



# ECSM News

## Community Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh

### Sharing Ministry with

### First Congregational Church of Antioch



JANUARY 2017, Issue 1

#### From the CPC Pastor



Dear Friends,

A new year and a new start, right? As I write this, news of yet more celebrity deaths is the only thing that seems to overshadow the many fears that continue to be expressed by the many people who felt targeted by the rhetoric of the election. There is much confidence that an end to this year where many seem to have lost so much hope will mean a new lease on life in 2017, and yet there is so much uncertainty for the future.

Christy is right, there are “blank pages on an empty calendar.” You could fill it up with the same things you did last year, or not. What will you fill your calendar with?

George Michael was one of my favorite singers, ever. I’ve followed his music from the first video I saw on MTV in the early 80’s. I was a fan for all of his ups and even through the lows of his life, when he was entrapped and arrested by a cop in LA. I finally got to see him in concert in San Jose and he was still a compelling artist with one of the broadest vocal ranges I’ve ever heard. In his later years, he started to record and sing some of the greatest songs by other recording artists, but I still have a soft spot for the music he wrote.

He was only four years older than me, and the news of his death has made me consider many things about my own mortality and life. I’d have to say that he was one of the first people to normalize being gay for me as a teenager. His clash with Sony changed his music, and his search for self authenticity in his sound and musical direction is inspiring given that most musicians are forced to follow the styles and marketing of their contract holders. After his death, some have shared how secretly generous he was.

#### From the FCCA Pastor



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

The year turns and there is a new beginning--blank pages on an empty calendar.

As the year turns, what new thing is coming into your life? New shoes, new relationships, new job, new challenges, new president, new possibilities, new dreams, new ways to serve, new understanding of suffering, new willingness to be of service to others, new music, new struggles, new joys, new friends, new awareness of the oppression so many face? What does new look like to you at the beginning of 2017?

In the 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm, the psalmist writes of a new spirit.

“Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a **new** and loyal spirit in me.”

And in another translation:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right<sup>b</sup> spirit within me.”

It is such a simple prayer. “O God, as we begin the New Year, create in each of us an open heart. A heart freed from ill will, selfishness, greed, helplessness and anger. And make new the spirit in each of us. Renew us through your unconditional love and grace. With renewed hearts, may we be inspired to work boldly to respond to the suffering that exists in our troubled, hurting world.”

*Both articles continue on page 2...*

## Pastor Will continues...

I think one of the reasons I loved his early music with Wham! was because of how fun and hopeful it was. It wasn't a particularly good time to be hopeful, as we were entrenched in the Cold War and still coming out of a recession. As I was in high school, there were enough questions about the future for me that it was easier to follow my friends on their missions than to create a way for myself seemingly on my own. When I came home two years later, I fell in love with the new music following George and others out of the U.K. and went dancing with my friends whenever I could get away from work or school.

As life in school and with a family became more complex I started listening more closely to the lyrics of George's ballads and found a new way to understand class, race and human expression. Yes, I've become my father – continually ingrained by the music of my adolescence. I still much of the music of that era in between my many stops in life.

It's easy to say that George was taken too soon. The same can be said for Prince, David Bowie and many others. But it's also a good reminder to savor every moment of life given to us and to live into the many loves we have in life.

What will you do with the empty spaces in this year's calendar? Will you pick up that old instrument you played in school? Will you make plans with friends new and old? Will you make new priorities about how you will serve others this year? Or will you leave more time and space at the margins of your life?

Whatever you do, be deliberative. Consider what is still on your bucket list. Think through just how you will use your time.

And then use it well.

Together we serve...

*Pastor Will*

## Pastor Christy continues...

What is needed to renew your heart?

Can each of us trust the words of Revelation 21:5?

'See, I am making all things new.' ...  
'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ...

'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Revelation 21:5-6

Can we trust that God is making all things new? Can we trust God's love and grace are alive in the midst of a world that feels at times as if it has gone mad?

Can we trust as the year turns that in fact there is a new reality celebrated as promise. In words from the Iona Community, we hear the truth of this new reality.

