



Niles Discovery Church

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

AUGUST
Volume 15 Number 08

UPCOMING WORSHIP

August 2

"Hunger and Thirst"
John 6:24-35

August 9

"Bread of Life"
John 6:35, 41-51

August 16

"Flesh and Blood"
John 6:51-58

August 23

"Hard Words"
John 6:56-69

August 30

"All Good Gifts"
James 1:17-27
(a simple worship service during the Flea Market)



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Karen Moody moved to Union City a year ago, coming from a UCC congregation on Maui, a church that her parents belonged to, where she was baptized, raised, and subsequently returned to as a retiree. In her search for a church family here, she found that NDC offered so much that is familiar, and she especially appreciates our practice of being Open and Affirming.

Continued; See "**OUR FAMILY IS GROWING**" page 3

The Bell



CIRCLES OF

INQUIRY

EXPLORE

THE IMPACT OF

ALCOHOL



Following worship on August 9, the Cabinet will lead a process known as "Circles of Inquiry" to facilitate a discussion about the impact of alcohol – positive and negative – on our lives. While the impetus for this activity is a reexamination of our "no alcohol" policy for the church facilities, Pastor Jeff hopes the experience itself will be encouraging for the participants' spiritual journeys.

"The goal of a Circle of Inquiry," Pastor Jeff wrote in his column last month, "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.

Continued; See "**PRESENT YOUR VIEWS**" page 4

FLEA MARKET IS JUST

AROUND THE CORNER

Treasures are already accumulating in our Fellowship Hall as preparations are made for the annual neighborhood-wide yard sale and antique Flea Market that happens in Niles the last weekend of August. This year, we will sell donated items to the public 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 (and maybe Saturday).



Continued; See "**DONATE AND DISCOVER NEW TREASURES**" page 5



BRIDGES TO BE BUILT AT INTERFAITH PICNIC

The Tri-City Interfaith Council invites you to participate in the second annual World Interfaith Harmony Picnic. The picnic will be held on August 29, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Meyer Park, 38225 Glenmore Dr., Fremont.

The public is encouraged to bring family, chairs, an umbrella, toys for kids, and finger foods to share. Drinks and paper products will be provided.

"Our goal is for people to eat, play, and talk about all the things that make our diverse community such an amazing place to live," says organizer Moina Shaiq. She hopes that people from Atheist, Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Unitarian Universalist, and other traditions will be present to enjoy the company, learn about each other, and celebrate.



Widen The Welcome

One of the great joys I have here at Niles Discovery Church is getting to sit down with visitors and finding out more about their spiritual journeys and what they're seeking in a church community. Whenever someone new visits worship for the first time, I strive to get their contact information, and I call them that very week to ask them out for coffee and conversation. Most folks respond positively, and so we spend an hour or more talking about the church service, their church-going history, and the things that bring them joy. I love sitting with people and listening to their stories, and I love building relationships with them when they return to us again.

Something I often hear about from newcomers is the hospitality they felt on their first visit. Almost every single person I've met with has told me—unsolicited—that they felt warmly and genuinely welcomed, with an authenticity that can't be faked. When I look around the fellowship hall, I watch out for the newest folks, and I rarely see them standing alone. My heart is full, knowing that we truly walk our talk that "all of us are welcome here," as we sing every Sunday.

I wonder, though, if we should be satisfied with our current level of hospitality. I wonder if it's possible to deepen and widen our welcome. Hospitality is not the sole responsibility of the greeters and ushers, the pastors, and a few extroverted individuals—hospitality is the responsibility of the whole congregation. In fact, we shouldn't really see it as a job or responsibility at all, but rather as a part of our collective DNA or how the fabric of our congregation is woven together.

One of the best parts of being a faith community is our fellowship time after worship on Sunday morning—it's good to spend time with our friends and it's easy to connect with others about projects and ministries in the church. The problem is, if most of us are only ever connecting with those we know well or need to see about a project, then the newest members of our community have a hard time getting to know everyone.

So here are some things I'd like to challenge us to do in the weeks to come to make hospitality part of the fabric of our community: first of all, **wear your nametag**. Put it on when you come in to worship, and leave it on during coffee hour. We ask visitors to wear nametags, and it's pretty unfair if no one else is wearing them! Secondly, during fellowship time, **introduce yourself to someone you haven't met yet**, or challenge yourself to have a conversation with someone you don't know well. Or, if you're one of those folks who knows *everyone*, make a point of connecting two people who haven't met yet. Eight new members joined the church last month. Have you met all of them?

