



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 Thornburn, Webmaster

PASTOR'S COLUMN ONE IN CHRIST JESUS?

Galatians 3:27-28 says, "As many of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jews nor Greek, slave nor free, male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." As we draw to the close of what is the most bitter, contentious, mudslinging presidential campaigns in this nation's history, there will no doubt be anger and resentment towards those who have voted differently than you have. There may even be protests and riots once the elections results have been tallied, for whoever ends up in the Whitehouse after November 8, close to half of the nation will be upset, to say the least.

How then does the Christian respond to this mess? If they are fellow Christians, we need to see the other as a sister or brother. If they are not related to the faith, but are on the other side of the political aisle, we as Christians are called to reach across that aisle, difficult as it may be. 2nd Corinthians 5:18 says, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." Jesus never said it would be easy to follow him.

Pastor and bestselling author Mark Batterson knows all about reconciliation and reaching across the aisle. He's led National Community Church (NCC) in the heart of Washington, D.C. for 20 years. Batterson has a unique interpretation of Galatians 3:28, where it says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female." We add, "Republican nor Democrat." He also says, "We believe that blood—the blood of Christ—is thicker than water—the water of political affiliation. Somehow the Lord has enabled us to reach across the aisle to both sides and keep our focus on Christ."

So, when all is said and done, please don't focus on our differences, vast though they may be. Focus on our calling to reconcile to the world to one another and to Christ, through whose blood has made us reconciled to God and called to follow the One who is the Prince of Peace.

In Christ,

Mission statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, California

"As Christians, we warmly embrace our congregation and community, believing that all people are the children of God, and that God's house is for all people.

As a church, we are an anchor in life's storms, offering safe haven through God, His Son Jesus and the Holy spirit, who give us hope, grace, healing, peace and endless love."

Adopted October, 2012



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2017

Stewardship letters and pledge cards have gone out to all of our members who have pledged before. We ask that you come join us in worship on November 13 and bring your pledge cards for 2017 as we dedicate our annual pledges for the coming year. If you have not yet made a pledge, or have not received a 2017 pledge card, extra cards are available in the narthex. Your pledge will help support the annual budget (paying for staff salaries, utilities, church maintenance, worship and office supplies) - all of which help us do our work for Christ. Thank you for your support!

SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER 13

Pastor Dan is looking for 2-3 folks to speak about their commitment to the church on Sunday, November 13. Please contact Dan if you feel led to be one Call the church office at 964-2316, dfowler@mcn.org

MEALS FOR INSPIRE YOUTH GROUP

If you can help by providing a meal for the Inspire youth group over at Fort Bragg High School, please let Dan know. They feed an average of 8-10 kids each Tuesday at lunch time, 12:39 p.m. in Ms. Oliphant's room, #207. Autumn Music

AUTUMN MUSIC



If you're at church on Tuesday afternoons these days, between 4:00 and 5:15 p.m., you'll hear delightful sounds coming from the choir room – we're having fun and working hard on autumn and Christmas music. Please join us if you like to sing! Maybe you used to sing with the choir, but you don't come out in the evening now -

we're rehearsing in the afternoon!

Here are some of the pieces we're working on, for Sunday use soon: On November 6th, Stewardship

Sunday, we'll sing "Make My Life a Song", by Mark Burrows and Mary K Rarden. "O Lord of sound and silence, make my life a song." Just as the psalmist calls the believer to praise God with song, lute, and harp, so does this lyric anthem resound with the music of the spheres in praise of the Creator.

Before Thanksgiving, on Christ the King Sunday, we'll present two lovely anthems: "A Mountain Harvest", by Patti Drennan, for a true slice of Americana. "Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise; with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise." Also, "For the Beauty of the Earth", arranged by Cindy Berry. All of these songs include flute parts, for Joei Enget, our wonderful new flute player.

On November 27th, we'll do "I Hear the Prophet Callin'", by Pepper Choplin. Composed in a simple, Appalachian folk style, it opens with the haunting call of the distant prophet, John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord". The choir responds as the voice of the faithful: make straight the way in the desert for our God.

Next month, I'll tell you about Christmas music!

Sylvia Burns, Music Director



SPECIAL FALL SALE FOR MUSIC PROGRAM from Claudelle Zack

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th in the Social Hall

APPLES: A bag of more than 20 apples, peeled, sliced, frozen, ready for pie or other dessert. Just add sugar and spice. All the hard work is done! Just \$5 per bag. We will provide the recipe.

