



PresPress

June 2019

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

**Adam Smith
Your True Self**

“Today I understand vocation quite differently-not as a goal to be achieved but as a gift to be received. Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice “out there” calling me to become something I am not. It comes from a voice “in here” calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.” –Parker J. Palmer

“Don’t be someone you’re not,” I was once told by a good friend. I didn’t understand why that accusation hurt so much at the time, but have since come to realize the painful and yet grace-filled truth that was being spoken that day.

But before I jump into that little nugget, I have a question for you, dear saints. Have you ever wondered what is God’s call for your life? What your vocation as a disciple of Jesus Christ is all about? Have you ever found yourself sitting in your office, working out in the yard, worshipping on Sunday morning, and thought to yourself, “What am I doing here?” I’m not talking about the shallow query we might have at any given moment in our lives, but that deeper question trying to grasp at the meaning and purpose in our lives. Why am I here?

Maybe in a pursuit to answer that question you tried to live up to someone else’s expectations. Maybe you thought of the most virtuous person you knew and worked as hard as you could to live up to their values, ideals, and standards. But, in the end, found that you were trying to live somebody else’s life – someone not you.

What I discovered that day years ago, and what the author Parker J. Palmer discusses in his book, “Let Your Life Speak...” is that discovering your vocation, your call from God, is found from within, not from outside, who you were created to be. In other words, God created each of us unique, as a gift to the world. That’s right! You’re a gift to the world!! Soak that in for a minute ... it is in our uniqueness that we find our call from God; in our gifts and in our talents as well as in our weaknesses and in our faults.

Why is this important for us to realize, dear saints? Because how often do we try to search for our meaning and purpose outside of ourselves? How often do we discount ourselves as not being good enough, strong enough, gifted enough to be disciples of Jesus Christ? How often do we look at others who possess some gift or ability that we wish we had all the while ignoring our own giftedness. We discount ourselves far too often.

You see, if we assume our call comes from outside ourselves, we can work as hard as we can to live up to others’ virtuous qualities and ideals, exhaust ourselves doing so, and never live into our ‘true selves’ as we were created by God. We’d be living an unfulfilling and exhausting life.

When I was going through the ordination process, I worked as hard as I could be to be the stereotypical pastor: the reserved, thoughtful pastor; the manicured, professional-looking pastor; the boring and academic pastor. I had all kinds of mentors and teachers I wanted to try to emulate or even become. But I discovered very quickly that that was not me. I could put the mask on and wear it well, but it was never me. I could feel it in the core of my being. I was putting on a façade and trying to live someone else’s idealized life.

Where we discover our true selves, dear saints, is not in the noise of the world, and what others tell us we should be, but in the quiet time we spend with God and in seeking to understand our uniqueness. Our true selves, our soul, is that part of us that was with God before we were born in this life and is that part of us that seeks to live in harmony with God and God’s vision for the world. It desperately seeks to be with God. It can be elusive, shy even, covered up by the noise of the world and all of the outside influences that bombard us every minute of every day. But ... we can find our true selves in the silence – as we listen to God; as we remind ourselves that we are a gift to the world, worth time to seek to understand in light of God’s grace.

It's in those spiritual practices that we too often write off as a "waste of time" in today's world that we can discover our true selves ... in prayer, in Scripture, in faithful community, in Sabbath-keeping, in selfless loving. As we seek out God and better understand who we are, a picture of our unique and invaluable call begins to take shape. And when we find it, we notice, as Frederick Beuchner asserts, that it takes the shape of "the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need."

When we discover our call, life is brighter than ever before. Life becomes a wholesome act of worship that fills us up with passion, with energy, and with a never-ending sense of gratitude for what God has done, is doing, and continues to do forever and ever. Our unique story and God's story intertwine and find themselves in concert with each other, and the vibrant melodies and harmonies echo throughout creation testifying to God's everlasting goodness and love.

Do you know what God is calling you to do, dear saints? You, my friends, are a unique gift from God, and it is an honor to serve with you at the Presbyterian Church of Novato.