Finally, think of someone outside our community that you'd like to invite to church, and **invite them to worship** with us or to attend an event at NDC. It's only through inviting new people in that we can truly widen our welcome and grow our community.

Blessing,
Brenda

JOIN OUR EMAIL LISTS

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.





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OUR FAMILY IS GROWING

Marjorie Fremont was formerly a member of the DOC in Dayton, Ohio and in San Lorenzo, California. She is the widow of Bill Fremont, the mother of five, the grandmother of eight, and the great-grandmother of four. She has lived in Fremont for over 45 years.

Barbara King is also a long-time resident of Fremont (actually more than 45 years). She has spent some time searching for a church that would offer her both the welcome and the spiritual nurture she has found here.

Ginny August came to this church through her friendship with Lynn Miller and almost immediately participated in the liturgical art group. She is also an avid gardener. She hopes to find intellectual challenge and spiritual engagement here.

John and Sybil Smith were both raised in conservative Christian churches. Their spiritual journeys have led them to Niles Discovery Church, because of our Open and Affirming commitment. They've stuck around because they and their granddaughters, Maddi and Gracie, have found nurture – and ukuleles!

Richard Godfrey is currently a surgical oncologist working for the UCSF-East Bay Surgical Residency Program at Highland Hospital and San Leandro Hospital (and somehow manages to keep that somewhat part-time). He also serves as Chair for the Environmental Sustainability Commission for the City of Fremont and does Global Surgery in a number of countries. For fun, he is an avid bee-keeper and just finished a book about African bees and some prominent women of Kenya.

Carlos Cortez grew up in the Bay Area and moved around some during last few years. For the past 10 years he has been working in the Food and Service Industry as a self-taught cook. He loves food and comes up with his own dishes all the time. Carlos plans to go back to college and will attend Las Positas College in Livermore this fall. He says, "I feel like I am at the beginning of a great Journey and need a great support system, most importantly God to help along the way."

DATE CHANGE FOR PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Progressive Dinner has been changed to Saturday, October 3. Please save the date. It is a very fun event! You don't want to miss it. More details to follow.



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Congrats to Motorcyclist Jim Thomas and bicyclist Aisha Santiago for winning the Brother Brucie Bike Blessing raffles.



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, Debbie Keesis, Ken Rasler, Beth Armstrong, 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.



STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH



You can subscribe to the weekly email newsletters from the UCC Conference by going to <http://bit.ly/QFhbEz> and entering your email address. You can subscribe to the weekly email newsletter from the DOC Region by going to <http://conta.cc/SIhyQL> and typing in your email address.

You can subscribe to email newsletters from the national settings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at <http://bit.ly/n1Mzfk> and the United Church of Christ at <http://j.mp/odITLO>.



THE MERRY WIDOWS ASSEMBLE

The Merry Widows Moving On will meet Friday, August 7 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Niles Discovery Church. We are a vital and active group! Please spread the word to widows you may know.



ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

If you are on Facebook, please “like” the Niles Discovery Church page. You can find it at www.facebook.com/NilesDiscoveryChurch.

Use your smart phone to let people know that you’re at church on Sunday morning.

Once you’ve clicked the “Like” button, it will change to “Liked.” Click it again, then click on “Get Notifications” in the drop down menu. This way, you will receive a notification whenever we post something on the page.

You can also join our Facebook “group” at www.facebook.com/groups/nilesdiscoverychurch/.

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PRESENT YOUR VIEWS

“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.”

Each circle will be small, probably five or six people plus a facilitator from the Cabinet. Their goal is to create a safe place for each of us to share our truths and to be heard. There will be specific guidelines for how the circles will work and specific questions that participants will be asked to respond to (though participants will have the option to pass). The Cabinet members will be listening for common themes and divergence of opinion and experience.

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,” Pastor Jeff wrote, “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.”

TRI-CITY YOUTH CHORUS LAUNCHES ON SEPTEMBER 17

The Ministry of Christian Education Team has been thinking about and planning for a way to provide our own children and the children of our community the opportunity to sing. It is a way for us to share our beautiful new building with kids in grades 5-8 as they learn to use their voices to make a joyful noise. The music enrichment will offer them an artistic experience that the public schools haven’t been able to provide and teach them life-long skills.



To kick off this program, the Cabinet has offered us start-up money from the Buehler Youth Fund. Our intent is to make the program self-sufficient by charging tuition. We will be teaching on a 13 week quarter system, and the tuition will be \$130 per student.

We interviewed and chose an amazing director, Joy Suh, who has musical skills and the ability to teach with joy—just like her name. There will not be try-outs so the program will be open to all kids who want to sing. If there is a family in need of financial assistance, we may try to provide partial tuition assistance.

