



ECSSM News

Community Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg Sharing Ministry with First Congregational Church of Antioch



FEBRUARY 2017, Issue 2

From the CPC Pastor



Dear Friends,

I saw a play tonight at the San Francisco Playhouse entitled, "The Christians." It's a 90-minute drama that explores the place of faith and unbelief in a congregation's life as the

head pastor struggles with the doctrine of hell. The play begins with a real live choir entering and singing as an almost Baptist-like service begins. The pastors, a board elder and the head pastor's wife take their place and the wife helps lead a subsequent song. It's a congregational scene of a megachurch, complete with television screens, as the pastor recounts the history of the church's success.

When the pastor recounts an experience at a pastor's conference where God challenges his ideas on the literalness of hell, he shares how he started going through the Bible and found that many of the passages many people turn to contain references and comparisons to gehenna, the city dump that perpetually burns just outside of Jerusalem – not the Greek conception of Hades or an afterlife. Of course, many in the congregation struggle with this new teaching. Most telling is the confrontation that ensues when his hell-fire and damnation preaching Associate Pastor confronts him publically and demands a count of the membership that side with either pastor.

Holy church conflicts, Batman! What began as a sharing of a new way of experiencing God's grace and biblical exploration turned into a full-on competition over the so-called orthodoxy of the beloved pastor and the need for a small group in the church to uphold their views of God's judgment on unbelievers.

Dear Friends,

Our Meals with Friends group met for lunch after church late in January. At the end of the meal as we were talking about getting together again, we were inspired by other groups to think of things to do in addition to eating. 'Lots of creative ideas have come up for spending time together and getting to know each other better.

So in the middle of that conversation, Chuck Dybdal mentioned a play that was coming up at the California Theater in Pittsburg. The play, *Port Chicago 50*, explores the Port Chicago Disaster.

"On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution."

On the California Theater's web page is the following description of the play: "African American Sailors are recruited by the United States Navy to work in a navy shipyard in Port Chicago, CA. where dangerous artillery is loaded onto ships to support WWII. Something goes terribly wrong! Inspired by true events from 1944."

The play is a story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America's armed forces during World War II. It looks at those who gave their lives in service of a country where they often lacked the most basic rights. The play explores racism and the long, hard fight for civil rights.

Both articles continue on page 2...

Pastor Will continues...

I won't spoil the ending in case any of you wish to see it for yourselves. It offers some great moments of conversation, conflict and going deeper around the dynamics of personal revelation, who gets to decide who is in and who is out and the community dynamics of division when favorite doctrines are questioned. Is Jesus the only way to salvation? What is salvation, then? Can we even agree on that?

The story is similar, but not identical, to the story of the Pentecostal Bishop Carlton Pearson, who, upon careful biblical study changed his mind about God – that God's ultimate impulse towards us all is love and not eternal punishment. Of course, this view would also affect how a person describes atonement theology – how we are made right with God. Did Jesus have to die for us? If so, what does such wrath say about God's love and ability to restore us to our full humanity without violence?

It seems to me that there are eerily similar discussions going on in our national conversation. Does everyone belong? Who deserves to be citizens? What proves our fidelity to our nation? Who gets punished, and why?

In some ways, it's a question of 'Father knows best' and "Bad people have to be penalized in some way to protect the very definition of what is right and wrong" versus "There's enough room, resources and grace for everyone" and "Everyone struggles with everyday decisions that can only be made in their own context." Or, maybe it's even broader than such simplistic dichotomies.

Still, it seems that some people seem hard wired to desire clear categories of right and wrong, some want to know that they belong and are loved, and others are quite comfortable with the diversity of expressions in the human family. Examining our own motivations helps us answer much for ourselves, including who we include and exclude.

Together we serve...

Pastor Will

Pastor Christy continues...

