



ECSM NEWS

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



December 2017, Issue 11



From the CPC Pastor

From the FCCA Pastor



Dear Friends,

Presbytery had a pot of money from the departure of a few congregations for other denominations that the Mission and Vision Leadership committee decided to use to help spur new mission within the

Presbytery. They decided to give each congregation \$5,000.00 each to use on new mission initiatives.

Session and other leaders kicked around a few ideas, and we talked to Clayton Valley Presbyterian's leadership (since we've been working together for the last two years on a few projects) and we decided to try to do something together and outside the box.

At first, we thought we would pool our money to hire a security guard to allow a few families with children living in their cars stay in our parking lot. We could afford a couple of months with what we could raise, and would have to create a job description, best practices, raising a little more for breakfasts or utilities, etc.

And then it dawned on us that Winter Nights Rotating Shelter already had the expertise to help us do what we wanted, and more. We talked to their leadership and they liked the idea. They also pointed out that they could do the intakes of the families, and help get them on the way to housing by getting them into the county system and bring them into the Winter Nights Shelter with any openings that arises. Clients could take advantage of the Oasis Program at the Pittsburg St. Vincent DePaul to create a resume or do job searches. This was perfect. It also seemed to be symmetrical with their goals to expand a whole new rotation of churches hosting an East County Shelter in January and February of 2019. If we could host families in their cars in our Parking Lot Program for January and February of 2018, perhaps we could find more partners for the Rotating Shelter in 2019.

So, we had a meeting with a member of the Police Department, who gave us a little of the recent history of those living in their cars in East County and shared this opportunity with Clayton Valley and other Presbyterian Churches. Session approved it at our last meeting, and we are well on our way to making this short term mission a reality.

Dear Friends,

Advent is here...

During Advent, we mark the passage of time...lighting one candle each week during the four weeks before Christmas. As a child, I remember...the time between each candle lighting seemed to last forever. Now as an adult, it feels so different....zip, zip, zip the time between each Advent Sunday disappears quickly.

One of the gifts of Advent is the awareness of the passage of time, the awareness of anticipating Christmas, the awareness of waiting through time for Christmas to arrive.

As we wait through Advent...the quality of our waiting is important to explore.

We live in an impatient culture. We are often quickly frustrated by waiting. In our minds, waiting often translates into a waste of time. While we wait, we feel we can't do anything constructive...can't get anything done. We are put on hold, or stuck in traffic, or waiting in line.....and easily become impatient and frustrated. When will the elevator music stop, when will the traffic pick up speed, when will the line begin to move?

I experienced the frustration of waiting at the end of the Thanksgiving holiday.

I got caught in a slow moving line going through security at the San Diego airport on the day I was flying back home to NorCal after spending Thanksgiving with family in SoCal. I had arrived at the airport with plenty of time to spare before my flight left. My sister and I had brought Thanksgiving leftovers to eat for lunch. We sat outside the airport in the sun and savored the last of the Thanksgiving turkey. Time passed and eventually we decided to head to our separate security lines. We checked the flight status of our planes. Both were scheduled to depart on time. When I arrived at the security area, it seemed odd that the PreTSA line was longer than the regular line, but other than that everything seemed normal. Until I got into line



Both articles continue on page 2...

Pastor Will continues...

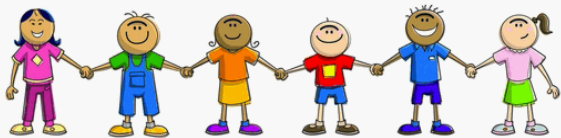
There will be an informational community meeting on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 pm if you'd like to learn more. There will be opportunities to serve – mostly in the evening and early morning as families access our restrooms or as we put out some breakfast items. We will ask other communities in East County to join in raising funds for the food and utilities. The Winter Nights staffer will be there to check people in and offer help.

Just having a safe place to sleep, knowing they won't be awakened or asked to move on will be a great help to these families until they can get into shelter. Churches and congregational partners around the country are creating such programs to offer a safe and supportive place for families that too often sleep "with one eye open" and if we want to make a difference here, we can encourage our partners to join us or create their own programs for those they can serve.

