

And so, we gathered after church to think about our life and death and how we would want people to recognize our passing on, our absence from their life. Is there love after death? This is the promise of the Gospel.

We hear this love, God's love, between every line of Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples, directed not only to them but also to us, all these centuries later. [Jesus said:] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:1-2)

With death looming, betrayal waiting, and anxiety churning in the room, Jesus tells his disciples not to let their hearts be troubled. He is going to prepare a place for them, for us, and yet he will always be with us. It is a paradox of Christian faith, thanks to the gift of the Spirit promised by Jesus.

FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES

Foothills Congregational Church, UCC

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Deadline: 15th of each month

Paradox reveals the hidden truth that love is, and is eternal. The rest matters, but like all matter, it doesn't last. But, if you rest in love, there is God.

The good news is you don't have to wait until you die to rest in love. Today will do.

Matt Broadbent

** Memorial Service worksheets are available through the church office.*



From the associate minister

Summer program

*You may know the way
to San Jose,
but do you know
the way from Ur?*

GOD SAID TO ABRAM to get up and leave his country and travel to the land God would show him, and Abram did. So begins the Judeo-Christian story. This is the story that we will be telling to our children this summer.

Through the telling of this story we can explore the covenant God made with Abram and how that is handed down to his children and grand children and great grandchildren.

Then we will look at the covenant we, as Foothills Congregational Church, have made together and ponder how that has been handed down to the next generations by the founding members.

We are roughly three generations into our church story. We will study four generations of Abram and Sarai's family. What covenant will we hand to our children's children here at Foothills?

I am very excited about our summer children's program. I think our kids will enjoy learning the story of Abraham, which is central to so many people, and the story of our particular church. And I know some of you will enjoy teaching it, especially since Nikki and I will provide you with everything you need, including easy-to-follow curriculum and all craft materials.

We will have two children's classes in the summer, preschool to entering second grade and entering third to sixth grade. We expect that there will be five to 10

students per week in each class.

Summer classes begin June 12 and continue through Aug. 21. Please let me or Nikki know if you are interested and available to teach one of these Sundays. We begin with Abram and Sarai and end with the founding of Foothills Congregational Church.

Michelle Webber

Arts Camp 2011

Children's Art to be our inspiration

OUR THEME for Arts Camp this year is Children's Art. We will use Dan Damon's *Strong, Gentle Children* as our theme song and each morning we will learn about a child who has done something amazing. For example, we will learn about an artist named Akiane (<http://www.artakiane.com/>) who has been inspired to create amazing paintings, and about Mike and Will (<http://www.kidscookingforkids.com/>) who have created their own cooking show. By the end of the week we know we'll have amazing stories to tell about the children at camp.

Arts Camp is an amazing experience for children and adults alike. There is something so fundamental about watching children discover their own creativity. This year children will learn cooking, movement, painting and drumming. If you are thinking about participating in Arts Camp as a chaperone or a teacher, please speak to Pastor Michelle or Alexandra Morgan.

As this went to print, camp was about half full. If your child would like to attend camp, please turn in your registration form right away! Forms can be found on the church website. http://www.foothills-church.org/foothills-church-_042.htm —M. W.

Meet Nikki Adams

Children's coordinator introduces herself

HELLO CHURCH MEMBERS! For those of you who have not met me yet, my name is Nikki Adams, and I am the Children's Program Coordinator for Foothills church.

I work with Michelle to make sure the children's program runs smoothly every Sunday during worship, and I have been behind the scenes at all the children's events such as the Halloween party, the Christmas Pageant, and Easter.

Summer is approaching quickly and I am very excited to be a part of the children's program in the coming months. As Michelle and I announced in church recently, this summer's curriculum will focus on "Beginnings" — the beginnings of our faith starting with Sarah and Abraham, as well as the beginnings of our very own church in 1960.

Michelle and I have been assembling our curriculum, and hope to work with the founding members of our church to create a summer lesson plan that can be used for years to come.

Have you been looking for a way to get more involved at church, but not sure how? Do you love kids, and want an opportunity to spend some time getting to know youth of our community? How about being a teacher or helper of the children's program at Foothills?

Since joining Foothills Church last October, I have had the opportunity to get to know the families and children who participate in the children's program and related events and I feel very lucky to be part of such a loving community.

Despite this, I still haven't gotten to know the rest of the congregation as well, so

admittedly, I am having some difficulty finding and scheduling teachers for the summer months as I am not sure who to approach.

