



PresPress

September 2016

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

KENT'S COMMENTS – OCTOBER 2016 Pres Press

*Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, little flock,
for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Sell your possessions, and give alms.
Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out,
an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."*

In the above passage Jesus suggests that when we become generous givers by giving to the church and other charities, those gifts have ongoing, eternal significance! In other words, we are "leaving a legacy" when we give. In fact, that is the theme for this year's stewardship campaign. Our giving is a powerful witness to present and future generations about our love of Jesus Christ and our desire to serve Him! A previous generation gave birth to PCN back in 1896 and with presbytery's assistance moved to our present location in 1962 and built and paid for our land and buildings. They made sacrifices from which we benefit today and into the future! Our giving is also a statement of what we value, which speaks volumes in our materialistic culture!

Financial stewardship will be the focus of two of our October worship services. On Sunday October 16, I'll preach about stewardship, while the Rev. Dan Christian will be our guest preacher on October 23, Consecration Sunday, the day we'll ask those in our church family to fill out an "Estimate of Giving" for 2017 and bring it forward as an act of worship and celebrate with a finger-food brunch afterwards. I hope you'll plan to be present on both Sundays if possible!

Some interesting facts about our giving at PCN:

- To my knowledge, among the dozens of Christian Churches in Novato of various denominations, ours is one of only two (along with New Life Christian Church) to have a fulltime Youth Director on staff! With about 4,000 middle and high school students in Novato's public schools, Jeff Page and his team of adult youth workers have lots of potential young people with whom to work!
- We now have a ½ Director of Children's Ministries on our paid staff (Sally Carbaro).
- In terms of our financial support of Presbyterian General Mission, (supporting Presbyterian mission work here and around the world) PCN gives more total

dollars than the three congregations combined in our presbytery, who are larger in membership than we are!

Why increase your giving for 2017?

- To allow us to continue our strong mission giving; this year 25% of our budget goes to mission causes (this includes many local non-profits).
- To allow us to keep up with inflation and to reward a dedicated staff of both full-time and part-time workers.
- To allow us to add a new budget item to provide the needed resources to keep our computer network and software up to date, something we have not paid for out of the budget in recent years.
- To help us build our outreach to the children and youth of our community and to faithfully serve church families and their children!

Won't you join in helping us as a church family "leave a legacy" for the generations which will follow us?

Your Friend in Christ,
Kent

MESSAGE FROM ARIEL

The Significance of Membership

If you are an adult, and interested in becoming a PCN member, the next Inquirer's class will be on Sunday, October 9, at noon. A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the Church office.

If you have a student (or are a student) in eighth through twelfth grade, we hope to offer a Confirmation class in 2017. Confirmation class is an opportunity for students in 8th grade or higher to learn about our faith and Presbyterian heritage. If, after the conclusion of the class students desire to do so, they may ratify the vows their parents made at their baptism (or be baptized at this time) and are admitted into active membership. The baptism which was begun in faith by their parents is completed in faith by the student when they make their public confession of faith. Classes will be held for 6-8 Sundays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. beginning in the first quarter of 2017. Exact schedule of dates to be determined later. A minimum of five students will be required to offer the class. Please contact Ariel or Jeff, if interested.

1 Corinthians 12 tells us that God arranges the members of His Body according to his plan. Each of us has an important role; no role is more important than any other. We are all spiritually connected to one another.

People seek out a church for many reasons, such as finding answers to difficult questions, deepening faith, being part of a supportive fellowship, and providing religious education.

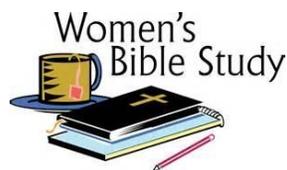
Membership in the Church is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate

in Christ's mission. The second part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Book of Order, outlines what is involved in the ministry of its members (G-1.0304): A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

Members have made an intentional commitment to bond in a covenantal relationship with each other and the church in a faith community. Membership starts an official relationship with the church and provides connections to programs. Membership also opens up opportunities to serve at certain levels of lay leadership in the church as well as having a voice in congregational matters requiring a vote. One becomes a member of the church by professing faith in Jesus Christ and accepting his Lordship in all aspects of life.

We'd love to see you at our next Inquirer's class!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

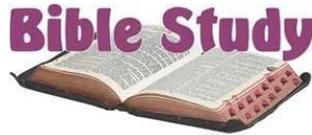
The Thursday Morning Women's Bible resume its studies in the ***Gospel of Luke***. We always hope that the ladies of the congregation will join. It is a wonderful group of ladies who are excited to learn more about God's Word. The Women's Bible Study begins at 9:30 A.M. and concludes at 11:00 A.M. We have a guide book that helps us to think about God's Word and then to be able to share what we have learned with each other.

