



hospice highlights

Hospice of Amador and Calaveras County is a non-profit agency serving Amador, Northern Calaveras, Eastern San Joaquin and Sacramento Counties

P: 209.223.5500 • F: 209.223.4964 • www.hospiceofamador.org • SPRING 2009

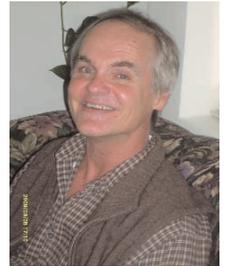


Dale Barrett
Pastor and founder of
Grace Fellowship

New Spiritual Support at Hospice



Michael Jordan
Chaplain, Mark Twain
St. Josephs Hospital



What has prepared you to provide spiritual care during the end of life?

My 42 years as a pastor have placed me in a variety of situations with people of all ages who were facing a terminal illness, or, with families who were responding to the imminent death of a family member or loved one. My faith is a strong foundation for my dealing with people, primarily because of my sense that "God has put eternity in the heart of man". We are made for more than this life. Helping people come to grips with their faith has been an avenue of helping them cope with death and its attendant challenges.

What do you hope to offer to hospice patients and families?

A commitment to the sanctity of life, no matter what the age of a patient may be, is a critical component of any care we offer. Seeking to find meaning and comfort in the final days of life is a challenge for both patients and their families. Encouraging families to verbalize their feelings, to express their love and to generally be "near", when possible, facilitates the optimum environment for a patient near death.

What do you anticipate will be your greatest challenge working with hospice patients and families?

Because we all have different reference points for our faith—and admittedly, some insist they have none—it is a challenge to be sensitive and responsive to the variety of human experiences encountered in death and dying. My goal would be to be a resource of hope and help as families pass through this process.

What would you like the community to know about you?

I am excited about this opportunity to serve in our community. Pastoring a church allows me access to over 250 families in Amador County. Having served here for the last twelve years I feel I have a good sense of the kind of people who live around us and a sensitivity to the kinds of challenges we all are facing in these hard times. I hope my love for people and my appreciation for each one's uniqueness will give me additional access to share in the lives of hurting people. My faith in God and my confidence in the teachings of His Word, as well as over four decades of experience, are a foundation I believe have equipped me well for this opportunity.

What has prepared you to provide spiritual care during the end of life?

I began to sense a call into "end of life" ministry in 1991 upon hearing a radio appeal to volunteer with the hospice in Juneau Alaska where I was teaching. This initiated a commitment and passion that has endured nearly 20 years and has included being a hospice volunteer, an employee for Catholic Community Services, a student in pastoral care, a year of Clinical Pastoral Education, and employment as a hospital chaplain.

What do you hope to offer to hospice patients and families?

I hope to offer a compassionate, healing presence to patients and families. I believe the existential "crisis" that they are working through is full of opportunities for different kinds of healings and various, unanticipated "miracles". As part of the hospice team, I hope to work with patients and families to experience growth, peace, reconciliation, and hope at the end of life.

What do you anticipate will be your greatest challenge working with hospice patients and families?

I think hospice work can be spiritually and emotionally challenging. Like everyone who works with patients and their families, strong emotions get stirred within me. Perhaps my biggest challenge will be to take the time and make the effort to come to terms with the emotional and spiritual demands.

What would you like the community to know about you?

I travel from the San Francisco Bay area where I live, but I stay here in Calaveras County half the week working for hospice and for Mark Twain St. Joseph Hospital. I am a minister at Third Baptist Church in San Francisco and also work with my wife who spends a great deal of her time helping some of Brazil's poorest with her nonprofit "Angels for Brazil". I've loved getting acquainted with the communities of the Foothills this past year.

Who won the Chance of Love Valentine's Day Raffle? See Inside!

Special Donations for Hospice Thrift Store

Our Hospice Thrift Store has recently been blessed with two very unique and special donations. This spring we are selling chalkware from the *Bosson* factory in England. Longtime hospice supporters Ron and Sharon Edgar have collected over 150 pieces of these exquisitely decorated figurines, heads and plaques and have now donated them to hospice. The Bosson factory has recently closed so the pieces will become more collectible and valuable over time. If you are not familiar with chalkware, be sure to come by the store and see these extraordinary pieces. A heartfelt thank you to Sharon and Ron for their very generous donation.

