



PresPress

January 2019

Presbyterian Church of Novato, 710 Wilson Ave., P.O. Box 631, Novato, CA 94948

A Brief Glimpse into the New Year – Ariel Mink

January 6 is Epiphany Sunday. The word “epiphany” (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means “appearance” or “manifestation” of God and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God’s true Light (excerpted from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship).

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16) I suspect we all think about making New Year’s resolutions – exercise more, eat more green vegetables – you know the drill. But what might it mean if we resolved to let our light shine before others? What if we focused less on trying to exercise our core muscles and more time trying to exercise our core spiritual gifts?

January 13 kicks off our next sermon series on the Gospel of John with Rev. Dr. Greg Love, focusing on the incarnation of Christ. In tandem with studying the gospel of John during worship, Greg will be teaching an 8-week class on John using a fictional book, *John, Son of Thunder* by Ellen Gunderson Traylor along with scripture. Class begins on Thursday, January 10, at 6 p.m. A light supper at

5:30 p.m. is offered to registered participants. There is still plenty of available space!

January 20 will be our annual stated congregational meeting. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. in Trevitt Hall and the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will take some time to reflect on 2018 and then look forward to 2019, a year of anticipated transition and change! As you know, the Pastor Nominating Committee has been working hard discerning God's will for our next head of staff. One of the steps in the process is that once the PNC extends a call to a pastor, that final candidate will come to PCN to preach – that date has yet to be scheduled. Immediately following that worship service (we'll have one service at 10:00 a.m.), a special congregational meeting will be called to vote yes or no to approve the PNC's recommendation. The stated annual meeting and the special congregational meeting are NOT the same meeting. As a reminder, only members of the Presbyterian Church of Novato have "privilege of vote" in congregational meetings, regardless if it is the stated annual meeting or a special meeting.

MISSION

Dear PCN family, your mission committee wants to THANK YOU for your kindness and generosity during the 2018 holiday season. Along with all the many obligations and celebrations of family and friends at the end of the year, we have asked you to think of, and give to, your neighbors whom you may never meet. The **NORTH MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES HOLIDAY SHARE PROGRAM**, the **SF/MARIN FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE**, and **PC(USA)'s CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** all offer you their deepest thanks for your support of these programs, both distant and local. Below is a photo of the NMCS volunteer coordinator, Stephanie Williams (left) and executive director, Cheryl Paddack (right).





Mission would like to thank **REGINA RUS** for her leadership in this past December's **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR**. Six charities were represented, two of them new to PCN. Four of those were represented by their own staff or volunteers. Much was learned by our congregation, and we are truly grateful for the monies donated. Amounts for each charity will be reported in the February PResPRESS (along with figures for Christmas Joy, and all other 2018 Special Offerings). More than 50 families contributed to the fair that raised \$5,761 for Homeward Bound, Heifer International, Faith in Practice, Ceres Community, Extra Food and North Marin Community Services.



NEW TO PCN: A PROGRAM FOR SAN QUENTIN INMATES

The following article is a detailed description of a wonderful program serving incarcerated men who want to work hard to make their release a successful one. Rather long, but worth the reading. The website address and phone number are at the end of the article.

California Reentry Institute (CRI) 2018 Update



"Preparing men for, and supporting them through, the transition from incarceration to freedom, assisting them in being contributing members of society. Proving that with preparation and support, the cycle of incarceration can be broken."

On Friday, September 7th we graduated our 3rd Class at San Quentin State Prison. That means that:

112 men have completed our CRI program
47 out of 47 have successfully transitioned to society
5 coming home within 60 days
60 more graduates are ready to join them

What does that mean to society at large?

If you take our success rate, 47 out of 47 of our men currently are productive, tax-paying, contributing members of society. Not only is that proving that change can happen, but it also makes society safer. The financial benefit to us, as taxpayers, is a cost savings of \$75,000* per man per year.

That translates to a total savings of \$3,525,000.00 per year!

* "It costs us about \$33,000 a year (nationally) to lock somebody up. In California it costs about \$75,000 a year." (US Senator Kamala Harris)

Why are we so successful?

