



our ministry, and lengthen our legacy of faithfulness to our community and our world. I have been editing the plan to be as succinct as possible. Here is what we have come up with, so far:

**Our Purpose:** To provide the Feast of Faith where everyone has a seat at Christ's Table.

**Our Mission:** To be a caring community that practices intellectual integrity with a compassionate heart.

**Our Vision:** To open our doors to all who seek to know the Spirit of Christ in an open, affirming, inclusive Ministry of love.

**Our Values:** Spirited Worship, Deep Learning, Intentional Connecting, Compassionate Caring.

These statements give us direction, and express our core values. We have no shortage of ideas to act on these values. In our summit meeting and subsequent gatherings there is a long list. This year we need

## FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES

### Foothills Congregational Church, UCC

461 Orange Avenue, Los Altos CA 94022

Phone (650) 948-8430 Fax 948-8206

e-mail: F461orange@aol.com

www.foothills-church.org

**Minister:** Matt Broadbent

**Associate Minister:** Michelle Webber

**Footnotes Editor:** Stan Turnbull

(650) 559-1764 day, (650) 948-1753 eve;

stant@ix.netcom.com

**Deadline:** 15th of each month

to identify and prioritize those things that we can do to build on our strengths, and energize our future. Expect to hear more at our annual meeting. This is not an idle project, because we have an obligation to continually find ways to incarnate God's love in our community and in our world.

Love that is not en-fleshed in our actions is just wishful thinking, and that is not what God's message is about in our Christmas-Epiphany season. As a much better poet than I once wrote:

But God's own descent  
Into flesh was meant  
As a demonstration  
That the supreme merit  
Lay in risking spirit  
In substantiation.

—Robert Frost on the Incarnation (Kitty Hawk)

## Matt Broadbent



That's pretty much it, folks.

## New on library shelves

*The Pastor* by Eugene H. Peterson

AFTER DECADES of writing a total of more than 30 books, Peterson is now retired and lives in Montana. In this book, he looks back on the subject of what it means to be a pastor, a profession he “backed into” after his ambitious plans to become a novelist and then a professor did not work out as he had expected.

He writes that he took his first associate minister job just for the money as he had no plans to become a pastor.

Over the years since then, Peterson struggled to find the right definition of pastor. He questions the demands made upon him and decides that he must define his own job description to avoid spirit-draining conflict.

In this book he uses stories that he has experienced to illustrate what a pastor and a church can accomplish without the marketing-of-the-mega-church approach. By paying attention now to the community of men and women in his church, he can be more effective in bringing them together to a life with God.

—Jeri Schricker, Adult Books Librarian



## Stewardship update

THANKS TO EVERYONE who helped make our recent stewardship campaign a success. Treasurer Del Fillmore reports that as of Dec. 8, we'd received 145 “Estimate of Giving” cards, which made it possible for him to project 2012 income and thus construct a realistic budget.

The budget will be presented to the congregation at our open finance meeting in January, and voted on at the annual meeting a week later.

Folks who rolled up their sleeves and helped with the campaign included Sandra Macias, who made the “results thermometer” and the darling little cardboard “church collection box” for cards; John Miller, who provided one of our Ministry Moments; and Matt Broadbent and Michelle Webber, who wrote and sang the amusing stewardship ditties to the tune of our favorite, “Amen.”

Finance Board members George Tyson, Peter Mills, Candy Leonard, John Reimann, and I all made upwards of a dozen reminder calls each. Thanks also to Del, for tabulating everything and providing regular reports, and to Kelly Takahashi and Jo Pomeroy for their efforts.

Cards are still coming in – and it's not too late to send in yours if you've just found it hiding under that stack of Christmas cards! Thanks to everyone who has sent or will send a card, and to your generosity and contributions to the life of our church.

—Nancy Williams, Chair, Finance Board

## Youth books honor Hannah Feneron

THE SUNDAY BEFORE Hannah Feneron died she had been scheduled to lead the Youth Book Group, an informal group that has been meeting monthly during the Sunday Morning Children's Program for about five years.

Hannah founded this group as a way to make a solo sixth grader feel included in the Children's Program during the second service, when we still offered two identical Sunday morning services. He was the only middle schooler who came to that service and Hannah wanted to make sure he felt welcome. She began to meet with him once a month to discuss their favorite books and see what big questions they brought up.

Hannah was a master at relating life's big questions to literature. Over the years the book group grew in breadth and depth and many of our other youth found it a welcoming and interesting place to explore life.

Hannah was unable to lead the book group in November because she had come down with pneumonia. Instead we did a lesson in mindful meditation and then, during the Youth Fellowship time, we walked downtown to the new location of Linden Tree and each youth picked out a book to put in the Children's Library in Hannah's honor. They chose a wonderful diversity of books:

*Stuck*, by Oliver Jeffers, is a picture book about a boy whose kite gets stuck in a tree and the adventure he has getting it down.

*The Bippolo Seed and Other Lost Stories*, by Dr. Seuss, is a collection of stories from Dr. Seuss' archives that have not previously been published.

*The Princess Bride*, abridged by William

## CSA says thanks

CONGRATULATIONS and thank you from Community Services Agency. At the Christmas tea you gave 20 pajamas and \$605 to CSA.