Ariel Mink

Pentecost is often described as the birthday of the church; this year, we celebrate Pentecost on June 9. According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost's new creation: people witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God's mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10). Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its missing as God's new people. (An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*)

As we approach Pentecost, I'd urge you to read and reflect on any one of these scriptural references to the Holy Spirit, one of the three persons of the Trinity, and how each of us are called to manifest this great gift as a witness to the world:

Over and over God says, "I have chosen [this person] ... and I have filled [them] with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge." *Exodus 31:2-3*

The Spirit of the LORD will come upon YOU in power, and you will prophesy ...; and you will be changed into a different person. *1 Samuel 10:6*

Thus says the Lord, I will give you one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh that you may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. *Ezek. 11:19-20*

Then a special person of God is chosen: "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations." *Isaiah 42:1*

The Spirit of the LORD will rest upon him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. *Isaiah 11:2*

God is spirit, and those who worship the Lord must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. *John 14:26*

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love the Lord" but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
1 Corinthians 2:9-11

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. *1 Cor. 12:12*

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. *1 Corinthians 2:12*

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? *1 Corinthians 3:16*

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. *Romans 5:5*

The mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. *Romans 8:6*

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit ... to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. *1 Cor. 12: 4, 7*

God anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. *2 Cor. 1:21-22*

The Lord has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. *2 Cor. 3:6*

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. *2 Corinthians 3:17*

God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. *2 Timothy 1:7*

Morgan Smith

Social mixer season is upon us! As you may or may not be aware, the sign-ups for social mixers have begun. Have you checked your calendars and signed up for some?

The social mixers are a wonderful thing – for everyone. It's a wonderful opportunity for you. It's a great way for you to spend an afternoon or evening, doing something that you enjoy.

It's a wonderful thing for students. Your attending a social mixer or two is a big part of what allows us to do mission trips with youth year after year!

It's a wonderful thing for our church. Social mixers help grow our community and fellowship. They allow us all to get together with a group of people from church, get to know people we might not yet know, deepen relationships with those we do know, and have an enjoyable time together as the church.

Will you join in on the fun?



PENTECOST OFFERING, SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019
WEAR RED!

PCN will take its annual Pentecost Offering on June 9th at both services.

- **25%** of the offering goes to **Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)** which trains and equips volunteers to engage in mission at more than 20 sites in the U.S. and around the world. They reduce barriers to service by providing assistance with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend.
- **25%** supports **Ministries with Youth (ages 12-18)** which funds a new Christian Formation endeavor called The Senior Project, which offers a path and plan for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation.
- **10%** supports **Child Advocacy** which supports the national initiative "Educate a Child, Transform the World" (begun in 2014). The initiative's goal is to better the lives of one million children by 2020.
- **40%** is kept in our community to support **North Marin Community Services**, whose two sites include the former Novato Youth Center and Novato Human Needs Center. Our money will be spent specifically on their food programs at the Youth Center location. NMCS provides more than 4,000 breakfasts, lunches, and snacks each year to local children. This program operates though it is underfunded, and PCN's offering will help continue this vital daily program.

Please read the following impact report to understand more fully all the great work done in our community, year in and year out.....



NMCS IMPACT REPORT

We are grateful to The Presbyterian Church of Novato, for its loyal and generous support, which makes a difference to so many in our community. We are pleased to share North Marin Community Services (NMCS) most recent Impact Report with you. Thank you.



Key Impacts NMCS made in North Marin last year:

- Prevented hunger and food insecurity for 1,183 people.
- Prevented homelessness for 152 families.
- Brought holiday magic, toys, food, books and heart-felt joy to 415 children.
- Helped 233 children cope with depression and other issues by providing 3,438 free mental health counseling sessions to youth in need.
- Worked intensively with 40 families to help prevent further incidence of child abuse.
- Provided quality childcare to low-income families at a reduced cost, or with a full scholarship (119 children served).
- Served 45,000 balanced, nutritious meals to ensure kids' minds, bodies and souls were nourished for optimal growth and learning.
- Engaged 250 volunteers to contribute 10,000 hours of their time to help others!



Many of those we have served now donate to this work. Their stories of triumph fuel their desire to give back and help others facing difficult times. Additionally, many of our youth program graduates now contribute to the success and pride of Novato, including our own Mayor, Eric Lucan, who participated in our Indoor Youth Soccer Program.



North Marin Community Services (NMCS) proudly serves 5,500 people in our community each year. This work was seeded 46 years ago through the creation of Novato Human Needs Center and Novato Youth Center (originally Novato Boys Club).



