



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **Women's Retreat**
October 11-13
- **Parents' Night Out**
October 19
- **Rise Against Hunger Event**
October 26
- **Stewardship Pledge Dedication Sunday**
November 24
- **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Shir Hadash**
November 26
- **Advent Craft Faire**
December 1
- **Blue Christmas Service**
December 4
- **Christmas Tea**
December 5
- **Love of God High School Retreat**
December 6-8
- **Children's Pageant**
December 22
- **Christmas Eve Services: 4 & 10 p.m.** - December 24

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

Mind The Gap



Have you ever ridden on the "tube" in London? The tube is the underground train system that snakes its way all over, below the streets of the city. At most underground stations throughout London, there will be announcements over the loudspeaker and signs that are posted everywhere that say: "mind the gap!"

The gap in this case is the space between the train and the platform. This is a gap that is easy to misjudge and has led to many people stumbling, tripping and falling. It is important to "mind the gap" when you are traveling on the tube in London.

As many of you know, I recently spent some time in London and Oxford as part of my Doctor of Ministry studies. One thing that struck me is that the previous two years had led us to more exotic locations in Cape Town and Hong Kong. Going to London didn't seem like such a big deal or such a big cultural shift. However, even in the streets, cafes, pubs, churches and parks of London,

there is a gap between what I am used to here in California and what I discovered in that place.

The Lead Mentor of our program reminded all of us

to pay attention to the places where we felt that cultural gap during our trip. Whenever there are places of discomfort, annoyance, or complaint of any kind, it is often in those places that we have a chance to learn something about ourselves or our surroundings. There is a gap between what we expected or hoped would happen, and what we were actually experiencing.

Maybe this is roughly equivalent to visiting the doctor's office and having them poke and prod you. Does this hurt? Is this the place? When I squeeze your arm, is it painful?

When traveling abroad, we have senses that are heightened and alert, ready to protect ourselves and detect differences from what we are used to. This often leads to new insights, to seeing things we hadn't seen before, and to the opportunity to learn.

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

But I wonder, if we might practice that same kind of diagnostic check-up on ourselves here in our own culture and context. You don't need to leave the country to encounter somebody who looks different from you, or who has a strange accent, or whose way of speaking or acting in public puts you on edge.

So, what do you do when you encounter that kind of situation? Our natural instinct might be to complain. Or to criticize. Or to moan and grumble. (Am I only talking about myself, or do you sometimes feel this way too?)

But the learning opportunity when we encounter a gap, is to ask ourselves, why does that hurt? Why does that disappoint? Why does that make me feel a certain kind of way? It is in engaging with our own responses to the people and realities around us that we learn more about ourselves, and also grow in our understanding of the world.

On the last night of my trip, we were gathered for a "gala" dinner in the great hall at Christ Church college in Oxford. This is the hall that inspired the filmmakers for the Harry Potter movies, and it was a great time. At the end of the dinner and program, the Lead Mentor shared a descriptive word about each of the 3rd year students (myself included). The word that he used to describe me was "inquisitive." He said that I was "burning with curiosity" and a "voracious learner." I was pretty relieved that he didn't say "stinky" or "goofy."

What does it mean to be curious about the world around us? How can we learn and grow in our faith, and in the ways that our faith informs the way we live? I suspect that most of the time, this happens in places of discomfort, disorientation, and discovery. When we are open to wondering about what something means, or why it hurts, or how it connects, this leads us to know ourselves better and to live a deeper life.

So mind the gap. Pay attention to those places of discomfort or annoyance. Stay curious about the things that don't make sense to you. And the more you do, the more you will join the journey of learning and growth that God has in store for each of us.

peace,

Pastor Dave

Hospitality of Friendship

PCLG Women's
Retreat

October 11-13, 2019

Register now for our 2019 Women's Retreat!

Ladies, are you interested in deepening your relationships with other PCLG women? Or learning about putting faith in action in our own area? Or reveling in a beautiful, natural setting? If so, come to our Women's Retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains! We'll hear from Annabel Leyva, a friend of Pastor Erica Rader who works alongside families in San Jose communities with many undocumented and low-income residents. We'll also have many opportunities to relax, reflect and refresh our connections with friends and with God. The weekend starts with check-in at 4 p.m.; Saturday-only attendees are welcome. More information and registration forms are available during after-worship fellowship time and in the church office. For the online payment link, email our church receptionist, Teresa Huntley, at pclgteresa@gmail.com.