Also, many thanks to Keiko Hayashi and Judi Gentry for buying all the supplies for the health kits for CSA's Alpha Omega homeless program.

—Jean Taylor for CSA.

*Goldman*, is a wonderfully satirical tale of true love and court intrigue in the imaginary country of Florin.

*Ender's Game*, by Orson Scott Card, is the story of a boy genius who is recruited and trained to defend Earth against an expected alien attack.

*Birthmarked*, by Caragh M. O'Brien, is the story of a teen-aged midwife in a post-apocalyptic world who serves an oppressive elite class by turning over to them five babies a month.

*exposed*, by Kimberly Marcus, is a story written completely in poetry about a teenage girl whose best friend accuses her brother of sexual assault.

*the curious incident of the dog in the nighttime*, by Mark Haddon, is written from the perspective of an autistic teenager who discovers a big secret and struggles to deal with its ramifications. This was Hannah's favorite book. She said she re-read it about once a year.

—Michelle Weber

## Coming at Foothills

Jan 15 By-Law Meeting  
Jan 22 Open Finance Meeting  
Jan 29 Foothills Annual Meeting



Book Group will start the new year with a delightful read, *Wesley the Owl*, by Stacey O'Brien. We will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 10:30 a.m. in The Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.

Women's Fellowship Make a New Year's resolution to join us for lunch and good cheer on Tuesday, Jan. 10. Bring a bag lunch, and gather with us at noon in The Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.

ON THE FIRST DAY of the Year of the Yang Water Dragon, the Circle of Women gathers for simple potluck and sharing. We'll be in the Meeting Room from 7 – 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23. Questions? Contact Irene Ogawa.

The Foothills Jail Ministry team will offer a service to the men at the Elmwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to join this service, please let Bob Willwerth or Evelyn Vigil know by Tuesday, Jan. 3, in order to give time to get you on the clearance list. Let us pray for a new year filled with peace. —E. V.

## 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: Tamme Tossy, Sandra Macias-Hughes, Jean Cook, Charles Cook

**John Chilton** at home

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

**Arvin Epp** at home

**Mary Peabody** at Sunrise Assisted Care, Sunnyvale

**B.J. Darrow** at The Terraces, Los Altos

**Vivian Birch** at home

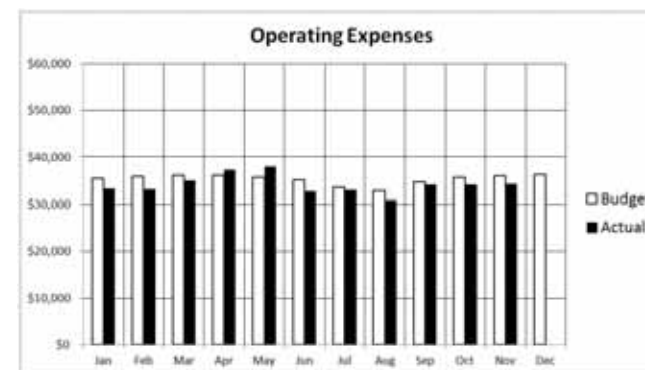
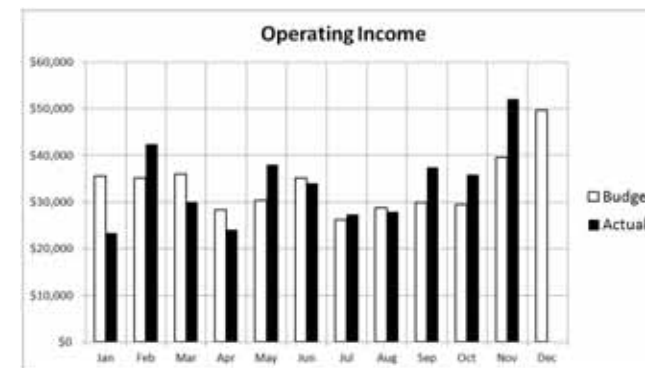
**Marguerite King** at home

**Ruth Polata** at home

*Birth announcement:* Sarah Nicole Cotton, born Nov. 29 to Rebecca Sparck Cotton and Jeffrey Cotton. Grandfather is Sam Sparck Ogawa.



## Financial Report



### Guess what — we may end the year with a surplus!

AS THE CHARTS ABOVE SHOW, FCC's financial picture continued to improve during November. Our budgeted operating income for September through November was \$99,035. Actual receipts were \$125,448 as a result of some people giving earlier in the year, some giving more than their estimates, and some unanticipated giving for which we are thankful.

Operating income through 11 months was \$372,579 while operating expenses for that period were \$376,262, leaving a deficit of only \$3,683 at the end of November. We still expect December to be a high income month with year-end stock sales and other large gifts. So I, being an eternal optimist, predict that we will end 2011 with a surplus perhaps as high as \$5,000 in contrast to the budget deficit of \$19,628 approved at the annual meeting.

Giving to outreach has also been high in 2011. Through November, we have received \$45,408 for undesignated outreach, \$39,256 from the Endowment for Outreach, and \$43,966 for designated outreach for a total of \$128,630. About 43 percent of these funds has been used to support the wider mission of the United Church of Christ (tsunami relief, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, youth mission trip, intern minister support, and UCC share to the Northern California/Nevada Conference) while the remaining 57 percent has been used to support local charities selected by the Outreach Board. —Del Fillmore