



Round Valley Faith Lift

R o u n d V a l l e y U n i t e d M e t h o d i s t C h u r c h

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News from the Pews

Jim Simpson and his brother Charlie went on a three week trekking excursion to Nepal in October 2012. Jim and Charlie were the oldest of the group and they had more stamina and perseverance than any other person in their ensemble. Let's hear it for the seniors and way to go! What an experience Jim!

Mary Gosnell has healed nicely from her double knee replacement surgery and is back worshipping with us. You were missed Mary!

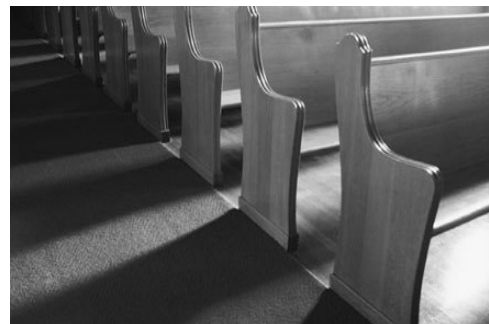
The Korean dinner on October 13th prepared by Jeanne Paek and her friends was a huge success and delicious! Thank you to everyone who helped. Participation was great and the feedback from the diners was awesome. Great job Jeanne! When is the next one?

The Youth Group held a luncheon on Sunday October 14th. The proceeds went to The Loaves of Love Food Pantry to help with the purchase of a new refrigerator. Job well done!

Happy news for the Paek family! Pastor Andrew and Jeanne's daughter Esther and her fiancé, Dennis Disbot, are getting married in September 2013. The ceremony will take place at R.V.U.M.C. Congratulations Esther and Dennis!

Ida Hauchwitz's Great Granddaughter was born in October 2012. Sugar & spice & everything nice! That's what little girls are made of!

Rory Charles Alpaugh, Grandson of Joan Alpaugh was injured in a sporting accident in December. Rory was in the hospital and is now home recuperating from his injuries. Continued healing to you Rory!



2012 Church Conference Pastor's Report

Since joining the Round Valley UMC and Changewater UMC (and High Bridge UMC) Family of faith in July 2010 - as your pastor and your fellow traveler on Christian Journey - my life has been spiritually enriched! I bless God for the beacon of hope that resides in each and every member of our churches! Our members are committed to God. They believe that God is the Author and Finisher of our faith. They are dedicated to worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth, and in serving God and each other. Our worship services are Spirit filled, our Sunday School is small yet packed with information and insights; our weekly Praise Band Ministry and Choir Rehearsal and the Bible Study Experience are times of mid-week refreshing, and our meetings and fellowships are guided by the hand of God and the mind of Christ!

Like all churches, businesses, municipalities and families, we are doing the best we can to maintain our core values and ministry with fewer resources (money and people) while also trying to prepare for a future characterized by countless variables and unpredictability! These are difficult times, yet they are the times we are given. In the midst of these times, God continues to speak. God continues to call us into faithful living and continues to make disciples.

Therefore, we are using these times to listen, to affirm the presence of God and to seek a refreshed vision that will inspire a renewed mission. Grounded in God's Word, we are remembering Jesus' startling affirmation that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world! (Mt. 5:13-16). We are daring to dream that the words Jesus quoted from Isaiah in his first public sermon in Luke 4 are meant for us, also. "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*" Jesus' mission is our mission. His purpose is our purpose.

- We are dreaming of a Church whose purpose is to get people out into the world!
- We are dreaming of a Church that brings good news to the poor, defined in the widest possible terms!
- We are dreaming of a Church in which money follows mission!
- We are dreaming of a church that is discontent simply to look after its own, but seeks to impact the world with the love of Christ!
- We are dreaming of a Church that holds up overflowing grace, extravagant generosity and radical hospitality as core values!
- We are dreaming of a Church with no volunteers, only servants of Christ!
- We are dreaming of a Church so creative and determined in its serving that we cannot help but invite others to join us in making a difference!
- We are dreaming to be a Church that repairs, restores and renews by the power of a risen, living Savior.
- We are striving to be the hands, feet and heart of Jesus Christ!