I'm glad we have partners to do this work with. We are also privileged to have a space to offer, even only to 5 to 6 families at a time. May we keep working, doing what we can and offering our voices to end the systems that make people poor and keep people poor.

Together we serve.

Pastor Will



Let's Feed the KIDS and Food for Thought

will be preparing the distribution of food for the children in the Richmond Schools while they are out of school for Winter Break. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, December 11 – make boxes

Tuesday, December 12 – fill the boxes with fresh produce, canned goods, baked goods, etc.

Wednesday, December 13 – Delivery of boxes and turkeys to the schools (lots of lifting)

This project delivers food to 10 schools and provides meals for 250 families. The preparation is done at Temple Beth Hillel, 801 Park Central, Richmond. We will car pool from Shell Ridge Community Church at 9:00 each day or meet us at the Temple. If you are able to help with this project please e-mail Judie Moore at samoore@pacbell.net or Wendy Neale at wjneale@earthlink.net.

Pastor Christy continues...

and after ten minutes had barely moved. And after half an hour had moved only a little more and after 45 minutes was still crawling through the line. As the line inched closer to the actual security area...the cause of the slowness was clear. There were not enough people working. One person was checking ID's for the large post Thanksgiving crowd of folks. And there were not enough people working the conveyor belts so even with people trickling in from the one person check point, folks were backed up waiting to be body scanned. And the PreTSA line was closed completely. So those folks were added to the regular line. By the time I got through the line, so much time had passed, I had a feeling I was going to miss my flight. I raced to the gate where my flight was scheduled to take off. Breathless, I barged to the counter...to ask if I could still board the plane and was told that in fact the plane was a half hour late and had not yet started to board. So there was plenty of time to spare.

But the waiting had been both frustrating and anxiety producing.

Advent invites us into a different kind of waiting. Advent waiting is not a waiting constricted by frustration and anxiety. It is a waiting that slows us down and invites us to open our hearts to receive the miracle of birth, of new life born in the depth of winter. Advent waiting is filled with patience and anticipation. It is a waiting that slows us down and takes us deep into our hearts to receive the gift of the ancient stories of the birth of the Christ child. Slows us down to anticipate the celebration of God's love taking human form in the child born in Bethlehem. Slows us down to experience the daily miracles of love and grace that fill our lives. Slows us down enough to hear the call from the Christ child to serve each other. Slows us down enough to respond to the need to work for justice and peace in a world brimming with injustice and violence.

Already and not yet...as we wait and anticipate the birth of the child, we also know that in the present, that child calls us to lives of service and fellowship filled grace and peace and joy.

May our Advent waiting open our lives to the mystery of the presence of Christ born in Bethlehem many years ago and born into our contemporary world over and over again every day.

Advent Blessings,

Christy

THE SHARED LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The **Joint FCCA-CPC Women's Luncheon** will next meet Wednesday, December 6th at 11:30 am at Black Angus Steakhouse (2355 Sand Creek Rd., Brentwood).

Fellowship Ministry: Our next meeting will be on December 6th at 10:00 am at the Raley's Coffee Shop at 2400 Sand Creek Blvd. Brentwood. This is just across the road from the December Ladies lunch at Black Angus. Please join us! Share your ideas for this important part of who we are! The word ministry after fellowship is just that; A Ministry. Thank you. - Mary Burks, Chair

Outreach Committee: We will next meet Monday, December 11th at 3:00 pm in the Stoneman Room.

Welcome & Marketing Committee: We will not meet in December, our next meeting will be January 24th at 11:30 am in the Stoneman Room.

Worship Committee: will next meet Wednesday, December 13th at 3:00 pm at Ann Custer's home.

Theology Pub: Will next meet Wednesday, December 27th at 7:00 pm, at EJ Phairs.

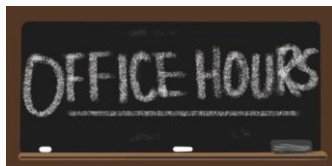
Classic Film Night *formally LGBTQ Film Night:* Will next meet Tuesday, January 23rd at 5:30 pm in the Stoneman Room.