We are expanding! Yes, we will be serving 60 Snack Sacks beginning June 2nd! The need is great and PCN is able to meet the challenge.

There will be some adjustments to the program:

> PCN will begin to fund all the cost of the program (no more donated bagels and fruit starting in June), but we hope that one volunteer a week can still provide homemade cookies. It's a nice and loving touch. This funding is thanks to an estate gift to the church for mission projects like this.

> The nonperishables will find a place to be stored at PCN so that a new position, Sunday Leader and Helper, can retrieve 60 of the peanut butters, granola and breakfast bars, plus the 60 lunch bags that will be stored at church.

> A weekly shopper will purchase the perishables –bagels, bananas and fruit – and bring to church on Sunday.

Thank you for your support of this program. There are hardly any open spots from week to week.

We will be adding to our snack sack army soon. I will do a Moment for Mission on June 9, and on May 26 there might be someone at a table between services along with the Mill Street group. Feel free to invite your friends to help us out!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4EACA82EA46-pcnsnack>

Many thanks,
Regina

2019 Domestic Mission

The Carr Fire burned 229,651 acres (359 square miles) in Shasta and Trinity counties starting on July 23, 2018. The fire started when a flat tire on a vehicle caused the rim to strike the asphalt creating a spark that set off the fire. Fed by strong winds, the fire jumped the Sacramento River, making its way into Redding. More than 38,000 people were evacuated, 1,077 homes were destroyed and eight people, died including three firefighters.

2019 Volunteer Teams

Volunteer teams will travel to Redding October 18-25, 2019 to rebuild lives working with ***Hope City Response Network***, the same group we were with in Middletown the past three years. Individuals or groups may participate for the entire two weeks or just either the first or second week. There is a one-time fee of \$50 to cover team expenses. Transportation will be by personal vehicles and carpooling can be arranged.

Where Will We Stay?

Simpson Bible University has set aside a group of unoccupied student dorm rooms for our use. Each room accommodates four people in single (non-bunk) beds with one shared bathroom (cost per week per person is \$100). Three meals a day are provided by our team at one of the local churches (\$50 per week.) RV parking is being arranged (\$225 per week) or local motels are plentiful starting at \$60 per night.

Who can come?

Anyone over age 16 (youth 12 and older may work if accompanied by a parent). If you know the difference between a hammer and a potato peeler we have work for you. You do not have to have any particular skills, but there are some tasks in any construction project that may be strenuous or require specialized skills. The majority of tasks can be accomplished by anyone. Usually jobs are reduced to manageable tasks and good instruction is provided.

History

Photos of past trips may be viewed on the First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa website: www.fumcsantarosa.org. Open the website home page and type "VIM" in the search box.

Join your PCN team for this exciting "hands-on" ministry

Additional Information

There are sign up forms and brochures available in the church office or contact:

Bill Walker (H) 415-883-5780 (C) 415-726-6733 walkerb1959@gmail.com





If you're interested in an international mission trip, here's your chance! Come join our team in building a family home, serving a community and enjoying fellowship with others doing God's work.

Our 2019 mission trip is now taking sign-ups between services. The trip is scheduled for October 16-19, and anyone ages 6 and older is invited to attend. If you are interested in taking a medical, dental or optical team there is a clinic facility on site.

Sign-up deadline is June 30th. Contact Becky Praun at (415) 472-1733 or beckypraun@yahoo.com for more information.



The Deacons' blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, June 2 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Trevitt Hall. You can sign up between services or contact Becky Praun, PCN's blood drive coordinator at 472-1733 or beckypraun@yahoo.com.



Thank you to all the "PCN Chefs" for your loving and delicious meals for Kai Lancaster and Ralph and Lisa Shanks these past seven weeks: Audrey Boland, Sandi Class, Annie Clausen, Becky Erba, Ann Eshoff, Carolyn Gerrans, Bekah Harmon, Janalee Holmes, Deanna Lutzeier, Nancy Mandell, Maureen Plumstead, Kay Walker, Bev Winsor and Lamona Wood.

God Bless you all!



