



**PresPress**

**December 2019**

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

### **“Come and See”**

I don't know about you, dear saints, but Christmas is my favorite holiday!! On Thanksgiving Day I find myself scrolling the radio stations in the car looking for the Christmas music that begins to grace the airwaves. For me, it's a season of family and food, gifts and giving, music and celebration. But it's also like the dawning of something new, something profound, something that lightens the sky in the depths of a dark and cold winter, promising hope, renewal, and a bright tomorrow.

In the church, the anticipation of Christmas builds throughout the season of Advent as we gaze upon the horizon, hopeful, eager, waiting for the mystery that is to come. But I've never been one to simply gaze in awe sitting on my hands and knees while I wait for what I know is coming. No. And I don't think that's the message of Advent either.

Prepare. Get ready. God is about to do something new. This is the real Advent narrative. Don't keep the anticipation and hope to yourself. This new thing is for everyone! Shout it from the rooftops! Share the news with your family and friends. Invite your neighbors to “Come and See” this thing that God is up to, this light that is about to dawn, this gift that is for them just as much as it is for you.

Every Christmas my family would watch “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” There comes that point in the movie where we hear Luke 2 shared with the viewers to tell us ‘what Christmas is all about.’ Angels appear to the shepherds to announce that Jesus has been born. It was always such a memorable scene to me; the heart of the Christmas season. It's not simply an announcement, but an invitation. It's news that invites you in, says, “this is about you too,” and opens doors for communion, for unity. It's a bridge extended to the world. It's an irresistible invitation to “Come and See” this gift that is for you.

This Advent and Christmas season, I'd like to challenge you to extend the invitation of the season to your neighbors. We will be exploring the gifts of Christmas given to all people: hope, love, joy, and peace. This is a perfect time to invite your neighbors to 'come and see' what this light dawning in creation is all about.

The question is, how do you extend the invitation? Oh, I'm sure there are all sorts of well-thought out and meticulously fashioned techniques of persuasion out there...but the best invitation is the one that comes from the heart; one that shares a true desire to be in relationship with another person and that shares a passion and love for the church itself. It's less about persuasion and more about care and compassion for another person. It's about a genuine invitation to "come and see;" "come and check it out, this church that I love and that changes my life through Christ."

Perhaps just mustering up the courage to ask another person to come to church is all it takes, and then showing that you are thrilled when they do visit – maybe sitting with them, inviting them to lunch after, getting to know them better in the days to come, praying for them, following up with them in the days and weeks and months to come. Love is the heart of invitation and welcome, love that goes out of its way to share with others the message that, 'this is your home too.' 'You belong.' Here, in this community of faith, you can experience the gifts of Christmas all the time.

Blessings to you, dear saints, this Advent and Christmas season! I challenge each of you to extend an invitation to "Come and See" what's going on in our congregation to your family, friends, and neighbors as we journey together. Do so with a heart of love and grace, meeting people where they are. Who knows what God might do through you!

With Glad Tidings of Great Joy!  
Pastor Adam

## Morgan Smith

At the age of fifteen, I was a fitness guru. When I wasn't in the weight room, I was exercising and doing push-ups on my own. I was constantly creating new fitness plans. That's what I loved doing. That's what I was all about. In future years, as that slowed, what I realized is that my muscles didn't remain at the level that they had been – they started to atrophy. When I wasn't exercising, my muscles were atrophying.

Similarly, our relationship with Christ is either growing or it's atrophying – it's never staying the same.

Either Christ is at the forefront of our thoughts, or he isn't. Either Christ is becoming more the center of our lives, or he is being moved to the periphery, while something or someone else is moving towards the center.

Has your relationship with Jesus been growing recently? Has your intimacy with Him grown deeper? If not, then chances are your relationship with him has been atrophying.

If we are in a season of complacency with Christ, or in a season of half-hearted pursuit, a season of atrophy, what do we do to grow, to get back on track?

In Ephesians 3, Paul is explaining his prayer for the Ephesian church, and he is praying that “...[God] may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:15-19).

Paul's prayer is that the Christians in Ephesus would grasp the love of Christ, in a richer sense. If we are in a stale season with Christ, we need to ponder and meditate on the wonders of the Gospel.

