



The Pastor's Page



The Growing Church

Almost everyone I come in contact with admits they need some extra encouragement to get to know their neighbors. It seems there is always someone new to meet on the block or in the complex. Live plants are often a great way to introduce yourself. I find them very welcoming. There is something deeply connected to creation in nurturing a plant and watching a plant grow. When I have received plants as gifts I have found that they continue to remind me daily of the gracious giver and also appreciative of God—the creator.

As a way to introduce or reacquaint our neighbors with the people of First Presbyterian Church, we will have the opportunity to share seedling plants in April, just in advance of Easter. Along with the small seedling, we will attach a cheerful note that will indicate the church worship time, our telephone number and webpage information. If you wish there will be a place to leave the plant deliverer's name and telephone number, too. It will be like a calling card with a perk—fruit. (we will probably plant tomatoes.)

The hope is that every time your neighbor takes time to tend their plant which will bear fruit, they will recall how their friend down the street cares about them and that God loves them and provides for them.

For those of you with green thumbs or a willingness to pray and be patient, we have an innovative idea. Rather than purchase seedlings. We will go the extra mile and start from seed. By doing things the old fashioned way we will have 4–6 weeks to help prepare our own hearts and minds as we prepare the plants for delivery. It will happen to coincide closely with lent. Kids of all ages from child to great grandparent can enjoy watching seeds grow.

Beginning in Late February or early March we will make available “Grow kits” for your participation. Are you up for growing these plants from seed? I am hoping to involve at least 20 would-be farmers, to grow plants. Would you consider being one?

We will assemble the kits as a team. In each kit there will be a weekly devotional to consider and work through as an individual or as a family. We will give each participant a propagation tray for 48 plants, plenty of tomato seeds, special seeding soil, a humidity dome and 24 welcome cards to attach to the plants that survive to be shared.

This is the first time we have done this, so there may be a few interesting results. Some green thumbs may successfully grow 48 plants, others may have “total crop failure.” As the time draws near to deliver the plants to the neighborhoods, we can share our plants with each other so that those that are willing to make the deliveries can do so. If we have a 50 percent success rate with 20 grow kits we will be able to deliver 480 plants to neighbors. Wow! That's some incredible multiplication.

If you have a grandchild that visits regularly what an excellent project to work on together. If you live in an apartment, you can still grow from seed as long as you have a sunny window or balcony. If you are reading this and you are a master gardener, or pretty good with gardening, please contact the outreach committee or the church office, because we could still use some additional help and input.

It's a complex idea to share in a newsletter article, so there will be more details to follow, but we wanted to let you know that we are thinking creatively about ways to build relationships with those around us. In addition to growing plants, wouldn't it be wonderful to cultivate new friendships?

Dus



Presbyterian Women



Resolved to be Healthy!

Resolved To Be Healthy: Part Two

Who Is Able to Stand? Rev. 6:17

“Singing Hymns of Hope: Interludes of Salvation for God’s People” is the title of the lesson Presbyterian women are studying this month. Two circles meet on **Tuesday, February 1**. The Morning Circle will meet at 9:30 at the home of Lee Graff. The Afternoon Circle meets at 11:30 at church. The Evening Circle will meet on **Monday, February 7** at 7:00 at the home of Cheryl Hunt. Everyone is welcome. Join us! We still have a few study books left for you.

In keeping with our theme verse: “**Behold! I am making all thing new!**” our January Luncheon was full of information about the use of current medications to keep us healthy and strong. Carol’s cheerful camellias adorned our tables while we ate Doug’s delicious Pumpkin Soup served by our happy, helpful hostesses: Ada, Carol, Mary Lou, Nita, Wendy, and Gretchen. Don’t worry if you missed it...because Tuesday, February 22 Dr. Woelfel will be back to discuss **Osteoporosis & Falls Prevention Education & Intervention**. Hopefully, we may have other resource persons available—maybe even a Tai Chi demonstration!

