Niles Discovery Church
United in God's love for everyone's journey ... no exceptions.

JULY
Volume 15 Number 07

The Bell

UPCOMING WORSHIP

July 5
"Our Healing Wounds"
2 Corinthians 12:2-10,
Mark 6:1-13

July 12
"Saving Face, Losing Heads"
Mark 6:14-29,
2 Samuel 6:11b-19

July 19
"Building God's Household"
Ephesians 2:11-22,
2 Samuel 7:1-14a

July 26
"Bread – Part 1"
John 6:1-21,
Ephesians 3:14-21

UKULELE CLASSES

Jim and Sandy Thomas have graciously agreed to continue ukulele classes for all ages on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month following worship. This is a class for all ages and levels. Ukuleles are available for anyone who doesn't have their own instrument. Please join in the fun!

FLEA MARKET PREP BEGINS

Niles Discovery Church will be participating in the annual neighborhood-wide yard sale and antique Flea Market that happens in Niles the last weekend of August. This year, we will be having a sale of donated items from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday August 29, and from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 30; parking spaces in the main (west) parking lot and the empty field will be sold on Sunday.

The work will begin on Wednesday, July 15, as we set up display tables in the east half of the Fellowship Hall. On Sunday, July 19, we will begin receiving donated "treasures" for pricing and sale. Volunteers will be available on Sundays after worship and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning July 22 to receive donated items and work on pricing and displaying them. Church members and friends are welcome—and encouraged—to shop early and often at our sales tables in this important church fundraiser.

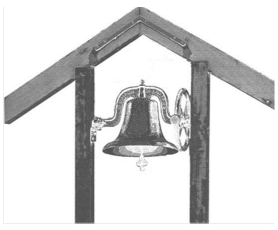
Continued; See "**UNLOAD OLD ITEMS AND FIND NEW TREASURES**" page 3

NEW MEMBERS SET TO JOIN

Pastor Jeff announced that he expects to receive new members on Sunday, July 12, during the worship service. If you would like to formally unite with the church as a member, please speak to Pastor Jeff.

In the past, people have attended "Inquirers Classes" to prepare for membership. "Times have changed," Pastor Jeff pointed out. "We will receive members periodically, and we will invite people to participate in *Membership Conversations* that will be held throughout the year. These will be less formal times for sharing stories and coming to understand the culture of Niles Discovery Church a little better." He said that the exact design of these Membership Conversations is still being worked out.

ENTER THE BELL CONTEST



When one of our congregants moves out of the area, we here at Niles Discovery Church like to send them out with a token of our church, an image of the bell. Now that we are in our newly-renovated building, and the bell has been placed in its new home, it is time to update our image of the bell.

So take out your sketch pads, your water colors, your polaroids—anything that your

Continued; See "**CREATE OUR KEEPSAKE**" page 3

Jeff's Jottings

Much of the work performed by our congregation's leaders isn't seen. We see the *results* of their work, but often not the work itself. The Sunday School teachers have curricula to work with because of the work we don't see of exploring, evaluating, and sometimes writing performed by the Ministry of Christian Education Team. We have bread and juice to eat at communion because of the work we don't see of preparation performed by the Ministry of Spiritual Life Team that starts before many of us are at church for worship.

Now that we're in our new facility, our Ministry of Property Team has been doing work we don't see. This has included looking at the facilities use policies with an eye toward suggesting revisions for the Cabinet to make. (The Cabinet is the policy-making body of our congregation). The current Niles Discovery Church facilities use policies are essentially the policies inherited from Niles Congregational Church and were not used during the past year when we were no longer the owners of the property at 255 H Street. Now we are in a facility that houses many of our ministries and that will be used by groups outside our congregation. We need to know what our expectations and rules are so everyone who uses the facilities is clear.

One of the policies that we inherited from Niles Congregational Church is a "no alcohol" policy. I know that policy was adopted by Niles Congregational Church more than a decade ago because it was the policy when I started my call there. This particular policy is being re-examined by the Ministry of Property Team and the fact that it is even being considered has raised some concerns.

