

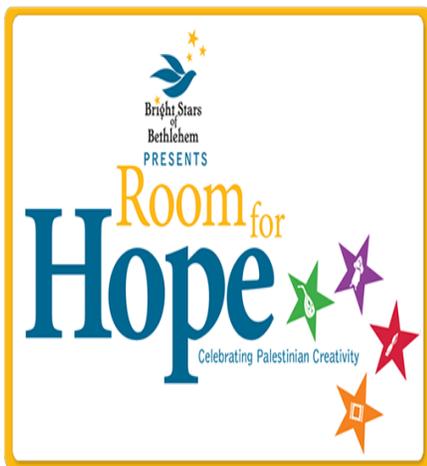
**MIDWEEK MESSAGE**  
**September 25, 2013**

Words to Consider: *"We can put our trust in all kinds of persons and things, our first choice generally being ourselves, but the psalmist insists there is only one place where we can be truly safe -- in the shelter of the Most High."*

Jane Strohl

**THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

- ❖ **WOMEN'S BRUNCH** meets on the **Thursday, September 26 at 10 AM**. All women of our church community are invited. Please join us at Hobee's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, in the "Wine Room." All women of the congregation welcome.
- ❖ **CHURCH CHOIR Thursday, September 26 at 7:30 PM** in the Parlor. All are welcome to join in song (and fun).



**ROOM FOR HOPE ARTS FESTIVAL IN SAN FRANCISCO**

Sponsored by Bay Area Lutherans, Bright Stars of Bethlehem presents *Room for Hope*, a cultural festival that shares the story of the Holy Land and celebrates Palestinian creativity.

When: September 26th - 28th, 2013

Where: San Francisco State University, Creative Arts Bldg.,  
1600 Holloway Ave, S.F.

What: Educates by means of dance, concerts, seminars,  
poetry, entrepreneurial development

Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 and promotes peace in the Middle East through health, education, cultural and spiritual development for Palestinians.

For program schedule, please go to [info@roomforhope.me](mailto:info@roomforhope.me), or [www.brightstarsbethlehem.org](http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org).  
For more information, call Martha Meyer at 650-854-7228

- ❖ **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 10:00 AM. Worship:** *“On Eagles’ Wings”* and **Sunday School** for children and youth. **Adult Spiritual Formation** at 11:30 AM will be led by Pastor Tripp. We will view and discuss a brief video with Lillian Daniels entitled, *“Religion: Spirituality Is Not Enough.”*
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, October 1, 10:30 AM** at the Terraces of Los Altos at Janet Maxwell’s apartment. The address is 373 Pine Lane, #2106, Los Altos. Let Pastor Rick know if you need transportation.
- ❖ **MEN’S BREAKFAST, 8:00 AM, Wednesday, October 2,** at Hobe’s Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. All the men from our Church family are welcome.

### UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS



**September’s Special Mission Offering** will be for **InnVision and the Opportunity Center**. The center functions as a service to the wider community by providing a creative response to home-less related problems and offering opportunities for the community to respond to those needs. Its highest concern is to provide a positive and caring environment that respects the dignity of every person. To date we have received **\$580** toward our goal of **\$600**.

### A NOTE FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TASK TEAM

This team has responsibility for caring for **our Hospitality needs** on Sunday mornings and at Intergenerational Events on some Friday nights. Our Team invites all members of our congregation to participate in all activities as interest and schedules permit. The Team will circulate a **sign-up schedule this Sunday for each one to volunteer to help** with the many acts of hospitality which are available for everyone to enjoy. See Eleanor Satterlee for more information. Telephone, 650.326.5289 and/or email, [ejgs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejgs@sbcglobal.net)

### IN THE WORLD

**Women's progress still impeded by inequality, World Bank says:** Gender gaps in legal rights are preventing women from progressing economically and socially, says a report from the World

Bank. "When women and men participate in economic life on an equal footing, they can contribute their energies to building a more cohesive society and more resilient economy," says Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank. The Guardian (London)/Reuters (9/24)

**Earthquake in Pakistan kills more than 320:** The death toll from a powerful earthquake in southwest Pakistan rose to 327 on Wednesday after hundreds of mud houses collapsed on residents throughout the remote and thinly populated area, local officials said. Pakistan's army airlifted hundreds of soldiers to help with the aftermath of the worst earthquake in the South Asian country since 2005, when about 75,000 people were killed in the country's north. Reuters (9/25)

**Prayer Call** by *Bob Santilli* (BIM ABC-USA) September 25, 2013 for **Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti**, helping train leaders and showing the reality of God's love and mercy in **Nicaragua**.



Carlos and Mayra are working with the Baptist Theological Seminary in Nicaragua, accompanying them in the program of informal theological education in the churches of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua and as writers of curriculum material for the Seminary. They seek each day to show others God's love and mercy, as a reality.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom and discernment as we sit to write the curriculum materials for the Seminary.
- Continued health as we continue our ministry in Nicaragua.
- Our itinerary this second semester, combination of Seminary and visits to the churches for workshops and sharing the Word.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Beth Johnson (September 25), Eleanor Satterlee (October 1)
- ✚ Marilyn Hunwick for greetings from the Gottestams in Norway
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for the joy of an upcoming from her daughter, Lee, if her health holds
- ✚ For the ministry of Andy Kille, especially as our web master
- ✚ For the presence in worship (and the choir!) of Joanne Jones after a long absence