Ephesians Bible Study



— WITH PASTOR JACK LONGLEY —

Sunday Morning Bible Study: “Exploring Exciting Ephesians” with Pastor Jack Longley! If you're wondering about your role in the church . . . or wanting to make changes in your life . . . or wishing for a deeper relationship with the Lord, come to our Sunday Morning Bible Study. Pastor Jack is leading us as we explore our own special roles in the church, which are based on our unique gifts from God. We'll meet every Sunday through November 17 at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please bring your Bible; coffee and pastries will be available.



Children's Ministry

COME ALIVE! How can you COME ALIVE in your faith this month...

- 2nd graders and up can serve as an Acolyte on the first Sunday of the month. Acolytes light the candles on the communion table.
- 2nd-5th graders are invited to Participate in Joyful Voices – the PCLG Children’s Choir. Email Lauren Froman if your child plans to participate.
- As a family attend the Rise Against Hunger food packing.
- Mom’s...take the time to go to the Women’s Retreat – for the entire weekend or just the day on Saturday.
- Parents Night Out is Saturday, October 19th – reach out to others in the church that might have kids going and the parents can grab a bite to eat together. Maybe reach out to someone you don’t know that well and use the evening to learn more about one another.
- Sign up to serve in God’s Place...you might find a passion come alive that you didn’t even know was there!

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| October | Oct. 6 | Sunday School Preschool ONLY K- 5th: All Church Worship - children worship with their families |
| | Oct. 13 | Women's Retreat Weekend Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th) 5:00-6:30PM - 4th & 5th Grade "SUPER DUPER" Dine Out/Hang Out. Meet at Super Duper Los Gatos. |
| | Oct. 19 | 5:30-8:30PM - Parents Night Out |
| | Oct. 20 | Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th) |
| | Oct. 26 | 9:00AM-12:00PM - Rise Against Hunger food packing |
| | Oct. 27 | Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th) 11:30-noon - Joyful Voices practice |

JOYFUL VOICES

Practice Times:

1st Practice 10/27 11:30-noon

2nd Practice: 11/3 11:30-noon

3rd Practice: 11/10 11:30-noon

Sing in worship on 11/17

QUESTIONS? NEED TO CONNECT?

Lauren Froman – Director of Children’s Ministries
pclglauren@gmail.com

Sharlene Thompson – Children’s Ministries Coordinator
pclgsharlene@gmail.com



Youth News

One of the most frequent questions people ask me is, “how’s school going?” Like every 15 year old I know, I don’t always have the best or most complete answer when asked, so I thought it was a good time for an update.

First, if you didn’t already know, I’m pursuing a Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, a degree required for ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. In other words, a Pastor. Fuller allows students to take up to 10 years to complete what would normally be a three year full-time commitment and as of now, I’m still taking all ten years. I’m beginning year seven, or I’ve got four years to go (on coursework, there’s other stuff for ordination, too).

Fuller works on the quarter system, I take one class per quarter and I begin my Fall quarter the first week of October with a class entitled, “Migration, Transnationalism, Identity and Mission.” Not all of my courses are such a mouthful, but the cultural and mission related ones often are. I received the syllabus early and am already reading the first assigned book before the quarter begins because I need to get ahead immediately. “The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong” by Karen Gonzalez is quite interesting so far, and I’ve especially appreciated the author’s own perspective as an American citizen and immigrant from Guatemala.

I’m reading ahead because the last Saturday of September, I begin taking the second of five ordination exams, an Exegesis exam on the book of Jonah. I’ll be assigned one passage from Jonah and in five days will write six essays on the text and how it could be used in a specific ministry context. For example, “In

| OCTOBER | |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 6 | No MSS |
| Oct. 7 | 5-6:30 p.m. – Monday SNIFF (MNIFF) 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG |
| Oct. 13 | 10:15 a.m. – MSS 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG |
| Oct. 20 | 10:15 a.m. – MSS 11:30 a.m. – Confirmation 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG |
| Oct. 25 | 7-10 p.m. – Phone Free Friday |
| Oct. 27 | 10:15 a.m. – MSS 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG |

your most recent Bible study on prayer, members of your study get into a heated discussion about whether God ever changes and why prayer would be meaningful and powerful if God did or did not change. You want to address the idea of whether God is able to change God’s mind about things and you decide to examine Jonah 3 in your next study.” I just made that “ministry context” up, but you never know, I could be right on!

