



PresPress

October 2019

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

Shh ... Don't Talk About Money

"Don't you dare talk about money, pastor. You just get up there and preach to us about Jesus." Such were the words reverberating in the church board room one Monday evening. The pastor, a bit in shock, didn't speak at first, but slowly regained her composure. "You got it, Bob."

Sunday came around. Bulletins were handed out to the congregation. The sermon title was in large, bold font: "Jesus Talked About Money: Why Don't We?"

Eleven of Jesus' forty parables talk about money. That's more than a quarter of the parables that Jesus shared. And you have to wonder: "Why?" Why is money so important to the message that Jesus was trying to share with his followers? One reason is that the way we use our money reflects what is central to our lives, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mat. 6:21).

One temptation we often face in life is divorcing our spiritual life from our worldly life. We like to compartmentalize these parts of ourselves as if they can be easily separated. But Jesus isn't interested in only part of us, but in all of us. Jesus is after our whole selves, all of who we are and were created to be. He is not after lip service or a shadow of our true selves. We see this reflected in the gospel of Matthew: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Matthew 15:8). All of life is about discipleship. It is about following after Jesus.

It's amazing how our bank statements can reveal our hearts: our priorities, what we value in life, what we worship and serve. Perhaps that's why money was on the short list of Jesus' top teaching illustrations. Not only does it have a way of becoming an idol in and of itself (Matthew 6:24), but how we use it reflects who or what we truly worship and serve in our lives.

The thing is, our money is really a gift from God. Like all that is good in this life, our treasure comes from the Author of Life who has knit together every part of creation, every part of you, and me, and all of humanity. Who we are and what we have is because of the one who loves us so much that in spite of our blunders, mistakes, and sin, God seeks to give us new life yesterday, today, and forever.

So why are we afraid to talk about money in the church? Is it because we don't want anyone to tell us what to do with MY money...oops...I mean...God's gift to me to be used in my life of faithful discipleship?

As God "Builds for the Future" in our midst at PCN, we partner with God utilizing all the gifts and resources that God has given us including our money, not because we have to, or because some church leader says so, or because we're being good philanthropists, but for two life-giving reasons: 1) because all that we are and all that we have is a gift from God, and 2) because it is who we are in Christ. We are created to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. We give, because Christ first gave and continues to give to us.

What we give matters. An amazing thing to me is that in spite of our brokenness, God chooses us to partner with Christ in "building for the future..." in hastening the day of the fulfillment of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. With the Holy Spirit in the lead, we are the Body of Christ through whom Jesus is changing the world as we are good stewards of our gifts, talents, resources, and, yes, our money.

As we move toward Consecration Sunday on October 20th, a day where we make a covenant in our financial stewardship for the year, I invite you to take some time to pray about how God is calling you to be good stewards of your gifts. Financial stewardship should not be a burden we bear, but a joy in giving in the name of Jesus Christ in whom we have life.

On the 20th, we are blessed that the Rev. Dale Flowers from First Presbyterian Church in Santa Rosa will be leading worship and proclaiming the Word with us in our one blended worship service for the day at 10 a.m. It will be a day of celebration and joy, my friends! Come and see that the Lord is good! Let us covenant together to give of ourselves as we build for the future with Christ.

With Humility & Peace,

Adam and the Stewardship Committee

Ariel Mink

Autumn is my favorite season of the year, and dawn is my favorite time of day. I often am in my home office in the early morning and am grateful for the opportunity to see the darkness transition into the light – it's the promise of a new day. As we consider how we are building for our future, individually and corporately, each new day gives us the opportunity to make new choices and assessments about how to spend our time, our talent, and our treasure. Here are just a few immediate examples of ways to invest:

- Seekers has officially launched. We have new children and families coming to PCN to participate. This inter-generational program is a wonderful way to connect and build relationships not only with children and adults, but also with Christ as we engage in worship, in fellowship, in study, and in play! Talk to Sally if you'd like to be involved.
- Rev. Dr. Greg Love will be teaching an Adult Education class on Ephesians on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Christensen room. Classes will be held on October 3 and 10 and then October 31 to November 21. A light supper will be available from 5:30 to 6 p.m. You can be fed physically as well as spiritually as you grow in Christian maturity. If you are able to help with dinners, please see Ariel.
- Consecration Sunday is on October 20. Rev. Dale Flowers will be preaching. This is an opportunity to prayerfully consider your estimate of giving for 2020. Brunch will be served from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. and then our one-service worship will begin at 10:00 a.m.

There are myriad ways to be involved and invested at PCN.

