

THE BRIDGE

BETWEEN CHURCH AND HOME

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Petaluma March 2010—Issue 3

PEACE

By Pastor Dave Weidlich

Lent is a time for deepening our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. So, it is a good time for practicing the spiritual disciplines with renewed dedication. You might try on a new discipline, such as biblical meditation.

Here's a verse I found while reading Psalms. The verse fit my situation so well, as I wondered whether God could use me, even though I have failed so many times.

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the fruit of the Spirit is...



Fourth @ First
Vespers Series

Carol Wilcoxson
The Passion of Christ
Through Hymns and
Jazz
March 28 - 7 PM



FPC Petaluma Website Featured on PCUSA Homepage

Each week the Presbyterian Church (USA) website (www.pcusa.org) features one of the many congregations with a website. On February 18, 2010, an image of our church and a link to this website were included on their home page.

Pastor Dave Weidlich and Grete Hansen, Children's Sunday School Coordinator, received an email from Candace C. Hill, Coordinator, Educational Ministries and Robin Rueff, Associate of Promotions at the denomination headquarters in Louisville, TN. They were notified that the church's website would be featured on 2/18/10. The email stated:

Our staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ministry to the children, youth and adults in your church and community. May God richly bless your faithful witness and service.

LIFELINE SCREENING --

Coming to First Presbyterian Church --
Wednesday, March 3,
2010 in our Sanctuary

Pre-Registration Required -
Call 1-800-324-1851 or online
at www.lifelinescreening.com

Bridge to the Future Survey Recommends Ending Campaign

With a fairly representative sampling of 106 responses, 80% of the congregation recommended ending the Bridge to the Future Building Campaign (BtFF) on its scheduled date of March 31, 2010. The majority of those responding to the survey recommended using the collected balances of more than \$60,000, to pay down the outstanding sanctuary loan (current balance of \$289,440) and fund needed improvements to existing facilities. Those wanting to proceed to the full Master Plan or moving toward a new building were 19% of the respondents.

The majority of the respondents (70%) either contributed to the BtFF in the past or are currently contributing.

The tone of the 17 written responses supported the direction from the survey results: take a hiatus on campaigns, using collected funds to get through the current financial situation (paying the sanctuary loan and maintaining existing facilities).

Four respondents recommended initiating a new capital campaign, to pay-off the existing loan and for capital improvements to the existing facilities. Two responses advised looking at the Master Plan again, with the idea of revamping existing facilities to improve space utilization.

Individual responses included

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If you, Lord, kept a record of
sins,

Lord, who could stand?

But, with you there is
forgiveness,

So that we can, with
reverence, serve you.

Psalm 130:3

I began to repeat the verse over and over in my mind. Then I started to read it aloud, again and again, slowing down to let the each word sink in. I confessed my sins to God, with sincerity. God, through his Word, reminded me that I am forgiven and called to reverently serve him. Not more than a minute later, I needed to be reminded. And the next minute, and the next...

I ended up memorizing the verse. Now, I have the verse tucked away in a place where I can access it in the next time of need.

The result? I felt a sense of peace - that things were not as bad as I imagined in my state of worry and fear.

May God's peace fill your soul, especially during this season.

Pastor Dave Weidlich

the fruit of the Spirit is...



One Great Hour of Sharing Coming in March!

A proverb states, "Each human life is like a single letter of the alphabet. Alone it can seem meaningless, but combined with others it can be part of something beautiful." When we participate in the beautiful epic of God's love, we help transform the world. We have the opportunity to take part in the witness of Presbyterians around the world sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through special church-wide offerings.

The One Great Hour of Sharing



offering will be taken on Palm Sunday, March 28th. Until then, in the Sunday bulletins you will find information about how we share with

people worldwide, the blessings of the gospel while meeting people's individual and collective needs. The offering distribution is as follows: 36% Presbyterian Hunger Program; 32% Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; and, 32% Self-Development of People.

Please plan to give in the aid of others during this season of Lent.

Giving ~ More than one way

The Offering

The Sunday offering is a vital part of our worship together and the most important way we give to the Lord through the church. We worship through our singing, our prayers, hearing the Scriptures and the Word of God proclaimed. Then we respond to God's call through the giving of our lives and the giving of our money. Most givers use checks, which enables our Banking Team to keep an account of your giving, so you can receive accurate quarterly statements. Offering envelopes are not necessary, but if you give cash, the envelopes help the church keep an account of your giving in a way similar to checks. Offering Envelopes can also help you remember to prepare for worship by preparing your financial gifts.



Check writing is becoming a thing of the past and many of us have stopped carrying large amounts of cash around. So, the church now provides alternative means of giving.

