



## NEWS & VIEWS from the Pulpit & Pews First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, CA

Dan Fowler, Pastor  
Martha Lopez, Commissioned Lay Pastor  
Sid Long, Newsletter  
Roger Thorburn, Webmaster

### PASTOR'S COLUMN "CHRISTMAS CONTINUES"

We had a wonderful Christmas on December 25. Now that our children are older, they no longer wake up at 6:00 a.m. wanting to open presents. Paula and I actually got to sleep in until almost 8:00! (A Christmas Miracle?) When I got up, I put our homemade cinnamon rolls in the warmer tray, got some tea, and we sat down together while Abby played Santa and brought each of us presents. We all received some wonderful gifts (And thanks to those of you who gave us gifts!!!). Later that day, my mom and sister and family came over for a Christmas feast. All in all, it was a very good Christmas. That night as I drifted off, I began to think about the next season, giving thanks for Christmas, the birth of the Christ Child, and time with family and friends. I packaged Christmas up in a nice neat little box. But what if God didn't intend for us to wrap Christmas up until next year?

Christian poet Anne Weems, in her poem, "It's Not Over," wrote,

*"It is not over, this birthing,  
There are always newer skies  
Into which  
God can throw stars.  
We begin to think  
That we can predict the Advent of God,  
That we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem.  
That is the only time that God will be born in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.  
Those who wait for God  
Watch with their hearts and not their eyes,  
Listening, always listening  
For angel words."*

So, as we begin a new year, let us carry the hope of Christmas into 2016. Christmas was a beginning for us, that continues each day with the promise of Christ, and the whispers of angels.

In Christ,

# ANNUAL MEETING

## 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Our church annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 31 after worship and some fellowship time. We will have the meeting in the sanctuary, and hope to use power point to give you information about our church: finances, ministry, and membership. Please be sure to join us!

### Bible Study in January

We will continue watching the series, "Belief". The next two studies are on "God is Love" and "Acts of Faith". The study will meet in the sanctuary on January 8 and 22 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. Please bring your Bibles.



### Westminster Woods Women's Retreat

**Speaker: Amy Seymour Haney**  
**"Hospitality"**



**Session:** Jan 22, 2016 - Jan 24, 2016

**Cost:** \$170 per session(Camperships available)

**Amy** is the pastor of Windsor Presbyterian Church in central Sonoma County, where she has served for almost 10 years. A Masters of Divinity graduate from San Francisco Theological Seminary with a concentration in Christian Spirituality, she has a background in youth ministry. Her history of ministry includes serving at a church for homeless women in Seattle, the county trauma hospital in Houston, and as a Volunteer in Mission in Alaska, where she met her husband Jeff, who was also serving as a volunteer. They have been graced with two children, now in elementary school. Amy enjoys (and is perpetually learning about) knitting, yoga, writing, reading, hiking, and baking.



**COMMUNITY NEED**

Lisa Amos (Who attended here briefly) and her husband Gregg, who attend the First Baptist church, experienced a house fire on Christmas night. Gregg got some 2nd degree burns from the fire and she has been out in disability since October, is having back surgery next month. Sounds like there is extensive smoke damage to their place. They are going to need a new rental, 1.5-2 bedroom, preferably with a garage, and all furnishings. Please contact Paula Fowler if you have any leads in housing or donations to give.



## *Women-Women Calling all Women*

### **January 7, 2016**

Presbyterian Women will be having their first meeting of the New Year lead by Helen Marie. It will be a show and tell of your **"Most Memorable Vacation."** Tell story, bring pictures, souvenirs.

### **January 21, 2016**

This should be one of our most interesting meetings. Our leader is Colleen, but our hostess will be Cindy Huffman at the **"Three Jewels Buddhist Temple"** We will be given a tour of the temple and have it explained to us. It is where Colleen could watch it being built from her window. Meet at the church at 1:00 to car pool.

### **February 4, 2016**

This meeting will be hosted by Isabel and Claudelle, but it can not be finalized until after this goes to press. Come and be surprised or watch the bulletin and Isabel's *Advocate-News* column.