In order to realize those dreams, let me suggest some of new and practical goals that we need to work on for the upcoming year as we strive to fulfill our mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ!" and they include:

- 20 New Families
- More Unity
- Know and Use Our Spiritual Gifts
- More Praise and Thanksgiving
- 100% Tithe
- Growth of Our Children and Youth Ministry

It is a joy and privilege to be the pastor here. Being the pastor here in these times is a wonderful experience. It is at times difficult to balance the conventional roles and expectations of the sole pastor while leading the churches in new ways of caring and functioning. Yet, despite that balancing act, I have many opportunities to grow in my own Christian walk and leadership experience. I am inspired by and deeply thankful for the love that God has shown this family of faith and by the love that the family has shown me (and my family) since joining the fold as their pastor. My prayer for Round Valley and Changewater congregations as well as High Bridge UMC is that we will continue to implement our plan of connecting people to God and one another. Let us continue to look to the Lord, for God alone is our HELP!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Andrew Paek

C o m p a s s i o n C h i l d . . . R e l e a s i n g c h i l d r e n f r o m p o v e r t y i n J e s u s ' n a m e

I have received notification from Compassion International that our sponsor child Neethu Molly will reach her completion of the Compassion program sometime this year 2013 (exact date unknown at this time).

Her amazing journey would not have been possible without the love and support that we have so faithfully shared with her. As Neethu looks forward to and plans for this exciting achievement I ask that you continue to keep her and her family in your prayers.

Once we receive her completion date I will be asking the congregation for help to compile a farewell letter to her so she knows that she has touched our lives as

much as we have touched hers.

We have been a sponsor for Neethu since 03/28/2001 when she was just 9 years old and home for her and her family at that time was living under a tarp on the streets of her native India. She is now a 20 year old wonderful young lady with an education, good health and is looking forward to her future. Please know what a tremendous difference you have all made in her life. This is such a beautiful way to make Christ known in our world by sharing his love and "Compassion" with a child in need.

Thank you,
Annie



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Most of us use the New Year as an occasion for all kinds of resolutions and resolves. This is our attempt to change and to change for the better. Down deep we all want the best and fullest possible life. That's really quite a Christian instinct. When Jesus came among us, he identified the reason for his presence. He said in John 10:10 "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full." We don't want to settle for anything less than what Jesus offers. Here are some questions we can ask if we as Christians are willing to live our lives to the fullest extent as we usher in the new year of 2013;

AM I putting Jesus first in every area of my life or am I still in charge?

AM I putting a priority on fellowship and worship with my fellow Christian believers?

AM I praying and asking the Lord to help me to be available to witness for Jesus Christ each day?

AM I seeking to love rather than hate or judge others?

AM I willing to confess my sins and truly seek the Lord's forgiveness?

AM I willing to completely let go of my selfish control, to surrender and let God take over?

Every year a United Methodist pastor is asked to give a report to the church. The previous pages article is my report to the 2012 Church Conference. Please read over the pastor's report prayerfully. It was a great year and 2013 will be too!

God loves you and so do I,

Andrew

P.S. Jeanne and I want to thank all of you who were so kind to us this past holiday season. We very much appreciate the many cards and gifts we received. Many thanks.

You Will Not Be Forgotten

When tragedy such as what has recently happened in Newtown, CT. strikes, it shatters our hopes for security and peace and places a dark cloud over our belief for human mankind. There has been a universal outpouring of sympathy and love for those who lost their children and loved ones in this unimaginable tragedy. Tributes have gone from football players writing the names of the victims on their cleats, balloons with each person's name being sent toward heaven, numerous outpouring of prayers, cards, letters, flowers, teddy bears, financial donations, candlelight vigils, the list is endless! So many trying to offer comfort and reassurance during this heart wrenching time...It is important that we DO NOT FORGET!!!! Keep it coming in whatever capacity we can.

To the community of Newtown, listen quietly and you will hear Jesus say " Do not worry - I have everything under control". May you all allow God to wrap you in his loving arms and comfort you through all of your days! This touching poem/tribute that follows was sent to me by Lesley Wells. I hope it can provide some comfort to all who read it as it did for me.