Chuck said he was planning to attend the play on Sunday, February 12th at 4:00pm. A couple of us from our *Meal with Friends* group will be joining him. And we wanted to extend an invitation to the whole congregation to join us. Details below:

TICKETS WILL GO UP AFTER FEB. 6

Performance(s):

February 10-12, 2017

Ticket(s):

\$20-\$35

VIP SEATS are in the first three rows & include a cast Meet & Greet and reception after the performance.

Please let me know if you would like to attend.

In closing... racism, prejudice, bigotry, and intolerance continue to raise their ugly heads in our country. In response, as a church community we continue to claim our core values of acceptance, inclusivity, diversity and tolerance. We commit to working together to preserve these values in a country where they are threatened.

Blessings,

Christy

Thank You: Many thanks for the generous Christmas money. It is deeply appreciated. 'Wonderful to be sharing ministry. With a grateful heart,
Christy

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of MARTINEZ, UCC**

1229 Court Street at Susana

[925-228-0549](tel:925-228-0549) * www.fccmtz.org

FB: "First Congregational Church of Martinez, UCC"

Sunday February 5, 2pm

**Installation of Rev. Kathryn Schreiber as
Designated Term Minister**

Worship Service followed by Reception.

Everyone Welcome!

Guest Preacher: Rev. Will McGarvey,
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa

First Congregational Church of Antioch



Community Presbyterian Church

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. *We will not meet Feb. 20th in observance of Presidents Day.*

FCCA Cabinet will not meet the month of February.

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

Friends plan to go to play on Port Chicago

The Meals With Friends group headed by Pastor Christy invites everyone to join it on its excursion to see the play 'Port Chicago 50' at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12 at the California Theatre.

The play, written by Dennis Rowe, who directs the production, and David Shackelford, a member of the cast, is about the July 17, 1944, explosion at Port Chicago that killed or wounded 710 people, including 435 African American soldiers. It was the deadliest disaster in the Continental U.S. during World War II and accounted for more than 15 percent of all African Americans killed in service to their country during World War II.

The tragedy of Port Chicago continues to haunt Pittsburg, Contra Costa County and the United States today.

Fifty sailors refused to continue to load ammunition and explosives in ships under the same dangerous, unsafe conditions the led to the explosion and were court martialed for mutiny.

One of the sailors, Freddie Meeks, whose story is told in the play, was pardoned by President Bill Clinton in 1999. A bill to pardon the remainder of the sailors is awaiting presidential approval.

The play features Hal Williams, known for his co-starring roles in sitcoms 'Sanford and Son' and '227' as well as numerous roles in movies and TV, as Freddie Meeks, who recalls the explosion and its consequences.

The powerful play includes strong language.

Tickets at \$35 for VIP, including a meet-and-greet with the cast; \$30 and \$25 for students and veterans. Tickets purchased before Feb. 6 at the California Theatre box office at 351 Railroad Ave. are discounted \$5.

Thank You Corner

Thank you, Bill Dexheimer for all you have been doing at the church recently, painting and fixing things. We appreciate your hard work.

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.

Session Meeting: Session will meet at the Elder/Deacon retreat on February 11.

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

2017 Per Capita

News you can use for CPC members: the per capita amount for 2017 is \$36 per member. Paying per capita is part of being a connectional church. It is used to support the mission and ministry of our presbytery, synod and General Assembly. CPC budgets and pays per capita for each member. If you are able, paying your share of per capita is a great way to support the CPC budget and to feel that you are indeed part of a larger church. Just note "per capita" on your check and it will be received with appreciation at any time.

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

February 19th 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.*

CPC Treasurer's Corner December 2016

Income:	\$11,554.28
Expenses:	\$16,795.80

ECSM News!



All newsletter articles are due on the 22nd of each month. Please email to Jessica at cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net.

THE SHARED LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The **Joint FCCA-CPC Women's Luncheon** will next meet Wednesday, February 1st at 11:30 am at Pete's Restaurant and Brewhouse (2709 Hillcrest Ave, Antioch).

