Guest Preachers in August 3
NDC Financial Summary 3
Flea Market Time 3
Special Offering 8
Documentary 8
Fellowship 9
As Gifts Go 4
Calendar 11
Prayers 10

UPCOMING WORSHIP

August 6
“Withdrawal”
Genesis 32:22-31

August 13
“Are You a Pew Potato?”
Matthew 20:20-28

August 20
“Even Jesus Needed Saving”
Matthew 15:21-28

August 27
No Worship Service

To worship with us on Zoom on Sundays, register once at bit.ly/reg4worship.

United in God’s love for everyone’s journey ... no exceptions.
Ministry Of Invitation

Tip Of The Month

Invite a friend to volunteer with you or to shop for treasures at the Flea Market this month. Discover an opening in a conversation to extol something you love about our church with them or another volunteer. The Flea Market article has volunteer sign-up info.

Announcement And Newsletter Submissions

Please send announcements and articles as you write them to the office administrator at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. Your submission will be posted on our News blog as they are received, and will be used to create announcements (as appropriate), as well as submitted for the next edition of The Bell (if appropriate in terms of timing). The deadline for submissions for the September 2023 edition of The Bell is 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 17. In addition to typical newsletter news, we hope to fill each issue of The Bell with reflections, photographs, poems, and so forth by members and friends of the congregation.

Contacting The Staff

You can call the office 510-797-0895 to leave a message for any staff member.

Our Office Administrator, Laurel Wallace can be emailed at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org.

Our bookkeeper, Cecilia Le, can be emailed at cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org.

You are encouraged to use the pastor’s Calendly app to make an appointment for a phone call or a Zoom meeting or to meet in person as you would like; Pastor Jeff’s contact information is to the right.

Office Absences: Pastor Jeff will be on Study Leave and vacation August 8-29. Cecilia will be on vacation August 28 to September 4.

Pastor Jeff’s contact info:
Mobile: 510-579-8851
Make an appointment: calendly.com/revjss
Email: jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org

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Worship Service Cancelled On August 27

Because of the Flea Market, the worship service on August 27 is cancelled.

Guest Preachers Coming In August

Pastor Jeff will be taking a week of study leave and two weeks of vacation in August, so the Ministry of Spiritual Life has lined up some guest preachers. On Sunday, August 13, Dick Hom will be preaching. Dick is a long-time lay leader in the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, and in the local and national expressions of PAAM (the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries) of the United Church of Christ.

On Sunday, August 20, the Rev. Dr. Niels Teunis will be preaching. Originally trained as an anthropologist, Niels’ work now focuses on “Soul Care for Men” and, with his wife Angela, coaching and empowering healthy parenting.

NDC Financial Summary YTD Through June 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Deficit</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve Funds Balances</td>
<td>$688,685</td>
<td>$743,163</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If church members would like more detailed information, the Treasurers reports are available by contacting our bookkeeper.

Flea Market Time Is Here Again!

By Alta Jo Adamson

Important Dates:

- Sunday, July 30 start of donated items drop off at church after the worship service.
- Monday, July 31 start of sorting, pricing, and organizing at church 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.
- Monday August 7 first day of informal sales during pricing times.
- Saturday August 25 Flea Market officially open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday August 26 Flea Market open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Cleanup from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
The traditional American cemetery often involves an extensive lawn with large stone markers. Few other options have been available. But that’s beginning to change as more people seek environmentally friendly options for the disposition of their own or a loved one’s body.

The standard burial preparation for years has been embalming. In recent decades cremation has become more popular. There is now a growing interest in natural “green” burials. With a natural burial, the body is placed in an untreated wooden or other biodegradable coffin and buried in the ground. There are currently only two cemeteries in the San Francisco Bay area that perform green burials, one of which is south of Half Moon Bay. Purissima Cemetery does not have green lawns and large polished stones. In fact, on your first visit you will be struck by the natural quality of the area. Pathways are maintained and only natural stones are permitted to mark the graves (stones can be engraved with names and a phrase). If visitors leave non-natural “gifts” on the grave sites, the items are periodically removed. As you walk the paths, the natural quality of the place provides a feeling of great calm and comfort. In Victorian times it was common to picnic in a cemetery. A picnic would feel right on the benches in this place.

