

# THE WINDOW

Looking for short-term growth opportunity?

During Lent we are hoping to start 4 different small groups of 5-8 people. The groups will be meeting in people's homes or at church. They will gather together weekly for 6-8 weeks. The time spent together will include reading the bible, times for discussion, and prayer support. We are in need of three additional leaders/facilitators and 3 more hosts. If you are interested in leading or hosting please call the church office. Also if you are interested in attending, we will keep a list in the office of those to be paired with the different groups. Hopefully there will be a couple of evening and a couple of day-time groups. More details will follow as we announce the added details during our worship times. Be sure to come to hear more information.



**NEXT WINDOW DEADLINE: February 20<sup>th</sup>**

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  
 with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus.  
 Romans 15:5-7



Business Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 209-465-2653  
 Email: [office@fpstockton.org](mailto:office@fpstockton.org)  
 Website: [fpstockton.org](http://fpstockton.org)

31 E. Vine Street  
 Stockton, CA 95202

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKTON

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# The Window

February 2012



## The Pastor's Page



### Aware of the Times

2012 and we are faced with the jumbo version of February, again. How are you going to spend that extra twenty-four hours? A leap year February is the month that says to an arrogant oversized 31-day March, "Hey wait there just a minute, I'd like folks to take it slow this year and just simmer in the beautiful second month." 29 days and so much to do, learn and see.

When I was in school, I was exposed to all of the great many contributions that African-Americans have provided for our society. I was informed that while America is a land filled with a wide ethnic make-up, the majority of African-American ancestors had not immigrated to the U.S. by their own choice. February is recognized as Black History Month to learn about one portion of a very interesting U.S. Melting Pot. I am always appreciative of this time, but as Morgan Freeman has pointed out-- Why only one month and why the shortest?

In addition to being a great month in which to be born, and also the month that may test your New year's resolution with chocolates and conversation hearts, there are even more reasons that February may get your pulse going. February is "AMD/ Low Vision Awareness Month, American Heart Month, Bake for Family Fun Month, Natl Bird-Feeding Month, Natl Black History Month, Intl Boost Self-Esteem Month, Natl Cherry Month, Natl Children's Dental Health Month, Natl Condom Month, Intl Expect Success Month, February Is Fabulous Florida Strawberry Month, Library Lovers' Month, Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month, Natl Mend a Broken Heart Month, Natl Parent Leadership Month, Natl Pet Dental Health Month, Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month, Relationship Wellness Month, Return Shopping Carts to the Su-

permarket Month, Spunky Old Broads Month, Natl Time Management Month, Wise Health Care Consumer Month, Worldwide Renaissance of the Heart Month, Youth Leadership Month."

source Chase's Calendar of Events.

Maybe that is more than you wanted to know. The 22<sup>nd</sup> of February also marks the beginning to the season of Lent. Some people give up coffee or red meat for lent. I am considering abstaining from "National Months." Have a great February and let God work in your life .

In Christ,

*Jus*

P.S. Anton will be baptized on February 26th. We would love to share his important day with you.

### Ministry Assistant Hired

Michelle Gaither has been working with the church for over a month now. She is extremely helpful and has a great "can do" attitude. She has weathered our busy-ness with Christmas, New Year's, Officer Installations, and the Annual Report. Thanks so much Michelle for your service. Stop by the office to say "hi", or send her an e-mail of greeting --[office@fpstockton.org](mailto:office@fpstockton.org). As a reminder, the church office will now be open Monday- Friday 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Thanks again for your help and patience while we were in transition.



## Stewardship Moment “Talking Turkey”

Linda Abbott Trapp, Stewardship Chair

It's funny about turkey – it's the centerpiece of the most memorable, wonderful holiday meals. And yet, if we say someone's a turkey, it's not exactly a compliment. And a third meaning is that of “talking turkey”, telling the truth, even if it's a hard truth. So, it seemed like an apropos title for this month's stewardship moment. The truth I want to tell you is indeed hard in spots, but it's also wonderful and about memorable truths in spots, so hold in your mind the various meanings of turkey while we talk turkey about our church and its financial situation.

