



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **Annual Meeting**
February 4
- **Boy Scout Sunday**
February 11
- **Ash Wednesday Service**
February 14
- **High School Mexico**
February 17-24
- **Annual Book Sale**
February 18 & 25
- **Companions in Hope**
February 28
- **Supper & Study**
March 7 & 21
- **Faith & Science**
March 18

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

Global Connections



A couple weeks ago, a friend of mine posted the following line on Facebook: "Vinde comigo e farei de vós pescadores de homens." If your Portuguese is a little rusty, it means, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

As I read this post from someone half a world away, I was reminded that this was the same passage that we had just read in our church, here at PCLG on that same day. In these early days of 2018, we have been following the "Revised Common Lectionary" as the basis for our weekly readings and preaching as a church.

Some have asked, "what is the Lectionary, anyway?" The "lectionary" is a set of 4 readings that are assigned for each week and they include an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a Gospel reading, and another New Testament lesson. We then choose 2 out of the 4 to focus on for that week. The readings are organized in a 3 year cycle, so that over the course of those 3 years, a lot of scripture is included.

One of the benefits of the Lectionary is that it keeps a preacher from just staying in a few favorite stories or comfort zones. It helps the church to hear a wide variety of scripture, including some that we might not choose for ourselves. Another

benefit is that, especially in liturgical seasons (like Advent or Lent), the Lectionary walks us through the major themes and makes sure we don't miss the point.

But one of the best things, from my perspective, about preaching from the Lectionary texts, is that it connects us with the wider church, the Body of Christ around the world. Think about it: if you were in a church in New York City, or Amsterdam, Accra, Ghana, or Bangalore, India, you could be hearing the same story or scripture as we are hearing here in Los Gatos. This puts us in conversation with other Christians, in other places, and binds us together.

In our recent New Members class, we went around the room and shared some of our faith stories, and people talked about their backgrounds and how they found their way to PCLG.

(continued on page 2)

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(continued from page 1) It was a strikingly diverse group of people. Folks were there from across the age spectrum, from 5 different countries of origin, and from at least 12 different faith backgrounds. This is a snap-shot of how our church is growing these days. And it highlights the important Gospel work that we have to do together.

Sharing a set of scripture readings is one way to draw Christians from diverse backgrounds together. Another way is by sharing and listening to each other, especially around food. As somebody said in a recent class, "if you don't like pot-lucks, why are you Presbyterian?"

With this in mind, I am so excited about the season of Lent that is ahead for our church. It starts with Ash Wednesday on February 14 (a really sweet idea for your Valentine's Day), and then there are 5 Sundays in Lent leading up to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. This year, our focus through the season will be on learning about the Global Church.

There will be two Supper and Study nights, both set around meals and a chance to learn more about what the Christian story (and broader story) in Korea and Iran. We have PCLG members who are from both of those places, as well as others who will teach, share and lead us to learn more. There will be delicious food, as well as a chance for you to intentionally get to know our newer folks from other places.

One of the major strengths of our church is that we are committed to an essential unity in the midst of diversity. As people who are centered in Jesus Christ, we are free and called to reach out broadly, and to open ourselves to new people and experiences. Week by week as we gather, we are formed more and more as God's people in this place, and I am looking forward to the season ahead with you!

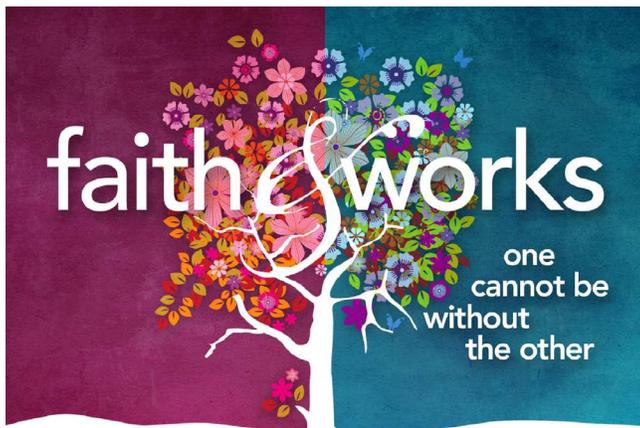
The Lenten journey awaits, as we draw closer to God and through God's power, to draw closer to one another as well.

