

pectations about the quality of preaching and the rich resources for music. It is as if we are setting a feast of faith each week.

So what are we going to do with all this information gathered while circling the mountain?

We are going to gather together a Vision Leadership team to look at the stories and data collected, decide what new questions need to be asked, and who needs to answer them, and finally create some clear initiatives to present as a Five Year Strategic Plan by the annual meeting in 2012.

I am already playing with some of these ideas and my first attempt looks like this:

Purpose We welcome you to the Feast of Faith where everyone has a seat at Christ's Table.

Mission We are a caring community of diverse people, religious backgrounds and ideas, who seek a faith that combines intel-

lectual integrity with a compassionate heart.

Vision We will open our doors to all who seek to know the Spirit of Christ in an open, affirming, inclusive ministry of love for each other, our community and our world.

When we get to the end of the year the words may read differently, but for now this is the direction I am pointing to – due north.

Matt Broadbent



From the associate minister

Beginnings

WHERE DO WE COME FROM? Why are we here? What is our purpose? These have been compelling questions for people throughout history. In fact much of the Bible was written to answer these questions.

We at Foothills Congregational Church are in a unique time in our history. We have founding members who are still active, dynamic contributors to our community, but this will not always be the case.

Some day in the future all of our founding members will have passed on and we will no longer have the first-hand account of where we, as a congregation, came from, why we got here in the first place, for what purpose did we first come together as a church?

This summer the children's program will focus on beginnings. The lectionary will take us through the story of Abram and Sarai, the founding members of the Hebrew first family.

We will follow their story from when God tells Abram to leave Ur through several generations, giving the children an understanding of where the Judeo-Christian story begins, where we come from.

Parallel to the lectionary stories, Nikki and I will work with founding members to create two or three weeks of curriculum on the beginning of our church. These weeks of curriculum will help our children book-end the Christian story, moving from the ancient narrative that is common to all in the Judeo-Christian tradition, to our specific story.

We will also be able to keep the curriculum to be used with the future children of our church so that the story of our specific

beginning can remain a relevant, dynamic part of our future.

If you would like to be involved in this program, either in helping with the curriculum for our story, or by teaching one of the stories in the family history of Abram and Sarai, please contact me or Nikki.

Michelle Webber



FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES

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New on Library Shelves

A psychological detective story

DANIEL GILBERT, a professor of psychology at Harvard, explores a scientific explanation of the limitations of the human imagination in his book *Stumbling on Happiness*. He draws on psychology, cognitive neuroscience, philosophy and behavioral economics to argue that, just as we err in remembering the past, so we err in imagining the future.

“Our desire to control is so powerful, and the feeling of being in control so rewarding, that people often act as though they can control the uncontrollable,” Gilbert writes. Gilbert’s jaunty tone and use of commonplace examples render a potentially academic topic both accessible and educational.

This is a psychological detective story about one of the great mysteries of our lives.

*Jeri Schricker,
Adult Books Librarian*



Women’s Fellowship

HOPEFULLY THE GOOD weather is now upon us, and we’ll be able to celebrate another successful rummage sale. Bring a bag lunch and join us in the Fireside Room at noon on Tuesday, May 10. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430. — A.N.



Beyond the courtyard

Our church director of everything: Susana Leung

ELEVEN YEARS AGO, a Foothills Church want ad for an administrative aide caught the eye of Susana Leung, who was then selling children’s clothes at Nordstrom:

“I still remember the people who interviewed me,” she says. “They were so serious: Jane Turnbull, Rev. Matt Broadbent, Don Boeckling and Ed Winguth.” [I still remember how enthusiastic Jane was about Susana, and how right she was! - Ed.]

And so, we all got lucky that day, when our representatives hired the most tactful, helpful, cheerful church administrator imaginable.

“Ray Peck spent hours and hours helping me with the computer system,” Susana says, “and I thought I would never remember all the names and faces of people coming and going. But most of all, I’m amazed at so many people so dedicated to their church.”

Susana chose her own Western name when she was ten, a student at an elementary school run by Italian nuns on the island of Macao:

“I could choose Lucy, Heidi or Susana,

Above: Susana with “Bean”, her adopted office assistant, a poodle-schnauzer mix.

—Bob Willwerth photo



and I liked the sound of Susana!” she laughs.

