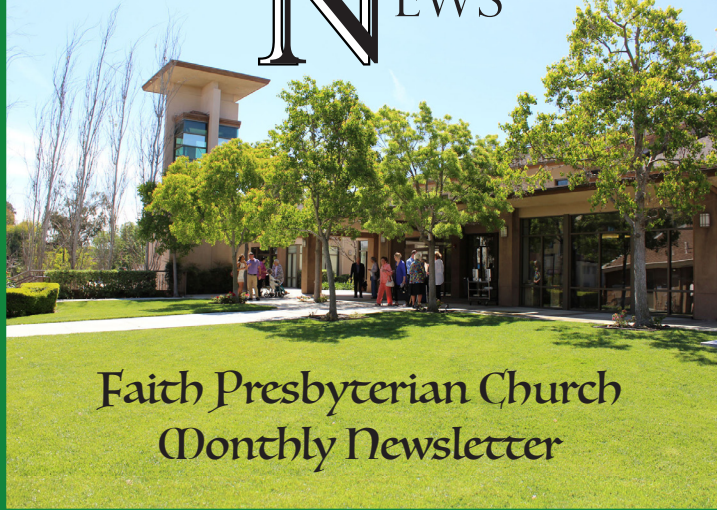


FAITH FAMILY NEWS



Faith Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings

God calls on us to meditate on God and God's Word. However, does the fast intake of information from TV, film and especially the Internet make us less likely to experience God? According to new research, electronic gadgets actually change how we think and focus. Nicholas Carr famously asked, "Is Google making us stupid?" Will it also make us ignore God?

The lights of urban San Diego are so bright that we can hardly see stars, much less the Milky Way. We most likely think of stars as spoiled performers and entertainers. Our food comes in plastic and cardboard, disconnecting us from how it is grown or raised. Eating from the produce of the land was a profound spiritual experience for our ancestors, hence why Jesus chose the breaking of bread and drinking wine with us as a sign of his work. The meal was both a precious and elegant reminder of our dependence on God for our daily existence.

God utterly loves us and desires to be in close and continuous contact with us, but can't be if we're too busy to share in this beautiful relationship. As you're jumping into your plans and projects for this new year, prayerfully ponder the story of Jesus with Martha and Mary.

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help

me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42

The theological perspective is that the busyness of the business of modern life can draw us into the world of Martha and away from sitting at the feet of Jesus. We are being called to distraction, and the quiet, still voice of God goes unnoticed -- unnoticed in the flood of ever new links to follow, unnoticed in the hectic pace of modern life, unnoticed in the flood of events, information, and distractions. Please join me in an intentional quest in 2019 to practice humility and relearn the art of reflection, and return to life's better portion.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Gary

Faithfully, Yours in Christ,
Pastor Gary



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Isaiah 43:18-19a

College Park Preschool

NANCY MCGEATH, DIRECTOR



Under construction, blocks and children. While having fun building with blocks children are constructing their own foundation for a lifetime of learning. Many types of learning take place in block play. Each time a child begins construction they start with the acquired knowledge that came from all their previous experiences with blocks. Children use the beginning reading skill of shape recognition as they choose which blocks to use. They experience the scientific concept of gravity each time the blocks tumble down. With input and encouragement from teachers, the children

figure out how to build a stronger foundation to support their tall structures. Block play encourages children to work cooperatively and use their imaginations. Frequently they add additional items to their structures like animals, people, cars, tiles, jewels, and CDs using the math skill of sorting. All this and it is fun too!



Our Parent Group has organized Christmas donation drive for the New Haven Preschool, at the San Diego Rescue Mission. The New Haven Preschool is a Reggio Emilia inspired preschool servicing children and families are homeless. It's wonderful to know our preschool families are willing to help children so they can have a high-quality preschool program like the one CPP offers.

Sending blessings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from all of us at College Park Preschool. See you in the New Year!

KOINONIA TIME

In our new year, Lord willing, we'll continue gathering each Wed evening from 6-7:30 PM for Koinonia Time as a church family, starting 9 January. We enjoy a delicious meal with table fellowship, glorify God singing worshipful songs, share in a time of study and discussion, and conclude in praying together. Our series of studies are exciting, relevant and useful in our walks with the Lord. As we journey through the early days of 2019, we'll be in Rick Warren's studies of What on Earth Am I Here For?



Jan 9th - You Matter to God
Jan 16th - You Were Planned for God's Pleasure
Jan 23rd - You Were Formed for God's Family
Jan 30th - You Were Created to Become Like Christ
Feb 6th - You Were Shaped to Serve God
Feb 13th - You Were Made for a Mission

IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN AND/OR SPIRITUAL SONG, WE WOULD LIKE TO SING IT DURING THE SINGING PORTION OF OUR KOINONIA TIME. YOU CAN LET US KNOW YOUR CHOICE(S) BY CONTACTING JOE RODRIGUEZ VIA EMAIL AT jcr14@att.net WITH YOUR CHOICE(S).

