

Faith

Developing an organically growing faith in the SCV

By Alicia Doyle

The Santa Clarita Valley Church of Christ has earned a reputation for its family-friendly atmosphere that fosters a relationship with God – not only on Sundays.

“What we’re not is a worship service experience and then you leave,” said Cheryl Hammer, women’s ministry leader.

“It’s more centered on our relationship to God and relationships with each other so when church is over, literally an hour later, we’ll still have people talking and hanging out,” she said. “There’s no rush to leave – people enjoy being together.”

The congregation is known for practicing Christianity together throughout the year.

For instance, members participate in an annual service project for Carousel Ranch, a charitable nonprofit organization in Santa Clarita that provides therapeutic horseback riding for children with special needs. Additionally, the church partners with a benevolent organization called HOPE worldwide, a nonprofit that provides community-based services to the poor and needy around the globe.

The congregation also supports foster children through the Department of Children and Family Services.

“These are some of the most needy families in Santa Clarita,” Hammer said.

“At Christmas we do a huge toy drive and Christmas party for DCFS in which our members donate hundreds of toys. It’s one of our signature events working with the community.”

In related efforts, congregation members create food baskets during the Thanksgiving holiday for families in need, and donate food, blankets and other needed items to Bridge to Home, a local homeless shelter.

“We love being involved in the community and meeting real-life daily needs, making our faith authentic within the community and making it real with each other,” Hammer said. “Christianity needs to be helpful. It needs to be more than an experience – it needs to transform your heart otherwise it’s an event versus a Christian lifestyle.”

While the church’s primary goal is to help people with their spiritual lives, “we really want to roll up our sleeves and help the poor and needy,” Hammer said. “Whether it’s through Carousel Ranch or a homeless shelter, we are making Christianity real every day in our lives.”

Efforts that take place throughout the week include bible study, marriage and parenting classes, which take place at the Santa Clarita United Methodist Church on Bouquet Canyon Road on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m.

“You can only do so much on a Sunday morning, so it’s deeper in the sense of meeting specific needs,” Hammer said. “We also do an an-



Courtesy photo

Youth Ministry Serving at Carousel Ranch.

nual marriage retreat for one weekend in Indian Wells every November with about 800 people. We meet a lot of marriage needs that weekend.”

The church offers counseling in other areas on a regular basis.

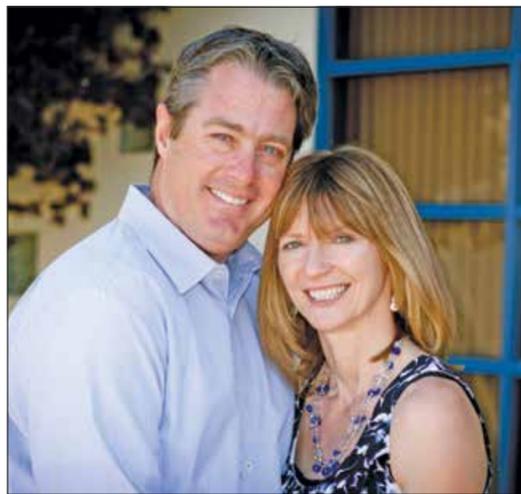
“We help people deal with other things going on in their lives, whether it’s financial or educational,” Hammer said. “It’s practical help for people to excel in their spiritual lives, but it affects all areas of their lives. We care about the individual and if someone really wants help, we’re there for them.”

Above all, the Santa Clarita Valley Church of Christ is a church family with a pas-

sion for moving people toward Christ.

“Our dream is to be used by God to change thousands of lives for eternity,” Hammer said. “Individually and collectively, we’re on a spiritual journey in which we are actively seeking God and his guidance for our lives. We believe that God’s word teaches, inspires and convicts us to develop an organically growing faith.”

The Santa Clarita Valley Church of Christ is located at Rancho Pico Junior High, 26250 W. Valencia Blvd. in Stevenson Ranch. The Sunday service takes place at 10 a.m. For more information visit <http://scvcoc.com/index.php/10-static/i-m-new>



Courtesy photo

Ron and Cheryl Hammer, Evangelist and Women’s Ministry Leader.

Worship Service
on Sundays at 10:00 am

Meeting at
Rancho Pico Junior High
26250 W. Valencia Boulevard
Valencia, CA 91381

Children’s Ministry Provided

Our children’s ministry is a fun dynamic program that teaches the children about God’s love through lessons, skits, crafts and hands-on activities.

SANTA CLARITA CHURCH
VALLEY of CHRIST

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