



Faith Presbyterian Church
Faith Family News
Monthly Newsletter



Pastor's Ponderings

By Chris Lenocker

It is hard to believe that “autumn” is here – As I write this article it is hot, humid and raining. I look forward to the days when the temperatures start to drop and the leaves begin to change their color and the winds begin to blow. Some people have said that the weather in San Diego is boring – boringly great. Yet, the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer. With this comes a growing expectation of a season that continues to remind us of God’s constancy and the rich blessings that abound.

I am blessed to see so much energy coming back into our community as SDSU is back in full swing and the Preschool welcomes families and their little ones onto our campus. It is always a joy to see college students hanging out on the corner eating hotdogs and conversing with Bob Radcliff. Hearing about a college student proposing marriage to Bonnie Koehler – she is very lovable. Watching SDSU alums from our church letting students know what it was like “back in the day.”

I am blessed when I enter a hospital room and someone from the church is there sharing their love, encouragement and support. The small deeds of care and love that happen every day is inspiring – people taking people to a doctor’s appointment, driving to the airport to give someone a ride home, flowers lovingly arranged to bring joy to a shut-in, people pulling that pesky weed from the crack in the sidewalk and harvesting the mushrooms that have shown up on the lawn outside the sanctuary. I see people encouraging one another as they face a medical procedure and encouraging people post-procedure. I see people mentoring foreign exchange students and corralling runaway toddlers. Every day people are living into what it means to bring good news into people’s lives and giving a glimpse of the

kingdom that God is creating in our midst as we follow Christ.

As the months of autumn unwind before us, I would encourage us all to find ways of blessing others. We have talked for the last couple of years about how each of us has been gifted to be a gift to others. Each of us has talents, unique to ourselves as God has blessed us. How can we bring joy to others through those talents? I was talking with one of our older members who struggle with their inability to do the things they used to do. They mourn the loss of independence and the opportunity to be out and about helping others and being among their faith family. How do we encourage those who want to give of themselves and yet struggle with a new normal that confines them? We talked about the fact that one of their precious gifts is their ability to love and how uplifting and encouraging they are. We talked about how that is still a gift to be given whenever and wherever they are. People come to visit and leave having been blessed by love and filled with encouragement. How special is that!?

I have had the same conversation with young career people who find the work environment unfriendly to any expression of faithfulness. How does one “be a blessing” at work? What happens if we are gentle, kind, forgiving, honest, patient, encouraging, etc., at work? How is that a blessing, how is that an in-breaking of good news at work? Is there ever a context, a relationship or a time when we cannot live out the Gospel? Is there ever a time or context that we cannot be a blessing?

Let us all encourage one another to bloom where we are planted; be a person who flourishes all around us with good news and becomes everything God has created us to become.

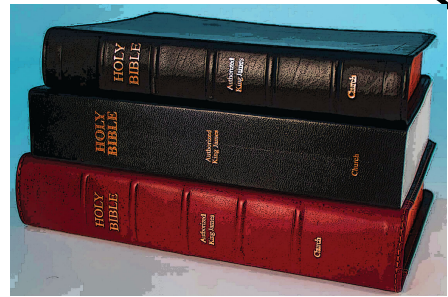
Shalom,
Chris

SERMONS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 2 – “To Serve or Not?”

2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

Do we serve God for the reward or as one, who in obedience does what faith demands? Serving comes with an inherent challenge to our following Jesus.



October 9 – “Surprise! Surprise!”

2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

God often surprises us by answering our unspoken questions in ways we can't anticipate. We are often asked to respond in ways that make no sense.

October 16 – “Stay In Touch”

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

It is so easy to forget to stay in touch with God. How are we to know what is in God's heart for us if we never speak with God or hear what Jesus said to those he taught?

October 23 – “It Really Is About God!”

Joel 2:23-32, Luke 18:9-14

In our desire to follow Jesus, we expend a lot of thought and energy about how and why we do what we do. This leads to an unhealthy opinion of how good we are.