LGBTQ Film Night: Will meet Tues., March 28th at 7:00 pm in the Stoneman Room. We will be watching award winning film "Weekend".

Fellowship Ministry: Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 1st at 1:30 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room. You are all more than welcome to join us in planning future coffee hours and other social events.

Outreach Committee: next meeting is Monday, February 13th at 3:00 pm in the Stoneman Room.

Welcome & Marketing Committee: Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15th at 2:00 pm in the Camp Stoneman Room.

Worship Committee: Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15th at 3:30 pm at Ann's Custer's home.

Theology Pub: Will next meet Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 pm Outback Steakhouse (4350 Century Blvd, Pittsburg).

EPIPHANY PARTY: Donald Lang, Gail Namanny, and William Dexheimer were Queen and Kings for the day at the recent Epiphany Party. Lyn Lofton found the thimble and she will do something extra for the church this coming year. Two visitors found the ring and dime so we will have to fill in for them next year.

Last year's "winners" - Jim Hodges (thimble) and Elva Sullivan (dime) enriched our treasury by \$120.02 with their efforts. Thanks to all for the fun.



WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON January 21, 2017

The March is over but the Movement has just begun. Whether you marched or not, you can become involved in the Movement. The next step is 10 Actions in 100 Days. Go to the website www.womensmarch.com for instructions.

HEAR OUR VOICE

Happy Birthday!
February



1	Dev Krishnan
4	Shelley Persing Daniel Persing Silver Halladay
5	Kelly Lieber-Perez
7	Hillary Lamb
9	Lauren Arms Cherrie McNeilly Vicki McGuire
12	Jerry Castleberry
15	Carol Krishnan
17	Steven Burks Nora Buluran
18	Vicky Winkler
22	Carrie Worchel
23	Libby Brownrigg
24	Auryn David Cameron
25	Yamil Guyton-Natal
29	Reed Custer

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



Office Hours: The Church office will be closed Friday, February 24th and Monday, February 27th.

Pastors' schedule: Will will be out of town February 22 - 25. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Christy at 510.847.4650 or the church office 925.439.9361.

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.*

Lisa Hansen ~ CPC Wedding Coordinator.

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

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

I know that you find it a bit overwhelming to even think about that. Most Sundays there is an overabundance of food on the table. Some ideas so you don't have to do this alone. You can give preparing coffee hour as a gift for someone; you can get together with your Meals with Friends group and provide together, you can rally your committee members to provide sometimes. The more that help out the easier it is. If you have any question either ask Ginny McGuire or me know.

February 12 and 19 are open dates for someone to lead those coffee hours. Please place your names on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall.

February 5 is Super Bowl Sunday which means it is Souper Bowl Sunday. Bring your money to put in the soup pot to be donated to our Winter Nights Program. We will also be having a variety of soups for coffee hour that day.

February 26 we will have pancakes for Shrove Sunday. Thank you. - Mary Burks

Meals with Friends: It has been a good few months of breaking bread together in our groups. We will be mixing them up again in February. If you want to be added or taken off the list please let Joan Taylor or Mary Burks know. We will then have new lists for all of you towards the end of the month. In the meantime keep meeting with the group you are in now.

Towel Washing

We have been washing towels for the last 3 years for the folks who are guests of the Winter Nights Program. Some churches the families stay in have showers but most don't. Then the families go to the Oasis Program which is located in the St Vincent DePaul facility on Gladstone in Pittsburg. ST Ignatius Catholic Church of Antioch and ECSM take turns washing the towels for the 7 months they are in the program. It will be our turn again in March and we need someone to volunteer March 10 and 17. There are usually about 4 loads. You pick them up on Friday afternoon and return them on Monday morning. Please let me know if you are willing and able to do so. Thank you.

- Mary Burks

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

for the Hillview Junior High School Band Boosters.

