



NEWS & VIEWS from the Pulpit & Pews

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, CA

Cheryl Finch, Interim Pastor
 Martha Lopez, Commissioned Lay Pastor
 Sid Long, Newsletter
 Roger Thornburn, Webmaster

Pastor's column:

Wow I can't believe how the last month has flown by! Can you believe it has been a whole month since I almost fell off that cliff (well my stuff anyway) . As I adapt to my new space and place, I realize that you are getting used to me as well.

I often get asked the question, "So what is your job as an interim anyway, and why do we need one?" So other than giving you the standard, that's the way Presbyterians do things (which to me sounds a little like a cop-out) I would instead offer what I believe is at least my answer to why I choose this type of ministry and think it's important.

An interim or transitional minister comes into the life of a congregation quite simply when the pastor of a particular church is no longer serving there. This can happen for a variety of reasons, sometimes it is because there has been a tragedy, scandal or conflict and someone is needed to help the congregation work through it, heal and move forward. More often (thank goodness!) it is because of a retirement, or because the pastor moves on to the next place God is leading them. Whatever the reason though, the interim comes to help the congregation navigate through the transition from one called and installed pastor to the next.

I like to say that the interim (that's me) is here to create space. Oh sure I'm also here to help with all those pesky details like mission studies and processes for your pastoral search (we are good and in decent order Presbyterians after all) But I'm also here to be your pastor and to help you live into what some "newness" feels like. This is why I like to create space. Space to breath after the whirlwind of saying goodbye, space to grieve and heal, space to celebrate, space to dream, space to see who God is calling this particular congregation to be.

I know, I know, change is hard. There I said it and I'll say it again. Change is hard! However....change can be liberating. Change can be life-giving. Change can be transformative. And most importantly change helps us become more faithful and faith-filled followers of Christ.

As we continue forward on this journey I look forward to learning more about all your rich histories both personally and as a congregation, even as you learn more about me. My prayer is that as we journey together, we will do the hard work and in the midst of what might feel challenging at times, we will find many reasons to rejoice and celebrate.

Blessings,

Pastor Cheryl

Path to the Pastor:

I hope you noticed the new addition to the narthex on Sunday. Our “**Path to the Pastor**” board is there to help keep everyone up to date on our journey to finding the next called and installed pastor of First Fort Bragg. My hope is that it will help keep what is sometime felt to be a “secret” process a little more transparent. You will also find updates in the newsletter and on some Sunday mornings. Sometimes the ribbon will move quickly and sometimes it will seem to move more slowly but I promise you we will get there!



So where are we now on the path? The next step is to begin work on our **Mission Study**. This is a process which usually only seems to happen when a church is seeking a new pastor, but that doesn't necessarily need to be the case. A Mission Study is a wonderful opportunity for congregations to reflect on the past, take stock of the present, and dream about the future God is leading us to. For folks who like a little more detail this process involves, looking at our history, analyzing our membership and resources, looking at the demographics of our community (all of Fort Bragg), looking at our leadership and current programs, and setting some goals and objectives for the next 5-10 years.

The session will be having a retreat to get that ball rolling on May 20th where they will be planning some times for participation from the entire congregation. I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to participate, share and dream with us when these times come.

Eventually your Pastor Nominating Committee will take charge of this article but for now I will do my best to keep everyone up to date.

Remember the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Blessings, *Pastor Cheryl*



A big thank you to the following women who helped make our annual **Spring Blossom Tea** a success. We had 62 in attendance! YAY!!!

Those who hosted a table:

Marsha Robinson, Norma Cleary, Colleen Cleary, Charletta Evans, Nancy Mantel, Roen Mallory, Marsha Jeffries, Crystal Sanderson, Holly Lanigan & Lori Cole with Pat DeBruyn.

The sandwich makers:

Helen Marie Rogers
Charletta Evans
Carletta Hollenback
Nancy Mantel
Geraldine Loomis
Claudelle Zack
Nancy Jorgensen
Lori Cole

The cookie bakers:

Marsha Robinson
Colleen Cleary
Ruth Sommer
Roen Mallory
Marsha Jeffries
Holly Lanigan
Julee Estes
Lori Cole

The above were taken from the sign-up sheets so I hope I didn't miss anyone. If I did - thank you to you as well. **Lori**

SOMETIMES THE QUICKEST WAY ISN'T THE BEST WAY!