So the Cabinet is asking the Ministry of Property to step back from that particular element of our facilities use policies so we can engage in some conversation as a congregation. We need to hear each other's stories before we start talking about how the policy *might* be reshaped (and I stress the word "might" and remind you that there are many, many ways the policy could be reshaped). Only after we have heard each other's stories will the Ministry of Property Team and the Cabinet work on a proposal, and that will come back to the congregation before any action is taken on it.

Here's the plan in more detail:

On Sunday, August 9, following worship, the members of the Cabinet will host small groups called "Circles of Inquiry." The goal of a Circle of Inquiry is to give many views their voice, to investigate an issue by asking sincere questions, and telling stories of how that issue related to each participant. The Circles will *not* work on specific policy options or seek to find solutions. They are a place for us to share our stories, to speak our truths. While specific stories will stay in the groups, the range and types of concerns will be shared in the following Cabinet meeting so they can influence the nuances of a possible policy.

The Cabinet hopes to have a specific policy proposal written, influenced by the stories shared, that will be discussed in a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, September 20, following worship. Depending on how that Town Hall Meeting goes, the Cabinet will make a decision about our alcohol policy at their meeting on September 21 or at their meeting in October.

Of course, this plan will only work if people participate, so I hope that you will be at worship and stick around for the Circles of Inquiry on August 9 (if you're in the area). If we share honestly and listen to each other compassionately, the Holy Spirit will guide our work.

Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Pastor Jeff's personal blog is at jeffsjottings.wordpress.com. He is publishing his sermons there so you can leave feedback or comments. He has started another blog, "Does God Care When My Mom Kills Slugs?" where he answers kids' theological questions. You can read it at askrevjss.wordpress.com.

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Unload Old Items and Find New Treasures

Now is the time to clean out your closets, garages, and storage places and donate unused but good items to the church. The following are suggested items for donation:

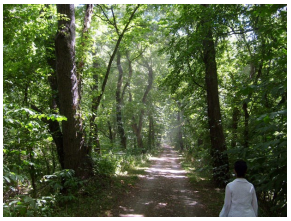
Books, toys, games (with all the pieces), jewelry, hats, purses, musical instruments, china, glassware, antiques, tools, collectables, knickknacks, holiday decorations, linens, blankets, working small appliances, outdoor furniture and accessories, office supplies, children's furniture, trunks, shoes, chairs, desks, other small furniture, exercise equipment, and sporting goods. **Make sure all items are clean and in good working condition.**

The following items will not be accepted: clothing; sofas and other large, heavy, furniture; toilets, sinks, blinds, or other recycled home fixtures; and soiled and non-working items.

In previous years, this has been the largest fundraiser of the church year, often netting $10,000 for the church's general fund. **In order to be successful, we need your help**. Do you have a truck or van to help haul items to the church? Do you have time to help price and sort merchandise? Can you help sell treasures the days of the sale? Generally speaking, the whole congregation rolls up their sleeves and pitches in, and it is actually loads of fun!

To volunteer to help, or for more information about what to donate, contact Mark Twist, our head Flea Wrangler, or Alta Jo Adamson and Marilyn Singer, our treasure wranglers. Let's make this year's Flea Market in our new space the best yet.

Merry Widows Moving On



The second meeting for Merry Widows Moving On (formerly Poor Widow Me) will be Friday, July 10 at 6 p.m. at Niles Discovery Church. All widows are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. Contact Alison for more information at (510)504-0262.

Continued from page 1

Create Our Keepsake

inner artist desire—and create for us the image to be used as a keepsake by which to remember us. Drop off your creation at the office or leave it with one of the members of the Ministry of Spiritual Life team by or before July 20. Digital Photographs should be high-quality jpeg files. Old-school photos should be at least 5x7 inches and can be color or black and white. Sketches, drawings, paintings, etc. should also be minimally 5x7 inches.

Of the entries, five will be chosen by the Ministry of Spiritual Life team and place don display in the church. The congregation will vote among the five semifinalists by a procedure to be outlined next month. We are very excited to see your work. Good luck and have fun!

