



have to ponder the philosophical implications of this joke while I take my grandson miniature golfing.

While I'm gone I hope you will support those who are leading worship and preaching.

July 26 – *Praising God: Loaves and Fishes* - Rev. Michelle Webber, preaching;

Aug. 2 – Communion Sunday – Rev. Michelle Webber, preaching;

Aug. 9 – Arts Camp: *Building Community through Art* – Rev. Webber, preaching;

Aug. 16 – Victoria Gaisford, MDiv, Harvard Divinity School, preaching.

I will be returning on August 23, rested, well-read, and ready to start the new church year which begins with “Homecoming Sunday” on September 13.

Matt Broadbent

## FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES

### Foothills Congregational Church, UCC

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**Deadline: 15th of each month**

***Save the date: Oct. 3***

### Adult fall retreat

▶ Saturday, Oct. 3

▶ 9 a.m. to 8p.m.

▶ Duvenek House at Hidden Villa

*Stay tuned for full details next month — but save the date!*

### CPR/AED class coming Aug. 23

**BE PREPARED** for life-threatening situations — learn how to respond to respiratory or cardiac emergencies in adults.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, Foothills is sponsoring a CPR/AED (stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation/automatic external defibrillator) training class for anyone interested in learning how to care for adults in an emergency situation. The emphasis is on recognizing a problem when it occurs and caring for the person who is suffering an attack.

You may not know that Foothills has an AED device in the church. It's in the workroom off the adult library. But it is of no use if we don't have people trained to use it. Sign up for this class and become Red Cross CPR/AED certified. For the full course description go to <http://tinyurl.com/lpqsdw>.

The class is after church and will run from 11:30 to 4:00 and include lunch. The cost is \$25. Sign up on the clipboard in the courtyard or by calling the church office. The course is open to anyone who is interested, and is recommended for anyone who serves as an usher or a member of the deaconate.

—Steve Pomeroy

***From the Associate Minister***

### Is preaching a dying art?

**I AM WRITING THIS** on study leave. The subject I am studying: preaching. Matt has given me a bibliography that I am working my way through and I am doing internet research. I am stuck with the question, should I be learning to preach to the church where I currently work, to the Foothills Congregational Church (FCC) of 2009, or to the church I will be preaching to in 10 or 15 years? No matter where I am preaching, when it is 2019 it will be a different congregation.

One of the things I have realized is that good preaching has a lot to do with the relationship between the preacher and the congregation. My primary relationships are with the children, youth, young adults and families with children.

And yet these do not make up the majority of worship participants. They are not, for the most part, those who hear my sermons. And yet, in 10 or 15 years, they will be the primary hearers of my sermons. When I begin a sermon with a movie reference from my youth, I am speaking the language of many in my primary community, but not many in the primary worshipping congregation. When I seek to create worship environments whose visual metaphor emphasizes the metaphor of the sermon, something I do not get to do often enough, I am reaching towards those of us who have been reared in the visual age, not those of us reared in the literate, auditory age.

Let's face it, us younger folk have had very

few times in our life outside of church where we need to attend to a person talking without the benefit of visual aids or a sound track. This is the reality that questions the future of preaching.

One thing I learned last year when I read through a stack of newly published books on post-modern spirituality is that good post-modern preaching engages at least two senses. It includes music, or visual aids, in addition to speaking.

And yet this is not the norm of FCC today. Some suggest that to prepare to preach to the future church means to learn how to integrate visual media, such as movie clips and PowerPoint slides, or movement into the sermon experience. And I am, indeed, interested in these forms.

I am still processing all the learning I did on our recent mission trip to the Navajo Nation. One of the insights that came out of the trip during our closing circle was how FCC generally, and the FCC members on the trip specifically, speak of how we think about God, while others participating in the work with us, spoke of how they feel about God.

Perhaps this is a bigger difference, even, than the form of the sermon. When Matt led the listening groups last year, one of the desires coming from the younger participants was a desire for a more emotive experience in worship. Yet we do still talk about how we think about theology. We want to both think and feel our spirituality in an integrated way.

Perhaps this is the challenge of preaching a good sermon, no matter to whom you are preaching, to integrate emotion and intellect in the concept of a lived theology. But then I am still studying.

Michelle Webber

## Relay for Life wrapup

THANKS TO ALL who contributed to the American Cancer Society for our fourth "United We Stride" team.

We contributed \$7,725 to Relay, on-line and checks sent to the church. Thank you all for being part of our team, and extra thanks to those individuals who raised over \$1,000. You know who you are!

It was a beautiful day in so many ways, I hope you'll be part of the team next year. If you haven't made your contribution to the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life will take checks until Aug. 31. I'm happy to turn them in!  
—*Iris Moran*

## August music

WHILE THE CHOIR IS OFF during August, gifts of music from other members of our congregation will grace the services.