Shared Ministry update: Next Joint CPC/FCCA Cabinet/ Session meeting is scheduled for December 3rd following worship in the CSR.

December 17th 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.*



Office Hours: Church Office will be closed Friday, December 8th and December 18-26th, will re-open Wednesday, December 27th. We will also be closed Monday, January 1st, 2018.

Happy Birthday!



December

2	David Cameron
3	Laura Ferguson
	Audry Lamb
5	Betty Brown
	Reggie Washington
8	Hazel Coward
10	Bonnie Bertelson
11	Richard Peck
14	Ezekiel Elijah Ronald Bellinger
18	Logan Kenney
19	Judy Hartz
21	Tom Deans-Flegel
	Jason Hansen
24	Jim Becker
30	Ethan Sullivan

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

Happy Anniversary!

December

22	Chris and Cherie Persing
23	Jim & Janie Hodges



FCCA Cabinet will next meet Sunday, December 17th immediately following worship.

FCC Monday Bible Study: We meet at 10:00 am every Monday in the Stoneman Room for an informal time of conversation, prayer & study.
We will not meet Monday, December 25th.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: We meet every Tuesday at 10 am in the Stoneman Room.

Session Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 19, 2017 hosted by Betsy Sullivan.

Epiphany Party will be Sunday, January 7th during fellowship hour. Come have some cupcakes & see who will be King or Queen for a day!

Bountiful Table Free Lunch Program

We will be serving a Bountiful Table lunch on Saturday, December 16th at 11:30 am. If you have any extra blankets or towels, we will also be handing them out during the winter months! If you feel you are being called to serve, please come anytime!

Blessings,
Bountiful Table

Donations of clothes needed to include women's and men's: pants, shirts, sweat shirts, t-shirts, rain gear, coats and shoes. Let your friends know and bring donations to church office Mon-Fri AM or entrance hall to chapel on any Sunday AM.

Annual Advent Party Sunday, December 3, 2017

Crafts at 4:00 **Caroling** at 5:30 **Dinner** at 6:00
And a table decorating contest! Come and enjoy: Chicken and Baked Potatoes, Green Beans and Jell-O Salad, Cupcakes and Fellowship

Alternative Gift Fair: Is the thought of holiday shopping making you wish it were January already? Never fear - the Alternative Gift Fair returns this year! On December 3rd, 10th and 17th just step over to the Social Hall after church and make a donation to one or all of the following great charities in honor of people on your gift list: Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, Shepherd's Gate as well as Christmas Wood Crafts donated by Bev Peterson for our Outreach Committee fund. Beyond the value your donation brings to those organizations and the tax deduction you get, you will receive a card acknowledging the gift which you can put under the tree so people know about their special present.

Christmas Poinsettias:

Poinsettias will be available for purchase as Memorial Gifts through Nora Buluran for \$8.00 ea. Place your order by December 17th.



ECSM News!

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



Cookie Exchange

We will be holding our 3rd or 4th annual Cookie Exchange on December 10 during Fellowship Hour. A cookie exchange is just what it says. A certain number of people sign up. Depending on how many that is will determine how many cookies you bring to exchange. If 8 sign up I would suggest 8 plates of 8 cookies of all the same kind on each. Then we line them all up and go down the line to take one of each plate and you go home with 7 different kinds of cookies. The 8th plate goes on the coffee hour table to share with everyone. To do this you must sign up. The deadline to do that is December 3rd. Or call me by December 4th. 925-852-8392. It is always fun to see what everyone makes. It's also fun to include the recipe with each plate. We all want to know what it is and how to make it! Any questions? Let me know! Thanks.
Mary Burks



Longest Night Service: For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. Dealing with the death of a loved one, whether it be last month or many years ago; facing life after divorce, separation, or a broken relationship, coping with the loss of a job; living with cancer or some other condition that puts a question mark over the future; and a number of other human situations makes this time of year painful for many people in our congregation and community. There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and can't get into the festivities others seem to be able to do.