*In the midst of hunger and war  
we celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.*

*In the midst of oppression and tyranny  
we celebrate the promise of service and freedom.*

*In the midst of doubt and despair  
we celebrate the promise of faith and hope.*

*In the midst of fear and betrayal  
we celebrate the promise of joy and loyalty.  
In the midst of hatred and death  
we celebrate the promise of love and life.*

Let us welcome the New Year trusting the promise of God's new reality.

Blessings,

*Christy*

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**Pastors' schedule:** Christy will be on retreat from Dec 27 to January 6. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Will McGarvey at 925-597-9797.

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# Annual Congregational Meetings

## First Congregational Church of Antioch



FCCA Annual Congregational Meeting  
will be Sunday, January 29, 2017  
immediately following worship in the  
Stoneman Room.

All reports due to Jessica by  
Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**FCCA Cabinet** will meet in the Stoneman Room on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> following worship.

**Memorial service for Barbara Sellers** will be Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

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### **WOMEN'S WALK- WALNUT CREEK/CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

Come join us on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 - 1:00 in for the Women's March in downtown Walnut Creek. We are marching in solidarity with the Million Women's March in DC on that same day. This is not a protest. We are marching peacefully. In marching, we are standing up as a community and saying that we support OUR Muslim and LGBTQ members of OUR community. We support continued rights for all women and men to have easy access safe health care and contraceptives. We support continued proactive practices to save our environment. We want to involve our children in these important issues and show that we care about world that we are leaving for them. So, everyone is invited to come and march (men and women and children). Click to show that you "like" the event on Facebook. Click to indicate if you want to attend the event then follow the link to our website to "register," allowing you to get emails about the event. Personalize and pass this post to all of your friends. This will only be effective if we show our strength in our numbers. I appreciate and need all of your help to make this successful. If you are interested, contact Sandy Henry.

**Shared Ministry update:** Next Joint CPC/FCCA Cabinet/ Session meeting is scheduled for February 5, following worship in the CSR.

## Community Presbyterian Church



CPC Annual Congregational Meeting  
will be Sunday, January 29, 2017  
immediately following worship in the  
Sanctuary.

All reports due to Jessica by  
Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Next Regular Session Meeting:**

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:00 pm hosted by Mary Burks.

**Elder/Deacon retreat:** Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room. Elders will provide breakfast refreshments and lunch.

### **Westminster Woods Adult Week-ends**

Women's Week-end—January 20-22, 2017  
Would you be interested in going in January? Let's plan it! Talk to Mary Burks if you're interested.  
And Westminster Woods Men's Week-end is February 17-19. Any man want to lead this?  
For information and registration please use this link.  
<http://www.westminsterwoods.org/adult-programs/>

### **JANUARY YOUTH EVENT**

Holiday on Ice-Ice Skating  
Brentwood  
Thursday January 5 - 1pm-3pm - \$15

Contact: Judie Moore. 925/354-4381  
Gayle Namanny. 415/990-6196  
Pastor Will. 925/439-9361

### *Thank You Corner*

- Thank you, Jim and Janie Hodges and Chris and Cherie Persing for celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries with us.

# THE SHARED LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Epiphany Party** will be Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> during fellowship hour. Come have some cupcakes & see who will be King or Queen for a day!

## Upcoming Small Group Meetings:

The **Joint FCCA-CPC Women's Luncheon** will next meet Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at Double Dragon Chinese Restaurant (2621 Somerville Rd, Antioch)

**LGBTQ Film Night:** Will meet Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the CSR to watch "A Jihad for Love" about what life is like for Muslim LGBTQ people in Muslim majority countries.

**Mondays in Antioch:** We meet at 10:00 am at St. George's Episcopal Church, 301 E. 13th Street, for an informal time of conversation, prayer & study.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** We meet every Tuesday at 10 am in the Camp Stoneman Room. We are currently discussing Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy by John Shelby Spong.

**Fellowship Ministry:** Our next meeting will take place on January 10, 2017 in the Camp Stoneman Room starting at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to attend and plan our next few months of fellowship activities. Being a congregation known for its hospitality encourages many ideas from many people. Let's see what we can do this year that is new and untried! We will continue with our fun small groups and wine tasting and attending local events as they come up. If you have questions please talk to Mary or Ginny.

