



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **From Eden to Eternity: The Bible in 7 Weeks**
Through November 18
- **Companions in Hope**
November 7
- **Nut Sale**
November 11&18
- **Los Gatos Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**
November 20, 7 p.m.
- **Advent Craft Faire**
December 2
- **High School L.O.G. Retreat**
December 7-9
- **Parents' Night Out**
December 15

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

It Only Takes a Small Bump



A car company decided to design and build a new and improved vehicle for today's modern needs.

The design team started out with a regular looking car and asked, "what should we keep and what should we get rid of?"

Someone suggested that modern-day people are always in a hurry, that we have so many places to go and things to do, that this new car should just have a big acceleration pedal but there's no need for brakes (because no one has time to slow down).

Someone else chimed in that people today use their commute time to listen to podcasts or talk on the phone, so it's easier when nobody is in the car with them. So, they took out the backseat and passenger seat.

It was brought up that autonomously driving cars are the way of the future, so why even have a steering wheel? This design innovation led to an even roomier interior in the car!

After all the design work, this

custom-made car, built for the needs of modern-day people, rolled off the assembly line. The car got great gas mileage and the entertainment options were incredible, but something was missing. People were driving fast, all alone,

feeling kind of out of control (no steering wheel or brakes), but everything was going along just fine... until it wasn't.

As strange a story as this might seem, it is all too familiar to many of us. And it only takes a small bump in the road to make this perfectly crafted life break down or crash. Some people believe that they can get through life this way, speeding along, all on their own, without a real sense of direction.

As a church, we have a different way of life. PCLG is an intentionally intergenerational, increasingly multi-cultural congregation, centered on Jesus Christ, and reaching out broadly into the world. I believe that a church like ours can make all the difference in the lives of the people that we touch.

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

I hope this includes you! This month at PCLG we are focusing on Stewardship, or the way that we faithfully use all that God has given to us. When our members and friends make financial pledges and contributions, it helps to build us up as a strong and vital congregation. This is so important because of the spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs that people have, and that our church seeks to address.

In this newsletter you can read more about the various activities and ministry areas of the church in the month ahead. But as you read, I hope you will also be reminded that all that we do together is geared toward showing and sharing the love of God with everyone around us. This includes people driving the latest and greatest automobiles. This includes those who are driving clunkers. This includes people who ride a bike or who ride the bus.

God has something to give all of us, and each of us has gifts to contribute to the common good as well. Enjoy reading this newsletter and I will see you soon!

Peace, Pastor Dave



Adult Education

Adult Ed has a great season planned for the Sunday morning Bible Study. Some of the classes will be just before church (9:00 – 9:50), and some of the classes will be just after church (11:30 – 12:20). All will be held in the Fireside Room. Some of the upcoming courses are below. Watch the bulletin for more details.

- Dec: Courageous Conversations Moderated by Pastor Dave
- Jan: Forgiveness
- Lent: A Study of “The Letter from a Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King Jr.
- April/May: How the Bible Came to Be

If you have any questions or would like to join the Adult Ed committee, please contact Brenda Costanzo at 1brenda.costanzo@gmail.com

Companions in HOPE

Dinner & Encouragement

Wednesday November 7 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside room. We invite you to the next series of gatherings. Come for one or for all. We will begin our gathering by sharing a simple supper together, then someone will share their testimony about their experience of God's hope, and we will end with small group prayer. We have found that hearing others' stories brings us fresh hope and a deeper sense of connection to God and others. Please contact either Julie Lasher (jhlasher01@gmail.com) or Pastor Erica (erica.rader@pclg.org) if you have any questions!

Stewardship Season



Welcome to Stewardship Season at PCLG! This is the time of year when we focus on giving back to our church for the following year. With these pledges we create the church budget, which allows us to serve those less fortunate, build homes in Mexico and serve in our own communities.