HOMEMADE JAMS: Apricot, apricot/pineapple, strawberry/rhubarb. Samples available.

APPLESAUCE: Pints and quarts. Some dressed up for gift giving.

Perhaps other goodies. Come and support the music program!



PRESBYTERY REPORT - September 17, 2016



The September meeting of Presbytery was held in Mendocino. Martha Lopez attended the morning session, Dan came for the afternoon and I was there for the entire meeting.

The meeting began with worship with a beautiful prelude by organist, Steve Gray. There was special music by Morgan Daniel and Gwyneth Moreland. Outgoing moderator, David Moon-Wainright's sermon was on "Responding to God's Word." The offering was for Pedal for Protein which supports our local food banks and also our community dinners. Rev. Kate Clayton was installed as Moderator and Hamp Maurvais, Vice-Moderator. We closed by singing together "The Lord's Prayer."

Report of the Mission Presbytery/Stated Clerk, Bob Conover: This was a written report only. Rev. Yung Me Morris was ordained and installed as pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Benicia and Rev. Marissa Danney was ordained on behalf of San Francisco Presbytery and will be a hospital chaplain. The Rev. William Chalker died on June 4 at the age of 89. Our insurance companies and legal representatives are dealing with an accident that occurred in 2005 at Westminster Woods.

Presbytery Council: Proposed dates and locations for 2017 presbytery meetings are: Feb. 3, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church in Napa, the May 16 and September 16 meetings to be determined.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Patrice Drew read her Statement of Call and was approved by Presbytery to the status of Candidate.

The Report of the Review Committee was a written report only. Reviews do not need to be done every year. Clerks & Pastors only need to come when the Presbytery meeting is close to them. Regarding removing members from the rolls, Shirley Minor, Clerk of First Eureka, offered a letter and form that are very pastoral and carefully worded so the recipient is not offended and can make her/his desires known. The letter and form may be found on the presbytery website under Forms.

Report of the 22nd General Assembly Commissioners: Pam Novelly, Teaching Elder Commissioner, Fairfield Presbyterian Church and Sierra Mink, Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Presbyterian Church of Novato had written reports in our dockets. Ruling Elder Commissioner, Nancy Walsh, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon gave an oral report at Presbytery. Key decisions made: Two women were elected as Co-Moderators of General Assembly; The Belhar was added to the Book of Confessions; A new Directory for Worship; Commission created to deal with PC(USA) structural issues; Move to divest from fossil fuel companies was defeated; Two-state solution for Israel-Palestine reaffirmed; With an apology, assembly vows to keep children safe; "Regret" expressed for harm to LGBTQ/Q members; "Teaching Elder" out, "Minister of Word and Sacrament" back in; Decision to reduce number of synods

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Presbytery, continued

reversed; Commitment to peacemaking reaffirmed; Grady Parsons honored as retiring General Assembly Stated Clerk; J. Herbert Nelson elected as new General Assembly Stated Clerk.

Report by Ruling Elder Marita Mayer, Overture Advocate, San Anselmo Presbyterian Church.

1, Calling for the RE/MAX Corporation to Cease Selling Property in West Bank Settlements.

Passed unanimously.

2. Advocating for the Safety and Well-being of Children of Palestine and Israel. Passed 464-95.

3. Israel-Palestine: For Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace. Passed 429-129.

4. Prayerfully Studying the Palestinian Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).

Passed 407-146.

5. On Affirming Nonviolent Means of Resistance Against Human Oppression: Passed by voice vote.

Committee on Ministry: The following read their Statements of Faith and had their biographies in the docket. Presbytery voted and approved these calls: Emily Stockert to Knox Presbyterian Church as temporary pastor and Brenna Hesch to First Presbyterian Church as Associate Pastor. Council acting on behalf of Presbytery approved the stated supply contract between the Rev. Jan Reynolds and First Presbyterian, San Rafael; Rev. Stephanie Ryder and Redwoods, Larkspur; and Rev. Wendy Komori Stager and Vallejo Community.

On June 30 Rev. Ron McHattie was moved to the status of honorably retired/member at large.

Passed as part of the consent calendar presbytery recommends a 2.5% cost of living increase for all existing calls. Approved the 2017 covenant between the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Patty Sanders, the Redwoods Hunger Action Advocate.

