



NEWS & VIEWS from the Pulpit & Pews

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, CA

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PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Brothers and Sisters~

Do you know what holiday Aug 28th is? Those of you who follow me on FaceBook or get emails from Starbucks you might already know. Yes it's true Aug 28th is the first official day of Pumpkin Spice Latte season! Now I know there are those of you who believe that the whole pumpkin spice thing has gone too far (except I will say the Oreos are pretty darn good) but for me that first sip is the first taste of fall. You all may recall that fall or autumn if you're more formal about it, is this interims favorite time of year. Now you might think it's because interims are all about change. While by the nature of what we do, on some level that might be true, its just a bit more complex than all that.

Change and the changing of the seasons is a necessity. Without fall there literally would be no spring. Without a chance for the earth to prepare, to rest and renew, for those fallen leaves to nourish the ground, the new plants would not grow nearly as beautiful in the spring.

I think its safe to say that 1st is going through a season of change. Hopefully it will prove to be a season of renewal, a time when we are preparing the ground for the new life to emerge. But make no mistake, this is not a passive act. It does not and will not happen by simply sitting still. It means that if this part of the body of Christ is going to grow and flourish, we need to do the work of preparing the soil to encourage the growth to come.

As we moved through the letter to the church at Ephesus these last weeks I hope we were reminded and encouraged to such a season as this. Even as we move along brick by brick we must continually remember and ask ourselves, can we see the bigger picture? Do we see only the small brick that is in front of us, or can we see the vision of the grander cathedral being built? It takes some of both, the moving along laying one brick at a time, and knowing that God has something even greater in the works, something that we are each a part of, and not only for 1st Fort Bragg, but for the entire creation. We have been given the gifts to accomplish our part, and the passions instilled in us. The question now becomes how will we commit to the action in front of us. How will we allow for others to come along with their gifts and talents and continue what we have begun?

When we made our "new creation" during worship a few weeks ago, I noticed something. There's a whole lot of the gift of L-O-V-E out there. So the question I would ask those of you lovers out there is this, how will 1st Presbyterian use it's gift of love? How will we commit to sharing and showing that love, not only to one another but outside the doors to the community in which we find ourselves and to the world? How will we share with others that God has also gathered up, made known, chosen, destined and lavished love on them as well?

For instance, are there ways we can creatively use the space the preschool once occupied to encourage, support and love the community as we have been loved by Christ? It might mean moving out of our comfort zones just a bit, but if we can remember that Christ has already done the work of "breaking down the dividing wall that separates us," we can be "strengthened in our inner being with power through the Holy Spirit". How might we truly invite others into our community, into the work we do on God's behalf? And when they show up, how can we best encourage and allow them to use the gifts and talents they offer this body? It's a risk yes, but the results just might surprise us and we might find ourselves waking up to a new spring full of abundance and beauty. It is, "for this reason I bow my knees before God...to whom by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Eph 3:20-21)

Pastor Cheryl

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST 29th:

We welcomed our newest members Eve Nighswonger and Gary Champlin to join by affirmation of faith on Sept 9th



PNC members presented our Ministry Information Form (MIF) to be “attested” by the session. Session approved the document to be submitted to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, with much thanks to the PNC.

Session set a minimum (\$53,000) and maximum (\$67,000) effective salary for the PNC to use in negotiations with potential candidates for our new pastor. Also approved funds for the PNC to use in the pastoral search (\$6000).

Approved the bid for “re-oiling” of the church \$21,000 by 5 Stars Painting to come from the Building Endowment Fund.

Extended Pastor Cheryl's interim contract for 3 more months and then month to month.

Received the annual audit report, everything was in order. Thank you auditors Claudelle and Kathy!

Next Presbytery meeting will be Sept 15th in Arcata/Bayside; Pastor Cheryl, Marcia Williams and Nancy Mantel will represent us.

Deacons decided on a new food challenge for 5th Sunday in Sept. We will be collecting items for Care Bags for folks to give to homeless folks who might need a meal.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Pastor Cheryl's August 5th sermon “Built for Ministry” based on *Ephesians 4: 1-16* is now on our church website. It cleverly includes contribution of several common carpentry tools in constructing If you missed it in person, you should take a few minutes to read it at the following website link: <http://www.fortbraggpresbyterian.org/pastor/sermons/>

ANNUAL LABOR DAY PIE SALE

Pastor Cheryl: "The first pies are out of the ovens and the church is beginning to fill with that wonderful smell,1st Presbyterian's BIG PIE SALE on Saturday morning, AUGUST 1st."





