



NEWS & VIEWS from the Pulpit & Pews

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, CA

Cheryl Finch, Interim Pastor
 Sid Long, Newsletter
 Roger Thornburn, Webmaster

PASTOR'S PEN

Sisters and Brothers~

Maybe it's cool crisp air or maybe its the candy corn but I have to admit, I really do love fall. The changing colors and falling leaves, the pumpkin spice lattes (fat free if anyone might want to bring the pastor one,) and often a feeling to be frank, that the well as they say, is running dry. And maybe especially since the appearance of pumpkins and candy will soon make way for evergreens and candy canes, it is a time when I feel most keenly the need for Sabbath.

Yes Sabbath, that word, that practice, that commandment that keeps returning like the changing of the seasons. Just as the relaxed carefree days of summer give way to the start of fall activities, back to school, back to work, and zoom right from ghosts and goblins to Santa and Rudolph, soon the idea of taking time for Sabbath rest, on Sunday or any day for that matter, quite often gets pushed out by other things. We are stuck in a world and a season of do more, be more, have more, and we are driven by fear and anxiety to accomplish it all.

So at a time when the world tells us to speed up, what does it mean to slow down? To rest? To contemplate? To take time to appreciate the creation, all of it, even the parts that might not be so pretty? What if we were to think of Sabbath as an affirmation of our faith, and our identity as God's children?

Monastic wisdom calls us to enter into Sabbath rest as a source of goodness and renewal, (the opposite of that fear and anxiety stuff.) But, how many of us do not practice Sabbath because we feel we have too much to do? (guilty!) And here's the catch, there is a subtle message underlying our "I'm too busy" thinking, that the world cannot get by without our activity even for a day.

So back to autumn, consider for a moment those leaves that will soon leave the trees as an idea of Sabbath, of letting go of all the stuff that gives us anxiety and fear. As the leaf falls sometimes gently, sometimes violently by a gust of wind to the ground, does it know it will soon be received by the earth once more? As joy to the child who jumps in to play in the leaves? As inspiration to the artist capturing each color and vein? To ultimately provide nourishment for what is to come? Might the falling leaf help us contemplate our own trajectory of things?

Benedictine Oblate Christine Valters Paintner reminds us,

"The great wisdom of autumn is in the falling. It calls us to imagine entering into the journey of the leaf as it descends. We are never done with relinquishing what we hold most dear. Ego, possessions, expectations, accomplishments, control, these are the things that seize us as much as we seize them. Each year invites us to fall again." *And to Sabbath.*

Blessings in your Sabbath Fall, Pastor Cheryl



MUSIC FOR THE HOLIDAYS from Sylvia Burns, Music Director

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:19-20

This is the time of year to which I always especially look forward – the autumn and Christmas time. A few weeks ago I was joyfully surprised to see cardboard bins of pumpkins replacing the bins of watermelons, in front of Safeway. And Lori and the choir are working hard on music for the seasons, and so am I at the piano.

Sunday afternoon, October 29th the choir sang “Are You Dressed for the Wedding?”, by Joseph Martin and David Angerman, at Sherwood Oaks’ service. Next Sunday, the 5th of November, we’ll do Celtic Communion, arranged by Mark Hayes and accompanied by Joie Enget on the flute. On November 19th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we’ll sing “We Thank You Lord”, again with Joie.

There’s more music – I’ll play at the Thanksgiving dinner as usual – and probably at the Advent family Wednesday events. Next month, I’ll tell you more about the Christmas season music – but be sure and plan to attend the Sunday service on December 17th, to hear the Christmas Cantata “Bethlehem Joy”, by Stan Pethel. Lori conducts, of course, and Joie will play the flute.

If you like to sing, or know someone who does, please join the choir! We rehearse every Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., in the choir room.

NOTES FROM THE BULLETIN BOARD QUEEN

Do you need to put something on the bulletin board, a notice, a letter or photographs? Are you scared that the bulletin board queen (that’s my husband’s name for me) will jump down your throats if you put it up there all by yourself? Do not be afraid! The bulletin board queen will be very happy if you do it all by yourself. Putting notices etc. into my box does not always get them up there in a timely manner as it may be 2-3 weeks before I can check my box. All I ask is that you put it in the appropriate section and don’t run off with my push pins!

