



Karen Lemes will be celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, October 9. She wrote to me a few weeks ago: "I would like to give the sermon on my birthday. I feel that it is a significant time in my life and I want to share with my church community some of what I think and who I am." This sermon is her Ebenezer. It will mark a significant transition in her life as she lives through the Biblical "three score and ten."

And of course, we are all going to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Church charter for Foothills Congregational Church on the weekend of October 1 and 2. Saturday evening will be dinner and a walk through the five decades of our church. What a wonderful thing to lift up – 50 years – we are in the prime of our church life. God has been with us, and helped us along the way, and is still speaking to us encouraging us to move ahead into our future.

## 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

On Sunday, Oct. 2, we will celebrate Founders Day, hear stories of the past and rededicate ourselves with the same prayer for the charter members 50 years ago. Don't be surprised to sing *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* in the original text, and now you know why.

Let us give thanks to God for the wonderful Ebezers that God has given us in our life and shared ministry. Most especially among these, let us thank God for our church family — the many wonderful saints of the church who have upheld us with their prayers, their words of encouragement, and their acts of service.

May each and every one of us always be blessed by the grace and peace of Jesus Christ through the Ebezers that God has placed in our lives!

**Matt Broadbent**

### Sunday, Oct. 9

**Come celebrate with Karen**

*Psalm 90:10, 12. The days of our life are seventy years. Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.*

KAREN LEMES WILL be celebrating her 70th birthday on October 9. She and her husband John have been members of Foothills for 40 years. Please join her in worship as she offers the morning sermon on "Thanks to the Church."

Her sermon will focus on her experiences and the influence of the church in her personal and public life. The service will be followed by a lunch reception in the Parish Hall for church members, family and friends hosted by her daughter Jennifer Lemes Springer and family.

### Report as of Sept. 16

## Church experiences significant power failure

ON WEDNESDAY, Sept. 14 at about 3:21 a.m., part of the church's electric power went out. The failure interrupted one phase of the 220 volt service leaving only one phase of 110 volts. As a result approximately half of the circuits were working and the other half were not.

Work-around with extension cords allowed the staff to prepare for Sunday. The Chamber of Commerce printed the Sunday Bulletin for us - Thank you, Chamber.

PG&E responded and provided the initial diagnostic. Tom Waugh recommended South Valley Electric for the repairs and they connected the dead circuit side to the hot side - a temporary solution. As a result all plugs and lights are operational — except that the organ and the Learning Center hot water heater will not be operational until a new cable is installed, since they require 220 V.

The outage was caused by the failure of an underground cable that connects PG&E to the Church. The failed cable is most likely 50 or more years old, as is the master input switch and fuses. Replacing the cable and the input panels will be a major job to be done by PG&E and South Valley Electric. No schedule had been set for this work at Footnotes press time.

[Later: The organ — and presumably the hot water heater — was expected to be in service again in time for our 50th anniversary. -Ed.]

If you encounter any problems or have questions, contact Dave Spaulding (650) 948-8871 or Ray Peck (650) 938-6343.

—Ray Peck

## Help One Child sends its thanks

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS to our Backpack Drive donors at Foothills Congregational Church who made dreams come true by purchasing backpacks and school supplies for nearly 100 foster children this year. And a special thanks to the Outreach Board for coordinating this effort!

Your generosity is a priceless gift to our ministry and foster families.

It's volunteers like you that made the kick-off to this school year brighter for these special children. There is no way we could have done this without your help!

We appreciate your support and hope to work with you again this year.

Blessings, *Barbara Holloway, Teen Program Manager, Help One Child*  
[www.helponechild.org](http://www.helponechild.org)

### Jail time: Oct. 9

THE FOOTHILLS JAIL MINISTRY team will offer a worship service at the Elmwood Correctional Facility at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9. If you would like to join the team, please let Evelyn Vigil or Bob Willwerth know by Tuesday, Oct. 2, so we will have enough time to clear you. And don't worry if you have never attended. We will teach you on the spot. —E. V.



## Youth Fellowships

THIS YEAR both youth fellowships meet from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. For the first half hour everyone will meet together for snack and check-in. \*Then we will split into two groups, with the MSF staying in the Middle School room and the PF going to the PF room. We will meet every Sunday, except the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Here is the schedule of topics for our meetings in October.