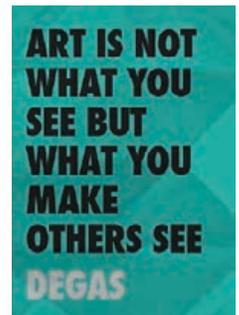
Leaf, the Safeway Flash, makes his first pie!



Larry sells the first pie to Jacob Oxte of 5 Stars Painting who will be staining the exterior of the church soon.

PRESBYTERIANS AT PLAY

Presbyterians at Play are planning an outing! On Tuesday, September 4 we are going to the Mendocino Art Center to meet Erika Island and view her artwork! Erika, who attends our church with her husband Jason and son Christopher, is an accomplished glass blower. She works at the Art Center now and we'll be able to spend some time with her. Carpool at the church at 11:30 for an interesting outing!



2... 4... 6... 8... WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?

September 23rd is **Appreciation Sunday!** So many do so much to make Sunday mornings together wonderful and worshipful on this Sunday we will celebrate it all, from the ushers to the choir, the Sunday school teachers and the counters. Everyone is important and we want to say a special 'THANK YOU!' To all.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

What happened to the flower calendar on the bulletin board? It hasn't disappeared its just in a different form. If you would like to provide flowers for worship to commemorate a special occasion or day, or maybe you just have some incredible flowers in your garden you want to share. If that is the case all you need to do is give the office a call or send Vicki an email and let her know when you'd like to bring them. Please be sure to let her know by the Wednesday before the Sunday you will bring them so that we can note the occasion in the bulletin.



IT TAKES A TEAM! from Pastor Cheryl

Worship is the work of the people and believe it or not it takes many to make worship the best it can be. It all begins with volunteers. Once we have a list of folks who are willing to help

Marcia Jeffries makes her famous "lists" and assigns folks a Sunday. The time has come for Marcia to make some new lists so now we need the volunteers.

If you can help by being an usher, greeter, coffee host(ess), or lay leader please let us know by signing the sheet on Sunday or notifying the office by Sept 9th.

Here's a short description of what each opportunity entails:

Greeter: the first face folks see when they arrive. All you need for this job is "hello" and a warm smile (and to arrive at least 20 minutes before worship.)

Usher: Ushers arrive a bit earlier than the greeters help make sure things in the pews are straightened for worship. Hand out bulletins as folks arrive, collect the offering and help pass the mic during the prayers.

Lay Leader: Help lead the liturgy in worship, like the call to worship and the prayer of confession, read scripture and help prompt the congregation. You will be given everything you need ahead of time so you can read through and ask any questions.

Coffee Host(ess): The main part of this job is to make and put out the coffee, and juice for the social time after worship. If you would like to provide some simple snacks to go along with it they are always welcome but certainly not required. Need to come early to start the coffee before worship, and help clean up after the social time. And you don't have to do this one alone as folks are always put in pairs.

Training for ushers and lay leaders will be Sept 30th following worship. All current and future ushers and lay leaders are strongly encouraged to come learn, a refresher and to help share your knowledge. Lunch will be provided following training.

PIE SALE FRUIT GLEANING



(photos by Marsha Robinson)



Hero: “A person who, in the opinion of others...is regarded as a model or ideal” — Random House Dictionary of the English Language

Session wants to acknowledge heroes and heroines of our congregation in the newsletter. Here is the latest list of four, submitted by Elder Larry Robinson:

ISABEL ROGERSON

- Serves Communion
- Writes news articles for the *Advocate-News* about our church
- Takes lots of pictures of church activities and posts them on the bulletin boards and in the church newsletter
- Creates fantastic bulletin boards
- Member of the Nominating Committee
- Lay leader, we love listening to her Scottish accent
- Elder
- Office in Presbyterian Women
- Worship Committee
- Chair of Personnel Committee



LORI COLE

- Choral Director
- Serves Communion
- Lay Leader
- PW President
- Elder
- Usher
- Prayer Chain Coordinator
- Pie Maker - Grasshopper Pie Specialist. Yum!
- Spring Blossom Tea
- Bazaar Luncheon Coordinator
- Helped design current church
- Texas 4000 Hostess
- Dances on Tables!
- Creates Food Fights

