

KENSINGTON PRESS

OCTOBER 2018

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ,

The paper clouds on the walls of the sanctuary were part of our Family Sunday worship on September 16. Worshipers were invited to write the names of those people who have served as their spiritual mentors. These mentors are those who have helped us find our way in life, and in the life of faith in particular. The names written on the clouds might be trusted teachers, parents or other relatives, pastors, authors, or a trusted friends. They may be living or dead.

The cotton balls on the clouds were added by the children, not only to help make the clouds more fluffy, but to remind all of us there are young people in our congregation who seek spiritual guidance from mentors – perhaps even from you.

During the month of October, we'll keep the paper clouds on the sanctuary walls. Please feel free to add the names of your spiritual mentors – as many as you'd like. On the first Sunday in November, we'll celebrate All Saints' Sunday, and notice, once again, the "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1), those people who have guided us in life and faith and on whose shoulders we stand.

October is also the month we begin our annual giving campaign. A Presbyterian church depends entirely on the voluntary gifts of its members and friends to keep the doors open, provide worship and programming, and reach out into the community and beyond in service. We do not receive funds from our denomination. On the contrary, we in the local churches support our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), with our contributions. As you think about your financial gift to the church for 2019, remember the cloud of witnesses whose gifts made it possible for us to gather, worship, and serve as we do. And remember those who will come after us, those for whom we will be that cloud of witnesses. Our giving campaign theme, "Woven Together," reminds us "We're All in This Together," past present and future.

Together we serve,

Joanne

OCTOBER 7, 2018

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
&
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
OFFERING

ONE LORD
ONE FAITH
ONE
BAPTISM

ONE GOD,
WHO IS
ABOVE ALL
THROUGH
ALL AND
IN ALL



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us"

~Hebrews 12:1



FAMILY MINISTRIES



Welcome Heather Gordon and Patrick O'Connor to Family Ministries!

Heather Gordon, Director of Youth Ministry and Seminary Intern



Heather has a wealth of experience with children and youth as an English teacher, a background in theater and music, and a passion for youth ministry. She's a student at SFTS, and when she's not working, she loves to read, sew, and sing! Her family consists of herself, husband Daniel and their pets, Terra the dog and Tony the cat.

Patrick O'Connor, Godly Play Teacher

Patrick is thrilled to be working with children and their families in Godly Play classes here. While currently a first year at San Francisco Theological Seminary, his undergraduate work was in early childhood and elementary education at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. A curious learner himself, he enjoys facilitating students to experience God in fun and creative ways.



Youth Ministry Update

Happy Autumn, church family! I'd like to begin by saying a huge thank you to everyone. You've all made me feel very welcome here at First Presbyterian. It's hard to believe a month has already gone by! September was a great start to youth activities, beginning with a very successful ice cream social, a game night, and the bake sale at the San Anselmo Country Fair Day. Thank you again to all the volunteers who helped work our booth, and to everyone who donated baked goods. Without everyone's help, this would not have been possible!

In October, the youth are planning a community service activity (date and activity TBD, we're working on it!) At the end of the month, mark October 28th on your calendars for an evening of ultimate Frisbee! Come as you are, or maybe even wear something in the spirit of Halloween. Don't know what ultimate Frisbee is, or how to play? Don't worry, we can teach you! All the youth grades 6-12 are welcome to come and hang out and have fun, so bring a friend (or two)!

If you have any questions, want to get in touch with me, or anything else, you can reach me by email at hcgordon16@gmail.com. When you do, I will send you my cell number.

Blessings,
Heather Gordon, Youth Director/Intern




READ MORE!

The Ten Best Ways Parents Can Support Godly Play

Developed by Jerome Berryman, Godly Play® is an interpretation of Montessori religious education. It is an imaginative approach for working with children, an approach that supports, challenges, nourishes, and guides their spiritual quest.

It is more akin to spiritual guidance than to what we generally think of as children's education. It involves children and adults, as mentors, moving together toward fluency in the art of knowing how to use Christian language to nourish their moral and spiritual development.

Godly Play assumes that children have some experience of the mystery of the presence of God in their lives, but that they lack the language, permission, and understanding to express and enjoy that in our culture. In Godly Play, we enter into parables, silence, sacred stories, and liturgical action in order to discover the depths of God, ourselves, one another, and the world around us.

The presentation for children about the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai is called "The Ten Best Ways." There are also ten ways that parents can effectively support their children in the Godly Play program:

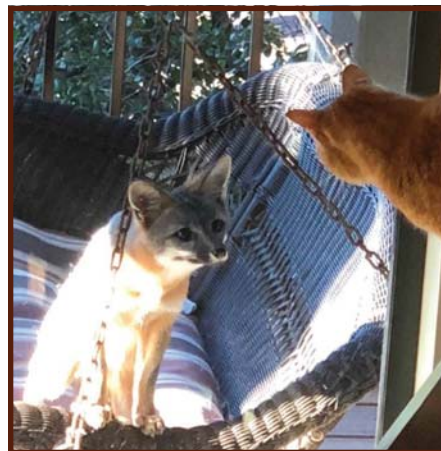
1. Follow the schedule as faithfully as you can.
2. Please help your children arrive in plenty of time so they can be relaxed.
3. It is best to say good-bye to your children at the doorway. This helps the doorman help the child enter the room appropriately.
4. It is also best not to hover at the doorway. Once your child enters the room, he or she will be safe. The mentors may be volunteers, but they are well-trained.
5. When you pick up your children, they may not be able to put into words what the lesson for the day was. They are not asked to memorize a summary or a Bible verse. They are invited to wonder together what the lesson means and how it is important for their lives. Summaries and Bible verses are important, but that is not the emphasis. The emphasis is on learning how this language helps them make meaning for their lives.
6. When you pick up your children, you will want to know what they have learned, but they will not always be able to tell you. They also may not have an art project or a work sheet to show you. We don't use either. The art is expressive art, and

they may want to keep this private. Much of the significant communication in the room is nonverbal, and the history of the Christian tradition is full of teachings about how the mystery of God's presence is difficult to express.

