



PResPRes

December 2018

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

Ariel Mink

Over the last twenty years or so, I have been involved in a lot of different ministry and service opportunities, at a local level, the Presbytery level as well as the national level. I've shared this with some people over the last year: with the exception of what I am doing right now, functioning as your Interim Pastor, some of the most meaningful and personally rewarding work that I've done has been working on Pastor Nominating Committees.

Why? It's because I was purposefully and prayerfully engaged in listening for God's voice and trying to discern His call for the congregation in their present time and circumstance. Being part of that selection process gave me an opportunity to be part of that pastor's future legacy, and it was exciting to hear about and envision how that would look. You've heard from our current Pastor Nominating Committee that they are entering into the final stages of interviews. All of a sudden, this extraordinarily long process feels like it is drawing closer to the end. It's exciting, I think. But it means that the reality of change is looming. And change, for us, is hard.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:18-19). God says not to remember the past – why not? That's not what our therapists typically tell us. We call that denial. Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. That's common wisdom. We know that a good memory can give us identity and hope and self-understanding. BUT there's also a shadow side of memory – when we hold tight to our memories in such a way that it constrains the way that God can act in the future. We have to guard ourselves from yearning for the “good old days” and we have to prevent “tradition” from trumping new ways of being. And so, there is the promise of change that God can act in some different creative ways; ways that we might not have seen before.

Soon, I hope, we'll call a new head of staff. And that is exciting. But it's also a little anxiety-producing too because some of the things that we hold near and

dear to our hearts might need to be re-examined. But that is okay. God is with us, even if we are experiencing some discomfort. Loren Mead writes this, "It is one thing to hire a new pastor. It is quite another thing for a congregation to enter a commitment to a new leader and to the possibility of new tasks and missions." It's tough to enter into that commitment, to consider new possibilities, new tasks, new missions, because people, and organizations, don't really like change. When pastors leave, it is a time at which the status quo can be questioned and explored without a sense of violation. It gives us an opportunity to see what new things God has in store for us, to be witness to how the new things will spring up around us.

Many of you participated in focus groups and in the congregational survey last year that helped inform PCN's Mission Study Report. That helped us to think about who we are as a congregation, who we are as a community, and how we want to live into the future with a new head of staff. We are going to continue our discernment process to help us, and our next head of staff, identify desired changes. This discernment process will include another "Voice of the Congregation" survey that we hope you will complete between December 10 and December 28. Lots more information will be forthcoming on that.

As we enter even deeper into this time of transition and change, as we feel both excitement and anxiety, we need to remember that God creates new paths through the wilderness for us to follow. And though we do have to pass through the waters, He walks with us. Indeed, God is about to do a new thing!

MISSION

GILEAD HOUSE THANKS PCN Mission committee thanked our PCN volunteers in last month's PResPRes, but below is their postcard sent to thank all those worker bees in October, and all our congregation year-round.





**Help your Novato neighbors celebrate the holidays
with the following two vital programs**

NORTH MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES HOLIDAY SHARE Look for the "Sharing Tree" in the narthex on December 2nd and 9th. Choose any ornament from the tree and bring back a gift card from Safeway (for holiday foods) or Target (so parents can buy toys for their children) or a new unwrapped children's book, in English, Spanish, or bilingual. Formerly the Novato Human Needs Center, NMCS serves 200 families, including 350 children, all here in Novato. The deadline for gift cards and books is Thursday, December 13th (to the office), in time for their party on the 15th.

Two other great ways to help:

- Giving any \$\$ amount in a check which will be put toward the purchase of children's bicycles.
- Giving your valuable time to volunteer at the annual children's Christmas party on the 15th. Contact Stephanie Williams at 415-892-1643 x261 for questions or to volunteer.



SF/MARIN FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE Many, many thanks to all of you who brought in unexpired, non-perishable foods (no glass containers) in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. All that food was distributed into food pantries throughout the county. BUT the food barrels are still here, both in the narthex and the office. And they will be until well into December. If it seems like you are being asked for a lot of food during this time, please remember the SF/Marin Food Bank operates all year round, but PCN only collects foods during November and December.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be taken at both services on December 23rd. This long-standing PC(USA) Special Offering goes to help:

- Supplement the retirements of church staff members, either ordained or not. Money from the offering can supplement either living costs or medical bills, which mount up as the retiree ages.
- Presbyterian-sponsored boarding schools and colleges serving the underprivileged and/or racial/ethnic minorities. These schools help teens and young adults to get educations they have earned with hard work but would never have without your generosity.