Starting Jan 9th, the church will continue to have drinks available for the fellowship time around the tables, but the food portion, if you desire to eat your evening meal during Koinonia, will change to BYOBBD (Bring Your Own Brown Bag Dinner).

NOTES FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

A portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering (20 % of \$1385.00) will be donated to the Tariq Khamisa Foundation(TKF), which teaches students the principles of non-violence, empathy, compassion, forgiveness, and peacemaking. Azim Khamisa, the father of Tariq, started the foundation in his son's name after he was murdered by a 14-year-old who shot him as he delivered pizza in 1995 (a gang initiation). Tony Hicks, the 14-year-old was tried as an adult and has been in prison since 1996. Azim and Tony's grandfather has been working with the foundation for 24 years. Azim has forgiven Tony because he believes there were victims on both sides of the gun. TKF is a leading organization in the concept of restorative justice practices. Restorative practices are about healing both the victim and the offender. Azim has been advocating for Tony to be released for years and recently the governor pardoned him. Tony will now join his grandfather Felix and Azim in the Foundation to continue the work of reaching young students in schools with their Safe School Model program. Thank you for your donation to the offering.

Christmas Eve Service Participants Sing “Silent Night” Outside Before Greeting the Community With “Merry Christmas” and a Sentence About the Birth of Jesus



Ladies from Tuesday Eves Light the Advent Candle



THE PHOTO SHOOT



Susan Gonzales
Dora McCann
Kathy Hays
Carla Euliss
Sue Razaia



Women’s Group Bible Study

Third Saturday of the Month
(next one JAN 19th)
FPC, Library
6:30pm
Study the Bible

Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings
FPC, Room #2
10:30am - 11:30am
Study the Bible

Koinonia Time

Wednesday Evenings
Family Center
6:00pm - 7:30pm
Eat - Sing - Study
Discussion - Prayer

Women’s Circle

Second Thursday of the Month
(next one JAN 10th)
FPC, Room 3
11:00am
Study the Bible
Discussion
Sharing

SOME OF OUR
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Men’s Breakfast

Monday Mornings
Living Room Cafe
7:30am - 8:30am
Pray
Eat
Fellowship

Tuesday Eves

Every Other Tuesday
(next one JAN 15th)
FPC, Library
7:00pm
Study the Bible

Faith Family Life

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Hays - 10th
Dora McCann - 10th
Susan Gonzales - 24th
Flower Harvey - 27th

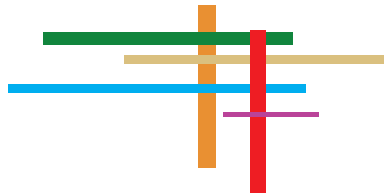
If you would like to see your birthday listed in the newsletter with just the day, not the year. Please email that information to Joe Rodriguez (jcr14@att.net)

The Chancel Flowers

The New Flower Chart for 2019 is up in the Narthex

The current price is \$75.00. Just a reminder that the cost of the floral arrangements can be split with another member.

Sharon Cameron
Flower Ministry

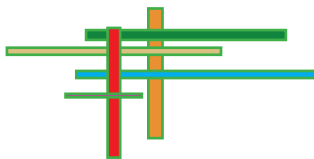


Fence Repair

The wooden fence on the south side of the church property is falling down, so we plan to schedule some Saturday morning work parties in February to replace the posts, repair the slats, and then paint the fence. Bagels will be provided!

“Music... will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you.”

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer --



Need A Walker?

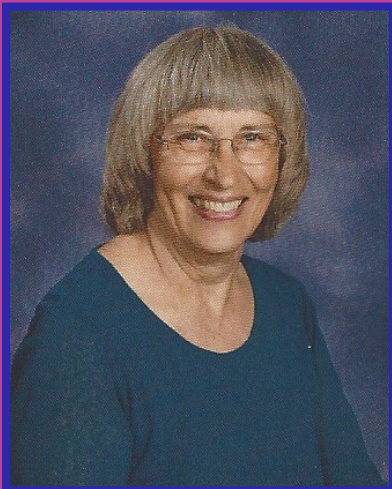
If you need a walker or cane for a short time, but don't want to buy them, the church has an assortment of medical equipment that you borrow. See if we have what you need before you go shopping.