7. Please don't come into the room during the session, so that the room can remain for the children. The mentors have been trained how to help maintain this child-centered focus by such things as talking softly and keeping down below the invisible ceiling that is about the height of the average child in the room. You are always welcome to come into the room after the class.
8. You are welcome to come to the parents' sessions, where you can experience directly what your children do. That is a great time for good discussions about what is going on.
9. Would you like to help? We welcome volunteers to help with the "feast," to help repair the materials, and to refresh the room. There are things to do that can help make the program more effective in your setting.
10. Don't forget about the schedule for parent classes and the many books and articles about Godly Play.

This is a very well-researched program with a strong foundation. It began in about 1960 with Jerome Berryman's questions about how to make Christian education more appropriate for children. Ask about how Godly Play was founded and what these resources are.

Taken from "The Complete Guide to Godly Play: Volume 2" by Jerome Berryman © 2017 By Jerome Berryman. Published by Church Publishing Incorporated. www.churchpublishing.org. All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce this page for use in the purchasing congregation only and should not be posted on any church or individual's website.



Stare down at the Conant ranch: "Mom! That weird kitty is back!"

Bring your favorite photo of the wild animals you've encountered on October 14th for the Blessing of the (Wild) Animals. See next page for more.

Photo by David Conant.

WORSHIP

Sunday, October 14 Blessing of the (Wild) Animals

October 5 is St. Francis' Day, a time-honored day for a "Blessing of the Animals" service in some traditions. We'll be celebrating World Communion Sunday on October 7, so our Blessing of the Animals observance will be Sunday, October 14, during the Sermon from the Steps. Our twist on this tradition is that we'll bless the wild animals that we enjoy in Marin. Please email Pastor Joanne Whitt your photos of Marin wildlife to joannewhitt@togetherweserve.org. We'll look at a slideshow of these coyotes, deer, foxes, skunks, raccoons, turkeys, etc. that share our habitat during the Sermon from the Steps, and ask God's blessing on them.



Turkeys on parade.



A 4-point buck peeks into the Spears' dining room. Photo by Liz Spears.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Bread for the World Sunday is October 21st

In the Scripture reading for the day, Jesus has been teaching a multitude of people. The end of the day draws near, and his disciples ask Jesus to send the people away so they can find and purchase something to eat, but Jesus says to them, "You feed them."

"How are we to meet the hunger needs of so many?" the disciples ask, and it is a question we might also ask today. Bread for the World knows how it's done, and they have set a goal to end hunger everywhere by 2030. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, they provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.

An Offering of Letters

In 2018, funding for vital domestic and international anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs is again at risk of deep cuts. Through hand-written letters, we will urge Congress to invest and protect key programs that help improve the lives of men, women, and children facing hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

The actions that Congress takes have far-reaching impact on the lives of millions of people in the United States and around the world living in hunger. The federal budget is the investment of our tax dollars. This investment must reflect our nation's priorities and values.

Globally, hunger and poverty rates have been cut in half over the last 25 years. But in 2016, for the first time since the turn of the century, the number of people living in hunger increased, and now stands at 815 million. Funding for international hunger programs is under threat and we must work to get it back on track.

In the United States, 1 in 8 Americans lives at risk of hunger, including approximately 13 million children. Hunger rates have been declining since 2011, yet many Americans still struggle to put food on the table.

We know how to end hunger. Food assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Women, Infant, Children (WIC) nutrition program, and school

meals keep hunger at bay for millions of vulnerable Americans. Studies show that they also help children do better in school and in life.

Job training and tax credits give low-income workers the tools and incentives they need to move themselves out of poverty. Putting our tax dollars toward policies and programs that have been tested and proven to increase opportunity is critical to ending hunger and poverty.

Again this year, Bread for the World's network of churches and concerned people are asking Congress to protect the funding for key programs that provide hope and opportunity for people living with hunger.

Following worship, we will make our Offering of Letters on Bread for the World Sunday, October 21st. Everything you need to write your letters to Congress will be supplied. We will offer these letters to God during our regular offering the following Sunday, then send them to Bread for the World to be hand delivered. Come, make an offering of letters.