Presbytery ended with Patty Sanders and the Pedal for Protein Riders. Riders received their shirts and were leaving the next morning on their journey. We can still donate to Pedal for Protein by either mailing the donation to the Presbytery Office, 1226-A Salvador Ave., Napa, CA 94558 and designate to Pedal for Protein or online at <http://www.imathlete.com/donate/PedalforProtein3>

Lori Cole, Elder Commissioner



November Coordinator - Iris Loushin
Meetings are on November 3 and 17 at 1:30 p.m.

December Coordinator - Lori Cole

December 1 - NO MEETING

December 3 - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - There will be a sign-up sheet for those who are in charge of a booth so Lori will know who is doing what!!! Lori and crew will be serving a \$7.00 lunch at noon - Bazaar shopping will begin at 11:00 a.m.

December 15 - Christmas Tea - Location to be announced probably at Colleen's.

The following information is for the 2017 meetings:

January Coordinator - Jacque Moore

No Coordinators for February & March - there's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board....don't be bashful - sign up!

April Coordinators - Nancy Mantel and Roen Mallory

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Presbyterian Women, continued

May, 2017 Coordinator - Charletta Evans

No Coordinator for June

Vacation in July and August - If someone would like to plan an outing for July - don't hesitate to volunteer

In August will be the annual salad potluck luncheon at Lori's.

No Coordinator for September

October Coordinator - Lori Cole

No Coordinator for November

December Coordinator - Lori Cole

BUDGET TIME!

November is a special time of praise and Thanksgiving, and also a time for planning church finances for next year. The Budget/ Finance committee has already begun its work of stewardship for 2017. Our first meeting on the topic involves our usual monthly review of income and expense, but this time also with an eye to next year's needs. We start with a draft or "what-if" scenario, using the same pledge total as the current year, and filling in any expected or known changes in other items. At this point, we know that we'll be changing things as we have more information, especially about the expected pledge total.



The task of planning finances has been made much easier by the very great blessing of the Bayer Estate gift, a part of which has been dedicated to the Pastor's housing expense fund. This will relieve the operating budget considerably each year. However, the operating budget depends entirely upon congregational support – these are the regular expenses which keep “the doors open and the lights on”, so to speak. Please keep this in mind as you fill in your pledge card for 2017, and, if possible, keep your support the same as before, or even increase it a little, as you feel led.

Congregational pledges will be dedicated on Sunday, November 13th. If you have not made a pledge before, please consider filling out a card, which you'll find in the pews and in the office.

We're happy to do our best to answer any questions about the budget, finances, or pledging – please ask!

Blessings,

Sylvia Burns, Treasurer & Pledge Secretary

Claudelle Zack, Finance & Budget Committee chair



WONDERING ABOUT WHAT TO DO FOR THANKSGIVING? Look no further!

It's a bountiful dinner planned at the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg on 11/24/16 from 2-4pm. Thanksgiving Day is a time to reflect and be thankful for all that God has given us.

The delicious menu consist of:

(Starter) Spiced pumpkin squash soup...

(served from a special local grown pumpkin - just for this dinner!)

(Main course) Roasted Turkey...

500 lbs are being donated from Harvest Market's Distributor

Garlic mashed potatoes & gravy

Bacon glazed Green Beans

Country style stuffing

Dinner Rolls

Variety of Desserts

Local Coffee

Local Cider (pressed by members of the FPC) & Hot Tea

We're asking for **Dessert Donations** - any kind. Most popular are desserts that include pumpkin. Since we're not having a sweet potato side dish this year - Suggestions of sweet potato desserts would be a welcomed addition.

Home Delivery: On Thanksgiving, no other groups or agencies offer dinners and meals either on location or that are delivered to the home. If you or you know of someone who would like a dinner delivered around 2pm on this day, please call ahead to the church office 964-2315. Provide the Name, Number of Meals, Address and any special instructions.

Volunteers are needed at this time. Some folks would like to volunteer to help with food prep days before or on Thanksgiving day - if this is for you or you know someone who would like to help out - you can contact Ginabelle at 962.4751 or email her at ginabelle@century21.com.

Genesis 1:29-30:

Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.