God Bless you - Annie

Charlotte Bacon, Daniel Barden, Rachel DaVino, Olivia Engel, Josephine Gay, Ana Marquez-Greene, Dylan Hockley, Dawn Hochsprung, Madeleine Hsu, Catherine Hubbard, Chase Kowalski, Jesse Lewis, James Mattioli, Grace McDonnell, Anne Marie Murphy, Emilie Parker, Jack Pinto, Noah Pozner, Caroline Previdi, Jessica Rekos, Avielle Richman, Lauren Russeau, Mary Sherlach, Victoria Soto, Benjamin Wheeler, Allison Wyatt,

Twas' 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38
when 20 beautiful children stormed through heaven's gate.
their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air.
they could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there.
they were filled with such joy, they didn't know what to say.
they remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day.
"Where are we?" asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse.
"This is heaven." declared a small boy. "We're spending Christmas at God's house."
When what to their wondering eyes did appear,
but Jesus, their savior, the children gathered near.
He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same.
then He opened His arms and He called them by name.
and in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring
Those children all flew into the arms of their King

and as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace,
one small girl turned and looked at Jesus' face.
and as if He could read all the questions she had
He gently whispered to her, "I'll take care of mom and dad."
Then He looked down on earth, the world far below
He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe
then He closed His eyes and He outstretched His hand,
"Let My power and presence re-enter this land!"
"May this country be delivered from the hands of fools"
"I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools!"
then He and the children stood up without a sound.
"Come now my children, let me show you around."
excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran.
all displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can.
and I heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight,
"In the midst of this darkness, I AM STILL THE LIGHT."

Finance Report



We realize that this Fall has been heart breaking for so many people. Some we may know, many we do not, but our hearts definitely go out to them. We must count ourselves lucky, if we still have our homes to live in, and our lives pretty much back to normal.

Round Valley is always grateful for what our people do to support the Church each year. We want to continue to be a part of the community, to have our Loaves of Love food pantry that feeds many families in the Lebanon area, also to continue with our Cluttered Closet Thrift Shop which allows people to buy things at reasonable prices.

Let us not forget how blessed we are to have the Paek family with us, as we grow in faith, love, and the desire to further God's work in this world.

For these many reasons we are happy that you have opened your heart as you contemplated what you believed you could give in your pledge. To date we have received 27 pledge cards back with a financial commitment of \$48,484. (Matthew 25:23) "Well done my good and faithful servants." Giving comes in many ways: financially, our time, our talents and our presence. The Church is always happy for what you are able to do. We cannot function without you, for U R the heart of the Church.

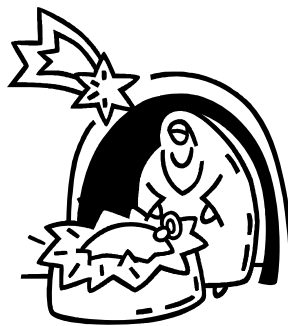
Thank you once again for your support.

Your Finance Committee,

Rich, Janine and Cathie

Christmas Thanks

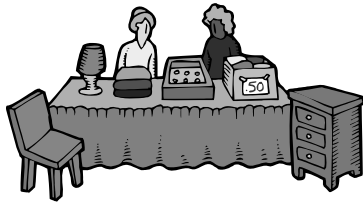
Christmas was outstanding here at our Church. Sincere thanks to all those who worked diligently to make sure that the birth of Christ was so warmly celebrated in our congregation. Thanks to those who



sang and rang, read and ushered, to those who cleaned and decorated and in any other way helped make our celebration memorable. God bless you all for your generosity.

Upcoming Fundraisers

- Our annual Valentine's Day Celebration Breakfast is scheduled for February 9th (Saturday) from 8:30 to 11 AM. We'll have our usual yummy food...pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, donuts, bread and of course our famous potato casserole!