### Concerns – New:

- ✚ For all those affected by the terrorist attack on All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan and the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya
- ✚ Andy Kille for an interfaith service for the homeless on Sunday in San Jose
- ✚ Chip Clark, whose car was broken into last week, by someone needing shelter from the rain, for all those who are homeless
- ✚ For all those affected by the flooding in Colorado and Mexico
- ✚ For all those affected by the shooting at the Naval Yard in Washington, DC
- ✚ Marilyn Hunwick for Ramesh Kumar who is recovering from brain tumor surgery
- ✚ For those affected by ongoing civil war in Syria that peace with justice may be realized
- ✚ For the residents of the Terraces at Los Altos as they go through a time of transition
- ✚ For Betsy Anderson who is recovering from hand surgery

- ✚ For the work of the Opportunity Center and InnVision

### Ongoing:

- ✚ Bob and Lucille Towner as Bob continues at Manor Care in Sunnyvale
- ✚ Laura Garcia for Janice and other family members with health concerns
- ✚ For Patrice and Richard Heath as she lives with cancer
- ✚ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns
- ✚ For Don and Mary Granholm, Ruth Clark, Earl and Virginia Knechtel, Carl Schilling
- ✚ For Dan and Sarah Chetti and their mission work in Lebanon
- ✚ For Dan Buttry and his mission work as a global peace advocate
- ✚ For Ruriko Uda's congregation, Izumi Parktown Church, in Sendai , Japan
- ✚ For Ramesh Kumar and the ministry of Balasore Technical School in India
- ✚ For our sister church in Corinto, Nicaragua
- ✚ For refugees and all victims of war and disaster everywhere
- ✚ For the well-being of our church: wisdom and guidance for our leaders and its future
- ✚ For the economies of which we are a part (global, national, state, local)
- ✚ For the care of the earth
- ✚ For the peoples of the world striving for freedom and dignity
- ✚ For peace in a war-torn world, food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, justice for the abused and oppressed, and hope for the future
- ✚ For those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways these make us less safe and less free

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

### *"On Eagles' Wings"*

Lectionary reading for the Week: **PSALM 91:1-6, 14-16**; Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15; Luke 16:19-31; 1 Timothy 6:6-19. (Focus scripture for this week is in bold.)

### **GOD AS REFUGE**

The psalmist may have been hoping to convey something about how the life of faith works. Regarding the LORD as your personal refuge is a decision to place your habitation -- your life itself -- in a place that cannot be broken by the stresses and strains of life. Yet the psalmist's poetic flourish after the midway point of the reading seems a bit off.

No harm or disaster will befall you, angels will guard you and your ways, you will be protected from things that would threaten to undo you, and furthermore you will be able to thwart the threatening possibilities that arise in the natural environment. This section of the

Psalm is that which we hear in the New Testament -- Matthew 4:6 and Luke 4:10 quoted by the devil to Jesus. There, as well as here, it seems that the issue isn't so much the physical, but the faithful dimension of human experience.

God's love is found in relationship. God's protection is discovered in relationship. God has a commitment to people who are in relationship with God. Prayer to God is a means for calling on God and God will provide an answer. However, there is no assurance that the answer will be yes. It may be no. And we will then need to trust that God knows better than us the effects of the yes and no answers.

I think in part the psalmist is affirming that God will be with people in trouble, but may not make the trouble go away. God will deliver and honor those in relationship and will provide a means through the trouble. God will satisfy the faithful with life abundant and grant salvation. (Paul O. Myhre, "Commentary on Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16," 2-17-2013, [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org)).

*Prayer: In the shelter of your wings we find our respite, O God. Hold us close in times of trouble and send us out to change the world, when the time is right. It is in your abiding care that we live our lives, day by day and with each passing moment, whether nursing our wounds or trying our own wings. Thanks to be you in all that life brings to us. Amen.*

### **We Reflect on our Need for God**



### **A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK**

It feels like Fall is in making its way, and not just because the calendar tells me so. The nights are getting cooler, football is rampant, everyone is back in school and many of the wonderful trees in our community are thinking about changing color. We have made a good beginning

to Fall at First Baptist. I am always grateful for all you offer to sustaining and nurturing the life of our congregation. It takes all of us to be US.

Thanks to Andy Kille, our web master for the clear and helpful presentation on the "blogosphere" and our role in it. The new FBCPA blog page is just around the corner. Be sure to subscribe when invited.

The lectionary texts for the last few weeks have been challenging and, at times troubling. This week is no exception. The Parable of Dives and Lazarus is a harsh indictment of economic inequity and raises the question if anyone with wealth can find their way to the bosom of Abraham and God's everlasting arms. I believe there is a way but sometimes it's a real struggle to find it and then walk it.

By contrast, Psalm 91, our focus text for Sunday, reminds us that we are sheltered under God's abiding wings, that when we are at our lowest, most vulnerable, God reaches out and draws us into God's protective presence. There is comfort and healing there, like balm in Gilead. At the same time, we hear a promise that when the time comes we will also be borne up and carried forward by those same wings. Please join us at 10:00 AM for worship and Sunday School, followed by Adult Spiritual Formation led by Pastor Tripp. This week we will view the first in a series of videos from Sparkhouse, featuring Lillian Daniels on the topic, "Religion: Spirituality Is Not Enough." Invite someone to come with you. It is good to be here.

Adult Spiritual Formation will be led by Andy Kille. Andy has been our webmaster for several years now. For some months, Andy, Pastor Tripp and I have been developing a new approach to our online presence through a "blog page." Andy will be here to help orient us as we launch this effort – "To the Blogosphere and Beyond: Navigating the Congregation's New Blog Site." Come, explore where we have never gone before! See you Sunday at 10 and stay for ASF. Bring someone along to share the day.

May God's new thing flourish within us and among us.

Pastor Rick