Morgan Smith

Describing what they learned from the mission trip this past summer, one student, Madison Eshoff, said this, "Before I began the mission trip to Santa Rosa, I had several expectations that I...was being called to change lives on this trip; however, one thing that I learned was that I didn't need those expectations to still make a difference. When each person's little acts of service and compassion are added together, collectively, they can have a significant impact on a community. God provided every human being with their own gifts and talents so that each person is able to serve others in different ways, and in turn, serve the Lord."

Each person has unique gifts and talents, and we are able to serve in important and varying ways. *Together*, we can make a significant impact on the church and community if every person is using their gifts for the glory of Christ in serving the church.

Imagine, though, for a moment, if some parts of your body weren't acting as if they were a part of your body. Imagine if your foot refused to be involved in the life of your body; if it wouldn't be involved in what it was designed for. It would just be dragged along, contributing nothing to the body, and actually would be hindering the body from walking as it should! How much better could the body move if the leg, and every body part, was moving and functioning as it was intended?

We all have a part to play in building the future here at PCN! We have *differing* gifts but, as Madison said, *collectively* we can have a significant impact in our church and in our world.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:17, "If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?"

The fact that we have differing gifts is important. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If you do, how can you use those to bless this church and glorify God in the world? If you don't know your spiritual gifts, perhaps consider taking a Spiritual Gifts Test, many of which can be found online, or consider asking those close to you where they see you as especially gifted.

We are "the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). In 1 Corinthians 13, after having just talked about spiritual gifts and the body, Paul focuses on the importance of love, and how that is most valuable of all. In 1 Corinthians 14:1 Paul says to, "[p]ursue love and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts." Pursue love! And desire the possession, use, and growth of spiritual gifts. Why? As Paul states many times in that chapter it is for the "building up of the church." Your gifts are to be used in building up the church!

God created us differently, uniquely, and we are united in Christ, as one body! Sometimes our body functions better, sometimes it functions worse; sometimes our body seems healthy, sometimes sick; sometimes there is unity in our body, sometimes great disfunction and conflict. *How can you personally help the health of our body, as we move towards the future where God is leading us?*



THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH

FOR YOUR SERVICE AT GILEAD HOUSE

Garrick & Sandy Fong
Craig & Michelle Lubey

Loree Draeger
Don Erba

Doug Sides
Walt Campbell

Peter, Katrece & Ryan Hunt

Though the tasks needed were not what we had expected, EVERY volunteer rose to the task, even staying late to finish up the job. "It's not about what we expect, it's about what's needed," was heard more than once, and your mission committee and PCN congregation is very grateful for your flexibility, good cheer, and perseverance. A few photos....



Our painting guru, Don Erba



Doug Sides: Never stopping, always smiling



Loree Draeger exchanging tips with program manager, Carly Hoy



Walt Campbell, clean-up king

PEACE and GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

PEACE IS ACTIVE, NOT PASSIVE; PEACE IS DOING, NOT WAITING

Forty percent of our peacemaking offering goes to Matthew 25 Ministries International, Inc., led by Jeff Pinar, which serves the poor, orphans and prisoners in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Jeff will be speaking and sharing about how we can bring peace and make it happen now at both services on October 6th.



Following the second service, 'take a ride to and through Juarez' with Jeff at a PCN-sponsored luncheon!

The remaining 60% of our peacemaking offering goes to mid-council efforts to join with other congregations in our area, and to peace and reconciliation efforts done by Presbyterians around the globe.

Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

*Thank you for your participation in the
Peace & Global Witness Offering!!*



Juarez Mission Team

Thank you, PCN family, for your prayers in fielding our mission team. We have enough people signed up to build a house for a very lucky family and provide community outreach with a local partnering church. Our current challenge is to help stock the Missions Ministries Juarez Compound Pharmacy with OTCs (over-the-counter medications). If you are able and led to help out, your UNOPENED donations can be brought to the church office before Friday, October 11th.

Items needed:

Children's ibuprofen and Tylenol	Children's cold/cough suspensions
Children's vitamins	Children's loratadine and cetirizine
Adult ibuprofen, Tylenol and naproxen	Adult cold/cough suspensions
Adult and prenatal vitamins	Adult loratadine and cetirizine
Omeprazole (e.g. Prilosec)	Ranitidine (e.g. Zantac)
7-day vaginal antifungal treatments	Nasal saline spray
Triple antibiotic ointment	Antifungal cream
Muscle rub cream	Hydrocortisone cream
TrueTrack brand blood glucose test strips	

Many thanks in advance. As always, your prayers are appreciated.

