

them, and where it was, and I know the context, and the content – and yet – and yet... I can't remember their name.

"Hey," I say generically, "how's it going?" And I am so grateful when they say, "Hey, it's Bob, been a longtime, bet you don't remember." But I light up and say, "Oh how can I forget." In my head I am thinking, *thank you, thank you, thank you.*

I am finding I often need a memory reboot. I leave my glasses all over the place. I have lost more hats by forgetting to pick them up when I leave. Every Sunday morning the question is "where did I put my worship book with all my notes?" Please don't ask me what I said in my sermon last week – it's gone. I'll have to look it up just like you.

Martin Copenhaver, writing on this same theme recently said, "As an adult, I know that I need to be reminded of more important things, as well. I need, and sometimes

FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES

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even appreciate, the occasional reminder that my place is not at the center of the universe. I cannot be reminded too often that I am a beloved child of God. And I come to worship each week to be reminded of what I believe."

That's the bottom line. We keep coming back to hear the old, old story, to be reminded about what we have known all along.

God loves us and takes delight in us, and desires for us to remember where it all began so we can imagine where it is all going. If we can be gentle and remind each other, we will not lose anything, especially our self. See you in church (with your name tag prominently displayed.)

Matt Broadbent

Christmas tea

JEAN TAYLOR REPORTS that the ladies at Christmas Tea donated a total of 18 pairs of pejamas and \$460 in cash.

CSA sent their thanks on behalf of the many homeless people for donation of health kits for their Alpha Omega Homeless Services Program.



Gait and Balance report

A SMALL, INTIMATE, attentive group attended the November/December class. Emphasis was placed on numerous balance exercises and Tai Chi movements. Instruction also was given in walking, transfers, and breathing and relaxation exercises that improve flexibility, coordination and strength.

The money collected from this class was again given to the Outreach Board, designated for Child Advocates. I thought this seventeenth Foothills class was going to be my last given here, but I have been asked to offer the class as a silent auction subscription item at the Los Altos History Museum Crab Feed.

So I plan to teach that class here at Foothills and open it up for other participants who wish to attend. No date has yet been set but it will be sometime next spring.

I enjoy teaching and realize how important it is for everyone to learn the basic techniques for good posture and balance in all activities. To learn new skills I hope to enroll in a physical therapy course in February that offers information about treatments that are designed to restore functional balance to the body in the most repetitive pattern we use: gait. If you are interested in joining the spring class, just let Susana or me know.

—Ann Oliver, MS, PT

Worship at jail Jan. 10

THE JAIL MINISTRY team from Foothills will offer a worship service at Elmwood Correctional Center in Milpitas on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to join in the service, please let Bob Willwerth or the Rev. Evelyn Vigil know by Tuesday, Jan. 5 in order to get you cleared to enter. Welcome to the new year! —E.V.

Operation Care and Comfort

MANY THANKS to the PF youth and members of the congregation for their assistance with the December pack. It was a crazy and successful day! We sent hygiene packs, Halloween candy, books, magazines, video games, DVDs and CDs. We also sent many handwritten holiday cards.

During this month, OCC has sent several boxes of needed items, phone cards and holiday cheer to the recently deployed troops so their first holiday away from home will be with the knowledge that people back home are thinking of them.

The next pack date is on January 10th and we are back to a monthly pack schedule to meet the increasing needs in conflict zones. You are welcome to join us at the pack. The collection bin will be in the Fireside Room for any donations you would like to make. Disposable razors, Christmas candy, crossword and sudoku books, bandaids, wet wipes, oatmeal and hot chocolate packets are great items to receive.

Thank you for the special Halloween candy donations by the youth and your continuing support during 2009. Moving into 2010, the need is still great for a bit of comfort from home, please join us for a pack day and drop off your donations so we may continue to let the troops know they are remembered and appreciated.

Happy New Year! - Mark and K.C. McCoy



Coming at Foothills

- Jan. 16-18** Junior High Mid-Winter Retreat
- Jan. 24** Open Finance and Budget Review Meeting
- Jan. 30-Feb. 1** UCC Women's Network Retreat, Mercy Center
- Jan. 31** Foothills Annual Meeting

Book Group The book for January is *Olive Kitteridge*, by Elizabeth Stout. The book won the Pulitzer Prize, and is written as a series of short stories in which Olive plays either a major or, often, minor role. The date is Tuesday the 26th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.

Women's Fellowship We want to start off the New Year right with lots of fun, fellowship and food. So bring your bag lunch at noon to the Fireside Room on Tuesday, Jan. 12. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.