**Outreach Committee:** next meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room.

**Welcome & Marketing Committee:** Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room.

**Worship Committee:** Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm at Ann's Custer's home.

**Theology Pub:** Will next meet February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at a restaurant to be announced.

**January 15<sup>th</sup> will be our monthly**

**Sparkle Sunday**

*Wear something that shines to share the light of Christ. Bring a can of food or a donation for the food banks.*

*Happy Birthday!  
January*



3	Margaret Wilcox
4	Sarah Shipe
	Gus Broers
6	Sue Ferguson
	Doris Cosetti
10	Karen Hastings Flegel
	Christy Parks-Ramage
11	Tatiana Bellinger
17	Jenny Sears
19	Nora Lynn Buluran (Dwinell)
20	Nate Sears
	Bob Flegel
24	Jeremy Flegel
	Beverly Preston
26	Chidi Umozurike
27	Sophia Hansen
28	Barry Winkler

*\*Contact Jessica, the Church Secretary, to add your Birthday & Anniversary to our records today!*

Please join us Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> for the **baptism of Yamil and Zaria Guyton**, Jessica Natal's children during worship in the Sanctuary.



**Souper Bowl Of Caring:** Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Super Bowl Sunday, our youth will be collecting donations to tackle hunger in our communities.

**Beautiful Weddings in the Camp Stoneman Chapel:**

*If you or someone you know is getting married, I would love to meet with them and help to plan their big day.*

Please contact our Events Coordinator, Jessica Natal for information. Private Rental rates for your friends are based on the number in attendance. CPC & FCCA members get the Church Member rates. Contact Jessica at 925.276.0960 or [cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net)

# The Card

By Edie Lanstrom

Since my husband Sig died almost five years ago, the hardest chore I had to learn was handling household finances. That was Sig's job. I haven't made any huge error for which I am thankful. A few days ago, a friend told me that thieves used high-tech equipment to read her credit-cards number although they were in her wallet in her purse. Scary. The thieves went on a spending spree, and my friend had to go to her bank to straighten out the damage caused by the robbers.

Last night while debating which credit cards I could take out of my wallet, I suddenly realized that my debit card was missing! I frantically went through all the credit cards I never use and could not find it. Had I cut up that card up when I was getting rid of cards? Losing my debit card was a colossal mistake. Before I went to bed, with tears running down my cheeks, I asked God to help me find the missing card.

As soon as I woke up this morning I grabbed my credit cards and right on top was my missing debit card! How did I overlook that yesterday? I don't know. I believe divine intervention saved me from going through those cards again. Tears of thanksgiving ran down my cheeks as I thanked God for helping a woman who is inept in dealing with finances work through this latest challenge. While my body feels lighter now that I found my credit-card, my soul rejoices that God's presence surrounds me as I deal with difficult tasks.

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My friend bought a metal wallet to keep the thieves from stealing her credit-card numbers. I plan to the same.

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**Field Trip to FJC in Oakland:** As we continue with our theme of "Have you seen your neighbor?" NCNC UCC at ACFJC allows us to have some tools to not only see our neighbor, but to help them, minister to them, and to share resources with them in their time of need and distress.

The Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC) has over 30 different agencies and programs under one roof. These agencies and programs provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child and elder abuse, dependent adult abuse, commercially sexually exploited minors, and stalking. Services include: Domestic violence counseling, Sexual assault counseling, Restraining orders, Case management Safety planning, Children's counseling, Parenting support, Shelter/housing assistance, Legal Advice Clinic, Immigration Clinic, and more.....

Our Field Trip to ACFJC will be a fruitful time of learning. You will be able to tour the facility, meet program leaders, law enforcement, and learn ways that your congregation can become a resource and begin conversations around these difficult realities.

Refreshments will be provided as well.

Join Diane Weible and Davena Jones on a field trip to the Family Justice Center, 470 27th St., Oakland on Thursday January 5 from 11 AM to 2 PM.

No cost, but you must register in advance. Register Online at : <https://ncncucc.org/field-trip-to-fjc-in-oakland/>

**Equal Exchange:** The coffee cart is out most Sundays for you to purchase your Fair Trade Equal Exchange coffee or tea! Don't miss out. Give it a try. According to those who regularly buy it, it's the best! If there is anything special you want me to order please let me know. There is a catalog available for you to look at. I still have someone looking to share some coffee beans. Let me know if you are interested in purchasing some. - Mary Burks

**Fellowship (Coffee) Hour:** The sign-up calendar for 2017 coffee hour is now posted. Sign up for the dates you want to celebrate, such as anniversaries or birthdays. Help us out to provide that hospitality to our new friends and visitors. Thank you.

