



PResPRes

October 2022

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

“Let’s Talk About the Spiritual Question of Money”

What do you think about the title of this article?

Perhaps your first thought might be: “Let’s not.”

Do you know who talked a lot about money? Jesus. Yeah ... that’s right. THE Jesus. That makes money a topic impossible to ignore for us disciples. It’s not a fun conversation, but it’s an important one for many reasons.

The story of the rich young ruler comes to mind. The man asks Jesus, “What must I do to be saved?” Jesus replies, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Matthew 19)

Of course, the man can’t do it. He’s got too much to lose, too much invested in those ‘things.’ Often when Jesus speaks of money and wealth in material things, he speaks of the human tendency to worship those things. Early in Matthew’s gospel Jesus warns us of this: “You cannot serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)

We live in culture of “AFFLUENZA.” Yes, you read that correctly. Influenza we all know too well as the flu virus that is highly contagious and ravages our health, but ‘affluenza’ is a contagious infection of the heart where we lust after and worship wealth and material things. We, in our wealthy nation, know this all too well.

Jesus’ daunting statement, “Sell your possessions, give to the poor, and come and follow me,” are words that cut at my heart. I’ve heard Jesus’ reply explained by pastors and theologians alike in ways to dull its biting edge, but they never do an adequate job. The words are meant to cut: to cut through the affliction of affluenza, to tear away that which hardens our hearts and keeps us from full life in Christ.

Is how we use our wealth and money a spiritual question? Always. Money and wealth as objects of our time, energy, and focus (our worship) is a road to spiritual poverty that cannot be overcome even when we think we are ‘getting ahead’ and ‘building for our success and for our future.’

Money and wealth are gifts to be used in faithful discipleship. They are tools, not to be worshiped, but to be about the business of loving our neighbors, building up the Church, sharing the gospel, and living into the kingdom of God that is here and now.

This year we, at PCN, have decided that God’s call for us, as daunting and as challenging as it may seem, is a call to be answered and pursued. And so we are taking some risks. We are investing in a new avenue of building and growing together in authentic community through intentional Life Groups.

We are making our worship services more accessible to people who are unchurched and looking for a new community. We will be looking for a new half-time Director of Community Life to help oversee our community-building efforts. We are promoting and marketing our church and our ministry and mission activities online thanks to our Director of Communications, Sydney Fletcher.

We are creating worship themes and series that juxtapose faith with everyday life. We have enhanced our technology in our worship space to better connect to neighbors. We have hired contemporary musicians to help boost our contemporary music program and a sound engineer, Bubba Formato, to enhance all our worship audio. We have dreams of enhancing our campus to be A.D.A. accessible and to be a welcoming, inviting place for the community.

In the last six months, we have seen more than 60 new visitors and welcomed a dozen new members with many others who are prayerfully considering membership.

And in order to continue moving in this direction, to continue to live into our vision, lies the spiritual question for each of us: "How can each of us use our gifts of wealth and money to be about Jesus' work in our community of faith?"

It's not an easy question. But it's a spiritual one, and it's a hope-filled one.

You will, by now, have heard from and perhaps read articles and updates from our Finance Committee. You know both how far we have come and God's blessings that have showered upon us, but also the challenges and yet opportunities we face, too. And this is where we need each other, to lean on God together, and to pray about how each of us, and all of us together, will invest in God's future for PCN.

For me, I am excited. I have faith in the God who provides, and I know God will continue to do so into the future. We have seen such great progress and so many wonderful blessings in spite of a pandemic and its aftermath. God truly is good.

Blessings to each of you, my friends, as we think and pray about how each of us can use God's gifts of money and wealth to live into God's vision for us at PCN: to be 'a beacon of hope, reviving the world through God's love.'

With Care,
Pastor Adam



Where your treasure is, there your heart will lie also. ~Matthew 6:21

Below you will find evidence of the many places where your hearts, time and money are making a difference, both locally and abroad.