Paul prays that they would grasp the width of the love of Christ. Do you know the breadth or width of Christ's love? What is the width of his love? We see this dimension in the book of Revelation, where the depth of Christ's love is shown to us. Revelation 5:9 says of Christ that “because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people

and nation.” The beauty of the width of the love of Christ is that Christ’s love is wide enough for every nation, wide enough for every people group, wide enough for every language and tribe. Meditate on that. This is the beauty of the width of Christ’s love.

Paul prays that the people would grasp the length of the love of Christ. Do you realize the length of Jesus’ love? Do you understand that the length of his love is from eternity to eternity? His love began before time, before anything had been made. His love will continue forever and ever. There has been no beginning to the love of Christ, and there will be no end to it. What was God doing before he created the world? 1. He was loving Himself (The Trinity) 2. He was loving his people (election). Meditating on the length of Christ’s love helps us remember that his love is always there, it always has been, and always will be. Jeremiah 31:3 reminds us that “the Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.’” Think about the beauty of the length of the love of Christ.

Paul prays that the Ephesians would grasp the height of the love of Christ. Perhaps Paul has in his mind the place, the height, to which Christ’s love will ultimately take us. That Christ died to take away our sin, to bring us to the place of union with God. We are given his righteousness; we are given his spirit; we are adopted into his family; we are given a new nature. We are brought to the place of being united with God, both now and in Heaven. This is the height of the love of Christ, rising all the way to Heaven. Think about the beauty of the height of his love.

Lastly, Paul prays that they may grasp the depth of the love of Christ. What is this depth? In the depth of the love of Christ, we see the depths to which Christ went to save us. *Read Philippians, chapter 2.* We see that Christ was, in his very nature, God. And yet did not consider that to be something to hold too tightly onto, but descended to this broken, fallen, and sinful Earth. He descended to becoming a human. He did not stop becoming what he always was (God). But he became something that he wasn’t before (a human). Not only that, but he descended further: he not only came into this world as a human, but he came into this world meagerly. He did not come as a king, but as a servant. He did not come with riches, though all the world was his, but he came in poverty. Not only that, but he willingly died. Though Christ made all things, and was ultimately over all things, he allowed himself to die for the sin of his people. He humbly came, and humbly went to the cross. Why? To save his people. He allowed people to falsely accuse him, and in humility, he did not respond. He was mocked, and ridiculed, and he

endured it all, because there was something deeper going on, there was a deeper purpose behind it all, namely *your salvation*. Christ came, and went to the cross, and he did it with joy (Hebrews 12:2) because he knew that this was necessary for you and me to be saved. That was his goal, that was his purpose, that was the depth to which his love descended. Meditate on the depth of Christ's love for you.

My prayer for you is the same: that God may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

When we realize the width, the length, the height, and the depth of the love of Christ for us, it can't lead to complacency. As we meditate on the love of God for us, may it, in turn, cause our love for Him to grow.



SF-Marin FOOD BANK HOLIDAY FOOD BARRELS are in place by the time you read this. Please bring unexpired, non-perishable foods (no glass jars) to church on Sundays, or to the office Monday through Thursday **through Advent**. If possible, focus on proteins, like canned fish, chili or stews, and nut butters. The food will go to food pantries here in Marin County. Money for turkeys is also appreciated. Bring your checks made out to "SF-Marin Food Bank" to the office.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING – will be taken at both services on Sunday, December 22nd.

**50%** of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**50%** of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



Our annual sharing tree to support North Marin Community Service's Holiday Share program is in the narthex. Please bring your donations back to the sanctuary or the church office by **Wednesday, December 11**. NMCS requests:

- New stuffed animals
- Toys for 8- to 12-year-olds
- Target gift cards (\$25 amount only) for teen gifts
- Safeway gift cards (\$25 amount only) for holiday meals

Please copy and paste the link below to sign up to help North Marin Community Services for their annual Holiday Share event. Last year a record 410 children were served at the event; this year 440 children are expected. Held at the Youth Center on Wilson Avenue, volunteers are needed for:

- Organization and set-up on Thursday, December 12 and Friday, December 13
- Face-painting, crafts, welcome and registration on the day of the event, Saturday, December 14

This is a huge event for the organization to put on and a Christmas blessing for hundreds of children. ***All volunteers are welcome. You'll never regret joining the party!***

<https://volunteersignup.org/X3EBC>



The Juarez Mission Team is back and fully recovered from our four days at Missions Ministries compound at Colonia Esperanza, Juarez. We had a very successful trip with our 11 team members. The house for our young couple – 22-year-old Jose, 19-year-old Gina and eight-month-old baby Sophia – was fulfilling beyond words.

