



The Chimes

*Our Purpose at Almaden Hills:
Sharing God's love, following the Way*

Jane E. Schlager, Pastor
Lisa Jacobs, Youth Director; CJ Baker, Asst. Director
Peggy Dile, Director of Children's Ministry
John Hess, Director of Music
Linda Solis, Office Manager
Lilian Guansing, Parish Nurse

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“Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”

~ Romans 12:11-13

Dear Friends,

This passage from Paul's letter to the Romans was the “scripture for the day” on the January 10, 2012 *Sojourners* magazine website. I believe these words speak to where we are as a community of faith at Almaden Hills United Methodist Church.

Folks have a spirit-filled energy blowing through them. Can you feel it? Recently, we started the Small Group Ministry at AHUMC. Deb St. Julien, Wendy and Dan Hendry, Marilyn Crandall and Jodi Picard were trained to be small group leaders. During the month of January, folks who are already in small groups will be sharing what this experience has meant to them, and encouraging others to join a small group.

Starting in January, we also started “Table Talk.” This is an opportunity to share your reflections on the sermon and worship, ask questions and explore your faith with others. It is not so much about what the preacher said but what YOU heard. We will gather in the Fireside Room following the second service. We hope to be able to have Table Talk between services as well. Are you willing to help facilitate one?

Folks are dreaming. A group of youth and adults from AH, Cambrian Park and Willow Glen UM churches are in con-

versation about developing collaborative experiential intergenerational worship services for the evenings, starting once a month and maybe expanding if the desire is there. Would you like to dream with them? The more dreams the better. Check in with Lisa Jacobs.

Folks are serving the Lord. “Building Hope—a new Three-Church Adventure in Mission” (AH, CP and WG UMCs) is working together to make a larger impact, strengthen outreach, find new ways to do God's work in our community.

The theme for Lent this year is “Journey To Hope.” Through worship and classes, we will explore possibilities of what can happen when we journey with Christ and allow him to be in the “driver's seat.”

Another favorite quote of mine is from Emily Dickinson, “*I dwell in possibilities.*” Let us journey together in the coming year, with passion, prayer, in service, rejoicing in possibility and hope!

In holy curiosity,

Pastor Jane

New on the Web

Review our church's 2011 activities by flipping through the photo albums on our church web site. Go to <http://www.almadenhillsumc.org/photoalbum.htm>

Children's Ministries and Family Events

Discovering Disciples

Kindergarten – 5th Grade Sunday School Program

February 5 – 26, 2012

Theme: "Calling the Disciples"

Bible Verses: *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him.* Mark 1:17-18

Long ago Jesus called people to be his followers, to learn from him and to teach others. Children will learn the story of Jesus calling the first disciples, choosing people who were less than perfect, among them ordinary fishermen. Jesus calls people today to follow and be disciples, to witness to the good news that Jesus brought and to share Jesus' story with others. The children will experience ways we can follow Jesus, and find different ways of sharing Jesus' story.

Baptisms

Three children were baptized by Pastor Jane in our sanctuary on December 11, 2011 --

Shea Conner O'Brien, son of Michael and Sara (Scheide) O'Brien. He was born on May 12, 2011.

Sonmachi Kambiri Amobi, daughter of Chinwe Ezenwata Chukwumerije (her mother) and Amobi Chukwumerije (her father). She was born on February 16, 2011.

Tyler Benjamin Hudson, son of Mark and Wendy Hudson. He was born on November 22, 2001. Tyler's grandparents are Retha and Carl Hudson.

Thanksgiving for New Life

William David Steenhausen, son of Drew and Nicole Steenhausen and grandson of Rosemary Steenhausen, was born on January 8th. His sister, Ava, will be three years old in March. The family lives in Redlands. The baby is doing well, even though he was born ten weeks early.

Shane Ross Welch II was born on December 14 to parents Shane and Courtney (Hallenbeck) Welch of Morgan Hill. He is the first grandchild for Leslie and Don Hallenbeck, and the baby spent his first Christmas at his grandparents' home in San Jose.

A Bit About Compost

Composting is basically nature's way of recycling. If a pile of leaves is left alone, it will eventually decompose, but if mixed together with a little moisture, the process speeds up and we get compost, that wonderful soil amendment that's rich in nutrients.

Composting doesn't need to be complicated. There are plenty of myths, rules and adages but the truth is, compost happens, whether you help it or not. There is no "right way" to do it. Composting can be as hard or as easy as you want it to be. For instance, the rule of "two parts brown to one part green" may be helpful but isn't absolutely necessary. Keeping the ingredients balanced -- in our case, dead leaves and cut grass -- is just an optional formula.



