

**REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA, CA  
November 11, 2017**

**Discipleship/Becoming Group**

**Members**

Cathie Bryan, Norm Bryan, Cheryl Cummins, Naomi Niimi, Charles Rhodes, Coral Saxe, Bill Stephens, and Pamala Stephens

**Purpose**

To follow the Great Commission given by Jesus - "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

To make Disciples - "The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" Book of Discipline Section 120

To help fulfill the Mission of FUMC – By growing as faithful followers of Jesus, "...the mission of growing loving communities of faith centered on Jesus" FUMC of Santa Rosa Mission Statement

To offer opportunities for spiritual growth and intentional faith development that "Encourage One Another to Embody Christ".

Making the "*Shift*" from "Membership to Discipleship by "Developing a life of opening to and Obeying Jesus.

**2017 Activities/Accomplishments**

**A Variety of Offerings for Advent 2017**

*The Redemption of Scrooge* by Matt Rawle. Led by Naomi Niimi & Cheryl Cummins  
*Christmas Gifts That Won't Break* by James Moore. Led by Norm Bryan  
*Down to Earth: The Hopes & Fears of All the Years Are Met in Thee Tonight* by Mike Slaughter & Rachel Billups. Led by Cathie Bryan

Advent Individual/Family/Group Activities - To Be Determined. Some Becoming members will assist/help Elizabeth Walton with soon to be planned advent activities.

This study was offered several dates and times throughout the year.

Led by Pastor Blake

Seven-Week Study - Foundations 1 – An Introduction to Christian Practices

Seven-Week Study - Foundations 2 – An Introduction to Christian Thought.

Thirty-four-week study of the Bible "DISCIPLE: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study". Led by Coral Saxe. Study underway.

Devotional Study – A second round of study using the devotional "40 days with Wesley". Led by Charles Rhodes. Spring offering.

Triad Disciple Study – *Essential Guide to Becoming a Disciple* by Greg Ogden. Facilitated by Pamala Stephens. Study underway.

Church-wide Lenten devotional book study using the book *40 Days with Wesley: A Daily Devotional Journey* by Rueben P. Job. Seven small group study opportunities were offered and led by Becoming Leaders. All Church leadership was encouraged and asked to open meetings during Lent with a reading and prayer from this devotional.

Becoming Group Leaders Study - Covenant Triad Study Group using the book "Transforming Discipleship - Making Disciples a Few at a Time" by Greg Ogden. Led by Pamala Stephens

Hosted a Nomadic Shelter Dinner on January 20, 2017

## **On Going Studies**

### **Sundays**

9:10 a.m. Bible Study. Led by Craig & Shelly Thompson. Bible studies led this year included the book of Matthew and Luke.

11:00 a.m. Bible Study. Led by Norm Bryan. Studies this year include *The Way* by Adam Hamilton and the book of Luke.

### **Tuesdays**

1:30 p.m. Women's Book Study Group. Led by Cathie Bryan. Studies offered include *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor  
*Shalom for the Heart: Torah-Inspired Devotions for a Scared Life* by Evan Moffic (read individually during their summer break)

Goals and plans for 2018 have not yet been determined.

The Becoming Leaders along with the Pastors were able to offer a variety of opportunities throughout the year that encouraged spiritual growth and faith development.

In Christ,  
Pamala Stephens