We have reached Luke Chapter 3:1-22 that has given us an opportunity to get into John the Baptist's ministry. We discovered that John, who broke out of the desert like an old-time prophet, boldly announcing god's Word and challenging his hearers to a complete change of heart. John's message was simple. ***There must be a change in your hearts.*** God is about to act; judgment is coming. And you must have a new life!

For further information contact Carol Dacquisto (415) 892-2070 or dacqmom@aol.com. Ladies, be sure and come and join us to hear more about John the Baptist's message. We will be looking forward to seeing you.

Women's Bible Study Leaders,
Carol, Elaine, and Judy.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY



"THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD"

If you are not attending the 9:00 Service on Sunday morning, the Sunday Adult Bible Study and Education men and women would love to have you join for a special and grand time in God's Word. We meet in the Church Library at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at 10:00 A.M. This gives you lots of time to visit and get a hot cup of coffee before our 10:30 Sunday Service.

In the month of October we will be studying about the Sovereignty of Jesus and using the Book of Hebrews as our guide book. This letter was written to Hebrew Christians who apparently were disturbed by legalistic priests who traveled to young churches, arguing that the Old Testament life styles must be maintained by believers in Jesus. The letter show that Christ is the reality which Old Testament institutions only foreshadowed. Believers need not go back, but must go forward to experience a new life in Christ which does not depend on the old ways.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews constantly returns to the basic of our faith. His first words direct our attention to Jesus, for He is the foundation and the core. In nearly every chapter, the writer continued his perceptive, direct approach, and continued to highlight truth which, when appropriated, will bring us to wholeness in our Christian experience.

Come and join us and see what these Hebrews Christians will do. It will be exciting. We will be looking to have you join us. There will be a seat just for you!

Carol Dacquisto, Study Leader

INQUIRERS CLASS

Interested in learning more about membership in PCN? An Inquirer's Class is scheduled for 12:00-2:00, October 9 in the library. A light lunch is provided. Baby sitting provided upon request.

Please RSVP to Church Office by October 6. (415) 897-6152.

PCN KIDS: Letter from Sally

A Safe Place

A miraculous thing happens every Tuesday night at PCN. Right about 5:30 kids descend on the premises with wild abandon. Some miss ballet, sports, birthday parties,

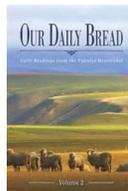
school events, just to be there. They come screaming with delight to see their fast friends, the loving adults who are always glad to see them, to be at one of the safest places on earth. It doesn't matter what is happening in their lives or what their stresses are, they are inexpressibly joyful. Seekers is a very important part of their life. They have made it that way. They have learned to unconditionally except each other, that our discussions stay at church, that it is safe to be who they are and express their joys and sorrows for the support of the group. They are stakeholders.

One of our most important needs is to belong and be loved. This takes many forms throughout our lives but it is always there. Children wear this one on their sleeves. Until they have found it. Seekers is about seeking Jesus, seeking a life worth living, and sharing, and loving.

Do you belong? I assure you, you do. There are so many life changing experiences to be had at PCN, I encourage you to find the one that works for you, that God would have you do. Not because you choose it, but because God chooses you.

From whom all blessings flow

Miss Sally



“Our Daily Bread” - Pick up your copy of **for September –November 2016** on the hall table in the office. Helping you connect with God every day.

STEWARDSHIP

Continuing our Christian Legacy

What kind of Christian legacy will we leave for the next generations? Will it be lasting, imperishable and eternal, or will we leave only tangible items? The apostle Paul instructed Timothy to invest his life in faithful men who would be able to pass God's truth on to the next generation. Where does God want us to invest the resources of time, talents and possessions we have been given by the grace of God?

That was the basis of my September PresPress article, and for this year's PCN Stewardship Program theme. I am hoping many of you had a chance to attend last month's Time and Talents Fair on September 11, 2016, and have given much thought as to how you and your family can start and or grow your Christian Legacy by engaging in service

opportunities at PCN that serve God and our community.

What has impressed our family prior to, and since joining the Presbyterian Church of Novato, is just how much energy our members have toward sharing your time, talents and wealth with those less fortunate. And when I was asked to join the PCN Session and be the Stewardship Elder, I realized very quickly that this sharing of time, talents and wealth is very much a part of the PCN culture. We are blessed!

During the month of October, as in prior years, our church will be focusing our attention on our annual Stewardship Program, communicating with you about the financial needs of our church programs and mission, so that you can make informed decisions on your annual "Estimate of Giving" pledges that we make at the end of October. We pray you can join us on Consecration Sunday on October 23, 2016 when we receive and bless these financial pledges. We will be providing you more stewardship information throughout the month, and please don't hesitate to call me during this time, should you have any questions on how you continue your support of our Christian Legacy at PCN. Together we serve,

Brad Praun (Stewardship Elder) – 415-472-1733 bradpraun@yahoo.com

DEACONS

First Sunday of each month, the Deacon's offering is received.