Traditional burials and cremations create a great deal of greenhouse emissions. The use of a metal casket and concrete vault creates a significant amount of carbon dioxide in their construction and transportation. Cremation emits enough gas to run a typical house for over a week or drive an SUV over 400 miles. Green burial is an option that has minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources. If you would like to learn more about green burial options, talk to John or Judy Zlatnik.

**Creating Fire-Resistant Zones:**

Protecting Homes In Alameda County

Alameda County is renowned for its stunning landscapes and picturesque communities. However, this region is not immune to the threat of wildfires that can devastate homes and communities. Fires are possible throughout the year in California, with the peak fire season in Northern California usually beginning in June or July and running through late October or November.

In light of the increasing risk of wildfires, homeowners in Alameda County must understand the importance of creating fire defensible space and implementing practical measures to safeguard their properties. By adopting proactive measures, residents can significantly reduce the potential impact of wildfires and increase the safety of their homes. Through active involvement and collaboration within their communities, residents can enhance the overall fire resilience of Alameda County. Remember, preparedness and proactive measures are essential for safeguarding lives, homes, and the beautiful landscapes of this region. Learn more by visiting bit.ly/NDCFirezones.
Time To Bring In Your Treasures

Every year downtown Niles hosts a day-long antique and flea market on the last Sunday in August. Niles Boulevard is blocked off and vendors set up booths in the streets and big parking lots. Many years ago, our church began to participate in a small way. Gradually we began to participate in a more wholehearted way.

This year we will begin collecting donated stuff on the last Sunday in July. We will sort and price throughout the month of August. We officially open our doors for sales on Saturday, August 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and on Sunday August 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cleanup begins at 3:00 p.m. and lasts until 4:30 pm, at which time the leftovers will be boxed up and ready for disposal at various locations.

Almost all members of the congregation help with the endeavor. As Steph Curry exhorts us, we do it with joy! And it is fun! It’s a great way to really get to know each other. You are invited and are needed to help in any way you can. During the month of August, we need people every weekday to unpack, sort, clean-up, and price all the wonderful and wild stuff that we get. During the two days of the official sale, we need cashiers, sellers to keep an eye on things and people to help clean up.

Now, the best part: You have a chance to get rid of all your junk (ahem, treasures) for a good cause. Please sort through your stuff before donating it. We beg you to make sure your items work, are very clean, and do not have broken parts. We can sell more stuff the earlier we get it. Some of our best sales come in the first informal sales in early August.

A partial list of items which have sold well in the past:

- Toys
- Christmas décor
- Small household tools and gardening items (in good condition)
- Purses, scarves, and belts
- Costume jewelry
- Beautiful books
- Sports equipment
- Dishes, glasses, and silverware
- Small appliances (in good condition)
- Pots, pans, and utensils
- Nice linens
- Antiques
- Small furniture (we can’t handle big stuff)
- Knick knacks
- Lamps
- Paintings and art works
- TVs and radios with all their cords securely attached
- Good computer stuff
- Bikes and scooters

Here are some things we DO NOT WANT (and have been gifted in the past causing distress to us all):

- Toilets (new or used)
- Sinks and faucets
- Light fixtures for ceiling and wall
- Sliding glass door frames
- Window blinds, curtain rods and shower rods
- Old computer parts and cords
- Leftover construction tools and equipment
- Large heavy furniture

These are partial lists. Contact Alta Jo Adamson (510-565-4541, or 510-713-1333) if you have questions. Signups will be online and posted on the fellowship wall in late July. Old and new faces are truly welcome!

Community Bulletin Board

Members and friends of Niles Discovery Church are invited to submit short notices that may be of interest to the rest of the congregation. Note, no commercial notices or partisan political announcements are allowed. Niles Discovery Church makes no representations or endorsements about the events or services listed.

Short Story Published: Have you met Paula Mirando? She’s one of the newer people regularly worshipping at Niles Discovery Church and an instructor of Child & Adolescent Development at SFSU. She is also an avocational creative writer and her short story, Mr. Justin, was published online last month. You can read it at cutleafjournal.com/fiction/mr-justin/.
In the beginning,
there was a conversation,
and your first call to parish ministry
came to be in love with us.
To be in paradise with us.
To be original blessing with us.