In December the family of John Olson, a former art gallery owner in Auburn donated original oil paintings and Giclee prints from the gallery. As we identify these various Russian,



Ukrainian and Eastern European painters, their work is being offered at excellent prices for original art.

We thank these generous donors and all of you who continue to support the hospice mission by donating and shopping at the Hospice Thrift Store!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday— April 3 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

This year we will salute over 125 volunteers! The theme this year is ...

VOLUNTEERS HELP LIGHTEN THE LOAD.

For additional information, contact Ann Metherd or Karen Mason at the office, 223-5500, or contact Lynne or Penny at the Thrift Store, 223-4762.



Sunday — April 26 Annual Candlelight Memorial Service

This year's celebration will be held once again at the Methodist Church on Main Street in Sutter Creek. We invite you to come and celebrate the life of your loved one with our special candle lighting ceremony. Reception follows immediately in the church hall.

Friday — June 19 12th Annual Art Auction, “Art on the Lawn”

at the St. George Hotel
in Volcano, California.



Once again you are invited to enjoy champagne, food, local wine, music, and of course, the raffle and auction. This is an important fundraiser for Hospice and we hope you will purchase your tickets early. Tickets are a terrific value at \$30 prior to the event and \$40 at the door.

Hospice Valentines Day Raffle

“Win-Win-Win”

The first annual Hospice Valentine Day Raffle, “Take a Chance on Love”, was a fantastic success, earning over \$25,000 for patients and families who might not otherwise be able to afford hospice services. “During this economic downturn, I am extremely encouraged by the outpouring of community support for hospice,” said Executive Director Dan Riordan. “The patients and families win, the community at large wins by supporting this much-needed service, and each of our four lucky winners walk away with fabulous prizes. This fundraiser was really a win, win, win!!”

First prize, the 1.6 carat diamond ring, went to Gail Pimlott, owner of the Fine Eye Gallery. The second prize went to Hospice Volunteer Jean Patterson. Jean was delighted to learn that her prize had been upgraded. Instead of one night for four on a private yacht in San Diego, the trip was upgraded to 2 nights in Cabo San Lucas aboard the private

yacht or two nights at the luxurious Esperanza Resort. The third prize of three nights at a deluxe oceanside condominium went to Barbara Light. Finally, Linda Woods, co-facilitator of another Hospice sponsored support group, Compassionate Friends, was the winner of the twelve rounds of golf offered at three local golf courses including La Contenta, Mace Meadows, and Castle Oaks.

Special thanks to Tom and Patty Peyton who donated the workmanship and materials to redesign the fabulous diamond ring. Thanks also to Matt and Kimberly Andrae for donating close to 150 Valentine’s Basque cakes for all participants who purchased \$100 worth of tickets. Special thanks to our Board member, Wayne Garibaldi for donating the fabulous condo in Monterey; our three local golf courses; and last but certainly not least to my son-in-law Alex Edwards and his employer Rich Mott for the fabulous trip to Cabo San Lucas. And finally, thanks to the dedicated group of hospice volunteers who really went above and beyond the call of duty helping to sell these tickets! With this kind of sponsorship and support we look forward to next year’s raffle with awe and gratitude!

Message from Dan Riordan, Executive Director

I don’t know about you, but sometimes I forget what is really important to me. Connecting with each other, person to person, face to face, and heart to heart. This is each of us at our best. Ego stripped away revealing not only the raw emotions and peccadilloes that make each of us human, but also our deeper, innate potential to love and be at peace with ourselves and with each other. Each of us fully and skillfully caring for ourselves and for each other. Caring for our community and making ourselves available to participate. Participating in the healing, mending, supporting, working, fighting, dying, trying, giving up, grieving, learning, failing, crying, deceiving, asking for forgiveness.

All of it is part of our shared human experience.

Hospice cares for the sick and dying. With renewed commitment inspired by spring time 2009 and on behalf of Hospice of Amador & Calaveras I pledge to each of you that we will do our part for you and your loved ones. When you need us we will be there. When you call we will come. You are not alone.



MEMORIAL TILES Still Available

There are still a few memorial tiles available on our beautiful California Poppy Mural at the Thrift Store. For a \$100.00 donation you can have the name or names of loved ones permanently inscribed. This mural was adapted from an original photograph and donated by local award winning photographer Carolyn Fox. For more information, please call Lynne at the Hospice Thrift Store at 209 223-4762.