



Union Church of Cupertino

Serving Cupertino since 1884

The Communicator

February 2015

It's all Grace... and it started with a question. "Can you give me a blanket or a sweatshirt? It gets cold out here." We had just finished handing out 50 homemade ham sandwiches, Hershey bars and bottles of water to the folks who gather at St. James Park in downtown San Jose and in the midst of the expressions of appreciation one man asked a question. Someone in our group ran over to their car and came back with a sweatshirt. They had one in their trunk. "Here, you can have this one." On that Sunday afternoon, with thankfulness and laughter, a seed was planted that would blossom and bear fruit in ways we could have never imagined.



REV MARK J. BRADY

"Can you give me a blanket or a sweatshirt? It gets cold out here." I told that story in church on a Sunday morning. It wasn't long before someone had left two dozen brand new fisherman's blankets at the church office. If you don't know what a "fisherman's blanket" is, it is cushioned and waterproof on one side and soft, warm and wonderful on the other. It rolls up tight and you can carry it by hooking a strap on to your backpack or by slinging it over your shoulder. I found the donor and told them, "This is an amazing gift! But it would be even more amazing if we could somehow get 25 more, because if we were to hand these blankets out to half of the folks at the park it would create conflict that we wouldn't want to be a part of... They will fight over them." "I think I can do that, they said, if you give me a few weeks". And so Christmas came, and the New Year and then it wasn't long before I was invited to a Cupertino De Anza Lions Club meeting where I had the opportunity to thank them for taking up a collection and buying the additional blankets we needed!

We arrived at St. James Park on Sunday afternoon with Hershey bars, bottles of water, and 50 brand new fisherman's blankets to hand out to the folks at the park. The joy, the excitement, the appreciation that was shared is something that really can't be put in to words, as people came to meet us from across the park when they heard what was going on. One younger man, after finding out that we were from Union Church of Cupertino, wondered where the rest of the congregation was. He felt we should all be out at the park. We said that as a congregation we pray together and work together and give together so that we might come with some of our young people to share in the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ. "O.K." he said. "But I need two of those blankets." We handed him two blankets, some chocolate, a bottle of water, offered up a blessing, a thanksgiving to God and we moved on to reach out to others.

We gave out 50 blankets and all of the chocolate and water we had with us. We shared Blessings, Thanksgivings and Praises to God with dozens and dozens and dozens of gracious people. But there was one moment of Grace that came to us all just as we were getting ready to leave. There was one older woman who came up to us and asked if we had any more blankets. "We're so sorry... We've given them all away." Just as she looked down in disappointment and was turning away, that younger man who had wondered where the rest of the congregation was and who had gotten two blankets from us, came riding up on his bicycle..."Who am I to have two blankets", he said, "when she doesn't even have one?" Unforgettable... Amazing... Grace.

Grace and Peace, - *Mark*



January 2015

01/09 JJ Wang
 01/11 Brooklyne Trittelvitz
 01/11 Rafael Trittelvitz
 01/13 David Wong
 01/14 Christian Lum
 01/14 Wallace Evans
 01/19 Cliff Clemo
 01/19 Barbara Ireland
 01/23 Bonnie Lee
 01/27 Lillian Whitaker
 01/27 Lynn Carlton
 01/29 Del Hill
 01/30 Bernice Yorke

February 2015

02/02 Barbara Davis
 02/04 Kyle Shepard
 02/06 Diane Armstrong
 02/11 Sadie Wang
 02/11 Vijay Kumar
 02/14 Renate Trittelvitz
 02/16 Daniel Burchell
 02/16 Arthur Lin
 02/17 LaMonte Armstrong
 02/23 Anthony Lum
 02/24 Patrick Baeta
 02/26 Billie Bandermann
 02/26 Madelin Burchell