Blessings,
Becky Praun and Jennifer Praun
Juarez Team Co-Leaders



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

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

MILL STREET HOMELESS CENTER

Mill Street Center in San Rafael is Marin County's only night-to-night emergency shelter for 60 homeless individuals. To support this mission, a network of community churches participates in a monthly rotation to provide dinner every day. This significant gift has endured for more than 25 years.

Our church is a vital contributor, and we rely on our volunteers as a collective body to provide nutritious, home-cooked meals on the third Monday of each month. We appreciate your support and will ensure your contributions are delivered to the shelter on time. Together we serve 720 meals each year, and we thank you for your support of this important mission!

If you would like to contribute, please contact:

Patty Reed (415.699.5246) pdreed@sbcglobal.net or

Annie Clausen (415.892.4127) annieclausen62@gmail.com.

You can also sign up directly to provide food through www.signupgenius.com. It's easy and fun! Click on "find a Sign Up" and enter Patty's email (shown above) to locate our Mill Street sign-up sheet.

Monetary donations are welcome too! If you would like to contribute, please write a check to Presbyterian Church of Novato, marked "Mill Street" in the memo line. Drop off your check at the church office or mail it to Presbyterian Church of Novato, P.O. Box 631, Novato, CA 94948.

Thank you kindly,

Patty Reed and Annie Clausen



Mill Street Center

California Reentry Institute (CRI)'s Mission

Preparing men for and supporting them through 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.



The Problem:

112,741 men in state prison in CA (CDCR Report midnight 7/17/19)

CDCR's annual budget is \$12.6 Billion (CDCR Budget Fiscal Year 2019-2020)

Cost to incarcerate an inmate \$81,203 (Legislative Analyst's Office 2018-2019)

2018 - 53,089 inmates released (CDCR monthly population archives)

70.8% – 2 year re-arrest rate 2018 (Public Policy Institute of California June 2018)

CRI By the Numbers:

4th Cohort with 68 participants started February 2019 at San Quentin State Prison

180 served inside San Quentin State Prison

57 served in the community - 22 of the men at our Reentry House

0 have gone on to recidivate!



Change begins on the inside:

Empowered Reentry Program (Pre Release)

CRI is the only CDCR sanctioned seamless Pre & Post Release program currently running at San Quentin State Prison.

Our program is 18-24 months long. Classes, Processing Groups, Workshops and individual case management run weekly for a minimum of 4.5 hours.

Emotions

Tear down the emotional barriers and begin the path of recovery by addressing: Emotional Intelligence, Guilt & Shame, Criminal and Addictive Thinking, Trauma and much more.

Crime Impact Awareness

Through Victim Panels and loved ones of formerly incarcerated, plus six-months of intensive curriculum on the realities of Crimes of all types, in-depth discussion and homework on participants life, choices and decisions. We assist in understanding the causative factors of their crimes and the pain and suffering that they caused.

Life Skills & Case Management

Curriculum on Relationships; Education; Occupation; Finances; Technology; and Freedom Then What (realities of parole).

This is supplemented with Individual Case Management and creating a roadmap to a successful life.

And lasts a lifetime:

Post Release Program

Resources for Success: CRI greets our graduates at the gate upon release with a bag full of necessities such as a prepaid cellphone, bedding, clothing, wallet, toiletries, groceries and more. We provide assistance with obtaining all important documentation to start their new life.

Create Stability: CRI Understands that having a safe, stable place to return is of the utmost importance. Named after the founder's late husband, we offer our graduates free rent at Roland's House in Concord, CA upon release.

Support and Self Sufficiency: CRI assists graduates with obtaining employment, education and medical and parole needs. Following an individualized Service Plan we also help them establish a bank account, benefits and healthcare, etc.

Accounting for recidivism rates (70.8% vs 0%) CRI has saved the State (and taxpayers):

\$3,219,537 per year

The benefits go beyond the dollar bill: Our clients have become leaders of change in the prison and contribute economically, socially, and philanthropically to the betterment of their communities across California!



September 18, 2019

YAV Update – Sierra Mink

I must begin with some sad news: Unfortunately, a week into the program, one of the three other BFJYAVs decided to leave. This was one of those times where I was struck by God's promise to turn all things to good. It would have been difficult to live with someone who was not as committed to the program and because she left so early, the three of us remaining have been able to reform as a stronger community. I am constantly amazed by how this small tragedy has been turned over and over again into a blessing.