**Aug. 2** Clara Takahashi, piano and voice

**Aug. 9** Marshall Dunford, viola

**Aug. 16** Thelma Ackley, bells; Jean Ehret, piano

**Aug. 23** Dotty and Terry Hayes, as members of Crescendo choral group

**Aug. 30** Matt Broadbent, Del Fillmore, Bill McGee, Bob Willwerth, vocal quartet

—*Jean Ehret for the Music Board*

## Jail ministry

AFTER A NICE BREAK in July, the Foothills jail worship team gears up again Sunday, Aug. 9. If you'd like to join us to provide worship and prayer for the men at Elmwood Correctional Center in Milpitas, please let the Rev. Evelyn Vigil know by Tuesday, Aug. 4, to leave time for a clearance to be run. Carpooling from church is available. We generally gather in Milpitas at about 7:15 p.m. in order to start services at 7:30 p.m. —*E.V.*

## Part of the family

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

### We remember in our prayers . . .

Foothills folks involved with treatment or hospitalization this last month:

**Mike Shannon, Richard Moll, Angi Peck and Troy Tossy**

**Shirley McCauley** at a residential care facility in Mountain View

**Doris Prosser** at Manor Care, Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road

**Ann and Arvin Epp**, at home

**Helen Semar** at Sunnyside Gardens, Sunnyvale

**Noreen Hopper** at Sunny View Community Center

**Mary Peabody** at Lytton Gardens, Palo Alto

**B.J. Darrow** at Palo Alto Commons, Palo Alto

**Condolences to Laurel Weeks** on the death of her mother in North Carolina in June.

**Circle of Women** will meet Monday, Aug. 24, in the Learning Center from 7-9 p.m. for a simple potluck and sharing. If you have any questions please contact Lee Rogers at (650) 941-3925. —*L.R.*

**Women's Fellowship** Our fun and fellowship don't take a break in the summer. Bring a bag lunch and join us Tuesday, Aug. 11 at noon in the Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430. —*A.N.*

## Beyond the courtyard

### Volunteer extraordinaire for learning-disabled: Melissa King

AFTER MELISSA KING confronted the challenge of a son struggling academically in grade school, she learned about Parents Helping Parents – and her life changed. Not only did she receive support as a parent of a child with special needs, she became a volunteer and later a paid employee of the organization.

She organizes speakers' schedules, facilitates support groups, and sets up meeting rooms for PHP. She also conducts workshops for parents through the First Five program sponsored by Santa Clara County, an early intervention program for families with preschoolers with special needs.

"Parents Helping Parents provides a whole range of support groups for parents, more than 19 special categories, like ADD, Asperger's Syndrome, and groups in Japanese, Chinese and Spanish," Melissa says. "It also provides parent education in areas like grief support, for parents grieving their child's disability; and child advocacy law, where you can learn your rights and your child's rights from schools and health agencies."

Melissa's volunteer career is a natural, considering her own educational background. Born in Salinas to a father who was the assistant superintendent of schools and a mother who was a Smith graduate, she loved school and loved to dance. At Santa



Catalina, a girls' high school in Monterey, she became interested in foreign languages, an area she continued at Stanford, where she majored in Spanish but also took French and Italian.

"I also took lots of economics classes and knew I wanted to do something in business, rather than teaching," Melissa recalls. However, her desire for a master's degree in organizational studies at the Stanford Business School was thwarted by an advisor who "patted me on the head and said to marry someone who did that."

She went to work at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey after graduation and tested her wings as an educational researcher on a new Spanish language course.

"It was a fascinating place, with military and civilian professors and students, old and young people," Melissa says.

She became clearer in her goal of getting a graduate degree in project management and then was welcomed into the business school at UCLA where she designed her own major. Next came financial jobs in Los Angeles; she met her husband while working there for Xerox. The couple moved to Melissa's current home in 1982.

"In those days it wasn't easy getting an interview as a woman, but after six months I was hired to manage international programs for Litton Industries and continued there after our first son, Andrew, was born in 1987. After our second son, Evan was born in 1989, I had to retire for a while," Melissa says.

Her busy parenting years, which included lots of volunteering for the Montclair School PTA and Educational Foundation

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## . . . *Melissa King*

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and Boy Scouts, came to a fateful crisis when her husband died following “normal” knee surgery. Her boys were nine and eleven.

“My mother, my father and my husband all died within four years,” Melissa says. “The boys and I spent six years going to Salinas every weekend.”

Melissa started attending Foothills Church when her boys were young, and joined our church in 2001: “For a year, I really didn’t say anything to anyone,” she recalls. However, she recognized various people she had met in other places around the community, and “just felt it was my little respite from all the rest of my responsibilities. Foothills gives such a sense of family and is a very open and welcoming community, which I appreciate.”

