

the tempter and stayed true to God's call. He suffered rejection of home and friend and foe, and was nailed to a tree for his good cause. No wonder he cried *My God, my God why have you forsaken me?*

The answer to that question is exactly what the Lenten journey is all about.

It is an answer that cannot be given in quick sound bites, or spiritual platitudes. It is a dialogue that may take forty days, or forty years, to hear, but there is a hint in the claim the Jesus represents God's claim on life. Jesus chooses to walk the path, practice the discipline of faith, and profess the love that welcomes all people into the kin-dom. He moves through the trials and temptations, suffers rejection and death on a cross — the most shameful way to die — and yet, and yet. . .

Well, this is the part of the story with which we have to come to terms.

If Jesus is the witness of God's real presence in the world, then we can say that God will not save us from the horror and the

FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES

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holiness of living, but God will be there – be there in the wilderness, be there in the suffering and rejection, be there with the mourning mother as well as with the crushed child. God will be there to say, *You are my beloved.* And in this entire struggle there is the assurance that God will be there in our death to bring us home to safety.

I invite you to come on the journey that is Lent. The way may not be easy, but it promises to be life giving.

Matt Broadbent

April 17

A date to save

SPRING IS NEAR, and so is our time for sprucing up the church. Saturday morning, April 17, from 9 till noon will be our annual turnout for this job. It is lots of fun and the results are so gratifying.

Look for the signup sheet in the courtyard on Sundays.

—Jan Cummins
for Property Management Board

Lent Retreat March 20

THE LENTEN RETREAT, “Good News from the Ground Up: Reading the Earth as a Spiritual Text” is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, at Stillheart Retreat Center in Woodside from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This retreat will complement our Lenten theme of Three Spiritual Texts: the Bible, Church Tradition and the Earth. So mark your calendars to come learn, listen and enjoy the beautiful environment at the Stillheart facility.

—M.W.

Rummage sale coming April 30-May 1

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -- Foothills' annual rummage sale will be Friday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What can you do to prepare for the sale?

- ▶ Sign up at the church to help.
- ▶ Identify and organize your donations into bags according to our departments (children's clothes and toys; other clothes and shoes; housewares, books and videos; jewelry and collectibles; linens; small electronics, etc.)
- ▶ Donate large or valuable items through the silent auction. Email us a digital photo or ask the church to take the photo. And send a paragraph describing price, dimensions, age, brand name, model number, and email address or phone number. Get forms at the church.
- ▶ Give us your silent auction information to be posted at the church and online between now and April 22. The sooner the better, as people will have more time to discover and bid on your item. Bidding ends May 1. Highest bid wins. Buyer must come to your house, pay and remove sold item.

- ▶ Encourage friends and family to donate!
- ▶ Bring your donations except for silent auction items to the church the afternoon of April 25 through April 28.
- ▶ Remember that we do not take: broken things, analog TVs, skis, and other items listed at www.foothills-church.org website.
- ▶ **And no computers.** (Note this is a change.)

Start your spring cleaning now. In these challenging economic times, the rummage sale helps people buy things they need at a low price. Questions? Contact Ann Nelson, the church, or check the Foothills website.

Middle School Fellowship, March

Sunday March 7 Community Service 11:15-1:30 Hannah Feneron is moving down the block and needs help. She has movers coming to get the big stuff, but we will go over and help with the small stuff. In exchange, she will buy us lunch and make a donation to our mission trip fund. We will carpool over directly after church and be done no later than 1:30. This is good for 2.5 community service hours

Sunday March 14 Free time 11:15-12:45 We increasingly live in a culture where we have no “free” time. What would you do if you had a period of time when you had “nothing” to do? We will have available things to do to: either pass the time (think boredom busters) or things that require “free” time in order to do them (think creativity).

Sunday March 21 Pet Day 11:15-12:45 Everyone loves their pets and this will be a day to bring your pet! If the weather allows we will mosey over to Lincoln Park. Otherwise, we will be inside. Please do let me know what type of pet you are bringing as I would like to have pet treats. We will do pet-appropriate activities.