This month I have been getting my feet wet with the different placements as well as with the programmatic demands of being a BFJYAV. I am at Eliot Presbyterian Church in Lowell every Sunday and Wednesday and work for the church remotely on Monday. My duties at the church include teaching Sunday School for the middle school-aged students; assisting in the teaching of the Confirmation Class; taking an active part in the Outreach Committee; leading the Youth Committee; and researching drop-in nursing ministry to get a program up and running at Eliot's coffee hour before church.

I have been loving getting to know the kids and community of Eliot Pres. I have been welcomed with such kindness that my feeling of belonging to this call to service has not been swayed, and I look forward to the many things God will do for me through others and for others through me. I also anticipate looking back on these first few weeks and seeing how God has been working long before I set foot in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Every Tuesday and Thursday I work at Living Waters a Center for Hope. This center is in a time of transition. Its mission is to help those who not only need the help but *want* the help. While breakfast is open to everyone, the workshops and services offered after 10 a.m. are for folks who are committed to bettering themselves. Beginning in October, the Living Waters staff and volunteers will be cracking down on this to be truly intentional about who and how they are aiding others. For more information about Living Waters, check out their website (<https://www.livingwaterslowell.org/>). I am also doing an in-depth reflection on my blog (<https://sierramink-bfjyav.weebly.com/>) about the different services offered at the center.

The Boston Food Justice YAV Program is, of course, focused on food justice. We have been challenged to get ourselves onto SNAP (Supplemental Nutritious Assistance Program) and to buy food as local as possible. This challenge does not begin with looking for and buying food, though that is absolutely part of it. We must first jump through bureaucratic hoops and rigamarole to even be considered for the program. I will be writing another blog post to go up after I finish the series on Living Waters about my experience with the process. Finally, I will end this month with another big thank you to everyone who has and continues to support me. I have truly felt like a place was prepared for me here at Eliot and Living Waters, and I have the prayers of you all and God's fulfillment of those prayers to thank for such an amazing beginning to my Young Adult Volunteer year.



Read to a Child

LYNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL READING PROGRAM

Kids are funny and a joy to spend time with! Join our PCN volunteers who spend an hour a week or month (or whatever works for your schedule) to read with these youngsters. Students in grades 3 through 6 could use your help. Classes start mid-September, and it's a win-win for all involved! Contact Art Plumstead at aplumstead@comcast.net or call (415) 279-9949 to check out the opportunities and learn more about this rewarding program.



PCN Snack Sacks continues to provide 60 snack bags weekly to the Downtown Streets mobile showers. We can use help each week with baking homemade cookies or just stopping by and helping us assemble the bags after the first service. If you can, please sign up on our Sign Up Genius so we know we are covered, or email Regina at reginabrus@gmail.com. The Sign Up Genius address is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4EACA82EA46-pcnsnack>.

If you are the weekly baker, please bake 60 or 120 cookies (depending on the size) and wrap in plastic for 60 units to be included in each snack sack. Please avoid peanut butter in case people have allergies. The homemade cookies are such an act of love – we appreciate the help to make this happen every week.



SEEkers meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact Sally Carbonaro at childrensministry@pcnovato.org.



Downton Abbey Fundraiser

SOCIAL MIXERS FUN

Co-hostesses Ellen Breazeale, Carolyn Gerrans and Tammi Jester want to thank everyone who supported the 2020 youth mission trip by joining us for 'high' tea and a pre-screening of Downton Abbey. It was a lovely evening for all, and all for a worthy cause! *We wish our youth mission trippers a bon voyage next year!*

Our special thanks go to Charles Lee for his delicious home-baked scones, Lily Gerrans for her beautiful flower arrangements, and to Don Erba and Bill Walker for hoisting all those chairs and tables from room to room!





PCN Campus Development Q&A

Q: How did PCN get connected with Brown Consulting Group?

A: In the mid-2000's, a group was formed to study the feasibility of either renovating the CE building or building a new fellowship hall. With the economic downturn in 2008, discussion of a construction project was tabled. In 2017, a new group was formed with that same initial question top of mind, which ultimately led to soliciting bids from different firms to assess the cost of a new fellowship hall, repair of the CE building, and additional campus improvements. Three bidders presented, and the contract was awarded to Brown Church Development Group (<https://www.churchdevelopment.net/>). Their consulting framework begins with ministry development, which may or may not include physical campus development.

Q: What is Brown CDG doing for PCN?

A: Brown CDG's first deliverable to PCN was a study that identified factors limiting PCN's growth as well as identifying strengths of our ministry, with the goal of shaping our vision for the future. One of the key deliverables that Brown provides is a report called the "Growth Positioning Study" which provided PCN with several ministry action items. Another deliverable was an initial Architectural Program. The primary purpose of the Architectural Program was to assist PCN in assessing the feasibility of expanding and remodeling our facility.