My quarter begins just as I’m in the middle of a significant test that is required for ordination. So, “how’s school going?” Probably fine. No matter what, I’ll feel much lighter the afternoon of Oct. 3 (after that test is turned in!). Thank you, as always, for your interest and prayers!

Love,
Steve



Music Notes



From the Music Director

We've had a wonderful beginning of our fall season with the return of the choir. We will continue to bring some inspirational music for worship including works by Joseph Martin and Felix Mendelssohn.

Mendelssohn's beautiful work, *Grant Peace, We Pray, (Verleih uns Frieden)* features choir, organ, cello and flute. It is a version of the *Dona Nobis Pacem*. A rarity from Mendelssohn, as it is a stand-alone piece and not from any larger work.

We will also welcome back the Brass playing along with the choir on Byron Smith's rousing gospel anthem, *Worthy to be Praised*.

The Handbells will be playing once again on the last Sunday in October. They did a beautiful job playing out front last month.

If you've ever considered sharing your musical gifts, no matter how modest or accomplished, we would welcome you with open arms. A very inspirational way to worship is through the prayer that is music. Whether your talents suit the choir, the worship band, the handbells, or you play an instrument, we've got some exciting opportunities for you. Reach out to me for more information.

We will see you in church.

In Christ,

Michael Taylor, Music Director

Michael.taylor@pclg.org

2020 Flower Calendar Sign-Ups

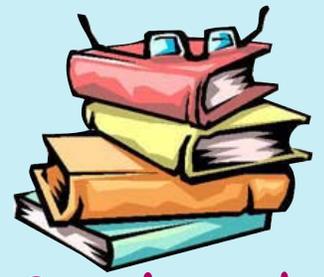
The 2020 flower calendar are available for sign-ups! Look for the sign-ups during coffee hour on Sundays or in the church office. You may also call the church office during the week to sign up. The fresh flower arrangement may be given in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or any other special occasion. There will be only one arrangement per week, so if you have an important date coming up in 2020, it would be wise to secure that date as soon as possible. You may take the arrangement home after worship, or you may leave it and the Deacons will distribute the flowers to church members unable to attend worship. The cost of each arrangement is \$65.

A Few Words About Church Finances

As a church, we are blessed by your continued generous financial giving. Following the summer months, PCLG is about 4% behind on our budget plan for the current year.

As we continue to seek to do faithful ministry together, your consistent giving is a huge part of that. If you have questions about where you are with your year-to-date giving, you can contact our accountant, Nimi Nagalingam in the front office (nimi.nagalingam@pclg.org). Thank you for being part of God's work in this place.

Coming up in November, our Stewardship team will be launching a fresh campaign to share with you all of the good that PCLG is doing in our church, community, and world. If you would like to help the team, please contact Elder Steve Joiner (steve@joinerfamily.org). We welcome all ideas and help in this important ministry endeavor.



Bookends

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

In the breezeway on the west side of the Social Hall, there is a book cart. You are welcome to take a book or leave a book. We try to keep books that Bookends has read on it. Don't hesitate if you see a book that interests you. We have some voracious summer readers, so there're only a few books left. Like the old adage says: you snooze, you lose

Questions/info?
Contact Sue Hansen at
paigeturner007@hotmail.com.

October

Film: On the Basis of Sex
[Ruth Bader Ginsburg]

November

The 5 People You Meet
in Heaven
by Mitch Albom

December

Portrait of Dorian Gray
by Oscar Wilde

January, 2020

Of Mice & Men
by John Steinbeck

February

Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley

Mission Minute



Rise Against Hunger! Mission Food-Packing Event

October 26, 9 a.m-noon in the Social Hall

Join us as we pack 15,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger.

All you have to do is sign up and show up!

The event leader will walk us through every step of the process.

It is easy, fun, and helpful to those in need of nutritional food abroad!

Sign up online at the link at pclg.org/signup.

Questions? Contact Jeff Thompson (jeffsthompson7@gmail.com)



stephen MINISTRY®

As we mentioned in the last issue of *The Spire*, PCLG is launching the Stephen Ministry as a new element of our Caring Ministries programs. The Stephen Ministry is based on the scriptural principle found in Galatians 6:20: “Bear one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ.” The Stephen Ministry provides on-going, one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting and going through a difficult time in life.