In truth, it is because the men in our program work incredibly hard for more than 24 months. They spend every Saturday working the program. Our curriculum is proving over and over that it is totally transformative. We are seeing firsthand the evolution from anger and giving up on life to self-forgiveness, empathy for those they hurt, and even happiness in prison.

What are we doing?

Empowered Reentry Program (ERP). Crime Impact Awareness Program (CIAP)

Pre-Release:

(CRI) **Empowered Reentry Program** is an 18-24 month to the gate program, a program that has an intensive curriculum covering subjects such as emotions (which includes abandonment, PTSD, anger, denial, grief & loss, guilt & shame, emotional intelligence and baggage, stress, forgiveness & contentment), criminal and addictive thinking, trauma, personal empowerment, support, education, employment, finances, technology, relationships, and freedom, then what? We also offer ongoing monthly alumni workshops as well as individual workshops on more specific topics. CRI's model is designed so that through learning, discussion, feeling, and sharing our participants can understand the core issues of their emotional disconnection.

Our **Crime Impact Awareness Program (CIAP)** is an approximately six-month program that starts upon the completion of the emotions and trauma section of our curriculum. This program consists of Victim/Survivor and Family of Incarcerated panels, large and small group discussions, and homework assignments. With the

goal and objective to assist our participants who have learned about their past, have begun to understand the causative factors of why they did what they did, have learned about their lives, abandonment, denial, anger, guilt and shame, trauma and emotional issues to further understand the impact of their crime(s). At this point we feel they are open enough to feel and internalize the impact of their crime(s) on their victims, survivors, family, society at large, and themselves and to understand that their victim'(s) life was forever impacted/changed.

Our entire CRI program is designed to assist our participants gain a better understanding of who they are, where they have been, and where they are going; to provide tools to help identify weaknesses, work on change, develop strengths, and prepare for life on the outside; and to empower men to succeed by helping them develop long-term goals and a road map to achievement.

"I came to CRI a man lost, having no understanding of feelings, emotions, not knowing the meaning of empathy. Not caring about anyone or anything. I now realize how lost I was, because a man that has given up on life has nothing to offer. I have gone through this program, I am now full of life. The 40 years I have been incarcerated is not a waste. I want nothing more than to have the opportunity to give back what has been given to me." Arthur - graduate of the Class of 2016, paroled December 2017, and current resident at Roland's House.

"CRI has opened my mind, eyes and heart to a lot of the problems that have plagued my life with misery. That I had no idea where the anger and hate was coming from. It also gave me great tools to battle the beliefs that I used for survival as a child that now just hinder my growth. Thank you to all of the facilitators for sharing their life lessons with me, I've grown a lot from them. Thank You." B. Fowler, Class of 2018

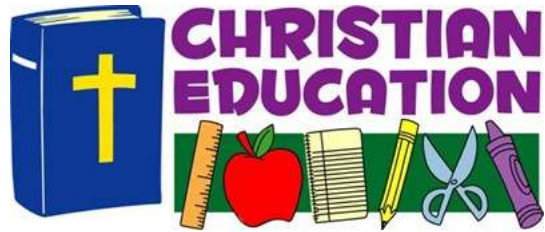
Post-Release: Upon release we are there for the men of CRI who have worked so hard and graduated from our program. A volunteer is at the prison gate to greet our newly released graduate. We provide the basic needs that are vital to their successful reentry. These include clothing, linens, food, a prepaid cell phone (for communication with their parole officer as well as family), a backpack, and bag for their belongings and much more. We work with each man assisting him in getting all the documentation he needs, obtaining employment, health care, transportation, and any and all assistance that he may need. Our alumni also step up and assist the newest member of the CRI group in reestablishing himself in society.

What's next?

50 men will start our program at San Quentin in November of this year (sadly leaving 150 on the waitlist)

Now that we have proven that our program works, we are in serious talks to expand our program to two more California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Facilities. This means many more men changed and making society even safer through their hard work and dedication to change. This also means more Roland's Houses and more men encouraged to continue their education with assistance from our Pat & Patti White Scholarship Fund.