02/11
 William & Atsuko Titlow

02/18
 Jerry & Donna Smith

02/25
 Jack & Jane Larsh

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Anita DeSmet, going through chemotherapy
Beez Jones
Bonnie Martin
Cynies, Nicole's aunt
Debbie Barr, recovering from knee replacement surgery
Dorothy Shirk
Doug Lee, brother-in-law of Bonnie Lee
Doug & Jeff, friends of Phil Z, have serious illnesses
Elsa Dusenbury
Eric, MaryLou Lyon's grandson
Ethel Roten
Fred Leonelli, Lorraine's brother
Gayle Pinkston, Karen V's brother-in-law
Ian Murray, Barbara Murray's father
Jacqueline Smith
Jean Prisock
Jean Taylor
Joan Greene
Joseph V, prayers for recovery
Joyce Hitchens, Carol McEwen's mother

Kathy Bradrick, Lorraine Leonelli's friend, Foot injury
Kimberly Smith
Lorraine Leonelli
Lynne Carlton
Marion Gaever
Martha Foster
MaryLou Lyon
Mike Lyon, grandson of MaryLou Lyon
Myridia Emata, health problems
Nancy Dunagan, friend of Richard Kurkowski, undergoing treatments for cancer.
Paul, Sue Burchell's father
Russell, Glenda Pettit's nephew, congestive heart failure
Ruth Hudson, fell and broke her hip
Ruth Wesley
Sarah Magana & family
Vicki Bliven
Wally Evans
Wes Ireland

Union Church | February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 9:15am: Adult Study Group 10am: Worship Service 10:15am: Sunday School 11:15am: Coffee Fellowship 11:30am: Deacons Meeting	2	3 No Bible Study	4 7:30pm: Choir Practice	5 1:00pm: Women's Fellowship	6	7
8 9:15am: Adult Study Group 10am: Worship Service 10:15am: Sunday School 11:15am: Coffee Fellowship	9 10am: Missions Meeting	10 10am: Bible Study 7:30pm: Trustees Meeting	11 7:30pm: Choir Practice	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 9:15am: Adult Study Group 10am: Worship Service 10:15am: Sunday School 11:15am: Coffee Fellowship 11:30am: Congregational Meeting	16 President's Day (Office Closed)	17 10am: Bible Study	18 Ash Wednesday 12:00pm: Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm: Choir Practice	19 Chinese New Year 8am: Men's Breakfast	20	21
22 9:15am: Adult Study Group 10am: Worship Service 10:15am: Sunday School 11:15am: Coffee Fellowship	23	24 10am: Bible Study 7:30pm: Official Board Meeting	25 7:30pm: Choir Practice	26 8am: Breakfast at Chateau	27	28

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

February 15 at 11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting
 February 18 at 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Come Join Us...

Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am

Sunday Coffee Fellowship
11:15 am

Tuesday Bible Study
10:00 am

Thursday Bible Study
7:30 pm

Union Church of Cupertino



"Share with us in the joy of the journey"
Rev. Mark J. Brady

Inter-denominational Church

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8am -1pm

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CHARLIE'S CORNER

I am quite certain that my poor bride, through the years, has taken comfort in the fact that we lived in close proximity to state institutions like Agnew or the state asylum at Camarillo. I've seen her mind working, and it goes something like this: "Well, at least it isn't going to take a lot for gas to go and see him when incarceration becomes necessary." She probably has a myriad of reasons for that attitude, but the only one that readily comes to mind occurred when we lived in Oxnard. I was reading the paper in the living room and I ran across a very interesting article. I called her in from the kitchen. "What is it?" she asked. "We ought to go out to the beach", I responded. "Why in the world would we go out to the beach at nine o'clock at night?" she asked. Without looking up from the paper, I said, and I expected a joyful hand clapping response, "the grunions are running." ..."Grunions?" "What are Grunions?" "They are little silver fish which jump out of the ocean and lay their eggs on the beach and then jump back in." No response at all. I looked up, and the look on her face indicated that the time for familiarization with the asylum visiting schedule was very soon. I don't think that it helped my cause at this point when I broke into uncontrollable laughter. I finally went and asked our neighbor, Ann, to come over and confirm my story. Poor Kathleen has given birth to four kids with the same sense of humor as their old man. She's in the same position as a hen that has hatched out a batch of ducklings.