Continued; See “MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE” page 7



Women's Fellowship News



DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Daytime Fellowship will reconvene on September 21.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

For both DOC and UCC women

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT at Mission Springs will be September 25-27, 2015. The theme this year is Dancing into the Divide. The featured speaker will be Lori Tapia. In addition to being co-pastor at the Gilbert, Arizona DOC church, she is a representative to the International Disciples Women's Ministry. The cost is approximately \$250.00 (varies depending on choice of lodging facility). Some scholarship money is available. See Dorletta Larsen or Judy Molander for more information.

MILDRED REYNOLDS LAP ROBE TYING GROUP



The lap robe tying group met on June 24. We had 5 present and 5 lap robes were tied. Two lap robes were donated for the Brother Bruce Biker Drawing. This group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, January through October, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the social hall at church. All ladies are invited, but let Dorletta 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 will begin the 2015-2016 season at 7:00 p.m. on September 9 at the home of Judy Molander, 45531 Cheyenne Place, Fremont, 656-8476. We will begin the meeting with a sign-up sheet and make plans for the coming year. Our study will be Women of the Old Testament and will begin with Ruth and Naomi. Suggested reading, but not required, is the Bible's short book of Ruth.



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DONATE AND DISCOVER NEW TREASURES

Now is the time to sign up to volunteer to work the Flea Market. Speak to Mark Twist to get your choice job and time slot!

Between now and Flea Market weekend, volunteers will be available on Sundays after worship and on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 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.



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.



POSITION AVAILABLE WITH THE MCE

If you have a desire to help develop programs for kids at NDC and can commit to a one hour monthly meeting and participation in child/family centered events, this job is for you.

You get to work with a group of dedicated people who will welcome your input and be your friends.

What's this amazing job? It's a place on the MCE (Ministry of Christian Education) Team.

Apply at: mce@nilesdiscoverychurch.org or speak to Christina Monkman, Judy Hollowell, Beth Armstrong, Diane Harvey or Marilyn Singer. Operators are standing by to answer your call.



You are invited to join at least one of our Pastors for a no-host lunch on Sunday, August 16, at The Rose Garden, 33348 Alvarado Niles Rd, Union City, at about 12:15 p.m. Consider carpooling.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The August special offering is an offering for (and of) school supplies. You are welcome to bring in backpacks and school supplies which will be donated to the Fremont Family Resource Center, which serves the Tri-City area. Please bring these items to the church no later than August 16. Cash donations towards school supplies will be received as our special offering on August 9.

You are welcome to give to any of our Special Offerings at any time. You can see

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



Thanks to your generosity, the July special offering for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund raised \$907.

SECOND SATURDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES

WEALTH GAP EXAMINED IN AUGUST'S DOCUMENTARY

The Second Saturday Documentary Series presents *Inequality for All* on Saturday, August 8, at 1:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont.



The American economist, author, and professor Robert Reich examines the widening income inequality in the United States and offers his remedies in this 2013 documentary. At the heart of the film are two simple questions: *What is a good society?* and *What role does the widening income gap play in the deterioration of the nation's economic health?*

"We're in the biggest economic slump since the Great Depression," says Professor Reich, "and we can't seem to get out of it. Why? Because, exactly as in the 1920s, so much of the nation's income and wealth are going to the top, that the vast middle class doesn't have the purchasing power to keep the economy going."

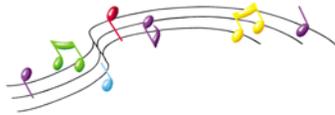
Reich says that people are stressed and angry in no small part to rising debts. "Until we can take a step back and understand the big picture, we can't do anything to get ourselves out of this mess," says Reich. "Our democracy as we know it depends on it.... One of the best ways to help people understand the challenges we face, is with a movie that can grab an audience and move them to action. And this movie will do exactly that."

A discussion will follow the screening.

The Second Saturday Documentary Series is co-sponsored by Niles Discovery Church, Tri-City Perspectives, and the San Jose Peace & Justice Center.



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MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Singing and music enrichment will happen on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room #1. There will be some public appearances in the future, which we hope you will attend. A MCE Team member will assist at every practice to help with details and discipline issues if they occur and to offer hospitality to families who are waiting for chorus participants.

We need about 20 students to make the program viable, so we are counting on our PR efforts and on you to tell your families and friends about this opportunity. You can direct people to our website at tricityyouthchorus.weebly.com for information or they can call the church office. You can sponsor a grandchild or a child who needs assistance that loves to sing.