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DATES COMING UP

Sunday November 12th Stewardship Sunday and Called Congregational Meeting

Wednesday November 15th prospective New members invited to meet with session

Sunday November 19th New members welcomed in worship

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT WORKSHOPS

Coming this Advent: a teaser.....December 6, 13, & 20

We will gather around tables the first three Wednesdays in December during Advent at 6 pm for a simple soup supper followed by, a story, carol singing and a family friendly craft. We especially want to encourage families and those who work during the day to come and join us for a brief respite during the busyness of preparing for Christmas that we might prepare together our hearts and homes for the Christ child. We have invited Trinity Lutheran and St. Michael’s to join us for these very special evenings as well so feel free to invite and encourage your friends and neighbors.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 12th

Your session has called a congregational meeting immediately following worship on November 12th. The purpose of this meeting is to elect new elders and deacons for the class of 2020 and, to consider changing the bylaws of this church to a session of 9 (instead of 10.)

The nominating committee has placed the following names into nomination:

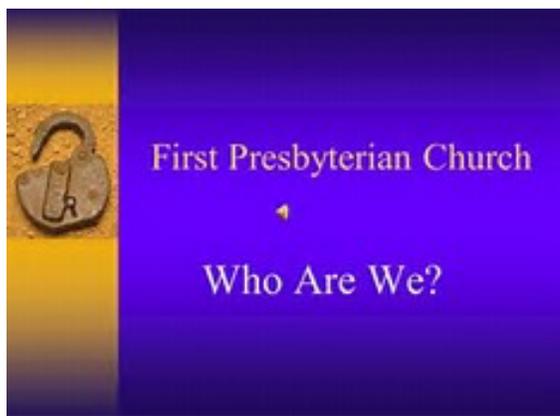
Elder 2020: Leo Lanigan, Larry Robinson, and Ian Sanderson (2nd term)

Deacons 2020: Marsha Robinson (2nd term) and Printha Worthen (2nd term)

And to fill an **unexpired 1 yr term in the class of 2018:** Cindi Hood



As always nominations may be made from the floor, however please make sure that you have spoken with and received the consent of the person you are nominating BEFORE you nominate them.



PATH TO THE NEW PASTOR: THE MISSION STUDY

We are just about done collecting data! The Congregational surveys are in. Thank you everyone who took the time to fill one out. The session has been collecting financial and demographic information. We have all our notes from the parish gatherings as well as the brainstorming session. Now it's time to sort it all out. The session has already had one meeting to start talking about our findings and another is being set for November. My hope is that the mission study will be written and in hand by the first of the year.

So what's after that? Glad you asked. Once the mission study is complete we will be ready to get a Pastor Nominating Committee nominated and elected. The nominating committee will be asking YOU for potential candidates for the PNC so be thinking about who might be good representatives of this congregation (more on the qualities to look for in these folks, including time commitment, next month)

NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in becoming a member of this particular part of the body of Christ, please contact Pastor Cheryl. Those who are ready to make this commitment are invited to come meet with the session on November 15th at 4:30pm. We will then welcome our newest members during worship on the 19h.



BUNKO: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st 6 p.m.

Looking for a fun fellowship activity? Why not come play probably the easiest game on earth and enjoy getting to know some of the women of 1st Fort Bragg better. We have been having a blast getting to know each other better and we want more women to join us! Especially you ladies who work during the day. We meet the first Wednesday of every month, sometimes at the church sometimes at someone's home. Please bring \$5 for the next months prizes and an appetizer to share. If it's your first time just bring yourself! This month (Nov 1st) Nancy Mantel is our hostess and we will meet at the church in the social hall. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hall and we'll add you to the monthly reminder list.

