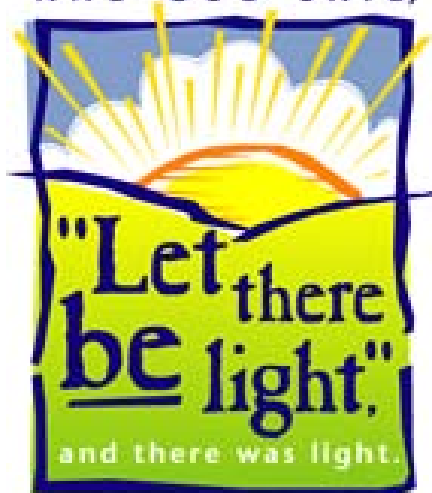
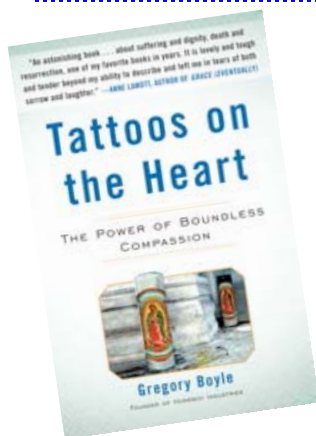


AND GOD SAID,



GENESIS 1:3



FPC Book Club Meets Thursday Jan. 12

A reminder that the next discussion night for the FPC Book Club is **Thursday January 12, 2012**. We will be meeting at 7 p.m. at Rich Stewart's house to discuss our impressions of Gregory Boyle's book "**Tattoos on the Heart, the Power of Boundless Compassion**". I know a number have read the book, and are looking forward to discussing it. Please feel free to join us even if you have not yet finished the book, or just want to spend some time in fellowship and see if you would be interested in reading it.

Following our January discussion, the FPC book club will be joining other book clubs and individuals in the 10th anniversary **Silicon Valley Reads** program. Silicon Valley Reads consists of a number of free events centered around a theme and books each year - there are discussion groups, panels, films, and more! This year the theme is "Muslim and American: Two Perspectives." The featured books are *The Muslim Next Door* by Sumbul Ali-Karamali and *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson. We will get a group together to attend the kick-off on Wednesday January 25th at the Cambell Heritage Theater, where the authors Sumbul and Willow will be interviewed on stage by Mercury News columnist Mike Cassidy. (Please let Lori Tierney know if you are interested in meeting at FPC and carpooling to the kick-off event.) As we take time to read one or both of the books, there will be several other events (including a couple specifically interfaith discussions or events) that we might attend - the full schedule will be posted on the community board at church, and will be brought to our January discussion group. Additional information on the books and program can also be found on the website <http://siliconvalleyreads.org>. Let the Connections team know if there are any of the Silicon Valley Reads events that look interesting to you. How exciting to participate in our next read with all of Silicon Valley!



Smelling the roses...

Sometimes in a rush between parking lot and sanctuary, or down the hall, we can miss the cheerful, seasonal and artistic look and feel of our church bulletin boards. They are **Lori Tierney** Creations and be assured that they outshine those of churches many times the size of FPC. The reason, of course, is the love and attention that Lori tucks in to each revision to keep them current and fun and informative.

So slow down some and make sure to breathe in the richness of content of these lovely displays. Let Lori know that her "garden" pleases you!

Sharings from Sharon

Dear Friends: **Happy New Year!!!**



I wanted to take this space and this time to introduce our new intern, **Alan Rowe**. Alan is attending Fuller Seminary and will be with us for the next six months. He will be exploring different aspects of ministry as part of his discernment process as he prepares to serve God through ministry.

Alan is a long time Presbyterian and comes to our congregation with a bag load of knowledge and experience in Youth and Children's ministry. While he is with us, he will be helping our Christian Education team, teaching a Bible Study for our Outdoor Friends, preaching every 5-6 weeks, and getting a general feel for ministry in the

smaller church.

Please make Alan feel welcome, and don't wait too long before you get to know him -- six months flies by very quickly. So, take advantage of his presence with us and his willingness to work with us and learn from us.

God has a way of bringing people into our lives for a unique purpose. I am excited about this venture and hope that you will be as welcoming to Alan as you have been to me.

Joyfully, in Christ's Service, *Pastor Sharon*

Congratulations to New Deacons and Elders!

Elders:

Jim Stedman
Rich Stewart
Pat Plant (2nd term)

Deacons:

Antoinette DeBord
Michelle Washington



Church Leadership

These folks will be trained on January 7 and ordained by Pastor Sharon during worship on Sunday, January 22. Session and Elders will gather for a retreat on Jan. 21.



Patrick and John Tierney pitch in making soup



Soup Makers

On Thursday, Dec. 29 Madeline Davis; Lori, Patrick and John Tierney; Sharon and Michelle Hare; Greg and Pat Plant, gathered to make

soup from the vegetables we cut and froze after the Thanksgiving worship service cornucopia.

We served the soup we made to more than 40

January Birthdays



Carson Hibbard
January 11

Bruce Powers
January 23

Three Things.

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back -

1. Time
2. Words
3. Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person -

1. Anger
2. Pride
3. Unforgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose-

1. Hope
2. Peace
3. Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable -

1. Love
2. Family & Friends
3. Kindness

Three things in life that are never certain -

1. Fortune
2. Success
3. Dreams

Three things that make a person -

1. Commitment
2. Sincerity
3. Hard work

Three things that are truly constant

Father - Son - Holy Spirit

"We have flown the air like birds and swum the sea like fishes, but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like brothers."

~ The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (*Birthday, January 16*)

5th Service
Sunday Worship
Day
January 29, 2012

"Don't GO to church; BE the church!"



In December we gave out 390 lunches to hungry people who came to our door.

Monthly Food Drive for the Hungry People Served by Sacred Heart Community Services



FOOD DRIVE In December, we gave 30 lbs. of useful canned and packaged food to Sacred Heart Community Services. This year, we donated 1,065 lbs. of food, and 3,345 lbs. of food since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.



Thanks to you, we had many hats and socks to give out

Montgomery Inn Event

On Dec. 18 we brought some holiday cheer to the homeless men served by the Montgomery Inn Shelter. We presented knit hats and white socks to the men, delicious desserts and carols accompanied by Jack Conway.



In December



The Wisemen came to visit....



our children and youth sang....



and our trees got decorated.