In the beginning,
you invited us to write
our hopes, our dreams,
literally,
on to the gray slab,
soon-to-be-buried-beneath
upcoming shiny floors,
and on 2 by 4’s,
soon-to-be-enclosed-behind
upcoming walls.
Every day, you reminded us
to spiritually write, work, live, be,
the hopes, the dreams coming true,
in this place, our lives, the world.

Through your voice, sermons, prayers,
conversations, creativity, organization,
and whole being,
we have been blessed
to breathe in light, to breathe out light.
With you, we also breathe in, breathe out,
breathe in, breathe out, darkness, shadows,
of old growth forests, cocoons,
wombs, and tombs,
of all is well, will be well, as well.

You have enriched us
with your expanding of women’s stories,
written into and out of scripture.
We have become witnesses,
an essential part of women shining brighter,
preaching love, equality,
and resurrection louder,
more powerfully, and effectively,
than religious leaders, politicians,
plotting to erase them, us, others.
Thanks to you,
we now know we belong
to a long strong lineage
of many Mary’s, Esther, Phoebe,
the unnamed woman at the well,
and the woman touching the hem of Jesus.
We belong to a long strong lineage
of “Saving Paradise,” Brock and Parker,
“Mary the Tower,” Diana Butler Bass,
You have challenged us, prophetically, and personally, as well, to trust, to see, and honor, endings, partings, grief, transitions, threshold moments, new beginnings, transformations, and resurrection times, as sacred times of growth. Times to be brave. To not allow fear to lead or shut us down. You have challenged us to always see, trust, be, in love, to move with love.

You have breathed life and love into us. Breathe in, breathe out, love. Breathe in, breathe out, love. Breathe in, breathe out, love. This is our calling, our work, our gift, our best, our whole being. What holds us all together, beyond all other appearances, polity, and proximity. Breathe in, breathe out, love keeps blessing us to go now in peace, everywhere, surrounded in God’s love, in paradise on earth, in us, as it is in heaven.

“Braiding Sweetgrass,” Kimmerer, And you, Pastor Brenda Loreman.

You have blessed us, Pastor, Sister, assured us, our worthiness, our beauty, and belonging, are God given, assured, as much as the rising of the sun. The songs of ocean waves, birds, And winds brushing dry autumn leaves.

With your words, the bread, and cup, at the communion table, draped in rainbows of colorful cloths by you. With your conversations over cups of tea, in meetings, in print, videos, and in passing too, you have assured us, we are indeed loved, loveable, and loving. We are enough. We belong.
2021 was one of the deadliest years on record, worldwide, for transgender and gender non-conforming people. In the past several years, we have seen an unprecedented number of bills introduced in state legislatures attacking transgender youth and trans adults. The rise of violent, dehumanizing rhetoric has devastating consequences for the transgender community – especially for Black transgender women and transgender women of color.

Intentionally Erased is a new documentary from A Call to Men aiming to do just that by spotlighting four Black trans women in conversation with Black cisgender men. What follows is a series of honest, heart-wrenching interactions that uplift the experiences, challenges, and humanity of Black trans women in the United States.

A Call to Men, says “Our collective liberation is linked – none of us is free until all of us are free, including and especially those among us who are the most marginalized. The moment we are in is clear – as aspiring allies, we must commit to centering and uplifting the humanity of Black trans women to neutralize the threats being leveled against them, and promote a healthier, more inclusive society for all people.”

Join us on Zoom for a special screening of this documentary, followed by a discussion, on Saturday, August 12, at 1:30 p.m. You can register for this screening and others by visiting bit.ly/SSDSZoom.

Second Saturday Documentary Series Presents:

Intentionally Erased

Documentary expands awareness about the violence levied against Black trans women.

Our August Special Offering will go to replenish the Pastors’ Discretionary Fund. This money will be used by our Pastor to help families in emergencies. During the past year, our Pastors were able to help church families keep rent paid, phones connected, prescriptions filled, and lights on thanks to your generosity. In the past they’ve even helped pay for a cremation.

Though we focus on this offering in August, as with all our special offerings you are welcome to give at any time (always make checks payable to Niles Discovery Church). For online giving: go to nilesdiscoverychurch.org/give and select “Minister’s Discretionary Fund” from the special offerings dropdown menu.