Saturday, February 25th

8:00 am to 11:00 am

CPC, Social Hall

\$5 for Children under 5 years old

\$7 for Adults and children over 5 years old

Includes pancakes, bacon, juice and coffee

Raffle prizes and Entertainment by the Hillview Jazz Band

Equal Exchange: The coffee cart is out most Sunday s for you to purchase your Fair Trade Equal Exchange coffee or tea!

I've just gotten some new things. I have milk chocolate bars and dark chocolate with caramel and sea salt bars! Yum!! There are also a couple of new teas available. And a new shipment of French Roast regular coffee. It is the most popular and was all gone. Don't miss out. Give it a try. According to those who regularly buy it, it's the best!

If you are interested in whole bean coffee let me know. I have one other person who wants it but she doesn't want 6 packages. If you go together you can all get some. Let me know if you're interested.

- Mary Burks

Little Free Library

The donated books have a new home. The books are now sharing space with the clothing that was also donated for the Bountiful Table food program. It is in the Jr High Sunday School room. Thank you to Bill Dexheimer, Betsy and Ethan Sullivan who organized everything so nicely.

I am always looking for donations of newer edition books and children's books. If it's a few you can leave them in the little free library or let me know and I'll be sure they get into the new storage room..

Thank you for your support.

- Mary Burks

Think... Youth Group! ...

Next Youth Group! – Monday February 20th from 1-3 pm at the Sky High Sports (1631 Challenge Dr.) meet at the church at 12:30 pm for the carpool. \$21 for admission. Scholarships available. Ask Judie or Will for more information.

30 hour Famine Fast April 7- 8th

Starts Friday at 6:00 pm and ends by Saturday. Games, learning all while experiencing a water fast. Get your packs from Judie soon to raise funds.

**30 Hour
Famine**



Share Your Pictures

Many of you take photos at some of the special events in the life of our church. Please share those pictures with us for use on social media, our website and other publicity possibilities. The old proverbial saying is "one picture is worth a thousand words." That

seems to be true because we get lots of activity on our Facebook page when we post pictures. Please feel free to forward them to me at elainepalmer723@gmail.com.

Clay Foor Hosts Fund-Raiser Concert

Clayton J. Foor, well known Bay Area singer and songwriter, will perform a fund-raiser concert for us on Sunday, February 19, at 11:45 am. The concert, which is billed as free, will accept donations. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated entirely to the work of ECSM.



Foor's music is inspired by pop music of the 60s and 70s, as well as the Great American Songbook, from Sinatra and the Big Band Era. He is a prolific composer and can be seen and heard frequently. Bay Area venues include the Hotel Utah, Bazaar Café and the Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse, plus a variety of piano bars, churches and Nordstrom, where he was a regular pianist for 10 years at both the Stoneridge and Walnut Creek stores. He conducts the East Bay Festival Chorus (EBFC), which performs periodically at many festivals and churches, and sang the National Anthem for the San Francisco Giants at AT&T Park. He has taught music for many years and has influenced hundreds of students over that time.

Foor's concert on the 19th will feature several of those tunes which have influenced him, but will also include many of his original works, which range from sacred to classic. He has performed solely and with the EBFC many times for us. "The congregation here is always welcoming, progressive and inclusive," remarked Foor. "I'd like to give something back for all the support they've given me."

Foor composed his first piece at age eight, and it's been a constant flow of creativity ever since. His outlook is always bright, his attitude always positive and his smile always genuine. The public is invited to share in his joie de vivre and amazing musical talent on Sunday, February 19, at 11:45 am.

About East Bay Festival Chorus

EBFC began as an offshoot of a class taught by Clayton J. Foor in 2001 at Los Medanos College. During the class, the musicians formed a strong bond and decided to continue to meet after completion of the class. That core group still gathers periodically to work with Foor who composes much of the work performed by the group. EBFC is a volunteer group and invites singers of all styles and ranges to join when they gather. A listing of his works can be found on his website at www.claytonjfoor.com.



The **New Way Music Team** will rehearse on Sunday, February 12, at 11:45 am to begin preparation for celebrating Black History Month on Sunday, February 26.