Thanks Received

On behalf of all of Dena Hokom's family I would like to express our thanks to the people from Niles Discovery Church who helped make the celebration of Dena's life such a comforting service. We give special thanks to the choir and to the pastors. The choir was wonderful, and the message from the pastors was of great comfort to all of us. Also, thank you to all who prepared and served food. A number of people told us how good the food was. We will always be grateful to all of you for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Marvin (Pete) Hokom, Matthew Hokom family, Amy Donnellan family,

You are invited to join at least one of our Pastors for a no-host lunch on Sunday, July 19, at The Rose Garden, 33348 Alvarado Niles Rd, Union City, at about 12:15. Consider carpooling.

Let The PPRC Know

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) wants to hear from you. Contact any PPRC member – Mark Twist, Judy Molander, Cindy Sojourner, Beth Armstrong, Ken Rasler, Pastor Jeff Spencer, and Pastor Brenda Loreman – if you have a concern about the life of the church that you want to explore. If you have a church relationship that's hurting and want some assistance in healing it, speak to one of them.

Thanks Given

Randy Fewel, our church secretary, sends a huge thank you to the Lap Robe Tying Group who helped get the *Bell* ringing last month. They stamped and folded their little hearts out. Please join us every month for a stamping and folding party for *The Bell*. The specific date will be announced each month.

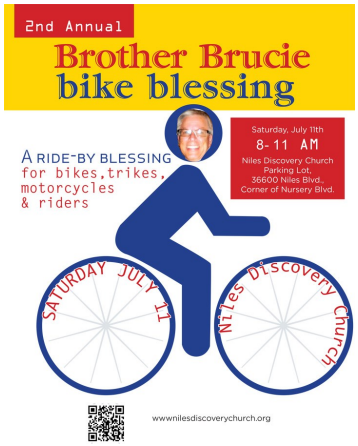
Special Offerings

The July special offering is for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. This fund allows our pastors to offer financial assistance to people (typically people in our congregation) to take care of needs that are just beyond their budgets. This can range from purchasing medicines to repairing cars to paying overdue PG&E bills. The amount of assistance the pastors can give is limited by the balance of this fund.

Thanks to your generosity, the June special offering for the evangelism efforts of our denominations raised over $750.

You can see the schedule of special offerings at http://j.mp/1EA735B or call the church office and Randy will mail you one.

Join us at the 2nd Annual Brother Brucie Bike Blessing July 11



Tell all your friends and relatives that if they ride a bike, trike or motorcycle they need to come down to the Niles Discovery Church on Saturday, July 11 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., where our Pastors will offer a blessed journey to them and their wheels.

This event was named after our parishioner Bruce Kieft, whose dream it was to offer this event and especially to have a good excuse to go into The Florence Biker Bar for publicity's sake. Unfortunately, Bruce passed away from gastric cancer before he had a chance to realize this dream, but we carry it on in his memory. To assist in publicizing it and to volunteer to work the day of the event, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Second Saturday Documentary Series

Documentary Series Becomes A Teach-In On Oil Trains

The Second Saturday Documentary Series presents two short documentaries, *Boom* (produced by the Weather Channel) and *The Crude Gamble of Oil by Rail*, as part of a teach-in on oil trains, on Saturday, July 11, 1:30 p.m. at Niles Discovery Church. The teach-in will be led by Dr. Paul Rea.

Mile-long trains of tank cars carrying oil will likely be moving through the East Bay, including Fremont -- unless we do something about it. These are the same sort of trains and tank cars that exploded in a fiery crash in Lac Mégantic, Quebec, in July 2013.

These oil trains are becoming bigger and more common. Many pull a hundred tank cars and run a mile long. Worse, most of the tank cars are old, defective, and prone to rupture, yet most will carry highly flammable crude oil.

This teach-in will provide more detail about the dangers of oil trains, actions that have been taken national and locally by public officials and activists, and an invitation to be involved.

Women's Fellowship News

Daytime Fellowship

The Women's Daytime Fellowship will not meet in July or August and will reconvene on September 21 with Carol Easter taking the leadership role.