We had the opportunity to work with the after-school program children at the compound under the leadership of Anne Rus, teaching crafting with embroidery floss, with the assistance of Jennifer Praun, Regina Rus and Becky Praun. Anne also worked with the children's English speaking as well as perfecting her own Spanish. Smiles go a long way, and they certainly did that afternoon.

The other half of our team went to the Bethel Orphanage and distributed sports equipment as well as played with the children. Sennett McMickin was the lead on getting things started, a great leader at such a young age. Spreading team spirit and sports skills were followed up by Stephanie, Kimi, and Brad Praun, Gary Pearce, Adam Smith and Abram McMickin.

We were blessed to do a 'Prayer Walk' with Pastor Francisco, Pastor Adam, Regina Rus, Gary Pearce and Becky Praun. You never know how big your heart is until the Holy Spirit flows right through you in prayer.

We all enjoyed a church service Friday evening with Pastor Francisco's congregation. A delicious and plentiful hot meal was provided under the culinary leadership of Jennifer Praun. Our whole team served the food as we, in return, were served by gracious and genuine hearts of the people.

The Juarez Mission Team would like to thank all those that donated OTC's (over-the-counter medications) to take on our recent trip in October. The Missions Ministry compound medical clinic and pharmacy are grateful beyond words.



Thank you PCN members for all your prayers, from getting our team together and keeping us safe under the wings of our Lord. We would also like to thank Adam McMickin who was so instrumental in getting all our flights handled. We look forward to another blessed trip in October 2020.

God is Good and we are humbled by our experience.

Blessings,  
Juarez Mission Team 2019





## **Our Beloved Gary Pearce Departs PCN for Irresistible Faye Crader** by Bruce Stahley

For more than 20 years Gary Pearce's son, Jordon, implored him to move to Oregon and live closer to his family. Although Gary committed to do so, he always delayed the decision until God put it into His plan. That divine plan emphatically materialized on April 20, 2019 when Gary's first granddaughter, Faye Crader, was born. It became clear that the transition time was now not only right, but absolutely mandatory! Gary is now ready to go after almost 20 years in our church family. Yes, we are saddened by his departure; however, we understand that it's the right decision and support his move to son and grandparenting happiness!

Gary came to our church in 2002 when his Novato brother became seriously ill. He came to Colorado to support him. Jim and Peggy Phelps introduced Gary to Pastor Kent Webber and PCN's welcoming church family. Gary immediately felt comfortable, cared-for and loved, deciding no negatives about joining existed. He began helping Jeanne Convis in the church office, completed handyman work projects around the church and started reaching out to help other church members with their home-maintenance and repair needs. He possesses high character with a deep sense of caring and helping and served as an Elder for one term and a Deacon for three terms. The Holy Spirit guides him and makes him the outstanding man, friend and saint that he is.

Gary departs for Oregon on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please make it a point to wish him a heartfelt farewell and extend your gratitude for what he has done to strengthen and enhance the PCN family.

Gary, dear friend, we wish you well, much happiness, and Godspeed.

*Gary's new contact info: 2604 Pimlico Terrace, West Linn, OR 97068. His phone number (415-902-5527) remains the same.*

## GIRL SCOUTS SPOOKY TEA

PCN takes great joy in extending itself out into our community. Halloween gave us another opportunity, by hosting the Novato Girl Scouts “*Spooky Tea.*”



PCN really rolled out the red carpet with *buzzards!!* to welcome us to the party!





# HARVEST FESTIVAL

Too many photos to fit into one PResPRes! A GREAT time was had by all. The following is a sampler of this intergenerational celebration.





## BUILDING OUR FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE - UPDATE

Way back in early September we, the congregation of PCN, commissioned three teams to faithful service: a mission/vision team, a communication team, and a website team. Each was tasked with a unique mission to help our church understand, articulate, and/or live into God's call for us as God 'Builds for the Future' in our midst. This is indeed important work on your behalf and requires no small amount of time and commitment, prayer, research, and a lot of listening both to God and to you, the congregation.

So you might be wondering, "Where are we in our 'Building our Foundation for the Future?'"

Your long-awaited update is here!