On Sunday, February 26, we will warm-up at 9 am, and then share our music during the worship celebration. After worship, we will meet at 11:45 am to begin preparing for New Way on Sunday, March 26, as well as Easter Sunday, on April 16.

Those who were on hand Sunday, January 15, expressed great appreciation for these singers under the direction of Michael Miller. Our sanctuary looks so complete when those choir chairs are filled. Please consider singing with us for one month or for the whole year. The music is uplifting, the fellowship is blessed and Michael makes it easy to learn, to sing, and to reach deep into our hearts for that divine connection.

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Paul M. Vasile

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

World without end, without end, Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

February 5th
5th Sunday after Epiphany
Communion Sunday
Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

February 12th
6th Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sir 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matt 5:21-37
Rev. Will McGarvey

February 19th
7th Sunday after Epiphany
Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

February 26th
Transfiguration Sunday
New Way Sunday – Black History Month
Ex 24:12-18; Ps 2 or Ps 99;
2 Pet 1:16-21; Matt 17:1-9
Rev. Will McGarvey

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.



Souper Bowl Of Caring

Sunday, February 5th, Super Bowl Sunday, our youth will be collecting donations to tackle hunger in our communities. This year's proceeds will be going to the Winter Nights program, which we will be hosting in May 2017.



WORSHIP LEADERS

February 5th

Liturgists
Ushers
Greeters

George Stephens
Chris & Cherie Persing
Roberto & Nora Buluran

February 12th

Liturgists
Ushers
Greeters

Joan Taylor
Mary Burks and Gayle Namanny
Jim & Janie Hodges

February 19th

Liturgists
Ushers
Greeters

Elaine Palmer
George Stephens
and Jim Hodges
Mary Burks

February 26th

Liturgists
Ushers
Greeters

New Way
Bill and Barbara Dexheimer
The Arms' Family

March 5th

Liturgists
Ushers
Greeters

Joann Chalmers
TBD
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 njhodes@aol.com. If you have any questions or would like to become an Usher, please email or call her.



PRAYER PAGE

Prayers of Healing

Renée Moore, Virginia Devens, Reggie Washington, Starr Lieber, Dorothy Shipe, Lucille Brautigam, Lucille Corzine, Elaine Grothmann, Anne Cakebread, 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. Jerry Castleberry and Richard James.



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.

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

February Prayer Families & Churches

February 5

The Brownrigg Family
Faith Presbyterian Church – Oakland
Peter Tedeschi
St. John's UCC – Woodland

February 12

Marlin & Joan Bryant
First Presbyterian Church – Oakland
Shirley Thomas
Woodside Village UCC

February 19

Evaline & Mary Ann Buffo
High Street Presbyterian Church – Oakland
The Thompson Family
First Congregational UCC – Alameda

February 26

The Buluran Family
Montclair Presbyterian Church – Oakland
Mary Vargo
Federated Community UCC – Alturas



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Minutes for Regular Stated Meeting of Session

January 17, 2017

Call to order at 6:40 p.m. at Mary Burks' home by checking in.

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 **Visitors:** 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 December 20, 2016 session meeting.

Consent Calendar:

- Approve authorizing deacons to serve home communion in 2017
- Approve receiving the following denominational offerings in 2017: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness (formerly Peacemaking), Christmas Joy
- As per Finance & Stewardship Committee recommendation, approve renewal of The Upper Room until the worship Committee recommends discontinuing the subscription.
- As per Finance & Stewardship Committee recommendation, authorize the treasurer to reimburse the purchase of flowers for the Lenten and Christmas seasons, with appropriate receipts, from the restricted Flower Fund.
- Appoint Cherie Persing as Treasurer for 2017
- Appoint Myrdell Dybdal as Financial Secretary for 2017
- Approve designating all of Pastor Will McGarvey's 2017 salary/housing to housing, as per his request.
- Approve the following dates for serving communion in 2017: 1st Sunday of each month, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise and Christmas Eve.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Clerk of Session: 57 members.