Mildred Reynolds Lap Robe Tying Group

The lap robe tying group met on May 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We had 5 present and tied 5 lap robes. Additionally, several women helped Randy Fewel prepare *The Bell* for distribution. This group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, January – October. All are invited, but let Dorletta Larsen know if you plan to attend, as lunch is provided. If you know someone who would like one of the lap robes, contact Dorletta. There is no charge for the lap robe.

Evening Fellowship

The Evening Women's Fellowship is taking their summer break. Beginning September 9, the group will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. All meetings are announced at least a month in advance. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. with a devotion, followed by a short business meeting, study, and fellowship.

Upcoming Fellowship Events

For both DOC and UCC women

Fall Retreat September 25-27
Mission Springs Conference Center

Volunteer Opportunities

- ★ Our secretary could use some help folding, attaching labels and stamps, and mailing our monthly newsletter, *The Bell*. The last Wednesday of the month is the day 100+ copies of the Bell are processed in the church office. And every Wednesday, there are worship bulletins to fold. If you can spare an hour or so on Wednesdays (especially the last Wednesday of the month) around 10:30 a.m., please join Randy for a folding party.
- ★ The church's Cabinet is still seeking a youth/young adult delegate for UCC Conference and Association meetings and two DOC delegates to Regional meetings and the General Assembly. Only people who are members of the church are eligible to fill these positions. Job descriptions are available from Moderator Cathy West or Pastor Jeff.
- ★ The Tri-City Interfaith Council is working to get the City Council to declare Fremont a "Compassionate Community." This is part of their work in support of the Charter for Compassion. Our Cabinet is hoping that one or two people from our congregation will join in this effort as "Ambassadors of Compassion." If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Jeff.
- ★ Perhaps you'd like to be the church's librarian. The church library is now in the hallway, so everyone who comes to church will walk by. Our hope is that more people will use the books, which means we need someone to organize the books and keep them tidy. If you would like to be that person, please speak to Pastor Jeff.

MCE to Donate Backpacks And School Supplies

The new school year will be starting soon and the Ministry of Christian Education will be collecting backpacks and school supplies to donate to the Fremont Family Resource Center, which serves the Tri-City area. Please start checking out the school supply specials and stocking up on the supplies a child will need to start school in the fall. Please bring backpacks and school supplies to the church no later than August 16. Cash donations towards school supplies will be received as our special offering on August 9. Thank you for making a difference in a child's life!

Pastors' Schedules

Cecilia's and Randy's summer work schedules are detailed below. Because of appointments and meetings, it is difficult for our pastors to have regular, posted office hours. Please call your pastor if you would like to make an appointment or have him/her come by for a visit. None of the staff is available on Mondays, 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., because they are in a staff meeting.

Church
510-797-0895

Jeff's mobile
510-579-8851

Brenda's mobile
510-828-4107

Pastor Jeff's Sabbath day is Friday and his day off is usually Saturday. Pastor Jeff will be attending the General Assembly of the DOC July 17-23.

Pastor Brenda takes Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays off.

Cecilia Le's hours are Mondays, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Randy Fewel's hours are Mondays, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Randy will be away July 15 and on vacation July 27-31.

Please Pray For...

Because Of Their Health Concerns:

Mike Wirthlin;
JoAn Parker;
Vicky Kean;
Fred Allen;
Russ Clevenger;
Kay McFarland;
Edrea Espinoza;
John O'Donnell;
Charlotte O'Donnell;
Maureen O'Donnell;
Diana Roeding;
Diane Kindle;
Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;
Sarah Boyer;
Ryan BoyerTaylor;
Fred Anderson;
Julia Parks;
Jerry Hollands;
Jan Filip;
Janet Butcher;
William "Butch" Butcher;
Ken Young;
Peg Tait;
the sister of Alison Kieft's friend **Angie;**
Jean Kneisler's daughter, **Trisha Lovejoy**;
Tom Olkowski's brother, **Paul**;
Nancy Walker's parents;
the daughter of Christiane van Doorn's friend, **Soledad**;
Christiane van Doorn's friend, **Tiffany**;
Esther Gallegos, Rick Gallegos' mother;
Karen Engelsen, Wendy Goodfellow's sister;
Ed Espinoza, Isaiah and Aiyanna's grandfather;
Jo Carroll, Suzy Mahusay's sister;
Rod Reyes' niece, **Tatiana;**
Rod Reyes' **grandmother**;
Bill Palleschi's parents;
Mike Foster's mother, **Jan Richards**;
Carol Easter's mother, **Barbara**;
Dorothy Williams' daughter **Belinda Williams**.

