



PResPRes

June 2016

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

KENT'S COMMENTS

*“Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing in your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God –
what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

- Paul at Romans 12:2

As Summer approaches I suggest you use some of your free time in the warm months ahead to do some reading to help deepen your understanding of the Christian faith.

I have two specific recommendations for books to read if you haven't done so already. The first is by Christian writer Philip Yancey which has become a class. It's his book, What's So Amazing About Grace? I often recommend that book to seekers or new Christians because it clarifies better than anything I've ever read the centrality of grace in the Christian faith. Grace has been defined as “God's surprise gift love in Christ Jesus.” Grace means that God has accepted us in Christ, before we have become acceptable through Jesus' sinless life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.

Yancey's book is inspiring and filled with wonderful stories, many of which have made their way into my sermons through the years. Reading Yancey's book is greatly encouraging and upbeat!

The second book is very different and is both challenging and even a bit guilt-producing. It is Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, The Cost of Discipleship. As you may know Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, one of the leaders of the Confessing Church Movement which resisted Adolf Hitler in using all the Christian Churches in Germany in the late thirties and forties as a propaganda tool for Nazi ideology. Though a Christian pacifist, Bonhoeffer was implicated as part of the failed bomb plot to take the Fuhrer's life. He was already in prison, but that association meant that Hitler was determined that Bonhoeffer be executed. He was hanged at Flossenburg Prison on April 8, 1945, near the very end of the Second World War, just days before the Allies liberated that area of Germany.

The Cost of Discipleship is Bonhoeffer's unapologetic and robust interpretation of Jesus' call that we follow him, including Bonhoeffer's understanding of Jesus' most famous collection of teaching, his Sermon on the Mount. Because discipleship and Christian obedience understood correctly are not about meriting our salvation or achieving it, but as a way of expressing our gratitude to God for His grace in Christ, Bonhoeffer's book may well be challenging, but need not be guilt-producing.

So the books are very different and yet they complement one another! First we hear the gospel of God's grace for us in Jesus Christ. Second, we respond with faith and obedience. I commend both books to you for your Summer reading –

Thoughtfully in Christ,
Kent

MESSAGE FROM ARIEL

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) meets every two years to act on hundreds of items of business which it receives through reports and recommendations from various GA committees and commissions as well as overtures from synods and presbyteries. This year, GA will be held in Portland, Oregon, from June 18 – 25, 2016. Commissioners and advisory delegates from all 171 presbyteries (including Sierra Mink as the Redwoods Presbytery Young Adult Advisory Delegate) as well as hundreds of other participants and observers will gather together to prayerfully consider, discuss, and vote on all the business before the Church. As you can well imagine, each person present has his or her own unique perspective and passion. Jesus said that “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5) and as Paul counsels the Christians in Rome, “For as in one body we have many members, and not all members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5). The earliest disciples (among them tax collectors and fishermen), didn’t choose to affiliate with one another – rather, Jesus chose them. Jesus called them and brought them together. Our unity, and the connectional nature of our church, is because we are one with God. Michael Jenkins, Academic Dean and Professor of Pastoral Theology at Austin Presbyterian Seminary writes that “our unity does not lie in our points of agreement, but in Jesus Christ alone. We are united, not because we have found the secret to consensus, but because Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit unites us in and through and to Himself.”

Please hold everyone at General Assembly this year in your prayers – that each person will complement and help one another in their differences and that they all recognize in each other the diverse God-given talents and gifts that enable us to function as members of the Body of Christ.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Women’s Bible Study

We are very excited about our new study on the book of Luke that began March 3rd in our Woman's Bible Study. Jesus is our Lord, the person who shows us what God is like. And it is him that we are to emulate.

Knowing as much as we can about him and following him is what it means to be his disciple. And as he finished his ministry on earth he asked all of his followers, that includes us, to make disciples also "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:20

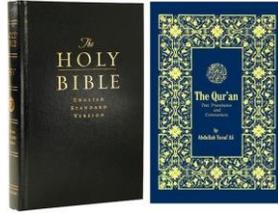
Luke says of his writings they are an orderly account of those handed down by eyewitnesses and he had carefully investigated everything from the beginning. Jesus most often uses Son of Man when speaking of himself and this particular gospel has a strong focus on ordinary men and women.

As we look at Jesus, 2 Corinthians 3:18 says we reflect the Lords glory and "are being transformed into his likeness". Come and see what the Lord might have for you in this study that can transform you more and more into his likeness.

We meet every Thursday from 9:30-11am in the Christiansen room. You are welcome to join us for occasional meetings or become a regular. We love having new friends.

Carol Dacquisto, Judy Snyder and Elaine Layport-Harris

“Kent’s Fall Class”



“The Bible and the Qur’an” – *Comparing the beliefs and Practices of Islam and Christianity*, will be offered September 12 through November 14, 2016. Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00am and Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Course fee - \$20.00 includes book and hand-outs. Registration is open to all interested adults. Let us know if you need child care when you register. There will be a table in the Narthex after worship to sign up.