“The first thing they taught us was the ‘Hail Mary’ and the rosary and for a whole year I thought that was the hardest thing I’d ever learn.”

Susana’s parents had fled to Macao, then a Portuguese colony, from mainland China after WWII. Later, they moved to Hong Kong, but until she was in high school in Hong Kong (also at a Catholic school where she studied English), they lived in a small village in Macao where she could walk to everything. She has one older brother who still lives in Hong Kong; her mother lives there now in a nursing home; her father is deceased.

“I admired the uniforms of the girls who attended the Sacred Heart School, so I wanted to wear one,” says Susana. “I loved to color paper dolls and design clothes for them

— and for myself. My mother could look at you and cut out and sew whatever designs you wanted, and she made my clothes herself. She was a seamstress and also a sewing teacher.”

A dear aunt played an important role in these years, taking Susana around town on Wednesday afternoons — on foot, because the aunt couldn’t drive — and enjoying various sights together.

“She just really loved me,” Susana says.

After high school graduation, she attended a design school in Hong Kong and then began working in a bank. Because of

Continued on page 4

. . . Susana Leung

Continued from page 3

bad weather, she missed a Sunday badminton game and instead went to a dim sum restaurant to meet some visiting American friends of a cousin. This was her fateful introduction to her future husband, Don Leung, who then took her out every night



Susana at age 16, costumed for a dance performance for the viceroy of Hong Kong, where she then lived.

for the rest of his vacation – and eventually proposed.

Thus, Susana made her way to Los Altos, married Don and joined his family on North San Antonio Road. Don's family owned various restaurants on the Peninsula over the years, including The Pines in Sunnyvale,

where Susana worked for 17 years, doing everything from hostessing to bartending.

"I watched and I learned," she says. "I took English-speaking classes through adult education programs, because I had learned to read English in school, but not really converse. To this day, when I go back to Hong Kong, English just drops out of my brain."

She tries to visit Hong Kong every other year and enjoys reunions with nine of her high school friends and beloved cousins and other relatives.

Susana and Don have two children, Tonia, now 23 and living and working in San Diego, and Aaron, 20, who is a junior majoring in Psychology at UC Irvine. But their latest "baby" is adorable "Bean," a puppy inherited last year from Tonia, who couldn't keep a dog in her new apartment. As Susana's first dog, Bean had a lot of teaching to do, but now has the whole family under control.

Susana attends yoga classes at 24-Hour Fitness and walks to and from Foothills Church every day. Thank goodness! Susana, what would we do without you?

—*Carolyn Barnes*



Operation Care and Comfort update

MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION Month, and our next packing date is May 15. Please come and join us as we pack boxes of care, comfort, love and fun for our troops. The theme is appreciation and Father's Day.

Please drop off your donations in the blue bin in the Fireside Room. Targeted items this month are hand-written notes to our troops, thanking them for their service and bravery, and blank Father's Day cards for our troops to send to their dads.

Also needed: sunscreen, sun glasses, cool ties (neck coolers), powdered drink mixes, jerky and nuts.

We sent Easter goodies last month, along with food, t-shirts, flip flops and socks. Also women's underwear, skin and makeup samples and hygiene products. Check our website to see letters of thanks from the troops who received the boxes.

Please call us if you'd like to join us for the pack or want to explore options and opportunities for special collections with your civic groups and clubs.

Thank you for your kindness, support and generosity!

Blessings, K.C. and Mark McCoy

New FCC directory

A NEW CHURCH phone directory for 2011 is out. Pick one up in the church office at your convenience.

– *Susana Leung*

Next jail service May 8

THE JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will offer a service at Elmwood Correctional Center on Sunday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. Last month the team got a peek at the egrets nesting in the trees behind the chapel, and news is that there are 14 couples building their homes in the trees.

Aside from that news, please let Bob Willwerth or Evelyn Vigil know by Tuesday, May 3, if you would like to join the team. This will give time for clearances and other information. The group generally carpools from the church. If you have never attended, not a problem. We will train you in the parts of the service where we need help.

The reading this month will be the Road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35. If you have insights on the passage, please be willing to share.

–*E.V.*



Relay for Life is June 18-19; come join the FCC team

RELAY FOR LIFE THIS YEAR will be June 18, 10 a.m., though June 19 at 10 a.m. at Egan Middle School, 100 W. Portola Avenue, Los Altos.