MARSHA JEFFRIES

- Head Usher
- Clerk of Session, a thankless job
- Helps at Pie Salad fruit gleaner, Money collector
- Thanksgiving and Easter Dinner helper
- Church Picture Directory coordinator
- Serves Communion
- Hostess
- Yard and building Maintenance, Jim's #1 helper
- Pastor Nominating Committee
- World Class tennis player

CHARLETTA EVANS

- Kitchen Guru
- Hostess
- Usher
- Communion Server
- Pie Sale, Fruit Gleaner, Pie Maker
- Makes beautiful prayer shawls
- Greeter
- Hostess for Spring Blossom Tea
- Bazaar - Christmas Hostess and makes beautiful afghans
- Deacon
- Officer in PW

HOT TIP: See our own Steven Worthen star in the Mendocino Theatre Company's "BECKY'S NEW CAR" with Thursday through Sunday performances at 8 p.m. before it closes on September 9th!



Presbyterian Women have been traveling on a bumpy road the last few years. We are all aging, many have medical problems or physical limitations. PW has reached a crossroad. Which way do we go? We can continue down this bumpy road until we reach a dead end. We can travel down another path, maybe a little lane that is simpler and easier to follow.

LADIES, THIS IS YOUR GROUP! There will not be a meeting on September 6. Claudelle Zack is the coordinator for the September 20 meeting. Please come and share your ideas and desire for this group Thursday, September 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Lori Cole is the coordinator for October. On October 4 we hope to have the Rotary Foreign Exchange Student as a guest speaker.

On October 18 we will host the United Christian Women's Luncheon. The host church is supposed to furnish dessert and beverages. When we check the sign-up sheet for those attending from our congregation we will decide if we want to have some of our women bring a salad instead of dessert. Last year we had way too many desserts and not enough salads. Hopefully we will have as many of our women attending as we did then - there were 22 of us....YAY!!

The 2018-2019 women's books will be out soon. Vicki is working on it.....thank you, Vicki! We appreciate you!



At the August Deacon meeting, members voted to support our Project Sanctuary Family with a gift card for shoes for the two teenage children. Have you bought shoes for teenagers lately? Your donation to the Deacons have helped support one single mom and two children at Project Sanctuary since 2006.

Your deacons try to stay connected with people in their parish, especially shut-ins who may not be able to attend worship or participate in church activities like they used to.

Please help spread some Christian cheer with a visit to someone who hasn't been able to come to church for awhile! *Pat Long*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8 PAULA FOWLER
 14 LORI COLE
 15 GERALDINE LOOMIS
 16 HENRY JOHNSON
 BOB JORGENSEN
 19 SAVANNAH HOOD
 20 NANCY MANTEL
 21 BRUCE PHILP
 22 ADRIANE LOWE
 RICK McMILLEN
 24 JANE ESTES
 27 SARAH PETERS
 28 EARL THOMPSON
 30 PAM JOHNSON

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 NAN HALSTEAD
 5 CINDY VANWORMER
 8 DYLAN UGULANO
 11 TIM ESTES
 14 ROEN MALLORY
 16 BETTY HELM
 20 PRINTHA WORTHEN
 30 MARSHA JEFFRIES
 31 NORMA CLEARY

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

16 SARAH & LINDY PETERS
 NANCY & BOB JORGENSEN - 1976

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

8 SHELLY & GREG TREGONING - 1994
 15 PRINTHA & STEVE WORTHEN - 2005

CHURCH WORK DAYS from Marsha & Larry Robinson

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in two August Saturday work days. We accomplished a lot. We have been working on getting the playground equipment fixed up. We high pressure washed it and are close to finishing the painting on rusty spots and the joints paint or covering is coming off in a lot of places. So it should look spiffy soon. We got all the rotten wood cleaned up from Charletta's Shed work. We have a new neighbor on the back side. He is very nice, a highway patrolman from Sacramento. Larry asked if we could trim a limb that was hanging over the fence because it was going to fall on his side. Then we were going to take the tree down because it was leaning on the fence. We came back a day later and the whole tree was down! So we got to thank him and that area is almost cleaned up. Just keep pecking away.

Beware of that shady guy on the left!



(more photos by Marsha Robinson)