All Who Are Grieving, Especially:

the family of Steve Cooper, who died on May 5;

Pete Hokom and his family as they grieve the death of **Dena** on April 23;

the family of Irene Vollbrecht, who died on April 14;

the family of Don Dillion, Sr., who died on February 9;

the family of Lillian Snashall, who died on February 8;

Erica Keesis Segura and her extended family as they grieve the death of Erica's husband, John Segura, on January 6;

The Safety (And In Some Cases Safe Return) Of Members Of The Congregation And Our Friends And Loved Ones Serving In The Military, including: **Chris Swint, Scott Swint, Ben Gonzales**.

These Leaders Of Our Congregation: **members of the Cabinet; Pastor Jeff Spencer; Pastor Brenda Loreman; the Care Team.**

Peace Throughout The Earth, offering thanks for all who work to bring God's compassion and merciful justice through non-violent methods to the world.

A reminder about this prayer list: If you have a prayer request that you'd like added to this list (or removed) please let Pastor Jeff know.

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ◄ From Jun 24 Pastor Jeff at General Synod 7:30p Spiritual Direction Group A (R1)	**2**	**3**	**4** 4th of July - office closed 7p Patrol Leader Council meeting (R3)
5 10a Worship & Sunday School	**6** 4p Staff meeting 6:30p MCE meeting (R3) 7:30p Ministry Team Meetings	**7**	**8** 6:45p Pack 112 committee meeting (FH)	**9**	**10** 6:00p Merry Widows (FH & Kitchen)	**11** 8a Brother Brucie Bike(r) Blessing (parking lot) 1:30p Second Saturday Documentary Series (Sanctuary)
12 10a Worship & Sunday School Receive New Members during Worship 11:30a Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3)	**13** 4p Staff meeting 7:30p Finance Ministry Team (R3)	**14** 6:30p Boy Scouts (FH & Rm 3)	**15** Flea Market set-up to Aug 28► (FH) Randy out of office 7:30p Care Team meeting (R2)	**16**	**17** Pastor Jeff at General Assembly	**18**
19 Flea Market set-up to Aug 28► (FH) Pastor Jeff at General Assembly 10a Worship & Sunday School 12:15p Lunch with the Pastor (Rose Garden)	**20** 4p Staff meeting 7:15p Cabinet (FH) Submission Deadline for Bell Contest	**21** 5p Bell deadline	**22** 10a Lap Robe Tying Group (FH)	**23**	**24**	**25**
26 Flea Market set-up to Aug 28► (FH) 10a Worship & Sunday School 11:30a Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3) 12p Communion Elders mtg	**27** Randy on Vacation 4p Staff meeting	**28** 6:30p Boy Scouts (FH & R2)	**29**	**30**	**31**	Notes:

NILES
DISCOVERY
CHURCH

Rev. Jeffrey Spencer,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Brenda Loreman,
Associate Pastor
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Fremont CA 94536

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nilesdiscoverychurch.org

NILES DISCOVERY
CHURCH

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Bell is First Class

If you received this issue of *The Bell* through the US Mail, then you received it first class. You can help reduce our costs (roughly $1.50 per issue you receive in the mail) by receiving *The Bell* via email. Simply go to our website **www.nilesdiscoverychurch.org**, look for the "Our Email Lists" paragraph toward the bottom of the front page, click on the link, and start filling out the forms. You can select what email lists you want to join – for the newsletter, the weekly prayer requests, the weekly announcements, and more. Then, please let Randy Fewel in the church office (510-797-0895; **randy@nilesdiscoverychurch.org**) know that you don't need *The Bell* via the US Mail any more.