The PCN Alternative Christmas Fair is coming! Join us December 9 and 16 after each service!

Come and support the six non-profit organizations that provide services to our community and abroad. We are supporting organizations that are addressing food insecurity and homelessness in our local community, medical needs and food internationally and mental health services right here in Novato.

Homeward Bound provides housing, training and hope to end homelessness. Expect to see their yummy products for sale, and you can also support the organization with a donation. **Heifer International** is working to end hunger and poverty internationally. You can choose one of four of their programs (hunger in buying a share in an animal of your choice, empowering women, basic needs and sustainable farming). **Faith in Practice** is a non-profit ecumenical Christian organization that seeks to improve the physical, spiritual and medical needs through mission trips and health-related educational programs. **Ceres Community Project** is a local non-profit that provides meals that nourish the critically ill and empower teens through a volunteer program. They will be on hand providing information about their programs and selling a cookbook for \$30 and packaged cookies that they make. **Extra Food** is an organization that rescues excess fresh food from businesses and immediately delivers to non-profits serving Marin's most vulnerable children, adults and families. **North Marin Community Services** will provide education about mental-health services offered here in Novato and take donations to support this important program.

If you cannot attend either service but wish to make a donation to any of these organizations, please contact the PCN office at (415) 897-6152 or Regina Rus at reginabrus@gmail.com or (415) 497-2212.

Christmas Season Schedule

Saturday, December 1: Hanging of the Greens at 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 9:

10 a.m. – Children's Christmas Pageant (one service)

11 a.m. – Special Congregational Meeting to elect new Deacons and Elders

11 a.m. – Advent activities upstairs: decorate cookies, make decorations, create cards for residents of Atria and Creekwood

11 a.m. – Alternative Christmas Fair

Sunday, December 16: Alternative Christmas Fair following both services

Monday, December 24:

5 p.m. – Family-friendly contemporary Christmas Eve service

7:30 p.m. – Special music by the Chancel Choir and PCN Bells

8 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve service

Advent Activities – Sunday, December 9



Mark your calendars! Immediately following the Children's Christmas program on December 9 (remember, one service only that day, starting at 10:00 a.m.), we will have three different creative activities available for children AND adults upstairs: Christmas cookie decorating, Christmas ornament making, and Christmas card writing. Start downstairs in Trevitt Hall and explore our Alternative Christmas Fair, and then come upstairs and continue the fun!



Fall-Prevention Class at PCN

More than 200 Marin County residents have completed the fall-prevention program, "*A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls*" since it started being offered at PCN in 2016. A new PCN class has been scheduled in 2019 – here's your opportunity to join us!

During the eight-session course participants gain:

- Safe and simple exercises to promote strength, flexibility and balance
- Problem-solving strategies to address habits and behaviors
- Safety-promotion lifestyle strategies
- Ways to create a safe home environment ... and more!

Each of the eight sessions lasts two hours and is FREE!

Register now – space is limited.

Class location: Christensen Room at PCN

Dates: Wednesdays beginning January 30 from 1 to 3 p.m.

To register, or for more information, please contact: **Beverly Winsor, A Matter of Balance Master Trainer 415- 99FALLS (415-993-2557)** or email injuryprevention@maringeneral.org.



Mission Committee Local Volunteer Opportunities

Snack Sacks: Help prepare the food bags between services every Sunday and deliver the sacks to the Marin Mobile Showers in Hamilton on Monday mornings. Contact Regina Rus at (415) 897-7384 or email reginabrus@gmail.com.

Lynwood Reading Program: Spend one hour weekly listening to students read at Lynwood Elementary School. Contact Art Plumstead at (415) 892-4063.

ExtraFood.org: Spend one hour weekly picking up extra food from a restaurant or grocery store and delivering to a non-profit serving food to those in need. There will be an orientation, date TBD, and a driver's license check is required. Contact Jane Sime at (415) 892-5259.



