

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

At the Session mini-retreat, we reviewed the 2009 Mission Study Report. One of the first parts of the conversation for that day was to read the section, "Our Mission as a Church" on page seven of the report. The last three paragraphs stood out for me:

In response to the gift of Jesus Christ, we seek to love and serve the world, expressing our faith through worship and service. In our worship, we seek to feed and energize the people of God whose calling it is to love one another, express gratitude, ease suffering, and work for justice. In our service, we seek to be instruments of God's love for the human family, joining God's work in the world.

In our fellowship we strive to create a community where all are valued, where everyone has a role, where all are welcomed and known, and where are our joys and sufferings are shared. We believe that each voice has its own beauty, and we seek an orchestration of our energies where each member is involved and integrated in the community's life.

In our interactions with the larger community, we invite others to join us on our journey. We believe that on the journey of faith we are constantly expected to learn, to grow, and to teach. We believe that constant learning, sharing our personal and material resources and involvement in the church are expectations of the Christian life. We seek to provide a context for all ages to learn faithfulness.

The elders expressed enthusiasm for those words and hopes. Some wished that we could share these words with one another at appropriate times and through the liturgical year. This enthusiasm reminded me of a study by the Lutheran church a few years ago on the difference between growing churches and struggling churches.

The study demonstrated that growing churches and struggling churches often employed the same methods to excite the congregation and community to participate in the life of the church. The researchers realized that methodology in outreach is not what made the difference. What made the difference, they dis-

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Church Members Receive Awards

The San Anselmo Quality of Life Commission has awarded **Jo Gross** and **Royce Truex** the Silver Award for their work as the prime coordinators of the Winter Shelter Program. For 2 nights a week, from November through March, First Presbyterian was host to 30 homeless men requiring emergency shelter. This mission project involved almost 100 members of the congregation. From the start, great care was taken by Royce and Jo to remind volunteers that as hosts, it was essential to treat these men with dignity and respect, to welcome these men as honored guests. This included such details as fresh-cut flowers, tablecloths and color-coordinated cloth napkins. Said one guest, "When I come here, I feel better. It lets me stand up a little straighter."

The project has transformed the hearts of the volunteers. One has said he no longer avoids eye contact when encountering the homeless on the streets of San Rafael. Rather, the possibility of being able to greet this person by name has made all the difference in the world--for the host and the guest alike.

Thus, we live out the words of our eponymous hymn, **Together We Serve: We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet...to let love shine through, until we see Christ in each person we meet.** Well done, Jo and Royce!



Members and friends of First Presbyterian celebrate Jo Gross and Royce Truex outside the Town Center. Shown (top left row): Dick Schlobohm, Marita Meyer, Herman Waetjen, (middle row) Sandy Truex, Royce Truex, Jo Gross, Carl Basore, Mary Waetjen and Phil Gross in front.

Worship Notes

As in previous summers, the Worship Planning Team has met to decide a sermon series for the summer weeks. In previous years, we have heard sermons on the Confessions, the Minor Prophets, and the Gifts of the Spirit. This summer's theme will examine the Stories of Hospitality found in both the Old and New Testaments. More information will follow in next month's edition. Stay tuned.



☆☆☆ IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ☆☆☆

Our Sunday worship time on **July 4th**
has been moved to **9:00 am**.

Please mark this in your calendar
and remind your friends and family.

Children, Families and Youth

Auction and Chili Cook-Off: A Great Big THANK YOU!



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2010

The Youth Group thanks everyone who helped and/or attended the March Service Auction and Pentecost Fire Chili Cook-Off fundraisers. Thanks to your support and efforts, the auction raised nearly \$1400 through bids and donations. The Great Chili Cook-Off, attended by about 70 people right after worship on Pentecost Sunday, netted over \$600. Kudos to Rising chef, Gracie Francisco, who garnered the most votes (by dollar amount) and the prize for the Most Creative Chili. The prize for the Hottest Chili went to Karl Roulston and yours truly (Virginia Thibeaux), got a prize for most Interesting Use of Ingredients. Aside from being a fundraiser, this was a wonderful fellowship opportunity, with lots of energy, laughter and fun. If you missed it this time, make sure to plan for the next occasion. This is a great way to get to know the people you see here every Sunday morning.