Q: How are we paying for all of this?

A: The GPS was funded using the interest income generated within our endowment accounts. The Architectural Programming was funded through our Property Reserves.

Q: What are the recommended ministry action items?

A: Three key action items were identified: 1) Through an iterative process, involving a lot of feedback from our congregation, a mission and values statement will be drafted and presented to Session and to the congregation for review and approval; 2) our website will be overhauled; 3) communications within PCN will be more streamlined and accessible regarding all that we are doing regarding this

work. To that end, three subcommittees were commissioned to focus on each of these areas. If you are interested in becoming more involved in any of these areas, you would be most welcome! See Adam or Ariel.

Q: What are some of the recommended physical design elements?

A: Addressing traffic flow in and out of our parking lot as well as having sufficient parking that is safe and accessible; updating the landscaping to create natural “zones;” updating the CE building (repurposing/relocating classroom space, restroom renovations, improved signage, increasing accessibility); creating new relational space, potentially including a multi-use room, modular meeting rooms, a larger capacity kitchen, and designating areas that are child/youth focused.

Q: Do we have actual designs for all of that?

A: No, we do not. We have some conceptual diagrams only based on our expressed design goals: to be able to accommodate increased capacity for church gatherings; to create warm, accessible, comfortable and inviting spaces for all ages in order to worship, to learn, to play, and to have fellowship; to improve our “curb appeal;” to showcase our various ministries; to update and improve our technology; and to be well-positioned while we are Building for the Future.

Q: How would we be able to pay for all of that?

A: There are many possible avenues to pursue: embarking on a capital campaign, taking out loans, utilizing estate gifts, etc. Our Finance, Endowment, and Stewardship members are committed to studying these options (and more!) in depth. If you have an interest in creating a bequest or establishing a memorial gift, please contact the Stewardship and Endowment committees.

Q: What if I have more questions?

A: Please ask them. Adam and Ariel would be delighted to talk with you. We also have a number of people on the implementation team who are each working on the various sub-committees: Sally Carbonaro, Tonya Church, Diane Combs, Bekah Harmon, Tali Sundberg, and Bill Walker.



Notes from your Stewardship Elder

During the four years I have been Stewardship Elder, I have gone to the Bible many times for Scripture that would help me and my family, and also my church family, understand our responsibilities for stewardship while here on earth. I think the apostle Paul, blessed by the Holy Spirit, said it best in one of his letters to the Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 9:7-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”^[a]

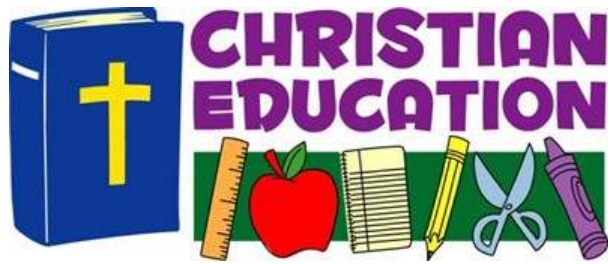
As our pastors Adam and Ariel mentioned in their PresPress articles and sermons over the last month, our PCN focus going forward is “Building for the Future.” Challenging and exciting times are in store for our church as we look at how we can continue to grow and improve our ministries and church facilities to serve our congregation and our community, and to attract and welcome new families into our church family. This will take all of us, sharing our God-given time, talent and financial gifts.

Henry Ward Beecher, a 19th century Congregationalist clergyman, social reformer, and speaker, known for his support of the abolition of slavery and his emphasis on God's love, said it best: “If you want your neighbor to know what Christ will do for him, let the neighbor see what Christ has done for you.”

I know many of you attended our Ministry Fair on September 8th and signed up to share your time and talents in the different ministry opportunities serving our church and community. On October 20th, we will have a chance to offer and bless our financial gifts (Estimate of Giving for the 2020 budget) to our church during our Consecration Sunday service, preceded by a brunch at 8:45 a.m. hosted by the Fellowship and Stewardship committees. Hope to see you all there!

Together we serve Christ in everything we do,

Brad Praun
Stewardship Elder



Welcome back to graded level Sunday School.

As we transition from one service during the summer, to two services during the school year (9:00 and 10:30), we welcome our children back to Sunday School at the 9:00 hour. (Nursery care is provided at both services.) Caring, dedicated teaching volunteers are on hand every Sunday to spread our faith to our youngest ones in a fun and loving way. Please join us.

(In case you don't recognize them below...this is "Ruth" and "Boaz" celebrating God's blessings with their new baby boy!)





