



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **Theology on Tap**
May 2, 8-10 p.m.
- **Parents' Night Out**
May 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Middle School Backpacking**
May 20-22
- **Habitat For Humanity Work Day**
May 21, July 23, August 27

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*From the Pastor,
Rev. David G.
Watermulder*

Presbyterian Baptism



"So, Pastor, what do Presbyterians believe about baptism?"

That was the question, and it didn't come from someone looking for a debate or to tell me why their way was better. It was just an honest inquiry.

And if you were honest with yourself, I wonder if you might ask the same thing sometimes. After all, baptism is a central action of the Christian faith, something that all who follow Jesus are called to experience. And yet, there are a lot of different meanings and practices around baptism. So, how do we as Presbyterian Christians think about this central sacrament of our faith?

Baptism, as John Calvin once put it, is "an outward sign of an inward reality." It's an external, physical thing that we can see and feel and experience. But, the "sign" of baptism points us to what is really happening in and to us. And what is really happening is not something that we ourselves are doing. Baptism is a sign that says God is up to something in

our lives.

Baptism is a sign of grace.

That's why we baptize people at every age and stage of life. Infants and little children who are baptized are a reminder to us that this is really God's first action toward us on display. They've

done nothing at all to deserve or earn God's love. On May 1st in worship, we will baptize Baby Oliver Acosta, and we will marvel at God's love for him.

But baptism is never an end to itself. When we baptize children in our church, we welcome them into the household of God and we make promises to help them grow up into the faith that we share. In baptism, we start them on the pathway of faith.

This month, on May 15, our Confirmation Class of 11 students will be up in front during worship. These are young people who range from 8th grade to 12th grade, and all of them have gone through a months-long process of "confirming" their faith. For those who were baptized as infants or children, it is the next step in which they get to say for themselves that they are followers of Jesus.

(continued on page 2)

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(continued from page 1) One of our confirmation students this year is a high school freshman who has never been baptized, and so on that day, she will get up in front, surrounded by her family and be baptized. This is also a sign of God's grace, and it is this grace that leads us toward faith.

Part of what is exciting about seeing these baptisms in our midst is that it encourages us as well. It reminds us that God is at work in people's lives. On May 22nd, we will welcome a group of 10 adult New Members into the life of the church. And among these adult believers, one of them is a brand new Christian. What a joyful day it will be, as he joins God's people—either as infants, children, youth or adults—who are baptized into a life of following God.

The emphasis that Presbyterians put on God's grace when it comes to baptism points to a deeply held conviction about who God is and how God works. God is the one who is almighty and powerful, loving and forgiving. It is God whose first love for us was on display in Jesus Christ. And as we receive this gift from God, we seek to faithfully respond with our lives.

If you have never been baptized and want to take that step in your walk with God, I hope you'll reach out soon so we can talk about it. In the pages of this newsletter, you will find all sorts of information about what is happening in the life of our church, and remember that all that we do really begins with the grace of God.

Peace,
Pastor Dave



Here are some pictures from the April meeting of the San Jose Presbytery, during which the Rev. Erica Rader *officially* became our Parish Associate. We continue to be grateful for the wonderful ways that Erica's ministry is a blessing to all of us at PCLG.





Building Bridges

Out of our "loving neighbors" series, we hope to go further in some interfaith dialogue with Jewish and Methodist neighbors. We are setting up a meeting in February or March with a representative of each of the three congregations that would be involved in the larger dialogue in the fall.

We are looking for a couple of people interested in helping to organize this chance for people to listen and share together. Contact Pastor Dave if you are interested.

GROVE GROUPS



If you are interested in joining one of PCLG's growing small groups, please contact Elder Dave Heacock at grovegroups@pclg.org. Grove Groups are a fun way to get to know others in the church, share a meal together, and grow spiritually.



Theology on Tap

Spiritual & theological conversation in a bar.

Monday, May 2

8-10 p.m.

Khartoum in Campbell



Children's Ministry

This month in God's Place –

Preschool – Kindergarten will explore the story of Saul (Acts 9:1-20), prepare to honor our Mothers on Mother's Day, learn about Pentecost, and end the month learning about sharing our faith. Lessons consist of Bible stories, music, crafts & activities. It has been wonderful to see this group grow over the year. We have welcomed many new families into this classroom!