Online Bill Payments

Many of us use a bank website to make online bill payments. There are many advantages - you save on envelopes and stamps and you can time your payments so they get out when due. The church receives several gifts each week through this method. You can set up a payment as a one-time payment or recurring payment. Even if you miss worship a few Sundays, Online Bill Payments help you keep up with regular giving.

Automatic - Direct Debit

Whether for the convenience or the rewards, many people prefer to use credit or debit cards to manage their payments and obligations. You can use your credit or debit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Card) to set up automatic giving to FPC. Just fill out a form (you will find

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2010 Approved Budget

INCOME

OFFERINGS	\$285,417
HAPPY DAY SHARED EXP.....	\$39,122
OTHER	\$30,263
TOTAL INCOME	\$354,802

EXPENSES

OVERHEAD

PERSONNEL.....	\$248,648
FACILITIES.....	\$45,250
MISSIONS	\$20,000
OFFICE	\$20,000
BUDGET & FINANCE	\$700
SESSION.....	\$587

TOTAL OVERHEAD **\$335,185**

MINISTRIES

HAPPY DAY	\$0
WORSHIP	\$3,500
YOUTH.....	\$6,053
CHILDRENS	\$4,940
Membership/OUTREACH.....	\$2,000
Membership/ CONG CARE.....	\$255
ADULT MINISTRY	\$1,550
STEWARDSHIP	\$758
Other / DEACONS	\$500
Other / MISC.....	\$800

TOTAL MINISTRIES..... **\$20,356**

TOTAL EXPENSE **\$355,541**

Excess (Deficit)..... **(\$739)**

Just the Numbers...

\$ 29,801.10 General Fund Offerings

Received 1/1/10 to 2/7/10

Thank you for your generosity and your continued support for our church's ministries and mission projects

Contact Us

First Presbyterian Church of Petaluma: Call 762-8269 or www.petalumafirst.com

Happy Day Presbyterian School: Call 762-8671 or www.happydayschool.org

Session Approves 2010 Budget

After several meetings to deliberate pledged giving and anticipated expenses, Session approved the 2010 Budget. The majority of expenses continue to be personnel related costs. Salary and wages were kept at 2009 levels. Hoping that giving levels will be greater than budgeted, but understanding that the current economic situation has impacted giving, Session considered various scenarios, and approved the budget list at the left.

Some additional pledges were received after the January Congregational Meeting, and expenses were pared to reduce the deficit budget to a more manageable level.

Please pray for the Session through the next few months as they track expenses against this budget; if giving doesn't meet these expectations, adjustments may have to be considered.

March Birthdays

3/1 Charles Torliatt	3/15 Natalie Williams
3/3 Diane Olson	3/19 Thomas Williams
3/4 Carl Jehan	Sharon Taylor
3/5 Floyd Lubbers	Don White
Heidi Pitts	3/20 Laura Glose
Amanda Lefler	Kathy Macdonald
Bob Reis	3/21 Amy Dooley
Mark Hale	Melinda Gardner
3/6 Albert Dougan	3/22 Vana Terwilliger
3/7 Mike McSween	Doug Manson
Taylor Stearley	3/23 Roger Williams
Ethan Eshoo	Linda Dragoo
3/9 Suzy Zeigler	3/24 Ellie Wynkoop
Peggy Patrick	Matthew Sommer
3/10 Joshua Spaulding	3/25 Daniel Weidlich
Gil Dias	3/27 Malcolm Johnson
3/12 Kristy Jackson	3/28 Gloria Franklin
Laurel McVey	3/30 Caitlyn White
3/13 Dana Altenburger	3/31 Kevin Castro
3/14 Bill Krelle	Donna Larsen

For more pictures of recent events, go to our News page: www.petalumafirst.com/news



MARCH 2010

Be sure the check our website for an updated calendar of events:

Worship Every Sunday

9 AM & 10:30 AM

Nursery Care and Sunday School for Children to 6th Grade at Both Services
 Jr. High Sunday School: 10:30 AM
 Adult Sunday School at 9 & 10:30 AM

Meeting Every Week:

Sunday

1PM Bethel Fijian Fellowship (S, F, N, CE, KIT)
 7PM Youth Group

Monday

6:30PM Alex's Band Rehearsal (S)

Tuesday

2PM Happy Day Gymnastics (S)
 7PM The Gardener Group (Homes)
 6:30PM Women's Bible Study (F)

Wednesday

9AM Women's Bible Study (Homes)
 12:30PM Mornny & Me Group (Nursery)
 1:30PM Petaluma Kitchen Kniters (Petaluma Kitchen)
 7PM Arntz Bible Study (Homes)
 7PM Women's Bible Study (Homes)
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday

7 AM Men's Bible Study (F)

Friday

5PM Bethel Fijian Fellowship (S, F)

