



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **Prayer Service for Healing**
November 7, 7:30 p.m.
- **Pledge Dedication Sunday,**
November 20
- **Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service,**
November 22
- **Advent Craft Faire,**
November 27, 4 p.m.
(dinner at 6)
- **Blue Christmas,**
December 7
- **Parents' Day Out,**
December 10
- **Christmas Eve Services**
December 24 at 4 & 9 p.m.

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

God's Shanty



The Fall season in the life of our church has been such a rich experience. There have been baptisms and new members, there have been opportunities for mission and service as well as beautiful music and warm fellowship. There has been a growing sense that our church: centered on the love and mercy of Jesus Christ, has a vocation to love and serve others in God's name.

A few snap-shots that tell some of the story...

The other day, a brand new family in the church was walking down the hallway toward Sunday School with their kids. They ran into our Children's Ministries Director, Lauren Froman, and introduced themselves in passing. The Dad looked at his son seriously and said, "This is Ms. Lauren, she's like the Principal of the church!" This is a place for the lively imagination of children.

On a recent Sunday evening, I was walking across the church campus and I ran into a gaggle of

girls. Who were they? Why were they here? What was going on? I only knew one of the girls from PCLG, but these were her friends from school who she had invited to come to the Youth Group and be part of what is happening here. I was thankful for the bubbling

energy of Middle Schoolers.

Earlier this month, 50 women from PCLG went on retreat together into the Santa Cruz Mountains. Along with many long-time friends who were there, there were also folks who are brand new to our area, and new to our church. And there in the mountains, they sang together, prayed together, went hiking together and grew together in their faith. These are new relationships that are just beginning and seeds of faith growing up anew.

This past week, a long-time PCLG member came by the front office to visit. He didn't come walking in, like he used to. And he didn't come by on church business, like he used to. He was wheeled in by his hospice nurse who was helping him get some fresh air outside. He visited with the church staff who were there, and re-lived "the old days"

(continued on page 2)

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michael.taylor@pclg.org

(continued from page 1) when he used to serve in the church in so many important ways. I was reminded of the faithfulness of God and the meaning that comes with long-term friendships across the years.

We live in a time and place where there are increasing questions about the role of "the church" in society, in the lives of most people, and in the world in general. There are voices in the public square who wonder aloud, "what's the point, anyway?" Is there a purpose to this ongoing gathering of Christians, that so many of us give our time and attention to?

I ran across a line recently from a lecture that the great 20th century theologian Karl Barth once gave. It's a description of the Christian community, where he describes the church as, "God's shanty among men until the world's end."

God's "shanty" among men and women until the world's end. That's probably not the most flattering way to describe the church, but it may be accurate. The church is not a "citadel of virtue" (we know ourselves too well to say that). And we are not a "museum of the saints" (more like, a hospital for sinners). We are, in some ways, "a shanty", not exactly the most glorious and wonderful thing imaginable.

And that's just the way God wants it.

Because this is the way that God works in our lives. Using the small, the mundane and the ordinary, to help us experience something much bigger than any of those things. Yes, we may be a "shanty", but this is where God is present and where we can share in what God is doing.

I invite you to read the pages of this newsletter to get a sense of all that is coming up. As you do, I hope you will also consider how you can be a part of supporting the life together that we share as a church. November is our Stewardship Month, and we look forward to talking and sharing more about what God is doing and how each of us can join in God's work through our church.

God bless you!

Pastor Dave

Need a Deacon? Got a Deacon?

Did you know that as a member of this church you are assigned a Deacon? What is a Deacon? He or she is an ordained member of PCLG who may offer support, prayer and a variety of resources during both difficult and joyful times. If you're not a member yet, don't worry, we're here for you too. If want to know who your Deacon is or need a Deacon, please contact, Christa Sinclair at christa_sinclair@me.com, Mazy Ahiers at aimee9292@yahoo.com or Kristy Cole in the church office at 408-356-6156.

Grove Group Update:

I want to give a big thank you to everyone who reached out to join a Grove Group. We have an amazing sign-up list and we are working hard to place everyone within an appropriate group. We currently have over 100 people in 9 separate Grove Groups, and we are working to have enough groups for everyone by the end of the year.