These funds will be used to offset the costs for the last Mission trip to Gulfport, and to help pay for three of our youth to attend Presbyterian Youth Triennium, the national gathering of Presbyterian youth which happens every three years.

Summer Sunday School

This summer we take a different approach to Sunday School. Over the past few years, we have used VBS curriculum for six weeks and then stopped for the rest of the summer. The realization that school years have stretched ending later and beginning earlier helped us understand that we need to provide an ongoing opportunity for children to hear the stories of good news and faith.

We will continue to provide an opportunity for learning for children from K-6th during worship. We will use "Live B.I.G.", material we used in 2008-2009, for a single class. Just as with the VBS material, the curriculum has video clips, lively songs, and fun activities.



As always, we look for those willing to volunteer as teachers and guides. If you feel a calling to help with these classes and have not been able to help during the rest of the year, we welcome your participation. Let Kevin know that you are available.

Poets & Prophets

Green Award Goes to Church Member

Sita Khufu was awarded the Green Award by the San Anselmo Quality of Life Commission. By unanimous acclaim, Sita was recognized for her tireless efforts--in getting people and businesses to limit or curtail their use of plastics; in helping to clean up and document flow restrictions in the San Anselmo Creek; in pushing for a ban on plastic grocery bags; and establishing a local grassroots group, Green Sangha.

Sita has been a part of this congregation for many years and teaches at the preschool. She is not just someone who talks the talk, her activism permeates all aspects of her life. Even at the preschool, she works to raise awareness of the use of plastics, which "never goes away". As part of the Green Group here at church, she spearheaded the drive to create and sell canvas bags to replace those ubiquitous plastic grocery bags. (*They are still available at the bargain price of \$5.00!*) **Thank you, Sita, for your prophetic witness!**



Did You Know...?

Some areas of the Pacific Ocean contain six times more plastic debris than zooplankton (the fundamental base of our food chain.)

These tiny pieces of plastic are eaten by zooplankton and move up the food chain, potentially presenting health risks for humans.

Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photo degrade. The bags break down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic, but never go away

Californians use more than 19 billion plastic grocery bags and merchandise bags each year, roughly 552 bags per person. This usage generates 147,038 tons of unnecessary waste — enough to stretch around the globe over 250 times.

A million plastic bags are used every minute, worldwide, and the number is rising.

In the United States, less than 5 percent of plastic bags are recycled.

Roughly 60–80% of all marine debris, and 90% of floating debris is plastic.

Plastic resin polymers are so durable that it can take hundreds of years for plastics to break down at sea, and some may never truly biodegrade in the marine environment.

(<http://www.healthebay.org/>)

Thank you all for helping me celebrate my 90th birthday on Palm Sunday at the coffee hour. Your enthusiasm adds life to my years, and joy to my days. Love, Verna Fairchild.

Apologies to all, especially Verna, for not getting this into the May KP!

A Couple of Reminders

The next edition of the KP is combined for July and August, and will be out the beginning of July. The deadline for submissions to the KP is the 15th of each month. Please email Virginia Thibeaux (marievi@comcast.net) **with the subject heading including the words Kensington Press (or KP)**, or send it to KathleenMcCalla@togetherweserve.org

Please remember to notify Kathleen McCalla of any changes to the church directory.

Miriam's Memo

Food for Friends

One of the ways we serve our community is feeding others. We are currently involved in two ministries that do that. The first is providing a meal each fourth Friday of the month for the Mill Street Homeless Shelter. To help with this, you prepare a dish that would serve 10 (a large casserole, salad, or dessert) and deliver it to the church kitchen before 3:30 p.m. Friday. There are labels on the refrigerator door to insure your dish is collected. There are aluminum pans available for this use in the kitchen.