The **Mission/Vision Team** (Michael Winsor [moderator], Kay Walker, Don Brand, Tali Sundberg, Walt Campbell, Sally Carbonaro, and Adam Smith) was commissioned to specifically fashion PCN's Mission, Vision, and Values statements.

- This team has met, on average, every week-and-a-half since the end of August.
- We have met almost a dozen times to date.
- We have: a) poured over the 2017 PCN Mission Study, b) delved into Scripture to reflect on the heart of discipleship, c) met with small groups of the church and had one-on-one dialogue with church members, and d) listened to and prayed for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our work. We have done this to gather information about both who we are (our identity) and where God is leading us (our call).

This team, having spent two and a half months listening to God and to you, the congregation, is now beginning to fashion the rough drafts for our Mission, Vision, and Values statements.

### WHAT HAPPENS ONCE THE FIRST DRAFTS OF STATEMENTS ARE WRITTEN?

Once these statements are written, they will go to Session for discussion and eventual approval. It is our plan to share the statements with the congregation in January with plenty of time for you to read through them, ask questions, and dialogue about them before we vote to adopt them at our annual congregational meeting on January 26th.

#### Building the Foundation Timeline

Nov. – Dec.	Statements written
Dec. 17.	Session discussion
Early Jan.	Release statements to the church for dialogue.
Jan. 26	Congregational Meeting - approve statements

### WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

There are two things that you can do to help, my fellow brothers and sisters: 1) pray for the team and their work on your behalf, and 2) if you have thoughts and ideas about our call as a church or simply want more information about our process and work, please feel free to contact any of the team's

members. We would love to chat with you. This work is, after all, being done on your behalf and is always open to conversation. We know the Holy Spirit is working through each of us in this process.

#### ONCE THE STATEMENTS ARE VOTED ON AND APPROVED BY THE CONGREGATION, THEN WHAT?

Once the statements have been voted on by the congregation – statements that reflect our unique identity and call from God – then the Session will have these new tools to help us reflect on and guide our life and ministry together. These statements will help us articulate to the community who we are and what we do. We will be able to develop our website to better reflect our congregation and our mission. We will be able to better assess our facility needs and priorities. In essence, we will have a foundation, fashioned in faithful prayer and discernment, centered on Jesus Christ, on which to build with God for the future.

For some of us, this might sound a little frightening. It sounds like it might lead to some kind of ‘change’ in the long run, and change is always scary. But here’s the thing: these statements will not change who we are at PCN. They will not make us into something that we are not. These statements will succinctly reflect who we are and who God calls us to be. At times they will affirm what we’re doing. At other times, they’ll challenge us and our way of doing things. They will cause us to question ‘why’ we do certain things. They will give us direction in our life and ministry.

This really and truly is an exciting time at PCN as we continue to discern together. I am humbled to be a part of it with you and am filled with hope as I think about what God is up to in our midst; because in Christ, we know that God is always about renewal and new life!

Blessings to you all, dear saints!

With Care,  
Pastor Adam



## Balancing, Budgeting and Building for the Future – Part II

Commuting for me is almost second nature and driving well over a hundred miles a day is “normal.” The other day as I contemplated what I was going to write, I realized that I was merely “going with the flow of traffic” and several exits passed me by. I am so familiar with Interstate 80 that Costco gas stations and Starbucks are known locations no matter what direction I go. This familiarity can bring on a kind of numbness or mindlessness, as the road stretches out before me and the signs go by.

Each year the Finance and Administration Committee is challenged to create a budget that is balanced, covers all the cost increases from year to year, but still makes room for new expenses. At our last meeting we had a mission, but before we got started, we spent time reading and contemplating verses from Scripture about money, tithing and stewardship. Stewardship is not just about giving money, but also about taking special care of every dollar pledged.

We looked at most of the services we use, and then took a deep dive to uncover different aspects. These aspects were discussed so we understood the effects of the changes. I am thankful for the wisdom expressed during these conversations. You might be asking why would we do this? We want to make sure that we use the gifts you pledge on things that have added value for the ministry of PCN with a heavenward perspective. This kind of evaluation continues long after the meeting adjourns.

In our quest for balance we are learning when to move forward, how fast to move forward and the best direction to move. We asked the committees to take a deep dive into each line item, and this applied to our committee as well. As we look forward to building for the future, a stronger, leaner budget makes sure that we can support the ministries on a firm foundation without wavering in our commitment to support mission work here in Novato and beyond. Thank you for your continued generosity as we are very excited to see how God uses the gifts we give back in the upcoming year.