Seven PCN members toured North Marin Community Services on September 14 – three committee members (Bill Cameron, Barbara Gildea and Regina Rus) and four new church members (Diane Blalock, Sally and Jim Jacob, and Catherine Marshall-Smith). The organization has two facilities: 680 Wilson Avenue, just down the street from our church, and 1907 Novato Boulevard, where the food bank and case management are provided. Stephanie Williams of NMCS treated us to a tour of the childcare and development rooms, the kitchen that serves thousands of meals a year, the gymnasium that is used for their programming and for rent to the community, the teen room and the mental health treatment rooms upstairs. The tour ended with a presentation in CEO Cheryl Paddack's office with more information about funding and needs.

We learned that NMCS served almost 11,000 people in 2021-22. There are four main programs – Case Management, Mental Health and Wellness, Latine Services and Child Development. We saw a video about the food pantry program that serves almost 300 families a week. The food is provided by SF Marin Foodbank and is an excellent example of two organizations working together to deliver needed food and services to the people who need it most.

We heard about Alejandro, a 13-year-old NUSD student who was struggling in school with bad behavior, attendance issues, and academics. His school referred him to NMCS and through case management, the family was provided food and rental assistance because the parents were sick with Covid and could not work. Then they signed a contract to support Alejandro to remedy his situation and within months his grades improved and because of his good behavior, he was able to attend a local summer camp with financial support.

PCN has supported NMCS for years. In 2022, PCN donated \$5,500 plus special offerings like Peacemaking Sunday (October 2 this year). Please consider a gift this year to help the church continue to support this local organization that is helping those that need a hand.

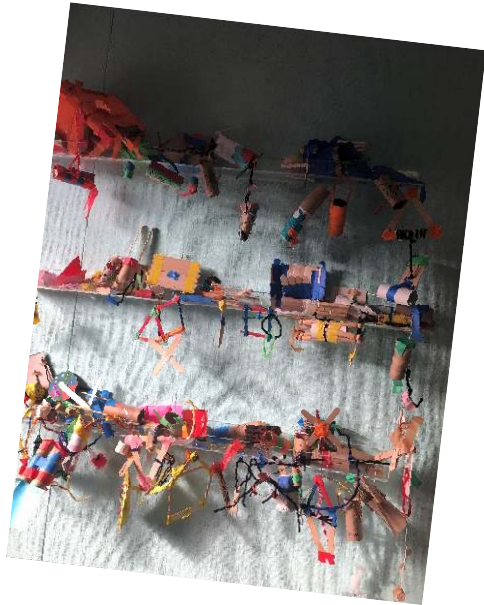
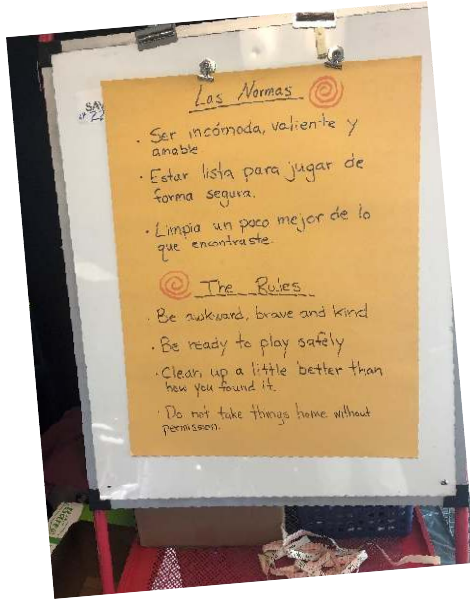
For more information about NMCS, go to its website: <https://www.northmarincs.org/> You can become a donor yourself, or find other ways to engage with this organization by volunteering at the food bank. If you know someone who needs a job, currently there are job opportunities in Child Development and Mental Health, and a Bilingual Administrative Coordinator.

If you are interested in touring or finding out more about another organization that PCN supports, please contact your Mission Elders for more information. Regina B. Rus is available at reginabus@gmail.com.