If you are interested in being a part of the children's experience at church, please contact me! As a summer teacher, you will be supplied with *all* materials necessary, including a detailed lesson plan and any supplies you will need. Our regular teachers have been wonderful and show such dedication to the nurturing and education of our young ones, and I am calling all of you to please help out so they can take a summer break.

If you would like to be a part of our summer program, or you just have a question, please don't hesitate to contact me. My phone number and other contact info are below. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Blessings, Nikki

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Beyond the courtyard

A life of active spiritual exploration: Amelie Hansen

OUR Foothills Church intern minister Amelie Hansen began an illustrious swimming career at the age of 5 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was an alternate to the 1984 Olympics as a 13-year-old, and earned a full-ride athletic scholarship to Boston University as an undergraduate.

"I have two older brothers and we all grew up competing, practicing every day and going to meets every weekend," Amelie says. She was coached by former Olympian Jack Nelson, at Ft. Lauderdale High School ("a swim factory," she says) and she swam in South America, Canada and Europe, as well as throughout the U.S., with her name embroidered on all her gear with "U.S. Swimming."

"In the pool, it's just you and your mind. In the water, doing a set (of laps), it's a place of a lot of self talk and that is where I started talking to God. Swimming – and music – gave me the language to relate to spirituality," Amelie recalls. "The music came from playing the violin and cello in a special program that was offered at the



magnet grade school I attended."

Amelie's parents purchased her great-grandfather's 1920s, Spanish-style house on a small inter-coastal island when she was 5. Her schooling in nearby Ft. Lauderdale also included grades 6-8 at nearby St. Marks Episcopal Academy where she experienced group worship for the first time and often volunteered to read scriptures.

"That was the best education of my life. I loved the ritual and there I crystallized my interest in God and church and love of learning," Amelie says.

At Boston University she struggled with shoulder injuries from swimming her powerful backstroke and she also struggled with the challenges of coming out as a lesbian to her family and friends.

"I knew I might lose some of them, but I knew I would never lose God," she says.

"I majored in Comparative World Religions and then went on for a master's in Theology Studies at Emory School of Theology in Atlanta.

"I didn't want to just be identified as a gay person. I wasn't sure if the church was big enough for a queer woman and thought more about going into academics rather than becoming a pastor. And then on 9-11, I saw people jumping out of windows holding hands. That changed everything for me. I wanted to be a source of help and healing *right then* where people were hurting."

Amelie switched her focus to helping her

Continued on page 4

. . . *Amelie Hansen*

Continued from page 3

fellow humans as an emergency medical technician – after a year of training in San Diego. She rode the trucks with the firemen there, combining the medical with the spiritual and experiencing the best and the worst that EMT's handle.

“Then came one of my greatest teachers; George Bush,” Amelie says. “I heard him using his Christian faith to justify the Patriot Act and the Iraq War and I saw it all coming out of fear. ‘Oh No! You don’t get Jesus,’ I remember yelling, at my tv set.”

“I knew I wanted to understand the ways people can see Jesus guiding us to a safer, more loving world, and thus, it was back to divinity school for me.”

Amelie and her wife Inge Hansen met in San Diego and moved to the Bay Area as Amelie began studying at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Inge works as a clinical psychologist at Vaden Health Center at Stanford, where she also supervises doctoral students. The women are mothers to Judah, 18-months-old, a busy, happy little guy who loves transferring small items from one cup into another cup and grinned during this whole interview.

“This sounds sappy, but having him has taught me the truth that Christian, all-encompassing love really exists right here and now,” Amelie says.

She feels that quality of love at Foothills Church, where she has been mentored by both Matt Broadbent and Michelle Webber.

“Every time I think of Foothills I think, ‘What really good, well-intentioned people are here,’” Amelie says. “I have felt so wel-

comed, so safe and have learned an incredible amount.”

Next on Amelie’s agenda? In September she begins a clinical pastoral residency, and will spend the next year on the Spiritual Care Team at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco.

“I’d thought I would eventually be a chaplain in a hospital, but at Foothills Church I have learned I might have a place as a parish minister. We will have to see what this next stage of my discernment process reveals,” she says.

—*Carolyn Barnes*



Update

Gait and Balance — maybe one more?

A GROUP OF 18 ENROLLED in the April class. Seven had signed up for the class at the silent auction for the Los Altos History Museum’s Crab Feed. The others were members or friends of our church. Emphasis was again placed on numerous balance exercises and Tai Chi movements. Instruction was also given in walking, transfers, and breathing and relaxation exercises that improve flexibility, coordination and strength.