**Little Free Library:** The little Free Libraries seem to get a lot of attention with folks donating books. There are always new books in there. I'm going to start some kind of a journal type thing where people can let us know what they are interested in and what their favorite author is and so on. Maybe we can then focus more on the books people are interested in. I had been saving Christmas books and put them out the last couple of weeks before Christmas. They seemed to be popular as they are gone. The next big thing is Dr. Seuss' birthday which is early March. So if you see any Dr. Seuss books please contribute them to our library.

If anyone wants to spend a day helping me go through all of the books that are waiting to be used I would appreciate it. I really want to weed out a lot of the books I have and get a fresh start.

Remember, newer edition adult books are needed and wanted.

Thank you for remembering us.

## ECSM News!



All newsletter articles are due on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month. Please email to Jessica at [cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net).

## CPC Treasurer's Corner

### November

Income: \$13,168.33

Expenses: \$19,543.31

# Outreach



As we near the end of another year I felt it important to reach out to our beloved community with some notes about our mission through our joint Outreach programs. Please know that each and every one of you is valued as a contributing member to this most important mission we have as followers of Christ. And I personally want to thank you all for your donated time, talents and hard earned money to keep these programs alive and thriving.

Funding through-out the year to each congregation's 4 designated collections was steady:

CPC: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness and Christmas Joy

FCCA: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthening the Church, Neighbors in Need, and Christmas Fund

**Shelter Inc. and Feed the Kids** continue to need our help. They use our space once a month to prep boxes for the folks in Pittsburg transitional housing. Folks from several different faith communities help in supplying food items and much needed supplies both in East and West Contra Costa County. Judie Moore is the point person on this project and would welcome any helpful volunteers.

**Bountiful Table** – (formerly known as Feed the hungry) Program every third Saturday has been operating steadily for 2 years and is now being managed by the Outreach Committee. We invite anyone who is interested in helping with this mission project to contact me ( Betsy ) so we can add your name to the volunteer list. We need volunteers to 1) help get the word out to the surrounding community that we offer this lunch, 2) to help sort, fold and manage the winter-time free clothing bank, 3) set up tables and chairs and prep social hall, 4) bring needed food items, 5) cook, and 6) clean-up crew. This is a good time of fellowship and friends that we want and need to continue.

**Winter Nights** is coming to our church again May 8 – 21<sup>st</sup>. We will host the Winter Nights family shelter for two weeks and be aided by volunteers from several area churches to provide, food and shelter for about 30 folks in this program. I will be calling out for volunteers to spend a night or two at the church during those two weeks, supply food stuffs and paper products, prepare and serve dinner for our guests for 3 nights, 5:00 pm nightly open up doors, and 8:00 am daily lock down doors. Our church also does towel washing for the entire duration of Winter Nights during the months of November, January, March, and May. If you can help with this part please contact Mary Burks. Stay tuned for more information.

Our **Alternative Gift Faire** was a GREAT success. THANK YOU for your generous offerings. Together we raised \$1301 for our favorite programs Habitat for Humanity, Shepherd's Gate, Heifer and our own Outreach fund. Thanks to the Peterson's for the beautiful hand crafted wooden decorations to sell.

If you are interested in being a part of the Outreach Committee please Reach Out to me. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room. The More the Merrier and the More we can do together.