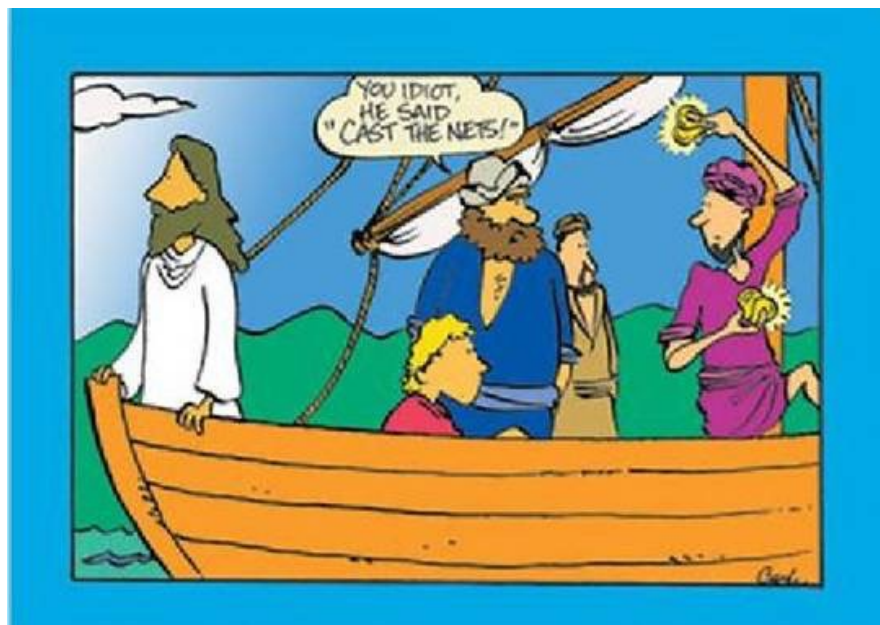
### **February 18th, 2016**

This will be the **Christian Women's luncheon** hosted by the 1st Baptist Church women on the corner of Franklin and Pine. Bring a salad to share and enjoy the fellowship of other Christian Women.

**CHANGES to PW booklet:** Esther VanPelt e-mail: [dvanpelt@mcn.org](mailto:dvanpelt@mcn.org)  
 Martha Lopez phone: 707-228-6767

**UPCOMING: April 2 — Spring Blossom Tea**

Jacque Moore





As 2016 begins, Church ELDERS Tom Estes, Rick McMillen, Hilary Miller and Kathy Orsi have finished their terms of office. Leaving the Board of DEACONS is Arleu Sias. We THANK all of them for their contributions, service, and dedication to our congregation!

New deacons and elders were elected for three year terms at a congregational meeting following worship on December 20th.

Our officers are:

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>
	Sylvia Burns	Monte Moore	Lori Cole
	Martha Lopez	Steven Worthen	Sid Long
	Isabel Rogerson		Iris Loushin
	Claudelle Zack		Nancy Mantel
<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>
	Paula Fowler	Marsha Robinson	Cathy Hollenback
	Pat Long	Crystal Sanderson	
	Jacquelin Moore	Printha Worthen	

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 COLLEEN CLEARY
- 7 SHELLEY TREGONING
- 9 TYLER JOHN WAYNE RHOADS
- 10 SAM FOWLER
- 14 NICO NELEPOVITZ
- 17 MACEY NELEPOVITZ
- 21 HILARY MILLER
- 22 OSCAR LOPEZ  
TERESA McDONALD
- 23 ESTHER VANPELT
- 25 WESLEY ROBERT HUMECKY
- 27 WAYNE EVANS
- 31 WANDA CASHWELL  
FLOYD HIGDON  
BETTY McMILLEN

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 LUCIA JONES
- 4 CARLETTA HOLLENBACK
- 5 CATHY HOLLENBACK
- 9 EUNICE BULL
- 13 LAUREN MILLER
- 14 JASON ROSETTO  
CHUCK TELL
- 15 DAN FOWLER
- 17 MATTHEW JONES
- 24 JASPER ESTES
- 25 CARL FORCE

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARY**

- 1 LYNN & MONTE ORSI - 1999

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- NONE



## HELP WANTED !

Are you under 76 years of age, can climb a two step ladder, available in the morning and can hold paper and push pins? If you answered yes to all of those qualifications you may be a candidate for a rewarding job in the church. The bulletin board helpers are not getting any younger and need some additional help. You need to be available about every 4-6 weeks or as the seasons demand. The pay scale is the same for any member of the team.....zero.



The job satisfaction is high.

The stress is usually minimal except for the person creating the theme.

If you feel you can be of service in this area of church work please call Isabel at 964-3687 or email [scotmade@comcast.net](mailto:scotmade@comcast.net).