For more details check out our website at www.californiareentryinstitute.org or call 925-549-1416



The Christian Education Committee would like to thank the many volunteers who put on the **children's Christmas Pageant**. Sydney Fletcher's direction, Sally Carbonaro's organizing of all members, and the musicians, audio/visual techs, dressing room attendants, parents, and last but not least **THE CHILDREN!!** This pageant is anticipated by the congregation more than you know! It was a terrific success. Below are just a few of the many photos taken that morning.





Kudos, too, to Program and Fellowship elder Michelle Berlin and her elves for the wonderful **post-pageant Family Christmas**. Christmas cards and ornaments were hand-made for loved ones, and healthy snacks kept the kids (at least theoretically) from eating the cookies they were decorating (nevertheless, a very popular activity!). Below are some photos of the PCN family of all ages who enjoyed the event.





A MATTER OF BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Fall-Prevention Class at PCN

More than 200 Marin County residents have completed the fall-prevention program, *"A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls"* since it started being offered at PCN in 2016. A new PCN class has been scheduled in 2019 – here's your opportunity to join us!

During the eight-session course participants gain:

- Safe and simple exercises to promote strength, flexibility and balance
- Problem-solving strategies to address habits and behaviors
- Safety-promotion lifestyle strategies
- Ways to create a safe home environment ... and more!

Each of the eight sessions lasts two hours and is FREE!

Register now – space is limited.

Class location: Christensen Room at PCN

Dates: Wednesdays beginning January 30 from 1 to 3 p.m.

To register, or for more information, please contact: **Beverly Winsor, A Matter of Balance Master Trainer 415- 99FALLS (415-993-2557)** or email injuryprevention@maringeneral.org.



Mission Committee Local Volunteer Opportunities

Snack Sacks: Help prepare the food bags between services every Sunday and deliver the sacks to the Marin Mobile Showers in Hamilton on Monday mornings. Contact Regina Rus at (415) 897-7384 or email reginabrus@gmail.com.

Lynwood Reading Program: Spend one hour weekly listening to students read at Lynwood Elementary School. Contact Art Plumstead at (415) 892-4063.

ExtraFood.org: Spend one hour weekly picking up extra food from a restaurant or grocery store and delivering to a non-profit serving food to those in need. There will be an orientation, date TBD, and a driver's license check is required. Contact Jane Sime at (415) 892-5259.



The Pastor Nominating Committee has completed its neutral pulpit weekends and is now discerning and seeking God's guidance to choose a candidate it feels will be the best fit for PCN. Once the PNC enters into and concludes the process of negotiating the terms of call, it will present the decision to Session and schedule the date for a candidacy sermon to the congregation. Following that there will be a vote to accept the terms of call.

Thank you for your prayers and for your patience and trust in this committee. Please continue praying for our congregation and candidates and for opening your heart to embrace and welcome a new pastor to PCN.



Session

Session Highlights November & December 2018

At the November 28, 2018 Session meeting:

- Session welcomed Elder and Deacon candidates. Session voted to call a Congregational Meeting on Dec. 9, 2018 for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons. Session voted to install newly elected Elders and Deacons at both worship services on Dec. 16, 2018.
- Session voted to approve a special offering for fire relief efforts and victims' needs. Donations will be sent to the Sacramento Presbytery for distribution.
- Session voted to direct \$3,000 per month as salary for David Mink, Interim Director of Youth Ministry, to the Youth Discretionary account per his request.

At the December 19, 2018 Session meeting:

- Session approved a 2019 budget of \$659,884. Budget considerations for 2019:
 - 3% will be held back to cover unforeseen expenses
 - Operating reserve funds will be used in 2019 to cover expenses, estimated to be \$35,000
 - Staff will receive salary increases
 - Two intern positions are budgeted for the entire year
 - Hospitality Closet will have a budget to replenish items used by church groups (formerly the Deacons Closet)
 - On-line giving capability for the church website as well as website enhancements are budget items
 - Budget increases for contemporary worship guest musicians, LOG, PCN Connect, and adult education programs
 - Mission giving budgeted at 25% of pledged income

Kathy Takemoto
Clerk of Session



PCN is working with Brown Church Development Group to further discern our needs, not only for our campus but also for our various ministries. Please take a few minutes to complete the Voice of the Congregation survey online by January 10 by going to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCNvoc>

If you have any questions, please contact Ariel, Tonya Church or Brad Praun. Thank you in advance for completing the survey!