For more information, visit <http://www.bread.org>

RESOURCES

Per Capita - Part 2

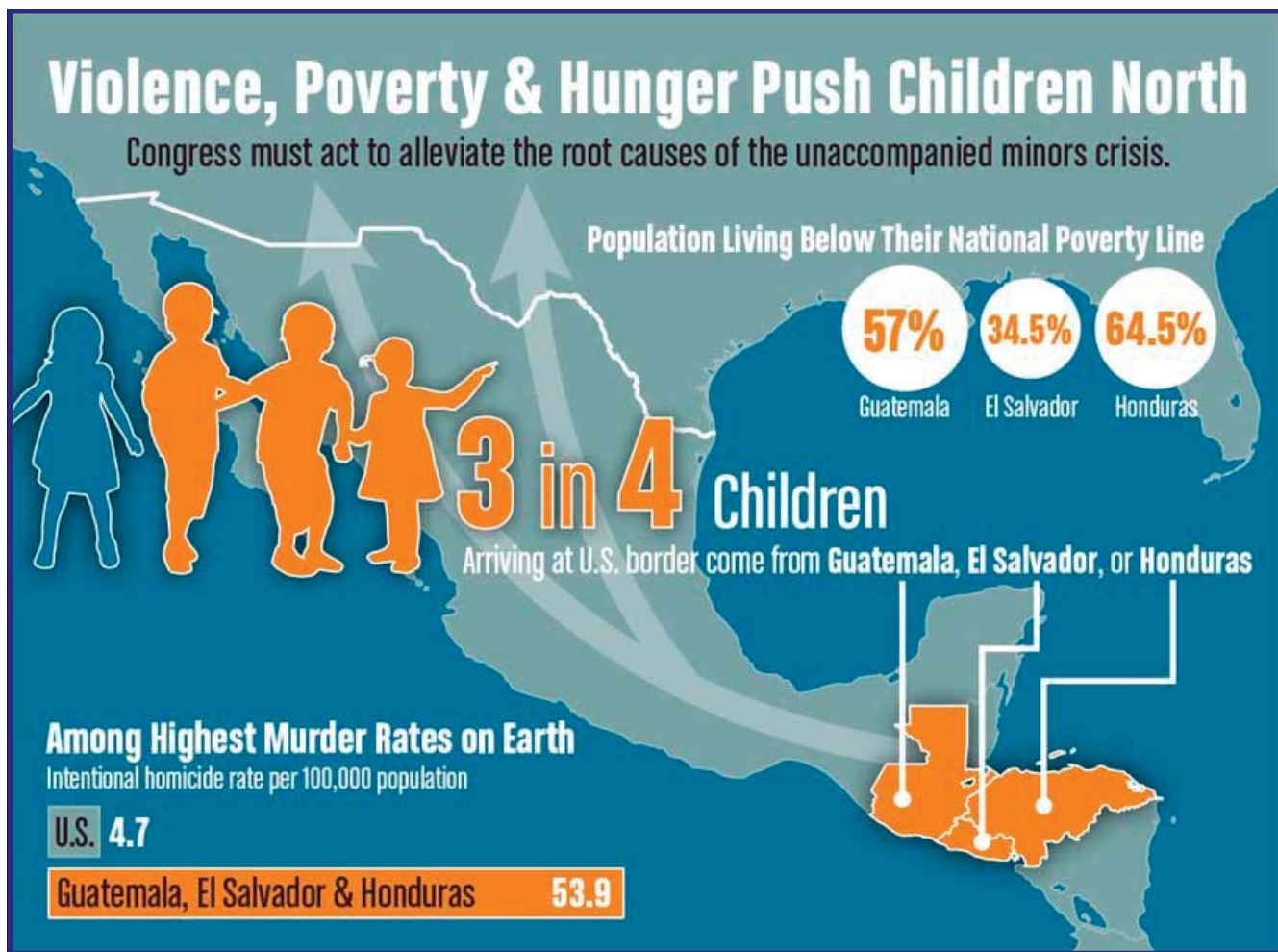
Last month, Resources published an article about Per Capita and what it is. This month we answer the question: What is my per capita contribution for 2018 and where does it go?

The Presbytery of the Redwoods has not issued 2019 rates yet, so here is information from 2018:

The total contribution per active member is \$30.21 with the following breakdown:

General Assembly:	\$7.73
Synod of the Pacific:	\$5.52
Presbytery General:	\$12.26
Presbytery Building Debt:	\$5.00

This year, First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo submitted a check for \$8,247.33 to cover our active membership on the Clerk of Session's Rolls for 273 members. There are blue envelopes on the Welcome table for anyone wanting to donate to offset this large annual expense for the church. Thanks!



CHURCH & SOCIETY

Puerto Rico Mission Trip: 10/27–11/4/2018

First Presbyterian San Anselmo will be sending a hurricane rebuilding volunteer team to Puerto Rico at the end of October! We will volunteer with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), at their site in Añasco, on the western side of the island. Hurricane Maria caused major devastation in Puerto Rico in September 2017; the population continues to struggle to rebuild and recover. Puerto Rico's poverty level of 43% is twice that of Mississippi, which has the highest poverty level in the 50 states.

On Sunday, October 21st, trip volunteers will be commissioned during worship. Please hold them and Puerto Rico, as well as the people in North Carolina in your prayers.

If you want to do more, contact Lisa Cosby, the trip organizer, for ways you might support this effort. Her email is lm_cosby@yahoo.com.

PEDAL FOR PROTEIN

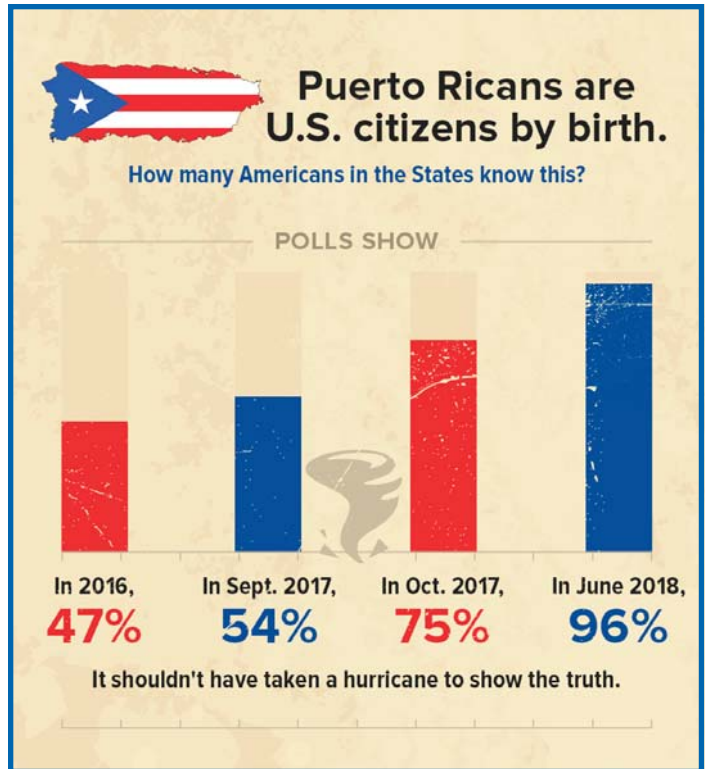
We did it! 1 to 6 days of Pedal for Protein riding for food pantries in Humboldt County. We rode from 25 miles to 300 miles from flat to over 20,000 feet of hill climbing on our bikes. We had the best time ever! Wonderful meals and accommodations, riding on gravel roads, bell ringing, singing, pre-ride blessings, egg bake, campfires, riding on gravel roads, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, swim in Mattole river and lots of new friends... some will be long distance! New riders and 10 5-time riders and all 2,3,4 year riders made a delightful mix and renewed friendships. And more gravel roads...

So far we have raised \$31,404 toward our goal of \$50,000! We CAN do it for hungry people. Please keep praying and donating. Send donations to the Presbytery office in Napa, checks made out Redwoods Presbytery with P4P and rider name on the memo line.

SUNDAY SEMINAR

October 14: A Non-Partisan Review of State Ballot Initiatives

Many of us have been rightfully focused on the importance of the upcoming election for its national consequences. This isn't that kind of seminar. Instead, we will look at the 12 state propositions that will be on the ballot here in California, ranging from regulation chicken cages to daylight savings to tax relief for seniors and disabled. This is a non-partisan event, aimed at voter education only.



MARIN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Tenants Win an Agreement!

On Friday, August 31, the tenants of 129 and 137 Canal St. reached a legal agreement with their landlord. Under the agreement, there will be no increase until January 1st, 2019. And then, the \$800 rent increase will be implemented in smaller installments. The landlord has also agreed to work proactively with tenants to make all needed repairs, and some tenants may consider a lawsuit against the previous owner to recover damages. In sum, the agreement saves each family approximately \$7,000 over the next two years.

At the tenants' weekly meeting in Pickleweed Park Thursday, the mood was relieved. Legal Aid presented everyone with the landlord's offer, and the emboldened tenants agreed to push for an even lower first installment. They found out Friday that they had won this concession, too.

"I'm happy with the result. I will have to move eventually, because we can't afford to pay the full amount, but at least it gives us time to make a plan," says Timoteo M., one of the tenants' elected leaders, and a father of three. "Now I'll be able to sleep!" he grinned.

"I feel okay," says Sorayda M., "I had no idea where I was going to come up with that extra \$800. I didn't have a way to pay it."

Legal Aid believes that the pressure created by MOC's involvement gave the tenants more leverage in their negotiations with the landlord's lawyers. Our relationships with the Mayor of San Raphael, Gary Phillips, and with Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, which we have built through years of acting together, were also important in exerting this pressure. The presence of San Rafael City Schools superintendent Mike Watenpaugh and school board trustee Rachel Kertz at the press conference also shone a spotlight on how housing is inextricably connected with educational equity.

As for tenants, they learned the value of acting collectively, and of working with an organization that has real power.

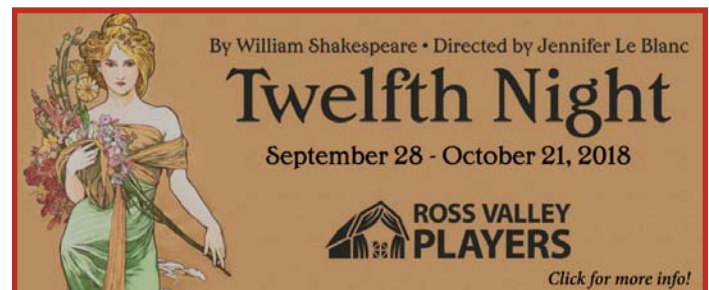
It's joyful and energizing to respond to crises like this one, and we should celebrate this win. And-- we need to keep our eye on the prize. At the end of the day, most of these families are still going to have to move out of Marin – unless they can absorb an extra \$9,600 per year in housing costs. The most impactful thing we

can do is still to fight the long, incremental battle to build real protections for renters, and build the long-term power we need to address the housing crisis.

The mandatory mediation ordinance, which we passed for unincorporated areas of the county last December, would have given these families a legal right to demand mediation with their landlord. And a Just Cause ordinance would enable them to do so without fear of being evicted. At the moment, San Rafael still has neither of these protections. It would be completely legal for this landlord, even after this whole process, to simply evict these families.

We hope that this is just the start of an exciting new chapter for MOC's work in renter protections, as we engage more renters in the Canal and other areas of San Rafael this fall to build pressure for renter protections county wide and in the city – and to build the long-term power we need to tackle the bigger problem of housing with other IAF affiliates across the state in California!

Lizzy Gore
Organizer
Marin Organizing Committee



Theatre Outing Sunday, October 21st, at 2:00pm

Ross Valley Players' 89th season opens with William Shakespeare's "*Twelfth Night*", marking the first Shakespearean play produced on "The Barn Theatre" stage.

This classic centers on a pair of twins separated by a shipwreck, and navigating the pitfalls of love and mistaken identity. "Music is the food of love" and nobody is quite what they seem, so anything proves possible!

Jennifer Le Blanc directs this imaginative interpretation on stage September 28 - October 21. Our Group Outing is Sunday, October 21st, @2:00pm. \$22 for 12 or more. Please let Maureen Kalbus know if you would like tickets: maureenkalbus@comcast.net, 415- 444-0302, or you can find her during coffee hour in Duncan Hall.

LIFE STORIES GROUP

Life Stories Writing Group

Through writing, this small group recognizes the value of storytelling. By listening to one another read, we value insights into one another's lives and by writing our stories we discover more about ourselves. Humor, joy, sorrow, history and information is shared, and we come away refreshed, often renewed, by the gifts we give one another. This is a rich and wonderful experience, filled with surprise and transformation. We do not analyze, correct or edit what is written. We simply enjoy writing, reading and listening. Telling the story is what brings magic to our time together.

The Life Stories Writing Group meets on the second Mondays, from 10am-noon.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

2019 Women's Retreat May 3-4, (Fri. 4pm-Sat. 4pm)

We are delighted to share with you that the Guest Speaker at the 2019 retreat, to be held in the Ralston White Retreat Center in Mill Valley, will be The Rev. Cornelia Cyss-Carter Ph. D. Many in our congregation will remember Cornelia and her caring work coordinating the Older Adult Ministries. She later married our own Carl Carter, and they live in Petaluma. This is close to Two Rock Valley and Tomales Presbyterian Churches, at which Cornelia is Pastor. Everyone will enjoy time spent with Cornelia: it will be meaningful, valuable and laced with creativity and fun.

OLDER ADULTS

Save the Date: Christmas Luncheon December 1st

The Older Adult Committee invites you to our annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 1st at 11:30am in the Fireside Room. Please save the date and watch the bulletin for sign up information. We hope you will join us for great food, fellowship and a special performance by Firefly (aka Linda Price & Robin Truitt). Please call Martha Spears at (415) 342-2578 if you have any questions.



LAGNIAPPE



Celebrated Author Publishes Collection

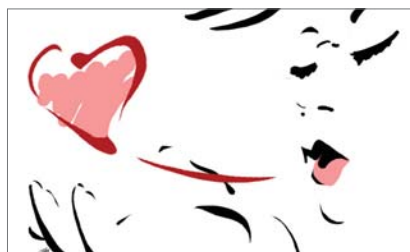
"My hope is that in reading my essays and stories you will remember and celebrate your own stories."

Our own **Jo Vaughan Gross** has published a collection of stories and essays on life, love and grace, titled, **Blow Me A Kiss**.

Many of you will be familiar with Jo's writing. Each word and phrase she writes is always carefully chosen and reflected upon. Some of these stories and essays have appeared in the Kensington Press – I like to print her work when I can, because even though she writes out of her own particular context, the stories she tells speak to a larger truth that describes our shared human experience.

Thus, an encounter with the young uniformed man at the post office becomes a larger than life lesson on the human condition: "there is a destiny that brings us together at particular times, and we do not go our way alone. All that for which and for whom we share and care comes back to us and all that happens is grace." (p. 16). Yes, indeed it is grace. May you find the grace in this collection that opens you to your own stories.

Pick up a copy on Amazon at amzn.to/2NRm40A. Also available for your Kindle reader. (I hear you'll get a kiss!)





The following guest essay has been provided to the **Kensington Press** by author Stacy Horn. Her book, **Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others** (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2013), looks like an interesting read. Enjoy!

Harmony

If singing in a choir has taught me anything, it's that what may initially seem strange and dissonant can later strike some of the most harmonious chords in your life.

At the beginning of our weekly choir rehearsal John Maclay, our director, passed around a single sheet of paper listing our singing assignments. We were working on Leonard Bernstein's **Chichester Psalms** and I'd been singing the soprano 1 my entire life so at first I didn't even look down at the sheet in my hand. I was still reeling with rhythmic confusion from *The Chichester Psalms*. It's in seven. Is that even rhythmically allowed? Imagine tapping your foot to something you're listening to. It's usually going to be a beat like one-two, one-two, or the waltz's one-two-three, one-two-three. Now imagine counting one-two-three-four-five-six-seven. It's just weird.

When I finally checked the assignment list for my name I think I blacked out for a second. Soprano 1s sing the highest notes, the best notes, and the best part of the best notes: the melody. I loved being a soprano 1. But when I found my name it was under the column for sopranos 2s, the part that sings beneath the soprano 1s. I'd been demoted.

I couldn't breathe. I had no time to recover and focus before John raised his baton and expected us to start singing. I could barely read my music. It took me a few moments to even find the soprano II part in the score. Then I struggled. I couldn't figure out how to find my starting note. Instead of easily going to the one floating high above everyone else in the choir I had to find some lesser note underneath. It was like trying to pluck notes out of thin air. I'd try and try, but every note out of my mouth sounded like croaking, and I was making everyone around me miserable. My wrong notes threw off the people next to me, which threw off the people next to them. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry," I whispered.

During the break I ran up to John. "Why? Have I lost my high notes? You can tell me." But he was simply low on 2nd sopranos. "If you can find a 1st soprano

to take your place, you can switch." Right. Like there was a 1st soprano anywhere in the world who would ever step down voluntarily.

Rehearsal resumed. Now I not only had to learn this impossibly difficult piece, I had to sing it as a soprano 2. That was going to be my payback for all the hard work I knew was in front of me. I looked down. So, I thought without pleasure, what nonsensical unpretty note am I expected to find and sing next? I resented all the soprano 1s around me. The best notes secured for themselves, they were completely oblivious to my misery. They barely paid attention to what the rest of the choir had to do. I knew because I used to be one of them. As far as they were concerned the rest of us sang some insignificant notes that they passed by on their way to the beautiful, soaring top. Why did all the other people in the choir even bother coming? "Are you even aware that the altos are singing?" John once asked the sopranos. No. Not really. When John gave the signal to begin, I picked up my music in defeat.

Why does it seem like bad things always happen in clusters? That night I was in a bad mood before I'd even read about my new part assignment. Minutes before leaving for choir an email had popped up from the man I thought I was going to marry but who had dumped me instead. But I was determined not to let a momentary disappointment, however intense, ruin the one of the most joyful things in my life—singing in choir. I deleted the email, pulled out a new top I'd just bought, put my hair up, and headed crosstown to choir practice. Now, a half hour later I was downgraded to soprano 2, unable to find my notes, too devastated to even cry.

And then my mood and whole world changed. I hit my first correct soprano 2 note. I don't even know where it came from, but I got it right. It was a D. The soprano I to my right was singing the B-flat above me. I love that glorious high B-flat and I should have been apoplectic with envy about not getting to sing it myself, but instead I was pinned to that D, vibrating with an astonishing musical rapport I'd never felt before. I was feeling harmony. Not just singing it, but physically feeling it. It was a rush, like falling in love. I was completely in the power of the sound we were making together and I just stood there, afraid to move, thinking, don't end, don't end, don't end. And it took nothing. Nothing. A couple of notes. A D against a B-flat. That's it. Two notes and I went from a state of complete misery and lonesomeness to such

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 9

a startling sense of communion it was like I'd never sung with the choir before.

I tried to catch the eye of everyone around me who wasn't a soprano 1. I get it. You don't experience this intense visceral sensation of literally resonating in harmony with the people around you as a soprano 1, when you're singing the melody. You hear it, but you don't feel it. The soprano 1s didn't have the best part, or the most beautiful notes. Literally everyone else in the choir did.

My "demotion" was perhaps the most beautiful fall I've taken in my life. And, I can return to this euphoria week after week after week, with just a couple of notes.

PC(USA) NEWS

*The following story can be found online at: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/9/21/co-moderators-join-presbyterian-disaster-assistance/>
It is worth going to the original story for the photos alone. Check it out.*

Co-Moderators join Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in visit to Puerto Rico

Delegation recognizes one-year commemoration of Hurricane Maria

Rick Jones | Office of the General Assembly Communications - September 21, 2018

SAN JUAN, PR

On September 20, 2017, life changed for millions of people living in Puerto Rico. That's when Hurricane Maria, packing winds in excess of 174 miles an hour, slammed into the island. The Category 4 storm left millions homeless, destroyed the island's power grid, and killed thousands. A year later, the island is still in the midst of recovery.

This week, a delegation from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is visiting the island. The group includes Co-Moderators Rev. Cindy Kohlmann and Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri; the Reverend Dr. Laurie Kraus, the Reverend Jim Kirk, and the Reverend Edwin González-Castillo, all with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

For Cintrón-Olivieri, it is a homecoming. "This is my first visit to Puerto Rico since I became Co-Moderator. This is the island that saw me grow and nurtured me, and this is the church I love and have served for many years," she said. "Standing here as a representative of the church is not only humbling, it carries a lot of responsibility. In the time of struggle, I'm finding that em-

brace, love, and connection are refreshing, knowing that our church has gone through so much. To be here on my first official visit to three of our presbyteries is a reminder that we are a church and we are connected."

It was Kohlmann's first visit to Puerto Rico. "I'm always very aware of both the sacrifices people make to be present and, in this case, the willingness to share a painful day with people who didn't experience it," she said. "I'm especially moved by gracious hospitality and the invitation to share really difficult memories. But they've also shared in the hope of what is still to come. It's not just restoration, but something new is growing out of this disaster, a ministry to connect."

On Thursday, the group visited several communities damaged by the hurricane and the churches that received a grant from PDA. Among the stops was the Hatillo Presbyterian Church "El Paraiso." What was supposed to be a five-month temporary assignment is now moving into its fifth year for Lay Pastor Luis Soto.

"We didn't have it as bad as other areas, but we didn't have power in the church until November of last year," said Soto. "All of the roads were closed and I could not reach the church. Fortunately, the building itself was not severely damaged, but we lost a lot of trees. We had to use machetes to remove them."

Soto recalls spending twelve hours in line waiting to fill up a few gas cans, as well as working with emergency response to coordinate deliveries of groceries and clothing to those in need.

However, a year later, Soto says the storm has cost them some members. "Some people don't come, or if they do, it is very infrequent. Many are sad and depressed, and we are working to integrate them back into the church."

The group traveled to the community of Isabela and met with church leaders and members at Montclair Presbyterian Church. The Co-Moderators and PDA leaders heard how the churches have responded to the aftermath.

"Maria has taught us a lot and we have become stronger. It has brought out the best of us and it shows that churches do serve the communities," said Dagmary Fornés, moderator of Northwest Presbytery. "Thanks to funding from PDA, we were able to take presbytery leaders and pastors on a resilience retreat. We have also been working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)."

The church delegation was also recognized by Isabela Mayor Carlos O. Delgado Altieri, who pre-

sented the group with a proclamation.

"One of the things we appreciate is the help from organizations during and after Maria. A lot of people have been impacted emotionally and are carrying a lot of trauma," he said. "The people need spiritual and emotional healing and the church has been an important part of rebuilding. We are thankful for the Presbyterian Church [(U.S.A.)] who has helped us in an amazing, structured, and organized way."

Other stops on the first full day included the **Presbyterian Church in Añasco***, where members and volunteers have not only made strides in church repair but have opened a food and supply pantry as well as a PDA volunteer village known as "Angels' Lodge."

"I always thought I would work for the Lord one day. I never thought the Lord would bring me this far," said Ada Lis Luciano, church administrator and disaster relief coordinator for the Southwest Presbytery. "The first day I was able to connect to the Internet after Maria, I contacted PDA. Never in my life would I believe the Lord would allow me to work with PDA."

Throughout the meetings, including a final session at Rio Cristal Presbyterian Church near Mayagüez, pastors and lay leaders told the delegation of their struggles and how they have been able to mobilize and support communities in ways they never have before.

"Many of us did not open our eyes to the problems on the island until Maria," said one pastor. "Our neighbors were in trouble and many of us didn't see it until the hurricane."

* Añasco is where our Rebuilding Team is headed later this month.



MARIN INTERFAITH COUNCIL

You are invited!



13th Annual Visionary Marin Awards

To Benefit the Marin Interfaith Council

Sunday November 11, 3:30—6:00pm
Congregation Rodef Sholom
170 North San Pedro Dr. San Rafael, CA

This year's topic: **Education Equity**

With our 2018 honorees:

Bettie Hodges

The Hannah Project and the Marin City Freedom School

Kim Mazzuca

10,000 Degrees

Join us!