She has served on the Fellowship Board for six years and is now on the Stewardship Board. She also helps Pastor Michelle Webber with organizing the summer arts camp. Her other community service includes volunteering at Palo Alto Kara’s counseling center, where she co-facilitates a group for grieving parents of young children.

Melissa has been an empty nester for most of a school year, but her sons are still moving in and out. Her favorite relaxation aids are yoga and aerobics, but her friends are her favorite “hobby,” along with reading and volunteering.

— *Carolyn Barnes*



## The Library

### Worth your time

IN A COMPANION VOLUME to the acclaimed PBS series on Genesis, Bill Moyers and his editors have produced a best-selling book, *Genesis: A Living Conversation*, in which Moyers and a host of fascinating people discuss creation, murder, apocalypse, family strife, exile and other important themes from the first book of the Bible.

Eminent theologians, clergy, biblical historians, writers and professors participate in these discussions, sharing their insights and personal responses to the issues. It is a lively sharing of ideas that cross the boundaries of religious affiliation to include Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist as well as Christian dialectic. [hmm. “Dialectic” is a word I look up periodically and promptly forget; don’t seem to have occasion to use it regularly. In case you, too, could use a refresher; my Random House dictionary says it’s “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments.” —Ed.]

Some of the speakers that I found the most fascinating were “outsiders,” people who were bringing to the discussions a point of view that was significantly different from that of the others in the group.

For example, in the chapter, *In God’s Image*, Hugh O’Donnell, an artist, talked about what it means to be a creator and what the creator’s relationship is to his creation. In the chapter, *Temptation*, Steven Mitchell, a practitioner of Zen meditation, talks about Eve following her bliss. Fascinating stuff.

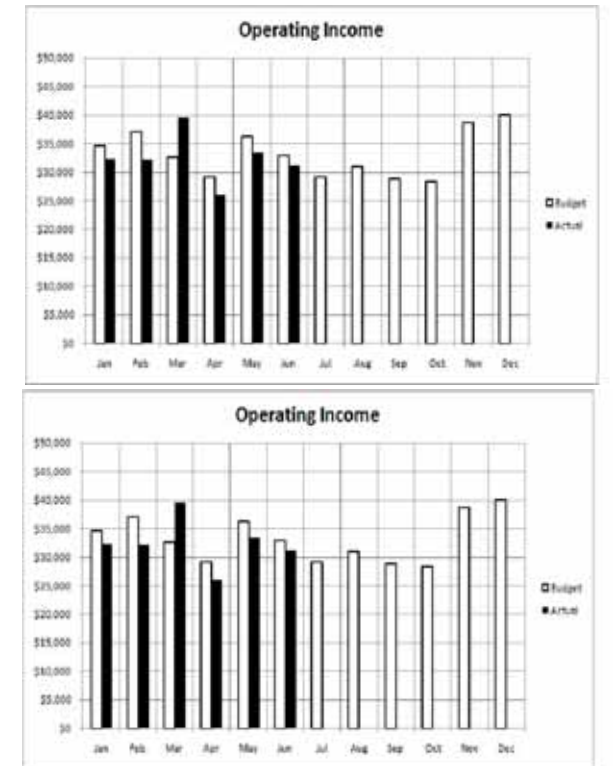
If you haven’t seen this series on television, or even if you have, you will find these conversations informative, entertaining and well worth your time. —*Lee Rogers*

## Financial Report

### First half: “Pretty much on track”

AS THE GRAPHS SHOW, FCC’s financial picture for the first half of 2009 is pretty much on track. Operating income was \$194,833 which was under budget by \$7,924. Operating expenses followed close to budget until the blip in June. Still, expenses for the half were \$2,388 under the budget of \$212,418. The net result is that the operating fund ended the first half with an actual deficit of \$15,197 versus the budgeted deficit of \$9,661.

Contributions for undesignated outreach for the half were \$44,274. The Endowment for Outreach contributed \$21,388. Contributions to outreach for uses designated by the donor were \$12,268 bringing total outreach to \$77,930. —*Del Fillmore*



## Coming at Foothills

- Aug. 2** All Church Theater Party, Foothill College  
—All Church Picnic, Shoup Park
- Aug. 3-7** Children’s Art Camp
- Aug. 23** CPR and defibrillator training
- Sept. 13** Homecoming Sunday
- Sept. 15-19, 22, 23** Photo Directory
- Oct. 3** Fall Retreat, Hidden Villa

## Thanks from Richard

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE for their prayers, thoughts, cards and calls wishing me speedy recovery from my scary episode of multiple pulmonary embolisms that put me in the hospital for four days. The best news is that I am still here to say thanks to you; the good news is that my doctor said that if I have made it this far, I will make it if I take my medications. Looking forward to seeing you all in church.

—*Richard Moll*