Turning the compost pile on a regular basis is also an option. You can do it to satisfy your own curiosity but turning the pile to increase oxygen content is not really necessary. Unless the pile is overly wet, oxygen gets into the pile just fine. Turning does help mix materials and break them into smaller pieces, so go ahead, grab a pitchfork and dig in.

"Hot" compost is also not necessarily better than "cold" compost. The temperature of the compost doesn't affect the final product. In fact, some say well cured compost contains a more diverse bacteria count than its super-heated counterpart. Most "experts" would also say that compost is ready when you can no longer recognize the original ingredients. Yet many plants thrive in trenches and holes filled with compost-in-progress and immature compost is great for layering on neglected soil.

So, the point is, compost happens and it doesn't have to be messy or complicated or time consuming to get a usable product.

Thanks to trustees **Wayne Sawdon**, **Bill Messerly** and **Clyde Bingham**, our church has its own compost bins. We are now able to compost all the fallen leaves and plant materials the gardeners collect in their weekly cleanup.

Schedule of Sunday Worship

- 9:00 a.m. 1st Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. 2nd Worship Service
- 10:45 a.m. Children's Worship & Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship / Table Talk

Words of Faith

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15

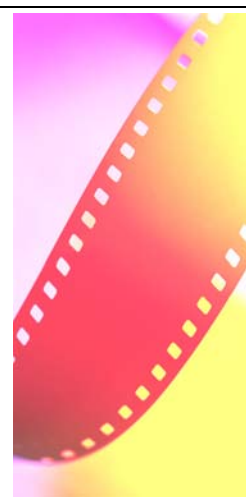
“Evening At The Movies”

March 25, 5:00 to 8:30 p.m., at Almaden Hills UMC

Be part of this amazing evening, which includes:

- * A catered buffet dinner
- * A huge silent auction filled with gift cards, trips, time share stays, electronics, gift baskets, and services such as babysitting & yard work
- * Breathtaking decorations with reminders of all of your favorite movies
- * An amazing talent show

This fundraiser helps to pay for mission trips, summer camps, leadership retreats, and big events for the 150 teens in the Joint Youth Ministry, so that no one is left out because of finances.



Youth Group Plans for February

Most events will be held at Willow Glen UMC this month.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Feb 1 -- 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. -- Leadership Team | Feb 15 -- 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. -- Guys Night / Girls Night |
| Feb 4 -- 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. -- “What If We Did Something” dinner and show for St. Jude | Feb 17 -- 5:00 p.m. -- Leave for southern California trip |
| Feb 5 -- Noon to 2:30 p.m. -- “Family Matters” picnic lunch and flag football game at the park | Feb 20 -- 5:00 p.m. -- Return southern California trip |
| Feb 8 -- 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. -- “Dig Deeper I & II” Bible Study | Feb 26 -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. -- Junior High Youth Group |
| Feb 11 -- 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. -- “I Need a Valentine's Break” babysitting fundraiser | 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. -- Worship Band Practice |
| Feb 12 -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. -- Junior High Youth Group | 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. -- Hip Hop Team Practice |
| 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. -- Worship Band Practice | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. -- High School Youth Group |
| 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. -- Hip Hop Team Practice | Feb 29 -- 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. -- “Dig Deeper I & II” Bible Study |
| 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. -- High School Youth Group | |

Church Facilities and Operation

Welcome to our New Gardeners!

Stop by the church on any Wednesday or Thursday morning and meet our new gardeners. They are members of Social Vocational Services (SVSinc.org) which provides an environment for people with disabilities to help them gain the skills, the support, and the confidence that they need in order to have fully productive and meaningful lives. SVS has helped thousands of adults with disabilities since 1978 with employment in the retail, janitorial, clerical, food service and yard care industries. Members choose an occupation that suits their interests and abilities. Our crew from left to right is Ricardo, Leslie, Kevin and Peter. On the far right is their job coach, Noel.



Shared Ministries -- The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund



The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund was established in 1952 to support ecumenical efforts around the world, witness to the Christian faith, foster a renewal of Christian unity and understanding, meet human suffering, and advocate for global peace and justice. The ICF enables United Methodists to have a voice in the activities of several national and worldwide ecumenical and interreligious organizations.