The Goodness of Pentecost Offering

Thank you, PCN congregants, for your generous giving to the Pentecost Special Offering. We collected \$2,225.00 this past June, with sixty percent going to denominational youth advocacies such as Young Adult Volunteers and the 2022 Youth Triennium. Forty percent has been given to the Marin Makerspace program at Lynwood Elementary School. Designed and led by NUSD teacher/media specialist Robin Pence, this program teaches students in all elementary levels concepts of math, science and art as they plan, create and work together to complete projects of all kinds. Photos of their creative space are below.





Thank you to the many hands that participated in the making of prayer blankets on September 17. We will have another prayer blanket-making day soon, and you are welcome to join us.

The prayer blanket program started in June of 2021, and more than 60 blankets have been given to folks needing a little love and prayers.

Thank you, Deacons and church family, for supporting this ministry.





Interested in learning about PCN? What about becoming a member? Join us on Sunday, October 2nd after worship (11:15 a.m.) for lunch and our Inquirer's class. To sign up, please use this SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054EACA92DA7F85-inquirer>

You can also sign up via the sign-up sheet in the office (during the week) or in the narthex on Sundays. We can't wait to get to know you more!

Camp Compassion

Would you like to be involved in a Novato mission project? The project is to bring coffee and visit our neighbors at Camp Compassion on Sundays after church from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a PCN local mission project that we started in the spring in conjunction with The Street Chaplaincy. We have had about 10 volunteers who have visited the camp, which has led to positive relationship-building with the community.

Camp Compassion at Lee Garner Park is a Novato City-designed fenced-in area shaded by trees with a semi-private area for tents and tables. The people who are allowed to live in this area are waiting for housing vouchers and/or have vouchers and are looking for housing. The success rate has been notable with many from the original community finding housing and moving to permanent living solutions.

Hilary Kinney is leading the Camp Compassion project and will be with the other PCN volunteer(s) Sundays. Please click on the link for the Camp Compassion SignUp Genius that has dates throughout the remainder of 2022. Camp Compassion has much gratitude for our weekly visits and appreciates our outreach of coffee and friendship. Contact Hilary Kinney with questions and further details: text 415-577-8616 or email hilarykinney@yahoo.com.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CA4A92BA13-camp>



PCN elders Walt Campbell and Ellen Breazeale will lead a “History of Christianity” video lecture and discussion group, using two sequential Great Courses lecture series on the post-Biblical history of Christianity: a) “from the disciples to the dawn of the Reformation,” and b) “from the Reformation to the megachurch.” Both courses have 36 lectures. The lecturers are Dr. Timothy Johnson of Emory University and Dr. Molly Wurthen of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, respectively.

The class format consists of watching two 30-minute lectures followed by up to 15 minutes of discussion. We expect to cover the first series in 18 weeks of Saturday morning, 90-minute (10:30 a.m. to noon) Zoom sessions beginning October 15 and finishing about March 4, 2023. We will poll participants for continuing to the second series over 18 weeks and finish about August 19, 2023. The courses are free of charge and open to non-PCN members. Register either via the PCN website or by contacting the leaders by email, text or phone at:

Ellen Breazeale, breazeales@comcast.net; (415) 892-6546
Walt Campbell, walterleecampbell@gmail.com; (415) 497-5157

Participants will receive a weekly email reminder with a Zoom link, a pdf document of relevant pages from the course study guide, and suggested discussion questions.

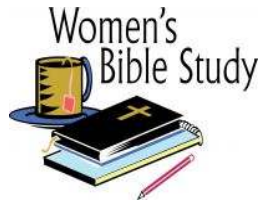
Youth Meal Train:

Summer came and went. Thank you to those who provided meals for September: David and Bekah Harmon, Bev Cobb, Pam Laidley and Deacon/Janalee Holmes.

Our church is blessed beyond measure for the time, financial support and creative meals provided to our youth and their adult counterparts.

Bless you all, again and again!!

Gratefully,
Emme Monahan/Youth Director and Becky Praun/Meal Train Coordinator



The Gospel of John

The Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday morning starting at 10 a.m. (new start time) and concludes at 11:30 a.m. We would like to extend an invitation to all ladies of the congregation to come and join us for an in-depth study of the **Gospel of John**.

