

ask, "What are the values we hold in common?" What we value we will cherish in spite of our particular likes or dislikes.

As we have developed our Strategic Plan we have identified four core values of Foothills Congregational Church: Spirited Worship, Deep Learning, Intentional Connection, and Compassionate Care. These four values define us as a community and point to our future as a thriving church. When we ask what we do at our best, and how we can excel in the future, these four values are all present. They are the consensus answer to why we do what we do?

I give to the church because these values are my bottom line. Values need to be front and center when you pledge your financial support to the church. The church is the place where we work on what is valuable to ourselves and to our world. You may not like one thing, or another, but if you stand on the foundation of these values, you give

FOOTHILLS FOOTNOTES

Foothills Congregational Church, UCC

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Deadline: 15th of each month

what you can to promote what you hold most dear.

As Paul gave thanks at the beginning of his letter to the Philippians, he ends with these words:

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise think about these things...and the peace of God will be with you. (Philippians 4:8).

Matt Broadbent

8:30 a.m. Sundays

*Contemplative service
offers a quiet moment*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A MOMENT of quiet and reflection to begin your week, come to the contemplative worship service at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

You may be preparing to lead one of our children programs, or if you are getting ready for ringing bells, or — if like Matt, Michelle, Fred, Melanie and Amelie — you like to pray in a quiet sanctuary before the festival of worship in our main service, then come and join us.

This is a simple service of prayers and chants, the reading of scripture, 10-15 minutes of silent prayer, followed by prayers of intercession and the sharing of communion. Come and pray with us in the beauty and simplicity of our sanctuary. —M.B.



Thank-you from Helen Tait

Dear Matt and Foothills Congregation,

Both George and I have been so appreciative of the cards, letters, love and concern you have shown toward us during George's illness.

We have experienced how deeply meaningful it is to be part of the most caring community ever - Foothills Church!

I am sad to report that George died October 17 from pancreatic cancer. The cancer turned out to be much more aggressive than we or his doctors expected. Your support has sustained us and will continue to sustain me. Private services were held Saturday, October 22, in northwest Arkansas.

*Thank you always,
Helen Tait*

Have you seen Fran's shawl?

FRAN HENDERSON LOST a beloved shawl last spring. She draped it over a couch in the fireplace room while she prepared communion trays, and never saw it again. Have you seen it anywhere? It was multi-colored: patterned rust, deep blue and beige. Please share any clues with Susana Leung in the office.



Family feedback finds fabulous programs

THIS SUMMER the Faith Development Board conducted an on-line survey of church families with children and youth at home. We received responses from 40 percent of our church families and have compiled a list of the best programs that we offer for families. Some of these we expected to get high marks, others surprised us.

Below you will find the list of what we are calling our Top Programs. As we listen to the dreams coming out of the work Matt began in the Summit Meeting last spring, we will do our best to incorporate new visions while maintaining what is best about these valued programs. The Faith Development Board invites you to come and experience what others have called the best of what we do.

A special thanks to Kristin Burns and the Music Board, Matt and the Deaconate, and K.C. McCoy and Operation Care and Comfort, whose efforts also made our top-rated programs for families list.

Ongoing top-rated programs

- Worship
- Children's sermons
- Sunday morning children's program
- Nursery care
- Elementary choir

Seasonal top-rated programs

- Parent's night out (twice a year)
- Family potlucks (twice a year)
- Easter egg hunt
- Family camp (aka All Church Camp)
- Mission trip

OCC candy collection

WE WILL COLLECT CANDY for the troops again this year. Please bring your leftover Halloween candy to church between Nov. 1 and 6. The candy will be taken to Operation Care and Comfort to be packed and sent, along with other goodies, to our troops in November and December.

It will cost OCC \$1 per pound to send the candy. If you would like to cover the cost of sending our candy, you may make a donation either to the Children's Offering or by putting a check clearly marked "OCC" into the collection plate before Nov. 20. —M. W.

Fall College Care cookie exchange

OUR COLLEGE CARE pack this fall will be a cookie exchange! The Young Adult Ministry Team invites you to bring home-made cookies to Betsy Balassone's house on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

We will pack assorted cookies and other treats into boxes to be sent to our 16 members and friends who are away at school. This program will be especially fun for parents of college aged "children," but is open to anyone who would like to send a little remembrance to our members in college. Please sign up in the courtyard or by calling Betsy to let her know you are coming. —M. W.

- Arts camp
- Operation Care and Comfort candy collection
- Christmas Season as a whole, with specific mention of the Advent Event, Youth Christmas Projects, the Caroling Party, the Christmas Pageant, and Christmas Eve Worship

Michelle Webber

Beyond the courtyard

'Live a life of harmony, everything in balance:' Bessie Ng

AS A BUSY MOTHER of three young children, a piano teacher of more than 20 students and a piano instructor and consultant at a piano showroom in Cupertino, Bessie Ng balances many elements in her life.