CHILDREN - YOUTH - FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS

SARAH HARVEY, DIRECTOR

LOOK FOR THE CHILDREN - YOUTH - FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS NEXT MONTH

Appreciation for Mary Beck, Faith PC's Commissioned Ruling Elder



On Sun, 13 Jan we'll lift up great thanks to God for Mary's faithful, warm, and loving care to our homebound members these past 4 years. She has been a wonderful colleague in ministry to Pastors Chris and Gary and will be greatly missed. With ever increasing care and proximity availability responsibilities for her son Dodd up in North County, she has come to the conclusion that the time has come for her to officially step down as Faith's Commissioned Ruling Elder. Mary wants her church family to know, "I will be forever grateful for my Faith family. For each and everyone's confidence, encouragement, support, friendship, love, hugs, and prayers that have blessed both Dodd and me. I do plan to keep my membership active and will continue to worship with the congregation as I am able." Please share a piece of cake and unite as a church family to express your appreciation to Mary.

Our Christmas Eve Crèche

Layout design by
Sarah Harvey



Financial Report 11/30/2018

Envelope Offering for November 2018 was \$25,391.18

Envelope Offering monthly budget 2018 is \$26,621.33 per month

Stewardship

We received 49 Pledges that totaled \$257,064.00!

2018 Pledges totaled \$319,456.00 - For 2019 we are in the RED!

If you have not returned your pledge card please do so.

2019 Per Capita is \$40.00 each member

Total Per Capita collected for 2018 was \$3,792.00

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1st - Office Closed - New Year's Day

January 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th - Koinonia Time - 6:00pm (Faith Family Center)

January 20th - Youth Game Night - 6:00pm (Faith Family Center)

January 21st - Office Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 24th - Newsletter Deadline

January 24th - Hot Dog Stand - 10:00am

SERMONS FOR JANUARY

January 6th	Pastor Gary - <i>I'll Leave the Light On For You</i>	Matthew 2:1-12
January 13th	Pastor Gary - <i>What is God Saying?</i>	Isaiah 43:1-7
January 20th	Pastor Gary - <i>Active Spirit Work</i>	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
January 27th	Pastor Gary - <i>Fulfilled in Your Hearing</i>	Luke 4:14-21

SERMONS FOR FEBRUARY

February 3rd	Pastor Gary - <i>Agape App Udate</i>	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
February 10th	Pastor Gary - <i>Sought, Bought & Caught</i>	Luke 5:1-11
February 17th	Pastor Gary - <i>Don't Do What You've Always Done</i>	Jeremiah 17:5-10
February 24th	Pastor Gary - <i>Striking Back With Love</i>	Luke 6:27-38

PRAY FOR THE PNC

for wisdom.... for discernment....

P
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C

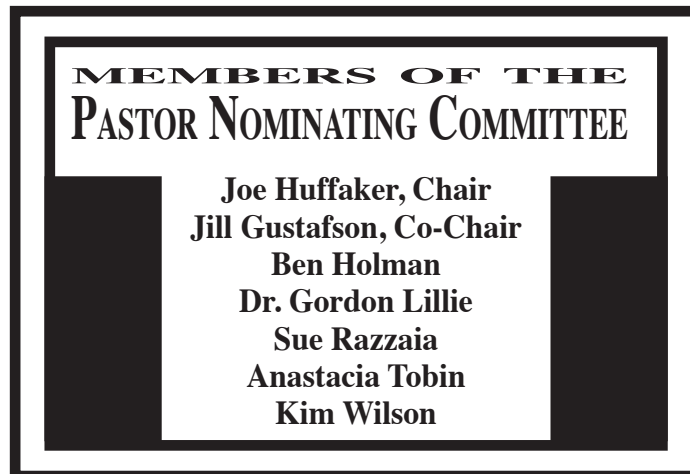
Update

by
Joe
Huffaker

The Pastor Nominating Committee has a finalist list of candidates; any one of which would be a great fit for our congregation. In the last few weeks, we have conducted interviews and received additional information from them. We've visited them to see them in action. In early January, one candidate will visit us from the East coast so that we can meet face to face, show our campus, and get an impression to supplement our Skype discussions. Soon after this visit, we expect to make our decision and extend an offer to our finalist, subject to congregational and Presbytery approval. We have been working with the Treasurer on the broad outline of a compensation package that meets our budget and will meet Presbytery requirements.

After this, PNC will present the pastor to the congregation. We'll work with Session and the candidate to schedule a time for the person to come and preach. Following this service, we'll have a congregational meeting to vote on the call. The pastor will be presented to Presbytery. The timeline for all of this will depend upon the candidate's schedule, giving them time to wrap up in their current obligations as needed, our own calendar, and the schedule of Presbytery meetings.

