



THE MESSENGER

BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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July 9, 2011

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NEXT DEADLINE:

July 15, 2011

Send submissions to
messenger@piedmontchurch.org

VISIT PCC ONLINE:

www.piedmontchurch.org

Piedmont Community Church
400 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611
510-547-5700



MAT Retreat

The Mission Action Team (MAT) of PCC held a retreat two weeks ago. We were joined by the Rev. Mary Ellen Azada of First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, who shared with us the history and vision that FPCB has for mission. She also helped us to appreciate and celebrate what PCC has already done in mission and to envision where we are going in the future. Part of that future includes a memorial bequest of \$100,000 from the Cocks family to be spent

on outreach projects. This follows up on the Better World Fund, which PCC has already donated to worthy organizations all over the world. This is great news for PCC and for our mission partners! And we thank God for giving the Cocks family such a strong vision for how to serve the world in the name of Christ.



Summer Sunday School

During the month of *July* all Sunday School children are invited to join their parents in the Sanctuary. In *August*, children in the third grade and younger will be making crafts and watching movies in the youth room. The nursery will be open all summer for children ages 3 1/2 and younger. Questions? Contact Leslie at 510.547.5700 x 109 or leslie@piedmontchurch.org.



Dear God,
In Sunday School
they told us what you do.
Who does it when you are on vacation?

~Jane
from *Children's Letters to God*

CALLING ALL TEENS



The CE Board is looking for a few teens to help with Sunday School in August. Duties will include monitoring the movie, helping with crafts and playing games with the children. You will receive the appreciation of the CE Board, the admiration of the children, along with a small token. Please contact Leslie Quantz if you are interested - 510.547.5700 x 109 or leslie@piedmontchurch.org.

SERMONS & FLOWERS

Sunday, July 10th

Rev. Don Ashburn

WHAT'S THE LEAST I CAN BELIEVE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN? - PART 3

"No Strings Attached"

Matthew 9: 10-13



Sunday, July 17th

Rev. Don Ashburn

WHAT'S THE LEAST I CAN BELIEVE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN? - PART 4

"Where is God?"

John 1: 1-5, 14



MILESTONES

Gayley Moore

died on June 27th, 2011

Her Memorial Service was held on July 1st.

Our prayers are with her family and friends as we thank God for her life.

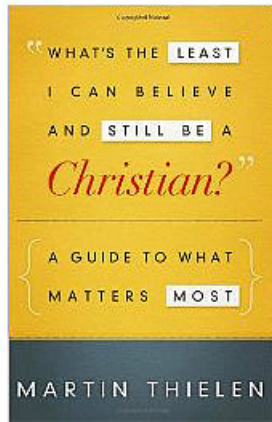


Widows

Friendship Circle

The Widows Friendship Circle will not be meeting this summer. Monthly meetings will resume September 20th at 10:00am in the Guild Parlor.

This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Please contact Parish Visitor, Florence Slater, 654-5934 or Rev. Ashburn, 547-5700, if you want to attend.



Sermon Series Discussion Group

During his 4 week sermon series on "What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?" Rev. Don Ashburn will be leading a discussion on the book of the same title by Martin Thielen. The series runs from June 26 to July 17 and the discussion will take place each week at 11:30 am in the Kettlewell Room. A limited quantity of books can be purchased for \$10 at either the Deacon's Table or in the church office, though you don't have to read the book to participate. For more information you can contact Rev. Ashburn at 510-547-5700, ext. 105, or don@piedmontchurch.org.

PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION Summer Session Workshops & Lectures

All are invited! Pacific School of Religion welcomes you to a series of Saturday workshops and free community lectures this summer. Come join us for intellectual stimulation, spiritual nourishment, and more.



Summer Saturday workshops:

Summer Saturday workshops are held from 10am to 4pm and can be taken for personal enrichment or for professional CEUs.

- Unlocking Creativity: A Writing Workshop with Chris DeLorenzo (July 9)
- Interplay Secrets for Effective Church Groups with Cynthia Winton-Henry and Phil Porter (July 16)
- Inner-Urban Ministry with staff of the Refuge Institute – includes workshops on Urban Youth (July 16), Urban Justice (July 23), Urban Health (July 30), and Urban Interfaith (August 6)
- Mediation for Spiritual Communities with William Harralson (July 23)
- Poetry as a Spiritual Practice with Christina Hutchins (August 6)

Tuesday Night Talks:

Tuesday Night Talks begin with a reception at 7pm, with talks from 7:30 to 9:30. Free and open to the public.

- July 12: Dr. Mary Hunt – "Feminist Religious Ethics: Some Answers for a Change"
- July 19: Rev. Debra Haffner – "Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing: A New Movement"
- July 26: Bishop Yvette Flunder – "The Double Lives of Powerful Leaders: Is it Safe to Tell the Truth?"
- August 2: Dr. Angel Mendez-Montoya – "Theology and Dance: Flesh in Flux"
- August 9: Dr. Rosemary Radford Ruether – "Environmental Ethics & the Palestinian Struggle for Survival"



Pacific School of Religion is located at 1798 Scenic Avenue in Berkeley, CA, 94709. For more information or to register, please call 510/849-8267, email summer@psr.edu, or check out our website at www.psr.edu/summer.

ANNUAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Part 2 of the report delivered by Pat Leicher, outgoing Church President - June 12, 2011



The third aspect of the Vision Plan that we addressed this year was the times of our worship services. The Vision Plan recommended that we “determine if there is a better timing and format for the 8am and 10am services that would make attendance more even between the two services.” It also suggested that we “develop multiple timing scenarios for two Sunday morning services that increase overall attendance” and that there be “a great deal of communication so the congregation knows what is happening and can take part.” After a year of research and evaluation the ministers proposed that we try services at 9:00 and 10:30 and that we include some music at the 9:00 service. The Board of Trustees approved a four month trial beginning in September 2010 with an evaluation beginning in January 2011. In January we surveyed the congregation and then formed a task force which included three members from each of the Boards – Trustees, Deacons and CE –that are elected by the congregation to

evaluate the surveys and other data and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Task Force observed a strong preference on the part of many members and friends for a 10:00 service rather than a 10:30 service, which would necessitate the early service being at 8:30. The Task Force did make a unanimous recommendation to the Trustees that we undertake a second trial with services at 8:30 with music and 10:00.

In March the first trial was extended through the end of May to collect another two months of attendance data. At its meeting last Monday the Board of Trustees voted by a clear majority to continue the 9:00 and 10:30 service times. Let me try to summarize the factors that shaped the decision. The Task Force recommendation was very seriously reviewed, but was not the only consideration for the Trustees who have broad responsibilities for guiding the Church. First, the Board concluded that the new times are working; they are accomplishing the objectives set out in the Vision Plan. Attendance at the early service has more than doubled, and the response to the music at the early service has been almost unanimously positive. The early service is much more vital than the 8:00 service had been. And while there has been a small decline at the later service, overall attendance since last September is up more than 7% in an environment where other churches are experiencing declines in attendance. In fact PCC had experienced a decline from 2008/09 to 2009/10. This trend has not only been reversed, but we are growing. Sunday school attendance is also up noticeably, as was Lodestar, with new families and lots of new children participating.

While many people expressed a strong preference in the survey and other messages for a 10:00 service, there was also a good number who said that either 10:00 or 10:30 was fine, and several who said that whatever was best for the church was their choice. Some of the Trustees were of the opinion that personal convenience was the reason for the 10:00 preference of many respondents, and were surprised that people felt so strongly about a half hour difference. Others observed that many of us simply don't like change. There was also serious concern about the viability of an 8:30 service. Finally the recommendation of the staff that we continue the current schedule was important to a majority of the Trustees. The staff, by the way, does not vote on any matters before the Board. The Trustees recognize that this decision will not please everyone. In fact there is no decision which would have done that. The Board made the decision it felt was in the best interests of PCC moving forward. I do want you to know that there was a long, serious discussion that included every aspect of the decision. The vote was not unanimous, but it was also not close. I am very proud of the way this Board addressed this controversial issue.

I can't sign off without saying thank you to our wonderful staff. Each one of you has unique gifts and a true sense of commitment. Thank you too to those board members who are completing their terms: Susan Mani, Wayne Marzolf and Scott Swimley on Trustees; Cynthia Adams, Jennifer Niemann, Steve Senter and Bob Wright on Deacons; Barbara Brown, Selma Chin and Scott Fitzgerald on the CE Board. Jan Linden is also completing a CE term and has signed up for another. Jan, you're a hero! Thank you also to all the board members who are continuing and those who are joining the boards, and to all of you who volunteer in so many different capacities. All together – staff, boards and volunteers – you make PCC a truly special place.

Finally, I want to thank you –the congregation – for placing your trust in me to serve as your president for the past year. It has not always been an easy job but it has certainly been a rewarding one and it has been a true honor.



Summer Reading

First of all, thanks to everyone who participated in the Summer Reading program for Hawthorne Family Resource Center. We delivered over 500 books and 85 book bags!

I love reading for pleasure....but my deep dark secret is that I love “fluff” books. I love mysteries, funny stories and I’ve just gotten into these books that include recipes. So, I am including below my “I love reading not too serious books list”.

My favorite series of all time is Janet Evanovich’s - Stephanie Plum series, starting with “One for the Money.” This series is great because each book in the series has a number in the title which corresponds to the order of reading. No brain-er here, just look for the next number in the title. These books actually made me laugh during a pretty hard time in my life. Each book usually includes lots of junk food and cars blowing up.

Next on my list - Diane Mott Davidson, “Catering to Nobody” (first in series). Goldy is a caterer who solves mysteries. Each book includes recipes!

Next comes Joanne Fluke, “Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder” (first in series). Hannah owns a cookie bakery and of course, solves murders. Also includes great recipes.

There are lots of mysteries now with themes; knitting, crocheting, scrap booking. I haven’t looked into these yet. One of my favorite all-time authors is Dick Francis. If you haven’t ever read one of his books you should give them a try. His characters are really interesting!

These are just a few of my favorites. Please feel free to tell me yours!

Hope you are having a great summer! Keep on reading!

Leslie

Leslie Quantz
Director of Children’s Ministries

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Everything I Need to Know About Life, I Learned from Noah’s Ark...

1. Don’t miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don’t listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety’s sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn’t always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs in time.
9. When you’re stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs: the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, there is always a rainbow waiting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 10th - Sermon Series Discussion Group
11:30am (ongoing for 4 weeks
in the Kettlewell Room, ending
July 17th)

Sept 11th - Kick-off Picnic