- In March, we're going to try a new fundraiser which is an indoor yard sale. Just like the outdoor yard sale we hold annually in September., we'll rent tables and spaces to individuals who would like to sell their yard sale type items. The only difference is that the March yard sale will be indoors. This fundraiser will be on march 15th (Friday) and 16th (Saturday) from 8AM to 3PM.

- Over the last few years, we've been celebrating Mother's Day by holding a Mother's Day Celebration Breakfast on the day before that very special day. For a change, how about we recognize the Dads and hold a Father's Day Celebration BBQ instead? The BBQ is scheduled for June 15th (Saturday) from 4 to 7:30 PM.



Please hold these dates on your calendar, and tell your friends, family and neighbors about them. More details to come. If you have any questions or ideas, please let me know. Thanks!

Lesley Wells

2012



2013

**M a d e w i t h L o v e . . . F r o m M y K i t c h e n t o
Y o u r s !**

Recipe from the TV Cooking Show "The Chew"...Submitted by Joan Alpaugh

Nicole Murphy's Pumpkin Pudding Crunch

INGREDIENTS:

2 sticks salted butter
1 large can pumpkin puree
3 brown eggs
1 large can evaporated milk
1 cup white sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1 box yellow cake mix
Fresh mint leaves
Whipped topping

DIRECTIONS:

Melt butter; set aside.

In large bowl, mix together: pumpkin puree, eggs, milk, sugar, vanilla extract, cinnamon & nutmeg.

Pour into baking dish.

Sprinkle evenly over mixture, dry cake mix. Cover completely with cake mix.

Pour melted butter on top to cover cake mix; do not mix in. Butter should sit on top of cake mix.

Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Let cool; best served cold.

Top with a dollop of whipped topping, dash of cinnamon and garnish with a mint leaf.



**R e c i p e f o r a H a p p y N e w Y e a r
. . . A n o n y m o u s**

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Funny Job Requirements for Children's Ministry

There was a funny thread on the forums at [CM Connect](#) and I thought I would share some of it here. Basically, they wanted to come up with some funny "job requirements" for children's ministry. Here are a few of my favorites, feel free to come up with your own:

- Sense of humour is not mandatory, but you won't survive without it
- Should be quick to recover when you forget a kids name: a staple of generic names such as 'Buckaroo' or 'Fella' is a must
- Even though you would watch them anyways, Cartoons are now considered research.
- Having the ability to always tell a joke or fill in time is a major plus
- No sense of embarrassment is a plus – especially when doing action songs
- Must have the immune system of a robot
- Must be able to use random junk as props
- Must be able to rig contests so the girls don't always win
- Willingness to pray for all sick pets by name
- Must be able to "Hold it" for entire service rotation
- Ability to distinguish where "That smell is coming from"
- Must be able to come up with 10 games from 1 piece of toilet paper.
- Must remember that 'knucks' are 75% more healthy than high fives.
- Able to turn all your mistakes into a funny story
- Able to tolerate bright yellow & orange walls in your office
- Breath mints ... really, kids will call you out for dog breath



Humor... Good for the Soul!



Two buddies Chris and John were two of the biggest baseball fans in America. For their entire adult lives, Chris and John discussed baseball history in the winter and they pored over every box score during the season.

They went to 60 games a year. They even agreed that whoever died first would try to come back and tell the other if there was baseball in heaven.

One summer night, Chris passed away in his sleep after watching the Yankee victory earlier in the evening. He died happy. A few nights later, his buddy John awoke to the sound of Chris's voice from beyond. "Chris is that you?" John asked. "Of course it's me," Chris replied.



"This is unbelievable!" John exclaimed. "So tell me, is there baseball in heaven?"

"Well I have some good news and some bad news for you. Which do you want to hear first?"

"Tell me the good news first."

"Well, the good news is that, yes, there is baseball in heaven, John."

"Oh, that is wonderful! So what could possibly be the bad news?"

"You're pitching tomorrow night."