This fall, we have been studying Moses and learning about his calling from God as we consider our own calling and life with God. The lessons are developed by Pastor Dave, and are meant to be shared and discussed within the smaller grove group. The feedback has been wonderful and we are looking forward to expanding this ministry.

If you are interested in joining, please reach out to me, Elder Dave, at dheacock74@gmail.com, 408-354-7103 or PCLG office.



Sunday Morning Bible Study



9 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Our Sunday morning Bible Study is using The Wired Word curriculum which uses a current news story to focus our attention on a Biblical principle or lesson. We do not know what the topic for our next lesson is until Thursday; so we know the topic will be something that has been in the news in the last week.

Here are the stories and topics we have studied this fall:

9/18 - A Canadian Protestant Minister who has declared herself an atheist. *What is the minimum one*

needs to believe in order to be a Christian; how do we handle doubt?

9/25 - Colin Kaepernick protests the National Anthem. *Taking an unpopular position when doing so might be a matter of faithfulness to God*

10/2 - Pressure to publish incentivizes bad science. *How we determine what should be authoritative in our lives*

10/9 - Shimon Peres dies without achieving the peace he desired. *How we react when something we long for is denied us*

10/16 - Nobel Prize given to 2 economists who wrote about the nature of contracts. *What is the Biblical contract or covenant and how does it apply to us today*

If this sort of study appeals to you, come and join us in the Fireside room on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

For more information, or to receive the lesson by email, contact Mary Jane Humphrey, maryjhumphrey@comcast.net.



Children's Ministry

God's Place November 2016:



The month of November is a season of feeling grateful, and bountiful giving. I am thankful for the energy I have been experiencing in Children's Ministries this fall – meeting lots of new families, thoughtful questions from children during God's Place, passionate disciples willing to serve,

music as part of our lessons, and just an overwhelming feeling of support.

In **Kindergarten – 5th grade**, we will spend this month learning about two prophets - Elijah and Elisha, and how they loved and served God. Our Preschool class will continue to explore God's unfolding story with Bible lessons on Samuel, David (as a shepherd boy and as King), and ending the month with the first Sunday of Advent and the story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary. In addition, the 2nd-5th graders will begin to prepare for the Christmas Pageant with practice during our lessons.

As you prepare for Thanksgiving in your home, I am sure you have your own traditions in place. However, if you are searching for ways to connect as a family during this season I have included some fun ideas to try out. Maybe one will stick and become a lasting tradition in your home for years to come. May you find joy in all things this season and be reminded of God's love for your family through the bountiful blessings that surround you.

CONNECTING AS A FAMILY THIS THANKSGIVING...

- Write a Thanksgiving prayer together to be said before your Thanksgiving meal.
- Make a blessing basket. Place a basket with a pencil and pad of paper in an easy-to-reach location in your home. Throughout the month, encourage family members to write down ways God has blessed them. Younger children can draw our cut out pictures from magazines. Read these together and give God thanks each day or set aside time on Thanksgiving Day.
- Encourage sharing around the table. Place a paper leaf at each table setting with an "assignment" written on it. Each person adds to the festivities by completing their assignment. Assignments might include:
 - Read Psalm 100
 - Share a Thanksgiving memory
 - Say the blessing for the meal
 - Share what your favorite Thanksgiving leftovers are!
- Let your light shine. Give each person an unlit votive candle. Begin by lighting your own candle and thanking God for specific blessings. Then, continue the process around the table until all the candles are lit. Lead your family in a candlelight service of thanksgiving.

For each new morning with its light,
 For rest and shelter of the night,
 For health and food,
 For love and friends,
 For everything Thy goodness sends
 -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Important Dates

- November 13:** 3rd Grade Bible Presentation during Time For Young Disciples.
- November 20:** 4th & 5th Graders – AP Sunday with Rev. Erica Rader.
- December 10:** Parents Day Out, 10am-1pm. Please RSVP to Lauren Froman.
- December 11:** Cocoa & Cookies after worship. Families come to the kids corner to enjoy fellowship and get Christmas festiveness!
- December 4, 11, 18:** Christmas pageant practice during God's Place. After church practice may be required on 12/18.
- December 24:** Children will meet prior to 4pm Christmas Eve service for Pageant run through.

Questions, comments, concerns,
need to connect?

Lauren Froman pclgl Lauren@gmail.com



Susan McDougall is one of our three seminary students under care of the San Jose Presbytery. She and David, her husband, began attending PCLG in 2012, and they have been PCLG members since 2013. She has served as a Deacon, and she is active in Friends, Food and Fellowship. Originally from Canada where she worked as a lawyer, she has been active in Presbyterian churches in Canada, Washington State, and Michigan. She lives in San Jose with her husband and has four children, one of whom is still living at home.

Susan is currently studying at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and will graduate in September of 2017. Many of us heard her preach at a Grove service this past summer at PCLG, and she has preached several times at First Presbyterian San Jose. She'll be preaching at Westhope Presbyterian in Saratoga on November 20 and December 11.

She completed her internship last year at First Presbyterian San Jose where many PCLG members volunteered with her at the Woman's Gathering Place. Currently interning at Westhope Presbyterian, she is learning how to run Session meetings, Stewardship meetings, and Worship Committee meetings. She also attends the Men's Bible Study. She is learning how to minister to members of the congregation. Because of her internships, she isn't able to spend much time at PCLG, and misses PCLG very much, but she is in prayer for us as we are for her. She feels very blessed to be a member of PCLG and is deeply grateful for the support and prayers she has received from PCLG.

Time to Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

It's that time again! Orders for Christmas poinsettias are now being taken. Only \$9 each! You may even take your poinsettia home with you after either Christmas Eve service or the Christmas Day service*.

Please return this order form with your check to the church office by Thursday, December 8 so that your name and dedication may be printed in the bulletin. Checks payable to *Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos*.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

In honor of : _____

In memory of: _____

In celebration of: _____

**if you will not be at either Christmas Eve service or the Christmas Day service, please pick up your poinsettia after the Sunday worship service on December 18. Any left after the service on Sunday, December 25 will be given away.*



Bookends

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

Contact Sue Hansen for more information:

paigeturner007@hotmail.com.

November

The Wright Brothers
by David McCullough

December

Ella Minnow Pea
by Mark Dunn

January

The Lost Garden
by Helen Humphreys

February

Swans of 5th Ave
by Melanie Benjamin

March

The Secret Chord
by Geraldine Brooks

April

On the Move
by Oliver Sachs



Music Notes



From the Music Director

We have an exciting month ahead featuring John Rutter's "When the Saints Go Marching In" with choir, Piano, Clarinet and Brass Sextet. We will also be singing Rutter's setting of "For the Beauty of the Earth", based upon Foliott Stanford Pierpoint's hymn lyrics.

John Rutter, an English composer, has written numerous anthems, arrangements, masses and choral works. He is the founder of the Cambridge Singers, which uses boy sopranos and altos in many of the recorded choral works. He also collaborated with David Willcocks in writing four volumes of "Carols for Choirs", anthologies for choirs, an extremely successful and useful venture. Many of his works are orchestrated and most are recorded. I would certainly recommend his Cambridge Singers Christmas Album.



We are also singing "O Quam Gloriosum" By Tomas Luis de Victoria. (1548 – 1611) He was a Spanish composer of the late Renaissance period in music. In addition to his education in Spain, he also spent much time in Italy. He was thought to have studied with Palestrina, the most famous of late Renaissance composers. Victoria's music is somewhat less contrapuntal than his contemporaries and he sometimes used word painting, a forerunner of the Baroque style born in the early 17th century. He was also an ordained priest, though his duties were mostly centered in composition and playing organ.

All the best!

Michael Taylor, director of music
michaeltaylor@comcast.net



Flower Calendar The 2017 flower calendar is available for sign-ups at coffee hour. The lovely fresh flower arrangement can be given in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any other special occasion. There will be only one arrangement per week, so if you have an important date coming up in 2017, it would be wise to secure that date as soon as

possible. You can take the arrangement home after worship, or you can leave it and the deacons will distribute the flowers to church members unable to attend worship. The cost of each arrangement is \$65.

*Kick Off the
Holidays* with



some Christmas Carols, Tammys,



Sharons, Jeans, Carolyns, Julies,



Marthas, Margarets, Judys, Lisas,



Kathys, Audreyes, Sues, Danas.....