The first truth is that God is good, and has abundantly blessed our fellowship. This is a loving, caring, hard working, generous congregation, and I feel grateful for its presence in our community and in my life. We have been blessed with a most beautiful sanctuary and with the responsibility of being good stewards of that blessing.

The second truth is that the costs of our programming outweigh our ability to pay. That sounds ominous, but don't panic just yet. Last year we needed to draw from our support and endowment funds roughly \$18,000 to balance the budget. This year the amount we need to draw will be more like 10 or 12 thousand. Next year, I hope it's more like 6 thousand, and the next year, none at all. So the trend is on target, given the congregational approval for three years of withdrawals as we get “reformatted”, so to speak, with new Pastoral leadership and new direction. Session could have made other choices, such as cutting out support for missions, but we did not. This is the faith budgeting we feel is called for now.

The third truth is that many have stepped forward with creative fundraising solutions; the Good Stuff Sale, Tapestry, tai chi, basketball, dinners, and other efforts. This helps with the

budget, and perhaps more importantly, provides needed fellowship time for our members. The fourth truth is that our congregation is changing, and one of the impacts of the change is financial. We have lost over recent years many stalwart members who were able and willing to be generous donors. New members and guests have joined us, some of whom who may be at an earlier life stage or in different circumstances. While they give generously, in dollar amount they are not able to match the giving of some we have lost. We may mourn the loss of some of our reliable financial supporters through departure or death, but we have gained new people, new perspectives, and the greatest blessing, new children. In them we are reminded of whose we are, where we came from, and where we will return. Dr. Diane Komp, pediatric oncologist, tells the story of a three year old boy who begged his parents for the chance to be alone with the new baby. Fearful of sibling rivalry, they demurred, then gave in, standing outside the door to listen. Their son drew close to the baby, and softly asked her, “Tell me about God; I'm beginning to forget.” We are indeed of God, from God, and we will return to God. We praise God for the presence of these new children, and for all the new faces and for their support. We must recognize that we will need to continue to tell others about God lest they forget, and so to attract many more new people to be able to carry on our mission.

The fifth and final truth for today, I believe, is that we must become an “Outreach Committee of the Whole.” Actively seeking those in our community who could benefit from the shared love of Christ represented here. And actively seeking those who could learn with us what God requires, and who could help sustain that mission. Praise God for the privilege of such service.

## Tomato Plants!



Last year, our congregation participated in growing tomato plants from seedlings. How was last year's crop? Did you have fun?

Each year is a little bit different, but we are older and wiser, and our thumbs may be even a little bit greener.

This year, The Outreach Committee would like to grow another batch of plants and distribute them to the community through the following ways: The Good Stuff Sale, our neighborhoods and friends, and maybe even a community event.

### The Goal is to grow 400 plants!



Propagation trays conveniently start 48 plants, or you can grow in larger containers. Seeds and soil will be available on February 26th after church to start this project. Bring your gently used and cleaned trays from last year to replant, or we will have on hand some new trays to start again.

## Volunteer Opportunity!

Optimal Hospice Care is in need of volunteers.

“We are in desperate need of caring individuals who desire to share love and encouragement with others through simple things. Such as gardening, fixing someone's hair, reading a book, filing papers or just lending an ear.”

If your interested in helping out, please contact  
Michelle Campbell  
Volunteer Coordinator  
(209) 670-8000

Or visit their website for more information. [www.optimalcares.com](http://www.optimalcares.com)



## FPC Basketball!



Don't forget to check out FPC Basketball in Koinonia Hall. Games are every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Admission is FREE, so be sure to attend!



# You are Invited!

**Ash Wednesday is February 22**

You are cordially invited and encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Stockton at 7 p.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Church of Stockton is located at  
1002 West 8th Street.

## 61st Annual Interfaith Tea

Sponsored by

The Stockton Unit of  
Church Women United



Thursday  
February 16  
1:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker  
Pastor Marc Maffucci  
Quail Lakes Baptist Church

Central United Methodist Church  
3700 Pacific Ave  
Stockton

For more information call:  
Lessie McKerson 464-5628  
Frances Larkin 463-7056



**Next Session Meeting**  
Wednesday  
Feb 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## Deacons Report

To keep the congregation informed, the following is where the Deacon Funds are going:

<u>Emergency Food Bank</u> (monthly)	\$150.00
<u>Gospel Center Rescue Mission</u> (monthly)	\$150.00
<u>Breakfast Club</u> (fruit for Sat. a.m. breakfast at the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless) (monthly)	\$140.00
<u>Upper Room</u> (periodically)	\$39.28

We took in \$850 from our congregation for our Christmas Tree Project and it was disbursed to members in the congregation who could use a little help.



