



PresPress

November 2016

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

KENT'S COMMENTS – PRes PRes November 2016

*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for God’s steadfast love endures forever.”*

- Psalm 106:1

What’s happening this month? November is the month we celebrate our national Thanksgiving holiday. This is also the month our Stewardship Committee continues encouraging our members and friends to complete and turn in an “Estimate of Giving Card” for 2017. Why give financially to support our church? Perhaps the most basic reason is to thank God for God’s many good gifts – life, health, family, friends and especially the gift of God’s presence, grace, and love in the person of Christ Jesus!! As I mentioned in a recent sermon, financial giving also helps us obey the Commandment which forbids coveting what belongs to our neighbors. Giving helps us act out Jesus’ teaching, “Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions” (Luke 12:15).

Ministry Associate Ariel Mink will be our preacher on Sunday November 6 when we also celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist. That day Ariel will be preaching on the commandment, “You shall not commit adultery.”

A week later on Sunday November 13 Parish Associate the Rev. Dr. Steve Giordano will be our preacher. Steve will conclude our series of sermons on the Ten Commandments as he tackles the commandment, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

On Sunday November 20, the Rev. Bob and Kristi Rice, Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be with us preaching and leading in worship! We have supported the work of the Rices for a number of years. Bob works with the Department of Evangelism with the Presbyterian Community of Congo and Kristi works in microfinance and community development. Specifically, Bob helps develop new churches, strengthens the training of rural pastors, work to produce print and radio material for Christian education and evangelism and Christian discipleship, including the religious education of both children and adults. Following worship that day at about 11:45, we’ll enjoy a lunch with Bob and Kristi in the Christensen Room during which they will show us pictures of their work and respond to questions.

Starting at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon we’ll also “hang the greens” and decorate our Church Sanctuary for the Season of Advent. We invite you to join us in that effort!

On the first Sunday in Advent, November 27, Steve Giordano will be preaching once again and that is also the day of our Advent Afternoon, scheduled from 3 – 5 p.m. It includes the opportunities to craft an Advent Wreath for use by your family and also to design and construct your own “faux-Gingerbread House” out of graham crackers and candies. It’s a fun, multi-generational gathering and we encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

Warmly in Christ,

Kent

MESSAGE FROM ARIEL

Being a Holy Priesthood

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-11)

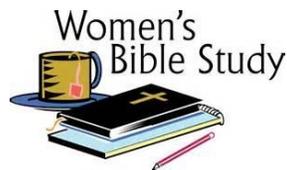
Biblical scholar John Goldinray writes: “We are called to be the living proof of the living God, to bring God to people and to bring people to God. That is our priesthood. That is part of the mission of God’s people.” What does it mean to be a priest, to be holy?

In the Bible, priests stood in the middle between God on one side and all of the people on the other. In that intermediate position, priests had two functions: to teach God’s law to the people and to bring the sacrifices of the people to God. Priests also blessed the people in the name of God. To be God’s priesthood also means to be holy – to be different or distinctive, to be set apart. To be holy meant to live lives of integrity, justice, and compassion in all areas of life – social, personal, family, economic, and national life.

An essential part of the mission of being God’s people is to live out the holiness of God in practical, everyday living: to show respect to family members and members of the community, to honor God by prioritizing Him above all other things competing for our time and attention, to be generous to those in need, to be compassionate, to be neighborly (indeed, to love our neighbors), to be honest in all things... We are to live and behave differently in every dimension in our personal and social lives.

God called us out of darkness into His light. By being a mirror, and reflecting His grace, compassion, mercy, and love to others, we can be holy, we can be God’s royal priesthood and we can be the living proof of our living God.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible continues 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 November, we will continue 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

PCN KIDS: Letter from Sally

21st Century Kids

Recently a team of six of us traveled to Southern California for a two day conference at a Mega Church in Irvine. My take away was two things. We are already doing many great things at PCN and, we can always get better.

We went to get a deeper look at a curriculum that offers vertical alignment across our 0-18 yr age group, with a strong, consistent, foundational message which builds a strong partnership between families and the church. It is called **Orange**. We use this curriculum with our older kids and wanted to really experience what it could be for our youngest ones. We were impressed.

Our schools are embracing project based learning, graduate profiles and 21st Century skills. The goal is to equip our kids to be better prepared to live and work in the world that will greet them when they enter it.

At PCN, we want to equip our kids and young people with a relationship that will empower them to do great things now. To live a life with Jesus by their side, as a friend, a constant help in times of trouble. A relationship that will never turn away, never not be there when they need, and never stop loving them. This cannot wait until they go out into the world as young adults. They need this now.

Their personal faith and relationship with Jesus Christ is the number one greatest thing we can help anyone achieve. Our focus is on 21st Century skills too. On the fruits of the spirit, compassion, empathy; the soft skills.

While developing a personal relationship with Jesus and learning about His life, our kids will learn social emotional strength to help them along the way. To be better prepared to handle situations on the school playground, with peers, homework, and all of their interpersonal relationships. To create a deep awareness and understanding of empathy and the ability to embrace our differences and be part of the solution. To reach out

when others don't, to take a stand when others turn away. To give because they have. To help because they care. Life is a mission. A mindset.

We are on a mission from God. This is the most important thing we will ever think or do. We prayerfully, intentionally, and respectfully want to engage everyone in this mission. There are so many ways to get involved, join us!