It's at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. For these reasons, we will be gathering for a special service on **Thursday, December 21st at 7:30 pm – the Longest Night of the Year – in the Sanctuary.** During this service we will come and join in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God's Word comes to bring peace to hurting hearts.



Christmas Eve Service:

There will be two Christmas Eve Services on Sunday, December 24th. Christmas Eve Morning Worship at 10am and Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 6pm.

Winter Nights Towel Washing:

We have been helping with this project for about 3 years now. Winter Nights is a program through the Interfaith Council where churches across the county have homeless families as their guests for 2 weeks. Tents are set up in social halls, gyms, etc. for the families to have a dry, warm place to stay at night. During the day while the children are in school and some parents are working, others spend their time at the Oasis Center which is at the St Vincent DePaul facility on Gladstone in Pittsburg. There they are able to take showers so there are towels to wash. Along with St Ignatius Catholic Church in Antioch we take turns washing these towels. ECSM will be washing towels in January, March and May. The slots for January are filled except for January 26 and also March and May.

How it works is, pick the dirty towels up on Friday afternoon between noon and 4:00 pm and return the clean towels on Monday morning between 8:30 am and noon.

You will be hearing more about Winter Nights as we will be the host church in May.

Questions? Talk to Mary Burks or Betsy Sullivan.

December reflection, 2009

I almost forgot the meaning of Christmas in December, 1977. It was Christmas Eve and my husband, son, and I sat in a crowded bus which left from Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem and went to Bethlehem square six miles away. Once there pilgrims from all over the world made their way through the Israeli checkpoints. The massive crowds pressed up against our backs and shoved us toward the gate.

Several choirs sang and people went to the Church of the Nativity to pray. After listening to the choirs my husband, son and I walked around the square and saw drunk pilgrims singing Christmas carols. They were loud and obnoxious. I shuttered in disbelief.

It was only after we returned to our apartment, and our scrawny Christmas tree that I could let go of the Bethlehem scene. I realized that Christmas may not be celebrated in the best manner at times, but we can turn to Christ for joy in our hearts in very simple ways.

Janie Hodges
Spirituality Team

Stewardship and Finance:

Pledges were dedicated November 19 but if you have not yet submitted yours it's not too late. Both CPC and FCCA will continue to receive pledges, with appreciation. It is very helpful as we begin budgeting for 2018 to have an idea what the income might be. You can bring your pledge to church and put it in the offering plate, or mail it to the attention of the financial secretary.

Fellowship (Coffee) Hour: Thanks to all who step up to the plate and help all they can. To those who add to the bounty with whatever then can bring. To those who sign up to host a Sunday with help from a friend or two. To those who help with clean up, doing dishes and taking out the trash. You are all important. I wouldn't want to do it without you! Thanks to Ginny who usually is there to put the coffee together. I'm always looking for someone who is able to be on the committee. We usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Talk to me and I can let you know what is involved.

Thanks to the Persings and the Hodges who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries by hosting the Fellowship Hour on December 17.

One big hole we have is someone to host on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Please consider helping out any way you can.

Thank you all. Mary Burks 925-852-8392

Equal Exchange: Coffee, tea and chocolate bars always make great gifts! Who wouldn't like one of those things as a gift? Something consumable is always good. Then they don't have something to dust, store or find a place for! Think about it!! The cart is out on Sundays during the Fellowship Hour. Give the money to Mary or Ann. Checks made payable to CPC.