October 30 – “Today Salvation Has Come”

Psalms 119:137-144, Luke 19:1-10

Every day is an opportunity to know of God's salvation. Every day we can be the one who responds to God's invitation to welcome the saving One.

NOTE THESE IMPORTANT DATES:

- ♦ **October 1. 9am-12:30pm** Choir Retreat
- ♦ **October 2.** World Communion Sunday
- ♦ **October 8. 9am-12:30pm** Choir Retreat
- ♦ **October 16.** Baked Potato Lunch following worship
- ♦ **October 22. 9am-3pm.** Women of Faith Day Retreat
- ♦ **October 29** “Trunk or Treat” in the church parking lot
- ♦ **November 6** Holiday Mission Fair
- ♦ **November 6.** Daylight Savings Time ends
- ♦ **November 11.** Veterans Day. Office will be closed
- ♦ **November 13.** Stewardship Sunday. Ice Cream Social following worship.
- ♦ **November 24-25.** Thanksgiving Holiday. Office will be closed
- ♦ **November 27.** Congregational Meeting following worship





Missions



WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday, October 2 Special Offering: Peace & Global Witness

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." - Matthew 5:9. Please remember in prayer those in our community and world struggling daily to survive where peace is absent. This special offering will be collected on Sunday, October 2nd.

Joe Huffaker, Mission Committee



*Holiday
Mission Fair
November 6
after worship
Faith Family Center*



The Holiday Mission Fair offers the opportunity to honor a friend or relative by giving a gift in their name to one of our mission ministries, such as Habitat for Humanity, PUM, MOM, or Heifer Int'l.

In addition, international gifts of jewelry and handcrafts will be available for purchase.

This is a great way to select gifts for those on your gift list, and also help people in our world who are not on anyone's gift list.



College Park Preschool News

By Kathie Baldwin,
Preschool Director

The Preschool is back in session and filled with the beautiful sounds of young children playing. It takes a couple weeks for all the children to get settled in. This year the Tue-Thurs children are having an easier time making the transition to school.

The art studio has always been a calming place for children and especially for those having a hard time separating from mom and dad.



Most children are excited to engage all the fun things to do at CPP. Here two girls took a ride together around the playground. They met each other for the first time shortly before this picture was taken.

The Bee classroom has two new teachers this year. Miss Torres did her student teaching last year at CPP with Mrs. Beisigl in the Wild Things classroom. The other “new” teacher, Miss Judy, has been teaching preschool for over 30 years.



Our third new teacher is Mrs. Mohedano (pictured here) teaching in the Butterfly class with Mrs. Brownsberger. She too did her student teaching at CPP with Mrs. Gutowski in the Bee class. We are blessed to have these women on the preschool staff.

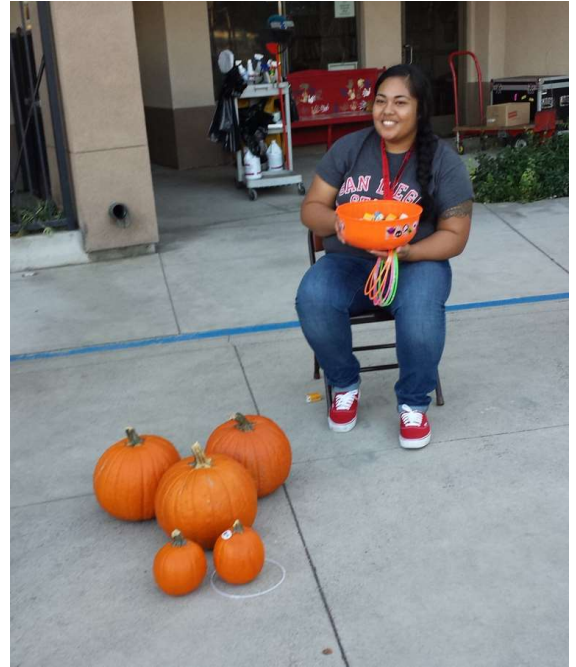
At our back-to-school staff meeting Pastor Chris shared with us from Romans 14:1-2. It was a helpful focal point as we begin working with new staff members, parents, and children.

