

will now be a place for you at Foothills. We are reinstating our 8:30 a.m. Service of Prayer and Meditation on October 4. This worship service lasts 30 minutes and is designed to include opening prayers and scripture, 10 minutes of quiet meditation, followed by prayers for the community and communion.

This year a written meditation will be provided for those who would like to have their thoughts guided during the quiet time.

Who comes to this service? Typically, there are six to 12 people. Some seek the quiet of sacred space to be with God. Some have come because there has been a health crisis and they want to pray for themselves and others.

There are teachers in our Children's Program who will miss worship at 10 – and come to prepare themselves spiritually. And there are those of us on the staff who appreciate the time to be quiet, to pray, to let the Word of God speak to us, to become focused

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 our relationship with God before we get caught up in the busyness with other people. You will always be welcome.

Matt Broadbent



Volunteers for CSA sought

SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED in supporting Jean Taylor and me on the Community Services Agency Task Force, we would enjoy sharing with you exactly what we do and plan to continue doing in the months ahead.

We attend monthly meetings at CSA to share ideas how best to help serve CSA's needs. You may know that we have been providing their homeless clients with health kits each December, which have been purchased and assembled by Judy Gentry, Keiko Hayashi, and Lee and Anna Garverick, as well as other members of our church congregation.

We are involved in the Empty Soup Bowl Supper in April which raises a considerable amount of money for CSA's clients. Please consider this volunteer opportunity and be a part of our team. We are eager to welcome new faces, new ideas and new friends.

—Nancy Burton



From the Associate Minister **All Hallows Eve**

THE PASTOR OF THE CHURCH I attended as a child warned us to dress only as biblical characters for Halloween so as to avoid opening a door for the devil to enter our soul.

I did not choose to dress as a biblical character, but I was a clown for several years in a row. It wasn't until I was in middle school and no longer attending that church that I wore a darker costume, a vampire. For the past decade, I have been relying on a plush Eeyore costume. This year I have been thinking perhaps it's time to retire Eeyore.

So what will I wear to the FCC Halloween Party on October 25th?

I like the idea of dressing as the mom from *The Incredibles*, there's something about the idea of a regular mom being a superhero, but I don't find skin-tight spandex to be exactly appropriate for my profession. I have considered dressing as a witch, which has all sorts of fun possibilities, but then my daughter asked me if witches are real.

I told her that, no, there are not people with magical powers, like her favorite TV witch, *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*. And then I told her that, yes, sometimes people who practice the religion known as Wicca are called witches, just like we are called Christians because we practice a religion based on Jesus, whom we call Christ.

In that moment I realized that me dressing as a witch was somehow akin to me dressing as a Catholic monk. It just feels a little tacky and inappropriate to be dressing as a caricature of a colleague from another tradition.

Christianity has long had a strange relationship with Halloween, a holiday associated with non-Christian traditions. A quick Google search of "Christian Halloween" will

give you a list of contemporary Christian objections and alternatives to Halloween, most along the same lines I heard as a child. Much of it has to do with the exclusive nature of some Christian beliefs.

If you believe Christianity to be the only path to God, and Halloween is a holiday that comes from non-Christian traditions, then you might do well to avoid it. But our denomination has an inclusive belief system. We believe in multiple paths to God and the earth-based traditions from which we get Halloween are no less valid than other religious expressions. Besides Halloween as we currently celebrate it is about as close to those traditions as Christmas as you experience it in the mall is to a Christian understanding of the Christmas story.

So my search continues for a "light" Halloween costume that is, at the same time, fun and functional, and fits into my inclusive belief system. You'll have to come to the Halloween party [*story pg. 8*] to see what I come up with.

Michelle Webber

Care and Comfort Update

THE WEATHER IS CHANGING in Afghanistan and Iraq and the chocolate season is upon the troops! We can send things like thin mint Girl Scout cookies, and candy. Halloween is coming and we'll be asking our youth to Trick or Treat for the Troops.

Our next packing date is on Nov. 8. We begin at 10 a.m. and work until we're done, or you're ready to stop. There are all kinds of jobs for those who sit, stand, stuff or lift. Thank you for your continuing support, our troops thank you, and your donations of time and treasure mean so much to so many.

—Blessings, Mark and K.C. McCoy

Landscape Update

THE GARDEN NURSERY tag line this fall seems to be “Fall is the new Spring” and we will be following that dictum at Foothills this year as our Orange Avenue landscaping begins to take shape.