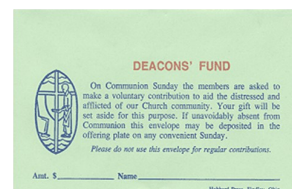
We have a Food Closet that is well stocked, and if any of our members find themselves in need of basic food staples during the month, please contact any one of the Deacons:

Sylvia Cavanaugh, Tola Eley, Jody Graham, Mary Lou Hover, Charlene McElhinny, Patty Roek,

Bob Trapp, Marsha Wright or Julie Yanes.

We have two special fundraisers each year. The first one for 2012 will be in June. We will be looking to help a special need at the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless and providing for it as best we can.

The Deacon envelopes will be in the bulletins on the 1st Sunday of the month, and we appreciate any donation you are able to make on that Sunday or any comfortable time.



Thank you so much for supporting the work of the Deacons.

Patty Roek  
Moderator

## All-Churches Information Meeting

“On Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 12:00 at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Modesto, the Presbytery of Stockton will host an all-churches information meeting on the Fellowship of Presbyterians and the Evangelical Covenant Order. We hope that all deacons, elders (past and present), and concerned members will plan to join us as we share some perspectives from the experience of the 12 attendees of the Orlando conference. We will review some of the presented information and have some time to discuss with one another. Please plan to attend this meeting. May God bless you and our presbytery.”

Julia Leeth



## Tai Chi is Looking for New Members!

The Tai Chi group, which meets at First Presbyterian Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 to 10:30, would like to add a few more members who come consistently. It doesn't matter whether they are experienced or not; extra time will be available for coaching beginners on Fridays. Please use the coupon (below) or pass it along to a friend! The benefits are wonderful!

## Tai Chi Class

### Come Join Us!

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church  
31 E. Vine St, Stockton 95202

**When:** Mon & Fri 9:30am-10:30am  
**Suggested Donation: \$4**  
**First Class FREE with this Flyer**



## River of Hope

Presbyterian Women of Circles One and Two will meet for Bible Study on Tuesday, February 7 at 9:30 and 11:30. We will examine the fifth Beatitude: Greatly Honored Are Those Who Show Mercy. The evening circle will be called for the day, time, and location. We had such a lively discussion that we forgot to decide when to meet again.

On Tuesday, February 21 we will have our luncheon. Since it is Presidents' month, we will be talking about our nation and our role as Christian citizens. Dr. Rev. Hutchison has promised to come down from the mountain to be our speaker. We know that some **men** might like this chance to see Hutch, so we are graciously inviting you to join us; just let Cheryl know so there will be enough food.

In January, our luncheon was an in-kind donation from the Franklin Farm (butternut squash) and Fondse Farms (cherries). Special thanks go to Doug Hunt, Nita Taylor, and Carol Dietrich for generously bailing out the moderator! They know their skills are invaluable! We became inspired by Cecilia Moran, who told us about Trinity Presbyterian Church's work in Guatemala with Living Waters for the World. We

thank our pastor for his technical assistance. Let's keep thinking about how we could help provide clean drinking water for a community. You can find out more at <http://livingwatersfortheworld.org/>. Presbyterian Women have long been a key part of the growth and success of Living Waters for the World, providing financial support, promoting awareness at presbytery and church levels, and choosing them to be a recipient of the Birthday Offering which we collect in April.

Looking forward, there are two opportunities for us to know more about the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). A member of the Global Exchange to India will be our speaker on April 21 at the Church of the 49ers. And our Church-wide Gathering is this July in Orlando, Florida. If you are interested in these events, please contact the moderator. The theme of these events is "River of Hope" which seems so appropriate on this rainy day. "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God....God is in the midst of the city....God will help it when the morning dawns," Psalm 46:4-5. Our hope is built on these promises!