Sunday March 28 Easter planning Planning 11:15-12:45

Friday April 2 – Saturday April 3 Good Friday overnight 7 p.m. until 9 a.m. Bring: A snack to share, a breakfast item to share (milk will be provided), sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, a good attitude and your stealthiness. We will help the Easter bunny and fill the Easter eggs.

Coming at Foothills

- March 13** NCNC UCC Church Day,
San Mateo
- March 20** Lenten Retreat
- March 28** Palm Sunday
- April 1** Maundy Thursday Supper
and Service of Tenebrae
- April 2** Middle School Youth Overnight
at Church
- April 4** Easter Sunday,
Services 7:30, 9 & 10:30 a.m.
- April 30-May 1** Rummage Sale

Book Group in March will be doing another book that we can get in a set of 12 from the library: *Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle. If you did not make it to the February meeting, I will bring copies to church on Sundays. We meet Tuesday, March 23, at 10:30 in the Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.

Women's Fellowship will meet Tuesday, March 9, at noon in the Fireside Room. Please bring a bag lunch and join in the cheerful chatter and interesting info. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.

Circle of Women will meet Monday, March 22, from 7-9 p.m. in the Meeting Room for our usual potluck and sharing. Also, a heads-up for our April meeting: We will meet on the *third* Monday in April to avoid conflict with the rummage sale. If you have any questions please call Lee Rogers at (650) 941-3925.

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: **Jeri Schricker, Iris Moran, Jean Taylor, Lee Rogers**

Tom Waugh recovering at home from heart surgery

Patricia Campbell recovering at home from recent 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

Mary Peabody at Lytton Gardens, Palo Alto

B.J. Darrow at Pilgrim Heaven, Los Altos

Congratulations to Jean and Lucian Taylor on the birth of their great-granddaughter Lucia May Carciere. Lucia was born on January 28 to Caitlin and Dave Carciere of Sebastopol, CA.

Our deepest sympathy to The Rev. Michelle Webber and her family on the death of Michelle's father Jerry Webber on February 7, in Richmond, CA.



Beyond the courtyard

A fish on the line and all is fine...Bill Closs

WITH HIS COMMANDING HEIGHT, you might deduce that Bill Closs played basketball, and you'd be right (Stanford, late '60s), but you might not know about his passion for trout fishing —any season of the year. On a recent Thursday, he was eagerly taking off for the Trinity River where the steelhead were rising. It's freezing, wild and wet, but somebody has to do it!

"I've been so lucky in my life," Bill says. "My dad took us camping and fishing in California in the '50s and early '60s when it was still a paradise, and I've always loved trout fishing."

Bill has two younger sisters, one in Aptos and one in Kentfield and his parents live in Palo Alto. He and his wife Kathi are the parents of four children, all of whom have grown up in Foothills Church: Ben, a major in the U.S. Marine Corps, now stationed at Camp Pendleton, and who served two deployments in Iraq and one in Afghanistan and is married to Cecilia; Ginna in the doctoral program in Classics at the University of Pennsylvania (she worked as Foothills' youth leader for several years); Stephen, who lives in Chicago and teaches at an Arthur Murray Dance Studio; and Becca, who will graduate in May in Fine Arts from USC.

"The best thing that ever happened to me was asking Kathi to marry me and her saying yes!" Bill smiles. "Our family and our wonderful four children are everything to me."

"Also, I've been able to keep up close



Photo: Bob Willwerth

relationships with my parents and siblings — you live with them every day of your life, whether you acknowledge it or not. I feel like the church has been very supportive of our family, because you feel the warmth of the Foothills Church community, especially with tragedies and crises," Bill says.

He was born in Indianapolis, but soon moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Philadelphia and Houston while his father pursued a professional basketball career, as a player and then a coach. By the time Bill started fourth grade, the family had settled in Palo Alto, which makes him practically a native Peninsulan.

He grew up as a good student and liking sports: he played basketball for the Menlo School "Acorns" and won a basketball scholarship to Stanford where he majored in history and minored in English. He acquired an early interest in international issues and his family welcomed an AFS "sister" from Switzerland into their home for a year; Bill also attended Stanford in Italy.