Giving to the ICF shared ministry nurtures the ministries of Churches Uniting in Christ, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the World Council of Churches, the World Methodist Council and the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation and Union. Almaden Hills UMC's share of ministry for this apportionment is \$196. If you feel prayerfully or personally connected to the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, you are invited to make a dedicated gift.

Wish Book Story

The San Jose Mercury's Wish Book project featured a Christmas Eve story about a young blind opera singer who studies with the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Palo Alto. Almaden Hills member **Carolyn Dingman** has been a social worker at the agency for the past seven years. She says that volunteers are always welcome to help people at the center who have vision loss by reading to them, driving them to appointments, assisting them with their computers, and helping them organize their households. The center's web site is www.vistacenter.org.

Update on UMCOR in Haiti

Warren McGuffin from San Ramon UMC will be in our pulpit on February 12th at both services to speak on his many experiences in Haiti as a Volunteer-In-Mission leader. His current ministry has focused on a food program that grows and prepares food for 200 children daily. His enthusiasm for the United Methodist Church and its associated school and the programs that are being implemented will be exciting and informative. Warren will be in Haiti at the end of January, so he will be able to provide a fresh perspective with visual enhancements. After his presentation to us, he will return to Haiti in March.

Following the second service, the United Methodist Women will be providing a Haitian lunch that they have prepared. Warren will answer our questions. Donations will be requested for the lunch.

Mission Springs Women's Retreat

March 16-18

Theme: "Everything has a crack in it; that's how the light gets in." (Leonard Cohen)

You won't want to miss this year's women's retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains. We'll have **two** leaders to guide and inspire us! Both of them are good friends of Pastor Jane.

- Kathi McShane is a United Methodist clergy person currently serving as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. She also chairs the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. She grew up in the Bay Area as part of the Armenian Orthodox Church. She practiced law for fifteen years before attending seminary. In her "spare" time she is remodeling her house, and preparing to become the gardener she's always wanted to be. Her 25-year-old daughter attends graduate school in Los Angeles.
- Shirley Stephenson is a long-time member of San Ramon Valley UMC. She is a leader of Women's Faith Sharing groups and a Stephen Ministry Leader. She studied Spiritual Direction at Mercy Center, and attended the two-year Academy of Spiritual Formation. She serves as a Spiritual Director for the St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises. She is a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Shirley was born a Methodist and grew up in the Napa Valley. She loves to travel, has begun taking yoga classes, and delights in spending time with her eleven grandchildren.
- Several first-timers from Almaden Hills are already signing up, which means we'll have an even larger group of retreaters this year. Registration forms are on the counter in the church office, or online at http://gbgmchurches.gbgm-umc.org/elcaminoREAL_dumw/



Thank you so much for the visit, and the beautiful poinsettia. I appreciate it so much!
~ Helen Wilson



Dear friends,
Thank you so much for my lovely flower and thank you for your prayers. It made me feel so loved.
Sincerely,
Virginia Canerday

Epiphany Banners

The banners hanging in the front of the sanctuary during Epiphany were created by former member Susan Hunn in 1991. We are grateful for her enduring contribution. The banner on the back wall was created by a quilting group including GA Hawthorne and Diane Moots. Make sure to turn around and look at it.

Christmas Decorations

Our thanks to all who made our sanctuary so beautiful for Christmas, with the decorations, flowers, altar arrangements, and banners.

When it was time to take it all down, some of the usual volunteers couldn't help due to illness, travel, or other conflicts. Those who showed up were energetic and efficient. While music played over the sanctuary speakers, the nativity scene was boxed up, the ornaments put away, the tree and the advent wreath disassembled, the garlands taken down, and the banners changed. The workers got out the electric irons and blotting paper and removed the melted candle wax from the pews. Two vacuum cleaners sucked up the pine needles. It was all finished in two hours flat!

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22 this year.

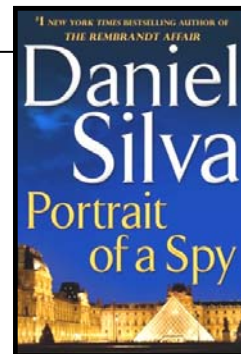
All-Church Retreat

Save the date: Saturday, February 11, 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Fireside Room for an all-church retreat. We will be planning for the future and we need you! Look for more information on the church website and in the bulletin.

**Variety Book Study Group
Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.,
Fireside Room**

The book for February is *Portrait of a Spy* by Daniel Silva. Our discussion leader is **John Munson**. Anyone who has read the book is invited to attend.

Our book for March is *Good Grief* by Lolly Winston.