Of the money collected from the class, \$280 went to the Los Altos History Museum for their various projects and \$350 was given to the Foothill Church Outreach Board, designated for Child Advocates.

I had said this twentieth class at Foothills was definitely going to be my last here, but I have been requested to teach another class. So maybe you will have a chance to enroll in a class later in the year.

I enjoy teaching and realize how important it is for everyone to learn the basic techniques for good posture and balance in all activities. The goal of the class is to improve balance and gait to help participants maintain their quality of life so they can stay active, productive, and risk free. Watch for more information.

—*Ann Oliver, MS, PT*

Recycle that old computer

YOUR SURPLUS PC can be refurbished and made available to qualified students. Foothill-DeAnza College student volunteers reformat the hard drive to ensure that all of your data is erased. Then they install the operating system (Microsoft XP Pro) and other freeware and open source software.

Good things happen here: You donate your computer, students learn computer skills and other students have their own computer, which can make a difference in their coursework.

Items accepted:

- PCs and laptops with at least a Pentium 4 cpu, but not Apple (Mac) computers
- LCD flat-panel monitors
- Auxiliary parts: hard drives, memory, speakers, keyboards and mice

For more information see Ray Peck or Steve Pomeroy, or contact Linda Yepiz at (408) 864-5712 or yepizlinda@fhda.edu.

We know it works. They refurbished several PC computers to sell at our rummage sale. Thanks to Occupational Training Institute (Oti) at Foothill-DeAnza College for their helpful service. —*Ray Peck*



Summer choir starts June 19

THE SUMMER CHOIR is perfect for those who don't like robes or can't rehearse on Wednesday nights. Just show up at 9.15 any Sunday morning to learn that week's easy anthem. —*Fred Cummins*

Recordings of Sunday services available

HAVE YOU MISSED a Sunday service? Was there something wonderful that you would like to hear again, or pass on to a friend? If so, you can check out a CD in the church office.

You can listen on your computer, a CD player, or in your car. You can listen to the entire service or skip to most any portion of the service by using the included track index.

Please sign the checkout sheet and return the CD when finished. There are two copies for each Sunday. Report any problems to Ray Peck or John Lathrop. —*R.P.*



Beneficio Coffee

THANK YOU for supporting the small family farmers in Costa Rica by purchasing "Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee," the only coffee we serve at church. With your next order the cost of a 12-oz. bag will be \$9.30. To purchase your coffee, see Susana Leung at the church office. —*S.L.*

Better hearing devices now available Sundays

WE HAVE TWO *new* Enhanced Hearing Devices. The devices are wireless, so you can sit anywhere in the sanctuary; although you might find some locations better than others. The devices and associated earbuds (headphones) bring the sanctuary amplified sound directly to your ears. You control the volume.

There are two earbud options:

- Use the earbud provided. There are pads of various sizes; select a pair to fit your ears. After the service, wipe the pads and return them, or just keep the pads and reuse them next time.
- Bring your own earbuds. These should work, if the plug is compatible.

The device turns on when you plug in the earbud. The devices are available from the ushers. Comments can be reported to John Lathrop or Ray Peck. —*R.P.*



Youth Fellowship summer schedule

MSF Year-End Parent Lunch June 5, 11:30-1:30 in the Parish Hall

PF Year-End Dinner June 5 Meet in the PF room at 6 p.m.

Mission Trip to the San Carlos Apache Reservation June 18 – 25

Youth Fellowship Lounge June 12 through Aug. 21

DURING the summer, June 12 – Aug. 21, there is no Sunday morning "children's" program for youth. Youth are invited to attend worship with the adults.

This recognizes your increased maturity and brings you into the "adult" church community. If you prefer, you can sign-up to be a helper in the children's program. We will also have Youth Fellowship outings only once a month in the summer; that's once July 23 and once Aug. 13.

However, I know it is also important for youth to connect with other youth at church. So we will have a Youth Fellowship Lounge on Sundays after worship, in the PF room. There will be snacks and fellowship.

It is not a meeting. There is no check-in, no agenda, nothing to get accomplished. It's simply your space to hang out with other youth.

—*M.W.*

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: Tammy Tossy, Steve Pomeroy

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 the Terraces, Los Altos

Vivian Birch at home

Marguerite King at home

Ruth Polata at home

Hannah Feneron at Sunrise Assisted Care, Sunnyvale

Deepest sympathy to:

The family of Doris Prosser. Doris died peacefully on May 19 at age 83. A memorial service is planned for Doris in June at Foothills Church.