After Stanford graduation, many fateful events unfolded very quickly: he met Kathi, now his wife of almost 40 years, the last day of his senior year; he moved to Europe to work for Adidas; he and Kathi became engaged and then married in June, 1970; he started Stanford Business School in September and also, later that year, received his draft notice and soon joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve Officer Training Program. Whew!

Meanwhile, Bill's dad had become the distributor of Adidas products for the Western United States. After his Marine Corps stint and after graduation from Stanford

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The Library

Examining the parables

TELL IT SLANT: *A Conversation on the Language of Jesus in His Stories and Prayers* by Eugene H. Peterson is an examination of the 12 parables in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus tells on his journey through Samaria as he walks from Galilee to Jerusalem, and of Jesus' six prayers, found in Matthew and John.

Peterson says there should be no separation between the everyday language of the marketplace and the language we use to discuss theology, what he calls "Holy Ghost language." He has written a popular paraphrase of the Bible called *The Message* which he cites extensively in *Tell It Slant*, and shows how the use of personal, current idiom can convey profound religious ideas.

I got the feeling that Peterson originally intended to write just about the parables but found that he didn't have enough material for a book, so added the section on Jesus' prayers. Although it, too, is a study of the use of language, it has a different quality about it. It was less engaging. When he dissected the Lord's Prayer I almost stopped reading out of boredom but persisted and found the rest of the prayer section more rewarding.

Peterson is very orthodox in his theology and he brings nothing particularly new or exciting to the table but there is a comfortable, cozy quality about this book like remembrances of things past. It's an easy read, the main challenge being a willing suspension of disbelief. I actually managed to enjoy it.
—Lee Rogers

See further Library News on back page.

. . . Bill Closs

Continued from page 3

Business School, Bill continued with his Adidas connection, in sales and marketing with his dad and making lifelong friends through European business travel and connections.

"It was a very fun business and very successful," Bill recalls. Adidas bought out the Western distributorship in 1985 and Bill continued with the company for a couple of years, but then, through a long-time friend on the East Coast, switched to the marketing of a huge development located at Lincoln Center in New York City – and he and his family moved to Scarsdale, New York for three years.

Returning to the Peninsula meant coming home to everyone, and Bill took over the management of family-owned commercial property business and also started several small companies.

Needless to say, Foothills Church was a winner by gaining Bill's long-time service as a deacon and then taking on the job of moderator in 2001-2002. He is currently finishing up his sixth year on the church Human Relations Board, which he has chaired.

"I'm just amazed at the many good things that come out of our relatively small congregation," Bill says. "What Kathi and I especially appreciate is Foothills' non-dogmatic approach to spirituality and our church community's creative ethos. We love the wonderful music, too!"

Next on their agenda: "When the time is right, we both want to join the choir."

— Carolyn Barnes



Financial Report

Operating Budget for 2010

OPERATING INCOME:

Envelope and Plate Offerings	\$369,704
Usage of Facilities, Weddings, etc.	\$14,500
Interest	\$2,500
From Foothills Foundation	\$14,678
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$401,382

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Salaries & Benefits	\$353,793
Ministerial Expenses	\$6,600
Church Office	\$25,655
Property Management	\$17,927
Boards & Committees	\$21,310
Transfers to Reserves	
Maintenance Reserve	\$7,000
Sabbatical Reserve	\$5,000
Debt Service Reserve	\$6,000
Rent from Minister	(\$34,200)
Townhouse Expenses	\$16,320
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$425,405
DEFICIT	(\$24,023)

2010 off to a good start with income, expenses

IN CASE YOU WERE UNABLE to attend the open finance meeting on January 23, a summary of the approved operating budget for 2010 is shown above. As noted in the 2009 annual report, we anticipate that the final deficit will probably be less than that shown. The past five years have shown a pattern of 3 percent higher income and 3 percent lower expenses than budgeted. We are off to a good start for 2010 as January operating income was \$35,464 while operating expenses were \$33,001, leaving a surplus after one month of \$2,463. During January, donations to the UCC OGHs/Haiti Relief totaled \$5,350 with \$4,000 coming from the undesignated outreach fund and \$1,350 coming from member contributions.

—Del Fillmore