**Lenten Study --
"Journey to Hope"**

**February 26 - April 1
9:15 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.
In the Choir Room**

Our Sunday morning Lenten study begins on Sunday, February 26 -- the first Sunday following Ash Wednesday. Our class will be led by **Jennifer Frisby-Bowling**.

Altar Flowers

Would you like to remember a person or an event in a special way? Consider providing an altar flower arrangement for your memorable occasion, or to honor that special person. The 2012 flower calendar was on display at the "Come and See Fair" and now hangs in the sanctuary's narthex. Please contact **Kay Michaels** with any questions you might have and then sign up!

Let's Collage Together!

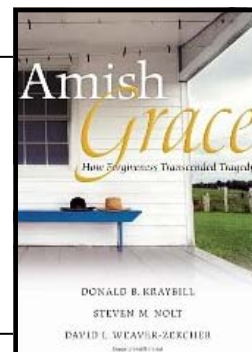
Send your favorite photos of sunrises and sunsets to Pastor Jane by March 1 for a photo montage to be used in a worship service. Thanks!

Wesley Group II Meeting Dates

Wednesday, January 25, 5:30 p.m., at Jodi Picard's home.
Wednesday, February 15, 5:30 p.m., at Marilyn Crandall's home.

Wednesday Morning Women

We continue to read *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* by Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt, and David L. Weaver-Zercher. This book follows the Amish community's reaction to the senseless executions of school girls in a classroom in Pennsylvania. We've had interesting conversations about culture, tradition, forgiving and forgetting. Join us at 7 a.m. on Wednesday mornings for fellowship and interesting conversation in the Fireside Room.



Sign Up for Tables of Eight

Have you ever wondered how you could get to know other church members better? A proven fun way is to join a Tables of 8 (or 9 or 10). How can you do that? Simple! Sign-ups will begin February 5. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Fireside Room. Just put your name on the list and at the end of February, you will be sent a list of the names of your new friends in your group. Traditionally, groups meet once a month to share some activity which might include dinner out or at someone's home, a movie or play with coffee afterward, a ballgame, or a trip to Japantown. The list of possibilities is endless! The main goal is to enjoy each other's company and get to know one another better. If you have any questions, call **Junetta McKewan**.

Auction Echoes -- Watercolor Calendars

Several bidders at our October Auction knew a good thing when they saw it, and bid on the 2012 calendars created by **Karen Speer**. The calendar's theme is "Sharing the Good Life," and each month features one of Karen's watercolors. Several scenes are of Bay Area favorites -- the Pacific Grove lighthouse, Lover's Point in Monterey, and Filoli Gardens. Some paintings were inspired by photos taken by family and friends, and two were taken by her son-in-law, Erek, who is in the military. Karen has been putting these calendars together for friends and family for five years, and this is the second year that she has printed extra copies of these keepsakes for the Auction. She asked the recipients to let her know which painting is their favorite ... not an easy decision!

Table of Eight

For the final get-together of the year, our Table of Eight gathered at the home of **Dale and Marilyn Crandall** and were met with beautifully decorated tables and delicious, heart-warming food. **Jerry and Sara Carter** provided the appetizers, **Cindy and George Skrivanek** provided the salad, Marilyn and Dale the eggplant Parmesan entree and a vegetable casserole, with **Carl and Retha Hudson** providing the dessert. After eating to repletion, we were challenged to a quiz about Christmas and an interesting explanation of the 12 Days of Christmas. This group has experienced many personal challenges over the past year and it was great to kick off the new year with friends and

Long Distance Calling

From **Clyde & Shirley Brewer**, Texas -- The Texas Hill country had record heat and drought in 2011, challenging Clyde's ability to keep those roses blooming. For Clyde's 70th birthday the couple went to Lake Tahoe with former neighbors. The first Tuesday of the month Clyde breakfasts with the ROMMEOS (Retired Old Methodist Men Eating Out). He serves on the Finance Committee and is head usher. Shirley volunteers with Literacy Highland Lakes, and the organization's major fundraiser -- the Rubber Ducky Race -- involves much of her time in the spring. Her travels this year included Phoenix for a visit with her son, David, and for her brother's birthday; eastern Massachusetts with her sister-in-law on an Elderhostel/Road Scholar trip; Ottawa, Montreal & Quebec City, also with Elderhostel. Clyde & Shirley's son, Jimmy, is back from Afghanistan, and both he and David spent Christmas with their parents.