The second ministry involves bringing food to a church member. Those for whom we provide food are listed in the bulletin. Then, you may either contact **Miriam Kazan** at kazanclan@sbcglobal.net or (415) 456-8653 or visit www.takethemameal.com and sign up directly. To do this, you use the password "food" with the person's last name. There will be notes about time or special needs, and then a schedule for sign ups. Simply scroll down to a date that works for you and click on "take", then fill in your name and the meal you wish to provide. It isn't necessary to be more specific than "dinner". This is an amazing way to experience grace. Please give it a try.

Notes From Nan

"I Can No Other Answer Make, But, Thanks, And Thanks." (Wm. Shakespeare)

Being a Deacon or and Elder in the Presbyterian Church is a commitment of time and energy. Many people have served this church in this way over the years, and we would like to give our heartfelt thanks to those who have most recently completed the assignments for which they volunteered. A pat on the back would not be remiss:

Deacons: John Cowperthwaite, Al Flood, Alice Graham, Dino Misailidis, Natalie Taylor, Sandy Truex

Elders: Taylor Crouch, Diane Fairchild, Dave Jones, Ralph Kalbus, Thom Taylor, Royce Truex

Some Recent Additions to the Church Library

Our Lady of the Lost and Found, by Diane Schoemperlen. What would you do if you found the Virgin Mary in your living room? "A holy hoot!"

A Simple Path, by Mother Teresa, who shares the thoughts and experiences that lead her into her life's work.

Soderblom: Ecumenical Pioneer, by Charles J. Curtis. A presentation of the life, work, and thought of one of the world giants of ecumenism.

Scarlet Music, by Joan Ohanneson. A dramatization of the life of Hildegard of Bingen, visionary, prophet, artist and healer.

Pope Joan, by Donna Woolfolk Cross. A fictional account of an extraordinary woman who ascends to the highest religious power.

Fatal Embrace, by Mark Braverman. A gift to our library by the author who was one of the speakers at the Sabeel Conference held in our church in early March this year, and who preached the sermon on Sunday, March 7. Mr. Braverman is a Jewish leader in the effort to bring justice to the Palestinians, a fair and lasting peace to that area of the world.

American Gospel, by Jon Meacham. An insightful account of our country's spiritual foundation - how our founding fathers worked out the basic structure for freedom of religion.

From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Six Rs

We are now receiving, ranking, and reviewing the Personal Information Forms (PIFs) of prospective candidates. Some have been rejected; others we have requested follow-up information, for which we hope to have a quick reply.

We ask your continued prayers for discernment in our diligent search for our next Associate Pastor.

Humble Not Shy: Together We Ham

Nathaniel Fegette, who is currently studying Motion Graphics Design at Expression College in Emeryville, has agreed to produce a short video about our church for our prospective candidates. More details will be forthcoming, but for now, please know that you may be asked for a short interview on camera, for which we expect an enthusiastic "YES!". Stay tuned for more details.

General Assembly News

Gradye Parsons, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has released his greatest hopes for the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to be held in Minneapolis from July 3-10, 2010.

1) Prayerful decision-making

The spirit in which decisions are made at the assembly will be a prayerful and careful witness of decision-making for the entire church.

2) Deeper awareness of the whole PC(USA)

Commissioners and advisory delegates will gain a deeper awareness of the length and breadth of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), realizing they are part of something much larger than themselves.

3) Issues facing congregations

Commissioners and advisory delegates will discern with the whole church the issues and challenges facing congregations

4) Common calling to a changing church

A clear, common calling will emerge to actively and hopefully engage with the reality of a church in change.