And when she welcomes you into her home near Foothills Church on Orange Avenue, you see beauty and balance everywhere: the vibrant flower painting by her husband's aunt in the kitchen; the children's miniature dining table against the wall (complete with flowers in a vase); the black, shiny grand piano in the living room; the tidy cubbies holding slippers and shoes by the front door.

"After we spent all summer in China this year, I told the children we will speak only Mandarin in this house, so they can keep up the language," Bessie says. "They went to a summer school there and learned how to contribute to others, and they saw so much. I tell them they can be ambassadors and return every summer."

Bessie's parents live in Macao where her father owns and directs a language school and her mother is a retired chemist. The extended family traveled around China



together for almost this whole summer and Bessie feels that from now on, the children will be able to balance their Chinese heritage with their American cultural background. Daughter Sarah, 11, plays piano and flute. And Audrey, 8, plays violin and is member of El Camino Youth Orchestra. They both attend Gardner-Bullis School on Fremont Road where Sarah is the president of the Student Council and Bessie volunteers at Audrey's classroom with their math curriculum.

"I try to walk the children to school once or twice a week," Bessie says.

Her son Tommy is four, attends Bilingual Montessori School in Palo Alto and husband Andrew Chang is a lead hardware-design engineer for Cisco Systems.

"My mother came and helped us for one year after each baby was born," Bessie says. "After the third one, she said, 'Please, no more babies!'"

The Ng/Chang family connected with Foothills Church through the use of our Parish Hall, first for the memorial service for Andrew's mother and then through Bessie's using it for her pupils' piano recitals.

"When I talked to Susana Leung in the church office, she was so kind and helpful to me, it was warm and a place I wanted to be," she says. "Then, whenever I talk to Matt, he makes me feel at home; also the music at Foothills – that is so very attractive to me!"

She believes that attending church is part

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. . . Bessie Ng

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of the harmony of her life – “you have to want to do it for yourself, not because you are forced to go. For me, it is a time to take a break and renew myself and receive inspiration,” she says.

Bessie was formally trained in piano in Macao and Shanghai, earned her certificate from the Associate Board of Royal School of Music and became a Yamaha Certified Teacher in Macao.

“But there, you see all the frustration of just studying for the Royal exam,” she says. “I want to see life in harmony, so you can have fun with your music, enjoy your music! I tell my students, ‘you are doing this for yourself, not your mother or father. You can play the kind of music *you* want to play – we can do Disney songs, Lord of Rings, and Harry Potter music! I teach mostly students from kindergarten through high school, but also some Silicon Valley executives who call and say, ‘Bessie, I’m in town, I need some piano lessons!’”

Seeking the balance she values, Bessie traveled to the U.S. in 1990 to attend college here, first at the University of San Francisco where she earned a degree in marketing and then through Golden Gate University where she earned a Master’s degree in telecommunications management. While studying, she worked in a piano store part-time, making the contacts which have led to her current part-time position at Silicon Valley Piano in Cupertino.

She also met her husband then: “A friend wanted me to meet him, but I didn’t think I was interested in engineers.

“But Andrew knows all about classical music and is so supportive of my music and the children’s music,” Bessie says. “He is

Hey, here’s a place for all those calendars

IF YOU ARE WONDERING what to do with all the calendars charities send to you at this time of year, wonder no more. Please bring your calendars to church and leave in the chaplain’s basket in the Fireside Room. Inmates at the local jails are excited by the photos and the calendars. Thank you.

—Evelyn Vigil

Jail time: Nov. 13

THE FOOTHILL Congregational Jail Ministry team will offer a worship service at Elmwood Correctional Center on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. This is a worship service in the minimum-security camp, if you are worried.

If you would like to attend, please let Bob Willwerth or Evelyn Vigil know by Tuesday, Nov. 8 so there is enough time to get you cleared. If you have never participated, please feel free to join us. We offer on-the-spot training.

— E. V.

a wonderful father.”

The couple’s wedding reception was at Ming’s in Palo Alto where Bessie still loves to enjoy Dim Sum with her friends.

“For our wedding, they set up a dance floor and we had a wonderful party,” she recalls.

When she has time, she goes to yoga classes and enjoys walking. And, to support other Chinese-born music teachers, she serves on the board of the Chinese Music Teachers Association of Northern California.

—Carolyn Barnes

New on library shelves

Answering some tough questions

Traveling with Pomegranates by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor.

SUE MONK KIDD, A POPULAR novelist (*The Secret Life of Bees*, *The Mermaid Chair*) and her daughter, writing alternate chapters, create this travelogue/memoir about their journeys together to Greece, Turkey and France.