This year our 1st-5th graders have been learning that Jesus was sent by God to show us how to live and receive salvation. They have learned how Jesus showed Himself to be the Messiah through His teaching, His healing, and His love for others. As we conclude our curriculum it is now the children's turn to accept the grace God offers through Jesus and respond to that grace in their own lives. A big task for a young age; however, this month they will learn some ways they can live their faith!

Memory Verse: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." *Matthew 25:40*

Summer in God's Place:

This summer in God's Place we will be using the Vacation Bible School Curriculum – Living Waters for the World, for Preschool – 5th Grade. This program will focus on providing clean water for people around the world. We will explore Bible stories, there will be crafts, experiments, activities, music and mission. Lessons will be adapted based on the different age groups.

I am really looking forward to sharing this curriculum with the children and families. As a parent, I am always looking for opportunities to teach our boys about gratitude. This curriculum will get children thinking and feeling about their own gratitude, and also ways to serve others.

Look for an e-mail with the summer curriculum schedule. The schedule will also be posted near the classrooms.

Living Waters for the World Website:
www.livingwatersfortheworld.org

God's Place Schedule, May 2016

5/1 – 1st & 2nd and 4th & 5th will meet in the Social Hall for Testament Tales. 3rd grade will meet separately for their Bible class/celebration

5/8 – Creation Station (1st-5th grade)

5/15 – Movie Room (1st-5th grade)

5/22 – Celebration Sunday (1st-5th grade)

5/29 – Family Worship (1st – 5th grade in worship, Preschool – K will have class)

Upcoming Events

5/1 – 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

5/14 – Parents Night Out 5:30-8:30pm
(please RSVP by May 9)

5/15 – Teacher Appreciation

6/12 – PCLG Family Pool Party 1-4pm
(please RSVP by May 12)

6/16 – Mom's hike 9:30am – noon
(please RSVP by May 16)

6/29 – PCLG BBQ

"Serving" up fun this summer in God's Place!

Summer signups will be available on Sign Up Genius by May 1st.

Summer is a great time to begin teaching if you have never served in Children's Ministries before. We also love to welcome back college students, and invite our High School youth to serve during the summertime. Please contact Lauren Froman if you are interested.

pclgl Lauren@gmail.com 408.356.6156

Summer Reading Challenge: I am inviting children entering Preschool – 5th grade to be active readers this summer and participate in the Children's Ministry Summer Reading Challenge. The challenge begins June 24th and will end July 23rd. As a team you are trying to read a total of 500 books. For this challenge you must check out books from our Children's Ministry library. We have tons of books, and I recently purchased a few fiction chapter books. Details will be posted near the classrooms.



Youth News

Lingering there for a few minutes with our graduating seniors, the Youth Staff enjoyed a sentimental moment this past weekend at the end of our 23rd Love of God retreat. Many of these students have grown up from tiny sixth graders to young adults bound for college.

So it was a bittersweet time to pause at the end of a very structured weekend, making unstructured room for God's spirit as we closed the L.O.G. retreat chapter of their faith experience. I hardly ever cry and the tears even came for me. We're still months away from their departure, but the transition has begun.

Most have picked their colleges and are already thinking about housing and roommates. Some are staying relatively local, some to the Pacific Northwest, and one as far as London. With all of them, I hope we'll get to research on-campus fellowships and local churches together and pray for their continued participation and leadership in their next church home.

At the very same retreat, we welcomed eight 8th graders into our high school youth group community (and more will find their way to joining in on Sunday evenings). A somewhat scary thing for all of us involved. They're a little intimidated, we're not used to their restlessness, none of us know what's happening next.

I look at these men and women grown next to these squirrely boys and remarkably patient girls and wonder if with every passing generation of humanity God reflects as I am doing, "oh, here we go again." With all that omniscience, probably not.

Because God sees the whole story. I wouldn't have known that the kid who could fit the most clothespins on his face in middle school would become an Eagle Scout and Student Body President at Leigh. Or, that the girl who arrived in middle school youth group just after her family had broken up, would be ordained a deacon and a trusted advisor to the next generation of middle schoolers.