All you avid gardeners know that fall is indeed the best time to plant. The cooler temperatures and prospect of winter rains provide a healthy environment for new plantings. The sun is not so hot and new plantings don't dry out as easily. Winter rains and a cooler growing season enable the plants to develop healthy root systems. (Pray for rain!)

Planning for the renovation of the sanctuary side of the Orange Avenue landscaping is complete. The transformation will continue with grading the area, amending the soil and installing a small granite fines area that will receive two beautiful and welcoming cast-concrete benches. Keep a close watch as this area takes on a new, water-wise look.

—Jo Pomeroy and Nancy Grippio

Jail op coming Oct. 10

DESPITE A GOOD DRENCHING in September, the Foothills jail worship team will press on with a service on Sunday, Oct. 11. If you would like to join us to provide worship and prayer for the men at Elmwood Correctional Center in Milpitas, please let the Rev. Evelyn Vigil or Bob Willwerth know by Tuesday, Oct. 6, in order to leave enough time for a clearance to be run.

Carpooling from church is available and we generally gather in Milpitas at about 7:15 p.m. so that we can start our services at 7:30 p.m. —E.V.

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: **Jim Ackley, Susan Fillmore, Ruth Fielding, Jim Coburn**

Mike Shannon recovering at home from brain 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

Noreen Hopper at Sunny View Community Center

Mary Peabody at Lytton Gardens, Palo Alto

B.J. Darrow at Palo Alto Commons, Palo Alto

Congratulations to proud grandparents **John and Karen Lemes** on the birth of Cruz Kamakana Lemes Sept. 15 to Frank and Mandy Lemes in Hilo, Hawaii.

Deepest sympathy:

Helen Semar died September 7 in Sunnyvale at age 97.

K. C. McCoy's father-in-law, Dr. Robert McCoy died Aug. 22 in Fresno.

Lowell Klaisner's mother died Aug. 19 in Modesto at age 99.



Beyond the courtyard

Kristin Russel: Life as international adventure

WHEN YOU ADD UP everything Kristin Russel (along with husband Norman Happ) has accomplished in the last 10 years or so, it's a breathtaking list.

She established her career as a project manager with the renowned consulting firm Cambridge Technology Partners; she married Norman Happ and moved to Amsterdam (European headquarters for Cambridge Partners); they purchased and renovated an 1850s town house there; they raised the capital to start up an on-line billing and software company, Anachron, which soon grew to some 60 employees and is now the largest such company in Western Europe.

While they lived in Amsterdam, their first two daughters were born: Zoe, now nine and Samantha, seven. The family's next move was to Kansas City where Kristin worked with the president of a large medical software company, Cerner Corporation, and gave birth to their third daughter, Elle, now three, *and* renovated a 1920s house.

Then, in 2007, they moved to Orange Avenue in Los Altos and renovated a third time, changing a 1950s rancher into a charming Craftsman-style home. (The Los Altos move occurred when Norman was recruited to run the sales strategy for Intuit Corporation in Mountain View.)

Kristin lives her busy life with enthusiasm, energy and a big smile. She recently made a delicious batch of strawberry frozen yoghurt



with her three girls and described some of the serendipitous finds that make their home so interesting, such as the huge slab of (?) wood from the Santa Cruz Mountains that she turned into a countertop for their kitchen island.

The Russel-Happ household is literally just a stone's throw from Foothills Church and that is what first attracted Kristin and Norman to our fold: “It's the only church we went to, because it's walking distance for us. We love the minister, Matt; we like the people and the girls like the Sunday School. Matt's sermons get you and the music keeps you coming back,” Kristin says. [So I assume they've stopped throwing stones at the church. -Ed.]

Her maternal grandfather was a Presbyterian minister in Southern Ohio and his brother was a Congregational/UCC minister named Sam – in fact, Kristin and Norman named their second daughter after him.

“My parents, Jack and Susan Russel, stayed here for six weeks last year when I had back surgery and they love Foothills, too. They sang in our choir while they were visiting,” Kristen says.

Before their retirement, both parents were college professors — her mom taught French and her dad, psychology. Kristin was born in Columbus, Ohio, where her parents studied at Ohio State University. Her dad served in the U.S. Army in Alabama during the Viet Nam war, and afterward, the family, which by then included a second daughter, moved to St. John's, Newfoundland for five years and then to London, Ontario. Her parents

Continued on page 4

Kristin Russel . . .

Continued from page 3

taught first at the University of Newfoundland and then at the University of Ontario.