Tonya Church, Chair  
Finance and Administration Committee





**ADVENT ACTIVITIES** Join us on Sunday, December 8 immediately following the children's Christmas program for a variety of Advent activities in Christensen. All kids are welcome! We'll be making Christmas cards for elderly folks in Novato's local senior homes, as well as making Christmas ornaments and cookies. If you have old Christmas cards you could donate for the card-making, drop them off in the bin in the narthex or bring them to the office starting next Sunday.



**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR** Sunday, December 8 at 11 a.m. and Sunday, December 15 at 10 and 11:30 a.m. This year's participants are Homeward Bound, Heifer International, Faith in Practice, Matthew 25 Ministries, California Re-entry Institute, and North Marin Community Services.



### **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!**

It's that time of year again! Please email your annual committee report to Tammi at [pcnadmin@pcnovato.org](mailto:pcnadmin@pcnovato.org) by December 20<sup>th</sup>.





Would you like to improve your listening and relationship skills?

Would you like to help someone through a difficult time in their life?

Are you a compassionate Christian?

If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, the Stephen Ministers would love for you to become one of us! Stephen Ministry is very active in our church, with several ongoing, caring, one-on-one relationships, and we would gladly welcome your help.

Throughout all care-giving relationships, every contact and detail is kept strictly confidential – which is why you may not be very familiar with who we are. We work quietly, behind the scenes, offering compassionate Christian care for people who need someone to talk to.

Stephen Ministry is offering a 15-week training which will meet on Tuesday evenings along with a few Saturdays and one Friday evening. Classes will be taught by Stephen Leaders and professionals in related fields. We begin on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>!

For more information, please call Ruth Haas, 897-7629; Kathy Botko, 897-7783; or Jane Sime, 497-5158. We look forward to hearing from you!



Deacons would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those who assisted us with the beautiful memorial and reception for our beloved Hans Sommer. Your time and baking talents are so much appreciated. Your devotion to Hans and his family were a wonderful gift that day!

God Bless you always,  
Becky/Deacon Moderator



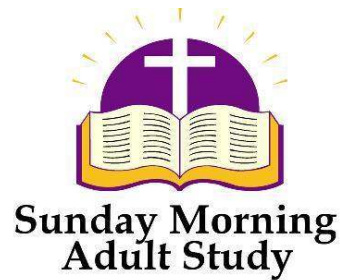
### **Treats for Coffee Hour**

Thank you, all our dear church members, for keeping the coffee-hour table filled with baked and donated goodies. The Deacons graciously request you bring your treats ready to serve and identify the use for coffee hour and who made the donation.

Your continued support in this manner is very much appreciated and always delicious!! You're all so sweet, good enough to eat!

Bless you all!

Gratefully,  
Deacon Coffee Committee



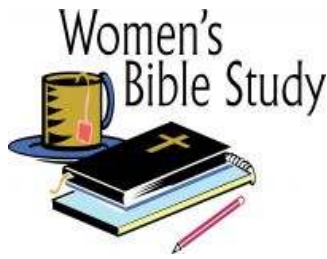
We have been looking forward to having you join us on Sunday mornings. Come and join in on the lively discussion and the time of fellowship with each other.

This quarter (December-February) explores ways of honoring God through worship. David and Solomon honored God by establishing the center of worship in Jerusalem and building the temple. Jesus taught about right attitudes that honor God through worship.

Unit 1 tells about David's bringing the ark to Jerusalem, leading the people in a psalm of thanksgiving, and planning to build a house for God, while Unit 2 explores Solomon's dedication of the temple as he provides a place for the ark, offers blessings to God for fulfilling His promise to David, and calls the people to keep God's commandments.

In Unit 3, Jesus rebukes Satan by obeying God only and talks about honoring God in almsgiving and prayer. Jesus' model prayer provides a comprehensive life approach in honoring God, and He teaches perseverance in prayer as a way to honor God.

Carol and Larry Dacquisto, Study Leaders



## **1 & 2 SAMUEL**

Women's Bible Study will wrap up its 2019 session with our traditional Christmas potluck following class on **Thursday December 5 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.** in the Christensen Room. It has been an eventful year. We completed our study of the Gospel of Luke in October and then jumped right into a study of 1 and 2 Samuel. Along the way, we participated in mission projects, including a special "thank offering", and welcomed many new members. We are thrilled that so many of you came by to visit this year and then joined our lively bible study. We thank God for the blessing each of you brings to our class.