Sanctuary Flowers

The Deacons would like to thank our hardworking PCN staff and 'anonymous friends' who have provided the lovely flowers in the sanctuary from time to time. How thoughtful and appreciative are we!!

Bless you,
PCN Deacons

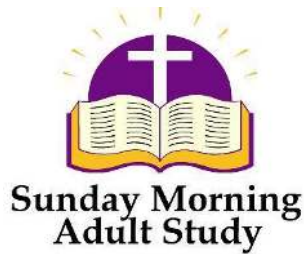
Meal Train for Jane Flower

A BIG thank you to the following who provided meals and visits for Jane and Wayne during Jane's foot-surgery recovery: Annie Clausen, Janalee Holmes, Shirley Shanahan and Kay Walker. You're all angels!!



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I am writing to say THANK YOU so very much for the coordination of the meal train while I have been recovering from surgery. Each meal was so delicious, but most of all I so enjoyed visiting with each person that delivered a meal to our home. I truly am humbled by the outpouring of love and support that was given to me by you all and the PCN family. I am happy to say that my recovery is coming right along, and I am almost fully mobile again, beginning physical therapy, and looking forward to being able to walk with Pilaf again at full speed, as I'm sure she is as well! God Bless. ~Jane Flower



Come and participate in the lively Bible discussion that we have on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the library. We have a seat just for you. In October we are going to explore the many benefits we have because of God's grace through the stories of Elijah and the widow; Jesus healing the centurion's servant; and His blessing of the sinful woman.

One of our lessons is on "Obedient Faith." Despite the amazing signs and wonders, including the ten plagues and the parting the Red Sea, that God did for Israel as He delivered them from Egyptian bondage, that first generation refused to trust in the Lord and obey His commandments. They faithlessly grumbled and did not trust or appreciate God's provision for them. They resorted to idolatry at the very base of Mt. Sinai, while God was giving Moses His commandments. And ultimately, they refused to enter the Promised Land because they did not trust God's protection and presence with them. Therefore, the Lord condemned that first generation to 40 years of wilderness wandering so they would all die out, except for Joshua and Caleb, who were the only ones to give a faithful report about the land.

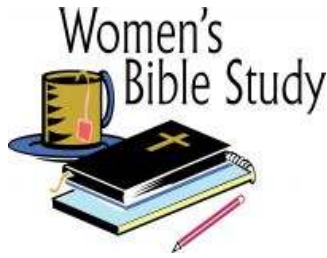
God in His infinite wisdom and love gives us standards in the Bible that will not only enhance our own living but will also enhance the community around us. Inner and outer obedience to His decrees will keep us from falling apart personally and culturally – and will reflect His glory.

How do you respond to:

- What motives do we have for obeying authority?
- Why do we choose to obey God and His Word?
- Why does God want us to obey Him?

Come and join the discussion and understand how our obedience to God and His Word reflects His glory.

Carol and Larry Dacquisto
Study Leaders



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE ❧ 1 & 2 SAMUEL

Women's Bible Study is in full swing, and we are looking forward to having you join us as we complete our studies of the Gospel of Luke and begin our study of 1 & 2 Samuel. The only cost is our study guide books and they are \$6.00 apiece for Luke and 1 & 2 Samuel (one book). Our October schedule is as follows:

Thursday, October 3, 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Christensen room

Thursday, October 10, 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Christensen room

Thursday, October 17, 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Christensen room

Thursday, October 24, 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Christensen room

Thursday, October 31, 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Christensen room

As we near the end of Luke's Gospel, we will experience how the darkness and despair of Jesus' death on the cross is overcome by the Son of God's victorious resurrection and ascension – Satan's biggest defeat! We will have opportunities to reflect and share what we believe Jesus' resurrection proves and the difference this makes in our lives today.

As we look forward to our new study we will learn that 1 and 2 Samuel is named after the person God used to establish monarchy in Israel. Samuel not only anointed both Saul and David, Israel's first two kings, but he also gave definition to the new order of God's rule over Israel. Samuel's role as God's representative in the period of Israel's history is close to that of Moses since he, more than any other person, provided for covenant continuity in the transition from the rule of the judges to that of the monarchy.

Please feel free to contact our study leaders with any questions: Carol Dacquisto 415-892-2070, Elaine Harris 415-382-0854, and Melodie Baird 415-897-7512



Do you need a compassionate friend?

Are you experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, or chronic illness? These can be devastating circumstances to face on your own. Sometimes having a friend to talk with can help, but such a trusted friend isn't always available.