Correspondence: None

Pastor's Report: Longest Night and Christmas Eve services, Women's Fellowship, Presbytery leadership (I'm now co-chair of Nominating Committee). Performed the wedding of Ian and Cristian in my back yard (wonderful day). Epiphany Staff Dinner at my house. Worship Music lunch meeting. Fellowship and Bible Studies.

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 will attend as commissioners.

Treasurer's Report: emailed by Cherie Persing 1/14, reviewed.

Deacons: Minutes of January 8 meeting emailed by Chuck Dybdal 1/8, reviewed.

Event Coordinator: No report

Nominating Committee: No report

Personnel Committee:

- **MSC to approve proposed 2017 Terms of Call for Rev. Will McGarvey for recommendation for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting.**
- As per Personnel Committee recommendation, **MSC to approve a \$.50 an hour increase for Office Manager Jessica Natal, effective 1/1/2017.** The new pay rate will be \$18.00/hour. This will be split with FCCA, resulting in a \$.25 an hour increase for CPC.

Bountiful Table meal program: Lunch was served December 17, next one scheduled for January 21, 2017. There was discussion and consensus approval to use the Junior High classroom for storage of clothes for the Bountiful Table clothing bank and Little Free Library books.

COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Dave reported that there has been a problem with keying the lock on the new metal doors into the Social Hall, which will result in an additional expense. It was noted that it is difficult to close the door on the south side of the Social Hall, perhaps because of wet weather.

Christian Education: No report. Jessica "would love being a part of the team for that (VBS), and I would be willing to make it happen if needed - with some help of course!" We appreciate this generous offer. We will hopefully have a Christian Education committee chair and if not, VBS can be a group led event.

Continues on page 10

Fellowship: Report emailed by Mary 1/12

Outreach: Report emailed by Betsy 1/16

Stewardship & Finance: George brought up recommendations from the committee re: tracking employees working hours, vacation, sick leave, etc. No decision was made on who, or what committee, should take on this responsibility. **MSC to approve the 2017 budget with adjustment after treasurer talks to Board of Pensions re: pastor medical and pension payments.**

Welcoming & Marketing: Committee will meet January 18

Worship: Committee will meet January 18

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss who wishes to chair what committees. Betsy would like to remain with Outreach, Dave with Building & Grounds. Remaining committees and chairs will be worked out at the February 11 session meeting.
- **MSC to appoint Dave Arms as session representative and chair of the 2017 Nominating Committee.**
- Appoint members at large and session representative to the Personnel Committee for 2017:
6/24/2014 session action: Members of the Personnel Committee will serve one year terms and may serve no longer than six consecutive years. Session will appoint up to four members-at-large to the Personnel Committee annually, session and Deacons will each appoint their Personnel Committee representatives annually.

Current members are: **Mary Burks**, appointed as session representative 12/17/2013, effective 2/2014; appointed as session representative 3/17/2015; appointed as session representative 1/19/2016
Janice Campbell, appointed as Deacons representative 3/2015; appointed as Deacon's representative 2/16/2016. **Jim Hodges**, appointed as member-at-large 2/16/2016. **Chris Persing**, appointed as member-at-large 2/16/2016. **Chris Persing** is appointed for the current year. Remaining member-at-large appointments and session representative, who will also serve as chair, will be made at the February 11 session meeting, after election of officers and Deacon representative is appointed.