It's the annual P.W. CHRISTMAS TEA, and all your friends are gonna be there! Join them Thursday, December 1st at 2:30 p.m. in the church social hall. Men and women alike are welcome to come enjoy tea sandwiches, cookies, and a performance by the Mountain View Madrigals choir. Tickets are \$20 and benefit missions of PCLG! Buy yours after worship Sunday, November 6 and 13. Don't wait, *this special event sells out fast!*



P.W. Christmas Tea





Mission Minute

Here is a fall updates on some of our favorite projects!

Immanuel House: Flor Silva, whom many families know as a beloved PCLG caregiver, has taken the position of House Manager. She will assist the 13 refugee residents who are currently transitioning through Immanuel House on their way to independent living. The residents of Immanuel House could use your support as they search for jobs that use their considerable skills, as they procure that next-step housing unit and as they acquire sophisticated English skills. For more information, contact mission elder Martha Wills at mtswills@gmail.com



Front Door Ministry: We continue to pack 400 lunches per month for the homeless and working poor who frequent this program at First Presbyterian Church, San Jose. Folks are always needed who can hand out the lunches: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 to 11:30. For more information on volunteering at First Presbyterian, contact volunteerfpcs@gmail.com

Amor Ministries: This housing ministry, based in San Diego, is seeking to acquire property in Tijuana, Mexico where church groups can camp and staff can operate. PCLG has made more than 30 mission trips to Mexico to build houses under the auspices of Amor Ministries. Fundraisers were held last month and donations are still being accepted. For more information, contact Colleen Hattman at colleen.hattman@sjcc.edu

The Women's Gathering Place at First Presbyterian, San Jose needs more cooks for the hot lunch program they offer to about 40 women every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The typical menu is salad, a main dish, rolls and dessert. Volunteers often cook the main dish at home (although the church's kitchen is well equipped and can be used) and bring it to the church around 11:30 in order to serve at noon. Many stay to visit with the ladies till around 2:00. Says regular volunteer Judy Borlase, "Preparing these meals is a blessing, and their gratitude is immense." For more information or to help, call Judy at (cell) 408-669-6860 or (home) 408-358-2262.

Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital
AT STANFORD



Care Kit Donations for Lucille Packard Children's Hospital: Don't forget that our Children's Ministry is collecting travel-sized shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes for families of children receiving medical care. You may leave your donations in the church office through Nov. 12. Thanks for your generosity!

Financial Report

Dear friends,

The financial results for the third quarter are in. As is often the case at this time of year, PCLG is running a deficit, but it is lower than we projected in our budget. Our year-to-date income is at 99% of budget and our expenses are at 98% of budget, leaving us with a deficit of \$26,400, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$40,819 at this time.

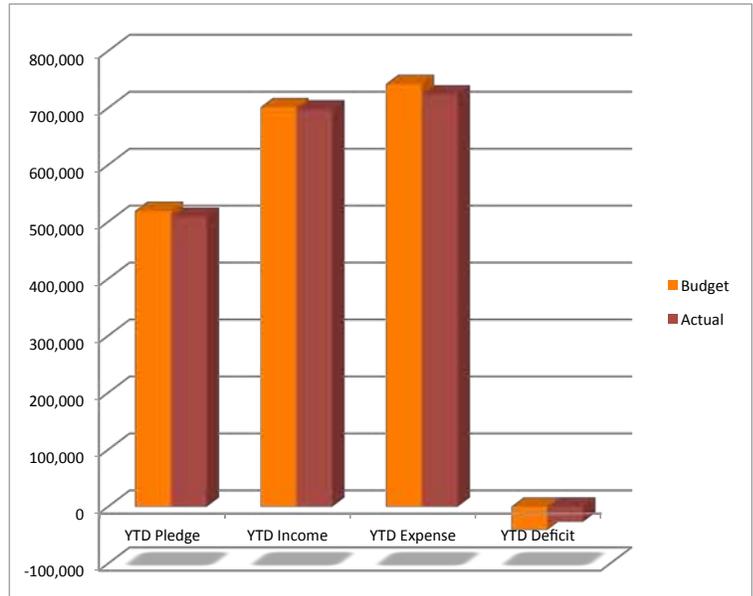
In addition, our investments gained in value \$142,497 in the third quarter.

As we approach year-end, this is a good time to check on the status of your giving and make adjustments. You can also start thinking about how you would like to contribute to PCLG's mission in 2017. If you wish to have a copy of your giving statement please contact me. My email address is kristy.cole@pclg.org, and the office phone is 408-356-6156. I'm on extension 21.