Happy New Year !!! Betsy Sullivan, Outreach Elder CPC [pncsbets@pacbell.net](mailto:pncsbets@pacbell.net) 925-777-1802

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**New Year's Day!**  
**Communion Sunday**  
Eccl 3:1-13; Ps 8;  
Rev 21:1-6a; Matt 25:31-46  
**Rev. Will McGarvey**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**The Baptism of Christ**  
**Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**MLK Day Celebration – New Way**  
Isa 49:1-7; Ps 40:1-11;  
1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42  
**Rev. Will McGarvey**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Annual meetings**  
Micah 6:1-8; Ps 15;  
1 Cor 1:18-31; Matt 5:1-12  
**Rev. Will McGarvey**

**Martin Luther King Celebration hosted by**  
**Social Justice Alliance and the Mt. Diablo**  
**Peace and Justice Center**

January 16, 2017 at noon  
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church  
1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek

Celebrate Dr. King's Life & Message "Transforming Our Society: King's Tough Mind and tender heart"

Keynote Speaker: Father Kwame Assenyoh of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton & Graduate Theological Union. With St. Benedict's Gospel Choir (Oakland) & Dwight Stone's piano music. Refreshments & Conversation following in the Fellowship Hall.

**Save the date** for a concert by Clay Foor in the Sanctuary after church on Sunday, February 19, 2017.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Ann Custer  
Jim & Janie Hodges  
TBD

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Mike Sullivan  
Dave & Letha Arms  
TBD

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
New Way  
The Umozurike Family  
TBD

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Janie Hodges  
Chris & Cherie Persing  
TBD

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Lucas Stuart-Chilcote  
Steve Hosmer  
TBD

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
George Stephens  
Chris & Cherie Persing  
TBD

**Ushers:** Please let Janie Hodges (new head Usher) know by the Friday before your Sunday. If you cannot make it on the date/date's above. You may contact her at 925-368-5797 or [njhodges@aol.com](mailto:njhodges@aol.com). If you have any questions or would like to become an Usher, please email or call her.

## Deacons' offering

The first Sunday of each month has traditionally been Deacons' Sunday at Community Presbyterian Church.

Deacons have a special fund for persons in need who come to our church looking for emergency support. The fund has been used to provide housing, food or gasoline to help families who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Special green envelopes are available in the pew racks for those who wish to help the Deacons provide support for those in need coming to our church seeking help. The Deacons thank everyone for their support.

# PRAYER PAGE

## Prayers of Healing

Renée Moore, Virginia Devens, Reggie Washington, Starr Lieber, Dorothy Shipe, Lucille Brautigam, Lucille Corzine, Elaine Grothmann, Anne Cakebread, Jerry Castleberry, Betty LaMar, Margaret Wilcox, Paul Telfer, Betty Rexroth, Mary Vargo, Patsy Nash, and Forrest Brown. Elwin, Bev Peterson's husband. Carol Krishnan's sisters. Grace, Donald Lang's grandmother. Handy & Greenwood Families (Betsy Sullivan's Family) Deborah Scott (with many health issues right now). Catherine Hewitt, Mary Burks cousin who is battling cancer. Kahli Davis, Pastor Will.

## Prayers of Concern

Those affected by the recent violence here and abroad. Those affected by the natural disasters in Nepal, Northern & Southern California, Hawaii, the Philippines, New York, New Jersey, Japan, Chile, Panama, Haiti, Cuba, Vanuatu and Washington State. Safety for all in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Egypt and Sudan. California Public Schools and teachers. The economy, and those laid off or in need of employment. Those living without shelter, experiencing any form of mental illness and those without healthcare. Betty Pankey. Family of Barbara Sellers. Family of Carolina Zamora.

## Prayers For Our Mission Partners

Prayers for the ministry of Let's Feed the Kids, Friends Feeding Friends, Habitat for Humanity, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Loaves and Fishes, P.I.C.E.S., the Antioch Ministerial Food Bank, the Literacy Project in Pittsburg, the Presbytery of San Francisco, the Bay Association of the Northern California-Nevada Conference, UCC, Westminster Woods, Camp Cazadero, Rev. Charles Tinsley at the Juvenile Detention Center, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Winter Nights Rotating Shelter, Shelter Inc., Shepherd's Gate, Heifer International, and the Al-Basma School and Program in Beit Sahour, Palestine, Joining Hands – Bolivia, Hesperian International, the Keep Hope Alive Program, and Minar and Milad Vosqueritchean in East Jerusalem with their after school peace school and music program.