Trunk or Treat!

By Sarah Scardino

Join us for a fun night of trick or treating in the church parking lot! We will be decorating our cars and inviting kids to come get some treats! Please contact Sarah Scardino through the office if you would like to volunteer to decorate your car and hand out candy.

Sat., Oct. 29







Congregational Life

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Kathy Baldwin

Remove the Home phone number

Kate Cameron

Call the church office for the correct email address

Financial Report of Monthly Pledges

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Budgeted:	\$34,267	\$34,267
Actual:	\$41,604	\$30,989

The Tree of Life



Marriage:

Sept. 24 – Sarah Scardino & Derrick Harvey

Hey Faith Women!!!

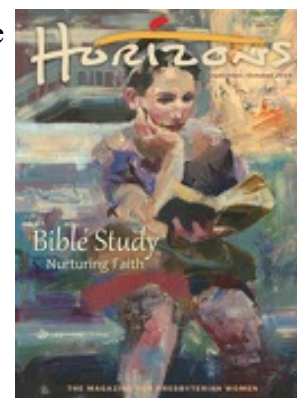
There is a wonderful group of ladies meeting at Faith each month. They are really anxious to have you join them. It is called "Circle" because the women who attend become a circle of friends who learn more about knowing and loving our Lord and also loving each other.

We meet the second Thursday of each month at 11:00 in Room 3 of the church.

We use the Bible study from the Horizon Magazine. This year the theme is "Who Is Jesus?" Each month tells the story of Jesus from a different point of view. We also have some mission projects. One is the Least Coin. Across the Christian world, women contribute one of their country's least coins and say a prayer. Our contribution, of course, is the penny. Thus all share equally and wonders are performed across the world by these least coins and prayers.

We also put our loose change in our Pink Pig bank each month. At our Dec. Christmas meeting we have fun counting to see what animal we can afford to buy for Heifer International. We have purchased chickens, rabbits, pigs and llamas. Once we even bought a water buffalo.

Our Circle has become smaller, but we voted unanimously to continue this year. We sincerely ask all of our Faith women to consider joining us October 13! Talk to Ruth Morrison, Carla Euliss, Bobbie McKee or any others. Try us! You may like us!!!



Baked Potato Lunch – October 16, after worship

In order to have enough food for everyone, please sign up by October 9.

There is no charge for the luncheon. Everyone is welcome!



It's time to renew Presbyterians Today Magazine

October 16 is the deadline

Cost is \$14.95



Please Join Us!

One Day Women's Retreat

Led by Mary Elva Smith

“Listening, Hearing, Being: God and Our Friends”

Join us for a one-day Women's Retreat here at church. This will be a wonderful time of learning and growing together as the Women of Faith.

October 22 9am – 3 pm

Sign-ups begin October 2nd
Lunch included – There is no cost



Food for Thought

(A helping of words)

Hmmmm...

Reflections

by Joan Madler

Words of Wisdom to Grow Older With
(author unknown)

As we grow older, and hence wiser, we slowly realize that wearing a \$300 or \$30 watch — they both tell the same time. Whether we carry a \$300 or \$30 wallet/handbag — the amount of money inside is the same. Whether we drink a bottle of \$300 or \$30 or \$3 wine — the hangover is the same. Whether the house we live in is 300 or 3000 sq. ft. — the loneliness is the same.

You will realize your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether you fly first or economy class, if the plane goes down — you go down with it. Whether you fly first or economy class, if the plane reaches its destination — everyone arrives at the same time. Therefore — I hope you realize, when you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, with whom you chat, laugh, talk, sing, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth — that is true happiness!

Although I just recently received this email, for once I think I've known the truth of what it says and have lived it for a large part of my adult life. Most of my watches have cost between \$20 and \$30 and all have kept good time. My most recent handbag purchase was at Wal-mart for \$9 and I love it (so did some gals I play Bridge with). I'm quite sure I've never tasted \$300 wine but am familiar with less expensive wine and their hangovers. (thankfully not for quite a few years).