Thanks. - Mary Burks

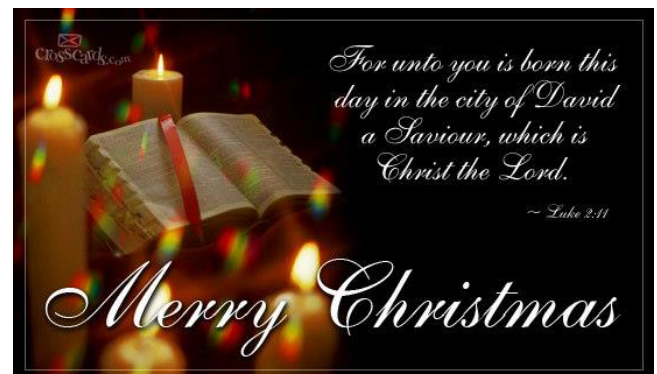
CPC Treasurer's Corner: October

Income: \$11,505.48

Expenses: \$14,062.10



Sunday, December 24th we will be accepting the Christmas Joy and Christmas Fund offerings



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

December 3rd
1st Sunday in Advent
Communion Sunday
Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

December 10th
2nd Sunday in Advent
Isa 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8
Rev. Will McGarvey

December 17th
3rd Sunday in Advent
Sparkle Sunday
Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

December 24th
4th Sunday in Advent
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26
Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage
Rev. Will McGarvey

December 31st
1st Sunday after Christmas
Watch Night Service
Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
Rev. Will McGarvey

New Way Holiday News

In December, our Christmas Choir will sing on Sunday, December 10, directed by Michael Miller and accompanied by Ann Custer.



The New Way Team will rehearse that day after worship in preparation for our Watch Night Service on Sunday, December 31. Then, the Team will meet at 9 am on the 31st to warmup for the New Way Watch Night Service.

Please consider singing along with the New Way Team, even on a short-term basis. Voices are always welcome, and the spirit of the music is very rewarding.

Wishing you all a tuneful holiday season...



WORSHIP LEADERS

December 3rd
Jim Hodges
Roberto & Nora Buluran
Roberto & Nora Buluran

December 10th
Myrdell Dybdal
Umoz Umozurike and
Gayle Nammany
Chris & Cherie Persing

December 17th
Ann Custer
Chuck & Myrdell Dybdal
The Umozurike Family

December 24th
Paul Fish
Mary Burks
Bill & Barbara Dexheimer
Chuck & Myrdell Dybdal
Mary Burks

December 31st
New Way
Chris & Cherie Persing
Jim & Janie Hodges

January 7th
Betsy Sullivan
TBD
TBD

Ushers: Please let **Janie Hodges** 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. If you have any questions or would like to become an Usher, please email or call her.

Care Team offering

The first Sunday of each month has traditionally been Deacons' Sunday at Community Presbyterian Church – it will now be Care Team Sunday at ECSM.

The Care team has 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 envelopes are available in the pew racks for those who wish to help the Care Team provide support for those in need coming to our church seeking help.

The Care Team thanks everyone for their continued support.

PRAYER PAGE

Prayers of Healing

Renée Moore, Virginia Devens, Reggie Washington, Starr Lieber, Dorothy Shipe, Lucille Corzine, Elaine Grothmann, Anne Cakebread, Betty LaMar, Margaret Wilcox, Paul Telfer, Betty Rexroth, Mary Vargo, Patsy Nash. Elwin, Bev Peterson's husband. Carol Krishnan's sisters. Grace, Donald Lang's grandmother. Hanby & 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. Betty Brown, Carol Czarnowski. Lucille Brautigam. Letha Arms.

Prayers of Concern

Those affected by the recent violence here and abroad. Those affected by the natural disasters in Texas, the Caribbean – St. Martin, St. Barts, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Turks and Caicos, Miami, Cuba, Mexico, Nepal, Northern & Southern California, the Philippines, Japan. 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. The family of Forrest Brown.

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. For those affected by hurricanes and fires and violence.

December Prayer Families & Churches

December 3

Rich and Julie Custer-Ortega

Sturge Presbyterian Church – San Mateo

Alex Schoolcraft

Foothills Congregational UCC – Los Altos

December 10

Richard and Betty Pankey

ATC Grace Presbyterian Church – Walnut Creek

Peter Tedeschi

Skyland Community UCC – Los Gatos

December 17

The Pease Family

Contra Costa Korean Church – San Ramon

Shirley Thomas

First Congregational UCC – Martinez

December 24

Chris and Cherie Persing

Grace Presbyterian Church – Walnut Creek

The Thompson Family

Community Church of Mill Valley UCC

December 31

James Pickering

Alameda Korean Presbyterian Church

Mary Vargo

College Ave Congregational UCC – Modesto



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Minutes for Regular Stated Meeting of Session

November 21, 2017

Called to order at 6:35 p.m. at the home of Dave Arms by checking in.