This is an exciting new adventure for the MCE Team, and our hope is that the congregation will support us in every possible way so this program will be successful.

For more information, contact a MCE Team member: Diane Harvey, Judy Hollowell, Christina Monkman, Beth Armstrong, Marilyn Singer.

AMAZING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR 2015-2016

SUNDAY	PRESCHOOL – K	GRADE 1-4	GRADE 5-8
1st Sunday	Judy Hollowell <i>Helper:</i> Dorothy Williams M. Singer (Sept.)	Alison Kieft	Ray D’Ambrosio
2nd Sunday 	Riki Twist <i>Helper:</i> Lynn Miller	Melissa Palleschi	Mark Twist
3rd Sunday	Christina Wallender <i>Helper:</i> Ryan Ramsayer	Christina Monkman	Bill Palleschi
4th Sunday 	Beth Armstrong <i>Helper:</i> Cathy West	OPEN	Jim Thomas Maria Garnica
5th Sunday	Cindy Corey <i>Helper:</i> Aiyana Espinoza-Carter	Ron Qian	Jim Thomas Maria Garnica
Subs	Julie Aragon and Marilyn Singer		



Rainbow Ukulele Club meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays, following worship and Sunday School in Room 3 with **Sandy & Jim Thomas**



PASTORS' AND OFFICE SCHEDULES

Cecilia's and Randy's spring work schedules have changed and are detailed below. Vacation schedules are also noted below. No one is available during the staff meeting held on Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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.

Church: 510-797-0895

Jeff's cell: 510-579-8851

Brenda's cell: 510-828-4107

Pastor Jeff's Sabbath day is Friday and his day off is usually Saturday. He is on vacation August 17 through September 8.

Pastor Brenda takes Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays off. She is on vacation through August 10.

Cecilia Le's hours are Mondays, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. She is on vacation August 7-16.

Randy Fewel's hours are Mondays, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Randy will be away on August 19.



Please Pray For...

BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:

JoAn Parker;
Vicky Kean;
Fred Allen;
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;

Jean Kneisler's daughter, **Trisha Lovejoy;**
Cecilia Le's mother, **Vicky Tran;**
Pastor Jeff's aunt, **Betty Harris;**
the sister of Alison Kieft's friend **Angie;**
Tom Olkowski's brother, **Paul;**
Nancy Walker's parents;
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**

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;

ROSE MARIE EVERETT'S PERSONAL NEEDS.

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.

ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, that we embrace ways to lessen the impact of global climate change.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SEEKING TO LIVE CLEAN AND SOBER LIVES.

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.

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ◀ From Jul 15 Flea Market set-up (FH) ◀ From Jul 21 Pastor Brenda on Vacation
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
◀ From Jul 15 Flea Market set-up (FH)						
◀ From Jul 21 Pastor Brenda on Vacation						
10a Worship & Sunday School	6:30p MCE meeting (R3)		7:30p Spiritual Direction Group A (R1)		Cecilia on vacation	
7p Patrol Leader Council meeting (R3)	7:30p Ministry Team Meetings				5:30p Merry Widows (FH & Kitchen)	1:30p Second Saturday Documentary Series (Sanctuary)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
◀ From Jul 15 Flea Market set-up (FH)						
◀ From Jul 21 Pastor Brenda on Vacation						
		6:30p Boy Scouts (FH & R2)	6:45p Pack 112 committee meeting (FH)			
Cecilia on vacation						
10a Worship & Sunday School	7:30p Finance Ministry Team (R3)					
11:30a Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3)						
11:30a Circles of Inquiry						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
◀ From Jul 15 Flea Market set-up (FH)						
10a Worship & Sunday School	Pastor Jeff on Vacation to Sep 8 ▶					
Cecilia on vacation	7:15p Cabinet (FH)	5p Bell deadline	Randy out of office			
12:15p Lunch with the Pastor (Rose Garden)			7:30p PPRC meeting (R3)			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
◀ From Jul 15 Flea Market set-up (FH)						Flea Market
Pastor Jeff on Vacation to Sep 8 ▶						
10a Worship & Sunday School		6:30p Boy Scouts (FH & R2)	10a Lap Robe Tying Group (Rooms 2 & 3)			11a Interfaith Picnic (Meyer Park, 38225 Glenmore Dr)
11:30a Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3)						
30	31	Notes:				
Flea Market						
Pastor Jeff on Vacation to Sep 8 ▶						
10a Worship						



NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH

Rev. Jeffrey Spencer,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Brenda Loreman,
Associate Pastor
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nilesdiscoverychurch.org



NILES DISCOVERY
CHURCH



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.