DEACONS

Deacons Offering every first Sunday

June 5, 2016 from 8 – 1:00 the Deacons **Blood Drive** will be held in Trevitt Hall.

Announcing Giants T-shirts for all blood donors!
Donate blood June 1 - July 15 and get your *limited edition*
"Heart of a Giant Never Quits" T-shirt!

Presbyterian Church of Novato

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, June 5th
8:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Trevitt Hall
710 Wilson Avenue
Novato, CA 94945

Schedule an [appointment](#)
now to save lives!



Give Blood. Save Lives. Go Giants!

PCN KIDS

Letter from Sally

Summertime!

I have great memories of packing up the station wagon with all our sleeping bags, tents, five kids, and a large black dog, for a four day drive from New Jersey to Iowa. Every summer. Other than the dog getting sick, and leaving one of my little brothers at a rest stop for five hours, I have great memories. What are your summer childhood memories? What are your Children's' and grandchildren's favorite memories?

One of my children's favorites is Vacation Bible School. On June 13 over a hundred kids will rock the PCN cave for VBS. Most of these kids, participants and volunteers, do not call PCN home. At least not yet. This is where you come in. We have friendships here which span decades. We have watched as babies are baptized, graduate, get married, and in some cases even become ordained. We take our shepherding seriously. At PCN we commit to raising PCN kids to know God's awesome love and to learn and live, His word. We commit.

We serve each other, the church and our community well. If people knew what we share here at PCN, I believe they would opt in. So many people are looking for something; a sense of belonging, community; activities they can participate in as a family, a way to be a part of something bigger than just who they are. Sounds a lot like PCN.

If you are around during VBS or just about town this summer, make connections. When people ask what you're doing this summer tell them what's happening at PCN. Tell them you plan on spending time with some good friends raising money for youth to go on mission trips. Tell them you're helping out with Vacation Bible School where over a hundred kids come have a blast at our church.

Positive people sometimes get a bum rap. People think everything is great in their lives and nothing ever goes wrong. When you have God leading your life, life is different. That difference attracts attention. When it does, be ready to share the reason. God will take it from there.

What are your plans this summer?

- Sally Carbonaro

SEEkers Summer Mission Nights

Mark your calendar for these Summer Mission events.

July 12; Aug 16; September 13



Summer Sunday School Teachers

Yes summer is almost upon us and we are in need of some folks to teach our Summer Sunday school class. **Summer Sunday School starts on June 26th and will run until September 11th.** We would love for people to take one Sunday and spend time with our youngest members. Look for the sign up sheet at the VBS table between services each Sunday.

Vacation Bible School



FOLLOWING JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

MONDAY, JUNE 13 THROUGH FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 9:00AM TO NOON

Volunteer Recruiting And Student Registration Taking Place **Now!**

Go to pcnovato.org and find all you need to participate.

Look for our VBS table every Sunday after both services.

All necessary forms are also available in the church office, Monday through Thursday
and at pcnovato.org

VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES NEEDED: Positions are open in all stations: MUSIC, GAMES, MISSION, SNACK, CRAFTS, VIDEO, DRAMA, AND PRESCHOOL.

QUESTIONS, CONTACT CAROLYN GERRANS AT 415-897-1504 or grace624@comcast.net
Space is limited. Preschool: age 4 & 5 (before kindergarten), and Elementary: Kindergarten through the completion of 5th grade.



PCN YOUTH – HIGH SCHOOL & JR. HIGH

Celebrate the dude in your life!



BBQ! June 19 Save the Date!

Both Jr. and Sr. High families. Join us to celebrate and honor the men in your life. Bring your male role model (even if it is a woman!) BBQ, games, fun!
Sunday, June 19 (also known as Father's Day) 6 pm At PCN

June 12 Youth Pool Parties

June 12th Pool Parties- Slap on some sunscreen, grab your floaties, and kick off the summer at our pool parties!

Middle School Pool Party & BBQ
June 12th 4-6pm
30 Laurie Ct.



High School Pool Party & BBQ
June 12th 1-3pm
@David Mink's
2720 Topaz dr.



Jamaa Calendar for June

5 – Sunday evening Youth Groups

12 - Pool Party

13 - 17 VBS **Cave Quest**

26 – Sunday evening Youth Groups



MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

Interested in learning more about membership at PCN?

An **Inquirer's Class** is scheduled for

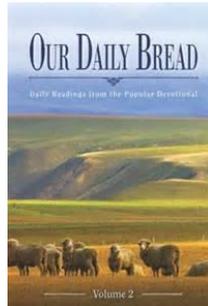
12:00 to 2:00 p.m., June 5, 2016.

A light lunch will be provided.

Baby sitting provided if requested.

Please RSVP to Church Office by June 2nd

415-897-6152



Pick up your copy of **“Our Daily Bread”** for **June*July*August 2016** on the hall table in the office. Helping you connect with God every day.