All pledge and giving information is kept confidential. You may pledge and give online at www.pclg.org. Many thanks for your generosity to PCLG.

In Christ,

Kristy Cole, Church Administrator



News

Fall is in the air and we have been blessed with a bit of precipitation! As we move into this season many enjoy holiday celebrations with family and friends. We hope that you are blessed with the holiday spirit and gatherings.

In November our chapel focus will be Goodness as we continue our lesson on Fruits of the Spirit. Many of those in our area do not have all that we enjoy...if you have the opportunity please donate to Sacred Heart, Second Harvest Food Bank and other local organizations!

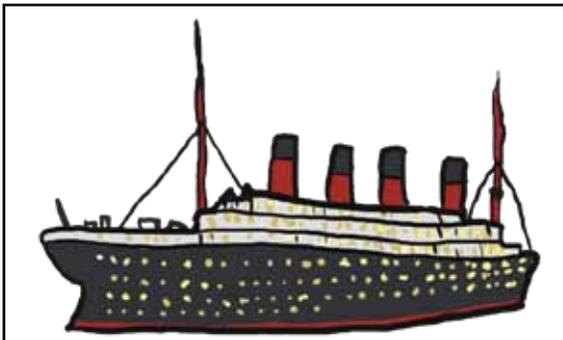
As I shared in TYD in October...let your light shine!

Happy Thanksgiving,

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



Travel Buddies: St. Lawrence Cruise And Fall Leaves

In 1990 Bill Buckman put together a PCLG trip with the Tour Operator, Manuela de Groot. Over the years there has been 15 trips. Now the trip are not just for PCLG members, but also friends of PCLG members.

The next trip is scheduled for late September 2017. It starts at Montreal, Canada, for two days. Then, boarding a cruise ship up the St. Lawrence for five days to port stops and tours in Quebec City, Sydney (Nova Scotia), Prince Edward Island, Halifax, Bar Harbor (Maine) and finally to Boston. Next we take a private bus for a couple of days to see the fall leaves in the Northeast. Trip returns to Boston for the flight back home.

If you want more information call Bob Lawler (408-264-4394), who is coordinating the trip.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Handbell Choir
Annual Nut Sale



Sunday, November 6 - First day to purchase or order your nuts.

Please PRE-PAY when ordering and designate when you will pick up your order. Nuts will be sold at coffee hour each Sunday in November.

Order forms are available in the church office.

NUTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Almonds: whole natural, salted, smoked, sliced
Walnuts Pistachios
Macadamias Mixed Nuts
Cashews

Packed in one pound bags, the nuts are ready for munching, gifts, or freezing for future use. Questions? Contact Handbell Director Ruth Fong, (408) 356-6156x34.

This fundraiser helps defray cost of ringers attending handbell festivals to learn new techniques to improve our skills and to interact with other ringers.



Personalized Pet Care for Your
Peace of Mind

Currently seeking new daily clients!

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

Let's Connect!

Holly Campana, Caring for Companion Pets & Animals for 15 years.

Dogs, Birds, Cats, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Rodents,
Aquatic life, and Exotics
408-963-8020

Holly@HollysHoneys.com

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
Senior Stretch & Movement	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
December/January SPIRE
is 2:00 p.m. Tuesday,
November 29.*



November Birthdays

2	Alicia Brodsky	19	John Wills
5	Florence Buckman	20	Peggy Heath
7	Fletcher Cole	22	Jackson Bordelon
8	Mark McKinnon	23	Colin Clancy
10	Dan Rohrer		Gene Caselli
11	Ron Raecker	24	Amee Jones
12	Erik Khoobyarian	26	Jane Fainer
	Carlo Panighetti		Eric Schroeder
14	Cole Smith	29	Addison McKibbin
15	Pat Moore		
	Emily Bordelon		
17	Ned Finkle		
18	Madeleine Wills		

Anniversaries

7	Toni & Rick Khoury
11	Mararet & Damon Kvamme
15	Hank & Maurice Otto





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

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www.pclg.org

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Advent Craft Faire

Sunday, November 27

Crafts: 4 p.m.

Dinner: 6 p.m.

\$10/Person or \$25/family