God knows how we're called and commissioned before we do because he loves us and knows us before we ever know God. A new generation enters the fold and may our journey alongside them prepare them to be lifelong disciples, called, loved, and loving towards all.

Blessings,

Steve Fainer, Director of Youth Ministry

fainer@gmail.com

Youth Group Sunday Evening Schedule

SNiFF - Middle School meets 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Y.G. - High School meets 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.



Bookends

PCLG's Book Club meets once a month, and new folks are always welcome!

Contact Sue Hansen for more information:

paigetturner007@hotmail.com.

May 2016

The Cellist of Sarajevo
by Steven Galloway

June 2016

The Good Earth
by Pearl Buck

July 2016

All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr

August 2016

God's Hotel
by Victoria Sweet



Music Notes



From the Music Director

This month, the choir will be singing the famous "Ave Maria" by Franz Biebl. Franz Biebl was born in Germany in 1902 trained in choral music and was a professor of music at the Mozartium, a music academy in Salzburg. His tenure was interrupted by WW II in 1943, he was drafted into the German army. Soon after he was captured and spent time in a prisoner of war camp at Fort Custer, Michigan. (We in music prefer to make music and not war, so it's no surprise he was captured so quickly.) Another famous German musician, baritone, Dietrich Fischer Diskau was also a prisoner of war in Italy as a very young man before his ascendant career as a vocalist.

After the war, Biebl went back to work in Germany serving as a church music director and director of the town chorus. Around 1964, Herr Biebl was commissioned to write a piece for the firemen men's chorus and "Ave Maria" was born. The piece remained unknown for many years until the Cornell University Glee Club met Biebl and learned of his music. Even then, it took our local, world famous men's chorus, Chanticleer to finally bring Biebl's seminal work into national and international consciousness.

The work was originally scored for men's ensemble, but Biebl soon created a four-part version using soprano, alto, tenor and bass. The Ave Maria he set is from the Angelus and is also known as the "Angelic Salutation." The prayer, the "Hail Mary" as it's referred to in English translations, is based on the greeting of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary from the Gospel of Luke.

Biebl's piece is very reminiscent of a neo Renaissance style. I had the pleasure of singing the piece with double choir in the Sistine Chapel several years ago. A truly transcendent experience.

For mother's day, Joyful Voices will sing "A Home of Grace" by Joseph Martin. Martin arranges the lovely Irish folk tune of The Salley Gardens for youth choir and choir. Mothers will not want to miss this wonderful day at PCLG.

We have exciting and inspirational music schedule throughout May. I look forward to seeing you all in the coming month.

All the best!

Michael Taylor, director of music

michaeltaylor@comcast.net



HANDBELL NEWS

Spring Ring 2016

Four of our bell ringers attended the annual Spring Ring Bell Festival at Valley Church, Cupertino on April 9. Nearly twenty bell choirs from Sacramento to San Luis Obispo rehearsed four songs with director Barbara Meinke of Temecula, CA to prepare for a final concert that evening. Throughout the day there were also classes relating to handbells and a lunchtime concert by a solo ringer.

That evening, the concert also included performances by individual bell choirs and two bell solo ringers. Two of the mass ring selections included percussion and the Messiah Brass. If you missed going to the concert, on Sunday, June 12 you can hear the familiar hymn "When In Our Music God Is Glorified", one of our mass pieces.

Mini Recital - Sunday, May 15, 11:30 a.m.

Come hear our Los Cascabeles Handbell Choir present a short program after worship.



WORSHIP IN THE GROVE

Enjoy worship,
fellowship, God's
word, music and
refreshments in our
own little slice of
nature!

Sunday evenings

July 10

August 14

7 p.m. in the Redwood
Grove

Summer BBQs

Wednesday evenings,

June 29, July 13 & 27, August 10

6-7:30 p.m.





Mission Minute

Sophia's Layette Baby Shower

The layette Project has a rich history of over 35 years of serving the Public Health Nurses of Santa Clara County. We now provide 10-12 layettes a month to the nurses to take to their clients. Many of these Mom's do not have clothing or blankets for their infants.