Circle of Women will meet Monday, Jan. 25, in the Meeting Room from 7 to 9 p.m. for a simple potluck and sharing. If you have any questions please contact Lee Rogers at (650) 941-3925.

A note from Ruth

A BIG "THANK YOU" to the Foothills family for all expressions of support during my recent surgery. Now I know what it feels like to be lifted up in prayer - and it's great!

—Ruth Polata

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: **Norine Hopper, Jean Taylor, Allegra Scheirer, Bonnie Adams, Bruce Cann**

Mike Shannon recovering at home from brain surgery

Shirley McCauley at a residential care facility in Mountain View

Doris Prosser at Manor Care, Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road

Ann and Arvin Epp, at home

Noreen Hopper at Sunny View Community Center

Mary Peabody at Lytton Gardens, Palo Alto

B.J. Darrow at Pilgrim Heaven, Los Altos



About that white curb

PEOPLE HAVE ASKED me why is there a white curb on the Orange Ave.

It's OK to park on the white curb in front of church on the Orange side. The Property Management Board wanted to let you know they have shortened the green curb for extra parkings on Orange Ave. The green curb that says 20 min. parking is for deliveries during the week. Charter members and seniors are welcome to use the green curb on any church functions.

—Susana Leung

Beyond the courtyard

King of the Road: Rich Bumblis

WHEN ANYTHING on wheels or anything around our church buildings breaks down, Rich Bumblis usually knows how it works and how to get it running again – and keep it running. Rich is just about the most genial and helpful man imaginable, and fortunately he serves on Foothills Church's Property Management Board (his wife, Kathi, is chair), so we all reap the benefits of his expertise.

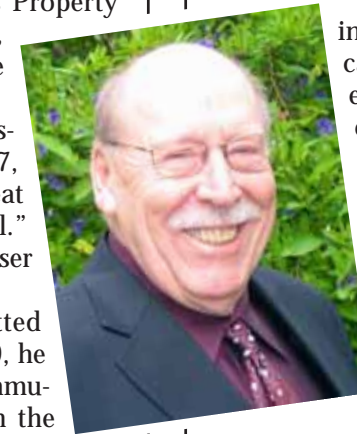
Rich's can-do spirit was well established by the time he was 17, when he "wanted to sail the Great Lakes, hauling ore, coal and gravel." So he went to work as a coal passer on Great Lakes ore boats.

Later, the U.S. Army benefitted from Rich's skills when, at age 19, he serviced the vehicles carrying ammunition and supplies to troops on the front lines in Korea, sometimes in temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. Later, still in the Army, he taught classes in towing artillery vehicles at Fort Lewis, Washington.

"The longest I ever worked at an inside job was for two weeks," Rich says. "I can't be locked in, I have to get up and move."

Rich now drives a one-ton, wide truck with a retractable fifth wheel, the better to tow the 31-foot travel trailer that he and Kathi steer cross-country when the mood strikes. They will head for the East Coast next June, when Kathi has a family reunion in Tennessee. Or they often head for their cabin in Kings Beach, near Lake Tahoe, where they cross-country ski and enjoy nearby open space hiking trails.

The second of three boys, born near



Cleveland, Ohio, Rich describes himself as "the mischievous one, the one who climbed the roof in leather-soled shoes and then fell off into the pear tree."

In high school he was on the track team, throwing the shot, jumping high hurdles, pole-vaulting, and running the 220 and 440. The next two years, spent on the ore boats, were very physical, delivering coal to the fireman and then working as fireman to keep the engines running.

"This was just before oil came into use on the boats," Rich recalls. "I worked four hours on each shift, then had eight hours off, around the clock. It really wasn't bad, because we ate like kings and saw a lot."

After his stint in the Army, Rich returned to the Cleveland area and drove big rigs to Buffalo, Chicago, and around Pennsylvania.

"When you get in your cab and you drive, it's like a theater," Rich says. "Every day is different, every season is different and you see completely different things."

He married and had two sons, who now live in Oregon and Ohio. Rich's family was good friends of Kathi's family. His first wife died at the age of 42, when their sons were young adults. Rich and Kathi married a few years later, just as Kathi began travelling as a business consultant. After 10 years, Rich and Kathi moved here to be closer to her client Hewlett Packard. She had learned about Foothills Church from a minister friend in Ohio.

"The camaraderie at this church is wonderful," Rich says. "Whenever Foothills needs me, I'm there."