We will be conducting a training program that consists of 50 hours of instruction for people who would like to explore the possibility of becoming a Stephen Minister. The training sessions will be held on Monday nights from 7:00pm until 9:30pm starting on September 16, 2019 and will run for 21 weeks. Although the training is designed primarily to train Stephen Ministers, it would benefit anyone who’d like to become a more loving and compassionate Christian person. The only requirement for attending the training is that people commit to fully participate in all training modules, including all reading assignments and homework.

For more information on the Stephen Ministry, visit the “About” tab on the PCLG website or contact Mark Bodnarczuk at Stephen.ministry@pclg.org.



PCLG Office Help Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers to help answer phones, greet visitors and assist with light administrative projects at the PCLG front office desk in the afternoons. Hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. No experience necessary, just a willingness to serve with a friendly ‘hello’ and a warm smile to greet PCLG visitors and guests.

Please contact Teresa Huntley at pclgteresa@gmail.com or 408-356-6156 with questions or to sign up to help.



news

Welcome to fall! The cool mornings and warm afternoons have been a wonderful transition during our first month of school. The children have adjusted to their new classrooms and are enjoying their busy preschool mornings and active extended day afternoons.

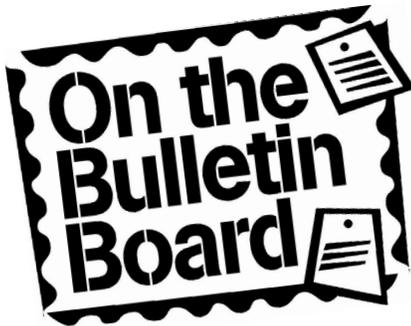
We have had Happy Hollow visit with several small animals and practiced our first fire drill and Bunnies in the Hole (our earthquake drill). We look forward to beginning our learning without tears books in the Pre K and enjoying the adventures of Mat Man.

Our chapel focus this year will be the Beatitudes. Look for Ms. Cory in a fancy yellow hat on Wednesday morning!

Blessings,

Cory Mullins, Growing FootPrints Director

growingfootprints@yahoo.com.



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

Submit your bulletin board items to carlo@pclg.org



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
November SPIRE
is 2:00 p.m. Tuesday,
October 22*



October Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Alice Chaignon | 11 | Maurice Otto |
| | Chris Hintz | 13 | Kate Mancini |
| | Andy Macica | 16 | Sue Hansen |
| 2 | Renate Frick Langer | | Sheryl Heacock |
| | Susan McDougall | 17 | Rebecca Rohrer |
| | Cathy Somers | 18 | Stephen Daly |
| 3 | Joan Brown | | Patricia Davis |
| | Milton Khoobyarian | 20 | Annie Phan |
| 4 | Jim Stoner | | Kin Delevett |
| 5 | Roger Heath | | Tchatcho Modia- |
| 6 | Faith Schirm | | Musuluku |
| 7 | Julie Boncher | 22 | Hendrika Harris |
| 8 | Amy Meyer | 23 | Willis Brown |
| 9 | Alexis Hoekstra | | Pat Garland |
| | Mike Kuhn | | Damon Kvamme |
| 10 | Cindy Decker | | Colin Metz |
| 11 | Caroline Hobbs | 24 | David Heath |
| | Carolyn Lowenthal | 25 | Pam Bancroft |
| | | 26 | Jan Wilson |
| | | 27 | Betty McCormick |
| | | 29 | Keisheana Cerussi |
| | | | Jane Herberich |
| | | | Rita Hoegel |
| | | 30 | Janet Anvick |
| | | 31 | Linda Bale |
| | | | Brian Heath |



Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| | | 11 | Jeff & Cathy Somers |
| | | 12 | Bill & Kristy Cole |
| | | 20 | Bill & Kendra Lewis |
| | | 23 | Julie & William Lasher |
| | | 25 | Peter & Kim Delevett |
| | | | Kathy DeMerit & Jim Souther |
| 2 | Brenda & Rocco Costanzo | | Janette Barrios & Chris Heckler |
| | Rob & Vivian Gabel | 26 | Dirk & Maritza van der Merwe |

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Hospitality of Friendship

PCLG Women's
Retreat
October 11-13, 2019

more info within!