Jennifer (Shelamer) Cabrera -- Alachua, Florida -- Jennifer's Christmas letter announced that on May 5, she and Lt. Col. Len Cabrera (USAF) were married in Colorado Springs after almost eight years of dating. Len has returned from Afghanistan, and is a professor at the Air Force Academy. Alyssa Shelamer is in her second year at University of Florida, working toward a degree in psychology. Leah Shelamer started high school this year, in the same Cambridge program that gave Alyssa her head start on college. She's had a rough autumn, missing weeks of school due to mononucleosis and other medical problems, but has been accepted for the school's varsity soccer team. Leah traveled to Greece last summer with Jennifer's mother.

Jean Canoose -- Prescott, Arizona -- Jean was one of 24 singers from Prescott invited to sing in a mass choir of 500 voices at New York City's Lincoln Center on the tenth anniversary of 9/11. They performed "Memorial" by Rene Clausen. In November she cruised the Rhine and Mosel rivers, and was at Flanders Field over the Veterans' Day weekend, where many moving remembrance ceremonies were being held. In December she was one of nine from her area chosen to perform with the orchestra at the Manheim Steamroller concert -- truly a highlight of the holiday season!

Bobbie Cronquist -- Medford, Oregon -- In March Bobbie had major surgery on her right eye that kept her in Portland for three weeks. Her son Bruce brought their RV from Seattle to serve as her recuperation home for part of

that time. She had a second operation in October. In between she helped her son Bill move from the skilled nursing facility, where he had spent two months healing from a broken leg, to a Bay Area apartment.

Linda Gates -- Pollock Pines, California -- Neither missed flight connections nor lost luggage could dampen the spirits of three intrepid travelers -- Linda, her sister Donna, and Susan Hunn's sister Mary -- from visiting Christmas Markets in Germany and Austria this past December. Experiencing the essence of Christmas in Europe -- sumptuous gingerbread cakes, hot gluhwein in souvenir mugs, lights, carols, millions of ornaments and decorations, bustling crowds -- at Christmas Markets in Nuremberg and Regensburg in Germany and Salzburg, Austria. Bountiful meals aboard the 160-passenger small river ship were offset by walking tours on cobblestone streets! There's nothing like sailing down the Danube at a leisurely pace, watching storybook medieval villages pass by while sipping cider in a comfy lounge on board!

Duane & Portia Gunnerud -- Three Rivers, California -- The Gunneruds' son, Chuck, and his wife celebrated their 25th anniversary in Hawaii, and visited Duane & Portia's son, David, who lives there. The Gunneruds' daughter, Sandy, and her family were in London for ten days in the spring, and in Hawaii for a week in the fall. Sandy had her 1950's kitchen completely renovated in time to prepare Thanksgiving dinner in it for Duane and Portia.

Lesley & Art Huffaker -- Coronado, California -- Art and Lesley recently made an eleven-day life-changing trip to Ethiopia, where they visited Acheber, a village not far from the capital, Addis Ababa. Their mission was to become acquainted with the people of the village, and learn about their need for clean water, food for their children, and schools. There is no running water in their huts, no toilets, no electricity, little in the way of fruit and vegetables. The people greeted them with affection and appreciation, and the Huffakers found them to be spirit-filled, generous people. Art is a physician, and his team brought much-needed medications with them.

Dick & Susan Hunn -- Pollock Pines, California -- The Hunns write that they cheered on their son-in-law Jim as he participated in the Ironman triathlon in St. George, Utah. Then they visited Zion National Park with Jim and Catherine, their children Isabel (5) and Lilly (2), and son David and his wife Jessica, who are renovating a 108-year old house in St. Louis.

Long Distance Calling (Continued)

Linda & Dale Kuruhara -- Lincoln, California -- Dale is fully retired, and for the first time in their 40 years of marriage, the Kuruharas have bought a house! They have moved to Sun City Lincoln Hills, just outside of Sacramento. They are thoroughly enjoying the amenities of this active senior community, and couldn't be happier. They are only a half hour away from sons Vandy and Wes, who live in Sacramento, and two hours away from daughter Krysta who is in Turlock. Linda's mom died in November at age 93. Dale's mom is 92, and lives on her own in Hilo, Hawaii.