The purpose of John's Gospel is stated in John 20: to bring the readers to faith, or to confirm them in faith. The Fourth Evangelist wrote for a world very different from that in which the saving events took place. The people of this new world of Jerusalem and Palestine were geographically remote, but more than that: the way of life which had been followed there sixty years earlier, and which formed the setting of the gospel narrative, belonged to a world which, they felt, had passed away forever.

The prologue to the Fourth Gospel sets forth the theme of the whole work. The narrative as a whole spells out the message of the prologue: that in the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, the glory of God was uniquely and perfectly disclosed.

Jesus gave up his home in heaven and face-to-face company with God the Father to come to this earth to show us what God is like. He traded a place where everything was perfect for one where sin and suffering were prevalent. That was a huge move for him.

Come and join us and find out in his gospel that John the Evangelist is declaring that the son of God is the Maker of all that was created. **John's Gospel is God's love letter to His people. You will want to read and learn about what is in this letter.**

Grace and Peace,
Carol Dacquisto and Margaret Franz-Costello

Please feel welcome to join us each Thursday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. *We have only one requirement - we need your email address so that we can invite you to join us at our meeting.* To be added to our Zoom contact list, email Carol Dacquisto at caroldacquisto79@gmail.com or call (415) 892-2070 for more information.

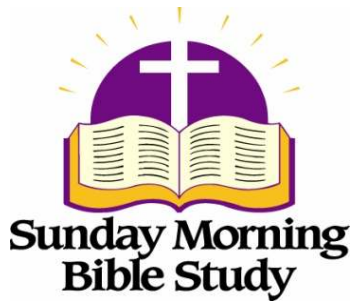
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81284025735?pwd=VTY4cWFJQWtDTlplUVE9MT0lL1dHdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8402 5735

Passcode: pcnovato

Ladies, keep this paper with the Zoom information. The meeting ID and password will remain the same for the year.



The Sunday Morning Adult Study Class meets in the church library at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 9:30 a.m. We would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy studying God's Word and become amazed what God has taught you each and every Sunday.

In the month of October, we will be looking at "***Out of Slavery to Nationhood.***" The Israelites had prospered in Egypt – at first. But 400+ years after the arrival of Jacob's family, "a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing" (Exodus 1:8) feared their growing population. This pharaoh not only enslaved the Israelites but ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill every boy they delivered.

The midwives, however, devised a plan to save the boys they delivered, claiming that the children were being born before they could even grow up (Exodus 1:17-19). Pharaoh then ordered all the newborn Hebrew boys to be thrown into the Nile River to be drowned (v. 22). This put Moses' mother in a difficult situation. If she kept her son, he – and likely she – would be found and killed by Egyptian officials. His only chance to live required her to send him away. ***What God, and Moses' family, did next would change the course of history, especially for God's people.***

We hope you would like to come and discuss with others about how God works in surprising ways with His people. Our God is mysterious and does not work in ways we might expect. We will be looking forward to seeing you soon.

Grace and Peace,
Jim Baird, Carol Dacquisto, Larry Dacquisto, and Doris Dooley

Link for the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88401949220?pwd=QS9MMHJsbU5TVtJ6enVpU1hDL0VNQT09>

Meeting ID: 884 0194 9220

passcode: pcnovato

SupperClub

FOOD & FRIENDS

For the past two years, due to the pandemic, Supper Club groups were inactive. We are once again offering this great chance to have supper, lunch, picnic or eat at a restaurant with friends from the church. If you haven't participated in this great fellowship program, you will find Supper Club will give you a wonderful opportunity to really get to know members of the church family.

Supper Club groups consist of three or four couples (not limited to married couples; many singles take part) who meet three or four times during the year, from October 2022 to October 2023. A substitute couple will join the group when a fourth couple is needed. Dates are scheduled by the individual groups. If the gathering is hosted in a home, the host couple provides the main dish and the other members provide the appetizers, salad and dessert (substitutes provide food, but are not required to host a dinner).