Much to my mother's disgust I married an American in the United States Navy (I was suppose to marry a doctor, lawyer, teacher — anyone Canadian) and our first home was an 18 ft. trailer in De Anza Mobile Home Park. At that point in my life the size was immaterial. I was newly married, living in wonderful San Diego, on the bay, with the love of

my life. Eventually when our son was 10 months old and I was pregnant with another child, the size mattered. We moved into our new home, 47 years ago and it was love at first sight. It seemed like a castle after the trailer. Now it's my cozy cottage and the perfect size for one person who frequently has out of town visitors. There is loneliness now and has been for longer than when El, as a sailor, was deployed. Fortunately whether I've flown first class (not often) or economy, the plane has never gone down. Also flying first class or economy we all arrived at the same time and the same place but not always where and when we had expected to arrive. Each and every-day I have been truly blessed to have had loved ones, family, relatives and friends with whom to chat, laugh, talk, sing and dance, who have brought me and continue to bring me much happiness.

Five Guidelines for Life

1. *Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy so when they grow up they will know the value of things not the price. (I did my best but think I was only 50% successful.)*
2. *Best wise words: "Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food." (Fortunately my food is still my medicine.)*
3. *The one who loves you will never leave you because even if there are 100 reasons to give up he or she will find one reason to hold on. (and he did — wasn't always easy)*
4. *There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it. (Do you and I?)*
5. *You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage. (I'm managing — I think!)*

(Continued)

Six Best Doctors in the World

1. *Sunlight*
2. *Rest*
3. *Exercise*
4. *Diet*
5. *Self Confidence (a doctor that is often missing especially for females)*
6. *Friends - The nicest place to be is in someone's caring thoughts, the safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the very best place to be is in the hands of God.*

Amen!

Psalm 91: 9-12

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands.

Save the date! **Christmas Craft Studio**

December 4th, after church



Jill Gustafson really needs helpers

so if anyone is interested in helping, even if only for an hour, talk to Jill.

Pew View Julie Hudson's Viewpoint

Change happens – darkness comes early these days. Gardeners know it is time to clear the lawns and flower beds. For many plants, growth time is past and the rest/recovery days are near. Householders put away the beach towels and swim suits to find the school bags and jackets for rainy and cooler days. When doing these tasks, some will consider making a change for next time. Change does not mean previous ways were wrong, just another way could be better.

In October, the Church comes to Reformation Sunday. Change happens, sometimes people can shape that change. Reading the New Testament tells me Jesus lived in a time when the church regulated many practices.

Church leaders recognized the Law of Moses but added other regulations. They considered themselves as righteous but named Jesus as a sinner for his dinner companions. In the 16th century, church leaders also acknowledged the Law of Moses, then issued additional regulations – such as the tonsure (hair cut) for priests and the kind of bread for communion.

Selling of “indulgences” caused sharp criticism among Reformers. With a gift of money to the church, release from purgatory could be purchased. Donations were given for one who had died and for the sins of the donor – for sins committed and for future ones.

Luther had questions about some of the regulations and pronouncements by the church of Rome. Luther believed the Bible was the source of spiritual authority rather than the cultural traditions or pronouncements by clergy. The church might ask and accept money; Jesus offers Redemption. Seeking an opportunity for discussion, Luther listed 95 questions, often called “theses.” The church censured Luther, stripping him of his priesthood; for safety he sought exile.

“God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

John 1:17

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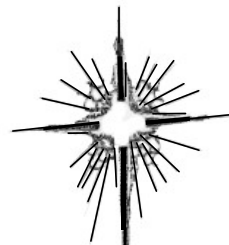


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Media Director: Betsy Bestoso
Youth and Family: Sarah Scardino and
Emilia Modrušan
Preschool Director: Kathie Baldwin
Custodian: Jesus Esquivel
Sexton: Robin Craig
Office Administrator: Lou Castillo
Newsletter Editor: Flower Harvey

We are all broken, that's how
the light gets in.

- Ernest Hemingway



**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT MONTH:**

OCTOBER 20