Dick & Eleanor Lahey -- St. Augustine Beach, Florida -- The Laheys are now permanent residents of St. Augustine Beach. Their condo is on Anastasia Island, and is near a beautiful lake and a boat launch to the inland waterway, and it's an easy walk to lovely beaches, restaurants, and shops. They love Florida's winter weather, but in summer do return to upstate New York to visit son Steve, his wife Sue, and their daughter, Brynn. Dick attended his 50th class reunion this year at the US Merchant Marine Academy, and Dick and Eleanor celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December. The whole family came for the anniversary celebration, including son Patrick, his wife Brunella, and their son Charlie from California, and daughter Kathy, her husband Jeff (newly returned from Afghanistan), and their children, Henry and Ava.

Harold and Vi McMullen -- Hastings, Nebraska -- In July, the McMullens and their daughter, Bonnie, flew to Windsor, Vermont, to see a production of the musical "Oliver," in which their son, Norman, played the drums and their twelve-year-old granddaughter, Emily, danced and sang in the chorus. In August, Norman and Bonnie hosted an open house celebration of Harold and Vi's 65th wedding anniversary. In November, Norman arrived by plane to cook Thanksgiving dinner for his parents, and stayed for a week's visit. Bonnie often comes for the day for a visit and to prepare two or three dishes for her parents' freezer.

Chuck & Diana Messamer -- Manteca, California -- In February the Messamers spent three weeks in New Zealand, visiting both the north and south islands. In July Diana was chaperone for the Church of the Brethren National Junior High Conference in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, which she attended with her granddaughter, Katelyn. After the conference they stayed with a Brethren host

family, and took day trips with church friends as their guides. They visited Amish country, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Germantown, the Hershey Chocolate Factory, and Wilbur's Chocolate Factory. In October Chuck and Diana traveled to Canmore in Alberta, Canada, with day trips to Banff National Park and Kananaskis Wildlife Drive. A second October trip took them to St. George, Utah, and visits to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park. Chuck has lots of beautiful photos from this year's vacations!

Bill & Betsy Tuel -- Rosendale, New York -- In February the Tuels flew to Sedona, Arizona, for a family gathering at Enchantment Resort to celebrate Bill's and Betsy's 70th birthdays, daughter Bev's 45th birthday, and the 10th wedding anniversary of their son Clifford and his wife, Katie. The kids treated Bill and Betsy to their first free-flight hot air balloon ride, sending them soaring over the Red Rocks region. For their 48th anniversary, Bill and Betsy went on a cruise from Stockholm to Copenhagen, with stops in Estonia, Russia, Finland, and Germany. They also rented a car to revisit places in Sweden they had seen when they lived near Stockholm from 1967 to 1968. They drove to Dalarna in the heart of Sweden for the ancient pagan festival marking the longest day of the year, Midsummer. Bill continues to play trombone, and was in the onstage band for his favorite musical, "The Music Man." He also performed with other brass players for Rosendale's "Frozendale," playing his baritone horn. (Rosendale is a small town known for its festivals!)

Pastors Dale & Debbie Weatherspoon -- Mountain View, California -- The four Weatherspoons had a great adventure this year by traveling to Nicaragua with four others from Pastor Debbie's church, Los Altos UMC. As a family the Weatherspoons have become supporters of "Living Water International" which has completed 10,000 community clean-water projects in 26 countries. They also support "Hope's Corner," a joint program between Trinity UMC and Los Altos UMC. "Hope's Corner" is located on the corner of Hope and Mercy streets, and provides free breakfast and bag lunches every Saturday to those in need. Pastor Dale's church, Alum Rock UMC, has purchased 542 mosquito nets for "Nothing But Nets," to fight malaria. In April and May, Dale will be a delegate to General Conference in Tampa, Florida. Both Weatherspoon boys sing in the children's choir at church, and are in Cub Scouts this year.

Family Album

Jason Chung and Dale Crandall played their saxophones on December 17 with "San Jose Saxophone Christmas." This annual event is highly organized and includes souvenir shirts for everyone. The 192 saxophone players rehearsed for two hours at Del Mar High School that morning and then performed the one hour concert at both Christmas in the Park and the Vallco Shopping Mall. This was Dale's 13th year at Saxophone Christmas and he was one of only three C-melody sax players. (That instrument hasn't been made since the 1940's.) Dale knew that Jason had been playing saxophone for two years and invited him to play his tenor sax with the group.

Sympathy

Former Almaden Hills member Jan Chandler, wife of Bill Chandler, passed away on December 15, 2011. A memorial service is planned for February at Almaden Hills.

The Chimes Editorial Staff

Arlie Hitt, Editor - arliehitt@aol.com
Bonnie Home, Reporter - bonstance22@yahoo.com

**Deadline for Next Issue:
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