Elders present: Ruling Elders: Dave Arms, Mary Burks, Betsy Sullivan, Jim Hodges and Teaching Elder/Moderator: Rev. Will McGarvey. A quorum was present.

Elders excused: None. **Visitors:** None.

Mission statement was read by all and meeting opened in prayer by Moderator Will McGarvey.

Docket was read and approved as revised.

MSC to approve minutes of October 17, 2017 Regular Stated Meeting of Session as submitted.

Consent Calendar:

- Show "Storied Streets" free movie on homelessness with the County on December 4th or 5th in the Chapel. Will to do newsletter article. **MSC to approve.**

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Clerk of Session: Crossroads Workshop Saturday, December 9th at Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana in Oakland. "Racism, Power and Dominance in the US and the Church" introduces participants to a working definition of system racism and considers how culture, cultural dominance and organizations, including the church, are intentionally and unintentionally complicit in systemic racism.

Correspondence: None.

Pastor's Report: All regular meetings and services. Presbytery Nominating Committee work. Meeting with Brown family to prepare for Forrest's service. Theology Pub. Reformation service at St. Ignatius. Worship planning. Women's fellowship. Yearly personnel review. Stood with picketing workers at Henkel in Bay Point. Presbytery of SF in Concord. Peace Camp debrief. Longest Night service planning dinner. Interfaith Potluck Dinner.

Presbytery Meeting report: Will, Mary and Jim reported on the Tuesday, November 14 presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian in Concord. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Treasurer's Report: Report emailed by Cherie Persing 11-09-17.

Care Team: Minutes update emailed by Chuck Dybdal 11-12-17.

Event Coordinator: Updated Events Calendar emailed by Jessica early in November.

Nominating Committee: Report emailed by Cherie Persing 11-21-17. Two elders will be terming out and going off Session. Currently have one confirmed candidate and one possible candidate. Two (possibly three) deacons will be going off. Currently we have one confirmed candidate and one possible returnee. Jim to research bylaws to determine how we can operate with less than the stated minimum of 5 elders. or what bylaw changes need to be made for minimum number of elders and how position of Deacons can be changed into Care Team members.

Personnel Committee: Report emailed by Mary Burks 11-21-17.

Annual congregational meeting. January 28, 2017 at 11:45 after worship. Mary will do Terms of Call for Will for annual meeting. Jim will develop the annual calendar of events with Will's help.

COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Scullery back door needs to be rekeyed. The locksmith had been asked to rekey the door when he came back. Discussion about safety issues. Could refrigerators be locked, with key given to renters for access and having responsibility?

Christian Education: Information provided for annual statistical report.

Fellowship: Minutes emailed by Mary Burks 11-16-17.

Outreach: Funds for Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner theft split by Outreach and Fellowship. Responsibility for Advent is Fellowship and Bountiful Table is Outreach responsibility. Cards for Bev, Ginny and Lyn in appreciation for their special efforts on Interfaith Thanksgiving service.

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Stewardship & Finance: As of 11/19/17, have received 15 responses with pledges totaling \$32,560 for 2018, below last year at this time. Finance and Stewardship will meet December 11 to prepare 2018 proposed budget.

Welcoming & Marketing: Minutes emailed by Elaine Palmer 11-16-17.