To participate, please contact Janalee Holmes at 415-860-0275 or E.B. Hanlein at 415-225-6496. There will also be sign-ups at the Grace & Giving Fest on October 9 after church. **Please sign up by October 10.**



The MacDonald family presented a handsome, heirloom wooden bench/pew for the church's sanctuary. Take time to admire it after a worship service.

It is now a treasure shared with us to behold forever.

Thank you to the MacDonald daughters, Scotti, Mara and Jeri

A Trek with a Flashlight ...

In 2003, my husband Dave and I spent a weekend at Westminster Woods to participate in an All-Church Camp event. I was surprised we made the trip. Dave said that he had enough camping when he was in the Army. I twisted his arm because as a gal who grew up in Jersey City, I wanted to experience being in the great California outdoors.

It was a memorable experience -- a talent show, meals with other church members, worship in an outdoor chapel surrounded by tall redwoods and staying in a cabin that could be described as “rustic” ... four bunk beds with mattresses clad in dark green vinyl coverings, overhead florescent lights, and a sliding door to separate us from other campers. At our place, the Praise Band was on the other side of that door. We got to know them well even though we never spoke.

The most ‘interesting’ part of the trip was the nightly trek to the bathroom facility. You wended your way – with a flashlight in hand – down a rocky path with patches filled with tree roots. You prayed you didn’t fall and hit your head!

I would have to describe the accommodations as ‘challenging’ – not particularly cozy as I had imagined. But a lot has changed at Westminster in the last 20 years. Many cabins have been rebuilt and in 2021, the Mission Committee made a donation of \$8,860 to help in this effort, specifically to build an indoor accessible bathroom in one of the cabins.

Recently, Chris Rhodes, the Executive Director of WW, who has a background in property contracting, sent pictures of Cabin 17, which was rehabbed thanks to the PCN donation.

Here is Chris’s description of the work done as seen in these photos:

Some before and after picture of the outside of the Cabin 17. You can see in the before pictures that we added the bathroom to the back of the cabin. We poured a concrete foundation not only for the new bathroom addition but for the existing cabin as well, you can see the concrete forms in one of the before pictures.

In 2023, the Mission Committee will be working with other church groups to set up trips to Westminster Woods for one-day gatherings and perhaps weekend retreats.





CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Community Emergency Preparedness

Below is a link to a great website for community preparedness information:

<https://www.novato.org/government/police-department/emergency-preparedness>

Find information on being prepared. Every disaster, whether it affects one person or millions, has one thing in common...it is disruptive. The greater the impact, the more it disrupts those things we depend upon and often take for granted. Universal emergency or disaster education and preparedness means everyone, regardless of age or circumstance, needs to devote the time, resources and energy to understand and benefit from being "ready" for any type of an emergency.

Know your evacuation route. The following link has information including an evacuation map, evacuation tag FAQs, and evacuation checklist and more.

<https://www.novato.org/government/police-department/evacuation-information>

Have you picked up your Evacuation Tag yet?

The Novato Police Department and Novato Fire Protection District are giving away evacuation tags to residents living in the City of Novato. Evacuation tags are a new tool to help us quickly ensure that neighborhoods are evacuated during a disaster. Hang the tag in a location that is highly visible from the street when they evacuate (mailbox, front door, garage, end of your driveway). This saves time and effort which we need to immediately check the next home. We have learned that seconds can count during evacuations, and we are excited to bring this new life-saving tool to our residents. Each tag comes with an instruction flyer in English and Spanish.

Evacuation Tag Pickup Locations

Downtown Novato

Novato Police Station (909 Machin Avenue)

Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm

Central Novato

Novato Fire Administration (95 Rowland Way)

Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm

Get trained. In Novato, we offer a free two-hour course to prepare you and yours in an emergency. Check out a Get Ready training today. You can also go beyond the basics and get Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, which is offered throughout Marin County. For more information, go to Ready Marin.

Stay Informed.