Sally

ORANGE IS SIMPLE.

IT'S A STRATEGY.

It starts with two individual influences in a child's life:

HOME + CHURCH

Alone, these two work hard to ensure that every child has a

But when they're **COMBINED**, home and church will have a

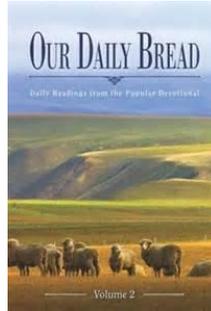
BETTER FUTURE

But when they're **COMBINED**, home & church will have a

GREATER IMPACT

And that is... ORANGE.

“Our Daily Bread” - Pick up your **2016** on the hall table in the office. day.



copy of **for September –November** Helping you connect with God every

DEACONS

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

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.

Novato Human Needs Holiday Share “Party With a Purpose”

Friday, November 4th NHNC thanks you for helping 3,800 children, adults and seniors to achieve success this past year! The annual Holiday Share kick-off will be held at Unity in Marin, on Nov. 4th at 6:00 pm. A wonderful event for families (children ages 5+ are free), the event includes wine and beer tasting, buffet dinner, special children's party,

live music and dancing. Please purchase tickets online at nhnc.org/events or by phone at 415-897-4147 ext 24.

Marin Food Bank Thanksgiving Food Drive

Please remember to pick up a few 'extra' items when you go to the grocery store. Marin Food Bank runs multiple food pantries throughout the county, and throughout the year. PCN's participation occurs only during the months of November and December. Look for food barrels in the church office and in the narthex, starting Monday, November 7th. Food is gratefully accepted any time the office or sanctuary is open. For your information, flyers with suggested foods and details about MFB's programs will be near the barrels.

Thanks To Our Congregation for your generosity this past month toward our peacemaking goals. Your financial support of the PEACEMAKING OFFERING is greatly appreciated! As the ePRPR goes to press, \$3,262.00 has been collected, to be split evenly between PCUSA's global efforts and for the California Re-Entry Program from San Quentin State Prison.

Gilead House last month welcomed a new family of two into their midst. Josephine is raising her 2 year-old as a committed Christian, and will make the most of this opportunity to get them back on their feet again. They will be living in the bedroom which PCN dedicated years ago, when the new Gilead House was being built. Our mission committee has also voted to spend \$100 of the discretionary funds toward two "Welcome Home" baskets, one each for mother and child. Please keep Josephine and Daniella in your prayers during their year at Gilead House, all the while remembering....
*THE MISSION – GH serves homeless mothers and their children through life skills education, mentoring and transitional housing. We provide an environment that expresses God's unconditional love and acceptance. *THE CHALLENGE – Despite being one of the wealthiest countries in the world and situated in the wealthiest county in California, homelessness continues to haunt Marin, even if largely invisible to residents.

Rev. Doug & Elaine Baker Retiring

Dear Friends, Sept. 30th was our official retirement date. I look back with deep gratitude for over 37 years of support from PCUSA world mission and your congregation to minister in a setting where I have felt called by God. I thank God for your partnership.

Northern Ireland has changed greatly in the time I've been here. The level of violence is greatly reduced, political cooperation is substantially increased, and the array of organizations promoting reconciliation are more diverse than ever. Elaine and I have been privileged to walk alongside people deeply hurt by conflict, who sought training to build bridges rather than walls. PCUSA World Mission does not plan to appoint a successor to this position. I was fully consulted about and agree with that decision. In replacement:

- WM has set up a new Young Adult Volunteer site in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Though attempts to integrate reconciliation efforts with main churches in Northern Ireland haven't met with the success I had hoped for, it is appropriate to pass that responsibility on to others within those structures to follow through.
- A colleague and I trained 12 new mediators for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. They are working directly within congregations to restore relation-

ships, make healthy decisions, and manage change effectively. I am leaving behind the resource materials and trained facilitators to carry on this work long after I have stepped back from it.

Elaine and I will continue to live in Northern Ireland in our same house, for the foreseeable future. We have two grown children in England and one in the US. We hope to have the time and energy to be a larger part of their lives and families, as we continue to 'work' locally, investing our energy in our local congregation as 'youthful' volunteers.

With deep gratitude for your partnership,
Doug

email change: doug.r.baker@gmail.com

PROGRAM AND FELLOWSHIP

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.

Fall Prevention Class to be Offered at PCN

"A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls" is an award winning fall prevention program with proven results in reducing falls in adults. This eight session course is for seniors whose fear of falling limits their social and physical activity, and for those who may not have fallen, but want to be proactive.

Participants gain:

- Safe and simple exercises to promote strength, flexibility and balance
- Problem-solving strategies to address habits and behaviors
- Safety-promoting lifestyle strategies
- Ways to create a safer home environment **And more!**

Each of the eight sessions is two hours. A \$20 materials fee is requested. Register now—Space is limited.

Class location: Christiansen Room at PCN

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning November 29 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

To register, or for more information, please contact:

Beverly Winsor, A Matter of Balance Master Trainer: 415-99FALLS (415 993-2557) or e-mail: mob.beverly@gmail.com

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.

STAFF

Kent Webber, Pastor
 Ariel Mink, Ministry Associate
 Jeff Page, Youth Director
 Sally Carbonaro, Dir. of Children's Ministry
 Steve Giordano, Parish Associate

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