Worship: Minutes emailed by Ann Custer 11-08-17 and 11-21-17 Concern about dwindling participation in Beloved Community. Length of service is an issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

- It appears that the thief of the Thanksgiving dinner food came in through the scullery back door. See notes under Buildings and Grounds above. Ask Jessica to remind renters to check all doors when they leave, and to create a checklist of all doors that need to be checked.
- Reviewed previous Session decision to take funds for replacement of office computer from designated fund item 2116 (Youth Group) rather than from Profit & Loss line item 5211. **MSC to change designation to line item 5211 Office Supplies and Maintenance.**
- **MSC to change Office policy to accept only money orders and/or cashier's checks for facilities events deposits.**

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Discussed use of \$5000 from Presbytery Mission and Vision Leadership committee for homeless January/February Winter Nights parking in our church lot. Clayton Valley has set aside 3,000 for the Parking Lot Program. Barbara wants to have a pulpit swap to share more about the project to see if they will donate more. Winter Nights got some money from LOPC as well that could help with the project. We will have open informational discussion December 5th in conjunction with presentation from County in chapel. Outreach to discuss mechanics, including increased heating expense /to heat kitchen/education wing, whichever is used. Suggested additional funding in 2018 utilities budget.
- Progress of FCCA request to move three crosses and bell to CPC: Dave Arms gave an update on site visit. Need to provide extensions for the crosses to provide support into foundations. Dave will contact someone who can weld aluminum to verify best option. Chris will find someone who can dig the foundation holes. FCCA is aware of need to rent a truck to transport crosses.
- Church Attendance Records: Jessica said she will provide reports to Session and Care Team on monthly basis.
- The Chapel Improvement Fund & "Hearing loop": Lyn Loftin will donate the hearing loop portion. We need to raise the money for the carpet to install (\$6-8k)
- Continuing the conversation with the pastor: Health is good. Needs to get his sleep.
- Fundraiser: To be held Saturday, December 2nd in Fellowship Hall.
- PWC agreed to contribute \$300 to purchase a table for fellowship Hall. Cherie will get info to Dave to order another.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with closing prayer by Jim Hodges.

Next Session Meeting: December 19, 2017 hosted by Betsy Sullivan.

Betsy Sullivan is scheduled to prepare December communion.

Next Joint CPC/FCCA Leadership meeting scheduled for December 3, 2017 following worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hodges
Clerk of Session

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE

By Edie Lanstrom

Seven and a half months ago Kendall and I moved from California to Elgin, Oklahoma to live with Beth, my daughter and Kendall's sister. After a few weeks of "settling in," Kendall and I explored the area around the small town with a population of 1500. One afternoon as I eased my car down a tree-lined road, Kendall shouted as he pointed to red-brick building, "Mom, there's a church!"

"Would you like to go there Sunday, Kendall?"

"Sure would, Mom." The next Sunday Kendall and quickly got dressed for church and made it to the church on time. The minister, Nathan, looks as young as my grandsons and is very personable. After attending several times, we met with Nathan and learned about the church and each other, Kendall and I felt we would like to join this church. When I told Nathan I was having problems adjusting to Elgin, he met with Kendall and me and his insightful ministry helped us (especially me) feel more at home in Elgin.

Tuesday mornings will find Kendall and me and other church people in a Sunday school room sorting out bags of clothes that had been donated to the church's "clothes closet." The clothing is priced at a suggested nominal price. If a person doesn't have the money, he or she does not have to pay for any item. My son Kendall, 55, who has epilepsy, helps the ladies with their ministry. Last week he put together some kind of toy made up of a track and a car that runs around the track.

A woman came up to me in the grocery yesterday and said, "My name is Judy I've seen you at church."

"Kendall and I love that church and look forward to going there every Sunday," I replied.

"The church is glad to have you. Got to get through this list," said Judy as she waved the list. "See you Sunday."

As I watched this new friend make her way down the grocery list, the words of a hymn flowed through my mind.

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by their love. "



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

January 15, 2018 at noon
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek

Celebrate Dr. King's Life & Message
"Together We Win with Love for Humanity: The Unfinished Work 50 Years Later"

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Charles Tinsley
Presbyterian Minister, ICCCC Chaplain at the Juvenile Detention Center, Martinez

With St. Benedict's Gospel Choir (Oakland) & Dwight Stone's piano music. Refreshments & Conversation following in the Fellowship Hall.