In 1998, Kidd was coping with menopause, while her daughter was suffering depression because her application for graduate school had been rejected by the school she wanted to attend. As the two travel together, their relationship grows as they each seek answers to “What is it all about?” “Have I done enough?” “Will I find the right path?”

Daughter Ann’s depression over her search to find her life’s work seems a stretch for this reader. I think most young people today realize that Plan A is not always possible and are flexible enough to switch to Plan B without great angst.

Sue Kidd’s voice is perhaps the more appealing. She writes, “When is the impulse to help an adult child a wise intervention and when is it self-serving and prying?” Good question, indeed. Kidd is patient and walks the fine line in helping her daughter find direction. Fortunately (and inevitably), when Ann decides to become a writer, her mother provides the perfect vehicle —this book— to launch a new career.

Kidd’s own struggle with age is a familiar one to anyone over 50. She writes, “These days when I walk into a public place with Ann, eyes gravitate to her and I get a

taste of being invisible.” Not only is she becoming invisible to the world outside, but she is also questioning her ability to find new passion and direction for the rest of her life. The travel background is a perfect foil for both of these women to find their heart’s desire. (*Biography*)

Jeri Schrickler,
Adult Book Librarian



Altar Guild gears up for the holidays

DECORATING our beautiful church for Thanksgiving and Christmas is a highlight of our Altar Guild year. Would you enjoy making fall foliage swags and/or beribboned wreaths or perhaps climb a ladder and hang garlands on the rood screen, up front in the sanctuary? (Bob Willwerth, Del Fillmore, Steve Pomeroy and Matt Broadbent have all done this and lived.)

Volunteers can count on their choice of doughnuts. Please wear warm clothing and bring garden clippers. Here is our schedule this year; all are welcome:

Thanksgiving decorating – 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 22

Christmas decorating -- 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 2

Everyone is invited, also, to participate in the Joyful Holiday Remembrance Fund, honoring or remembering loved ones with red poinsettias in our sanctuary during the holiday season.

Our Altar Guild invites you to help defray the expense of these plants with a check, sent to the church or placed in the collection plate, along with a list of the names of the people you wish to honor. Their names will be listed each week of December in our Sunday bulletins. Thank you for your participation!

— Carolyn Barnes and Jo Pomeroy,
Co-Chairs, Altar Guild

Circle of Women will not meet in November, due to the proximity of Thanksgiving and our usual meeting time. Please mark your calendars for Monday, December 12, when we'll gather for our holiday celebration. Questions? Contact Irene Ogawa. —I.O.

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: Angi Peck, Steve Peck, Jo Pomeroy, Laura Griswold

John Chilton at Lytton Gardens, Palo Alto

Nancy Burton 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

Hannah Feneron at Sunrise Assisted Care, Sunnyvale

Congratulations

To the Gaisford family on the successful adoption to their family of Savannah and Viviana.



Fall stewardship campaign Oct. 30 to Nov. 20

FOOTHILLS CONGREGATIONAL Church depends on all of our contributions to pay our staff, keep the building open, conduct our various programs, and fulfill the values we articulated at our recent Strategic Planning sessions – Spirited Worship, Deep Learning, Intentional Connection, and Compassionate Care. Our operating costs for 2011 were budgeted at around \$424,000.

In order to develop next year's budget, the Finance and Outreach boards need to know how much money we will have to work with. Therefore, in November we ask each member of the congregation to estimate how much he or she can donate in the following year.

During the last week of October, Reverend Broadbent sent you a letter, enclosing an "Estimate of Giving" card. Please return the card by Nov. 20 so the 2012 budget may be prepared in a timely fashion. Extra cards are available at the church office and in the courtyard each Sunday through Nov. 20.

In addition to estimating how much you can give to operating expenses (the "left hand side of the envelope") we also ask you to estimate how much you plan to give to outreach (the "right hand side of the envelope"). The church's Outreach Board needs this figure so they can determine how much we as a church can give to various worthy charities in our community, as well as to the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Where does my contribution go?

About 75 percent of our budget – and our ministers' time — is divided approximately

equally among each of the following three areas:

- Worship (services, music, etc.)
- Faith development (education, child care, etc.)
- Caring for the congregation (counseling, pastoral visits, etc.)

About 5 percent of our budget goes to maintaining church property, insurance, etc.

About 20 percent goes to outreach (charities, wider church, etc.)

Why are we asked to turn in our estimates of giving by Nov. 20?

The church treasurer and Finance Board need time to calculate how much income we will have for next year, and then develop the budget. Then the Outreach Board needs time to determine how to distribute their portion to charity. We need to complete all of this work in time for the congregation to vote on it at the annual meeting in late January.