MATTHEW CHAPTER TWO

B	T	L	E	W	D	A	G	N	I	D	N	U	O	F	K	AMONG	JUDAEA
F	L	A	T	E	H	S	P	E	O	P	L	E	A	P	W	BEHOLD	LEAST
E	E	T	L	H	T	R	A	H	W	W	O	O	R	E	N	BORN	MARY
I	K	L	H	T	N	D	R	I	D	H	I	I	H	S	L	BRING	MYRRH
H	A	Y	N	I	R	A	T	Y	N	C	V	O	O	E	C	CALLED	OPENED
C	R	E	I	R	N	E	D	H	M	I	T	F	A	H	B	CHIEF	PEOPLE
O	D	S	S	I	O	G	A	U	L	H	E	S	H	T	R	CHILD	PRIVILY
H	T	I	O	U	T	B	S	Y	J	W	T	T	E	M	I	CHRIST	SEARCH
O	E	W	C	O	S	T	A	P	G	N	U	O	Y	N	N	DWELT	STAR
H	E	R	M	D	E	E	S	O	I	A	O	O	G	L	G	EAST	STOOD
C	L	A	O	R	A	A	J	T	O	H	M	D	F	E	D	FOUND	THESE
R	H	M	I	D	T	E	S	Y	A	H	S	O	T	E	L	GOLD	THINGS
A	S	R	U	I	W	O	R	T	N	R	D	R	N	Y	I	HEROD	WHICH
E	A	J	I	S	N	A	A	M	A	L	D	E	O	G	H	JESUS	WISE
S	R	A	E	S	M	H	I	E	O	M	P	I	T	W	C	JOSEPH	WORSHIP
S	G	N	I	H	T	E	N	G	J	O	S	E	P	H	O	JUDA	YOUNG

Funny Signs

"No God-No Peace. Know God-Know Peace."

"Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!"

"Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins."

"Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!"

An ad for St. Joseph's Episcopal Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

When the restaurant next to the Lutheran Church put out a big sign with red letters that said, "Open Sundays," the church reciprocated with its own message: "We are open on Sundays, too."

"Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons - come hear one!"

A singing group called "The Resurrection" was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the pastor fixed the outside sign to read, "The Resurrection is postponed."

"People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

"God so loved the world that He did not send a committee."

"Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!"

"When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out alright."

"Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday."

"Fight truth decay-study the Bible daily."

"How will you spend eternity-Smoking or Non-smoking?"

"Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives"

"Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."

"Our arms are the only ones God has to hug His children."

"It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin."

"Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church."

"If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns."

"If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again."

"Looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon."

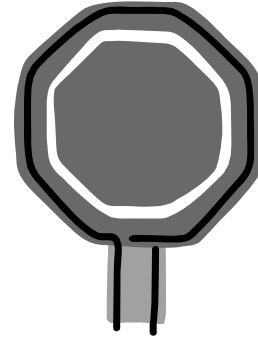
"This is a ch__ch. What is missing?" ---> (U R)

"Forbidden fruit creates many jams."

"In the dark? Follow the Son."

"Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up."

"If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd."





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Methodist Church

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B i r t h d a y s & A n n i v e r s a r i e s

Birthdays are a special time to remember that God creates beautiful people...He created you!

Margaret Simpson
Arlene Lane
Jack Dabb
Jim Walls
Emily Dabb
Kristin Dutka
Clair Rothstein
Joseph Rothstein
Cathie Hendrickson
Hunter Simpson
Jeanne Paek
Bill Wilson
Thelma Bunn
Tommy Cerra
Tom Cerra
June Galando
Ruth Ann Rooney
Jenny Rooney
Annie Walls

January 1
January 8
January 14
January 17
January 18
January 24
January 30
January 31
February 5
February 9
February 11
February 21
March 19
March 20
March 25
March 25
March 28
March 29
March 29

Anniversaries are a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday and the hopes of tomorrow.

Steve & Lesley Wells

March 23



D a t e s t o R e m e m b e r

- Choir practice Wednesdays at 6:30PM
- Administrative Council Meetings second Wednesday of the month at 7PM—All are welcome!
- Bible Study Wednesday mornings at 10AM in Pastor Andrew's office.
- Annual Valentine's Day Celebration Breakfast—February 9th from 8:30 to 11AM.
- Indoor Yard Sale—March 15th and 16th from 8AM to 3PM.