When I was a kid during the depression we made our own entertainment to a great extent. One of our entertainments would start out with one of us thinking of and verbalizing something funny. This always started with something like a "What if" followed with additional "What ifs", until we would be laughing our heads off; and casual visitors would be very uncomfortable in this environment. But after WWII, while I was attending Oklahoma A&M on the GI Bill, two friends and I wrote skits using this technique. We performed at the Mariners Club at the Presbyterian Church, and they were pretty good. We were selected to participate in The Varsity Review on year, which was quite an honor. The name of our Review production was "Raisins of Fury", and dealt with Okies returning to Oklahoma to escape California's smog. Our theme song lyrics, written by my friend Ray Simmons, went:

*Oh the streets are damp and musty, the Golden Gate is rusty,
Oh how I long for dusty Oklahoma,
I figured that we'd pick their prunes and laugh and sing our happy tunes,
but there is nothing but smog dunes in California.
I'm a goin' back, I'm a goin' back, I'm a goin' back to Oklahoma,
I'll tie my mattress on the top to heck with their darn orange crop,
I'm goin' back and flop in Oklahoma.*

Our pastor, he liked us to call him Pop Valder, and he enjoyed our skits; but every once in a while we apparently got a bit out of bounds, which merited us a bit of scolding from the pulpit on Sunday morning. So, we were even instrumental in providing some pretty good sermon topics.

The GI Bill was a wonderful program. It paid for our tuition, our books, and we received \$90 monthly for expenses. Kathleen's folks lived nine miles south of Stillwater, so we never needed to buy milk or eggs. I did help Kathleen's Dad butcher pigs a couple of times and it was quite an experience for me. I never killed anything before, but the meat was wonderful.

We did very well, but we had to pinch pennies. A big night out was a trip to the Chili Bowl. We got a bowl of chili and a glass of coke for a quarter. We walked everywhere, as we had no car, and I only remember going to one movie during the three years it took me to get my degree. The Mariners Club was our social life and it was very well attended.

~ Charles Calhan

A Prayer for 2015



*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
See a cessation of the epidemic of hate, disease and violence,
and trade it for the spread of forgiveness, joy and harmony.*

*Take the baptism by John at the Jordan River
to wash the world clean of sins and hate, and substitute love.*



Mary Lou Lyon



A big THANK YOU to all who participated in the *Cantata* and Christmas Eve services at Union Church! We were able to share the story of Christ's birth through music, and performed eight new pieces with a guest flute player, Union Church's own clarinetist (Michael Chang), and a guest oboe player. We will now look forward bringing in a Timpanist for Easter! Don't forget that there is also a trumpet or two that might be heard on Easter Sunday...As we look forward to all that 2015 has to offer, know that you are invited to become a part of the Union Church Choir as together we make a joyful noise to the Lord and as this new year unfolds...let us be reminded as we go forward to never B#, never Bb, but always B natural!

UC Annual Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars! This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 15th**, immediately after the worship service. The annual report for 2014 will be available and the new business for 2015 will be discussed and voted on by the members attending.

Annual Meeting Fellowship

Please plan on staying for a little time of fellowship following the Annual Meeting on February 15th. If you are able to bring a plate of "finger food" that is ready to serve, you will help make the day a little more special. The Deacons are coffee hosts that day and will have the beverages hot and ready to go! If you have questions please contact: Connie Wilson or

Life Line Screening at Union Church

Union Church of Cupertino is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 3/7/2015. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

UNION CHURCH OF CUPERTINO THE COMMUNICATOR

FEBRUARY 2015

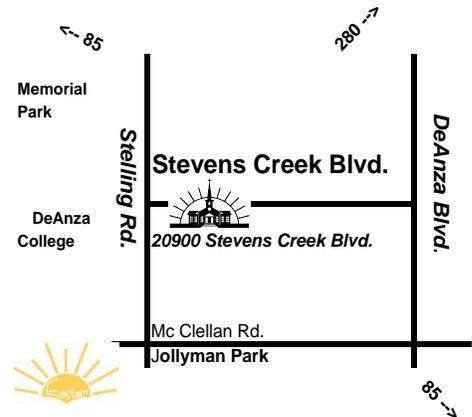
Share with us in the joy of the journey...

Check us out on **Facebook** and see the wonderful things that are happening at Union Church!



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