This year's theme of "Ask, Thank, Tell" will be repeated many times throughout the season. As you ask yourself, "what have I been thankful for, and how can I make my church grow?" remember to Thank God for all we have, and to tell of the good news and how our church can be an impact in the world and in our community.

Blessings,

Colleen Hattman, *Elder for Stewardship*



Children's Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES IS...

So very
THANKFUL

For the children and parents of our church!

Like the seasons change, we experience seasons of change in our families, our children, ourselves. I find that when my family experiences a seasonal change, my hope comes through prayer. It may be a prayer at the beginning of the day or sometimes right in the middle of a parenting "storm". I came across a few prayers that I thought I would share with you.

- *Lord, forgive me for acting as if parenting (insert child's name) is all up to me. It just isn't. I turn to you to give me what I need to parent (insert children's names) wisely and well, with patience and love.*
- *God, I want to be faithful to pray for (insert child's name). I believe that you are able to give me peace even when everything in (insert child's name) life might not be what I want it to be. I want your peace to guard my heart from fear and my mind from worry as I live in you and turn to you in prayer.*
- *Lord, we pray now and will never stop praying for (insert child's name) because (insert child's name) will always need what only you can provide. Give (insert child's name) everything needed to live in a way that will honor you. Work in (insert child's name) so that (insert child's name) will produce every kind of good fruit, and nourish (insert child's name) with your word.*
- *God, as we prepare for another day of doing our part as parents to create a home marked by tenderhearted mercy, forbearance, forgiveness, harmony and peace, remind us of how generous you have been toward us in all of these ways. Help us to recognize what is worthy of confrontation and correction, and what we should lovingly let go.*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year that pageant will take place at our normal Sunday service on Sunday, December 23rd.

If your child would like to participate, please email Lauren Froman. 2nd-5th graders needed for speaking parts.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

11/18: AP Sunday for 4th & 5th Grade

11/25: 1st Pageant practice after worship

coming in December...

12/2: Advent Craft Faire. Crafts will begin at 4:30PM and dinner at 6PM

12/15: Parents Night Out 5-8PM

QUESTIONS? NEED TO CONNECT?

Lauren Froman
Director Children's Ministries
pclglauren@gmail.com

Sharlene Thompson
Children's Ministries Coordinator
pclgsharlene@gmail.com



Youth News

I found myself having a bit of an out-of-body experience the last few days. It all started when Lucy (turning four in December) and I were spending the day together. She wanted to paint my fingernails and I figured it would be a good way to follow her interests, so we sat down at the kitchen table. Over the course of half an hour, every nail was painted a different shade, with my left pinky getting three colors because she wanted to use every bottle out on the table.

A four-year-old is not a manicurist of the professional variety, so my nails looked about as good as if I had painted them myself. Wanting to make my daughter happy, I did not retreat to find the nail polish remover. I'm just living with mismatched, painted nails.

What I didn't account for was the jarring surprise I would have every time I needed to do something with my hands. I'm surprised to find my sense of self wrapped up in how my hands look – the pinker nails on my left hands especially gave me pause because, well, they didn't look like what I thought my hands should look like. In part because they were painted, and in part because they were painted so haphazardly, I found myself having to explain myself to anyone with whom I would be having an extended conversation – the water heater repair man, members of my extended family, a couple from church I visited for a bit, my son's kindergarten teacher, and so on.

If my mind is surprised every time I see my hands with painted nails, what about people for whom painted nails are exactly what they want to see when they look at their hands, and yet they feel like they cannot paint them? To have your mind jarred in this way is disorienting.

Mine is a temporary, daughter-humoring thought experiment. For those who long to be themselves and express themselves, but for whatever reason feel like they can't (fear being the main thing), it is not at all temporary, as evidenced for example, by certain events in the news. I don't claim to know how to welcome all people at whatever point on the gender scale they might put themselves, but at the very least I can try to understand a different perspective. Maybe you'll try it, too?