**Sunday, Oct. 2** Halloween party planning

**Sunday, Oct. 9** Worship planning for Youth Sunday

**Sunday, Oct. 16** Mission trip informational meeting

**Sunday, Oct. 23** Halloween crafts and party ideas

**Sunday, Oct. 30** Halloween party

## Halloween Party!

OUR ANNUAL Halloween Party is back. It will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 in the Parish Hall. It will be a fun and festive party meant to work best for kids up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, with a special emphasis on our youngest friends. —M.W.



## Coming at Foothills

**Oct. 1 & 2** Foothills 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Oct. 2** Forum with Ann Jones

**Oct. 15** Altar Guild Luncheon at Pomeroy's Home

**Oct. 22-23** Jr. High Fall Fest at Congregational Community Church, Sunnyvale

**Oct. 30** Halloween Party

**Nov. 5-6** Sr. High Fall Youth Event at Congregational Church of San Mateo

**Nov. 20** Stewardship Sunday

**Nov. 24** Thanksgiving Service, 10 a.m.

**Nov. 27** Advent Events

Women's Fellowship will meet Tuesday, Oct. 11, and will have fun rehashing the fun events of the church's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Please join us in the Fireside Room at noon with your bag lunch. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430. —A.N.

Circle of Women will gather in the Meeting Room for simple potluck and sharing on Monday, Oct. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. Call Irene Ogawa if you have questions. —I.O.

**Book Group** For October, we will read *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett, the author of *Bel Canto*. We meet Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 10:30 a.m., in the Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430. —A.N.

**Room wanted** Quiet senior woman is looking for a room to rent in the Los Altos/Mountain View area. She has excellent references. If you have a room to rent or know someone who does, please contact Kathi Bumblis. —K.B.

## Beyond the courtyard

## Born to teach: Nancy Grippo

“WHEN I WAS A GIRL, I loved school all day long, I played school at home and I just loved the smell of sharpened pencils,”

Nancy Grippo laughs.

“And so there was no other way for me – I received my teaching credential and master's at Stanford and was fortunate to be hired at Cubberley High School in Palo Alto.”

Nancy's family had moved from the East Coast to California when she was 12, as her father followed his career in chemical engineering, yet the various moves didn't bother her. First in Menlo Park, then in Redondo Beach, she made life-long friends.

“I was usually involved in student government, because it really mattered to me, and I met people right away through that,” she recalls. At Scripps College, she remembers many great experiences, not the least of which was meeting a young man named Joe Grippo who attended nearby Pomona. They married in 1962 and in 1964 and 1966 their children Diana and John were born.

Nancy combined teaching and motherhood, first substituting for a while; she not only taught United States History and Government, but developed an entire curriculum for a new course: Psychology 1. She



Photo: Bob Willwerth

moved to Gunn High School in 1970 and retired in 1999.

“History is written down as facts, but what led people to do what they did, historically?” she asks. “The motivations for people's behaviors began to interest me a lot. After I developed the course, the College Board contacted me and for years I worked for them in the summers, grading advanced placement exams in Psychology and developing a year-long course for them and teaching it to teachers on college campuses.”

On a feminist note, on a subject now laughable but then very serious, Nancy proudly led a revolt of female teachers at Cubberley who demanded permission to wear pants to school:

“I convinced the principal that women could wear *pants suits* (not separates, mind you), and he finally agreed, and I felt terribly gratified,” she recalls.

How does someone like Nancy retire, after such a satisfying career? Gradu-

ally, it turns out.

First she stayed out a semester and traveled with Joe. But then she was called back for another semester; she told her students she had flunked retirement. After that, Nancy directed her energies to Filoli in Woodside, where she has served in several responsible capacities: first she completed the Filoli Nature Education Program, a 13-week course she enjoyed a lot, and then was a Nature Education docent, eventually becoming chair of that program. Then she learned to lead house and garden tours,

*Continued on page 4*

## ... Nancy Grippo

Continued from page 3

followed by a stint as vice president of Filoli's volunteer services.

Now she heads the Ambassador Program there (which she designed) which gives volunteers a chance to try out several different programs as they find their ideal volunteer position. She also attends a memoir-writing class offered through the Los Altos Adult Education Program: "The teacher is wonderful but it's hard to make myself sit down and write," Nancy laughs. "I tend to be a doer, not a deep thinker."