Peace,
Pastor Dave

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, February 4 directly after the worship service.

PW Bible Study Group Ladies of the church are invited to join "The Lunch Bunch," a structured Bible study group, within PW, that meets at noon the third Thursday of the month, in the home of Ruth Fong. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 15. The study this year is "Cloud of Witness, The Community of Christ in Hebrews." It is an opportunity to get to know old/new members in a small group environment. Please contact Ruth Fong, phone: 408-395-9342, email: ru.fong@comcast.net, or Mary Raecker, phone: 408-358/3021, email: maryraecker@gmail.com if you are interested.



James 2:15-18

Grove Groups – what a wonderful way to grow in faith at PCLG. Grove Groups started around 2013 and has expanded to 9 different groups across the PCLG congregation and is still growing! Groups are a mix of people with similar age/stage-of-life backgrounds and includes new and long-time members of PCLG. We meet at the church or in people’s homes, review and discuss scripture or topic chosen by Pastor Dave or Pastor Erica and share a potluck meal, nothing fancy. The great things about Grove Groups are the discussions within the lesson and the deeper sharing between the group members. We grow in our insight around our faith and help navigate

our faith in today’s world. We have groups comprised of singles, others comprised with couples and yet others where just one spouse decides to attend. We work to keep the groups small – typically 8-14 people max. This helps facilitate the discussion and gives everyone a chance to participate.

For this Spring, our Grove Group lessons will be on the Book of James. This is a wonderful New Testament book that offers practical wisdom and life-advice (and who couldn’t use some of that!). The book also looks into the New Testament teachings that challenge us to think deeper about grace, works, forgiveness and community. It will be fun learning together!

Outside of showing up to the Grove Group meeting, no other work is needed. The scripture is straightforward and the follow-on discussion proves to be very interesting. The feedback to this “no hassle” approach to bible study has been excellent. There is something in this for everyone – so please contact me at grovegroups@pclg.org to sign up. If you are already in a Grove Group – your group leaders should be reaching out to everyone to begin scheduling the Spring 2018 lesson. Come on and let’s grow our Grove Groups together!



Companions in Hope

*February 28 at 7 p.m.
Fireside room.*

Join Pastor Erica and Julie Lasher for a new way to be encouraged and bolster your experience of hope as this new year begins. We will begin by sharing a simple supper together, then Pastor Erica will share her testimony

about her experience of God’s hope through a mental health issue, and we will end with small group prayer. Companions in Hope for those who are needing hope and would like the care of others, those feeling alone on a journey of physical or mental health issues, and for those who are experiencing a loss of relationship, job or security. This is a new sort of group for our church community, so please contact either Julie or Pastor Erica if you have any questions! We will be having two more meetings of Companions in Hope, set for February 28 and March 14.



Children's Ministry

JANUARY IN GOD'S PLACE

K-5th continued with their Dig In – The Bible in One Year curriculum. Bible stories included:

- Rahab protects spies (Joshua 2)
- Battle at Jericho (Joshua 6)
- Gideon's battle (Judges 6-7)

These stories were heard in interactive ways, and our focus was to learn that God works through us even when we may not think we are capable or courageous enough.

Preschoolers continued with the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum. Our focus in the class is to reinforce that the children are loved – by God and by the people of the church.

If you would like to serve in God's Place as a teacher please email Lauren Froman.

JOYFUL VOICES CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The children's choir will be resuming practices after worship in preparation for singing in worship this spring. Information will be emailed to families with specific dates once determined by Music Director, Michael Taylor. Joyful Voices is traditionally for children grades 2nd-5th; however, some exceptions may be made for interested 1st graders. Please contact Lauren Froman if you have an interested 1st grader.

THE SEASON OF LENT IN GOD'S PLACE



-**February 18th** is the 1st Sunday in Lent.

-**February 25th** we will hand out the One Great Hour of Sharing fish coin banks for children

to use throughout Lent.



-**March 25th** is PALM SUNDAY and our ANNUAL EGG HUNT!

The egg hunt will take place after worship in the Redwood Grove and on the GFP playground (weather permitting). Light refreshments will be provided to tide families over until

lunch. More details will follow on the festivities.