We include a fleece blanket, receiving blanket, hand knit hat, clothing and a wonderful book. Please help us to continue this project by donating new clothing, gift cards or monetary donations to Sophia's Layette.

Our annual baby Shower takes place on Mother's Day May 8th during coffee hour. Please stop by and see what we do. If you have questions please contact Colleen Hattman (408) 971-6164.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE SPRING / SUMMER MISSION ACTIVITIES

Habitat for Humanity Work Days: Saturdays, May 21, July 23, & August 27. A new house-building project supported by a variety of faith communities has broken ground in San Jose. To sign up for one of these workdays, contact Eric Schroeder at esschroeder@me.com.

All-church trip to Mexico - June 18-25: Join old friends, make new friends at this church-wide opportunity to build a house for a family in Tijuana. For more information contact mexico@pclg.org

Summer mission days: Wednesday, August 3 – Saturday, August 6. Opportunities for the whole family to share God's love through service! We will be serving lunches to the homeless and working poor, working in a community garden, fixing up a house for at-risk youth, sewing blankets for baby layettes ... and more! Details next month.

Immanuel House Update

Four new residents moved in during April, just after six had moved out. We currently have ten tenants, eight from Afghanistan (some by way of Indonesia), one from Eritrea and one from Congo. Everyone speaks English except for the Eritrean, and he's learning!

Ways to get involved: 1) Take your small group plus food and have dinner for the residents. To sign up contact house manager Pat Plant at pat.plant@gmail.com

2) Organize a field trip for a couple of residents to the beach or a soccer match.

3) Help a resident with a job search; most have computer or other business skills.

4) Pray for these newest immigrants to America!

The mission committee meets (usually) the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m.

For more information on projects and programs, email Elder Martha Wills at mtswills@gmail.com.

Financial Report

Dear friends,

PCLG is at the end of the first quarter and our financial results are very positive. Our income remains over budget and our expenses are only slightly over budget, leaving us with a surplus at this time.

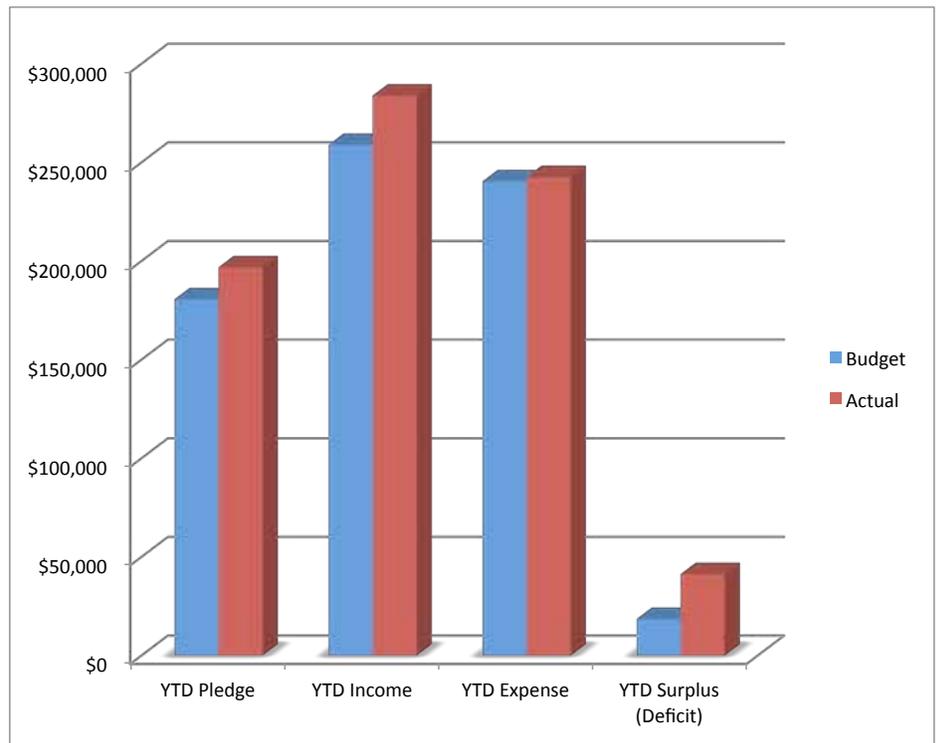
Our pledged offering is 109% of budget and our overall income is 110% of budget. Our expenses are 101% of budget, resulting in a surplus of \$41,244 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$18,491.