- Arrange for audit of 2016 financials. Some names were suggested.
- Plan breakfast refreshments and lunch for 18 at Deacon/Elder retreat February 11: menu was planned and Mary Burks will email menu and reminders.
- **MSC to approve receiving the Souper Bowl offering February 5 with proceeds going to the Winter Nights program which CPC will host May 8-21.**

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- David & Lois Zollars Memorial Garden: still in planning stage, Myrdell is in contact with Alison Lemons (the Zollars' daughter)
- Joint work party with Ministerio: will be planned for spring
- Sound system –the hearing assistance device no longer broadcasts the sound in the chapel. Will has done research on a new hearing loop system compatible with T-Wire hearing aids. He will write an article for the newsletter surveying how many people would benefit, & how many of those have compatible hearing aids.
- Social Hall sound system - Will has talked with Dale Grothmann and has some ideas about improving the sound system and will do more research for the next session meeting.
- Church website updated pictures – Will is working on it with Jessica.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meeting site: there is no new information
- Ethan Sullivan's Eagle Scout project: there is no new information

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with final prayer by the group.

Next Session Meeting: February 11 in conjunction with the Deacon/Elder Retreat

Next Joint CPC/FCCA Leadership meeting scheduled for February 5, 2017 following worship.

Dave is scheduled to prepare February 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.

Installation of officers is scheduled for February 12 during worship.

Myrdell Dybdal
Clerk of Session

JOINT CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY 2017

January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
10:00 am Sunday Service – Chapel Annual Congregational Meetings immediately following worship: CPC – Sanctuary FCCA – Stoneman Room 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	10:00 am Bible Study – CSR	11:30am Women's Fellowship – Pete's Brewhouse and restaurant 1:30 pm Fellowship Meeting – CSR 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR		7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	1 pm – Memorial Service for Barbara Sellers in the Sanctuary, Reception to follow in the Social Hall
5 10:00 am Communion Sunday in the Chapel 11:30 am Cabinet/Session Meeting – CSR 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	6 10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	7 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm RCC Support Group – CSR	8 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	9	10 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	11 9:00 am Elder/Deacon Retreat - CSR
12 10:00 am Joint Sunday Service in the Sanctuary 11:45 am New Way rehearsal – Sanctuary 4-7 MC – Sanctuary & classrooms	13 10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study 3:00 pm Outreach Meeting – CSR 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	14 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR	15 2:00 pm Welcome and Marketing – CSR 3:30 pm – Worship Committee Meeting – Ann Custer's home 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	16	17 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	18 11:30am Bountiful Table Lunch – SH
19 10:00 am Sunday Service in the Chapel 11:45 am – Clay Floor Concert in the Chapel 3 pm – 6 pm – PCT Rehearsal – Social Hall 4-7 M.C. – Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	20 Presidents Day  No Mondays in Antioch Bible Study 6 pm – 9 pm – PCT Rehearsal – Chapel 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	21 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm RCC Support Group – CSR	22 *March newsletter articles Due to the Church Office today! 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	23 6 pm – 9 pm – PCT Rehearsal – Chapel	24 * Office Closed 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	25 8 am – Hillview Band Boosters Fundraiser breakfast – SH 4pm – MC in the CSR
26 9:00 am New Way warm up – Sanctuary 10:00 am New Way Worship Service - Chapel 11:45 am New Way rehearsal – Sanctuary 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	27 * Office Closed 10:00 am Mondays in Antioch Bible Study 6:15 pm Cub Scouts – SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	28 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR 7:00 pm Theology Pub – Outback Steakhouse, Pittsburg	March 1 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	March 2	March 3 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	March 4



ECSM News

February 2017
Issue 2

***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

Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL



February Events at ECSM

Barbara Sellers Memorial Service

*Saturday, February 4th at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary,
reception to follow in the Social Hall.*

Bountiful Table - Free Lunch Event

*Our church is hosting free lunches every 3rd Saturday of the month
for the community in the Social Hall. **The next lunch will be on
February 18th 11:30 – 12:30 pm in the Social Hall.***

Clay Foor Concert

*Clayton J. Foor, well known Bay Area singer and songwriter, will
perform a fund-raiser concert for us on Sunday, February 19th,
at 11:45 am. The concert, which is billed as free, will accept donations.
One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated entirely to the
work of East County Shared Ministry.*