FROM OUR SISTER CHURCH, SAINT NDUMA IN KENYA, AFRICA

REV.DAN,

Good morning, its sometime since i wrote to you, we are fine in the Lord. Last Sunday is when we had a fundraising and including you we raised a total of 2060 USD.This was a big step because now we shall move on roofing status and by end of November we plan for another one, like that till we complete this church by next year. I told my God Lord give me strength to work for you. Give me finances to do your work. He is a faithful God. We thank you and your congregation. We thank you and your congregation and we can't forget to thank Gregory (Bull) for his kind donation. Be blessed. PASS OUR BEST REGARDS TO ALL MEMBERS.

ELDER JOSEPH

JUST AROUND THE CORNER—ADVENT!

Please join us on Saturday, November 26, (Time-TBD) and **help us decorate the sanctuary for Advent!** More hands make for less work!

The first Sunday of Advent is November 27.



PW Bazaar will be held on December 3rd from 11-2. The ladies have been working hard designing and making many things from dish towels to jewelry, to food stuffs. We will also have a green thumb table, used books, and jewelry table. If you have jewelry you no longer wear and will part with please give it Jacque Moore very soon. I want to card and price it. If you have books to part with please bring them to the church on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd We have no place to store them before.

There will be a luncheon served at noon to the first 60 people to buy tickets at the cost of \$7.00.

JUST A NOVEMBER ISSUE! IF You have read this far...you may have noticed that this November issue of *News & Views from the Pulpit & Pews* covers only one month. Since there is so much going on at our church in November and December, there will be a December issue to remind you of all the important Christmas events and dates. Then, we'll be back to a bi-monthly issue in January/February. [Ed.]



from Isabel Rogerson

You may have noticed something on the bulletin board recently with the title "Caring for your Pastor" but you may not have had time to read the whole article. I would like to paraphrase the article for you as it has some valuable points to make.

First of all, have you ever thought about the fact that your pastor takes care of many people and perhaps he needs care himself from his congregation?

Some of the pressures that pastors face are:-

1. Pressure to succeed in "growing" the church whereas membership is dropping worldwide.
2. Pressure to keep people happy. Pastors spend an enormous amount of energy resolving internal disputes. You know the kind - arguments about the hymns we sing or who used the Fireside Room last and left the table all sticky!
3. Financial pressures. Pastors salaries are on the low side in today's society as well as low respect. It helps if they know that what they are doing is meaningful and respected by others.
4. Strain on the family. Financial stresses and severe demands on time can have an impact on the pastor's family. Often the spouse is the breadwinner and has to assume major responsibility.
5. Pastors often have trouble being ministered to. They often do not take vacation, study leave or other time off which is offered to them by the congregation.

What can we do to take care of our pastor?

1. Acknowledge the stress of the profession. Acknowledge the strain of low salary and do not get into heated debates about monetary compensation.
2. Support your pastor's physical well being. Encourage him to run, play golf or whatever physical pastime he enjoys.
3. Allow him time off. Recognize the need for time off after a busy season such as Christmas or Easter.
4. Offer your pastor a gift certificate or a night out.
5. Treat family and spouses with sensitivity. Recognize that a spouse's gifts to the church are unrelated to being married to a clergyman.
6. Address your pastor's spiritual needs. Allow time to have him meet with a spiritual advisor. He should be encouraged to set aside time for prayer and Bible study separate from sermon preparation.

Remember some pastors may need to be reminded that they are important enough to deserve this kind of support.

(The original article was written by Carter Shelly and Stephen P. McCutchan)



"Where Every Child is a Star"

Little Lambs Preschool is off to a good start. We currently have 31 students enrolled. They all have different schedules. We do have room for more, so please if you know anyone with little ones, please tell them about us!

We are currently having a fundraiser to raise money to enclose our sandbox with vinyl lattice. (To keep the cats out.) So please support us!!

In November we will be celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday here at school in our Traditional way with our students. I will be reading four different book versions of

"Stone Soup" then the children will make Stone Soup with a real stone! It's so much FUN! Let me know ahead of time if you would like to join us! Date and time TBA.

We will be closed Nov. 11th and Nov.21st thru 25th.

Thank you for your continued support from all of us here at Little Lambs Preschool.

Blessings!

Nancy Pollard, Director

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7 CLAUDELLE ZACK
HELEN MARIE ROGERS
- 13 IRIS LOUSHIN
- 14 JACQUE MOORE
- 22 LINDA RUNNER



ESTHER "JOSIE" KOHR

October 1, 1936 - August 15, 2016

RUSS BARHIGHT

July 15, 1932 - September 1, 2016 MEMBERS.