



The Pastor's Page



The church was the very first place that I ever heard the word "quorum." I felt important that I needed to return to the church sanctuary to help the congregational meeting take place. I was only thirteen years old, but my vote was valued. As a member in the Presbyterian Church there is a responsibility for all members to be involved in the life of the church by "participating in the governing responsibilities of the church."

There are many ways that this responsibility is accomplished. The first is being an informed congregant. From time to time when congregational meetings are called it is important that as many members be present as possible to discern the will of God. Every person has unique gifts and a personality that will view scripture in slightly varying ways. These views then help to shape the outcome of the meeting through questions and discussion.

The next most common way to live out the governing responsibility is by participating in committee work. Many of our church decisions are made in groups. If you are not currently serving on a committee, you may wish to consider whether you would like to be involved in the service of the church by giving your time to either help join a committee or to participate in the events of the committee. For example, the Finance, Building and Grounds committee is planning a "workday" on September 25th. Also the Fellowship committee is planning a luncheon on the 12th.

Another similar way to live out the responsibility of church membership is to serve in an elected position. As people discern their gifts some are nominated for ordained positions of leadership. The offices of Deacon and Elder are special positions of service. They are not a more advanced

standing of Christian. Rather they are an organized way to use the gifts of certain individuals in bringing about a positive outcome for the church.

One way that people participate in the governing responsibilities of the church is of special interest to us this month. The work of the Presbytery is a group of churches that elect representatives from their congregation to make decisions and take actions in the life and mission of a particular region. We are a church in the Presbytery of the San Joaquin. This month the meeting of Presbytery will be held here in our church on September 11th. As always the meeting is open to guests and you are invited to attend to observe the meeting or even to help us host this event. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and will include a time of worship.

A very important way that you can participate in the governing responsibility if you are unable to commit to a particular time and are unable to join in any other way is by praying for the leaders that are making decisions. This should be at the top of the list as to the way we participate in governing. The decisions made are not simply our own preferences, but they are decisions guided by God's word and our faith as disciples of Christ in the common life of the church. Please continue to pray for the church and God's ministry to the people of Stockton through us.

In Christ,



Behold! The Revelation Bible Study is here!

It looks fascinating...full of hope! That is our theme for the year: *HOPE...Coming into View...Unveiled...Revealed.* Our theme verse is "Behold! I am making all things new." *Revelation 21:5.* Everyone is invited to make a new effort to support our community of Presbyterian sisters, even if you have never participated in a study or a luncheon or a circle. You don't have to be part of every event, just join us when you can, so that our joy may be more complete.

September 7 at noon we will all gather at church for our first meetings. Please bring a sack lunch. Pastor Gus will introduce our study.

September 11 we are invited to San Francisco Theological Seminary to worship and hear the author of our Bible Study. Call Cheryl if you want to car pool.

September 21 is our regular third Tuesday luncheon. There will be more on the Bible Study. This is the traditional Moderator's treat, so please be there.

In my journeys this summer I ran across this quote from Elizabeth O'Connor. It seems to describe what we are about as Presbyterian Women.

"The real issue of any transitional stage is, 'What am I to do with my life now that I am 21 or 49 or 98 -- what is God calling me to now?' The question is always the essential one and is always appropriate.

A member of my Church was dying of cancer. One of her close friends was visiting with her, and she asked his guidance for this time in her life. He replied, "Joanne, I have watched you work with Call at all the different junctures of your life, and if I were in your position, I would work with Call now. What is God calling you to be and do at this stage in your journey?" It was the answer she wanted to hear. It is the only answer that gives meaning to our struggle and our dying.

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I don't believe, however, that one can hear Call without self-knowledge, or that one can have self-knowledge without being a contemplative. We hear Call when we give attention to the things of the spirit. The great task we have as Christians is to create communities where we can explore our discontent, our fears and self-doubt, our attachment to mammon and lesser gods -- all those things that keep us from responding to what we know as Call. The strange fact is that in the company of mourners and sinners one touches a place of truth and freedom in one's self that is beyond the ordinary, a place where one is told the way to go."

-Cheryl Hunt, PW Moderator

A Brief Update from the Father to Be . . .

Ali and I are excitedly awaiting the birth of our first son. He is due to arrive in October. Please keep us in your prayers as new parents. I have made arrangements with the session to take parental leave around the time of the birth. So that we can prepare in the life of the church we will be arranging for pulpit supply October 17, October 24, and October 31. We appreciate the time that we will have set aside to welcome this new life into the world. During my leave, scheduled from October 11-31, the members of session will attend to most of the matters of the church that I would normally do. As the time draws near we will keep you posted about any additional details. We can hardly wait for this new addition.



In Memoriam

Walter Knoop	Dec. 18, 1923 - Aug. 4, 2010
Jewell Asche	Aug. 27, 1937 - Aug. 22, 2010
David Baird	Jul 18, 1942 - Aug. 20, 2010
Patricia Hutchison	Apr 28, 1933 - Aug 24, 2010

Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

Stewardship Moment for September 2010 What About The Poor?

