



# KENSINGTON PRESS

MAY 2010

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANSELMO

*An Inclusive Community*

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## From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

You might recall that in September, we began a year-long focus on hospitality. This began with a conversation in Session about the extent to which we are a welcoming church. Mary Waetjen and Margaret Melsh came back from a workshop about “First Impressions” – what visitors notice about a church when they first visit. They raised the question: What first impression do worshipers have of us? The conversation expanded and grew, and more questions emerged:

- What does it mean to be “an inclusive community”? Are we, in fact, inclusive?
- How willing are we to make room for young families, people with special needs or people unfamiliar with our traditional style of worship?
- How willing are we to offer friendship? Does the “First Friendly” moniker fit us?
- Just how welcoming are we?

The officers’ retreat in October focused on “Being a Welcoming Church.” During Advent we emphasized welcoming the stranger with our Advent theme, “Las Posadas,” the traditional Latin American celebration in which people representing the Holy Family go from house to house seeking shelter. We lived into this theme by welcoming thirty homeless men to Duncan Hall, three nights a week from December through March. Jo Gross epitomized hospitality in that project; as she often said, “We do not serve the poor poorly.” So each night we set out cloth table cloths and napkins, flowers, ceramic plates, glasses, the works.

We have also looked at the way we worship, and whether it is “accessible” – welcoming – to those without a traditional Presbyterian background. We have sought to provide more instructions for worshipers (even when we went

*Continued on page 8*

## Sanctuary Choir to Perform

### Ellingboe’s Requiem

Scored for small orchestra and organ, **Requiem**, by Bradley Ellingboe, (b. 1958) contains all of the texts from the **Ordinary of the Mass**<sup>1</sup>, as well as poems by John Donne and George Herbert. Ellingboe’s style includes both contemporary and traditional moods and styles, interweaving a melody that is haunting and beautiful. The centerpiece is **The Lord’s Prayer**, written a year before the Requiem; it forms the basis for much of the melodic material found throughout.

This year, we are combining forces with the choirs at First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, in learning and singing this relatively new work, completed in 2002. We will present it three times, once at each church:

- May 30: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon
- June 6: First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael
- June 13: First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo

The choir loft will be slim on May 30 and June 6, but hold your breath! The full sound of 50 singers on June 13 will be worth it!

~Martha Wall

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<sup>1</sup> The **Ordinary of the Mass** is the set of texts of the Roman Rite Mass that are generally invariable. The sung parts (either by choir or congregation) include the following: *Kyrie eleison* (“Lord, have mercy”); *Gloria* (“Glory to God in the highest”); *Credo* (the Nicene Creed); *Sanctus* (“Holy, Holy, Holy”); and *Agnus Dei* (“Lamb of God”).

## Worship

Holy Humor Sunday: The Reviews Are In

**“...a new dimension to the way one may experience God.”**

This year marked the beginning of a new tradition and addition to our special Sunday worship services. **Holy Humor Sunday** has its roots in history. For centuries, in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries, Easter Monday and “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter) were observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang and danced. It was a time for clergy and people to tell jokes and to have fun.

The custom of Easter Monday and Bright Sunday celebrations were rooted in the musings of early church theologians (including Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was “God’s supreme joke played on death.” *Risus paschalis* – “the Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it.

In recent years the celebration of the Easter laugh has been revived in what has become known as Holy Humor Sunday – the Sunday after Easter. This year, the worship planning team put together a worship service for Holy Humor Sunday, April 11, which was patterned after the popular public radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*. By all accounts, worship on that Sunday was “lighthearted but not lightheaded”. The worship planning team would especially like to acknowledge the very important contribution made by **Nan Harle**, who wrote the script for “*The Case of the Missing Bad Intentions*”, along with the Call for the Offering and the lyrics to its accompanying ditty, “*Catch-Up Time*”. For those of you who missed the service, be sure to save the date for next year!

*(If you are interested in getting involved, let someone on the planning team know so we can include you.)*



## Presbyterian Women

Save the Date: May 12th



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/49784886@N00/460646046/>

Our **Annual Spring Mission Tea** will be on Wednesday, May 12th at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We will gather to celebrate our Birthday Offerings. There are two recipients this year: the **Kindergarten and Childcare Center** in Kirkuk, Iraq, which provides high quality education to children, teaching basic skills in a loving environment, and hopes to purchase their current building as well as a neighboring building in order to expand their program to primary education; and the **Peace Presbyterian Church RISE (Reach–Improve–Strengthen–Empower) Project**, located in Louisville, Kentucky, which provides services specifically to children, youth, adults and families identified as at-risk or in need of support during a transitional period.