Niles Discovery Church receives a special offering each month. With so many opportunities for special giving, you may need to choose which ones are most important to you. You may view the complete list of special offering opportunities for 2023 at bit.ly/NDCSpecialOfferings.

Many thanks to all that participated in our July Special Offering for School Supplies. At press time, we collected $320.
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

To enhance the safety of your Zoom experience, we typically require advanced registration for Zoom meetings held on the church’s Zoom account. You only need to register once for a repeating event. Find the registration links in the descriptions of the scheduled events.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY  [Only the 1st Monday this month]

Monday Morning Bible Study will meet August 7 on Zoom, 11:00 a.m. to noon and then take the next three Mondays off while Pastor Jeff is on vacation and Study Leave. Register at bit.ly/mmbsreg.

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP GROUP  August 11

Daytime Fellowship now meets on the second Friday of the month at 11:00 (which is August 11, this month). Bring your lunch to this monthly Zoom gathering. (Hybrid meetings coming this fall.) Everyone is invited to this hour of conversation, prayer, and occasional plans of action. Register for this new meeting schedule happens at bit.ly/daytimefellowshipreg. Contact Cindy Sojourner for more info at cindybsojourner@gmail.com.

CYBER GEEZERS  August 23

This is a gathering of retirees who are interested in learning more about computers, the Internet, etc. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, which is August 23 this month, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The group gathers on Zoom. Please contact Jerry Sabo (jlsabo3@comcast.net) for more information.

LAP ROBE TYING GROUP  August 30 [fifth Wednesday this month]

Come tie lap robes in person on Wednesday, August 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a planned “potluck” lunch. Contact Judy Molander, 925-201-7335, regarding what you plan to bring for the group. This month’s meeting is on Wednesday, August 30. Please contact Judy Molander (jumolander@aol.com) to be added to the group’s email list or if you have suggestions for organizations that might want some donated lap robes.

GREEN TEAM MEETING  August 16

You’re welcome to join the Green Team, a group leading our congregation to address the climate crisis. They typically meet the third Wednesday of the month, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Zoom. Please contact Susie Claxton (veroclax@sbcglobal.net) or Bee Newell (beenewell2@gmail.com) for the link to attend this month’s meeting.

PUZZLE EXCHANGE AND SCRIP SALES

The Puzzle Exchange will be paused from July 29 to August 31. It will start back on Friday, September 1.
PRAYERS FOR THESE PEOPLE (AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS) BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:

Jasmine Zartman’s mother, Karen Trepte; Joy Barnitz’s friend, Polly Baxter; Joy Barnitz’s friend Rachel; Robert Parks-Council and his wife Ann; Susie Claxton’s sister, Caroline; Becky Moreno’s brother-in-law Vince; Michael Thomson’s sister, Mary Thomson; Alison Kieft’s sister-in-law, Debbie Thompson; Alison Kieft’s friend Laura’s daughter; Alison Kieft’s friend, Terri Sue; Two of Alison Kieft’s friends, a husband and wife; Grace Rankin’s brother, Jim Carstairs; Katy Wharton’s mother; Maria Garnica’s brother, Victor Garnica; Suzy Mahusay’s sister, Jo Carroll.