PCN's Class of 2019

Madison Eshoff grew up in the Presbyterian Church of Novato. She was baptized in June of 2002 and has been an integral part of the church community ever since. She has grown in Christ over the years, regularly participating in the church's youth group, attending and leading Vacation Bible Schools and LOG retreats, working in the nursery, and traveling on mission trips. When she's not at church, she's studying hard, coaching elementary and middle school girls in volleyball and basketball, or caring for babies and toddlers at Rolling Hills' Kids Club. Madison graduated from Marin Catholic High School this May and will be attending Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington in the fall. She will be entering the School of Health Sciences, where she will be majoring in Nursing. Her dream is to become a neonatal nurse. Madison's strong faith, kind heart, infectious laugh, and desire to do the right thing will certainly serve her well.

Marilynn Hunt has been a part of the PCN family her entire life. Marilynn is graduating from the STEM program at San Marin High. In the fall she will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she will study Landscape Architecture, bringing together her love for nature and design.

Sophia Lubey graduated from St. Vincent De Paul High School on May 24th. She will be working full time again this summer for Marin Humane as an intern for their Summer Camp program for elementary school-aged children. She has been accepted at William Jessup University in Rocklin, California and will be starting this fall. Her major is psychology with a backup focus on either business or public administration. She is very happy to be moving into this new chapter of her life!

Julia Maliarik In 7th grade Julia's dear friends Sophia Lubey and Marilynn Hunt invited her to join the PCN Youth Group. She has benefited from wonderful mentoring and support at PCN and we, her parents, would like to say a special

“thank you” to David Mink. Julia will graduate from Sonoma Academy on June 7. She will be attending the University of Redlands in the fall.

Madison Roberts Some of Madison’s fondest childhood memories happened at PCN. Madison is the daughter of Joe and Michelle Roberts. She was lucky to grow up alongside Sophia, Madison E., and Marilynn and be a part of numerous congregational events: the Christmas pageant, Relay for Life, Westminster Woods, Sunday School, and VBS. In between her jobs, her favorite pastimes are traveling, scrapbooking and hanging out with friends. She attends high school at San Marin where her favorite sport is water polo. She will be graduating with honors and will be attending the University of Hawaii Manoa in the fall.



“Sit in a New Seat Sunday”

On Sunday, June 30, we are going to try a little experiment at PCN. Many parishioners tend to sit in the same seat, Sunday after Sunday. So mark your calendars for the last Sunday of the month, and sit in a new seat. Who knows? You might meet someone new, and it's always a good idea to gain a new perspective! If you need more encouragement, read the article below taken from *Kingdom in the Midst*.

FIVE PROBLEMS WITH THE “MY SEAT” PRACTICE

First, it puts others second. When we stake a claim to a particular chair or pew spot, we put ourselves before others. This is the antithesis of the Christian gospel and is not what it means to love our neighbor. If something as trivial as a church seating arrangement causes you angst, you should check your heart for idolatry.

Second, it breeds discontent—our own. We cannot be content in worship if we feel like we have been slighted by another person in “our” seat. Arriving in the auditorium to find a guest in your normal spot should bring joy! Praise to God for the opportunity to make a new relationship should fill your soul. But when petty anger and frustration fill our hearts, the opportunity for authentic worship is gone.

Third, it is a godless priority. The Bible has a couple of things to say about seating. We are encouraged to take the lesser seat when invited to a banquet. Jesus said it is better to be moved closer to the front by the host than to be moved back to make room for the luminaries. In church settings James (2:1-4) encourages us to ensure equal seating between rich and poor. No preference is to be given related to status. Seating discrimination is against the law of love. No priority is given in scripture to *a specific chair* in a worship gathering.

Fourth, it replaces humility with rights. If there is any time and place we should seek humility it is with the gathering of the saints of God. Our coming together is a

reminder how badly we need Jesus and each other. Let pride be decimated in the assembly of the saints.

“Seat claiming” is the opposite of humility. It asserts rights that God does not guarantee. It distances us from God and His mission.

Fifth, it can make other attenders ill-at-ease. No one who enters a worship service should give any thought at all as to where is the appropriate place to sit. Walking past row after row of Bibles, purses, coats, face-down bulletins, embroidered pillows, and other churchy paraphernalia, may cause one to wonder, “Is there any place I can sit without offending someone? Are guests welcome here? How do I get an assigned seat?” This is the wrong message to send in a gathering to worship Jesus.