Receive emergency alerts by phone, text and e-mail for your neighborhood, even when you are not home. **Register your phones and e-mail addresses** at:

- www.alertmarin.org to receive local emergency alerts sent by call, text, or e-mail from the County of Marin Office of Emergency Services, **and**
- www.nixle.com to receive emergency messages and related information from both the Novato Police Department and Novato Fire District.
- Check out our monthly emergency preparedness tips or sign-up to get these updates via our e-notify system.



Antisemitic Flyers in Novato

As the Jewish community prepares for the High Holy Days (Shanah Tovah!), we are deeply disturbed by the distribution of antisemitic flyers in Novato. These appear to be the same flyers circulated earlier in the year in other parts of Marin and throughout the Bay Area. And while they are apparently not illegal, they are reprehensible. MIC denounces hate in all its forms, including this latest expression of antisemitism, as well as the recent uptick in hate aimed at the Muslim and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. We invite you to join us in standing in solidarity with all communities under threat, and particularly with our Jewish friends at this moment given this week's incident.

Some resources you may find helpful:

To report hate incidents in Novato call 415-897-4361 or to use the online reporting system, click here

- Jewish Community Relations Council
- ADL
- Not in Our Town
- Love Lives in Marin

[Descarga este volante en español.](#)

[Tải xuống tờ rơi này bằng tiếng Việt.](#)

ARE YOU READY FOR THE GREAT SHAKEOUT?

Let's get prepared for an earthquake

Thursday, Oct 20 • 10:20 am

The Great ShakeOut is an International earthquake drill that gives you the opportunity to practice how to stay safe during earthquakes.

It just takes a few minutes. Follow these steps:

1. **DROP** to the ground if possible
2. Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table
3. **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops

Register at ShakeOut.org to be counted.



If possible



Using a cane



Using a walker



Using a wheelchair



Invite others to join the ShakeOut!

Invite friends, family members, and work colleagues to register.

Have a neighborhood gathering to share your experience in the drill.

Download support materials at Shakeout.org

Download the [7 Steps to Earthquake Safety](#)

Visit ReadyMarin.org to learn more about getting prepared

Let us know how it went! Share photos and stories on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

You can practice anytime, you don't need to wait for October 20!



ShakeOut.org

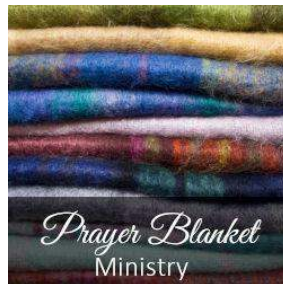


READY
marin

ReadyMarin.org



Would you like to be one of the first at PCN to welcome new visitors? Or to welcome back members who have not attended for a while? Please join our Hospitality Team if you are interested in serving in this ministry. Contact Bekah Harmon at bekahsbytes@gmail.com with any questions.



REQUESTING A PRAYER BLANKET is easy. Email Tonya or Laurie. Give us the recipient's first and last name, address, phone, and what colors they like. We try to send a prayer blanket that is meaningful for the recipient. Questions? Contact Tonya Church at tonya.church@comcast.net or Laurie Dougherty at ldougherty@me.com.



WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Spend time praising God for His many blessings through prayer and receive His assurance for you. Together we seek His intimate presence, led by the Holy Spirit and fed by scripture. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Use the same Zoom link each month. Contact Janis West at Janisw99@gmail.com with questions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107446679?pwd=Yy9ub1pReGdMTHVhbDJpRzhHVVdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 0744 6679 Passcode: pcnovato



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for study and fellowship. We meet every **Wednesday at 7:15 a.m.** via Zoom. All men are welcome. To be added to the Zoom contact list, contact Walt Campbell at 415-497-5157.



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!



If, during this unprecedented time, you find yourself in need of someone to talk to, the Stephen Ministers are here to listen, and all conversations are confidential. Please contact Alan Dunham at (415) 897-8886 or Athena Craig at (415) 725-9299 for more information.



Community Outreach for PCN

We would like your help in spreading the word about PCN's activities. Please share PCN info on your social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, etc.). Share links to the music videos, worship services, children's sermons, etc. This will help broaden our outreach. It's always a good time to get the word out about our congregation and what God is up to through us!