What is my role in Foothills' budget process?

Each member of the congregation supports the ministry of the church through both their contributions and their right, as a member of the Church, to approve the church's budgets at the annual meeting.

—Nancy Williams, Chair, Finance Board



Coming at Foothills

- Oct. 30 Halloween Party
 Nov. 5-6 Sr. High Fall Youth Event
 at Congregational Church of San Mateo
 Nov. 6 Youth Sunday
 Nov. 20 Stewardship Sunday
 Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Service, 10 a.m.
 Nov. 27 Advent Events
 Dec. 3 Advent/Fall Retreat
 Dec. 10 Blue Christmas Service
 Dec. 12 Circle of Women
 Dec. 13 Christmas Tea



Book Group The book is *In the Garden of Beasts*, by Erik Larson, the author of *The Devil in the White City*. The story concerns the first American ambassador to Nazi Germany. The year is 1933, and a turning point in history.

We will meet in the Fireside Room on Tues., Nov. 22, at 11 a.m. (Note change of time, in order to allow the Altar Guild time to decorate.) Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430. —A.N.

Women's Fellowship Our lunch gathering comes on election day, Tues., Nov. 8. We'll probably be glad to talk of other things! We meet in the Fireside Room at noon. Bring a bag lunch. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430. —A.N.

Place needed

Early notice: Christmas tea Dec. 13, noon-2 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE. And call me at (650) 941-3430 or Susana at church, if you can offer your home for this lovely occasion.

— Ann Nelson

Choir can use seasonal singers

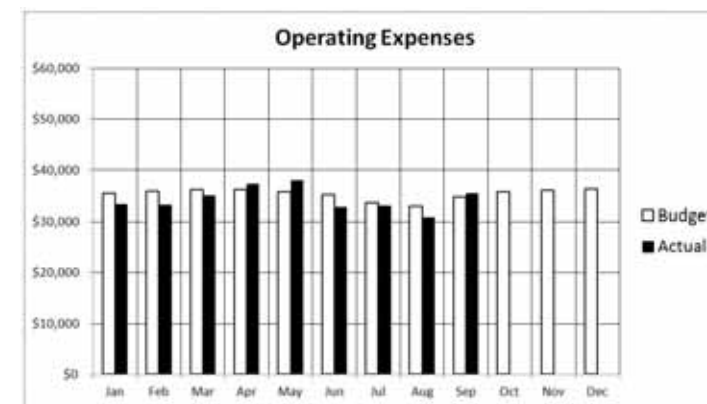
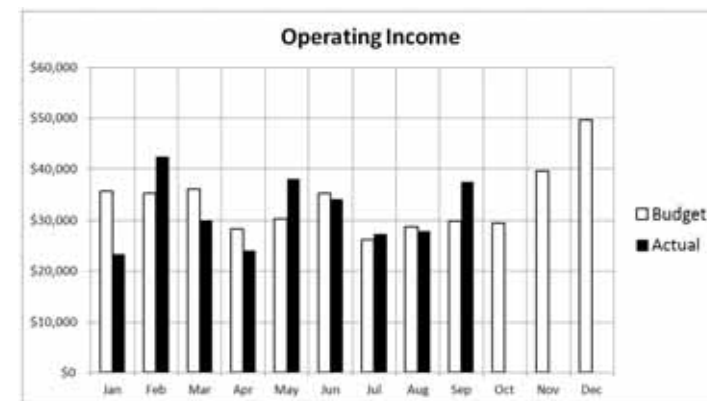
YOU'RE WELCOME to sing in the choir anytime but especially this holiday season. Drop-ins (including relatives and young people home for the holiday) are especially encouraged on Thanksgiving (just show up at 9 a.m.).

During Advent, show up at a Wednesday rehearsal (7.30 p.m.) if you want to sing the following Sunday. If you'd like to sing Christmas Eve, attend at least the Wednesday December 21 rehearsal. Talk with me for more info.

— Fred Cummins



Financial Report



Income higher, expenses lower than expected in Sept.

SEPTEMBER SHOWED AN IMPROVEMENT in the church's financial picture, as shown in the charts above. Operating income for September was over \$7,500 higher than had been estimated, bringing the total operating income for nine months to \$284,611 versus the estimated total of \$285,382. Operating expenses continue on track. Total operating expenses for nine months were \$309,003, which is \$6,870 below budget. The deficit at the end of September stands at \$24,391 which is more than \$6,000 lower than had been expected at this time of the year.

Contributions for outreach continue to be good. So far in 2011, the Outreach Board has received \$36,702 from undesignated outreach and \$32,975 from the Endowment for Outreach, which they have used per the outreach budget. Gifts for designated outreach projects this year have totaled \$38,097.

—Del Fillmore