Each of the pastors on our finalist list is well qualified to lead Faith Presbyterian. In their own ways, they bring novel ideas and energy to the table. They are solid in Reformed theology and the Presbyterian tradition. From our reviews, they are strong preachers with strong messages. We would ask for the prayers of the congregation to help us with a difficult, but exciting, decision in the coming weeks.



Faith Presbyterian Church

MISSION STATEMENT:

A family of Christ, welcoming all, worshipping God, growing in the Spirit and joyously serving others.

VISION STATEMENT:

Solely by the grace of God, we desire and declare ourselves to be an inclusive church, where all persons are welcome to come, to inquire and become part of the Faith Family in response to God's urging. We welcome all persons into membership regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, social or economic status, physical or mental challenge. We acknowledge that each of us is part of Christ's Body, the Church, not by the merit of our lives, but wholly by the grace and mercy of God revealed in Jesus Christ.



**Kids
Have
Fun
At The
Advent
Workshop
Looks Like
Some Adults Also
Got Into the Action**



Jill Gustafson
Betsy Bestoso
Craig, Alastair & Ewan Wilson
Steve & Elizabeth Wood
Rory & Riley Volkert



“A word fitly spoken,” wrote the wise Solomon, “is like apples of gold in settings of silver” (Prov. 25:11, KJV).

Like Jell-O, concepts assume the mold of the words into which they are poured. Who has not been stabbed awake by the use of a particular word . . . or combination of words? Who has not found relief from a well-timed word spoken at the precise moment of need? Who has not been crushed beneath the weight of an ill-chosen word? And who has not gathered fresh courage because a word of hope penetrated the fog of self-doubt? The word “word” remains the most powerful of all four-letter words.

Fitly spoken words are right words . . . the precise words needed for the occasion. Mark Twain, a unique wordsmith himself, once wrote: “The difference between the right word and almost the right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.”

One set of words purifies our thoughts, transplanting us, at least for an instant, to the throne room of God; another set of words ignites lust, tempting us to visit the house of a harlot. Some words bring tears to our eyes in a matter of seconds; others bring fear that makes the hair on the back of our necks stand on end.

Now, let’s return again to more choice words from the pen of Solomon: “The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd” (Eccl. 12:11).

J. B. Phillips correctly assessed the impact of such words when he wrote: “If words are to enter men’s hearts and bear fruit, they must be the right words shaped cunningly to pass men’s defenses and explode silently and effectually within their minds.”

The finest examples of that are the words and phrases of Jesus Christ. His choice of words. His placement of words. His economy of words. Even His eloquent turn of a phrase. The life-changing message of Jesus.

Being the ultimate wordsmith, Jesus wrapped up some of His most significant words in a brief statement we commonly call the Golden Rule: “Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12).

What a classic example of “apples of gold in settings of silver.”

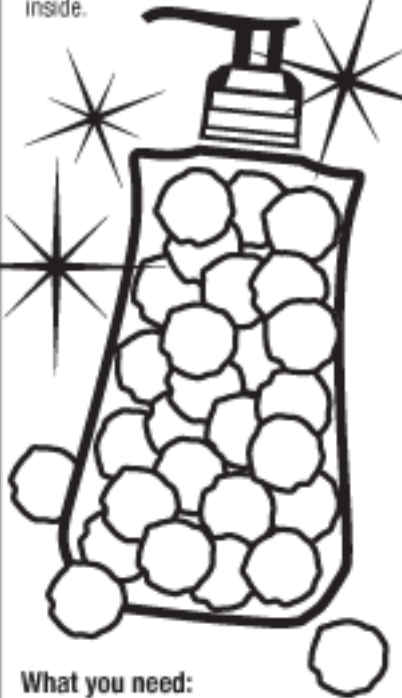
Are your words fitly spoken?

Christianity/ Devotionals / Today’s Insight with Chuck Swindoll /
Words - Today’s Insight - December 26, 2018



Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.



We were therefore buried with him
through baptism into death in order that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a _____.

Romans 6:4, NIV

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: f i e l e w n; new life

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5075 Campanile Drive
San Diego CA 92115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Gary J. Ziccardi
Commissioned Lay Pastor: Mary Beck
Spiritual Director: David Helkenn
Director of Music Ministry: Joe Rodriguez
Media Director: Betsy Bestoso
Children, Youth and Family: Sarah Harvey
Preschool Director: Nancy McGeath
Custodial/Maintenance Worker: Roger Moses
Sexton: Robin Craig
Office Administrator: Lou Castillo
Newsletter Editor: Joe Rodriguez

“Ask & it will be
given to you;
seek & you
will find;
knock
& the door
will be
opened
to you.”

MATTHEW 7:7

Send all submissions to
Joe Rodriguez, editor
jcr14@att.net

**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT
MONTH**



**JAN
24**