

The APPLESEED



Sebastopol United Methodist Church
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Meet our Worship Leader Reverend Betty Pagett

I look forward to meeting each one of you in our brief time together. I am a native Californian, graduate of University of the Pacific and Union Theological Seminary in NYC. I have enjoyed 50 years of ministry in student, parish and mission ministries in Paris, the New York area and the Bay Area. I share my life with Robert Bradford, adjunct professor at Dominican University and writer/musician; and an old pussy cat named Sunday. We have daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the area. We "retired" to Petaluma in 2013 as first time homebuyers, a 1905 fixer-upper cottage. My volunteer work includes leading the Retired Clergy 8th VIM work project to New Orleans October 29-Nov. 7, "Oma Village:" permanent homes for families moving out of homelessness, and helping a community land trust in West Marin acquire the closing Coast Guard Housing in Point Reyes. The next few weeks our worship theme will be "Great is Thy Faithfulness" as we celebrate transition as a time to let go, grow and move on, so join us! bettypagett@gmail.com

The Holiday Sale is Coming, Save the Date!

Saturday November 14, 2015

Invite your family and friends to stop by and enjoy a piece of pie, quiche and special goodies while shopping for Christmas decorations and special gifts.

Golden Rule

Golden Rule meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 11:30 – 1:00. Golden Rule will not meet on November 26. They are currently studying John Westley.

Thank You...

Thank you to those who supplied food for those in need for the Saturday Table in August: Jennie Cheshier, Regina Rand, Barbara and Dennis Hansen, Ernie and Karen Bohn, Chris Eberle, Barbara Stranzl and Mary Blom. Thank you to those who worked at the Saturday Table in August: Vicki Amtower, Sally Rose, Barbara Stranzl, Mary Blom, Jennie Cheshier, Barbara Hansen, Chris Eberle and Vi Moir.

Thank you to Kaci Wegner for working with the children to prepare the Church Door snack bags which we pass out at Saturday Table. Also

Thank You to Michelle Olson-Brueggemann who is now purchasing the sleeping bags and socks and bringing the snack bags, sleeping bags, and socks over to Epworthian Hall for Saturday Table.

Thank you to all who donated and helped with the rummage sale.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees, The Administrative Council and all others who gave their time to ready the parsonage.

Did You Know???

18 meals were served to people in need at the Saturday Table in August.

The Rummage Sale raised over \$1,500.00, with more still coming in, for the restoration of the parsonage.

A church calendar is available on the church's website, sebumc@wordpress.com

Upcoming Saturday Table Dates:

September 26

October 24

November 28

Youth Event SCUMY Kickoff

Stony Point Campus of First UMC,
Corner of Stony Point and Giffin
4pm -7pm

Social Justice in Action

Trafficking Task Force

Lisa Vanderboom happy to announce the formation of the 18-person and growing Bridges District Trafficking Task Force. We are mostly Bridges District folks but some of the other Districts have heard what we are doing and are sending representatives to see what they can do in their own Districts. The idea for this sort of got planted in her mind when she did the presentation on trafficking at our fundraiser Sunday a few months ago. It seems fitting as our church was first started by land provided to us by a female doctor who helped women in trouble. She then met many Methodists at a trafficking summit and it grew from there. If you would like to Lisa on the task force just send her an email lisavanderboom@gmail.com, she would love to have you join the group!

Dear Beloved Community –

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ - Matthew 25:40

Introducing the Bridges District Trafficking Taskforce

Our own Bishop Brown has called for us to engage our faith in the public square. As inspired by this message of the church’s relevance in our world and our own Methodist history as Abolitionists, we have created a Bridges District Trafficking Task Force on human trafficking, most notably child sex trafficking which is the most common form of human trafficking, 79% according to a UN report. Estimates of **100,000 – 300,000 children a year** are trafficked **IN THE UNITED STATES** with American children **FROM OUR OWN COMMUNITIES** and California and our San Francisco Bay area are one of the largest areas of this horrendous activity. This is indeed a calling for our generation.