Our investments had a gain in value of \$17,535 over last quarter.

All pledge and giving information is kept confidential. You may pledge and give online at www.pclg.org. My email address is kristy.cole@pclg.org, should you wish to contact me.

As always, thank you for your generosity to PCLG.

In Christ,
Kristy Cole
Church Administrator



News

We thank Boy Scout Troop 339, along with Nancy Smith, for taking on the task of filling up the sandbox on the playground. They carried in 50 bags of 50lb sand and groomed our sandbox! The children were very excited to see it filled up the next day! THANK YOU!!!!

Our garden is planted and flowers blooming! Our lady bugs and monarch butterflies have arrived and we look forward to setting them free once they are ready to move into our garden area.

Chapel for May is Bee Strong....Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10. We will say goodbye to Bonnie the Beekeeper and look forward to a new chapel "character" in September!

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms!

Blessings,
Cory Mullins
Growing FootPrints Director growingfootprints@yahoo.com.

On the Bulletin Board

Have a short note for the next issue of *The Spire*?

Submit your bulletin board items to carlo@pclg.org



Personalized Pet Care for Your Peace of Mind

Holly's Honeys provides pet sitting, dog walking, and pet care in the, Los Gatos, Saratoga, San Jose, and Campbell areas.

Let's Connect!

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408-963-8020
Holly@HollysHoneys.com



Our friend Rachel Larson has moved to be closer to family, and she would love to hear from her church family! Here new address is below, if you would like to send a note.

Rachel Larson
33702 Holtz Hill Drive
Dana Point, CA 92629



Piano Recital

The congregation and friends are cordially invited to the annual Spring Piano Recital featuring students of church member, Judith Gruber. The recital will be **Sunday afternoon, May 22 at 2 p.m. in the PCLG Sanctuary**. A reception will follow. Students who recently participated in the Certificate of Merit Program through the Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC) and the National Guild of Piano Teachers will be honored.

PCLG at-a-Glance

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Adult Education	9 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary	10 a.m.
"God's Place" Sunday School	10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Time	11 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Men's Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.
Theology on Tap	1st Monday	8 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Friends, Food, Fellowship	2nd Saturday	6 p.m.
The Voyagers	3rd Saturday Fellowship & Service	
Buoys & Gulls	Various	Various
Mates	Various	Various
Better Bones & Balance	Wed/Fri	9:30 a.m.
Happy Paint	Thursday	10:00 a.m.
Bookends	Various	Various
CoveKnit Group	Wednesday	7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Home AM Groups	3rd Thursday	9:30 a.m.
PCLG AM ("WoW") Group	Thursday	10 a.m.
PCLG Noon Group	2nd Thursday	12 p.m.

COVENANT GROUPS

Baker/Attwood Covt.	Monday	10:00 a.m.
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MUSIC MINISTRIES

Los Cascabeles	Tuesday	6 p.m.
Chancel Brass	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
Worship Band	Thursday	7 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Chancel Strings	Friday	7:30 p.m.
Joyful Voices	Sunday	11:30 a.m.
Youth Choir	Sunday	6:30 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Middle School SNiFF	Sunday	5 p.m.
High School YG	Sunday	7:30 p.m.

*Don't forget—Deadline
for the SUMMER SPIRE
is 2:00 P.M. Thursday,
MAY 26.*



May Birthdays

3	Louise Sherman	22	Ben Wagner
6	Angie Smith	23	Barbara Snyder
8	Ellen Graff	26	Taryn Smith
	Howard Loomis	27	Barney Byle
10	Judith Borlase	29	Chris Daly
14	Barb Lawler		Sally Slocum
16	Barbara Koplos	30	Lucy Romero
	Joey Alzaidi		Alicia Bierly
17	Marco Bommarito		Colleen Hattman
21	Sue Coates		

Anniversaries

6	Howard & Sue Thomas
21	Amee & Brian Jones
25	Linda & Don Wagner
30	Brian & Erin Heath



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