Interim Pastor Cheryl and a friend got an unusual and frustrating welcome to the Mendocino coast! As they were bringing her furnishings from Sacramento to Fort Bragg in a U-Haul trailer. The GPS indicated that the quickest way to Fort Bragg was from Highway 101 via Low Gap road. Unbeknownst to Cheryl this was after the heavy rains which had closed the road earlier. The result of following the GPS directions was that their U-Haul trailer slid off the narrow, unpaved road and required a tow truck to pull the trailer back onto the road.





"I can't believe I ate the whole pineapple!" Pat said dolefully.
 "I dropped the toothpaste," Tom said crestfallen.
 "We don't have a homerun hitter," said the coach ruthlessly.
 "I accidentally let the lambs out of the pen," Emmitt said sheepishly.
 "I don't know what to buy at the supermarket," Jennifer said listlessly.



WHO IS A PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN!

There is a concern among many of our women as to exactly Who Is A Presbyterian Woman!!! The answer is this: Any woman who is a member or friend of our congregation! Our meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Each month has a different coordinator who plans the meeting and serves refreshments. A coordinator has a partner to help them. Each coordinator plans their meeting however they want - sometimes we have a movie, an interesting topic, a speaker about local events, etc., a Bible study, an outing. Each meeting should begin with prayer and a devotion. We have had meetings that women shared a favorite memory, a treasured item - these have been very interesting and we've learned about our friends. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please join us when we have gatherings that do not happen on a weekday. You are always welcome to share your talents with the Spring Blossom Tea, pie sale, Christmas Bazaar. So come and join us when you can and check the newsletter or church bulletin to see what events are coming. We are not a club or closed group - just women who like to get together! Hope to have you join us!!!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FOR MAY

At 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 4th the speaker will be Anna Kvinbland, Development Director at Mendocino College. She will talk about the over 250 scholarship offered by the college. Men are always welcome at our meeting.

At 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18th the speaker will be Bob Edwards, CEO of our Mendocino Coast District Hospital. We encourage men to come to hear Mr. Edwards and learn more about our district hospital!

The coordinators for May are Colleen Cleary and Charletta Evans.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FOR JUNE**NO MEETING ON JUNE 1 - INSTEAD IT WILL BE A BIRTHDAY BRUNCH ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3.**

Some women thought it would be good to have it on Saturday in order to include some of the women who work. The brunch will be at the home of Lori Cole, 33121 Little Valley Road. Just bring a small gift and don't spend over \$10. One of the most popular items a couple of years was a pair of socks from Pippi Long Stockings!. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. It has always been a fun event.

MEETING ON JUNE 15 MIGHT BE CHANGED TO THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY - IT'S THE MYSTERY TRIP AND IT DEPENDS ON WHERE WE WILL BE GOING. There will be more details later and there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

June is going to be a fun month. Coordinators are Nancy Mantel and Lori Cole.



**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING
WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO HELPED
WITH THE PETKER CHORAL
WORKSHOP:**

Continental Breakfast Crew:

Iris Loushin, Julee Estes, Marsha Robinson and Lynn Black

Lunch Crew:

Nancy Mantel, Roen Mallory, Cindy Van Wormer, Ruth Sommer

Green Salad Crew:

Nancy Mantel and Cathy Hollenback

Potato Salad: Lori Cole

Donations for the continental breakfast:

Mary Sue Rhoads, Ruth Smith, Hilary Miller, Carletta Hollenback, Marsha Robinson and Julee Estes

Sandwich Makers:

Iris Loushin, Claudelle Zack, Pat Applegate, Nancy Mantel, Helen Marie Rogers, someone from Mendocino, Lynn Black, Nancy Jorgensen, Betty McMillen and Ruth Sommer

Cookie Bakers:

Mary Sue Rhoads, Claudelle Zack, Colleen Cleary, Cindi Hood, Roen Mallory and two from Mendocino.