Wally Osborne; Charlotte O’Donnell; Grace Rankin; Cindy Corey; JoAn Parker; Vickey Kean; Sandi Reeder; Hermann Attinger; Nancy Attinger; Bruce Roeding; Diana Roeding; George Roeding; Veronica Riggs; Ginny August; Martha LeRoy; Judy Zlatnik; John Zlatnik; Helen Boyer; Charlie Smith; Becky Moreno; Isabel Moreno; Penn Boyer; Isaiah Espinosa-Carter; Patsy Finster; Diane Kindle; Sandra Frisbey; Jasmine Zartman’s brother, Dave London; Shaun Moeller’s brother, Dave Nyman; Ron Adamson’s sister, Joanne Orput; Barbara P. King’s son, Jason King; Sharon Yool’s former student, Jennifer Hurd; Sharon Yool’s daughter; Diane Harvey’s sister, Linda; Priscilla Taylor’s friends, Dan & Andrea Cohen (and their family); Priscilla Taylor’s father-in-law and mother-in-law, Steve and Angie Taylor; Priscilla Taylor’s friend, Kevin Wilbon; Priscilla Taylor’s friend, Kathy Cavalli; Rich Gallegos’ mother, Esther; Helen Boyer’s sister-in-law, Marjorie Boyer; Bridge Conference Minister Rev. Davena Jones; Wally Osborne; Charlotte O’Donnell; Grace Rankin; Cindy Corey; JoAn Parker; Vickey Kean; Sandi Reeder; Hermann Attinger; Nancy Attinger; Bruce Roeding; Diana Roeding; George Roeding; Veronica Riggs; Ginny August; Martha LeRoy; Judy Zlatnik; John Zlatnik; Helen Boyer; Charlie Smith; Becky Moreno; Isabel Moreno; Penn Boyer; Isaiah Espinosa-Carter; Patsy Finster; Diane Kindle; Sandra Frisbey; Jasmine Zartman’s mother, Karen Trepte; Riki Twist’s brother, Dave Burch; Pastor Brenda’s friend, Alliene; Dale London’s husband, David London; Shaun Moeller’s brother, Dave Nyman; Ron Adamson’s sister, Joanne Orput; Barbara P. King’s son, Jason King; Sharon Yool’s former student, Jennifer Hurd; Sharon Yool’s daughter; Diane Harvey’s sister, Linda; Priscilla Taylor’s friends, Dan & Andrea Cohen (and their family); Priscilla Taylor’s father-in-law and mother-in-law, Steve and Angie Taylor; Priscilla Taylor’s friend, Kevin Wilbon; Priscilla Taylor’s friend, Kathy Cavalli; Rich Gallegos’ mother, Esther; Helen Boyer’s sister-in-law, Marjorie Boyer; Bridge Conference Minister Rev. Davena Jones.

All Who Are Caring For Sick, Frail, And/Or Elderly Family Members.

In Thanksgiving For All The Ways God Brings Healing.

PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

the family of Hattie Hughes, who died on June 29: Jim Peck as he grieves the death of his cousin Kelley Peck on February 17.

Katy Wharton as she grieves the death of her husband John Wharton on April 28;

For Our Congregation And Its Leaders.

People (And All Of Creation) Around The Globe Suffering From Human-Made Disasters And From Natural Disasters (Often Made Worse By Human Action And Inaction On The Climate Crisis).

People Who Are Unemployed And Under-Employed, Especially Members Of Our Church, Find Employment That Fulfills Their Hearts And Souls.

Peace Throughout The Earth, Offering Thanks For All Who Through Non-Violent Methods Are Bringing God’s Compassion And Justice 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 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Flea Market set-up in Fellowship Hall</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study 112 Committee Meeting</td>
<td>4:00 PM Ministry of Invitation Team Meeting 7:30 PM Mid-year Finance Review</td>
<td>7:00 PM ACA Group</td>
<td>2:00 PM Facilities Cleaning</td>
<td>9:30 AM ACA meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study 12 PM GNV – Needlework Group</td>
<td>12:00 PM Staff lunch meeting 4:30 PM SSDS Producers Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM ACA Group</td>
<td>11:00 AM Daytime Fellowship 2:00 PM Facilities Cleaning</td>
<td>9:30 AM ACA meeting</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Flea Market set-up in Fellowship Hall</td>
<td>Pastor Jeff on Vacation and Study Leave</td>
<td>3:30 PM Green Team meeting</td>
<td>8:00 AM Bell Deadline 7:00 PM ACA Group</td>
<td>2:00 PM Facilities Cleaning</td>
<td>9:30 AM ACA meeting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9:15 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship</td>
<td>7:00 PM Finance Committee</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Flea Market set-up in Fellowship Hall</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9:15 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship</td>
<td>7:00 PM ACA Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Flea Market Weekend</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>9:15 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship</td>
<td>7:15 PM Cabinet</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Flea Market Weekend</td>
<td>10:00 AM GNV-Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 PM Book Group</td>
<td>1:00 PM Cyber Geezers</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>9:15 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9:15 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship</td>
<td>10:00 AM Lap Robe Tying Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Flea Market Weekend</td>
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The Bell is First Class

This edition of The Bell was graciously edited by Priscilla Taylor. If you received this issue of The Bell through the US Mail, then you received it first class mail. 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 http://bit.ly/NDCemailsignup 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 leave a phone message or email the church office (510-797-0895; admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org) so we can note in our database that you don’t need The Bell via the US Mail any more.