The Deacons would like to express their sincere gratitude and thanks to all our Non-Deacon Angels for their unwavering help with Christian love for our PCN church family: for those who continually gave of their time to those unable to attend worship and other PCN activities: Joan Blanchard, Ellen Breazeale, Sally Carbonaro, Francie Douglass, Elaine Harris, Stephanie Monahan, Janet Morales, Lori Pas, Sandy Peterson, Marilyn Pfeffer, Kay Walker, Nellie Wannenmacher, Jay and Maureen Wayne and Shirley Witt.

We have been blessed with drivers for our members to church, medical appointments and shopping trips by:
Bill Bradfield, Sandi Class, Dick Crocker, Sue Dishart, Becky Erba, Ann Glazner, Doug Paff, Gail Penfield and Don Taylor.

In addition, the Reception Committee cherishes the gifts of Ron Hune, Rick and Priscilla Rudy and Kay and Bill Walker, who through the kindness of their hearts came with extra hands to help.

As always, the Deacons are grateful and humbled by the overwhelming generosity of financial support and continued food for our receptions. Together we serve, and you make it possible for the Deacon Ministry to serve even better.

God Bless You!
The PCN Deacons



Join Daniel Henderson and Alice Moss as they lead this special prayer summit for men and women from churches all over Northern California and beyond. This is a time of refreshment, encouragement, edification and purification, perfect for every heart longing to know God more intimately. The agenda will be established by Christ as we worship, glorify, and enjoy Him through singing, Scripture reading, and prayer. It is an opportunity to seek His will for your life and really hear what He wants to say to you.

Date: Thursday, January 31 – Saturday, February 2, 2019
Register early – this summit sold out last year!

Location:

Sheraton Sonoma County
745 Baywood Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954

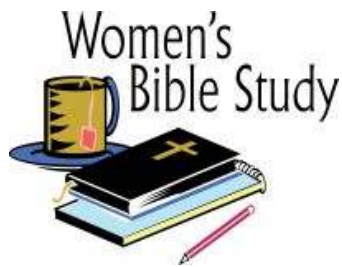
This beautiful hotel is on the Petaluma Marina adjacent to more than 300 acres of protected and evolving wetlands. Price includes resort accommodations, all summit sessions/materials, and four meals.

Cost:

Single Occupancy Room:	\$385
Double Occupancy Room:	\$297/person
Triple/Quad:	\$250/person

**Special 25% discount for senior/lead pastors and their spouses. Enter discount code SNRPSTR25 at check-out when registering.*

Contact Melodie Baird or Janis West for more information or go to: **strategicrenewal.com/events** to register online.



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Women's Bible Study will resume our study of the Gospel of Luke on **January 10, 2019**. All women are welcome to join us from **9:30 - 11 a.m.** in the **Christensen Room**. As we start the new year, we will again turn our attention to the lessons of faithful stewardship, care for a brother or sister, forgiveness, faith and humility that are all part of life in the kingdom. For example, the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus found in Chapter 16 challenges us to consider how to best to use our gifts and resources to advance God's kingdom. Won't you join us as we explore how to respond?

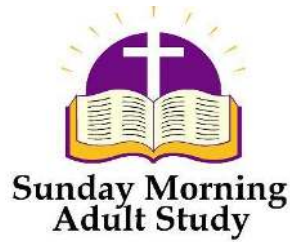
Women's Bible Study is led by Carol Dacquisto, Elaine Harris and Melodie Baird. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Carol Dacquisto: phone 415-892-2070, email dacgmom@aol.com

Elaine Harris: phone 415-382-0854, email e.harris@comcast.net

Melodie Baird phone: 415-897-7512, email melodie.l.baird@gmail.com





“GOD’S LOVE GIFT OF A CHILD”

In the Sunday morning adult Bible study, we will be starting a new unit of study. This quarter’s study begins with God’s demand for our complete and undivided love as shown in passages from Deuteronomy and Psalms, including the Shema and Joshua’s statement of love and reverence for a liberating God.