Dear PCN Friends,

As Carla and I prepare to return East to be closer to family and friends in our "senior years," we wanted to send this note to thank all our friends at PCN for your love and support during our time with you.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time when Steve was your Parish Associate and Carla sang with the choir. We especially want to express our appreciation to those who sent cards, attended our appreciation luncheon hosted by All Saints or participated in the generous love offering gift.

As one of our favorite hymns puts it: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love." Please know that you will continue to be held in our thoughts and prayers.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve and Carla



The Pastor Nominating Committee is currently getting to know our candidates better during neutral pulpit weekends. We do this by interviewing candidates a third time, enjoying fellowship with them and their spouses and by observing as they preach and help to lead worship at offsite locations. We ask that you pray for God's blessings on each of these candidates as they discern their individual calls. We understand that everyone is eager and curious about who will fill this position. Be assured that as we know more, we will share more. In the meantime, we ask for continued prayers for our congregation as we ready our hearts to welcome a new pastor, and we thank you so much for your patience and support.



Come help paint the Christensen Room on Saturday, December 8 from 9 a.m. till ... it's finished! Lunch will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, contact Bill Walker at (415) 726-6733 or walkerb1959@gmail.com.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Helping you connect with God every day. Pick up your copy on the hall table in the office.



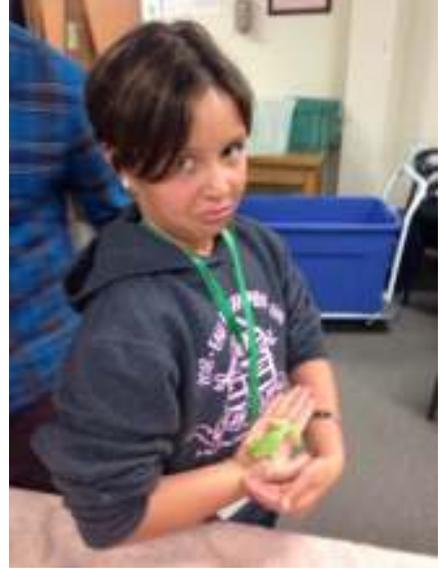


HARVEST FESTIVAL Following are a few more pictures from our recent Harvest Festival. Many thanks to Program and Fellowship elder Michelle Berlin-Christian for her leadership and to all the volunteers who made such a fun evening for our church family – all shapes and sizes.





SEEKers CREEPY CRAWLERS Thanks to Sally Carbonaro for enlisting the help of Mr. C from Marin Treks to bring the wild world of nature into our children's hands...and their waists, shoulders, etc. It was a very fun evening and an example of the great time SEEKers is for all concerned.





Middletown Mission Trip

Between September 23rd and October 5th five PCN members took their tools to Lake County, CA, to join a team of Santa Rosa volunteers building new homes to replace those lost in the disastrous 2015 Valley fire. The following photos illustrate the new relationships between people accomplishing tasks once thought impossible and returning home, knowing that it was what the Lord asked of them.



Nancy Mandell building steps and moving drywall.



Tom Telfer and team building a hitching rail.



Jay Haney and Bill Walker discussing where the stud should go.



Gary Pearce – PCN's very own framing expert!



Bill Walker – cutting and installing drywall



Volunteer Center



Second week team



Explorers Christmas Party

Kay and Bill Walker have invited the Explorers and other empty-nesters of any age to a wonderful Christmas Party on Sunday, December 16 from 2 to 5 p.m. Their address is 48 Capilano Dr., Novato. There will be Christmas carols, fellowship, and, of course, food! Please bring your favorite holiday treat and a beverage of your choice to share. Punch, coffee and tea will be provided. RSVP to Kay Walker at (415) 883-5780 or Janalee Holmes at (415) 898-8418. Let's enjoy the Christmas spirit together!



Please turn in your Estimate of Giving card! It's important that we have this information so we can plan next year's budget. If we don't hear from you, anticipate a call!



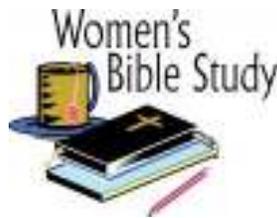
If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Quilt ministry, mark your calendars for the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. You don't have to know how to quilt to participate and help!