If you are one of the many people who helped us with our mission projects in 2019 by collecting aluminum pull-tabs or product box tops, thank you so much. We collect pull-tabs year-round to help the Shriners Hospital for Children defray medical expenses, and the box-tops help support schools. You can drop these off in the library box in the church office or bring them by our Bible study on Thursdays. We'll take it from there.

We will continue our study of 1 and 2 Samuel on **January 9, 2019**, at 9:30 a.m. We welcome all women and would love to have you join us. The only cost is our study guide books and they are \$6.00 apiece. Women's Bible Study is led by Carol Dacquist, Elaine Harris and Melodie Baird.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***





*Presbyterian Women nurture their faith through prayer and Bible study, support missions of the church worldwide, and build an inclusive, caring community of women.*

**All women who attend The Presbyterian Church of Novato (PCN), please consider becoming an active member of the Presbyterian Women (PW) of PCN ... ALL ARE WELCOME (*invite a friend*)!** We currently have two active PW circles at PCN that each meet once a month in the Christensen Room:

**Ruth Circle** usually meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 2 p.m. (Glenise Johnson, leader)

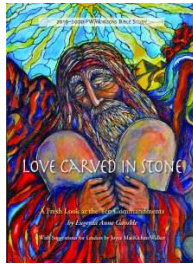
**Rachel Circle** usually meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6 p.m. (Pat Sullivan, leader)

**An important note for December:** Due to the upcoming Christmas holiday, our circle meetings will both be held the THIRD WEEK in December.

The **Ruth Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.** in the Christensen room and

The **Rachel Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** in the Christensen Room.

Books are available for our 2019-2020 Horizons Bible Study titled:  
“*LOVE CARVED IN STONE, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*,” by  
Eugenia Anne Gamble.



**I am excited about this Bible Study!** The circle meetings are all presented via a video narrated by the author of the study book, which provides a very meaningful study and discussion among us for each lesson. **Join us for the next circle meeting(s) in December ... we are saving a chair for YOU. It's never too late to join us!**

## **PCN Presbyterian Women's Mission Projects:**

- (1) Least Coin Offering:** Since 1956, Presbyterian Women have been collecting the Least Coin offering worldwide for evangelism, service, and relief projects.
- (2) Nickels For Nets:** Each month, our women donate at least \$0.05 for mosquito nets to help stamp out malaria in the world. Even the smallest donation will make a difference in the world when added together.
- (3) Birthday Offering:** Each spring, we collect at least one penny for each year of our lives. This donation also goes toward innovative mission projects in the United States and worldwide.
- (4) Thank Offering:** During the autumn months, we collect money for the Thank Offering. The Thank Offering provides food and water, alleviates homelessness, provides educational opportunities, promotes health, and improves the lives of women, children and men throughout the world in many other ways.
- (5)** Our newest project is providing baby caps and blankets to newborns.  
**ANYONE with knitting and/or crocheting skills can participate in this program.** A BIG THANK YOU to the women from PCN who have already contacted me and brought me their beautiful knitted handiwork.

**If you have any questions about Presbyterian Women, please don't hesitate to contact me:**

Glenise Johnson: home (415) 897-8759 or cell (415) 717-7635. We always welcome new women interested in becoming an active part of our circles of Presbyterian Women ... ***Come try us out!***



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!**

***Glenise Johnson, Moderator***

## *NorCal Prayer Summit*

If you would you like to connect with God in a deeper way when you pray, consider attending a Prayer Summit. An opportunity to do so is coming [January 30 through February 1, 2020](#), when Strategic Renewal will host a co-ed Prayer Summit in Yuba City, CA. This once-a-year gathering will offer men and women the chance to undergo life-changing prayer experiences in a supportive atmosphere guided by the Holy Spirit, Scripture and songs of praise.

Prayer Summits are a truly unique experience. They are often referred to as “the most New Testament prayer gathering” you can experience. Three days of no agenda other than to seek God together, through Scripture, song, and prayer. They strike a beautiful balance between corporate but still personal: spontaneous, but orderly; scriptural, but led by the Spirit. This simpler worship format has profound power to transform lives and congregations. What better way for you to contribute to PCN’s “Building for the Future.”