JOB OPENING

Children's Ministries is looking to fill the role of Children's Ministry Coordinator. If you are interested in learning more about the job responsibilities please contact Lauren Froman.

Contact Lauren Froman at pclglauren@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THANK YOU:

Thank you to Michael Taylor, Erica Rader, parents, and all Christmas Pageant participants for your time and talent.



Adult Education



Friends or Foes?

Are science and faith compatible? Can you be a committed Christian and believe in evolution? What about global warming? And what should you think about advances in cognitive science and artificial intelligence?



Theologian and teacher Greg Cootsona has spent years researching these and similar questions. He will share some of his answers at a special PCLG program, Faith and Science, to be held after church on Sunday, March 18.

Greg directs the Science and Theology for Emerging Adult Ministries at Fuller Theological Seminary, and teaches religious studies and humanities at California State University at Chico. He has been interviewed on national television and has written several books, including “Mere Science and Christian Faith.”

The March 18 program will be in the social hall, and will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A light lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. Sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hours starting Feb. 18. Come join us as Greg leads us in a fascinating look at the faith-science connection.



Wednesdays, March 7 & 21. 6 p.m. (Supper); 7 p.m. (Study)

Engage in conversation with, and learn from PCLG members about Christianity in Iran and Korea, and the deep Christian witness and missionary history in those places. *More details forthcoming!*



Music Notes



From the Music Director

Looking back. In January, the choir began singing again for the first Sunday of the month after a brief Holiday Hiatus.

In February we will transition to the season of Lent. In Latin, the word for Lent is Quadragesima or "Fortieth" representing the 40 days Christ spent in the wilderness. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later preceding Easter Sunday. Lent is a time of reflection, prayer and preparation for Holy Week.

One of the pieces the choir will be doing for Lent is an Agnus Dei or Lamb of God. While this term appears in the Bible in many iterations, the most well known is in John 1:29. The verse describes the moment when John the Baptist first sees Jesus and replies "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." The Agnus Dei is usually followed by "Miserere nobis," "have mercy upon us" and in the context of the Mass, chanted three times ending with "dona nobis pacem," "grant us peace."

The Agnus Dei we are singing is excerpted from a setting of a Mass that I wrote. Traditionally, many settings of the Agnus Dei are often somber and reflective. However, I chose a more joyful and anticipatory musical motif. In addition to the Latin text I weave in the English translation to give context to the listener. The Agnus Dei will feature our wonder soprano section leader Danielle Wells.

In Christ,

Michael Taylor, director of music
michaeltaylor@comcast.net

Sophia's Layette

Here are a few photos from our recent work day on Martin Luther King Day.



Please contact Colleen Hattman if you'd like to get involved in this great ministry outreach program!



Youth News

Thank you so much for your generous support of our students and ongoing mission work with Amor ministries. Together we raised over \$6500 for our February and June trips.

Please remember to pray for the students you met at the pancake breakfast and the group as a whole as we head down to Mexico on Feb. 17.

One of the great ironies of our Mexico trip is we raise money with simple pancakes and you give and give. Then, before we leave, many of you also bake the most amazing cookies and brownies for us to take on the trip. We are happy to continue that tradition and would ask that you drop them by the church office on Thursday or Friday, Feb 15/16.

Thank you so much!

Steve Fainer, Director of Youth Ministries
fainer@gmail.com



Youth Group Sunday Schedule
SNiFF - Middle School Youth Group:
5 to 6:30 p.m.
Y.G. - High School Youth Group: 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.



Bookends

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

Questions/info?
Contact Sue Hansen at

paigetturner007@hotmail.com.

February

Plato & a Platypus Walk
into a Bar
by Thomas Catheart

March

Almost Nearly Perfect
People
by Mike Booth

April

Orphan Train
by C. Baker-Kline

May

The Language of Flowers
by V. Diffenbaugh

June

Tea Girl of
Hummingbird Ln.
by Lisa See

July

Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles

HANDBELL NEWS

This is the first in a two-part series written by Bell Ringer Sue Hansen in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Handbells at PCLG.

Come back next month for the conclusion!