Unit 1 concludes with our response to God’s love in the birth of Christ. In Luke 2:29-35 we find Simeon’s response to seeing Jesus. It is first of all a worship hymn as he blesses God for keeping His promise and sending the Messiah. He joyfully praises God that he has been privileged to see the Lord’s Christ.

Unit 2 looks at selections from the New Testament letters on the nature and extent of our responses to God’s love in Christ. James encourages total submission to God in love, while Paul promotes selfless devotion as shown in Christ’s total submission to God in love.

Unit 3 has passages from Psalms 48, 66, and 91, expressing glory to God and praising Him for His steadfast love, mighty works of goodness, and assurance of protection for those who love Him.

We will look forward to seeing you and hope you will join us as we begin this new quarter of God’s love for His people. Join us at 9 a.m. in the library.

~Carol Dacquisto, Larry Dacquisto, and Rosie Nicholas

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP



PCN Women in Prayer

Are you looking for a quiet, supportive place to build relationships with God and other women through sharing in prayer? Women in Prayer is a small group that meets monthly to share fellowship, Bible reading, and to pray as we are led. Our next meeting will meet be **Thursday, January 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.** at the home of Melodie Baird in Novato.

We will socialize and enjoy a light soup supper before we begin our prayers. We ask that you bring your Bible and perhaps a snack to share. For driving directions, more information, or to just chat, please contact:

Janis West, 414-250-2122, janisw99@gmail.com

Melodie Baird, 415-897-7512, melodie.l.baird@gmail.com

Please RSVP if you plan to join us, which we hope you will!



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study group meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. We are studying ACTS. Join us for this one-hour mid-week boost and share great fellowship with brothers. And no homework!



If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Quilt ministry, mark your calendars for the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. You don't have to know how to quilt to participate and help!



If you would like to listen to a copy of the Sunday sermon, you don't need to request a CD. Since Sunday, October 14, they are being posted on a PODCAST at <http://www.buzzsprout.com/218646>. They are usually available by the Tuesday following the service. Thank you to Jim Rolka for making these available!

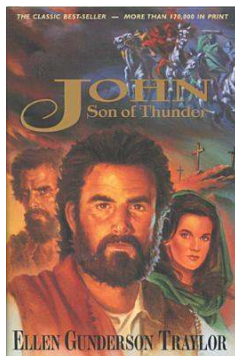


Has it ever happened to you? Someone shared a painful experience, and you were at a loss to respond with the right words. If so, then the Stephen Ministry training class could be what you need. If you ever thought about taking the training, here is your opportunity. There will be a Stephen Ministry class starting January 7th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on S. Novato Blvd. If you are interested or have questions, please call Alan Dunham at (415) 897-8886 or Kathy Botko at (415) 897-7783 or speak with any Stephen Leader.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Helping you connect with God every day. Pick up your copy on the hall table in the office.





John, Son of Thunder

Thursdays, January 10 – February 28 ☞ 6–7 p.m.
Light supper provided from 5:30–6 p.m.

Presbyterian Church of Novato
710 Wilson Avenue
Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Gregory Love
Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at
San Francisco Theological Seminary

Join us on Thursday evenings as we study the book of John. We'll be reading the historical fiction book, *John, Son of Thunder*, by Ellen Gunderson Traylor in combination with the Gospel of John. Books are available for purchase for \$30 in the church office.

John, Son of Thunder

*Registration Form: **Please Print**

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____

DayPhone _____ Phone _____

☐ Yes, I'd like to come for supper before class.

*Registration is open to all interested adults. Mail or deliver this form to the Presbyterian Church of Novato, 710 Wilson Ave. (P.O. Box 631) Novato, CA 94948, phone (415) 897-6152