On a recent Saturday, before a predicted

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The Library

Some good DVDs

THE TRUTH SEEKERS have recently viewed two interesting DVD courses produced by The Teaching Company, an organization which has provided our group with many interesting classes over the years. Both recent courses have been related to the Old Testament and taught by eminent Jewish scholars. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University, (yes, that's *New* Testament) presents a 24 lecture course, *The Old Testament*. Hearing the Old Testament explicated by a Jew brought out all sorts of new ideas and revelations.

Her scholarship and insight, her rapid-fire connections informed us and kept us on our toes. Our minds were awl with ideas as we listened to her, and the post-lecture discussions were lively as we tried to sort through all the input. This is a very worthwhile series.

Professor Gary Rendsburg is the chair of Jewish History at Rutgers University. His scholarly studies have contributed new insights into Biblical interpretation. The course we viewed was *The Book of Genesis*. His approach to the subject was multifaceted.

He interpreted the text as history, literature and theology, sometimes dedicating a whole lecture to one aspect, sometimes blending them. His intent was to deal with three questions: What was the author's original intent? How has the text been interpreted over the years? What does it mean to us today?

Although Rendsburg gave us many interesting insights and changing the way we will read sacred text in the future, I must provide you with this *caveat*. He's boring. He repeats each point at least three times lest we fail to grasp it. Quite a contrast to rapid-fire Levine. Nevertheless, it was a very worthwhile 24-

... Rich Bumblis

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storm, he was up on a ladder, clearing out the gutters outside the Redwood Room and then he swept the fall leaves out of the courtyard – this was all on his own initiative, before he went home to do the same chores there.

What church projects are on his agenda for the new year?

“Well, I want to re-do the paint in the Redwood Room and maybe bring in some more moldings. Also I will work on the little hallway and the bathroom. This is a church with so much character – I always hear people say, ‘This is a lovely, lovely church,’ and it truly is,” Rich says. —*Carolyn Barnes*

Library News

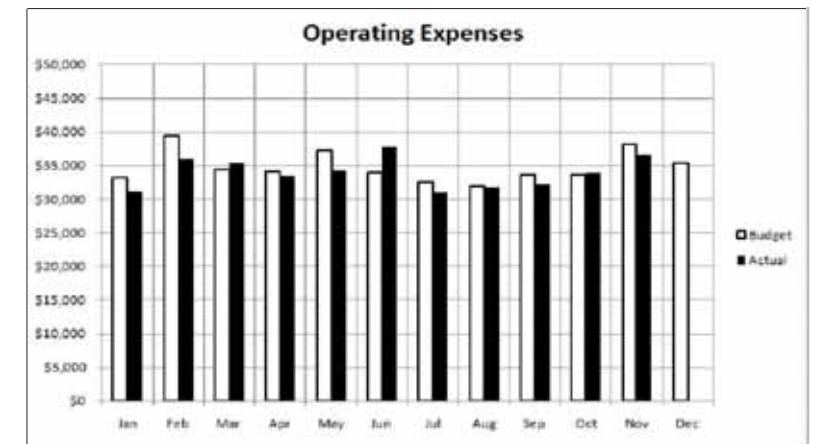
Life on the Min River—A Missionary Family in China 1916 – 1937 is the story of a family of Congregational missionaries in China during a very turbulent time. Author Agnes McClure Alden tells her memories of growing up there and includes many excerpts from the beautifully written, detailed letters (now in Yale Divinity School Library) of her mother and father to those back home.

It gives a clear picture of what life was like for this family and other missionary friends struggling to build schools and hospitals and to combat poverty, discrimination and ignorance. Through it all, these writers express a sense of humor and tolerance for the human condition. The book is complemented by many pictures. A captivating book!

—*Jeri Schrickler, Adult Books Librarian*

lecture series. I will probably watch it again. These DVDs can be found on the media shelf in our library. This shelf is just above the telephone. It contains other interesting DVDs and videos as well as a collection of Jim Manley's CDs. —*Lee Rogers*

Financial Report



Deficit didn't budge in November; December may help

AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, the deficit in the operating fund remained about the same as previously reported. Operating income through November was \$337,182 while operating expenses were \$373,792, leaving a deficit at Nov. 30 of \$36,610. However, operating income for December is expected to exceed \$50,000 while December expenses should be about \$36,000. If we can meet these expectations we should end the year with a deficit of about \$20,000 as compared to the plan presented at the annual meeting which showed a deficit of \$19,138. That would be pretty close to our original goal — but it is still a pretty sizable deficit. Any extra contributions which you can make to help reduce this deficit will be greatly appreciated.

—*Del Fillmore*