5) Attention beyond ourselves

Attention will move beyond ourselves to a world in great need, committing ourselves to gospel work: making disciples, feeding the hungry, welcoming the outcast, encouraging the fainthearted, working for peace – all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6) Enthusiastic sharing of the faith

Those who are part of the assembly will be the first in line of Presbyterians to talk about their faith with a contagious enthusiasm.

7) Furthering the mission of Christ

At the end of the assembly, commissioners and advisory delegates will have a deep sense that what they did will further the mission of Christ in the world.



There are several people going to General Assembly this summer, including **Taylor Crouch**, who is going as a **Youth Advisory Delegate**, **Peter Crouch**, in his role as **Vice President of SFTS**. **Walt** and **Libby Davis**, **Anne Towler** and **Virginia Thibeaux**, and **Karl Roulston**, (a definite maybe), are all going for various reasons. Walt and Libby are going as part of the **Israel Palestine Mission Network (IPMN)**; Libby Anne and Virginia as supporters of **That All May Freely Serve** and other organizations working towards full inclusion and equality for all in the PC (USA) and the **IPMN**; and Karl and Virginia are going as representatives of the **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**, in hopes of making face-to-face contact with prospective candidates.

The following is a partial list of Overtures and Reports addressing issues of peace and justice for Palestine and Israel:

- OVERTURE 8-09 On Referring “Christians and Jews: People of God” and “Understanding Christian-Muslim Relations.” (Presbytery of San Francisco)
- OVERTURES 14-01 & 14-02 On Divestment from Caterpillar, Inc. (Presbyteries of Newark and San Francisco)
- OVERTURE 14-04 On Recognition that Israel’s Laws, Policies, and Practices Constitute Apartheid Against the Palestinian People (Presbytery of San Francisco).
- OVERTURE 14-05 On Commending “A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith and Hope from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering” as an Advocacy Tool (Presbytery of San Francisco).
- ITEM 14-08 Report of the Middle East Study Committee to the 219th General Assembly.
- OVERTURE 14-10 Toward Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East (Presbytery of Baltimore)

The following is a partial list of Items addressing full inclusion and equality for all persons, including and especially LGBT:

- Item 06-07 Calls for the deletion of G-6.0106b. (Presbytery of Hudson River) Removes the barrier to ordination of LGBT candidates.
- Item 06-06, To replace G-6.0106b with an affirmation of the moral commitment being undertaken by candidates for ordination (Presbytery of Detroit) Removes the barrier to ordination of LGBT candidates.
- Item 06-10, Affirms that “Jesus, the Head of the Church, has established standards for church officers.” (Presbytery of Southern New England) Removes the barrier to ordination of LGBT candidates.
- Items 12-02 through 12-10 concern same sex marriage. Of particular interest is 12-02 (Baltimore Presbytery), which would change the definition of marriage from “a civil contract between a woman and a man” to “a covenant between two people [which] according to the laws of the state also constitutes a civil contract.”

The preceding is a small overview of some of the work that will concern GA this year. An excellent resource providing a more complete preview can be found at <http://presbyvoicesforjustice.org/NN%20spr%202010%20sm.pdf>

In Memoriam

*Julie Osterloh May 6
Chuck Swensen May 10*

*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared for those who love God.*

1 Corinthians 2:9b

Worship in June 2010

June 2nd

The Service for Wholeness and Healing
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Prayer and Taizé Music

June 6th

Communion
10th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Recognition of New Members
Teacher Recognition
1 Kings 17:8-24
A Handful of Meal, a Couple of Sticks
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

June 13th

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Spring Choir Concert
Ellingboe Requiem
Psalm 147:1-11
A Song is Fitting
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, introducing the concert

June 20th

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:1-4(5-7)8-15a
Galatians 3:23-29
Listening
The Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan, preaching

June 27th

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Call to Mind the Deeds of the Lord
Barbara England, Seminary Intern, preaching

*Please refer to our website for a complete listing
of ongoing and special events:
<http://togetherweserve.org/Calendar.htm/>*

KP Classifieds

Sharon Jackson seeks housesitting/petsitting work. Contact her at hmmsjj@aol.com.