This is when Stephen Ministers can help. They are trained to provide one-to-one Christian care, listening with compassion, empathy and complete confidentiality. Stephen Ministers become trusted friends you can rely upon, offering understanding and encouragement. They have a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

PCN has an active program of matching people with Stephen Minister caregivers. If you would like to find out more about caregiving relationships, please call Kathy Botko at 415-897-7783 or Alan Dunham at 415-897-8886.

Conversely, if you sense that God might be calling you to serve as a Stephen Minister and would like to find out more about training beginning in January 2020, please contact Kathy or Alan at the phone numbers listed above.



The San Marin music students would like to thank the community of the Presbyterian Church of Novato for opening its doors and arms to us this school year while our new performing arts center is under construction. While they are lifting the new walls at San Marin, we will be lifting our voices and instruments with you.

Our program is full and enriching, including classes in concert band, concert choir, jazz band, jazz ensemble, jazz choir, show choir, rock band, string orchestra, musical theater, and theater tech. Under the direction of Allison McIvor and Emily Gates, we perform approximately 35 concerts and private performances each year. Some of our students are also members of the Marin Youth Symphony Orchestra and regional honor choirs. We also participate in seven different music festivals where we are assessed by adjudicators for the quality of our sight reading and musicianship. Out in the community, you can find us performing for the Tour de Novato, the Downtown Tree Lighting, and at Atria.

We'll be performing at the Presbyterian Church of Novato on the following dates:

Friday, October 4, 7 p.m.	Back to School Concert	Concert Band, Concert Choirs, Jazz Bands, Jazz Choir, String Orchestra
Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.	Winter Classical Concert	Concert Band, Concert Choir, String Orchestra
Friday, March 13, 7 p.m.	Spring Classical Concert	Concert Band, Concert Choir, String Orchestra
Friday, May 15, 7 p.m.	Year-End Classical Concert	Concert Band, Concert Choir, String Orchestra

We hope you will be able to join us for one of our concerts! Admission is \$5.



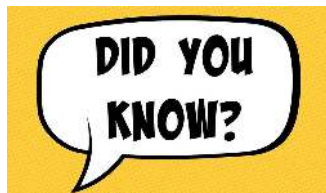
Sunday, October 20 is Consecration Sunday. Join us for brunch at 8:45 a.m., followed by ONE service at 10 a.m. The Rev. Dale Flowers, pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa, will be leading worship. This year's theme is "Building for the Future." We hope to see you!



PCN's fall Harvest Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. Sign up to bring chili, a salad and/or dessert as well as volunteering to host "trunk or treat." For more information, contact Janis West.



HELP WANTED! Audio and video enthusiasts: Ever wanted to project images on the big screens? Or run the sound board? Join the community in the AV booth on Sunday mornings. Your choice -- contemporary or traditional service. Training provided. Contact Bill Bradfield, Kevin Flynn or Lisa Shanks – you'll be glad you did!



The display box/kiosk located just outside the church office is for all of PCN to use! If you'd like to post something PCN-related here, create a flyer, print it, and ask Tammi to post it. If the event appeared as a slide during service, the office may be able to print it out for you.



Our church library is pretty full! Please contact Carol Dacquisto at (415) 892-2070 if you have a donation. She knows what books are needed and what books are not! Please don't just drop them off without checking so that Carol doesn't have to cart away unneeded books. Thank you!



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study group meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Starting September 4, we will begin a study of Revelation. Join us for this one-hour mid-week boost and share great fellowship with brothers. And no homework!



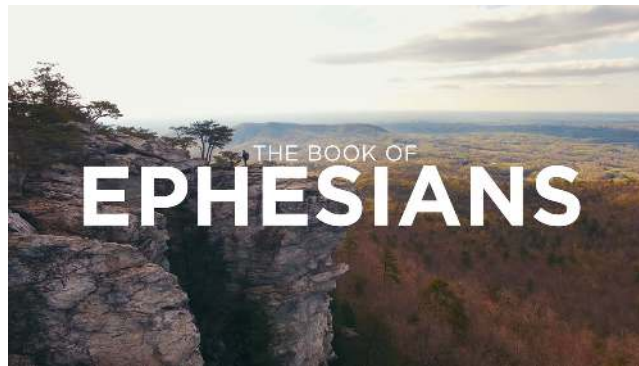
If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Quilt/Marian Stitchers ministry, mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. You don't have to know how to quilt to participate and help!



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!



Here's an important number to jot down: (415) 472-0911. This is the **non-injury** lift assist phone number from the Novato Fire Department. If you or someone you know has fallen and you can't lift him/her, the fire department will come help!