The psalmist wrote, “I’d rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.” In keeping with that sentiment, I’d rather stand under a speaker in the lobby than offend a person who drove to our worship service seeking Jesus, because I staked a claim on a seat that belongs to God Almighty.



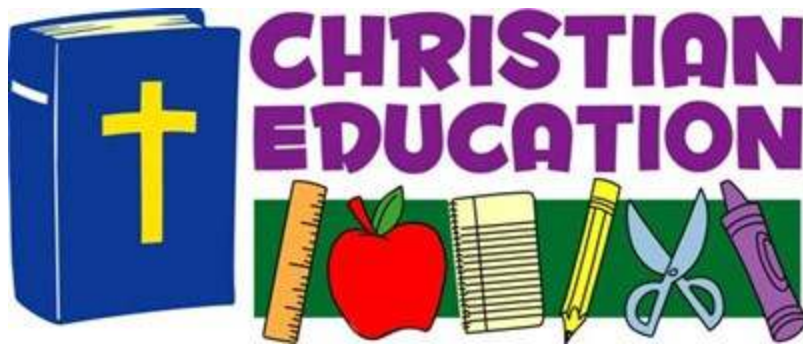


**PCN Church Family Picnic
Friday, June 21
Miwok Park**

START SUMMER OFF THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY!

Join your church family for an old-fashioned picnic at Miwok Park on Friday, June 21st from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come and go as you like, bring your own filled picnic baskets and celebrate the summer solstice and the end (hopefully) of a rainy and cold spring! We will be in picnic area #1 near the restrooms and Museum of the American Indian.

**BRING ANY FAMILY/FRIENDS YOU WANT, A LADEN PICNIC BASKET, AND
ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL WORLD GOD GAVE US**



ROAR!

Life is wild... God is good!

This year, not one, but TWO local churches are running the same ROAR Vacation Bible School as we are, during the SAME week. If you know of a child or children who would benefit from our program, please let them know about us!
Thank you! ~Your VBS oversight committee

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVATO
710 WILSON AVENUE

Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21 ~ 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Ages 3 (and potty-trained) through entering 6th grade

Middle and high school volunteer positions available –
get those community service hours!

\$50 child/\$70 family

To register or volunteer, go to www.pcnovato.org and register online
or download a hard copy

Questions? Contact Carolyn Gerrans at 415-897-1504 or grace624@comcast.net



Fifth-graders Lily Devol, Annelyse McMickin, Becca McMickin, Kaydence Smith and Ellis Stahley took part in a promotion ceremony on Sunday, May 12 during the first service. Your PCN family wishes you all good luck in middle school!



Session

April 2019

Session welcomed Adam Smith to his first PCN Session meeting as Moderator.

Session approved the Deacons' request to post employment opportunities which may be of interest to the congregation.

Becca Lee has been hired as a youth ministry intern.

Membership & Outreach and the Property committees are working to finalize the information board which was built via an Eagle Scout project.

May 2019

Session approved a request made by Allison McIvor and Emily Gates, music directors at San Marin High School, to allow San Marin High School use of the sanctuary 2019-20 school year for non-amplified musical concerts as their performance center is being demolished and re-built. Session approved use of chairs needed for performers, the piano, organ, and sound system by a trained San Marin student. The sanctuary will be offered free of charge and the Music Boosters will be allowed to charge admission and sell refreshments outside of the sanctuary on tables provided by PCN. The dates of approved use are: 10/4/2019, 12/13/2019, 3/13/2020, and 5/15/2010. Ariel Mink will be the point of contact for the San Marin High School music department. Ms. McIvor will complete and submit the required PCN *Facility Use Agreement*.

Session adopted a documented *Budget Cycle* presented by the Finance & Administration Committee which organizes financial tasks by month for the calendar year.

Kathy Takemoto
Clerk of Session



Fall Prevention at PCN

The “A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls” fall-prevention program has proven results in reducing falls in older adults. This course is for seniors whose fear of falling limits their social and physical activity and for those who may not have fallen but want to be proactive.