And that is why she especially appreciates Foothills Church, which she attended in the late '60s, stopped attending for some years, and then returned to when her mother, Mary Parish attended worship services and raved about Rev. Matt Broadbent.

"Matt was so good to my mother, and I appreciate his sermons," Nancy says. "I hope this church brings out the more spiritual component of my life. I also love the words to the hymns and I actually read the hymnal quite a bit. Then too, I enjoy the social aspect of seeing everybody."

She is winding up a four-year service on our Property Management Board, where she focused on landscaping plans and planting. "The combination of gardening and history is something I like," she says.

In her own bountiful, beautiful garden, she grows 86 rose bushes, planted along brick paths built by Joe over their 30-year residence. Here is Nancy's recipe for success with roses:

Use a drip system, giving them 15 minutes of water every day, using small drip holes, plus giving them just natural fertilizer, like E.B. Stone – no chemicals or systemics.

"But this land has a high water table and

## 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: George Tait, Kim Smith-Nilsson, Virginia Morgan

**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 Cedar Crest, Sunnyvale

**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

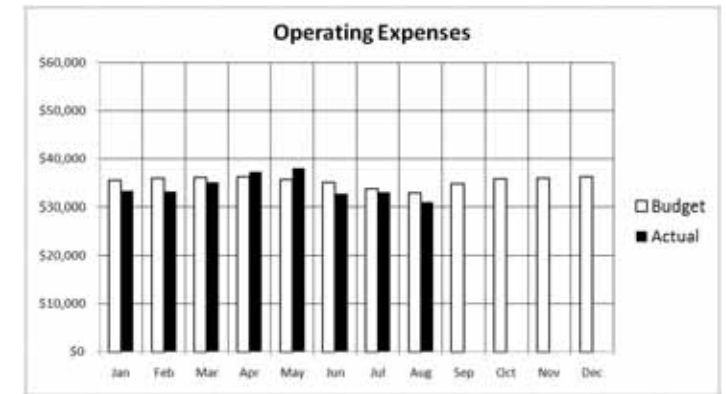
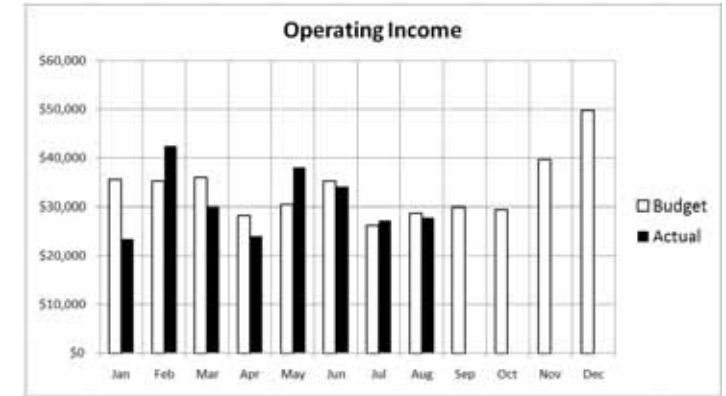


some natural springs, so I think that helps," she says.

Another great passion is hiking. "I've hiked all over," Nancy says. "I'm proudest of having done the Inca Trail to Macchu Pichu during a five-day trek."

—Carolyn Barnes

## Financial Report



## Income and outgo pretty close to as planned

OPERATING INCOME and operating expenses continued on an even keel during August. Total income for eight months has been \$247,130 and total expenses were \$273,494, leaving a deficit at the end of August of \$26,364. Our budget had anticipated a deficit of \$25,600 at this time of the year so we are close to the plan. Now, we need your giving to pick up during the fall as planned. Statements of giving will be mailed to you in early October so that you know where you stand.

At the time of purchasing the parsonage, John Miller, then finance chair, discovered that we were not being given the full exemption from property taxes to which we were entitled. As a result of John's efforts, we received refunds during August and September of \$22,262.41 from the county tax collector. Give John a word of thanks! [Note: These refunds are not reflected in the above results, awaiting further decisions by the Executive Council as to their disposition.]

—Del Fillmore