The Rev. Dr. Greg Love will be teaching a class on Ephesians beginning Thursday, October 3 and running through November 21 (no class October 17 and 24). A light supper will be offered beginning at 5:30 p.m., with the class scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m. There are no required materials. Call the office at (415) 897-6152 to register.



Please make note of the following corrections in the new directories:

Les and Tonya Church
(415) 899-1759 has been disconnected
(415) 328-6582 Les' cell phone
(415) 328-6583 Tonya's cell phone
lesliechurch@comcast.net
tonya.church@comcast.net

Exploring the Relationship Between Theology and Society

by

Ken Kapreilian (kkapre77@hotmail.com, 415-819-7180)

This class will be offered at the College of Marin, Indian Valley campus, on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Contact Ken more information.

Introduction

Before the relationship between theology and society can be explored we have to define the scope and the definitions of theology and society. Using the methodology of deconstruction we understand that theology and society can be classified into different categories. These societies are both homogenous and heterogeneous with regard to religion and then by extension theology.

Premise

Contained within both societies are institutions. These institutions include businesses, governments, educational and religious facilities, NGO's, etc. These institutions influence the media and access to technology; therefore, they can control funding. Through the use of memes they are also able to control and influence the beliefs and by extension the definition of what is considered acceptable behavior of the individual(s) within a society.

Before we can speak intelligently about this topic, the relationship between theology and society must be understood. Within a homogenous religious society, the classical definition of theology (using the Bible as the primary source) influences the society. Within a heterogeneous religious society (such as the San Francisco Bay Area) the opposite is true: the collective beliefs of society are used to influence what is considered theology.

Think of the following dialog from *Star Trek* movie, *The Wrath of Khan* (1982):

*"Logic clearly dictates that **the needs of the many** outweigh **the needs of the few.**"* Captain Kirk answers, ***"Or the one."***

Hence, when we apply that quote from *Star Trek* to a heterogeneous religious society, the duality of meaning is thus implied and understood as such.

Summary

Therefore, the previously stated premise is what will be used to define the scope and discussion(s) of this group.

moments & memories

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

Visualize, if you will, this church as it was on May 7, 1972 – 47 years ago. This building, our current sanctuary, was not even in anyone's thoughts yet. Church services were held in Trevitt Hall, and the pulpit was roughly where the choir room is now. The pews were of slightly wobbly plywood with red velvet cushions. You walked in the back door, where we now have our coffee after worship, and turned left down a single center aisle.

There was an invocation by the moderator of the mortgage-burning ceremony, Jack Hupp, followed by a prayer of joy by the current pastor, Don Rayment. Next, a small barbecue pit was ceremoniously wheeled down the aisle to the front of the sanctuary. Representatives from deacons, session, UPW, Mariners, along with Pastor Rayment and former Pastor Pete Croughan, who was pastor when the mortgage was first taken out, all gathered around the small fire pot, each with a long stick match. The paid-off mortgage was dropped into the pot, and all helped to light it formally.

After that, there were lots of activities, including a 90's choir and a cake-cutting ceremony. A good and happy time was had by all present!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 Stephen Leaders 2:00 PW Coordinating Team 5:30 SEEkers	2 7:30am Men's Group 5:30 Mission Cmte. 6:30 Worship Cmte. 7:00 CE Committee	3 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Fall class 6:00 Women's Prayer 7:00 Choir rehearsal	4	5
6 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 12:00 M&O 6:00 Combined youth groups	7 9:00 Morning Prayer	8 5:30 SEEkers 6:30 Personnel Cmte.	9 7:30am Men's Group 10:30 Prayer Quilters/ Marian Stitchers 6:30 Deacons	10 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Fall class 7:00 Choir rehearsal	11	12
13 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 6:00 Combined youth groups	14 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:30 Finance Cmte. 6:30 Program & Fellowship	15 5:30 SEEkers 7:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision	16 7:30am Men's Group 6:00 Session dinner 6:30 Session meeting	17 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal	18 6:00 Mingling Singles Pizza Night 	19
20 8:45 Brunch 10:00 Consecration Sunday - one blended service/SEEker Sunday 1:30 Creekwood 6:00 Combined youth groups	21 9:00 Morning Prayer 2:00 Mill St. meal p/u	22 5:30 SEEkers	23 7:30am Men's Group	24 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Brown Consulting Implementation Team 7:00 Choir rehearsal	25	26
27 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 4:00 Harvest Festival 6:00 Combined youth groups	28 9:00 Morning Prayer	29 5:30 SEEkers	30 7:30am Men's Group	31 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Fall class 7:00 Choir rehearsal		

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