PROGRAM AND FELLOWSHIP

Musical Notes

Chancel Choir meets at 7:00 each Thursday in the music room.

Bells meet Wednesday afternoons at 4:00pm. We have room for you!

Consider joining one or both of the choirs during the summer, as our schedule is every other week. A great way to introduce yourself to the joys of singing in the choir or playing the bells. Call the office for more information. 415 897-6152.

Monday Morning Prayer

9 – 9:30am

In the library (room 1). Everyone is welcome for a quiet time of prayer and fellowship. Drop in when you can.

PCN Men's Group

The PCN Men's Group is a Bible study group for men of all ages. Come join us for study and fellowship. We meet every Wednesday at 7:30am in the Christensen Room. Contact Phil Dougherty for more information.

Singles Group

The singles group is extending an invitation to everyone. The group meets at **Round Table Pizza** every 3rd Friday of the month at 5:30pm. For more information call Eleuteria Memba at 707 539-6078.

Coffee each Thursday at 2:00 at Creekside Bakery.



MISSIONS

Homeward Bound Of Marin

Partnering with HOMEAID of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA has been vital to raise OMA VILLAGE, our new supportive housing program for 14 homeless families in Novato. Along with community supporters (LIKE PCN) HomeAid has helped Homeward Bound bring this program to life. The crews are raising the buildings at **5394 Nave Drive** and **Oma Village** is forecast to open this summer! **Drive by and see!!**

The two organizations worked together to build the Next Key Center, which opened in 2008, saving \$250,000 on that project alone.

Most affordable housing developers prefer to build larger projects to create economic feasibility, so HomeAid fills a niche by allowing a smaller community like Oma Village to become a reality. With an acute need for affordable homes in Marin, one of the most expensive rental markets in the country, partners like HomeAid Northern California have never been more valuable. We look forward to celebrating a grand opening with all participants and local supporters!



Mission Trip – Juarez, Mexico, October 19-22, 2016 * Save the Date!

Come join the Juarez mission team!

Four days of great company, good food, travel...and did I mention we will build a home for a family! All are welcome!

MISCELLANEOUS

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you all for your participation in Norma's memorial service. Thanks to Kent and Steve for your words, Katy, for your music, Jeanne for help with the program, Bob McBain for working on the video and the deacons for all their work in preparing, arranging and serving the beautiful buffet following the service. What a wonderful team you all are!! We appreciate the numerous calls and cards concerning our welfare, both before and after Norma's passing and thanks to everyone's attention and prayers our family came through the experience in good shape.

I am so fortunate to have such a fantastic church family to look over me.

Love you all,

Don Taylor

History Corner

Before the sanctuary was built, when all took place in the "education" building, this was what we did. Can't date it exactly, but probably early 1970's.

It was dark, but then it always was at 10 p.m. This meant for many families in the church that it was time for the safety check of the church. Yes, we had been the victim of some vandalism and we wanted to protect our church. So various families (usually families of elders and deacons) volunteered to go to the church each night between 9:30 and 10:00 PM to check each door and window to be sure all were locked and to check inside to be sure no one was in the church. The church at that time was the education building, we hadn't built the sanctuary yet. Have you any idea what it was like (no outside lighting) to drive up, grab a flashlight, and begin the "tour?" Sometimes the men did it alone, sometimes it became a family project for each week's term. I know that I took Rob and Bruce with me when Walt was out of town and it was my turn. Look around next Sunday and count the doors and windows in the education building, not just on the parking lot side, but on the back side and upstairs, also. How grateful we should all be for the lighting we have, the closeness of our neighbors and the police coverage so we don't have to keep this volunteer assignment list.

Here's a recipe from one of the old Presbyterian cook books from the past when guests were coming "sometime" and you didn't know when you would be eating.

"Don't Know When They're Coming" Chicken

Chicken pieces

Crisco

Chicken soup or clear broth

Line a 9X11 inch pan with foil. Rub chicken pieces with Crisco. Pack chicken pieces as tightly as possible. Pour soup or broth over chicken. Cover the entire pan with aluminum foil. Put in a slow oven for as many hours as needed. Before taking chicken out of oven, remove the aluminum foil so the top will brown.

Just think, you could put this in the oven before leaving for church and then dinner could be served whenever...later in the day. Wouldn't have to have guests coming.

- History and recipe contributed by Tali Sundberg

Just a little humor

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www.glasbergen.com



"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"

PResPRes editor Needed!!!

After four years, Kai Lancaster is leaving the position of PResPRes editor to dedicate more time to the youth program. This means that we are in need of someone to take over the task of creating the monthly newsletter. If interested, please contact Ariel at Ariel_Mink@Gallup.com or Kai at KaiLancaster@hotmail.com

In the mean time, until we get a new editor please send your articles and information for the PResPRes to pcnadmin@earthlink.net

Feel free to send any little PCN history tidbit you may know for our 'History Corner'.

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