



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

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

As a new year dawns upon us, many of us consider making resolutions- hoping to change certain habits, take better care of ourselves, etc. For me, after eating enough treats and sweets over the holidays, it is time to cut back on cookies and cheese, and time to get out a bit more on the running trail with my dog, Angus. Yet when I think about life for me as a Christian, it isn't just at the dawn of a new year that I feel a need to alter my habits or behaviors.

For Christians, trying to change or alter ourselves to be more like Christ is a 24 hour 365 day a year job. Paul speaks of that change we work for in 1 Corinthians 5:6-7. *"Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed."* For Paul, Christ is the leaven that makes us new lumps of dough (which will be the focus of my sermon on January 1). Ephesians 5:1-2, Paul also says in says, *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."* So, rather than make resolutions once a year to be better people, we as Christians try our best to be "New Lumps", more Christ like each and every day.

I remember when our family first came here in January of 2003, going to D'Aurelio's Pizza on a regular basis. When the kids were young, the waitresses would bring each of them a lump of pizza dough to play with while we waited for our food. They both worked with their hands and made all kinds of things- animals, letters, little mini pizzas, while we awaited our yummy pizza. God offers to do the same thing for us, not just on the new year, but every day, molding and shaping us more and more into the likeness of Christ. We just have to be willing to let God's hands do the work, willing to do our best each and every day to be more and more like the savior we worship. Theologian Eugenia Price wrote, *"If Christ lives in us, controlling our personalities, we will leave glorious marks on the lives we touch. Not because of our lovely character, but because of his."*

God be with us lumps, each and every day, as we are molded and shaped by God's hands into the likeness of Jesus.

In Christ,

GUEST PREACHER- JANUARY 8

Come hear local Rev. Wanda Windsor preach on Epiphany on January 8. Wanda brings a warm, engaging style to her sermons, and we need to offer her a warm welcome.



2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The congregational annual meeting will be on **Sunday, February 5 after worship.** The annual report will be given, and the 2017 budget will be presented by session. All committee chairs are asked to please get their annual reports done and submitted to the church office as soon as possible.

PW AND THEIR DOINGS from Jacque Moore

We are trying to relax a little after a very successful bazaar. We may have had fewer people in attendance but we cleared more this year. Remember the profits go to Missions. Keep up the good work and after the 1st of the year you may get back to designing things for next year.

We had a wonderful Christmas tea at Colleen’s. There were 26 people in attendance. We had the cutest Wooden Soldiers in attendance (Nancy and Christine) I don’t think any of us ate dinner that night. Husband’s had to fend for themselves.

Thank you for honoring me at the tea, it sure was a shock. I will always treasure my book of messages. If you didn’t get to sign it I will bring it to the meeting on January 5th.



JANUARY and FEBRUARY PROGRAMS:

January 5th we are going to try something different. We are asking you to bring whatever you do in your spare time to share. Do you read, knit, crochet etc. We would like to get to know more about your time.

January 19th we are just going to relax and laugh. Come and find out what movies we are going to watch. I guarantee to will relax and have fun.

Jacque is the chairman for the month and needs someone who can do the set up and clean up for her.

The month of **February** will be chaired by Isabel Rogerson and Pat Debryn.

We are still looking for someone to be the moderator for this year. I am definitely having surgery this year on both my back and foot, so will be out for a while.

We still need chairman for June and November meetings.



WOMEN'S RETREAT 2017

Just a reminder to all you gals out there that the Women's Retreat at Westminster Woods will be on January 20 through the 22nd. Cindy and I are going to Headstart on the 19th and we hope that we'll see a lot of you showing up on Friday! The speaker this year is Rev. Amy Seymour-Haney who is pastor of the Windsor church. If you remember, our women came back from retreat last year excited and enthusiastic about their experience and the speaker....well, same speaker this year! Those of us who weren't able to go last year are very lucky that Amy will be there again this year! It isn't too late to get in your reservation. The Retreat is \$170.00 which includes standard lodging and meals. Our cabin is always cozy and fun! Hope to see you there. Any questions just email me at tcandlor@comcast.net or phone me at 964-5066.

Lori

WHAT DO ELDERS DO? by Pat Long

The ten Elders of our church have been busy caring out the responsibilities of their "job" during the past year. What is their job exactly?

Our elders meet once a month to fine tune the nuts and bolts of running our church. It is an opportunity to learn about our church government in a very practical way. Elders become friends, laugh and support one another, pray and lift up each other, and reach out to the whole congregation.

Each elder serves on a committee of their choosing where problems and ideas can be brainstormed and ironed out before being voted on in session. These committees generally meet once a month or as needed. The committees include: Budget and Finance, Christian Education, Facilities, Fellowship, Worship, and Nominating.



Some examples of topics discussed at the committee level:

- >decide on the price to charge people who rent our facilities. Scout out the best person in our community for fixing a leak, performing minor carpentry, etc.
- >recommend the kind of curriculum that best serves our church school.
- >suggest activities that encourage interaction such as barbecues, shared movies, celebrations of church milestones.
- >suggest and support additional services during Advent or Lent
- >crunch money figures to see where we can expand or where we need to cut back our programs.

Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. (Presbyterian Book of Order, G-2.0301)

Thank you for your support in the past year: Sylvia Burns, Lori Cole, Sid Long, Iris Loushin, Martha Lopez, Nancy Mantel, Monte Moore, Isabel Rogerson, and Claudelle Zack.



- 3 COLLEEN CLEARY
- 7 SHELLEY TREGONING
- 9 TYLER JOHN WAYNE RHOADS
- 10 SAM FOWLER
- 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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 LYNN & MONTE ORSI - 1999



- 4 CARLETTA HOLLENBACK
- 5 CATHY HOLLENBACK
- 13 LAUREN MILLER
- 14 JASON ROSETTO
- CHUCK TELL
- 15 DAN FOWLER
- 24 JASPER ESTES
- 25 CARL FORCE

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

None

CHURCH OFFICERS ELECTED

At the Congregational Meeting after worship on Christmas Day, the following officers were elected:

ELDERS:

- MARTHA LOPEZ (re-elected 3 year term)
- SYVIA BURNS (re-elected 3 year term)
- JACQUE MOORE (elected 3 year term)
- MARCIA WILLIAMS (elected 3 year term)

DEACONS:

- JULEE ESTES (elected 3 year term)
- PAT LONG (re-elected 3 year term)
- BETTY McMILLEN (elected 3 year term)

SOME SMILES FOR THE NEW YEAR FROM MARSHA & LARRY ROBINSON..

