



PResPRess

January 2017

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

KENT'S COMMENTS

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105
"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction,
and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be profi-
cient, equipped for every good work." – 2 Tim. 3:16-17*

On Monday January 23 I'm beginning my 10-week Bible study course entitled "The ORIGINAL Good News Documents; A Close Reading of the Gospel of Mark." A morning session will meet in the Christensen Room from 9:30 – 11 a.m. and an evening session will cover the same material from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

This would be an excellent place to start studying the Bible if you have not done so previously! The four canonical gospels are the heart of the Holy Bible for followers of Jesus. Knowing the story of Jesus is critically important for anyone who wants to know and serve Jesus who Christians confess to be the Christ (Messiah or "Anointed One")!

I'll provide a printed Study Guide with study questions for each week and some maps and added comments. You simply need to bring your favorite Bible. I recommend the following translations – the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), the English Standard Version (ESV), and Today's New International Version (TNIV). However, use whatever translation with which you are comfortable. I'm requesting a \$20 donation for paper and printing costs for the Study Guide, but if that is a hardship for anyone, no problem!

Sixty-two persons have already registered, but I'm hopeful a few dozen more will join us! I invite you to consider registering! The printed Study Guide should be available for pick up Wednesday January 4.

Another learning opportunity listed elsewhere in this newsletter is Stephen Ministry Training which begins on Friday January 20, but meets weekly from 7 – 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings through April. This training focuses on Christian caregiving with a distinct emphasis on active listening. These are helpful skills which can be applied to virtually any relationship! If you are interested in learning more and perhaps registering, please speak with any of the following Stephen Ministry Leaders —Ruth Haas, Gail Penfield, Alan Dunham, Kay Acosta, Kathy Botko, Athena Craig, and Sandi Class.

I'll hope to see many of you in one of the above intentional learning opportunities in early 2017 –

Warmly in Christ,
Kent

MESSAGE FROM ARIEL

Studying God's Word

One of PCN's purpose statements is to "Study God's Word towards Christian Maturity." Dr. Howard A. Kelly (1889-1940) once said: "The very best way to study the Bible is simply to read it daily with close attention and with prayer to see the light that shines from its pages, to meditate upon it, and to continue to read it until somehow it works itself, its words, its expressions, its teachings, its habits of thought, and its presentation of God and Christ into the warp of one's being."

Devotional bible study means reading and studying the Word of God in order that we may hear God's voice and that we may know how to do His will and to live a better Christian life. Here's one model that Dale Brunner, New Testament author and scholar, recommends in order to read through the New Testament over the course of a year:

Coordinate each day of the month with the chapter of a New Testament book, for example, on January 1, read Matthew 1. On January 2, read Matthew 2.

January: Matthew

February: Mark

March: Luke

April: John

May: Acts

June: Romans

July: I and II Corinthians

August: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians

September: I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, and Philemon

October: Hebrews, James,

November: I and II Peter, I-III John, and Jude

December: Revelation

In the Bible, there are 1,189 chapters in the Old and New Testaments. In a little over three years, a person could make an intensive study of the whole Bible taking a chapter a day!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

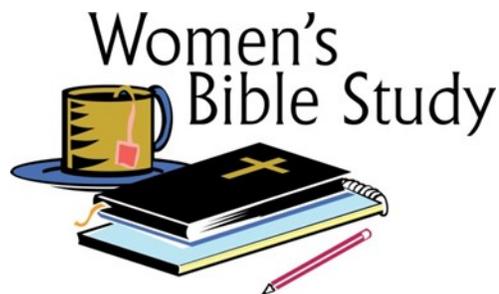


WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We would be delighted to have each of you come to our Sunday Adult Education Class on Sunday morning. We begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at 10:00 A.M. We have an amazing time as we gather together to share what we have learned from the assigned lesson. Come and join the excitement of sharing God's Word with each other. (There will be **NO CLASS ON JANUARY 1, 2017.**)

In the month of January we will look at four Psalms that emphasize praise for God that emanates from creation itself or that invite us to praise God for His creation. One of the psalm we will be looking at is Psalm 96. Some scholars believe David wrote Psalm 96. This psalm may have been sung after the ark of the covenant had been brought by David into Jerusalem for the first time. Nearly a century after it had first been captured by the Philistines, the ark was finally being returned to its proper place in the tabernacle. Come join us to find out just how momentous this occasion was and the abundance of praise that David called God's people to give to God.

Carol Dacquisto,
Study Leader



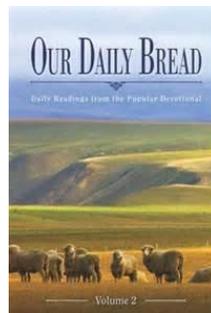
THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study will resume its studies in the Gospel of Luke on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.

As we study the Gospel of Luke, we are also learning more about the author -- Luke, himself. Luke was a physician and companion of Paul. The only Gentile to author a Bible book, Luke possessed an analytical mind paired with an artistic sense that certainly appealed to a Greek audience. Luke is mentioned briefly in three of Paul's letters, most of the information we have about him is autobiographical. As an educated Greek, Luke seems to have been interested in the poetic styles used by prophets in the Old Testament. In recording the life of Jesus, he gave special attention to songs of victory, prophetic oracles, and parables. Luke includes some of the most beautiful poetry in Scripture.

When we resume in January we will be on Lesson Four - Question 16. We will be watching and studying Jesus as he shocks the religious establishment by acknowledging Gentiles, forgiving sin, and eating with sinners. He refuses to teach and heal according to men's ideas. We will be looking for Jesus' impact on everyone around him.

Study Leaders,
Carol Dacquisto and Elaine Harris



“Our Daily Bread” - Pick up your copy of **for December—January** on the hall table in the office. Helping you connect with God every day.

DEACONS

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

SESSION

Update on Brian Mayo, Seminarian By Kathy Takemoto, Brian Mayo's PCN Session Liaison

PCN member Brian Mayo is currently a seminary student, studying at Fuller Theological Seminary. He will complete his studies next spring, 2017.

As a part of his training, Brian sought an internship and secured a 9-month position at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sonoma. Brian's duties include preaching, pastoral calls, assisting with worship, and leading adult Bible studies. St. Andrew was pleased with Brian's performance; Brian remains at St. Andrew on a part-time basis, continuing his duties. Brian is supervised by Rev. Rich Gantenbein.

As a part of Brian's graduation requirement, he applied to and was accepted into the

chaplaincy program at Travis Air Force base. Brian began serving at Travis in September 2016 and will complete this requirement in May, 2017. Brian is assigned to working with patients in the dialysis unit and the general patient recovery rooms. On a rotating basis with the other chaplain interns, they share overnight call for spiritual comfort within in the acute hospital setting. Brian is supervised by Joanne Martindale, a Presbyterian minister and Army Colonel.

Upon graduation in June, Brian will seek a call as a Teaching Elder in the North Bay region.

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 at PCN

The first "***A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls***" class has just started at PCN. The award winning fall prevention program was announced in November and quickly filled up with 15 participants. With so much enthusiasm for the course, PCN has scheduled a second class which will begin in January (Wednesdays and Fridays Beginning January 11 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.).

During the eight session class 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. To register, or for more information, please contact **Beverly Winsor 415- 99FALLS (415-993-2557)** or email mob.beverly@gmail.com.

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