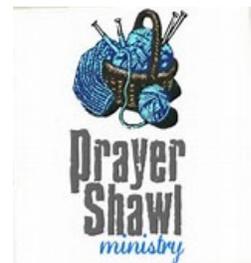
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

It's that time of year again when we start thinking about how blessed we have been in the year that has passed, and look ahead to the next year in the life of this church. You will be receiving a letter and a pledge card in the mail shortly. When you do, please take a moment to prayerfully consider your financial support for your church and the work of this part of the body of Christ. On Sunday November 12th we will collect, bless and celebrate our pledges for 2018. Please plan to come and celebrate our gifts of gratitude and all that we have to look forward to in 2018.



PRAYER SHAWLS

Some of the prayer shawls we blessed in worship in September have already made their way to bless new owners, surrounding them with love and prayers. Our knitters and crotchetors have been busy working on more prayer shawls, so if you know of someone in need of a tangible reminder that God is with them, and that they are being surrounded by our prayers, please let either their deacon or the pastor know.



On November 2nd our hostess is Lori Cole. The program is the Rotary Exchange student, Amandine Eyenga from Belgium.

On November 16th Julee Estes is our hostess. Sandra Baldocchi will be doing the program. She has been a 30 year volunteer Hospice worker starting out in San Francisco and now living at the Woods in Mendocino. She is part of a group there that has been meeting for four years focusing on "Death and Dying". Her program will be a combination of her experiences with both programs.



Christmas Bazaar is Saturday, December 2nd at the church.

The Christmas Tea will be on December 14th at Colleen Cleary's on Johnson Lane.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its October 18th meeting, the Session discussed the following items:

- September average attendance at morning worship: 43. (In October: 5 Sundays/50 average)
- Stewardship campaign and 2018 budget
- Annual staff reviews by the Personnel Committee
- Special Session task force with the Little Lambs Preschool staff
- Update on progress of Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Mission study project
- Thoughts on how we might help victims of wildfires in our Presbytery
- Midweek Advent gathering
- Reports from Treasurer and standing church committees
- Next meeting: November 15th at 4:30 p.m.

The Session also met Saturday morning, October 21st to work on the church Mission Study



FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY NOVEMBER 10 & 17

This study usually meets on the second and fourth Friday from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Because of Thanksgiving we will meet on the second and third Friday this month. We are studying Max Lucado's *Because of Bethlehem*. Please join us!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 SYDNEY LANIGAN

7 CLAUDELLE ZACK

HELEN MARIE ROGERS

11 LEO LANIGAN

13 IRIS LOUSHIN

TERESA UGULANO

14 JACQUE MOORE

22 LINDA RUNNER

JUST A NOVEMBER ISSUE! IF You have read this far...you may have noticed that this November issue of *News & Views from the Pulpit & Pews* covers only one month. Since there is so much going on at our church in November and December, there will be a December issue to remind you of all the important Christmas events and dates. Then, we'll be back to a bi-monthly issue in January/February. [Ed.]



Set your clocks back one hour on Sunday morning, November 5th as Daylight Saving Time ends!

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL
COMPLIMENTARY - COME ONE, COME ALL



NOVEMBER 23 2017 2 - 4PM

First Presbyterian Church
367 S. Sanderson Way, Fort Bragg
(707) 964-2316
fortbraggpresbyterian.org

Home Delivery Upon Request

CELEBRATE FAMILY CELEBRATE FRIENDS
CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CALL LARA ANDERSON - 961-1150 or lara@mendocinochc.org

DONATIONS NEEDED - www.myeoffering.com/online/index.php/dashboard/login/5054

PosterMyWall.com

CELEBRATE FRIENDS, CELEBRATE FAMILY, CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

This year is truly a Community Dinner... the organizational committee has representatives from various community groups --- Hospitality House, City of Fort Bragg, Caspar Community Center, MCH Foundation to name a few... as well as a members from First Presbyterian church. The committee thanks the members of First Presbyterian Church for their continued hospitality and will work hard to maintain this tradition of generosity.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up... plenty to do for this welcoming event. Sign up sheets will be up on the bulletin board early November, or contact Lara Anderson at 961-1150 or lara@mendocinochc.org.

Printha