We will have a Coordinating Team meeting at 10:30. Anyone with program ideas is welcome. Promptly at 12:00 we will serve another light luncheon featuring local produce. If you would like to help make the cherry desserts, Cheryl would be thrilled to talk to you. The presentation will begin at 12:30.

These events are co-sponsored with the Outreach Committee because we think that these topics are vital for all caregivers and seniors. **So, invite your friends.** It is what we mean when we say that we are committed to building **an inclusive, caring community.** We depend on you to get the word out to people you know.



The Readers R Us group will meet on Feb.17th at Linda Trapp’s, with Tola Eley leading the discussion of *Cutting for Stone*.



Fellowship Pizza Luncheon

On Feb. 13th (2nd Sunday luncheon) the fellowship committee will be serving pizza and salad. All are welcome so please plan to attend. Donations are welcome but are not necessary to participate.



FPC Activities

Tai Chi: Mondays & Fridays at 9:30 am. Averages 22 people. \$4 suggested donation price.

FPC Basketball: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. FREE!

FPC Volleyball: Thursdays at 7:30 pm. FREE!

BEWLEY SCHOLARSHIP

Starting February 1st, First Presbyterian and the Scholarship Committee, will begin accepting applications for Scholarships for college. These scholarships are open to any First Presbyterian Church member who currently is enrolled in college or is applying to college for 2011. Applications are available in the church office. You may also request them electronically by writing the church office email at: office@fpstockton.org.

The last couple of years we have had people turning things in later than the deadline, with supporting materials coming in even later. **This will not be allowed this year.**

This year **your entire application** (with letters of reference, and any other requested supporting materials) must be turned in together in one packet. If your back up materials arrive separately than your application they will be disregarded, and your file will be incomplete.






Mail Your Completed Applications (WITH back up) to:

First Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
31 E. Vine St.
Stockton, CA 95202

No applications will be accepted after the deadline. Fully completed application packets may also be submitted to the church office email, as attachments, with the subject line: FPC Scholarship Committee.

Don’t procrastinate, May 1st comes quicker than you think!

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Begin Accepting Applications for Bewley Scholarship</i>	2 <i>Basketball Cancelled Today</i>	3  <i>Volleyball 7:30 p.m.</i>	4 <i>Tai chi 9:30 a.m.</i>	5 <i>Presbytery Meeting Delhi 9:00 a.m.</i>
6 <i>We are still having church even though there is a Super Bowl. The game is in the afternoon, so you should still be able to show up for worship.</i> 😊	7 <i>Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>Magnolia Neighborhood Association 6p.m.-8 p.m.</i>	8  <i>Outreach Committee 5 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Worship and Music 6:15 p.m.</i> <i>Basketball 5:30 p.m.</i>	10 <i>Volleyball 7:30 p.m.</i>	11 <i>Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.</i>	12 <i>Abraham Lincoln was born this day in 1809</i> 
13 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Lunch (Pizza)</i> <i>Deacon Meeting</i>	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> <i>Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.</i>	15 <i>Presbytery Women Noon</i>  <i>Fall Prevention 12:30 p.m.</i>	16 <i>WINDOW SUBMISSION DEADLINE</i> <i>Basketball 5:30 p.m.</i>	17 <i>Book Club 3:00 p.m.</i> <i>Volleyball 7:30 p.m.</i>	18 <i>Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.</i>	19 <i>Church Maintenance Workday</i>
20 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>On this date in 1792 the United States Postal Service was created.</i>	21 <i>President's Day OFFICE CLOSED</i> <i>Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.</i>	22 <i>The "Miracle on Ice" happened on this day in 1980. Google it if you weren't alive then.</i>	23 <i>Session Meeting 6 p.m.</i> <i>Basketball 5:30 p.m.</i>	24 <i>Volleyball 7:30 p.m.</i>	25 <i>Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.</i> 	26 <i>10 a.m.-2 p.m. Ethnic Concerns Committee Geneva Room</i>
27 <i>Worship 10:30 a.m. Gifts of Women Cents-ability Spag. Lunch?</i> <i>O'Connor Woods Service 4p.m. Rev. Wright</i>	28 <i>Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.</i>					

Stewardship Moment for January 23, 2011.