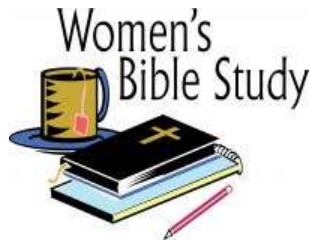
A new class has been scheduled to start on Monday, July 1 at PCN. The class will meet on Mondays and Fridays (skipping July 5) from 2 to 4 p.m. for eight sessions, ending on July 29. Please contact Beverly Winsor at 415-99FALLS (415-993-2557) or email injuryprevention@maringeneral.org.



Thank you for your generous giving and patience as we have now added online or electronic giving as a convenient option for PCN’s congregation and friends! There are two ways to access the secure giving portal: Go to our website, www.pcnovato.org and click on the “Donate Now” button or download the “Easy Tithe” app on your mobile device from the Apple or Google app stores. Look for the “EasyTithe” Finance (**not** EasyTithe Lifestyle) app, download and open, and then search for PCN at zip code 94947.

Both options have the choice to create an account and select the payment method that works best for you. By creating an account, you can also choose to make recurring donations at the frequency, amount, and type of fund that suits your needs. Leave a note in the comment field for any special giving that you want to designate. As a final note, you can also check the box that would include 2% to help with the cost of processing your donation. If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Secretary at (415) 897-6152, x204.

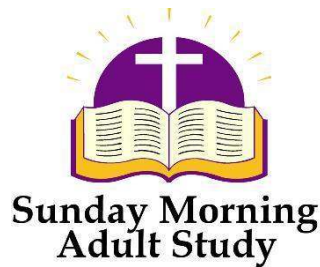
God loves a faithful and cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV). Thank you for your support and generous giving to PCN Ministries!



The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study is led by Carol Dacquisto, Elaine Harris and Melodie Baird. We celebrated the end of our 2018-2019 session with a potluck luncheon on May 2, 2019. We will return for our 2019-2020 session on Thursday, **September 12, 2019, 9:30 - 11 AM** in the Christensen Room. Please be sure to mark this date on your calendar so that you don't miss the conclusion of our study of the Gospel of Luke and the beginning of a new study of the Books of Samuel I & II. You will find a warm welcome awaits you. We hope you will relax and enjoy your summer, then come, see and learn with us in September!

If you have questions, or need more information, please contact one of our study leaders:

Carol Dacquisto	415-892-2070, dacqmom@aol.com
Elaine Harris	415-382-0854, e.harris@comcast.net
Melodie Baird	415-897-7512, melodie.l.baird@gmail.com



During the summer, the Sunday Adult Class will learn to develop a clearer understanding as to why our relationship with God through Christ is expressed as a covenant.

Let's face it: human beings have a dismal "credit rating" with God! Old Testament history illustrates that God's people defaulted on promises to their Creator time after time. How can a working relationship ever be forged between God and unreliable signatories?

The first unit of this quarter focuses on the role of Jesus as our guarantor. We come before God with a massive debt to him. A fair look at our "spiritual finances" would yield the inevitable conclusion that we have liabilities that we can never repay. But enter the guarantor!

Gathering with his disciples on the last Passover they shared, Jesus used that reminder of the past to institute a covenant for the future. His very body and blood were to clear our sin-debt, making a relationship with God possible. While we must never assume that our duty to God is trivial or nonexistent, we can know that our guarantor has done what animal sacrifices and ritual actions can never accomplish.

During the summer the Adult Sunday Class will begin on Sunday, June 23rd at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 9:30 a.m. so that everyone will have time to socialize before the start of the Sunday worship hour. Come and enjoy the amazing Bible discussion and fellowship time with good friends – there is a seat reserved just for YOU!

Grace and Peace,
Carol Dacquisto, Larry Dacquisto and Rosie Nicholas

PCN WOMEN IN PRAYER



Women in Prayer is taking a summer break. We will return to our monthly prayer time and study of Daniel Henderson's *Transforming Prayer, How Everything Changes When You Seek God's Face* in the fall. Watch for information in upcoming PresPress newsletters or the Sunday bulletin. If you would like more information, please contact Janis West at 415-250-2122 or Melodie Baird at 415-897-7512.



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/Marian Stitchers ministry, mark your calendars for the second 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. They are now 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!