An article written by bell ringer Christine Anderson states, "Handbells unite people in a musical art and add sparkling dimension to worship. Bells can channel the thoughts of the congregation towards the Lord, without words. Hearing a familiar hymn, folks will meditate on the words they know. Inviting non-churched children to join a bell choir can eventually bring their family to the church. Many people have never played an instrument. Bell choir offers the opportunity for them to make beautiful together, and learn the rudiments of music. There is camaraderie of learning together, laughing at our own mistakes and finally knowing real accomplishment! The bells can encompass a variety of ages and abilities. Why should your church have a bell choir? It will teach teamwork, commitment, compatibility, and dependability; to unite folks from all backgrounds into a loving, caring group ready to enhance the worship in your church."

Our PCLG bell history...In the late 70's a woman named Millie Hall moved into El Sombroso Oaks. The octaves of Schulmerich bells we have are her generous gift in memory of her late husband, Donald Emerson Hall. Early on, our choir was called the Hall Memorial Ringers. Our Pastor Emeritus is H.R. 'Lad' Anderson. His son Mark is the organist at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in New Jersey. Mark often sees members of Millie's family who live nearby. Yes, Virginia, it's a small world after all. When the bells arrived, our Director of Music was Margaret Kirk. Margaret has a sister-in-law who is very involved in the bell world; and this is how it all began forty years ago. In the 80's and 90's, we had high school ringers, also. It's great, until they all graduate the same year. Ringing bells is not difficult to learn; and if you read music, you're halfway there.

In a bell choir, each ringer has his own notes. It's not like a vocal choir where you have many singers who sing the same part. If a bell ringer is missing, it's like missing keys on the piano; it leaves a void. Many churches trade bell ringers as necessary to fill the gaps. We have Methodists that play with us on a regular basis. In fact, our current name Los Cascabeles, was the suggestion of a non-Presbyterian ringer. The definition is the bell around the cat's neck—what better moniker for a group from Los Gatos.

Financial Report

Dear friends,

The financial results are in for 2017 and I am happy to report that they are better than any of us had hoped.

Our pledge giving for 2017 came in at 105% of budget and our overall income came in at 107% of budget. On the expense side, we came in at 98% of budget, resulting in a budget surplus of \$92,085. Our Session has made the decisions on how to distribute this surplus and will be reviewing that with us at the Annual Meeting.

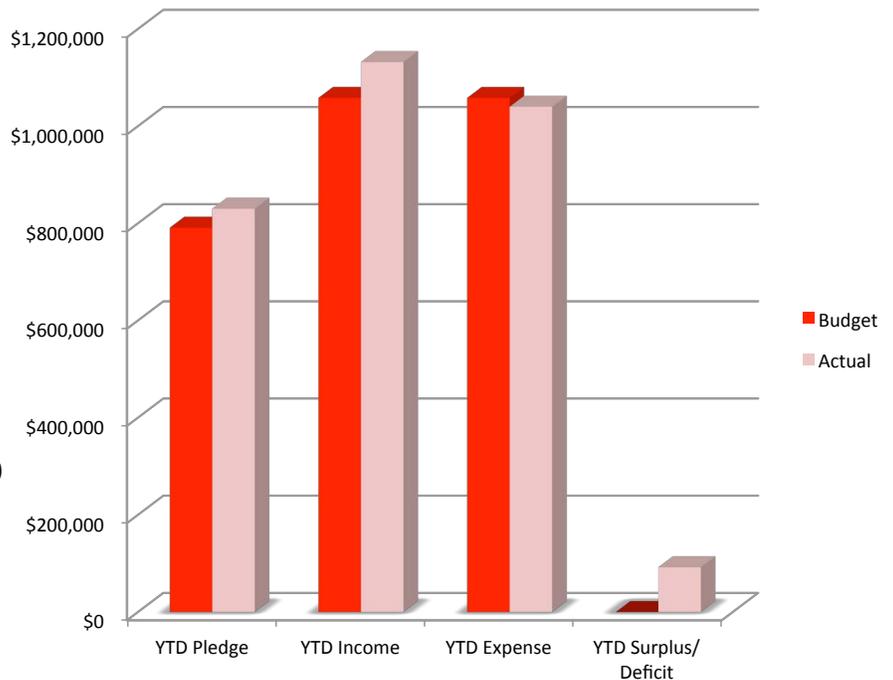
Our investments gained in value \$188,820 over last quarter. The total annual gain in our investments in 2017 was \$351,405.