What are we doing about the deficit?

Linda Abbott Trapp, Co-chair, Stewardship Committee

Next week at the Annual Meeting you'll have the budget information in detail, but I wanted to give you a heads-up. We have a deficit, a serious one, of about \$27,000 in this year's budget. As part of both Stewardship and Personnel committees of Session, I take some responsibility for this. I'd like to sketch how this came about, and suggest what we can do about it. I'm not panicked; I'm energized, and I hope you will be as well.

Over the past few years, we've transitioned and transitioned, only in the last year settling down with a wonderful new pastor and some clearer direction. In those transitions, we lost a number of members and their support. Now that we're on a new, positive path, we have some making up to do. We on Stewardship believe that requires different thinking. We can't do the same thing we've always done and expect different results – that's one definition of insanity. We've always set the budget by adjusting the current budget up or down a percent or two, and calling it good. That won't work now- we have lost too many people, and are only now beginning to add new members to replace them. We have maintenance needs that won't easily wait, and our people are giving at a high level as it is, so we need to do something different. In addition, our pastor's energy and time are much consumed by the needs of an aging congregation – lots of visitation has to take place. So our thinking is that we need to supplement his energy with a couple of paid part-time interns, to free him up a bit for growth. Those interns are a new cost, and when you combine that with the lowered membership and stable continuing expenses, the result is a substantial deficit. So, where will we get an extra \$27,000? Partly from taking a reasonable amount of annual interest from our support and endowment funds. In rough numbers, that's \$8,000. The rest will come from our creativity. Chiefly, we on Stewardship believe, from sound management of our facility, a resource of which we are stewards. We intend to share it with the community in significant and new ways.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew, beginning at verse 14, we have some powerful guidance for resolving this problem. You'll remember that the landowner was going on a trip. He gave his resources to be managed to three servants, 5 talents to one, 3 to the second, and 1 to the third. The first two got busy, invested, worked, and increased the master's resources. The third was afraid, buried his talent in the ground, and returned it to the master unchanged after he

and fired, thrown out in fact. So, our path must not be one of cowardice in managing the resources the Lord has given us. We're not going to bury our assets, but rather, shine them up and show them off to attract even more.

The new tai chi classes have attracted a healthy number of people, and the donations from that use of our facility will result in over \$5,000 new income this year. So, with the interest income mentioned earlier, that's half of the deficit covered. Another source of donation income is a different form of facility use – weddings. We only held one wedding here last year- what a waste of a gorgeous site! We have an energetic person interested in the wedding hostess position, and we're working on a flyer to publicize our facility for that use. You can help- if you're thinking of getting married, do it here. If that's not convenient at this time, could you provide us with some good photos of weddings in the sanctuary or chapel for use in our flyer and album? Eight weddings would probably bring in another \$5,000 or more.

I'm asking Presbyterian Women to consider two fundraisers – a rummage sale in the Spring, which is a good project for a few well-organized people. Secondly, I have a publication kit for a church cookbook – if one or two of you would be willing to collect the recipes, and another, to proof-read them carefully, we're on our way. Those two projects, together with a selection of public dinners or entertainment events held in the gym, will make a huge dent in the remaining deficit. Holding off on spending for the interns and other things for a month or two will also help, but there's a price tag on that economy. Another new project depends on the generosity of some local stores. This week, Session will consider participating in the SHARES program, where a portion of your normal grocery purchases is returned to the church from certain stores. It costs you nothing, and you can choose whether or not to participate.

The long-term answer is church growth. I've been taking people in the tai chi class on brief tours, and encouraging them to join us on a Sunday morning. Who can you invite? Which of these activities would you like to get involved in? This deficit is quite manageable with all of us joining in, and we're at a point of new beginnings- let's reduce the drag of old budget issues, and let our growth take off! Thanks for your energy, your prayers, your help, and for being part of this truly wonderful church.