Coming at Foothills

- June 4** San Jose Giants Baseball Game
- June 5** FDB Appreciation Day
- June 7** Relay for Life Party at Goldens' Home
- June 12** Music Appreciation Day
Foothills Blood Drive
- June 14** Women's Fellowship at Lemes's Home
- June 18-19** Relay for Life, Egan Middle School
- June 20** San Jose Outing
- June 18-25** Mission Trip to Apache Reservation, AZ
- July 3** July 4 Celebration, Hotdog Picnic



Bruce Cann leaves church a big bequest

THE CHURCH HAS BEEN most fortunate to receive a bequest of \$250,000 from the estate of Bruce Cann. Per recommendations of the Finance Board in accordance with Bruce's wishes, the Executive Council approved the following distribution of those funds:

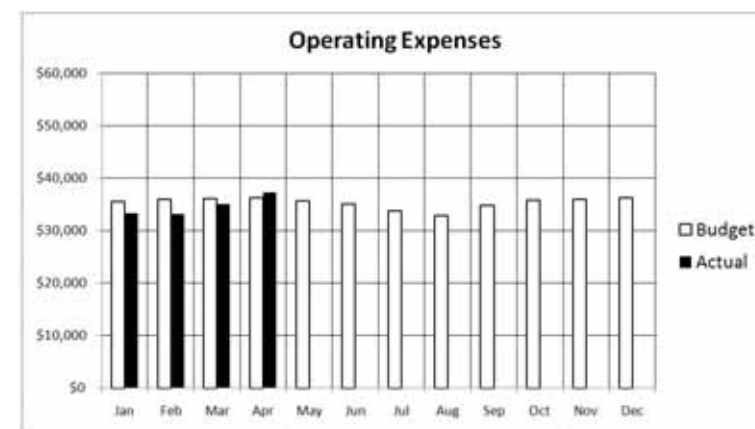
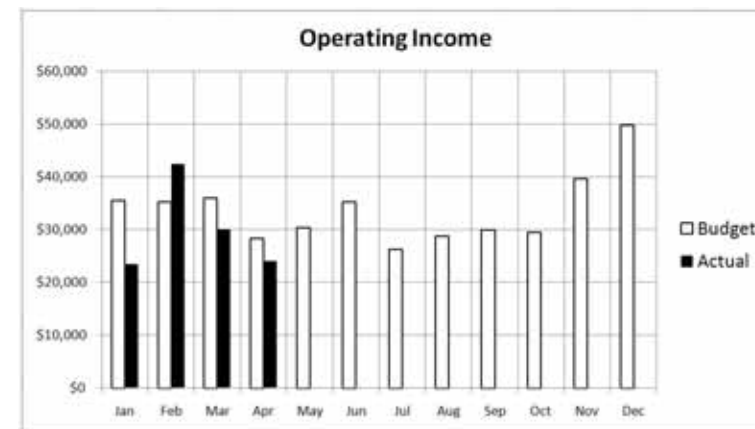
- \$50,000 was transferred to the Foothills Foundation to be added to the Endowment for Outreach,
- \$50,000 was sent to Community Services Agency for outreach to the homeless,
- \$35,000 was added to the Debt Service fund for debt reduction,
- \$9,000 was transferred into a new Mission Reserve to be used to support this and future years' Youth Mission programs,
- \$6,000 was transferred into a new Parsonage Reserve to provide improvements to the Minister's residence, and
- \$100,000 has been designated for further debt reduction.

The \$35,000 from the Cann bequest plus an additional donation of \$3,851 designated for debt reduction has allowed us to retire the remaining five original Townhouse Loans which totaled \$38,000. The church's debt now stands at \$340,000 of loans from members to purchase the minister's new residence.

(Use of the \$100,000 sum intended for debt reduction was undetermined at *Footnotes* deadline. *Ed.*)

—Del Fillmore

Financial Report



Income through April well below 10-year average

AS YOU SEE in the charts above, contributions by members to cover current expenses through April fell considerably short of the ten-year average. Operating income was \$119,868 while operating expenses were \$138,723 leaving a deficit at the end of April of \$18,854. We trust that your giving during the next few months will help relieve this situation!

On a more positive note, the congregation stepped forward to provide aid to victims of the Japan earthquake/tsunami by giving \$17,465 which was forwarded directly to the Relief Committee of the United Church of Christ Japan (UCCJ). Also, the offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing totaled \$1,930.

—Del Fillmore