## Top Ten Reasons to Sign Up For and Use Church Envelopes

10. It will keep your money warm in those cold winter days.
9. It saves time for the volunteers counting the money.
8. It provides a paper-trail of your giving.
7. Everybody else is doing it, (well they should be).
6. Printing your name and the amount on the envelope helps to verify what is given by whom, just like if you make a utility bill payment and include the slip of paper with the amount given.
5. The church has already ordered the envelopes -- somebody may as well use them.
4. Less clanking in the offering plates.
3. Gives you something to do, in case the sermon doesn't apply to you that day.
2. If you are not satisfied with the name your parents gave you, you can encourage other church members to start calling your by your offering number, "Hey #15, good to see you, isn't it your turn to be N2 for communion?"
1. God affirms enveloping just read Mark 9:7



Seriously, the church has ordered the envelopes, it would help out if you used them. Thanks.

**Presbytery Meeting in Gustine**

Saturday, February 4th at  
9:00 to 10:30 AM  
Community Presbyterian  
Church of Gustine  
399 6th St, Gustine, CA  
95322  
(209) 854-6772

“Dear Friends, we have a great opportunity to learn something new about being the Church God calls us to be... Sessions and Congregations please plan to attend! The Presbytery's Healthy Congregations committee is pleased to have the Reverend David Loleng as our special speaker at our presbytery meeting. David is the Associate for Evangelism and Church Growth out of the General Assembly Mission Council. He will speak on the changing landscape of our culture and how that impacts the Great Commission.”



**BEWLEY  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Memorial funds left in the name of the Bewley, Lopez, and Woods Family are now available for scholarships to church members pursuing higher education. High School Seniors, students enrolled in a college or university, or re-entering adults are eligible to apply. Applications are available in the church office. You may also request them electronically by writing the church office email at: office@fpstockton.org.

Requirements

- A 300 - 500 word personal statement
- 3 letters of recommendations
- Any and all transcripts

**Due Date is May 1st**

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. Late applications will not be accepted.

You may submit your completed application in 2 ways:

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

E-mail to: office@fpstockton.org  
Subject Line: FPC Scholarship Committee

Please remember if your back up materials arrive separately than your application they will be disregarded, and your file will be incomplete.

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

**FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON!**

Our Fellowship Luncheon will be an

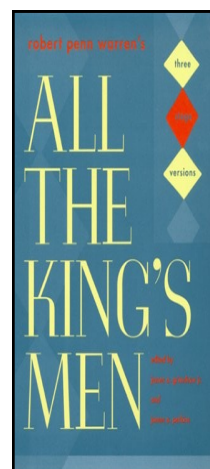
**INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK**



Please bring your favorite International Dish to share. All are welcome, so save the date!

Donations are welcome, but are not necessary to participate.

**Readers R Us**



The next meeting of Readers R Us is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm at Bobbi Wallinger's home. We will be discussing *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. We plan to watch the film version in March, and compare the two versions. Let Bobbi know if you'd like to join!

**FEBRUARY 2012**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		 Accepting Applications for Scholarship <b>Due Date: May 1st!</b>	1 FPC Basketball 5:30 p.m.	2	3 Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m.	4 Presbytery meeting in Gustine 9:00 a.m.
5 Communion Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	6 Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m.	7  PW Bible Study Cir 1: 9:30 Cir 2: 11:30 Cir 3: TBA	8 FPC Basketball 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music 6:15 p.m.	9	10 Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m.	11
12 -Lincoln's B-day Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon! 11:45 Deacon Meeting	13 Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m.	14 Happy Valentine's Day!  Outreach Comm. 5:00 p.m.	15 FPC Basketball 5:30 p.m. Session Meeting: 6:00 p.m. Special Night***	16 61st Annual Tea 1:00 p.m. 	17 Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m.	18
19 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	20 OFFICE CLOSED Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m. <b>Deadline: Window Articles</b>	21 PW Luncheon! MEN invited! -Men RSVP- 	22 FPC Basketball 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service Trinity Pres. Stockton 7 p.m.	23 Readers R Us 3:00 at Bobbi's 	24 Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m.	25
26 Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Rev. Julia Leeth Cents-Ability Tomato Planting	27 Tai-Chi 9:30 a.m.	28	29 FPC Basketball 5:30 p.m.			