**Prayer cards are located in the Narthex by the Guest Book**



## Prayers for Sisters & Brothers Around the World

The Conflict in the Middle East; Darfur, Sudan; East Congo, Bolivia; Colombia; Venezuela; Lebanon, Israel-Palestine, North Korea, and Mumbai, India. Long term aid to Haiyan victims; children in Hurricane areas; those affected by earthquakes, and the unrest in Pakistan. For those who serve in the Armed Forces. For those who suffer from hunger and thirst; loneliness; illness; malnutrition; ageism. For those who are excluded; homeless; friendless; the underemployed and jobless.

## January Prayer Families & Churches

### January 1

The Bishop Family  
**First Presbyterian Church – Livermore**  
Brandon & Joshua Peterson  
**Community Congregational UCC – Tiburon**

### January 8

Lucille Brautigam and Rose Solorzano  
**First Presbyterian Church – Newark**  
Beverly Preston  
**First Congregational UCC – Tulare**

### January 15

Gus and Ingrid Broers  
**Chinese Presbyterian Church – Oakland**  
Betty Rexroth  
**Vallejo United Church of Christ**

### January 22

Jackson Bropleh  
**College Avenue Presbyterian Church – Oakland**  
The Rogers Family  
**Rossmoor Pilgrim CCC UCC – Walnut Creek**

### January 29

Betty & Forrest Brown  
**Elmhurst Presbyterian Church – Oakland**  
Alex Schoolcraft  
**Trinity Congregational UCC – Weaverville**



# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Minutes for Regular Stated Meeting of Session

December 20, 2016

**Call to order** at 6:35 p.m. in the Stoneman Room by checking in. We discussed Chapter 8 of "Grounded".

**Elders present:** Ruling Elders: Dave Arms, Mary Burks, George Stephens, Betsy Sullivan, Myrdell Dybdal, and Teaching Elder/Moderator Rev. Will McGarvey. A quorum was present.

**Elders excused:** None

**Mission statement was read by all and prayer was led by Will.**

**Docket was read and approved with additions.**

**MSC to approve minutes of November 16 session meeting.**

**Consent Calendar:** None

## SPECIAL REPORTS:

**Clerk of Session:** 59 members. **MSC to remove David Cameron and Tori Worchel from the membership roll effective December 20, 2016 as they have both moved out of the area.**

The membership as of December 31, 2016 will be 57.

**Correspondence:** Email from Letha Arms advising that as of January 2017 she will no longer be serving as Lead Usher, and that Janie Hodges will assume those duties.

**Pastor's Report:** Kookie and Ginny's birthday party, a week vacation Nov. 20-26. Consult on Public Theology at Sunnyvale FPC. Personnel meeting for Jessica's and my review. World AIDS Day vigil. Advent Dinner. Bible Study, Women's Fellowship, Longest Night planning meeting, Building the Beloved Community planning dinner. Bible Study, musicians worship planning. Dinner at Barbara's and CVPC book/author event.

**Presbytery Meeting report:** The next presbytery meeting will be February 7, 2017 at Lafayette-Orinda PC. The packet should be available January 28, 2017 at presbyteryofsf.org. Mary and Myrdell plan to attend as commissioners.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report emailed by Cherie Persing 12/19, reviewed. **MSC to pay for doors for the Social Hall as follows: \$3,677.51 from 21501, \$2,122.49 from account 21111 for a total of \$5,800.00.** Myrdell suggested that a separate account be established for "Unpledged Income" to record contributions received from those with envelope numbers but who have not pledged. She will work with the treasurer to set this up beginning in 2017.

**Deacons:** Minutes of December 11 meeting emailed by Chuck Dybdal, reviewed.

**Event Coordinator:** Report emailed by Jessica 12/19, reviewed.

**Nominating Committee:** Letha Arms, Betty Brown, Jude Stephens, and Mike Sullivan have agreed to be nominated for three year terms as deacons. Session needs more elders. Dave Arms, Mary Burks, and Betsy Sullivan will continue to serve, Jim Hodges has agreed to be nominated for a three year term as Ruling Elder.

**Personnel Committee:** Annual reviews for Pastor Will McGarvey and Office Manager Jessica Natal emailed by Mary Burks. Reviews of Michael Miller and Elaine Palmer will be scheduled.

**Bountiful Table meal program:** Lunch was served December 17, next one scheduled for January 21, 2017. Outreach Committee will take responsibility for the Bountiful Table meal program.