Host Families Needed for German Exchange Students!

San Domenico is very excited to announce to be working with Adventure Homestays Abroad (AHA) to host 14 students from Maedchengymnasium, a school in Germany. Like San Domenico, Maechengymnasium is an all-girls school with a strong emphasis on music. The girls, who will be in their sophomore, junior and senior years, will be here from September 24 to October 16. The students will be attending San Domenico during the day, but families are needed to host these girls while they are here for 3 weeks. The girls can take the school buses to school each day and will have organized cultural outings on the weekends. While San Domenico is volunteering to have the girls at the school, the school is not directly responsible for their homestay placement. If you or someone you know is interested, please have them contact the regional AHA coordinator, Carla Vaughn. She can be reached at carlamayvaughn@gmail.com. However, if you have any general questions about their visit, please feel free to contact Natasha McKeown at nmckeown@sandomenico.org.

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Non Profit Seeking Men's Clothing

Do you have men's clothing you are looking to donate? If so, please consider donating them to the **California Reentry Program**. Kristine Travis-Brown works for this non-profit organization to provide clothing to men who are being paroled from San Quentin. The men she helps out are mostly non-violent drug offenders or have done a short time from a minor parole violation. The clothing helps those in need with a bit of dignity, so they can more confidently find a residence, interview for a job or simply ride the bus without being ostracized.

The **California Reentry Program** is a comprehensive, multi-faceted program aimed at meeting all of the most vital needs of prisoners facing parole. They are primarily a social service referral agency, connecting parolees with resources and contact information for services in their communities. Their team of volunteers meets with prisoners at San Quentin State Prison to provide individualized assistance based on their needs and location of parole.

You may drop off anything you have (jackets, pants, shoes, etc) at her home on 156 Prince Royal Drive, Corte Madera. Or or call her at 990-6924 (email is katravisbrown@comcast.net) to schedule a pick-up.



(...continued from page 1)

covered, is that growing churches had clarity in two areas. First, they shared a common vision and purpose in how God was calling them and how they could respond. The whole congregation shared this common vision, or as Paul wrote to the Philippians, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ." Second—and more difficult—the congregation demonstrated openness to the change needed in order to respond to God's calling.

Added to this reminder of the study was Carmen Mason-Browne's sermon at the May presbytery meeting. She called the presbytery to remember that we are called to share good news with a hurting world. The church cannot buckle up its heart so that no one can see it, rather we must open our hearts so that whole world can see the enthusiasm we have to share the good news of God's love and justice through Jesus Christ.

Even though we fast approach summer, a time when the church traditionally takes a breath before the busyness of the fall, the need to hear God's calling, to share a common vision, and to tell the good news remain. The world is still hurting, brokenness abounds, and people still search for meaning and life. We cannot let go this growing enthusiasm for God still calls.

Shalom, Kevin

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OF SAN ANSELMO
an inclusive community

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ADULT STUDY

9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP
& SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 a.m.

(Nursery Care)

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan
*Interim Associate Pastor for Children,
Youth & Families*

The Rev. Beverly Brewster
Parish Associate

Mary Wright Gillespie
Associate Pastor Emerita

Sally Johnson

Director of Music Emerita

J. Carolyn Johnston

Business Manager

Tom Lannert

Church Custodian

Kathleen McCalla

Office Administrator

John Parfitt

Organist

Martha Spears

Coordinator of Older Adult Ministries

Martha Wall

Director of Music

KENSINGTON PRESS
is published monthly

Virginia Thibeaux

Editor

Kathleen McCalla

Production

Grace & Frank Ferguson,

Suzan Plath, Barbara Shindelus,
Carol Cowperthwaite, Shirley New

Mailing