Children are being taken from their families and forced into prostitution and the American market for sex with children is increasing. Our hearts break at this information as we want to run home to hold our own children and keep them safe from the horrible risk they face by simply being a child in our country today.

But God calls us further...

As disciples of Christ, it is our calling to also love and cherish all children, all the least of these whom He loves and calls us to protect.

We cannot turn our backs on this issue, hoping it will go away without us, it calls for our engagement in the public square. Without us, this will only get worse and place our children at more risk. This is modern-day slavery and we as a church are being called again to rise to our Abolitionist roots and pick up the banner for our own times to end this cruel and abusive system of oppression. We Methodists helped to end legal slavery, now it is this illegal slavery we are being called to confront.

Trafficking Presentations at Bridges District Churches

Major sporting events such as the Super Bowl are large attractors for trafficking and children are trucked in to service event attendees. The Super Bowl will be in our area in 2016 and we are using this as a kick-off and rallying point with a goal to have **a presentation on trafficking given at each church in our district by the time of the Super Bowl.**

To help make this happen, we are partnering with a faith-based organization, [Shared Hope International](#) to provide Ambassadors of Hope to be available to you to come join you for worship and present to your congregation. Options on how to do this vary depending on what feels right to you. You may choose to allow them to briefly address the congregation and then hold the presentation after services or you may choose to allow them to present as your focus for a particular Sunday and present during the sermon time. The Ambassadors can do a 20-minute presentation and/or you can also have a longer presentation with discussion which would take about an hour.

We are also encouraging church members to take the very easy [online training](#) so they may become trained on the issues themselves and speak to their home congregations and communities, which is particularly helpful when we have a variety of languages spoken in a community and also brings a powerful voice from within the congregation.

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The Shared Hope Ambassadors are eager to meet with us and they have each volunteered for various churches in their areas and will be in touch with you shortly to begin a dialog about coming to visit to share the voice of God's calling to service and engagement in the public square on this very important issue.

Additional plans include:

- Out-reach to Washington DC-based UMW leader, Leslie Johnson, to offer our assistance when she comes to raise awareness about trafficking at the time of the Super Bowl as she does each year in the host city.
- We also hope to raise this issue through the voice of the youth at General Conference, our jurisdictional missionary Brenda Vaca is also on our trafficking task force and will be leading the youth at General Conference and is also leading efforts to bring this as a legislative resolution as well.

God's call to Levi

Our Bridges District Trafficking Task Force was created by one of those hand-of-God type experiences. There were many Methodists at the Freedom Summit on trafficking at Levi Stadium in May, where the Super Bowl will be held next February. We kept running into each other and realized we were doing this work but the church had not taken it on at the grassroots level yet. Then at annual conference we were called to take our faith into the public square and we just knew we had been called, that the church itself was being called to get engaged and get active in our communities on this issue.

Levi Stadium reminds us of the tribe of Levi and God's call to the Levites to be His priests just as we all are called:

"The LORD said to Moses, 'Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'" - Leviticus 19

We despair that we even have to deal with such a heinous issue at all. But we rejoice that God has found His church at this pivot point in time, this flexion point of our desire to engage our faith into the public square. We have already had interest from other Districts in our Conference and we are sharing what we are doing so they can also become active and answer the call as well. Something is indeed alive and being moved by the Spirit!

We invite you to please join us in saving our children. And to please offer a warm hand of welcome to our Ambassadors of Hope from Shared Hope International as they contact you and partner with the church to engage in the transformation of the world. If you would like to join the Bridges District Trafficking Task Force to help plan and move this initiative forward, please contact Lisa VanderBoom of Sebastopol UMC at lisavanderboom@gmail.com.

In service to the One who unites us all to each other,
Bridges District Trafficking Task Force

Some videos on the issue:

US children are being sold for sex everyday:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlKBeF3Zh00>

Defender's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7QPu54Eomk>

Survivor Homes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jax4gljaq5Q>

Winter Newsletter Submissions

Please send your information to carolwegner@yahoo.com or the church office by October 30. The next issue will be for November, December and January.