Deacons—Pete Halper and Scott Whitley

#### October Communion Servers

Elders— Charlie May and Frank Miller  
Deacons—Kate Miller and Carolyn Brothers

**STEWARDSHIP @ TRINITY - 2012**

***SAVE***

***THE***

***DATE***

**Sunday, OCTOBER 16, 2011**

**A Stewardship Luncheon**

**Following the Worship Service**

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**What does God have in store for us  
next year - 2012 ?**

**The Stewardship theme for the coming year is:**

**“OUR VISION - TOGETHER IN FAITH”**

**How does an amazing process created by our Lord  
illustrate this theme?**

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**For answers, join us for lunch on October 16th**

Seating is limited to 100 Trinity members and supporters, so please register now at the Church Office to reserve a place - - - and be not only surprised but really excited as to what you will see and hear.