The focus this year is celebrating the successes of cancer treatment as well as remembering the victims of cancer and honoring the survivors of cancer. We encourage all FCC members and friends to join our team, "United We Stride."

You can sign up on line at www.relayforlife.org/losaltosca or call us at (650) 941-8133 or email jgolden@LATD-LLC.com. We will have signups in the courtyard from May 1 through June 12.

On Tuesday, June 7 we again will host an evening at our home with hearty hors d'oeuvres, fine wine and MaCaJo music. We will make luminaria to honor and remember those dear to us who have faced cancer.

We hope to have a record number of people on the FCC team this year.

—Jean and Charlie Golden

A thank-you from Iris

I AM FILLED WITH JOY and thankfulness for all of the get-well cards I have received, and for the meals that so many of you have brought to our house. Tom was especially happy for the meals, which gave him more time to take care of me, of which he has done a fantastic job. I have never felt more pampered, and that may be ending as I get stronger.

I'll start rehab in a few weeks, which should speed up the process of getting back to a normal life.

To all of my "guardian angels" out there, you have made a big impact on my life, and I appreciate all the support you have provided.

Iris Moran

Self-explanatory

I think the following note from Linda speaks for itself. Ed.

WOULD YOU PLEASE put something in the Newsletter asking people to pick up any of their items left in the kitchen. If they are not removed from the kitchen they will be lovingly placed in the rummage.

—Thanks, Linda Cole

Circle of Women will gather in the meeting room for simple potluck and sharing on Monday, May 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. Questions? Call Irene Ogawa or e-mail creekgate-circleofwomen@yahoo.com —I.O.



The schedule

Fabulous Foothills 2011 Rummage Sale: here's when you should do what (or vice versa)

Starting yesterday or today: Sign up on the signup board to indicate which department you prefer to work in. Let Susana know if you are doing something special for which there is no space on the board. Pick up one of our bulletins and leave in your special stores and service places to invite the community to come buy.

Starting today or yesterday: Take a picture (for the kiosk) of anything you want to donate too big or fragile or expensive to bring to the church. Use the forms already on the kiosk to write a description of the item. Put a price on the form.

Look at the other items on the kiosk. You can buy anything you like, starting now. Turn your material in to the office. We will arrange it on the kiosk. If you buy, pay Susana. If you need someone to take the picture, call Fay Oliver (650) 964-4838.

Sunday May 1 - Stay a short time after worship to help arrange the rooms for selling. There are diagrams giving directions and you will be guided by leaders.

Sunday May 1 This is also the date to start bringing the items you are donating. Bring them in different containers for different rooms; leave them in the proper room after worship. Guidelines hanging around will show which items are to be sold in each room.

Special note: If you donate an **item that is unusual and whose use may not be obvious, put a tag on it** explaining what it is! As one worker has said, "Guessing what an item is provides great entertainment for rummage sale workers, but sometimes we guess wrong and massively undervalue something."

May 2 – 4 Come and help take rummage out of the containers; arrange for easy accessibility for observing and selling. On Thursday price the items.

Before Friday May 6 Let Ann Nelson know which days, times, and at which department you will be available to be "on duty" at the church.

Friday May 6 we need a few working this day some to show up before the crowd is invited in at 9 A.M. Let Ann Nelson know if you can do this.

► **Friday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m** and **Saturday May 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** This is it – the rummage sale itself! ◀

Finally, look ahead to the end of the sale: Saturday, May 7 at 2 p.m. We need a big crew to clean up. And give yourself a big hug or hug someone else; we will have done a Big and Helpful Work. Qs? Call Susana 968-4838 or Keiko Hayashi 948-7101.

—Fay Oliver

Coming at Foothills

- May 1** Rummage Sale Set Up
- May 6, 7** Rummage Sale
(see calendar on pg. 5)
- May 15** Forum on Death and Dying,
Amelie Hansen
- May 19-22** Conference Annual Retreat,
Sofitel, Redwood City
- June 5** Music Appreciation Sunday
- June 7** Relay for Life Party at Goldens'
Home
- June 12** FDB Appreciation
- June 18-19** Relay for Life, Egan Middle
School (see story on pg. 8)
- June 18-25** Mission Trip to Apache
Reservation, AZ
- June 26** Foothills Blood Drive



Book Group PLEASE JOIN US for a discussion of *The Warmth of Other Suns*, a story of black migration from the South from 1917 to the '70s. The author, Isabel Wilkerson, follows the lives of three people to three cities: Los Angeles, Chicago and Harlem. [Ed. note: Let the record show that both *Ann* and *I know that Harlem is not a city but a rather famous neighborhood; call either of us for the name of the city.*] Wilkerson won the National Book Award for non-fiction for this book. We will meet on Tuesday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430. —A.N.