*Continues on page 10*

**COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Building & Grounds:** Next project will be the Social Hall doors.

**Christian Education:** Judie Moore has continued to plan programs and activities for the Youth Group.

**Fellowship:** No report

**Outreach:** Report emailed by Betsy 12/19.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Minutes of December 6 meeting emailed by George. There is a question about adequate insurance coverage. George presented a preliminary 2017 budget for discussion. Stewardship and Finance Committee will refine the proposed budget and session will meet again in early January to approve it. The Audit Committee (Myrdell Dybdal and Cherie Persing) has completed the audit of 2015 financials, audit letter emailed by Myrdell 12/19 will be revised with input from Cherie and resent to session.

**Welcoming & Marketing:** Minutes of November 16 meeting emailed by Elaine Palmer.

**Worship:** Minutes of November 16 meeting emailed by Ann Custer

**NEW BUSINESS:** None**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- David & Lois Zollars Memorial Garden: Most desirable place to plant is probably the east side of the steps to the chapel, other possibility might be in the courtyard corner where the Social Hall and Camp Stoneman Room meet, but that space would be more difficult to water. Myrdell will continue the conversation with Alison Lemons and the goal is to begin the project in early 2017.
- Joint work party with Ministerios: will likely occur in the new year
- Church website updated pictures: has not been done
- Policies and Procedures manual: Discussed some aspects of the proposed manual, noted some changes that would improve the document. The committee that labored over it for many months (Mary Burks, Ann Custer, Myrdell Dybdal and Cherie Persing) did so with the expectation that it will be revised and refined as the need arises. **MSC to approve the Policies and Procedures Manual.** Discussed how to back up and preserve the document.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meeting site: Will will continue to investigate the possibility of CPC being a host site for AA meetings.
- Sound system: Will has talked with Dale Grothmann about what is possible to improve the system, he will continue to work on it with Dale.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with final prayer led by Will**

Next Session Meeting: January 17, 2017 hosted by Mary Burks

Next Joint CPC/FCCA Leadership meeting scheduled for February 5, 2017 following worship Sandy Henry (FCCA) is scheduled to prepare January communion.

Dave is scheduled to prepare February 2017 communion.

Session and Deacons Annual Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2017 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Camp Stoneman Room. Elders will provide breakfast refreshments and lunch.

Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 29, 2017 following worship

Myrdell Dybdal  
Clerk of Session

# NEW WAY!

## New Way Team's January Schedule

The New Way Team is underway for 2017.  
New Way Sunday will be January 15, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

Rehearsal will be after worship on Sunday, January 8.  
Warm-up will be on January 15 at 9 am, then sharing our music during worship that day.  
Please consider joining, short term or long; all are welcome.

### Lift Every Voice and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson, 1871-1933

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/lift-every-voice-and-sing>

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand,  
True to our God, True to our native land.