We have received 201 pledges for a total amount of \$823,484 for 2018. Giving envelopes are in the Narthex for pick up and 2017 giving statements have now been mailed out, if you have not already picked yours up. Please call me if you have any questions.

You may contact me via email me at kristy.cole@pclg.org or call the office at 408-356-6156, ext. 21 for giving envelopes, to pledge or for any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your generosity.

Kristy Cole, Church Administrator



Annual Book Sale

Sundays, February 18 & 25

Come by the Social Hall to purchase used books. Proceeds will benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

If you have books to donate, please bring them to the Social Hall on Saturday the 17th from 6-7 p.m.



Interested in a Come-and-See tour of Biblical sites in Greece plus Erseke, Albania where mission co-worker Mark Stoscher is engaged in ministry? An October 2018 trip is in the planning stages, and more information will be available after worship on Sunday, February 11. Cost, exact dates and other details will be discussed then. Join us in the conference room and find out more!

Ministries & Outreach



News

In December we had our Pre K classroom painted and our classroom doors are now bright and cheery with their classroom color visible for new parents as we begin tours for next school year.

We look forward to the months ahead as we focus on being strong in the Lord, strengthening our students academically and enjoying the special visitors that will stop in!
Happy Hearts Day!

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



Making Connections – High Adventure Troop 339

The work of scouting requires adult support. Thank you to Scott Anvick who will serve as the PCLG Charter Organization Representative to Troop 339. He is a member of PCLG and has 25 years adult scout leader experience. He will be one of the “Key Three” leaders of the troop along with the Scoutmaster, Chris Benson and the Parent Committee Chair, Paul Rokes.

Would you like to contribute to growing these youth? A rich scouting experience includes scouts interacting with a wide variety of caring adults. Do you have a skill, hobby, career or adventure you could speak to them about? Guest speakers are welcome. Do you have an evening to spare to sit on a board to interview scouts ready for rank advancement? Would you like to work under the direction of a scout as a crew member for an Eagle Scout project? No scouting experience is necessary and you can join in as your schedule allows.

Are you already affiliated with Boy Scouts? We would love to add existing or new Merit Badge Counselors and Scout Leader contacts. Are you an Eagle Scout or alum of Troop 339? We would like to know about you.



We look forward to Scout Sunday on February 11th. Find the scout table at coffee hour and let's make a connection.

For more information on Troop 339 contact:

Scott Anvick- scottanvick@gmail.com

Nancy Smith- nancyws248@gmail.com.

In January, our new Boy Scout Troop 339 started the year with a well-attended outing. A group of 18 scouts and 6 leaders hiked and camped at the Pinnacles to connect with nature and each other. With mountains to climb and caves to explore, no one seemed to mind that the National Park was not fully staffed, bathrooms were scarce and the weather was cold at night.

www.pclg.org/339

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
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
March SPIRE
is 2:00 p.m. Thursday,
February 23*



February Birthdays

4	BRENDA W CHAPMAN JUSTIN GABEL MARGARET KVAMME DEVIN MEADOWS	13	SHARI PECK MARJORIE RICE
5	MARY AKIYO	15	JIM MUNSON
6	ALINE BANDUENGA PAUL HOEKSTRA MICHAEL SHULTZ	17	TOM BARGER GILBERT ROWLAND
7	GRETCHEN BOGER SHERRY PARKER NANCY SMITH	18	MARY DEARDORF
8	JERRY LAWLER	19	KERI HINTZ
9	DONALD A WOLF	20	DAVID MCDUGALL
10	JOHN GRUBER CAMERON LUI CHRIS MCGUGAN EMMANUEL NYOK BEVERLY WRIGHT	21	FRANCES COULTER BOB EKSTRAND LEIGH HENDERSON ROBERT PAGE
11	JERRY ULRICH	22	SOPHIA CASTELLINO CARRIE TRUJILLO
12	MACKENZIE DALY ERICA-ANN LOSNESS	23	PAULA STONER ALAN THOMPSON
		24	AL AVECILLA MARTHA WILLS
		26	BETTY BERKSHIRE
		27	SANDY ALZAIDI
		28	BEA SCHEIBLE GREG THIEL
		29	OLIVER ACOSTA

Anniversaries

4	JERRY & BETTY ULRICH
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