Donations of wine: Kathy Orsi, Hilary Miller, Cindy VanWormer and Lori Cole.

Cindy Van Wormer and Lori hosted the wine & cheese tasting event.

HEADS UP - THEY'RE COMING!!!!

The Texas 4000 will be arriving on **Tuesday, July 4**. I'm really worried about the date and wondering if there will be enough help. Nancy Mantel and I will be cooking their dinner, but we will need showers for 25 riders. Donations of bread, lunch meat, chips etc. for their lunches after they leave us. Please put this on your calendar and let me know if you'll be able to help out. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The riders are always very appreciative of what we do for them. I will send more details on email and the sign-up sheets will show what we need.

Lori



Pastor Cheryl is in the office Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Email pastor@fortbraggpresbyterian.org

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 VICKI HAUTALA
- 2 CINDI HOOD
- 3 TOM EVANS
CAROL STEELE
- 6 LYNN BLACK
- 14 JESSE VANWORMER
- 19 DUANE TELL
- 21 ELIO NELOPOVITZ
BRUCE ROGERSON
- 23 TAMI SMITH

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 8 EMMITT SANDERSON
- 10 BOB STEELE
- 11 HEATHER SMITH
- 12 HANNAH BOSMA
GINABELLE SMITH
- 14 MONTE MOORE
- 16 NANCY HERRON-PIKE
- 24 DEANNA LOWE
- 25 WES HUMECKY
- 27 CECILIA TOWNSEND
- 30 KASSI EVANS

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

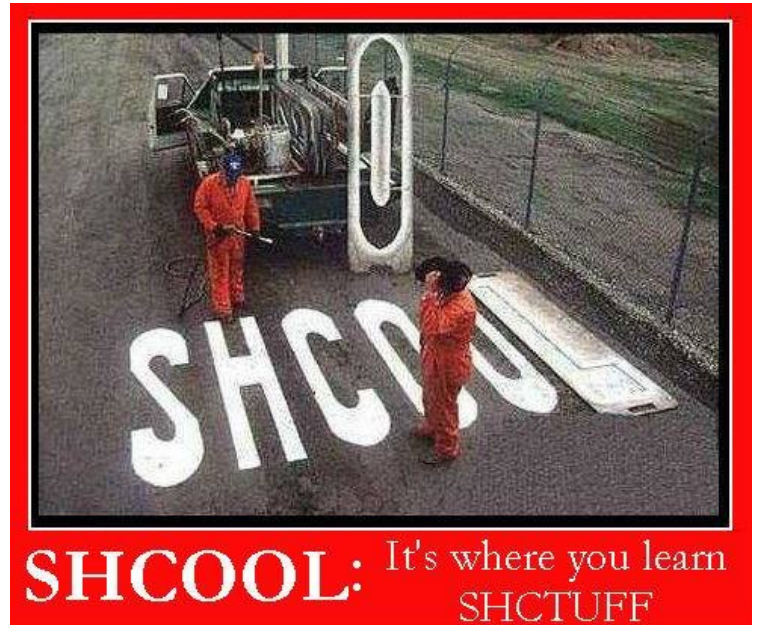
- 20 ROEN & NORMAN MALLORY - 1956
- 22 GINABELLE & JIM SMITH - 1994
- 31 JULEE & TOM ESTES -1964

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 SHANNON & ADAM VANWORMER
- 10 LINDA & ED RUNNER - 1994
- 18 YVONNE & FRANK DOBBINS -1949
HILARY & ERIC MILLER - 1989
- 20 PAULA & DAN FOWLER - 1987
- 24 MACY & KYLE NELEPOVITZ - 2006



SOME THINGS TO SMILE ABOUT



& some more



"I must make the fire hotter!" Chuck bellowed.

"You call this a musical?" asked Les miserably.

"I'll have to telegraph him again," Larry said remorsefully.

"That's the last time I pet a lion," Leo said offhandedly.

"I'll dig another ditch around the castle," Monte said remotely.

"I've lost a lot of weight," Chris expounded.

"Let's play a C, E, and G," said Tim's band, in accord.