Our young adults, our students and their friends wrestle with all sorts of identity questions. The important work of our church is to be a place where their questions can be held, and where they are known and loved as they discover the people that God has made them to be. It's not always neat or easy. Sometimes, it's kind of like mis-matched painted nails. Sometimes, it takes adults who are willing to model living within the hard questions of who we are as God's children.

No-shave November has had its day in the sun. What about "nicer nails November?" I've got a four-year-old who would love the practice of painting more nails. What might you learn about yourself and other people with a few days or weeks of nicer nails? Lucy's ready!

Love, Steve

Director of Youth Ministries - fainer@gmail.com

Calling all cooks!

Please Contact Elder Essie Asher (seasher@comcast.net), or signup online at the link at www.pclg.org/signup, If YOU are available to prepare a Meal for our Youth Ministry Staff on a Sunday Evening between Middle School and High School youth groups. Thank you in advance for your help!



Music Notes



From *the* Music Director

We start November off with wonderful excitement as the choir, brass and other instruments sing “When The Saints Go Marching In” for Reformation Sunday by John Rutter. Rutter is an English composer, still living, who has been writing sacred music since the 1960s and continues to do so. The very spiritual, jazzy quality of his arrangement is a definitive departure from his usual bill of fare.

For a real treat, download or purchase his collection of Christmas Music from his famous choir, The Cambridge Singers. He often uses a boy’s choir as his sopranos and altos instead of women. We are likely to do one of his pieces for Christmas this year.

Christmas Pageant:

The Christmas Pageant will be sung for worship at the regular Sunday service on December 23. We are opening up the opportunity to tell the story of the birth of Christ to youth from kindergarten through middle school. Contact Lauren Froman for more information and if you might be interest in having your child participate this year.

Choir:

This month the choir will also be singing “Here I Am Lord” by Dan Schutte, arranged for choir by Craig Courtney. There is an interesting story behind the writing of “Here I Am Lord”. In 1979, Dan Schutte was studying at a Jesuit seminary in Berkeley, CA, a path he eventually chose not to follow. This iconic hymn was written in a few short days using short texts from Isaiah, Samuel and Exodus, to name a few. A friend of his asked him to write a song for his ordination, an event only days away. On top of the short notice, Dan was suffering from the flu. He offered up a prayer and was still editing as he wearily and perhaps warily made his way to the service.

“Here I am Lord” was very well received and is now one of the most well known songs in both the Catholic and Protestant hymnody of music. Schutte has received countless letters of thanks and appreciation for his music. Soldiers wrote on many occasions they sang the piece for spiritual understanding and guidance during Mass being said in Afghanistan. Many people with terminal illnesses expressed their thankfulness for his biblical and musical settings in their time of need. When asked about the impact of his music, Schutte responded:

“I feel so grateful that God seems to have chosen that song to accompany people through so many moments of their life.... I didn’t plan that. I didn’t know that the song was going to be special. I’m very aware that God is doing something beyond me when I get those letters from people.... It’s also very humbling because it’s something way, way far beyond what I can do.”

With the Holy Spirit leading the way, there is much to be grateful for.

6 Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

-Michael Taylor, director of music. michaeltaylor@comcast.net

Annual Handbell Choir Nut Sale



The handbell choir will have nuts available for purchase on Sundays, November 11 & 18.

Have a big order (5 lbs or more)? You can pre-order on Sunday, November 4 to expedite your nut pick up.

Please pay at the time of order.

This years selection:

Almonds (whole, salted, or smoked), Walnuts, Pistachios, Pecans, Cashews, & Mixed Nuts

All nuts are sold in one-pound bags. They're great for holiday cooking and gift-giving!
Questions? Contact Ruth Fong at ru.fong@comcast.net or (408) 395-9342



Los Gatos Annual Interfaith

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 20, 2018. 7:00 p.m.



PCLG will be hosting the Los Gatos Interfaith Thanksgiving Service this year. This is a special service where we gather with members of different churches, temples, and communities from various denominations and faiths to give thanks and celebrate what we have in common. If you would like to help with the reception after the service, please contact Bill Meadows (bill41357@yahoo.com).