- Hear the wisdom and vision of our honorees;
- Connect with Marin faith communities and interfaith partners;
- Enjoy delectable appetizers and desserts
- Enter a drawing to win one of our fun gift baskets

information, call (415) 456-6957

Purchase tickets here: <https://conta.cc/2N>

<https://www.marinifc.org/> · <https://www.facebook.com/marininterfaith/>

Late Breaking: Redwoods at First Presbyterian

Friends, we have the great honor to host the February meeting of the Presbytery of the Redwoods. Presbytery meetings are a down-scaled version of the General Assembly; there is always space for the Holy Spirit to move the assembled body. It takes a bit of planning and a cadre of volunteers to do this, so watch for news on how you can sign up.

Musicians Wanted

Christine Francisco, recently hired at Care Meridian, a 12-bed Rehabilitation Care Facility for persons with Traumatic Brain Injury, is looking for musicians to come and perform for them, as listening to music is something they all enjoy doing. Nine of them have Spanish as their first language. If you or someone you know is interested in helping her out, please contact her by email: christinefrancisco@gmail.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome New Members!

On September 16, we officially welcomed 10 people as members. Say hello to:



Christine Grossi

Christine and her husband, Ron are long-time residents in the area. Christine was a music major in college and until her retirement was a Church Musician in Sonoma County. She is also a bell ringer and has begun playing with the Bell Choir at First Presbyterian, San Rafael. There was an occasion when she attend-

ed a workshop for church musicians at SFTS. Some of the programming took place in our sanctuary so when Christine retired and was looking for a church community she visited our church and found that it felt like home.



Nick Morris

Nick helped launch and manage the veggie box ministry here at FPSA with Full Belly Farm that provided our church and the greater community with fresh organic produce delivered weekly to Duncan Hall for over eight years. He is the Executive Director of The Street Chaplaincy, a faith-based

organization that helps build community through a weekly wellness dinner and provides a spiritual presence for those who live outside in Marin. He received his M'Div from SFTS in 2015 and has been serving part-time as the Multi-Cultural and Youth Minister at Good News Presbyterian Church, a Korean-American congregation in San Francisco. Many of you know his son, John, who is a familiar face around our church.



Amy Holle

Amy is from Kansas and came to California to go to Mills College and, like so many of us, never left. She has twin daughters who are now college students. Amy is a psychotherapist in marriage & family therapy and works with corporations in the area of employment assistance program management.



Phyllis Muro

Phyllis is from Michigan where she was a member of Erin Presbyterian Church. Just a year ago, at the invitation/suggestion of her daughter who was moving here to begin a new job, Phyllis just packed up, sold her condo and moved with her daughter to help take care of her grandson, Bronco

Gambino, who is now 11 and attends services with her. Phyllis has been a nurse for 35 years; she was the Parish Nurse at Erin Presbyterian and also volunteered with the Red Cross during Hurricane Katrina and Rita in New Orleans. She is now a nurse with the Ross Valley Schools.



Mary Kathryn Marcom

Mary Kathryn is from Arkansas where she was very active in church and community before moving here six months ago. She has been a life coach and motivational speaker since 2013; her business is called Overcomer Coach. Mary Kathryn specializes in grief/trauma coaching, caregiver coaching, and living well with chronic ill-

ness coaching. She also serves part time as the Office Administrator at Christ Presbyterian in Terra Linda.



Diane Rittenhouse

Diane is a family physician and professor at UCSF with a focus on health policy research and teaching. She and her husband, Charlie Sakai, have 3 children ages 18, 14 and 12. The oldest recently moved to New York as a first year college student. The Rittenhouse-Sakai family has attended this

church from time to time for over 10 years and have been much involved in Christmas pageants and other youth activities.



Rick Holland

Rick is a native Californian but when he was 11 he moved to Costa Rica where he lived for about 20 years with his family who were Presbyterian missionaries. He moved back to California when he fell in love and married a Mill Valley-an. They have 2 children, Griffin and Coco, who are well known

to those of us who have participated in Godly Play. Rick is an international management consultant and is known internationally for his support of responsible tourism and regenerative agriculture.



Lila Rittenhouse

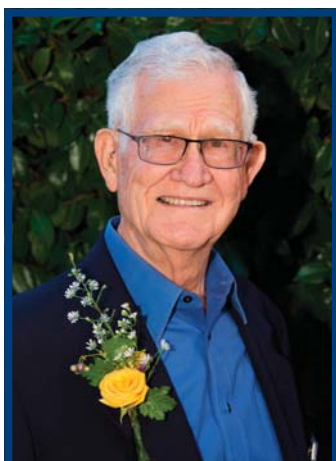
Lila grew up on a farm in Nebraska and moved to California as a young adult. She and her husband had two children: Phil Rittenhouse, who lives in Southern California, and Diane Rittenhouse, who is also a new church member. Before her retirement, Lila was a school teacher, then an executive secretary, and later a church secretary. Last year, following the death of her husband of 53 years, she moved from Sacramento to Larkspur to be near her daughter's family. She enjoys playing the piano.



Annemarie Emma

Annemarie was born in Switzerland and raised in Swiss Reformed church. In 1969 she and her husband, who was Italian, and their small children came to the United States on the SS France which at that time was the longest passenger ship in the world. Annemarie's husband was in the hospitality business,

especially connected with hotels, and that took them to Boston and later Houston. In 1985 they came to San Anselmo where he entered the world of wine and became a wine broker and Annemarie joined Bank of America as a banker for 30 years, until her retirement.



Paul Epler

Dr. Epler was born in Kansas but because his father was a minister the family moved around frequently, finally ending up in Iowa. He recently moved to Marin to be closer to his daughter who lives in Fairfax. Paul did his undergraduate studies at Harvard and received his medical degree from University of Iowa. An interesting side bar: both he and Dick Schlobohm are anesthesiologists and went to the University of Iowa, just 2 years apart, but did not know each other until Paul moved to The Tamalpais and met May Lynne Lim who introduced them to each other. Another interesting side bar: Paul's older brother, Stephen Epler, was President of College of Marin 1960-65.