Extra Food, an organization supported by PCN's Mission Committee, is hiring a part time driver to deliver food to non-profit agencies here in Marin. If interested, please contact Sophia for more information: sophia@extrafood.org

OUR DAILY BREAD

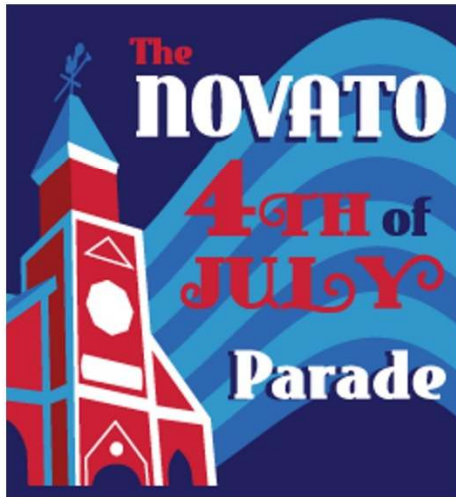
Helping you connect with God every day. Pick up your copy on the hall table in the office.





THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVATO

66th ANNUAL BUCKAROO BREAKFAST



"Out of this World !"



**Redwood Credit Union Parking Lot
Redwood and Grant, Novato**

July 4, 2019, 7:00 -10:00, Before the Parade

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Orange Juice, Coffee, Milk
FREE...SUGGESTED DONATION

Adults: \$7, Children 5-12: \$5, Free 4 and under



Rotary Books and Art Around Town

Free Art and Reading projects for the young

NET PROCEEDS TO

**NORTHMARIN
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Formerly: Novato Youth Center and Novato Human Needs Center

Guatemala Medical Mission 2019 – Part One

Vicki Martinez Blogs and photos

Guatemala Medical Mission Day 1

Travel day #1 is typically a lengthy one. Our California contingent of 7: Gloria Silva (RN translator), John Parker (retired paramedic and wheelchair assembler), Peter Gruhl (IT and pharmacy tech), Catherine Tressler and I (doctors), Patrick Tressler (retired doctor and wheelchair assembler) departed on an overnight flight via El Salvador ending in Guatemala City to meet our Houston team. We left the airport trailed by state police escorts into our home base, the Spanish colonial city of Antigua. Here the team assembled at “Casa de Fe”, similar to the Ronald McDonald houses in the US where indigent patients and their families can stay to recover from the surgeries we perform. FIP built this wonderful facility about 12 years ago, which cares for up to 100 patients recovering from recent surgeries. New team members were introduced, and Faith in Practice team leaders updated us on the state of Guatemala and its health conditions. Health care here is nonexistent for the poor, 3/4 of the country’s children are malnourished, 3/4 of the indigenous population is impoverished. Faith in Practice provides more health care to the poor than the government, which provides no social welfare services like Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. In 2018, FIP coordinated 42 village and surgical teams in two upgraded hospitals and in many rural villages: more than 25,000 patients seen, >2000 surgeries performed, >2000 dental patients, >2000 pre-cervical cancer patients treated with cryotherapy, and 1000 custom wheelchairs built for the disabled.

Early to bed tonight to be ready for tomorrow’s travel day to the highlands of Guatemala.



Guatemala Medical Mission Day 2

The team travels from Antigua to the highlands of Guatemala where we will be staying in the city of Quezaltenango and traveling each day to the villages where we will be holding our clinics in school classrooms with the assistance of our wonderful Guatemalan volunteers. After 4 hours of travel, we arrived in Totonicopan where we spent about 2 hours setting up equipment,

organizing rooms for the providers. 97 % of the region is made up of indigenous Mayans of which there are 22 distinctly separate types. Most speak Ki'che, no relation to Spanish, although many of the younger people speak both languages. By the time we finish, our team is prepared to see the 500+ patients that we expect to see tomorrow. Prayers for a successful mission! There are 67 people on our team from all over the US, with many from Houston. Many of us have gone on multiple missions with this team, and it is wonderful to reconnect with old friends. The team is amazingly efficient and can organize quickly in the seeming chaos of setup.



Pharmacy setup

Guatemala Medical Mission Day 3

"How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because, someday in life you will have been all of these." -George Washington Carver

At last! First clinic day in the village of Totonicopan, west central Guatemala. We are at 8,200 feet and it is quite chilly at night and the first part of the day. The region grows corn, beans, and potatoes and raises sheep. The people produce pottery, leather goods, wooden textiles and furniture.