Notes from Session

Last Session minutes were reported in January for the time period of early December. No meeting occurred between the collection of articles for the February newsletter, and the printing. Therefore there are no new notes from Session to report for this issue.

Next Session Meeting:
WEDNESDAY (NEW NIGHT)
February 23 at 6:00 p.m.



CENTSABILITY OFFERING

The Centsability offering will be collected on February 27. This offering helps feed the hungry in our community. In the past we have gifted The Saturday Morning Breakfast Club, which

feeds countless homeless and hungry on Saturday mornings—a day in which no food is provided in the Stockton Shelters.

OSTEOPOROSIS & FALLS PREVENTION



Start the year off on healthy note!! Learn about osteoporosis (brittle bones) and how they can predispose one to fall and result in broken bones. Learn what we can do to make ourselves and our homes safer.

Presbyterian Women and the Outreach Committee invite you to attend the Falls Prevention Clinic Program which will be held in Westminster Hall, Tuesday, February 15, from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Get here at noon if you would like to warm up with a light lunch.

Dr. Joseph Woelful of the UOP School of Pharmacy will be conducting the program. This training educates participants about the risks of osteoporosis and risk for having a fall. Simple intervention and prevention strategies are discussed as well. This program is useful for seniors, those who are care givers, and those interested in preventative health strategies. Bring a friend and bring your questions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If any information is listed incorrectly or needs updating, **PLEASE** contact the church office!



Leonard George Jr	Feb. 1	Tim Baldwin	Feb. 20
Cherrie Roeser	Feb. 6	Charles Graff	Feb. 21
Kim Harker	Feb. 7	John Vaughn	Feb. 21
Jo Crowe	Feb. 11	Don Hover	Feb. 23
Evelyn Morrow	Feb. 11	Susan Roeser	Feb. 24
Frank Beasley	Feb. 12	Karen Eley	Feb. 25
Barbara Beasley	Feb. 16	Gus Wright	Feb. 26
Joel Franklin	Feb. 17	Jane Knoop	Feb. 27

The office would like to correct the following birthday error for January's newsletter. We apologize for overlooking this important date!

January - December 2010	Actually Received	Budget
Pledged	\$163,136.19	\$172,000.00
Unpledged	\$17,157.19	\$12,000.00
Loose Offer.	\$3,000.86	\$2,200.00
TOTAL	\$183,294.24	\$186,200.00
January-December 2010	Actually Spent	Budget
Expenses	\$204,709.00	\$215,000.00*

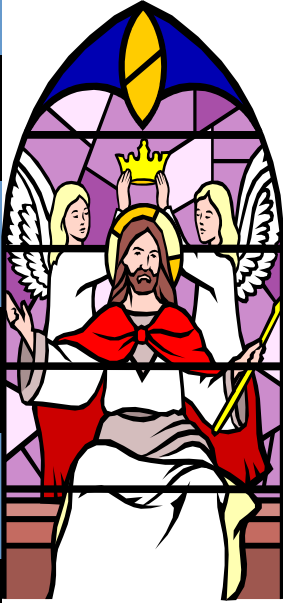
**includes budgeted shortfall of \$18,000.00*

Welcome to New Church Members

- Nikita Evans
- Delilah Mason
- Dennis Sorensen
- Kate Salamon
- Bobbie Wallinger
- Ali Wright

We look forward to your friendship.

THE WINDOW



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As God's family, forgiven and freed through Jesus Christ, we seek

- We seek to know God through prayer, worship and Bible study.
- To reflect God's love to each other and to the world.
- To respond to the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- To spread the Gospel throughout our community

NEXT WINDOW DEADLINE:

Wednesday

February 16, 2011

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKTON

31 E. Vine Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Phone: 209-465-2653

Fax: 209-465-2655

Office Email: office@fpcstockton.org

Pastor's Email: gwright@fpcstockton.org

Website: www.fpcstockton.org

Business Office Hours:

Monday -Tuesday, Thursday- Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Noon)



PRAYER FOR UNITY

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant to be like minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus , that you may be with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus.

Romans 15:5-7