If you would like to listen to a copy of the Sunday sermon, you don't need to request a CD. Since Sunday, October 14, they are being posted on a PODCAST at <http://www.buzzsprout.com/218646>. They are usually available by the Tuesday following the service. Thank you to Jim Rolka for making these available!



Has it ever happened to you? Someone shared a painful experience, and you were at a loss to respond with the right words. If so, then the Stephen Ministry training class could be what you need. If you ever thought about taking the training, here is your opportunity. There will be a Stephen Ministry class starting January 7th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on S. Novato Blvd. If you are interested or have questions, please call Alan Dunham at (415) 897-8886 or Kathy Botko at (415) 897-7783 or speak with any Stephen Leader.

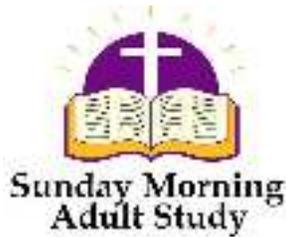


THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Women's Bible Study will wrap up its 2018 session with our traditional potluck lunch in the **Christensen Room** immediately following our class time **Thursday, December 6**. All women are welcome to join us for our studies from **9:30 to 11 a.m.** and then stay for some tasty tidbits.

We will resume our studies of the Gospel of Luke on **January 9, 2019**, at 9:30 a.m. If you are one of the many people who helped us with our mission projects in 2018 by collecting aluminum pull-tabs or product box tops, thank you so much. And please continue! We collect pull-tabs year-round to help the Shriners Hospital for Children defray medical expenses and the box-tops help support schools. You can drop these off in the library box in the church office or bring them by our Bible study on Thursdays. We'll take it from there.

Women's Bible Study is led by Carol Dacquisto, Elaine Harris and Melodie Baird. We'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Carol Dacquisto: phone 415-892-2070, email dacqmom@aol.com
Elaine Harris: phone 415-382-0854, email e.harris@comcast.net
Melodie Baird phone: 415-897-7512, email melodie.l.baird@gmail.com



“GOD’S LOVE GIFT OF A CHILD”

In the Sunday morning adult Bible study, we will be starting a new unit of study. This quarter’s study begins with God’s demand for our complete and undivided love as shown in passages from Deuteronomy and Psalms, including the Shema and Joshua’s statement of love and reverence for a liberating God.

Unit 1 concludes with our response to God’s love in the birth of Christ. In Luke 2:29-35 we find Simeon’s response to seeing Jesus. It is first of all a worship hymn as he blesses God for keeping His promise and sending the Messiah. He joyfully praises God that he has been privileged to see the Lord’s Christ.

Unit 2 looks at selections from the New Testament letters on the nature and extent of our responses to God’s love in Christ. James encourages total submission to God in love, while Paul promotes selfless devotion as shown in Christ’s total submission to God in love.

Unit 3 has passages from Psalms 48, 66, and 91, expressing glory to God and praising Him for His steadfast love, mighty works of goodness, and assurance of protection for those who love Him.

We will look forward to seeing you and hope you will join us as we begin this new quarter of God’s love for His people. Join us at 9 a.m. in the library.

~Carol Dacquisto, Larry Dacquisto, and Rosie Nicholas

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP



PCN Women in Prayer

Are you looking for a quiet, supportive place to build relationships with God and other women through sharing in prayer? Women in Prayer is a small group that meets monthly to share fellowship, Bible reading, and to pray as we are led. In December and January, we are holding two special evening get-togethers at the home of Melodie Baird in Novato:

**Thursday, December 6: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.; and
Thursday, January 3: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

We will socialize and enjoy a light soup supper before we begin our prayers. We ask that you bring your Bible and perhaps a snack to share. For driving directions, more information, or to just chat, please contact:

Janis West, 414-250-2122, janisw99@gmail.com
Melodie Baird, 415-897-7512, melodie.l.baird@gmail.com



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study group meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. We are studying ACTS. Join us for this one-hour mid-week boost and share great fellowship with brothers. And no homework!



NOV 4 & DEC 2 PHOTOS WITH A PURPOSE!

Have your beloved pet photographed by Vicki Smith, Photographer Extraordinaire! All proceeds will support our fifth mission trip to Cambodia where we will volunteer for AIM: Agape International Missions at their rescue and restoration center for child victims of sex trafficking.