Mission Minute

What a joy it was to work with 85 people on Oct 27th as we packed 15,000 meals in conjunction with Rise Against Hunger! I love this opportunity because

all ages and stages can participate. The next day during coffee hour, our congregation assembled 400 lunches to serve the homeless in San

Jose. As I mentioned in a previous spire, PCLG will have an opportunity to cook for the vulnerable women who attend the Lifted Spirits program at First Presbyterian

Church of San Jose. Cooking together to benefit others serves everyone involved.....We help to feed the hungry in body and in spirit while enjoying great fellowship in the

preparation. Please contact me if you are interested! The mission committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2 pm and we welcome you to join us.



Blessings always,

Carol Smith, Mission Elder
csmith392@aol.com
408-399-3463

Helping Hands for South Sudan

submitted by Sharon Bynum

Gabriel Nyok, a six-year member of PCLG, and several other Lost Boys of Sudan have recently founded a nonprofit organization to enable South Sudanese children in refugee camps in Uganda to get an education. The name of this organization is Helping Hands for South Sudan.

Civil war and famine in South Sudan have caused thousands of families to leave the country and take refuge in camps in Uganda and Kenya. There is no schooling provided for the children in these camps. Gabriel has identified two boarding schools in Uganda that would educate these children at a cost of \$500 per year. He will travel to Uganda in late December to check out the schools and determine which would be the better choice for the children. The Mission Committee is planning to sponsor 10 children for 2019. Former Finance Elder Ron Dickel has agreed to be Treasurer of this new nonprofit. The first term will start in late January. While Gabriel is in Uganda, he will select the sponsored children and arrange for them to be enrolled in school.

Gabriel hopes to provide an opportunity for education to as many refugee children as possible. If you would like to give a life-changing gift to a refugee child, please go the informative web site created by Beth Bordelon - www.helpinghands4southsudan.org - and make a donation.

If you have questions, Gabriel's phone number is 408 724-3320.

Financial Report

Even though I'm still relatively new to this position—a job which is mostly about accounting and reporting rather than day-to-day church operations—I've nonetheless been learning a lot about what happens “behind the scenes” and what it actually takes to run a church and facility of our size. For example, what the average parishioner sees on Sunday mornings are beautifully-maintained grounds and clean and functional facilities, but what's not readily apparent are the many things that the day-to-day staff and facilities elders have been working on during the week: doing landscaping renovation, dealing with major plumbing failures, and fixing backed-up toilets. Thus, it's good to keep in mind that your pledges and other contributions support both the wonderful things that you might observe on an average Sunday morning: an outstanding pastoral staff, music, and youth and children's ministry, and the many things that you probably won't ever really think about: vital services like keeping the lights on, the water running, and the organ in tune.

So, having said all that, you should be aware that PCLG is currently running behind in its pledged offerings for 2018. As of the end of September, pledged offerings for the year are 14% less than budgeted, which is a shortfall of approximately \$76,000. Or here's a different way to think about it: even though 75% of the year has already passed (can you believe it?!) PCLG has received only 65% of its 2018 pledges. As a result, PCLG's operating deficit for the year has grown to \$(26,488) as of the end of September.

Now's a great time to review your 2018 giving, just to see where you stand, and also to begin thinking about your pledge for the coming year. Thanks for everything you do to make PCLG “happen” each and every day of the week: both the things that are seen, and the many things that are unseen.

Please feel free to contact me at dale.loepp@pclg.org if you ever have any questions about PCLG's finances.
--Dale Loepp, Financial Administrator



News

We had a wonderful Harvest Celebration with 31 families in attendance! The children enjoyed craft activities, a sensory table and games. It is a wonderful opportunity for new parents to meet each other and spend time with their students in a classroom environment.