Our guest speaker will be Virginia Stuart, the wife of the interim President of SFTS. As neighbors, this will give us an opportunity to extend hospitality and get acquainted. Please save the date, plan on attending, and enjoy good food and fellowship. For more information, call **Betty Stott**, at 454-7405

## Children, Families and Youth

### Chili Cook-Off

Join us after worship on May 23 for the **Pentecost Chili Cook-Off**, sponsored by the High School Youth Group. Get out your favorite chili recipes, warm up the stove, and get cooking! We will have a People's Choice elected by your generous votes with those green ballots (i.e. coins and dollars) and several other choices to be awarded by our judges. Come join the fun either as a participant or as a taster or both. The youth will have sign up sheets the weeks before the Cook-Off; you can find them on the patio after worship. All funds raised go toward paying off the Gulfport Mission Trip expenses, as well as to support our youth who will attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.



### Presbyterian Youth Triennium



The Presbytery of the Redwoods is sending a delegation of 10 youth and 2 adult sponsors to the **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** in July. Every three years over 6000 youth and adult leaders gather on the Purdue Campus for a national youth event for the Presbyterian Church. The event also invites international guests from Presbyterian churches all over the world. During the four days of the event, the youth gather to worship, study together in small groups, and listen to inspiring nationally known keynote speakers. Three of our youth have registered to go to the Triennium: Taylor Crouch, Mary McBurnie, and Juliana Steccone. Karl Roulston has volunteered to be one of the adult sponsors. A portion of the fundraisers sponsored by the youth committee will go to help our youth get to the Triennium.

### Westminster Woods Grandparent-Grandchild Camp

Here is a perfect opportunity to share the experience of church camp with your grandchildren. Only July 25-28, Westminster Woods will sponsor a Grandparent-Grandchild Camp. This camp is a time to enjoy walks through the redwoods, campfires, meals, and Bible stories so that you can enjoy God's creation and build a stronger relationship with one another. The speakers for the camp will be the Revs. George and Anne Swanson from First Presbyterian Church in San Leandro.

Whether you bring one or more grandchildren or "adopted" grandchildren, you will be welcomed. Check out the camp online at [www.westminsterwoods.org](http://www.westminsterwoods.org) or call the office at 707-874-2426.

*(Our church also has camperships for those who may need some support in order to go. Please see Kevin.)*

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From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

#### **The CLC, the CIF and the PIFs**

The Church Leadership Connection (CLC) of the PC (USA) has received our Church Information Form (CIF), and we are now receiving and reviewing the Personal Information Forms (PIFs) of prospective candidates. We ask your continued prayers for discernment as we work diligently in our 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.

### A Couple of Reminders

The deadline for submissions to the KP is the 15th of each month. Please email Virginia Thibeaux ([marievi@comcast.net](mailto:marievi@comcast.net)) with the subject heading "KP", or send it to [KathleenMcCalla@togetherweserve.org](mailto:KathleenMcCalla@togetherweserve.org)

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

## The Colossal Church Closet and Cranny Clean-Out

Whether it is at home or church, stuff accumulates over time. At church almost every closet, cranny, and storage area has piles of stuff that has accumulated over years. Some stored items are needed and frequently used. Some of the stuff may no longer be used, but folks are afraid to throw it out because they don't know whose stuff it is.

On Saturday, May 8 we will have the Colossal Church Closet and Cranny Clean-Out to sort through all this stuff. We want to make it an event that combines sorting stuff with fellowship and fun, much like last year's Great Spiff Up. We will start at 9 AM with coffee and juice and order pizza for lunch. We will ask each church committee, board, and group to identify where they store their stuff in April and ask that each group have a least one person at the May 8 event.

Together We Clean.



### Notes From Nan

#### An Unsolicited Recommendation

Until a month or so ago, I didn't realize what I was missing! Every Sunday, from 9:00 to 9:45 am in Room 203, our pastor, Joanne, leads a discussion of the scripture to be used in the service that day. For a long time I had been aware of this opportunity, but had been under the misapprehension that it was meant for a particular segment of the congregation. Happily, I learned otherwise, and now look forward each week to this preparation for worship. If you are a "morning person," or willing to set your alarm an hour early, come and join us.

#### The Life Stories Group

We will not meet during the summer months, but please mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 14, and plan to join us. Whether your life spans only a few years so far, or many, you have stories to tell and this is a good place to find appreciative listeners. From September through May we meet the second Tuesday of the month, 10:00-noon in the church library. Our convener is Phil Gross.

**Visit the Church Art Gallery** (aka the Library) to see the latest photographs in the windows. Thanks to Dick Schlobohm for some nice shots of Palm Sunday and Easter.

#### Inquirer's Gathering on May 16

If you have been worshipping with us and have been thinking about church membership here at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, please join us after church on Sunday, May 16, for a light meal and conversation. This gathering will provide an opportunity for you to learn more about membership in this church and for us to get to know you a little better also. It will be a very informal occasion, truly an inquirer's time together, and does not imply a commitment on your part. We will meet from 11:30 until about 2:00. Please call Mary Waetjen at (415) 456-8783 or the church office at (415) 456-3713 if you have any questions, and to let us know that you are coming. We look forward to this time together.



*The following essay was used as a basis for reflection during the Presbyterian Women's Annual Retreat, held this year on April 30-May 1st. Thanks to Martha Spears for finding it!*

## **BEING SALT AND LIGHT FOR THE WORLD**

Ask yourself this question: do you think our job as a Christian is to go into the world to get people saved and then get them into a "safe" church? Or do you think our job as a Christian is to go out into the world and transform it by loving the people in the world where they are and as they are?

I have always been a transformer. (Maybe that's why I loved the Transformers movie so much?) I think our job is to be salt and light. We don't go in to rescue and bring them out; we go in to change the world, to improve it, to make it better.

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

(Matt 5:13-16)

What does being salt mean? If you have a meal and it's boring and bland, when you add some salt, suddenly this little change brings out the best in the meal. Suddenly the meal tastes good. Salt is put into food, not kept apart from food.

What does being light mean? If you're walking down a dark road, you're feeling nervous and insecure about each step. When someone brings a little light to you, you right away feel safe and you can begin to enjoy the walk. Light is put into dark situations, not kept out of them.

When Christians love people, those people's lives improve. When Christians are generous, people's world improves. When Christians share what we have, we are keeping Christ's command to love.

*~Mark Wilson  
December 14, 2007*

MAY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers/ DH</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible Study/ Room 203</p> <p>9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:20 AM Sunday School/ Classrooms</p> <p>12:00 PM Dedication of Duncan Hall Kitchen &amp; Luncheon</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr High connection/ Youth Rm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Book Group/ Library</p> <p>7:30 PM Narc. Anon/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Qigong/ Room 206</p> <p>1:30 PM Play-reading Gp/ FSR</p> <p>4:00 PM Main Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p> <p>7:30 PM Deacons' Mtg/Rm 206</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Career Transitions/ Conf Rm</p> <p>12:00 PM Women's AA/ Library</p> <p>3:30 PM Youth Gathering/ Kevin's Office</p> <p>7:00 PM Service for Wholeness &amp; Healing</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Centering Prayer/ Library</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir rehearsal</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Marin Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p> <p>3:00 PM John McDowell Memorial</p> <p><b>WOMENS RETREAT</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Mothers' Day</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible Study/ Room 203</p> <p>9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:20 AM Sunday School/ Classrooms</p> <p>11:30 AM Adult Ed. Acts</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr High connection/ Youth Rm</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Book Group/ Library</p> <p>7:30 PM Narc. Anon/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Qigong/ Room 206</p> <p>10:00 AM Life stories/Writing Group/ Library</p> <p>12:30 PM Staff Meeting/Conf. Rm</p> <p>4:00 PM Main Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p> <p>7:25 PM Session Committees/ Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Career Transitions/ Conf Rm</p> <p>10:00 AM Kerygma Bible Study/ FSR</p> <p>12:00 PM Women's AA/ Library</p> <p>3:30 PM Youth Gathering/ Kevin's Office</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Centering Prayer/ Library</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir rehearsal</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Lunch Bunch</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>deadline for KP</p> <p>10:00 AM Marin Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p> <p>6:00 PM Parents' Night Out/ DH</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible Study/ Room 203</p> <p>9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:20 AM Sunday School/ Classrooms</p> <p>11:30 AM Adult Ed. Acts</p> <p>12:00 PM Sr High connection/ Youth Rm</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr High connection/ Youth Rm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Book Group/ Library</p> <p>7:30 PM Narc. Anon/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Qigong/ Room 206</p> <p>4:00 PM Main Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Career Transitions/ Conf Rm</p> <p>12:00 PM Women's AA/ Library</p> <p>3:30 PM Youth Gathering/ Kevin's Office</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Centering Prayer/ Library</p> <p>10:00 AM Horizon Bible Study/FSR</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir rehearsal</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Marin Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p> <p>6:30 PM Family Folk Dancing/ Duncan Hall</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>PENTECOST</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible Study/ Room 203</p> <p>9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:20 AM Sunday School/ Classrooms</p> <p>11:30 AM Adult Ed. Acts</p> <p>12:00 PM Sr High connection/ Youth Rm</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr High connection/ Youth Rm</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Book Group/ Library</p> <p>6:00 PM Women's Supper Gp/ FSR</p> <p>7:30 PM Narc. Anon/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Qigong/ Room 206</p> <p>12:30 PM Staff Meeting/Conf. Rm</p> <p>4:00 PM Main Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p> <p>7:00 PM Session/ FSR</p> <p>7:00 PM Session/ Rm 206</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Career Transitions/ Conf Rm</p> <p>10:00 AM Kerygma Bible Study/ FSR</p> <p>12:00 PM Women's AA/ Library</p> <p>3:30 PM Youth Gathering/ Kevin's Office</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Centering Prayer/ Library</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir rehearsal</p> <p>8:30 PM AA/ Rm 203</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00 AM - 3:30 pm Shelter Meal Drop-off</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunch Bunch</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Marin Girls' Chorus/ Rm 203</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Trinity Sunday</p> <p>Cents-ability Offering</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Bible Study/ Room 203</p> <p>9:10 AM Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship/ Sanctuary</p> <p>10:20 AM Sunday School/ Classrooms</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr High connection/ Youth Rm</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Memorial Day</p> <p>3:00 PM Book Group/ Library</p> <p>7:30 PM Narc. Anon/ Rm 203</p>					

Jun 2010						
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## Zephyr Experience Family Conference July 4-9, 2010 Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe

Treat yourself (and family) this summer to a week of learning, relaxing, meeting old and new friends, enjoying the beauty of Lake Tahoe, and not cooking. Stimulating classes led by Herman Waetjen, Greg Love and other wonderful teachers in the morning and afternoons free to be as active (hiking, swimming, boating, etc.) or as lazy as you wish. All this plus good food and accommodations makes this annual conference a special event.

There is still time to sign up. Brochures are available in the church office, or visit the Zephyr Point Conference Grounds website at [zephyrpoint.org](http://zephyrpoint.org).

If you have any questions, please contact Carl or Joan Basore



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/valsworld/2382351572/>



## Fundraiser for Covenant Network



Wednesday, May 12th, 2010, from 6:00-8:00 pm  
at the home of Phyllis and Dick Schlobohm, 1 Vasco Drive, Mill Valley

**Joanne Whitt** and **Deana Reed** invite you to join them for wine, hors d'oeuvres and conversation in support of Covenant Network.

Featured speakers include Founding Director **Laird Stuart**,  
Executive Director **Pam Byers** and Attorney **Tim Cahn**.

Please RSVP by Friday May 7th, 2010:  
Libby Davis: 415.453.1875 or email: [libbyandwalt@comcast.net](mailto:libbyandwalt@comcast.net)

*If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation. Make checks payable to:*  
Covenant Network  
2515 Fillmore Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
or donate online at [www.covnetpres.org](http://www.covnetpres.org)

*First Presbyterian Church is a part of the Covenant Network*

## In Memoriam

Betty McCalla, April 8th, 2010  
John McDowell, April 12th, 2010

*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 May 2010

### May 2

5th Sunday of Easter  
Communion; Older Adult Sunday  
Congregational Meeting  
Duncan Hall Kitchen Dedication

#### **Reordering**

Acts 11:1-18  
Revelation 21:1-6  
*The Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan, preaching*

### May 5

The Service for Wholeness and Healing  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Quiet prayer and Taizé music

### May 9

6th Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day  
**Do You Want to Be Made Well?**  
John 5:1-9  
*The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching*

### May 16

7th Sunday of Easter  
**Open Hearts to Hear**  
Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 97  
*The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching*

### May 23

Day of Pentecost  
Pentecost Offering  
**Anything You Can Do**  
John 14:8-17 (25-27)  
Acts 2:1-21  
*The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching*

### May 30

Trinity Sunday  
**One Singular Sensation**  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
*The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching*

*(Continued from page 1)*

“paperless” during Lent); we have sought more variety in worship (Las Posadas during Advent, our environmental emphasis during Lent, Holy Humor Sunday, World Communion Sunday, using videos in worship, etc.), as suggested by the 2009 Mission Study Report.

It's time for a report card. How are we doing? Are we more hospitable than we were in September? How do we even measure this? Perhaps by answering this question: If you were new, and didn't know anyone – if you didn't have a lot of friends in the congregation – would you decide to make our church your church home? Would your answer to this question depend on your age, your family situation, your income, or any other variable?

Let's keep the conversation going.

Together We Serve,  
Joanne

## Lucky Phelps: “Presbyterian Super Star”

William Sloane Coffin said, “...the only way to have a good death is to have a good life. Lead a good one, full of curiosity, generosity and compassion, and there’s no need at the close of the day to rage against the dying of the light. We can go gentle into that good night.”<sup>1</sup> Lucky Phelps was one of those fortunate few who did not fear death, for she lived the life she was called to live with steadfast faithfulness and integrity. She would probably be aghast at the “Super Star” moniker, as she only thought of herself as having done her very best--but that’s what she was.

I was fortunate to have been mentored by Lucky in my first year at San Francisco Theological Seminary. She was the first non-clergy person to lead first-year seminarians in the small groups known then as Explorations in Ministry. Since I was fairly new to Presbyterianism and the Reformed tradition, my guess is that I was placed in this group so that I could get a clear sense of what being called to serve in the Presbyterian church was all about. I could not have had a better role model.

Many of you may already know of Lucky’s accomplishments during her time here in San Anselmo. She came here as a mission volunteer to SFTS at the request of then-President Randy Taylor in 1989. Among the many things she did while at SFTS, she spearheaded the fundraising campaign to restore Montgomery Chapel; revived and served on the SFTS Auxiliary Board; and taught polity classes, (for which she was eminently qualified, having served as the Stated Clerk of Riverside Presbytery for nine years, Interim Mission Presbyter for 18 months, and also had a stint as the Interim Stated Clerk for Redwoods Presbytery.)

From 1969-72, she served on the first Task Force on Women commissioned by the United Presbyterian Church to document and report on the status of women in the church. This was groundbreaking work that highlighted the extreme gender disparities that existed among clergy and leadership positions, despite the fact that the denomination had been ordaining women since 1956. During her tenure as the Interim Mission Presbyter for Riverside Presbytery, she was one of only five women serving at the very highest levels of the Presbyterian Church.

Later, she was active in the Pomona Valley Council of Churches and led the way in their creating a shelter to reestablish displaced families. She received the *Benemerenti* (to a well-deserving person) medal from Pope John Paul II for her tireless efforts on behalf of the homeless.

While here in Marin, Lucky served on the Board of the Marin Interfaith Council. Because of her deep commitment to serve the hungry, through her association with Church World Service, she initiated the Crop Walk for Hunger in San Rafael, which is now in its 14th year.

At her memorial service on April 17, her daughter shared many stories about Lucky and what it was like having her as a mother. Her insistence on the proper way to set the table, and a story of one of her last days, when she woke them at 3:00 am, making them change the room decor to reflect the coming of Spring (perhaps anticipating the need for a cheerful environment to provide consolation to her children after her departure?) were both examples of the highest standard she set for herself and the way that she modeled those values for the next generation. Yet with all her insistence on propriety, she was neither pretentious nor hide-bound; rather, propriety was always in service to her gracious hospitality, welcoming the stranger as an honored guest, no matter their station in life.

As I mentioned earlier, she was a mentor to me in my first year at SFTS. That was a very turbulent time for me both personally and spiritually. I shall not forget her kind words and gentle guidance. She was a model of circumspection: she never presumed to tell me what I should do, but rather, walked with me in my journey of self-discovery and discernment of my particular gifts and call to service in the church. I praise God for Lucky and will be forever grateful for her influence in my life.

~Virginia Thibeaux

<sup>1</sup> William Sloane Coffin, *Credo* p. 167. (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2004.)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OF SAN ANSELMO  
*an inclusive community*

72 Kensington Road  
415.456.3713

website: [www.togetherweserve.org](http://www.togetherweserve.org)  
e-mail:

[mail@togetherweserve.org](mailto:mail@togetherweserve.org)

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ADULT STUDY

9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
& SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 a.m.

(Nursery Care)

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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

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*Unless the eye catch fire, God will not be seen.  
Unless the ear catch fire, God will not be heard.  
Unless the tongue catch fire, God will not be named.  
Unless the Heart catch fire, God will not be loved.  
Unless the mind catch fire, God will not be known  
~ William Blake*

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