Part of the family

Please call Susana Leung, (650) 948-8430 with names for this section.

We remember in our prayers . . .

Foothills folk involved with treatment or hospitalization this last month: Kay Willoughby, Antonio Cortes

Shirley McCauley at Monte-Farley Manor, 579 Farley St., Mountain View

Arvin and Ann Epp at home

Mary Peabody at Sunrise Assisted Care, Sunnyvale

B.J. Darrow at Pilgrim Heaven, Los Altos

Vivian Birch at home

Marguerite King at home

Charlie Cook at home

Iris Moran at home

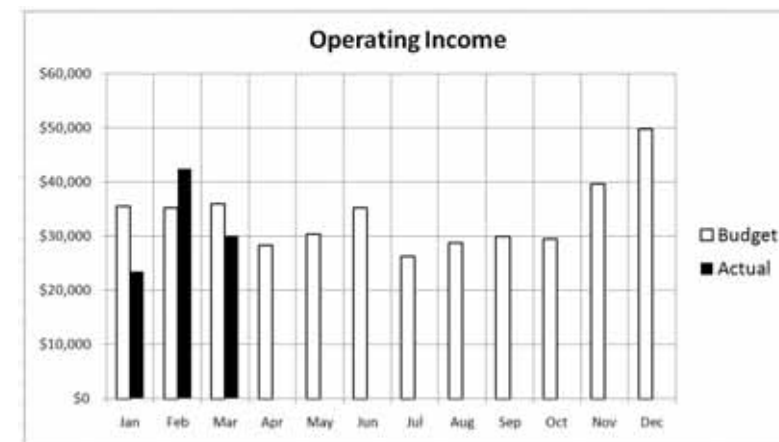
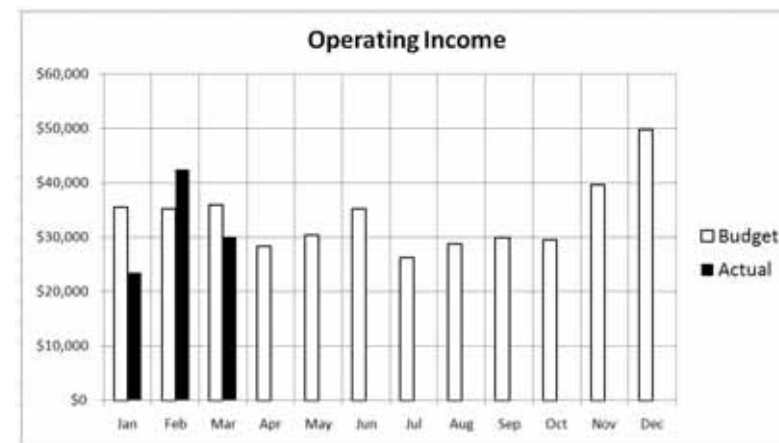
Ruth Polata at home

Hannah Feneron at Sunrise Assisted Care, Sunnyvale

Congratulations to our first church secretary, and a founding member of the church, Jean Stafford, on her 95th birthday, April 29.



Financial Report



First quarter ends with relatively modest deficit

THE FIRST QUARTER of 2011 ended with a \$5,485.52 deficit in the operating fund. Total operating income of \$95,799 was \$10,916 lower than estimated income of \$106,715. Total operating expenses were \$101,285, \$6,181 lower than the budget of \$107,466.

Outreach contributions were especially strong in the first quarter. Undesignated contributions of \$27,347 plus \$10,992 from the Endowment for Outreach gave the Outreach Board \$38,339 to work with. These funds were distributed to agencies designated by the board, including \$3,000 for Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief. The money for Japan relief from the Outreach Board along with \$12,265 of designated contributions from members provided a total of \$15,265 that was sent directly to the UCC Wider Church Mission Fund for the fastest possible use by The Relief Planning Committee/The United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ). During March, members also donated \$1,375 to One Great Hour of Sharing. —Del Fillmore