Trek Winery is a “pet friendly establishment”. Bring your friends and your pets! Follow the link below to reserve an appointment for your pet’s photo session. Edited photos will be emailed to participants, suitable for printing/framing.

Cost for photo session: \$25.00 for one pet and \$40.00 for two pets. (Additional donations gratefully accepted!)

Sign up soon at: <http://signup.com/go/LzpGgfE>

Buy a glass of wine and stay awhile!



Learn more about our mission: <https://agapewebsite.org/human-trafficking>

Team members are associated with The Church of the Vine in Novato, Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church in Mill Valley, Presbyterian Church of Novato, and Bayside Church in Granite Bay.

PERSONALIZED PET PHOTOS

A Fundraiser for
Cambodia Mission
Trip to join the fight
against child sex
trafficking.

WHERE:

TREK WINERY
1026 Machin Ave.
Novato, CA

THANK YOU
ANDY & LIZ
PODSHADLEY!

A PERFECT GIFT
FOR CHRISTMAS!

To reserve your “Spot”!

<http://signup.com/go/LzpGgfE>

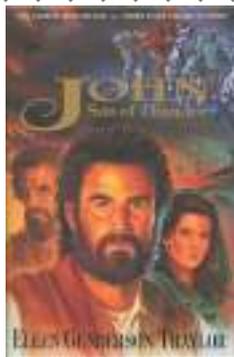
Or call for info.

415-713-0588

Dates & Times:

Nov. 4 & Dec. 2, 2018

1:00pm to 3:00pm



John, Son of Thunder

Thursdays, January 10 – February 28 ☞ 6-7 p.m.
Light supper provided from 5:30-6 p.m.

Presbyterian Church of Novato
710 Wilson Avenue

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Gregory Love
Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at
San Francisco Theological Seminary

Join us on Thursday evenings as we study the book of John. We'll be reading the historical fiction book, *John, Son of Thunder*, by Ellen Gundersen Traylor in combination with the Gospel of John. Books are available for purchase for \$30 in the church office.

John, Son of Thunder

*Registration Form: **Please Print**

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Phone _____

Yes, I'd like to come for supper before class.

*Registration is open to all interested adults. Mail or deliver this form to the Presbyterian Church of Novato, 710 Wilson Ave. (P.O. Box 631) Novato, CA 94948, phone (415) 897-6152

DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 Hanging of the Greens 10:00 Children's Christmas program rehearsal
2 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 11:45 Christmas choir rehearsal 12:00 M&O 4:30 Youth Group	3 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:30 SEEkers	4 8:00am Stephen Leaders 2:00 PW Coordinating Team	5 7:30am Men's Group 4:00 Bell Choir 5:30 Mission Cmte. 6:00 PNC 6:30 Worship Cmte. 7:00 CE	6 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Women's Prayer Group – offsite 6:15 Youth Director Search committee 7:00 Choir rehearsal	7	8 10:00 Children's Christmas program rehearsal 
9 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children's Christmas program 11:00 Congregational Meeting 11:00 Alternative Christmas Fair 11:00 Advent activities 4:30 Youth Group	10 9:00 Morning Prayer	11 7:00 Personnel Cmte.	12 7:30am Men's Group 10:30 Marian Stitchers 4:00 Bell Choir 6:00 PNC 6:30 Deacons 6:30 Finance Cmte.	13 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal 7:15 Youth Director search committee	14	15
16 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary/SEEker Sunday 10:00 Alternative Christmas Fair 10:30 Traditional 11:45 Christmas choir rehearsal 1:30 Creekwood 4:30 Youth Group	17 9:00 Morning Prayer 2:00 Mill St. meal p/u	18 2:00 Ruth Circle 7:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision	19 7:30am Men's Group 10:30 Prayer Quilters 4:00 Bell Choir 6:00 PNC 6:00 Session dinner 6:30 Session meeting	20 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir rehearsal 7:15 Youth Director search committee	21 5:00 Mingling Singles Pizza Night 	22
23 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 11:45 Christmas choir rehearsal 6:00 Youth Group caroling	24 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:00 Contemporary Christmas Eve service 7:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Traditional Christmas Eve service	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 	26 <i>Office closed</i>	27	28	29
30 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 4:30 Youth Group	31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>					

2018