As our buses pulled up to the school where we are holding clinic, hundreds of Ki'che families were waiting. Most travel by foot or bus, some have traveled quite far and surely have been up in the cold since the wee hours of the morning. Our wonderful Guatemalan volunteers, identified by their red baseball caps, were busy organizing the patients in lines. Before they get into the triage area, with few exceptions all patients are dewormed with a drug called albendazole. I usually take one when I get home to avoid unwanted travelers! Most patients we see have no potable water or flush toilets and few have electricity. It is amazing what we take for granted in the US. Worms are rampant in the third world, causing malnutrition and cognitive delays in children and chronic abdominal pain in most. We know with regular deworming that children grow taller and smarter.

Nearly all women wear Guipels (pronounce wee-pel), beautiful handwoven blouses with embroidery whose designs signify their local village. When asked, they tell us it took 2-4 months to weave. I doubt if they have many changes of clothing and they are wearing their best. Beneath, they smell of soot since most have to cook indoors with wood, causing asthma and chronic lung conditions. Their health is deeply affected by lack of fresh water and inability to bathe regularly.

Our medical clinic hummed along all day with a never-ending supply of people. We had 6 medical doctors and a physicians' assistant in 2 rooms, more than usual. Most patients we saw today had chronic conditions such as gastritis, abdominal pain, generalized headaches, back pain and muscle aches. They work hard in difficult conditions and have no work laws to keep them safe. We were well prepared with plenty of medications, doctors and support staff today. My most memorable patient today was an 80-year-old man who still labored in the fields with a chief complaint of back pain. Amazingly, he sat up straight as an arrow and was sharp as a tack!



Look for Part Two of Vicki's blog about her medical mission trip in the July/August edition.

moments & memories

(Third in a series of stories about PCN by long-time member Tali Sundberg)

Are you comfortable as you sit in our padded pews each Sunday? When we first moved to Wilson Avenue, we met for services in Trevitt Hall, where we now have coffee after church in the winter. Our pews were simply squared off wooden pews, hardly comfortable for any period of sitting.

One Sunday, having endured the discomfort just long enough, Dorothy Ballard, beloved wife of the retired pastor who often helped us, stood up at the end of the service and asked for our attention. She pointed out how we “felt” and said that she had measured all the pews, had priced material, and had determined how much it would cost to make cushions for all the pews. In addition, she had determined how much it would cost for each “bottom” to be comfortable. I know that she had permission from the powers that be to do this: she had the offering plates passed a second time, requesting that each family determine what it would cost for their family to sit in comfort on Sunday and to put that amount, or a pledge for that amount, in the collection plate. The plates were passed, the service ended, the “sitting” collection was counted and enough had been collected or pledged to make us all comfortable. What a relief.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:00 Mar Lancaster memorial
2 8:00 Blood drive 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 11:00 VBS crew leader training 12:00 M&O 4:30 Youth Group	3 9:00 Morning Prayer	4 8:00 Stephen Leaders 2:00 PW Coordinating Team	5 7:30am Men's Group 5:30 Mission Cmte. 6:30 Worship Cmte. 7:00 CE Committee	6 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal	7	8
9 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 12:30 Middle school pool party 1:30 Creekwood 3:00 High school pool party	10 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:30 Finance Cmte.	11 6:30 Personnel Cmte.	12 7:30am Men's Group 10:30 Prayer Quilters/ Marian Stitchers 6:30 Deacons	13 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal	14	15
16 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary/ SEEker Sunday 10:30 Traditional 4:30 Youth Group	17 9:00 Morning Prayer 2:00 Mill St. meal p/u ←	18 7:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision ←	19 7:30am Men's Group 6:00 Session dinner 6:30 Session meeting ← VBS →	20 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal →	21 5:00 Mingling Singles Pizza Night → 	22
23 8:30 Adult Bible Study 10:00 One service - contemporary 4:30 Youth Group	24 9:00 Morning Prayer	25	26 7:30am Men's Group	27 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal	28	29 11:00 Jim Nye memorial
30 8:30 Adult Bible Study 10:00 One service - traditional 11:30 Inquirer's Class 4:30 Youth Group						

2019