"It was a great growing-up time," says Kristin of her years in Canada, when she took piano lessons; vacationed on Prince Edward Island; led canoe trips to Northern Ontario as a teenager; and, as an undergraduate, attended McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

She graduated in Political Science and Economics, worked for a year, and then, in three years, earned both a Master's in Public Administration (from Carleton University where she prepared speeches for the Canadian Prime Minister in the Privy Council Office in Ottawa) and a Master's in Business Administration in Rennes, in France, where all her years of French study "finally really clicked" and she was able to enjoy traveling throughout Europe.

With the two older girls now attending Gardner Bullis School, Kristin is in the midst of organizing its annual walkathon and she swims with a Master's group.

"I used to do triathalons, but not any more," she says.

She'll be teaching in the Foothills church school this year and will be happy to discuss Newfoundland winters with anyone who is interested (clue: they are very long).

—Carolyn Barnes



The Library

Lives and meaning

BILL MOYERS and a plethora of poets are responsible for *The Language of Life*. After attending the Dodge Poetry Festival in Waterloo, New Jersey, Moyers hosted a series on PBS in which he interviewed many poets from the festival and asked them to read some of their favorite poems.

Moyers, with his usual sensitivity and intelligence, discusses with the poets their lives and the meaning of their poetry. In this book he presents interviews and selected works of 34 of these poets.

The poets are as diverse as America, each with a unique view and a personal idiom. Linda McCarrison writes of her wrenching childhood as a victim of a violent father. James Autry, a Fortune 500 executive, writes about growing up in the rural South and about the business world. In *On Firing a Salesman* he says, "It's like a little murder./ taking his life."

Marilyn Chin writes in *How I Got That Name* about how her Marilyn Monroe-obsessed father transliterated Mei Ling to Marilyn. We have Mary TallMountain from Alaska and Garrett Karou Hongo from Hawaii; Rita Dove who is the first African American poet laureate of the USA, and both Coleman Banks and Robert Bly who are noted translators of Rumi. So many noteworthy poets and memorable poems.

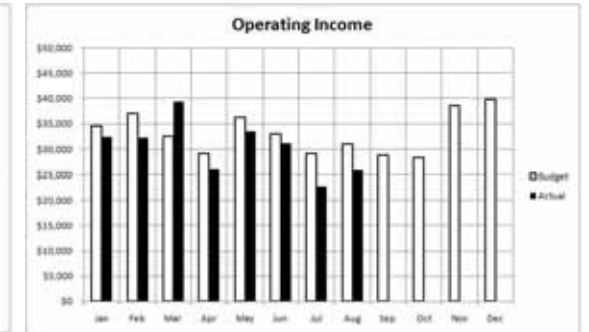
—Lee Rogers

New on library shelves

MY PRESBYTERIAN FRIEND assures me that novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers is not to be missed. I've not read it but trust her judgment so here it is, Congregationalists.

—Jeri Schrickler

Financial Report



Deficit continues to grow in August

OPERATING INCOME IN AUGUST continued at a level lower than budgeted. We hope the level of giving to operations and outreach will rise along with the level of activities during the fall. Total operating income through August was \$243,561 versus the budget of \$262,866. Total operating expenses for the same period were \$272,329 versus the budget of \$276,921. The deficit in the operating fund at August 31 stands at \$28,768. For comparison, the deficit in the operating fund at the end of August last year was \$10,931.

—Del Fillmore

Food donations huge

THANK YOU, Foothills family, for your food donations to the Community Service Agency (CSA). Our youth collected 150 pounds in church on Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 13. What a neat way of helping those in need.

Since the March newsletter report, Foothills members have contributed over 672 pounds of food, including the Homecoming donations.

Food donations can be placed in the "Little White Church" at Foothills. A list of typical needs is posted on the Little Church's roof.

—Delivery Boy - Ray Peck

Coming at Foothills

Oct. 3 Fall Retreat, Hidden Villa Church Day, Modesto

Oct. 4 Contemplative Worship resumes

Oct. 10 Altar Guild Outing, Yerba Buena Nursery

Oct. 25 Halloween Party

Book Group on Tuesday, Oct. 27, will be discussing *Shanghai Girls*, by Lisa See. We meet at 10:30 in the Fireside Room. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.

Women's Fellowship will gather in the Fireside Room with a bag lunch, at noon Tuesday, Oct. 13. Questions? Call Ann Nelson, (650) 941-3430.