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

Just a friendly reminder regarding building usage: PLEASE make sure you look over the space before you exit, check ALL doors. Make sure windows are closed and locked, AC & Fans are turned off, lights are off, and doors are locked. Be vigilant about who enters the building and how many doors are left unlocked during your stay as that may cause an issue also. Someone can come in during your time here, leave another door unlocked and return when no one is here. I encourage all to be vigilant while in the building and please report any suspicious persons to the authorities, myself, session member or pastor.

Thank you kindly, Jessica

Pittsburg PD Non-emergency phone #: 925.646.2441

JOINT CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 3 10:00 am Communion Sunday Service in the Chapel 11:45 am Cabinet/Session Meeting – CSR 4:00 pm Advent Party – Social Hall 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	4 10:00 am FCC Bible Study – CSR 6:30 pm Venture Crew – CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH	5 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR 7:00pm Community Meeting - Chapel	6 10:00 am – Fellowship Meeting in Brentwood 11:30am Women's Fellowship PCT –6:30 –9:30pm SH 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	7 PCT –6 – 10 pm – Chapel PCT –6:30–9:30pm - SH	8 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	9 Ministerio – Chapel 9am -12pm Private Event – SH 4-10 pm
10 8:30am Care team mtg. – CSR 9:00 am Christmas Choir Warm up 10:00 am Worship Service in the Chapel 11:45 am New Way Rehearsal – Sanctuary 4-7 MC – Sanctuary & classrooms PCT – 4:30 – 8:30pm – SH	11 10:00 am FCC Bible Study – CSR 6:30 pm Venture Crew – CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH PCT –6 – 10 pm – Chapel	12 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR PCT – 6:30 – 9:30pm - SH	13 3:00 pm – Worship Meeting – Ann's home. PCT – 6:30 – 9:30pm - SH 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	14 PCT –6 – 10 pm – Chapel PCT –6:30–9:30pm - SH	15 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	16 Bountiful Table – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm – SH
17 10:00 am Joint Sunday Service in the Chapel 11:45 am FCC Cabinet Meeting – CSR 4-7 MC – Social Hall	18 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am FCC Bible Study – CSR 3:00 pm – Outreach Meeting – CSR 6:30 pm Venture Crew – CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts – SH PCT –6 – 10 pm – Chapel	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR PCT – 6:30 – 9:30pm - SH 6:30 pm Session Meeting	20 OFFICE CLOSED PCT – 6:30–9:30pm -SH 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	21 OFFICE CLOSED 3 - 6 pm Private event in the SH PCT –6:30–9:30pm -SH  7:30pm Longest Night Service in the Chapel	22 *January newsletter articles Due to the Church Office today! 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano In the Social HALL – Handing out Toys and food to the needy.	23
24 Christmas Eve 10:00 am Christmas Eve Service – Chapel 6:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – Chapel 4-7 MC – Social Hall	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day! NO FCC Bible Study 	26 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR 6:30 pm Session Meeting PCT – 6:30 – 9:30pm - SH	27 PCT – 6:30–9:30pm- SH 7:00 pm – Theology Pub – EJ Phair 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	28 PCT –6:30–9:30pm - SH	29 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	30
31 9:00 am New Way warm up – Sanctuary 10:00 am New Way Worship Service in the Chapel 4-7 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	January 1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day!  NO FCC Bible Study	January 2 10:00 am Bible Study – CSR PCT – 6:30 – 9:30pm - SH	January 3 PCT –6:30–9:30pm -SH 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	January 4 PCT –6:30–9:30pm - SH	January 5 7:30 – 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	January 6 2 pm – 6 pm – Private event - SH



ECSM NEWS

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*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

DECEMBER EVENTS AT ECSM

Holiday Tea Fundraiser

Saturday, December 2nd at 1:00 pm in the Social Hall.

Advent Party

Sunday, December 3rd at 4pm in the Social Hall.

Come and Enjoy crafts, caroling and dinner!

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 December 16th 11:30 – 12:30 pm in the Social Hall.***

Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 21st at 7:30 pm in the Camp Stoneman Chapel

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm
in the Camp Stoneman Chapel.