As you know we are without a kitchen at this time. We appreciate everyone working together to accommodate us in kitchen #1 five days a week. At GFP we provide 2 snacks a day, a Thursday lunch and several times a month classrooms utilize the kitchen/supplies for food projects! This is also where we house our supplies (wipes, cleaning items, paper goods, food, pots, pans, etc). We look forward to having an organized space where staff can also take a break and complete lesson plans outside the classroom environment. A big THANKS to the board, facilities and Lisa McKibbin for the support in making it all happen!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving,

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



Troop 339 News

I am pleased to announce that Tanner Jack has been recognized for his contributions to scouting and his demonstration of leadership. He successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on October 3, and is now PCLG Troop 339's newest Eagle Scout with a Bronze Palm.

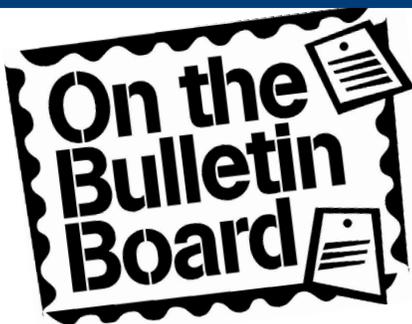
Tanner joined scouts in first grade and earned his Arrow of Light with Pack 358 at Alta Vista School. He joined troop 339 in 2012 while in fifth grade as a quiet and diligent scout. He was inspired by the troop's older Eagle scouts and sought to possess the same characteristics. Through scouting, he has grown by being open to learning and challenging himself. He took on increasing leadership roles requiring him to speak and present publicly, interact with many adult leaders as well as assert himself with younger scouts. His growth has been recognized and described as "a leader by example" and a "quiet leader." The scouts just call him "COACH!!!"

His dedication to scouts and participation is reflected in the 26 Merit Badges earned, 47 nights of camping, 55 miles hiked and 52 service hours worked by Tanner under the auspices of Boy Scouts. He has served the troop in many leadership positions including Senior Patrol Leader. For his community service project, he lead a team to build a pergola for shade at Leigh High School.

In addition to his scout accomplishments, Tanner has utilized his skills as a leader in his school and club volleyball teams and as Secretary for National Honors Society. Tanner is currently a member of Student Leadership at Leigh High School as a Senior.

Please join me in congratulating Tanner Jack on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout!

Nancy Smith
Advancement Chair, T339



Have a short note for the next issue of *The Spire*? Submit your bulletin board items to carlo@pclg.org



Fariba is a member of PCLG

If you are looking for a dog walker or sitter who loves dogs, I'm your person. Dogs love me and I'm sometimes called the "dog whisperer."

Whether you need assistance for the day, for the month, or regularly, I can help you out.

**Call Fariba Samin at
(408) 595-1183**

References available by request.

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.

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. Thursday,
November 29*



November Birthdays

1 Bob Lawler	17 Ned Finkle
Cindy Schultz	Folake Phillips
4 Sherri Auchard	18 Madeleine Stanwood
Phil Deardorf	19 John Wills
5 Florence Buckman	20 Peggy Heath
7 Fletcher Cole	Carol Schultz
8 Jannette Barrios	21 Bill Gallmeister
Tim Henderson	Helen Kuhn
Mark McKinnon	22 Jackson Bordelon
Steve Raspe	23 Gene Caselli
10 Terrie Creamer	24 Jack Longley
Dan Rohrer	25 Natalie Cerussi
Jorah Ryken	26 Jane Fainer
11 Sam Castellino	Jeff Page
12 Carlo Panighetti	28 Carole Barrish
Erik Khoobyarian	29 Elin Larson
15 Emily Bordelon	Addison McKibbin
Pat Moore	30 Jamie Schafer
16 David Rader	



Anniversaries

11 Damon & Margaret Kvamme
15 Hank & Maurice Otto

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L o s G a t o s A n n u a l
I n t e r f a i t h

**THANKSGIVING
SERVICE**



**Tuesday, November 20, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos