

Blessed Tidings

Heritage Presbyterian Church * 1400 East Second Street * Benicia, CA 94510

May 2007



Vision and Viability

At the March Presbytery of the Redwoods meeting, Bob Conover, our Interim Presbytery Executive and Stated Clerk, gave a presentation with the above title. Elder Melody Seymour, who was present at that meeting, shared the report during our April Session meeting. I believe that while this report describes what is happening on the Presbytery and Synod level today, it also describes what is happening to us at Heritage, and to many other churches (not just Presbyterians.) I think it is a very thoughtful and thought-provoking explanation, and wanted to share it with you all. So, with a few modifications, this is the report. I look forward to reflecting on it with you in the coming weeks and months!

“We are living in a time of deep change. We can *learn* this deep change, or we can *die* a slow death. There are two key ingredients in dealing with this deep change – time and messiness. (That is to say, it’s not something that is going to go away quickly, if at all. And, as we struggle to live with it, we are going to make lots of mistakes!)

“At the same time, we are living out of a history that we are no longer living in. (This is no longer the hay-day of the church that we saw back in the 50’s and 60’s.)

“This time of change is not something we can fix, but it is the culture to which we must adapt and learn how to enter. More rules, even new programs, will not necessarily help. *We need to live into new ways of being that are uncharted.* (Isn’t that a wonderful phrase? Think about it for a moment.) One size no longer fits all (in fact, it never even really fit most of us if we are honest.)

“What we need to do is to live into the change, then craft the structure and the programs that arise and emerge and are needed.

“We are in the wilderness – the holy and life-giving place where:

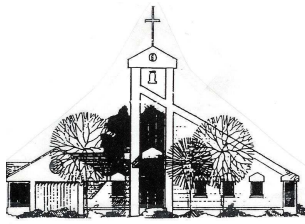
- We walk by faith one step at a time into the unknown
- We are most open to the transformative power of the Spirit
- Our only map is our core values
- Our mission and purpose are shaped by Christ for a new day.

THANKS BE TO GOD!”

Rather than lamenting that things are changing, or even bemoaning that our numbers seem, for now, to be dwindling, let us instead indeed give thanks for one another, and for the many ways that God is alive and at work! And, let us dare to walk together – by faith - into the unknown! God has been at work for thousands of years, and is not finished yet!

Blessings!

Beverly



May 6th **5th Sunday of Easter**
 Youth Service
 Communion
 Food Drive

May 13th **6th Sunday of Easter**
 Acts 16:11-15
 John 5:1-9
 Two Cents A Meal

May 20th **7th Sunday of Easter**
 John 17:20-26
 Acts 16:16-34
 Birthday and Anniversary Blessings
 Good Bye to Bärbel & Andy

May 27th **Pentecost**
 Genesis 11:1-9
 Acts 2:1-21

Youth Sunday May 6th

Be sure to be in church on Sunday May 6th for the next Youth Service. The theme is Equality. The youth have been working very hard on the service, and you never know what they will come up with next.



The **Men's Breakfast** will meet on Saturday, May 12th at 8:00am! Please join us at Pappa's. If you have any questions, please call Bob Saxby (252-1634).

MAY



- 14 Traci Vasquez
- 18 Karen Stierwalt
- 20 Charlene Marshall
- 21 Liz Harvey
- 22 Susan Bonebakker



- 6 Michelle & Brian O'Leary

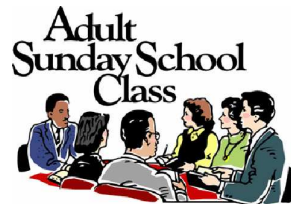
Let us keep the following members and friends in our prayers

Jane Oetting, Homer Kryger (brother of Karen Kryger-Cohea), Connie Martinez (Debbie Watkins' sister), Dr. Joseph Robinow (Jane Oettings' doctor), Sandy Bergstrom, Burt & Barbara Jones, Kathy Jones, Faye Fredrickson (Andrea McFarland's friend with cancer), Denise DuPertuis (Karen Stierwalt's cousin), Joanne Fischetti (Marcy Duvall's mother), Matty Won (Ed Won's brother), Millicent Hintermeister (recovering from surgery).

If we are missing YOUR special date, let us know in the office!

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

are given on the third Sunday of each month during Sunday morning worship service. You are invited to participate in these blessings during the month of your birthday or anniversary.



Put These Christian Education Events on Your Calendar, Please!

Recognition Sunday - June 3: During worship, we will honor all the hard-working Church School and Vacation Bible School Staff and then celebrate the end of the Church School year with a pot luck lunch and ice cream social right after church. If you taught or were taught, plan to come and enjoy the day!

Vacation Bible School - July 16 - July 20: Our theme this year is *"Great Bible Reef: Dive Deep into God's Word"*! This exciting week will include music, games, crafts, food, and science experiments, all focusing on the Word of God as revealed in the Ocean and its residents. Please plan on coming and/or volunteering for this major Christian Education and Mission event. It is earlier than usual, so do schedule your summer events/plans around this exciting week. Let your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends know that all children from Preschool to Sixth Grade are welcome! Register through the church office; tuition is \$25 per child, \$20 each for two or more per family.

Family of the Church Retreat - October 12-14: Last year, about 25 members of our church family--young and old--enjoyed the beauty of Westminster Woods and the joy of spending time learning about our faith and about each other. Some stayed in cabins, while others enjoyed a tent or RV. Let's double that number this year and join Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and faith!

Melody Seymour
Christian Education Elder

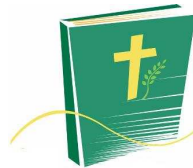
During May, we will be studying and discussing the scripture passages that we will hear in worship. Come join us!!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children who are pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade this year are excused after the Children's Time in worship for this special time of stories, games, and crafts. We are once again in need of another adult to lead this once every five or six weeks. Please contact Kimberly

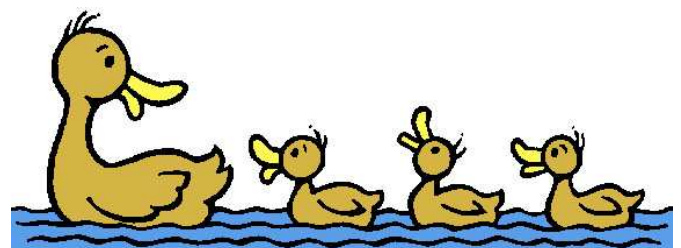
Taugher (747-5487) if you are interested.



Wednesday Night and Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study

The Wednesday night group will start a new study entitled "Old Songs For A New Millennium—A Study of Psalms." They start at 7:00pm.

The Thursday morning group meets at 10:30am and continues its study of Genesis.





Financial Report



**M-m-m-m good. M-m-m-m good.
That's what they are - m-m-m-m-m
good.**

General Checking:

Beginning Balance 3/01/07	437.96
March Cash Receipts	+ 10,914.50
Funds Available	11,383.48
March Disbursements	- 10,931.10
Cash Balance 3/30/07	452.38

Savings Accounts:

Memorial Fund	402.31
Reserve Fund	9,538.12
Building Fund	+ 5,391.24
Total Savings	15,331.67



Graduation Time Is Coming!

Is there someone in your family graduating from:

- Grade School to Middle School?
- Middle School to High School?
- High School?
- College?

Then, we would like to recognize them! We will do so during worship on Recognition Sunday, June 3rd – but we need to know their names before – so e-mail them to us by May 20th!

Whether it is pancakes or the special men in our lives, they are both m-m-m-m good. Put them both together and you have a real treat.

So on “Good Guys Day”, Sunday, June 17th, we will do just that.

Please plan on joining us on June 17th for a pancake breakfast, between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.. While honoring those special men in our lives, we will be raising money to support the mission work that Karen and Sarah Stierwalt will be doing in New Orleans. They leave on June 16th, along with members of St. Andrew's to build houses in New Orleans, as a means of the reconstructing the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

You'll get all the pancakes you can eat, bacon, juice, coffee, and other goodies. The cost will be \$7 for adults; \$4 for children between 4 and 12; and free for children under 12. Invite your friends to this breakfast, and to worship afterwards!

Please mark you calendars, invite a friend or two, and plan to attend the upcoming pancake breakfast.



Study Leave for Pastor Beverly

On May 14th and 15th, Pastor Beverly will be attending a training seminar in Santa Rosa that is entitled “Healthy Congregational Systems and Healthy Leadership.” The purpose of this seminar will be to look at healthy ways that we can respond to the anxiety and discomfort that is a part of *living into new ways that are uncharted.*



Hurricane Katrina Relief

Mission Trip

Plans continue for the trip to New Orleans. Sarah and I will be joining 13 others from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill on an exciting mission trip to build houses in Gretna, LA. We will be leaving June 17th, and will be staying at the School of Urban Ministries. It will be a great, hard working, exciting time. Please pray for the continued planning that things will drop into place as they need to. Check the newsletter next month for fore details.

Karen Stierwalt
Mission Elder



Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Rev. White and fellow parishioners:

What a surprise and with joy as I write another thank you for your gracious "Souper Bowl" donation to our Community Meal Program. It is an awesome thing to see God working in our community and to know that you all find our ministry important.

Thank you again for your generosity.
God bless you all!

Debi Hall
Coordinator St. Paul's
Community Meal Program



Fair Trade Mission Project

Last year (2006) marked the 20th anniversary of the Equal Exchange and the 5th anniversary of the Presbyterian Coffee Project being a part of this interfaith fair trade program. Through the Presbyterian Coffee Project, the Equal Exchange makes a donation per pound of coffee, tea and chocolate that each church sells to a small farmer fund that the PC (USA) uses to further help small-scale farmers around the world in its "Enough for Everyone" program. How wonderful to know that every time you purchase these delicious, competitively-priced items from our Fair Trade table during fellowship that you are actually giving a gift that just keeps making the lives of others better!

For the full list of products available, visit the church website at www.hpcbenicia.org and click on "Service Opportunities." For more information about the Coffee Project, visit the Presbyterian Church's website: www.pcusa.org/coffee

Sandy Kirkpatrick



Barbara Wood's Bike Trip

Barbara Wood is making quite a trip this spring. She is riding her bike, alone with others from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. If you didn't see the article in the Benicia Herald, check it out on the bulletin board at the church. Barbara has decided to make the trip a fundraising event, and has decided to give the money she raises to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Session decided to give her \$50 toward her fund, and challenges the church members to match it. Our prayers for a safe and wonderful trip will go with Barbara, and the rest of the group.

Cloud Cookies

Jesus was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

When you make these cloud cookies, remember what the angels said to his apostles: "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (verse 11).



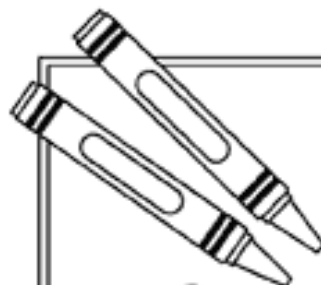
What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 white cake mix
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 container (6 oz.) of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 cups powdered sugar



What you do:

1. Combine cake mix and egg.
2. Fold in whipped topping.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto powdered sugar and coat well.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until tops are firm.



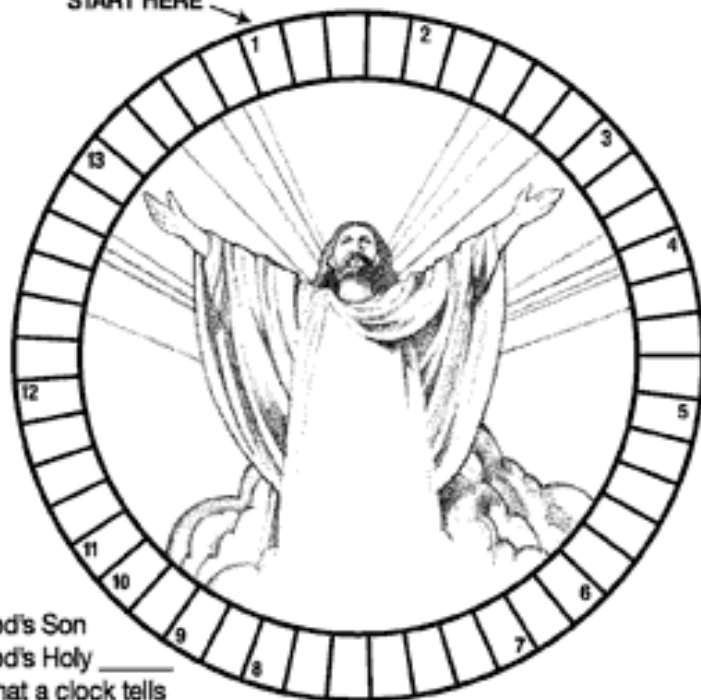
Just for KIDS

Ascension of the Lord

On the day Jesus left his disciples and went up in a cloud to heaven, he said to them, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18, KJV).

Read the clues below. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next word.

START HERE →



1. God's Son
2. God's Holy _____
3. What a clock tells
4. Our planet
5. Where Jesus is now
6. Opposite of Old Testament
7. An onlooker
8. Place to see clouds
9. Modern word for thee
10. Opposite of down
11. Authority or strength
12. Comes back
13. Searches for

Answers: (1) Jesus; (2) Spirit; (3) time; (4) Earth; (5) heaven; (6) new; (7) witness; (8) sky; (9) you; (10) up; (11) power; (12) returns; (13) seeks



May 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 CODA—4:00pm AA—6:30pm	2 Girl Scout Troop 3:30pm Com. Garden-7:00pm Bible Study—7:00pm	3 Genesis Bible Study 10:30am AA—6:30pm	4 AA—6:30pm	5 Plant Sale—8:00am
6 5th Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday Communion Food Drive AA—5:30pm	7 Girl Scout Troop #315 3:30pm Girl Scout Leader Mtg 6:30pm	8 CODA—4:00pm AA—6:30pm	9 Girl Scout Troop 3:30pm Com. Garden-7:00pm Bible Study—7:00pm	10 Genesis Bible Study 10:30am Rotary Board-Noon AA—6:30pm	11 AA—6:30pm	12 Men's Breakfast 8:00am
13 6th Sunday of Easter Two Cents A Meal AA—5:30pm	14	15 CODA—4:00pm AA—6:30pm	16 Girl Scout Troop 3:30pm Genesis Bible Study 7:00pm	17 Genesis Bible Study 10:30am AA—6:30pm	18 AA—6:30pm	19
20 7th Sunday of Easter Birthday & Anniversary Blessings Friese's Farewell AA—5:30pm	21 Girl Scout Troop #315 3:30pm Committees—6:30pm Session—7:30pm	22 CODA—4:00pm AA—6:30pm	23 Girl Scout Troop 3:30pm Genesis Bible Study 7:00pm	24 Genesis Bible Study 10:30am AA—6:30pm	25 AA—6:30pm	26
27 Pentecost Communion AA—5:30pm	28 Memorial Day Office Closed Native Plant Society 6:30pm	29 CODA—4:00pm AA—6:30pm	30 Girl Scout Troop 3:30pm G.S. Leaders—6:30pm Genesis Bible Study 7:00pm	31 Genesis Bible Study 10:30am AA—6:30pm		



Send off and celebration potluck for Bärbel and Andy Friese May 20th after worship



Potluck

As you may have heard, Bärbel and Andy are moving back to Germany in June. due to a job transfer. The good news is that they are also having a baby in October! Come and celebrate the new baby and give them a grand ole Heritage send-off with a potluck. The word is out that FUN WILL BE HAD BY ALL!! Cake to be provided by the Deacons. There will be a sign up sheet in Heritage Hall for other food to bring.



Jan Dolce
Deacon



*"Let the
little children
come to me"*

MATTHEW 19:14

The Staff, Officers and Ministers of Heritage Presbyterian Church

Ministers: The Whole Congregation
Rev. Beverly White: Pastor
Rev. Bob Saxby: Parish Associate
Joan Burnett: Church Secretary
Andrea McFarland: Pianist and Choir Director
Liz Harvey: Clerk of Session
Jan Dolce: Moderator of Deacons
Al Bergman/Cheryl Toth: Treasurers
Phil Romer: Financial Secretary
Joan Burnett: Newsletter Editor
www.hpcbencia.org

Blessed Tidings is published by Heritage Presbyterian Church

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Dated Material!