WORSHIP

Worship in October 2018

- October 7** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Communion Sunday
Peace and Global Witness Offering
"Let Them Come"
Mark 10:13-16
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
- October 14** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Blessing of the [Wild] Animals
Amos 5:6-7
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31
The Rev. Dr. Yolanda Norton, preaching
- October 21** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Family Sunday
Bread for the World Sunday
Commissioning Puerto Rico Rebuilding Volunteers
"You Feed Them"
Mark 6:31-44
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
- October 28** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reformation Sunday
"Done Being Quiet"
Psalm 34:1-8
Mark 10:46-52
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

SUNDAY SEMINARS

Sunday Seminar November 4th: On The (Im)morality of Drone Warfare Doug Olds and Lisa Ling, Former US Military Drone Technician

America's drones started life as spy planes and were augmented to become assassination weapons. And they have been used in at least seven countries to fulfill exactly those roles, throughout Washington's 15-year, ongoing, war on terror. They have been hoovering up information, feeding the military's insatiable demand for battlefield intelligence, and finding and killing terrorists and insurgents. With greater availability of remote piloting technology, drone war has been massively expanded and assassinations by drone have become common.

Lisa Ling has experience in the military as a remote drone pilot. She is now a Marin resident and part of

the resistance to using drones. She also has traveled to Afghanistan with our Bare Roots program.

Lisa, along with Doug Olds, who has studied the Christian ethics challenges to drone warfare, will give a Sunday Seminar after worship on November 4th.



October 28: The Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr and Jordan Decker: "Beyond Pink and Blue"

Creating safe and caring places for transgender people and their families in both church and society is one of the most pressing challenges and opportunities for the Christian faith, community life and church growth today. Join this lively conversation with Janie and Jordan and learn more about how our community can meet this challenge.

The Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr (friend of this congregation,) is a Presbyterian minister who advocates and educates for an inclusive church, pursuing justice and seeking answers to challenges for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender Christians in our community. Janie seeks to heal the divide, even after many years of significant challenge based upon her sexual orientation.



Now honorably retired, she has faced church prosecution for her inclusive ministry. But even when the church insisted that Janie should say no, she always said yes—specifically by celebrating the marriages of same gender couples and recognizing the full dignity of their families. Janie built a broad community of advocacy, compassion and protest—dramatically embodied in that moment on May 16, 2012, when the Presbytery of the Redwoods refused to censure Janie Spahr, as decreed by the Presbyterian Supreme Court. Instead, the Presbytery of the Redwoods voted 74-18 to support her, forging a new path of inclusion.

Jordan Decker is a man on a Spiritual path who became an accidental activist. After learning 57% of Transgender youth will attempt suicide and battling his own depression and suicidal ideation, he came out once again to speak up for transgender kids. He educates faith communities on Transyouth suicide prevention while offering safe post-op housing for gender conformation surgeries in the Bay Area.





**October 14th Guest Preacher:
Yolanda Norton, Assistant Professor of Old Testament**

On October 14, we'll welcome the Rev. Yolanda Norton back to our pulpit. Rev. Norton is Assistant Professor of Old Testament and holds the H. Eugene Farlough Chair at San Francisco Theological Seminary. The H. Eugene Farlough Chair provides annual funds to offer programming that supports the ministry of African-American churches, the recipient's research and the Black Church Studies certificate. Criteria for the appointment include leadership experience in African-American congregations, accomplishment in an academic field of study, distinction in teaching, and service to the seminary's mission.

Ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Norton is an extraordinary scholar with an impressive amount of ministry experience. A Fellow in the prestigious Theology and Practice program at Vanderbilt Divinity School, she came to SFTS in 2016 already having taught Old Testament at Vanderbilt, Wesley Theological Seminary and Moravian Seminary. Norton earned her Bachelor of Arts from Syracuse University, and her Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Graduate Department of Religion at Vanderbilt University.

Rev. Norton's research interests include the Book of Ruth, Womanist Biblical Methodology, and Preaching. She recently made headlines around the world with her groundbreaking Beyoncé Mass at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, where worshipers sang their Beyoncé favorites and discovered how her art opens a window into the lives of the marginalized and forgotten, particularly black women. Rev. Norton, who created the "Beyoncé and the Hebrew Bible" class at SFTS, preached at that service.

Rev. Norton has lead students, church leaders, and faculty from across the United States to Israel since 2012. Most recently she has taken students, staff, and trustees from SFTS as a part of her work with an archaeological project - the Jezreel Archaeological Expedition.



72 Kensington Road
San Anselmo, CA 94960
415.456.3713
www.togetherweserve.org
mail@togetherweserve.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00am
(Nursery Care)

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

The Rev. Doug Olds
Parish Associate

Laurie Buntain
Church Accountant

Daniel Canosa
Director of Music

Heather Gordon
Director of Youth Ministries and
Seminary Intern

Tom Lannert
Church Custodian

Joanna Magee
Office Administrator

Audrey Mahler
Sexton

Natsuko Murayama
Organist

Patrick O'Connor
Godly Play Teacher

Martha Spears
Coordinator of
Older Adult Ministries

Mary Wright Gillespie
Associate Pastor Emerita

Sally Johnson
Director of Music Emerita

KENSINGTON PRESS

Virginia Thibaux
Editor

Joanna Magee
Production

Richard Schlobohm
Photographer

**Frank Ferguson &
Barbara Shindelus**
Mailing

Looking Ahead: Advent Coat Drive

During Advent this year, we will join with the organization **One Warm Coat** in sponsoring a coat drive. Advent, the first season of the church year, includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. One of the Advent lectionary Scripture passages this year includes this directive from John the Baptist: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." (Luke 3:11) We will collect new and gently used coats for those who need them. More information about the coat drive will be available in November, but if you're thinking of giving away coats in children's or adult sizes, save them for our Advent coat drive.



*Meanwhile, throughout the Islamic world, Islamic Relief USA provides winterization aid to vulnerable populations.
(<http://irusa.org/winterization/>)*