Saturday

9:30AM Praise Team Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	1 6:30 PM Budget & Finance (Office)	2 8 AM Happy Day School Picture Day	3 9 AM Life Line Screening (S)	4 6 PM Congregational Care (F) 7PM Personnel Comm. (Asgape)	5 World Day of Prayer	6 Youth Ski Trip
	7 PM Facilities Comm. 7 PM Mission (F)	7PM Spiritual Gifts Group			Youth Ski Trip	

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Youth Ski Trip		7PM Spiritual Gifts Group	7PM Jobs Group			Session Retreat

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Daylight Saving Time Begins			St. Patrick's Day	6 PM Session Meeting		First Day of Spring
						9AM Petaluma Food Pantry

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	6 PM Outreach Team (F)		7PM Jobs Group	7 PM Deacon's Meeting (F)		8 AM Angel Cooks
						8 AM Church and Happy Day Work

28	29	30	31			
Palm Sunday						

7 PM Fourth at First
 Carol Wilcoxson,
 The Passion of Jesus
 in Hymns and Jazz

For info on any event, please call the church office (707) 762-8269

Bridge Survey Recommends Ending Campaign

(Continued from page 1)

staying the with the Master Plan and moving forward, making specific improvements to Koinonia Hall, Agape House, and installing a solar electric system, replacing the Discovery Room, encouraging small groups to take on maintenance projects, and prayer for direction and dialog with the congregation instead of using surveys.

One response advised that we "need to figure out the giving 'problem' before any new projects."

As session deals with the budget issues in the coming year, the survey results hopefully will give them direction of where the congregation feels action should be taken.

2010 Session

COMMISSION/ CORPORATE OFFICER	ELDER
Worship & Congregational Care	Sue Russell and Donna Wall
Adult Christian Education	Tim Scheele
Student Ministries (SS, Youth, HD)	Keith Lew and Connie Ahlman
Mission	Don Brown
Outreach	Robert Dickenson
Stewardship, Budget, and Finance	Eric Goodrich
Personnel	Pam Sommer and Tammy Hollingsworth
Facilities	Don White
Clerk of Session/ Secretary	Kathy Govan

Ways to Give

(Continued from page 2)

them on a table in the back of the church and a printable version on FPC's website), providing the amount you want to give to the church, and the frequency of the contributions and your bank information.



Then return the form to the Finance Office at FPC. At the specified time interval, your card will automatically be billed and the funds will be transferred immediately to the church's bank account. All member information is kept confidential. You can easily change or stop automatic payments to fit your plans.

Online Gifts

You may also give a one-time gift on our webpage using your debit or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card) or a Paypal account. For more information online, go to www.petalumafirst.com/stew/

Debit and credit card donations are not for everyone, but when used wisely the benefits are significant not only for the members, but also to the church.

Stock Gifts & Endowments

For stock gifts and information about FPC's Endowment Fund, contact the Finance Dept., 707-762-8275 directly or email Kathy@petalumafirst.com.

Did I read that sign right?

In a department store:
Bargain Basement Upstairs

OUR MISSION

- Love God** - with all our heart, soul and mind.
- Live Together** - in discipleship, fellowship and unity.
- Serve Petaluma** - and beyond, with the love of Jesus Christ.

Petaluma First Blog

Several great articles have been posted on our church's new blog: "Petaluma First." Authors include Melanie Larson, Roger Johnson, Bill Linstrom and Pastor Dave. This online blog is a forum for the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Petaluma. Check the blog often: <http://petalumafirst.blogspot.com/>



Do You Get It?

Get Joy in your Inbox with 1P-Mail, FPCP's email newsletter.

It's easy to sign up and it's just as easy to cancel or make changes. To subscribe, go to our website (www.petalumafirst.com) and look for the box that says: "Get the latest FPCP News in your Email" (example below), type in your email address and choose whether you want "text-only" emails or "html" (all the pictures and fancy stuff).

Get the latest FPCP News in your Email (about weekly)
 Email:

Privacy by SafeSubscribeSM

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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The Church Online:
www.petalumafirst.com

Worship in March

Worship Sundays

9:00 AM - Contemporary Worship Celebration, with Nursery, Sunday School

10:30 AM - Classic Worship Celebration, with Nursery, Sunday School

Mar. 7 - Communion

the fruit of the Spirit is...



peace.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday - Mar. 28 - 9 AM and 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday Communion Service - April 1 - 7 PM in our Sanctuary

Citywide Good Friday Services - April 2 - Three Services to choose from

- 12:00 PM - "A contemplative journey to the cross" Service at Petaluma Valley Baptist Church, 580 Sonoma Mt. Pkwy
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Good Friday Service at New Life Christian Fellowship, 1310 Clegg St. a family oriented service, with communion
- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Good Friday Service at New Life Christian Fellowship, 1310 Clegg St. with communion

Easter April 4 - Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Sunday - 9 & 11 at FPCP with an Egg Hunt at 10