# JOINT CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2017

<b>Jan. 1</b>  <b>10:00 am New Year's Day Service in the Chapel</b> <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>2</b> <i>No Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 am Bible Study – CSR</b> <b>12:00 pm – 2:00 pm RCC Support Group – CSR</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – Chapel &amp; SH</i>	<b>4</b> <b>11:30am Women's Fellowship – Double Dragon – Antioch</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – Chapel &amp; SH</i> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>5</b> <b>1pm Youth Group – Ice Skating in Brentwood</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – Chapel</i>	<b>6 Epiphany</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>7</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm – SH</i>
<b>8</b> <b>10:00 am Epiphany Sunday in the Chapel (Yamil &amp; Zaria's Baptism)</b> <b>Epiphany Party during Fellowship hour.</b> <b>11:45 am New Way rehearsal – Sanctuary</b> <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>9</b> <i>10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 3:00 pm Outreach Meeting – CSR 6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 am Bible Study – CSR</b> <b>2:00 pm Fellowship Meeting – CSR</b> <i>6:30 pm – 8:30pm HOA Meeting – CSR</i> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – SH</i>	<b>11</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – SH</i> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>12</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – SH</i>	<b>13</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>14</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm – SH</i> <b>Private Event – 12 pm to 4 pm – SH</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 am New Way warm up – Sanctuary <b>10:00 am New Way Sunday in the Chapel</b> <b>11:30 am FCCA Cabinet Meeting – CSR</b> <b>4-7 MC – Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b> <b>* ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO CHURCH OFFICE TODAY!</b>	<b>16</b> <i>*Office Closed* Martin Luther King JR Day</i>  <i>No Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> <i>12pm MLK event at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church</i> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – Chapel</i> 6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 am Bible Study – CSR</b> <b>12:00 pm – 2:00 pm RCC Support Group – CSR</b> <b>6:00 pm Session Meeting – Mary Burks' home</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – SH</i>	<b>18</b> <b>2:00 pm Welcome &amp; Marketing Meeting – CSR</b> <b>3:30 pm Worship Meeting @ Ann's home</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>21</b> 11:30am Bountiful Table Lunch – SH
<b>22</b> <i>*February Newsletter articles Due to the Church Office today!</i> <b>10:00 am Joint Sunday Service in the Chapel</b> <b>4-7 M.C. – Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>23</b> <i>10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – Chapel</i> 6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>24</b> <b>10:00 am Bible Study – CSR</b> <i>PCT Rehearsal: 6 – 10 pm – SH</i> <b>7:00 pm LGBT Film – CSR</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>28</b> <i>12:00 pm Private Event – SH</i>
<b>29</b> <b>10:00 am Sunday Service – Chapel</b> <b>Annual Congregational Meetings immediately following worship: CPC – Sanctuary FCCA – Stoneman Room</b> <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>30</b> <i>10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study</i> 6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 am Bible Study – CSR</b>	<b>February 1</b> <b>11:30am Women's Fellowship – TBD</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>February 2</b>	<b>February 3</b> 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>February 4</b> <i>1 pm – Memorial Service for Barbara Sellers in the Sanctuary</i>



## Don't Flush Your Medicines Down the Toilet!

- A recent study shows that 80 percent of US streams contain small amounts of human medicines.
- Sewage systems cannot remove these medicines from water that is released into lakes, rivers or oceans.
- Fish and other aquatic animals have shown adverse effects from medicines in the water.
- And, even very small amounts of medicine have been found in drinking water.

### How to dispose medications at home

Follow these steps to protect your privacy and reduce unintended drug use, while saving the environment.



1

- Keep medicine in its original child-resistant container.
- Scratch or mark out the patient information on the label.



2

- Place some water into solid medications, such as pills or capsules.
- Then add something nontoxic and unpalatable such as sawdust, kitty litter, charcoal, Comet® or powdered spices (like, cayenne pepper).



3

- Close and seal the container lids tightly with packing or duct tape.
- If discarding blister packs of unused medicines, wrap in multiple layers of duct tape.



4

- Place medicine containers in durable packaging that does not show what's inside (like, a cardboard box).



5

- Place in the trash close to garbage pickup time.

- Remember to keep medicines away from children and pets.

### Other ways to properly dispose of unused medicine

- Pharmacy Take-Back Program: Ask your pharmacist if the pharmacy will accept old medicines back from patients.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection: Find the phone number of your local HHW collection site in the government section of your local white pages of the telephone directory.

### Help reduce drug waste

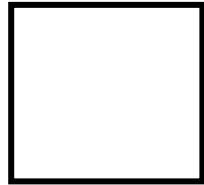
- If you're not sure if you can tolerate a new medicine, ask your doctor about a 10 day trial supply.
- Remember to always take all of your medications as directed.



# ECSTM News

*A monthly newsletter of the Community Presbyterian Church and First Congregational Church of Antioch*  
200 East Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565  
Phone: (925) 439-9361 or (925) 757-4094

January 2017  
Issue 1



Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL

## January Events at ECSTM

### Epiphany Party

*Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> after church during Fellowship Hour. Come have some cupcakes & see who will be King or Queen for a day.*

### Interfaith Dr. King Event

*Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at noon at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church (1801 Lacassie Ave., Walnut Creek). Father Kwame Assenyoh of The Catholic Community of Pleasanton is the keynote speaker.*

### Bountiful Table - Free Lunch Event

*January 21<sup>st</sup> 11:30 – 12:30 pm in the Social Hall.*

### Annual Congregational Meetings

*FCCA's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> after church in the Stoneman Room.*

*CPC's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> after church in the Sanctuary.*