PROGRAM AND FELLOWSHIP

Explorers:: New news!!! Let's make our fall event the Shindig. Oct. 15 at the Bahia Clubhouse from 5-9. Bring your own drink and a heavy appetizer. There will be music, food, drink and lots of fun. Sign up with Kay Jones at the Time and Talent Fair on Sept. 11 after church. OR email Janalee Holmes at fredandjanalee@comcast.net. See you soon.



Sunday, October 23
4-7 p.m.
At PCN

Trunk or Treating - win a prize for best decorations.
Costumes – family-friendly, please. Again, more prizes!
Games and BINGO - do we need to mention more prizes?
We will provide hotdogs and hamburgers. **Please bring a side dish to share.**

We will not be serving dessert in order to keep everyone from lapsing into a diabetic coma from all the candy that will be passed out.



Great opportunity to bring friends and neighbors. You need not have children to attend or enjoy.

We need help setting up tables and cleaning up afterwards. Let us know that you can help - because we will be calling you eventually! Email Kai Lancaster at KaiLancaster@hotmail.com or call 415-497-1196.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The quilters will be meeting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 4, in the Christensen Room. There will be coffee and treats, and we invite everyone who might be interested, to come and visit. You don't even need to sew! We have a subcommittee for Moral Support, so there is something for everyone to contribute. If you have questions, feel free to call Mary Winslow at 707-762-9660.

PCN YOUTH

Sunday, October 23

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.

PCN 125

CELEBRATION 2021

To Celebrate PCN 125, please write a brief church memory to share with your PCN family. I am making this request well in advance, so that everyone can participate, and no one has an excuse that they don't have time to share a few memories.

If you need inspiration, here are a few prompts:

- Tell us about your baptism or wedding or a funeral/memorial service for a loved one.
- Tell us about your favorite Bible verse
- Which person do you admire in the Bible?
- Who do you wish you knew more about in the Bible?
- What is your favorite Presbyterian casserole, and why?
- Describe your collection of Presbyterian cookbooks
- Share highlights of cooking pancakes, eggs or bacon/sausage at the Buckaroo Breakfast
- Recount the details of your favorite church committee meeting
- What is your favorite hymn or Christian song, and why?
- What really happens at choir and band rehearsal?
- What do you like about being a Deacon?

- Tell us about the time you attended General Assembly
- What do you like about being an elder?
- Why do you enjoy youth ministry?
- What was your favorite mission trip experience?
- Why do you like being a Sunday school teacher? How many years have you taught?
- Why did you join PCN?
- Describe Sunday services when you were a child
- Tell about a dear PCN saint from years prior
- Tell about your experience with Presbyterian Women, Supper Club, the Flea Market, Explorers, Singles, Men's Group, or a group from the past
- Which of Kent's classes have you found most interesting or meaningful?
- What is your favorite Bible translation, and why?
- Do you have a Christian hero? Who is it, and why?

For younger members:

- Do you think the animals spoke when Jesus was born? What did they say?
- Share your Christmas Pageant experiences
- What does a Crew Leader at VBS mean to you?
- What was your favorite VBS theme? What was your favorite VBS snack?
- Why do you come to SEEKers?
- What is your memorable local service project?
- Can you draw a picture of your favorite church activity?

E-mail/send your submission to Kathy.takemoto@outlook.com or place in the Clerk of Session mailbox in the church office by September 30, 2020. I look forward to receiving your contribution.

MISSIONS

MILL STREET HOMELESS CENTER!

Mill Street Center in San Rafael is Marin County's only night-to-night emergency shelter for homeless individuals. A network of volunteer community groups shares a monthly rotation to provide a home-cooked hot meal each day. This significant gift has endured for more than 25 years. If you would like to contribute, please contact Patty Reed (415.699.5246); [pdreed@sbcglobal](mailto:pdreed@sbcglobal.net) or Annie Clausen (415.892.4127) annieclausen62@gmail.com.

You can also sign up directly to provide food through signupgenius.com. It's easy and fun! Click on "find a Sign Up", enter Patty's email, pdreed@sbcglobal.net, to locate our Mill Street signup sheet.

DONATIONS are welcome! We are glad to shop for you! Make out your check to PCN, marked "Mill Street".

ALL DRESSED-UP MINISTRY

It's been some time since you've heard from this ministry. At this time, we have delivered over 500 boxes of clothing to inmates who are being released from San Quentin. Some time ago, we asked the congregation for clothing. The response was incredible. We had enough to dress half of the San Quentin population with some pretty dressy clothing. Thank you all for that response.

We are asking again for some donations. We need some durable jeans and casual slacks. We need pants with 32"-42" waists and length 32"-36". We also need shoes, sizes 9 to 13. If you have any pants or shoes that are wasting space in your closets, we would welcome the donations. Please bring any donations you may have to the office or call Mike Robinson at (415) 302-1729.

STAFF

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