PCN members who have attended these summit workshops in the past can verify the profound effect of these gatherings. If you have questions, and would like to carpool, please feel free to contact Janis West, Ruth Hass, Melodie Baird and Kai Lancaster.

Visit <https://www.strategicrenewal.com/event/norcal> for information and to register.



The Property Committee extends thanks to the volunteers who gave up their mornings on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to clean the sanctuary, spread wood chips and trim trees and bushes:

Bill and Jane Bradfield  
Dick and Jo Crocker  
Larry Dacquisto  
Fred Holmes  
Ron Hune  
Jon Klinkman

Shelley Passanisi  
Gary Pearce  
Brad and Becky Praun  
Dan Rice  
David Sekiranda and friend  
Kathy Takemoto

Much appreciated,  
Elders Bill Walker and Don Erba



The San Marin Music students are getting ready to welcome in the Christmas season with strings, brass, percussion and reeds. We'll be visiting Atria, attending the Downtown Novato tree lighting and the Sacramento Jazz Festival. Most of all we are looking forward to our Winter Classical Concert on **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** here at the Presbyterian Church of Novato. We hope you will join us at **7:00 p.m.** to enjoy our string orchestra and concert band, under the direction of Allison McIvor, as well as our concert choir under the direction of Emily Gates.

We 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 are thankful to be lifting our voices and instruments with you and welcome you to attend our concerts at no charge.





**No Mingling Singles Pizza Night in December!** Our next get-together will be January 17 at 5 p.m. Hope to see you then!



### **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 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!

# moments & memories

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

*(Taken from the 1958 yearbook of the Presbyterian Women's Organization, Novato Presbyterian Church)*

## "A Convincing Translation"

There is a story told of five clergymen who were discussing the merits of the various translations of the Bible.

One said that he liked the King James Version best because of the beautiful English. Another liked the American Revised because it was more literal and comes nearer to the original Hebrew and Greek.

Still another liked Moffat's translation because of its up-to-date vocabulary. The fourth liked the Revised Standard because it is the most accurate and easiest to read and understand.

The fifth minister was silent. When asked to express his opinion, he replied, "I like my mother's translation best."

The others were surprised. They did not know that his mother had translated the Bible.

"Yes, she did," he replied. "She translated it into life and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw."



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:00 Gary Pearce farewell reception 10:30 Traditional 12:00 M&O 6:00 Combined youth groups	<b>2</b> 9:00 Morning Prayer 6:00 Mission Vision Committee	<b>3</b> 8:00 Stephen Leaders 2:00 PW Coordinating Team 5:30 SEEkers	<b>4</b> 7:30am Men's Group 5:30 Mission Cmte. 6:00 Worship Cmte. 7:00 CE Committee	<b>5</b> 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Women's Prayer 7:00 Choir rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30 Children's Christmas program Rehearsal 
<b>8</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children's Christmas program 11:00 Alternative Christmas Fair 11:00 Advent activities 11:15 Choir Christmas rehearsal 6:00 Combined youth groups	<b>9</b> 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:30 Finance Cmte. 6:30 Program & Fellowship	<b>10</b> 6:30 Personnel Cmte.	<b>11</b> 7:30am Men's Group 10:30 Prayer Quilters/ Marian Stitchers 6:30 Deacons	<b>12</b> 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Brown Consulting Implementation Team 7:00 Choir rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary/ SEEker Sunday 10:30 Traditional 10:00 Alternative Christmas Fair 11:45 Choir Christmas rehearsal 1:30 Creekwood 6:00 Youth groups	<b>16</b> 9:00 Morning Prayer 2:00 Mill St. meal p/u	<b>17</b> 2:00 Ruth Circle 6:00 Rachel Circle 7:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision	<b>18</b> 7:30am Men's Group 6:00 Session dinner 6:30 Session meeting	<b>19</b> 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 11:45 Choir Christmas rehearsal	<b>23</b> 9:00 Morning Prayer	<b>24</b> 5:00 Contemporary Christmas Eve service 7:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Traditional Christmas Eve service	<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 	<b>26</b> <i>Office closed</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional	<b>30</b> <i>Office open 9a-noon</i> 9:00 Morning Prayer	<b>31</b> <i>Office open 9a-noon</i>  <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

# 2019