Jesus said the poor you always have with you, and in both testaments the Bible talks about giving alms to the poor. Our contemporary, the Reverend James Forbes, says "Nobody gets into heaven without a letter of reference from the poor". And Anne Lamott, a writer I enjoy tremendously, puts it this way:

...we should try to stay on God's good side. It's not hard. God has extremely low standards. Pray, take care of people, be actively grateful for your blessings, give away your money – you're cool. You're in. Nice room in heaven, flossing no longer required. (P. 129, Plan B: Further thoughts on faith)

So who are those poor we're supposed to help take care of and give away our money for? In these tough economic times, we all feel a little poor, so the question becomes one of relativity. One way to look at it is to count your blessings, and consider anyone who lacks a blessing that you have as one of the poor, at least in that respect. So if you're well educated, perhaps you could teach literacy, or donate books or computers to schools here and abroad. If you're vibrantly healthy, perhaps you could support research towards cures, work with AIDS, hospice care, any number of things. If you have a home, you might support shelters, refugee camps, and programs that build and repair homes for others. If you have wonderful friends, you can reach out to the lonely.

When you try to select the charitable organizations to support as you reach out, we on your Stewardship committee want to help. We've committed ourselves to find websites that vet charities; that is, evaluate the most honest and helpful ones, and to make that information and similar data available for you. Gail Herron is working on that for all of us, and she will have further information in future editions of the Window, and perhaps in handouts as well.

This is one of our commitments to you. Now, somewhat to our surprise, we on the committee need a commitment from you, a volunteer commitment. There are four people on your Stewardship Committee: Earl Roider, Ada Brown, Gail Herron, and me. In the last month or so, all four of us can help- we need people to back us up in preparing and serving the Fellowship Luncheon for Oct. 10, which will be the Campaign kick-off, and for November 14, which will be the celebration and consecration of gifts.

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If you know your way around the kitchen, or can help shop for or serve the food, please give one of us your name and number after the service. Thank you and God bless you.

-Linda Abbott Trapp, Stewardship co-chair

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY: SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 8 AM–12 PM

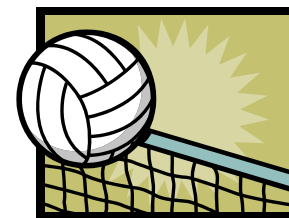


Calling all gardeners, cleaner-uppers, and organizers: Saturday, September 25, 2010 is the all church work day, from 8 am to 12 pm. Pastries and coffee for the early birds!

We need volunteers for trimming, pruning, general cleaning, possible hauling (see Doug Hunt), and general cleaning and organizing. Show up on Saturday and we will put you to work. Those whose skills include use of tools should bring their own toolboxes, as the church has a limited number of tools

Volleyball for Adults

Starting on Thursdays our church will host an adult volleyball night. September 16th will be the first night. We'll meet from about 7-9 p.m. You can come and join in the fun yourself, or pass this information along to a friend or neighbor that is looking for a good way to get moderate exercise and meet people. We'll try this as an experiment for a few weeks and see if there is some interest. There is no need to RSVP, just show up and play.



Notes from Session

Church and Society: A motion was passed that Local Mission funds be disbursed as follows: Gospel Center Ministries, \$550 ;Child Abuse Prevention Council, \$100; Women’s Center \$75.00; Salvation Army \$100; Haven of Peace \$100; Stockton Family Shelter \$200, Special church projects \$1,203.

Fellowship: Motion was passed that the September 12th Fellowship luncheon be a Baby Shower for Gus and Ali Wright.

Stewardship: Motion was passed to accept the schedule proposed for the Fall Stewardship campaign. The committee estimates the cost, including materials, in the \$500 range which is unbudgeted for this year.

Motion was passed that The Session agree to allow time (20 minutes) at a regular meeting in the Fall for training on current personnel guidelines & conflict resolution skill development ; A motion was passed that Session meet with the Deacons on September 19th.

There will no longer be verbal Joys and Concerns on Communion Sundays. Members will be urged to use the prayer request cards in the pews.

**Next Session Meeting:
Tuesday
September 28, 2010**

Income July 2010	Actually Received	Budget
Pledged	\$10,503.20	\$14,333.33
Unpledged	\$1, 126.65	\$1,000.00
Loose Offer.	\$177	\$183.33
TOTAL	\$11,807.81	\$15,516.66
Expense July 2010	Actually Spent	Budget
Expenses	\$18,430.82	17,905.85



Volunteers Needed for Office: Sept 13th—24th

The Church Office is looking for volunteers* to cover the office hours, and do light clerical work, while the Office Manager is on vacation for two weeks. She is scheduled to be gone: Monday, September 13 thru Friday, September 24; back in office on Monday, September 27.

Skills Necessary: Church members only with internet/PC experience and some MS WORD. Publisher (will train for Publisher), very light Excel.
Duties: answering phone, making copies, assisting the pastor and elders, checking email and returning email correspondence, greeting visitors and directing those in need to places where they can seek help, hall rental if necessary, sort/open mail/correspondence, filing, etc.

She will train for the day to day activity. She would like to try to train in groups, if possible, and would like to see the individuals for training at least three full days (9am-2pm). Hopefully we will have more than one volunteer to change things up a bit, and take the pressure off of just one person filling in the whole time.

Please contact Tara ASAP in the office to see if you are a good fit.

Thank you very much in advance for answering the

Church “Idea/Dream” List

- Five more volunteers to help with Presbytery on September 11. *Dream Accomplished!*
- Athletic Committee—for gym use.
- Volunteer office help for Office Manager’s vacation.



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:

SEPTEMBER 24, 2010 @ 12:00 P.M.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKTON

31 E. Vine Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Phone: 209-465-2653
Fax: 209-465-2655
Email: office@fpcstockton.org
Pastor's Email: gwright@fpcstockton.org
Website: 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)

**Dated Material
Please RUSH**

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 239
Stockton, CA 95203

Return Service Requested

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