

Blessed Tidings

Heritage Presbyterian Church * 1400 East Second Street * Benicia, CA 94510 August/September 2007

Coming Home

I don't know about you, but for me, this summer has flown by. In June, Shel and I attended a wonderful National Pastor's Conference at the Snowbird Ski Resort outside of Salt Lake City. Sponsored by our National Church, this was a gathering of some 300 pastors from all over the country. It was a time focused on "Sabbath" – something that pastors don't tend to get a great deal of! We worshipped and attended seminars in the mornings, and then had the afternoons free to sleep, read, ride up to the top of the mountain, hike, get a massage (it was wonderful!), and do whatever we needed to do to take care of ourselves. Then, in the evening, we had more wonderful worship! There were no business meetings and no parliamentary procedure – no motions or votes! No arguments even – unheard of!

Following that time, we drove on to Colorado, which is "home" to both of us as we were both born there, and grew up there. Shel's family had a wonderful family reunion, with 30 of us in one family reunion cabin for three nights. And, we were able to see my side of the family for a while as well. Then it was time to come back "home" to this incredible area where we live!

This summer, I have been reading Christianity for the Rest of Us, How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith, by Diana Butler Bass. In this book, Butler Bass describes her three-year study and journey of looking at vital mainline congregations around the United States. She did not visit suburban mega-churches or revivalist congregations with famous television preachers.

Instead, she visited church communities that describe themselves as theologically centrist to liberal-progressive. They ranged in size from 35 – 2,000 members. She spent hundreds of hours in worship, attending programs and events, talking with clergy, and interviewing church members. She was trying to find out what makes these churches "alive" and vital. She was also hoping to find other pilgrims along the way, people who, like her, wanted to practice a quieter Christianity, one which didn't have lots of publicity and noise, but, rather, was "a faith that is open and generous, intellectual and emotive, beautiful and just."



While acknowledging that mainline Protestantism is in trouble, she came to find that there are some remarkable congregations out there finding new ways of being faithful and relevant in our day and age! And, her book documents the qualities of these churches. We will be looking at these during worship this fall.

She begins her book by reflecting on "What happened to the neighborhood church?" What memories (if any) do we have of church in the past? And, what would it be like to come back to church - to even "come home" to church? To faith?

When you hear that phrase, "come home," what do you see in your mind? What does home even smell like for you? Is home a good or positive place to come back to – or is it one that is more negative?

Sunday, September 9th, is our "kick-off" Sunday. We also can call it "Coming Home" Sunday! Whether you've been gone this summer, or even longer, I urge you to "Come Home" with us on this day – and into the fall!

Blessings!

Beverly



AUGUST

Sept. 2nd 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Jeremiah 2:4-13
 Luke 13:10-17
 Communion
 Food Drive

- 6 Sarah Bergman
- 25 Mary Condit
- 27 Cheryl Kremer
- 29 Jurine Smith
- 31 Robert McFarland
Jan Romer



Sept. 9th 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Deuteronomy 26:5-9
 Ephesians 2:11-21
 Two Cents A Meal



*Anniversary
Celebration*

- 11 Susan Watkins & Doug Ramo
- 19 Susan Owen & Ed Albro
- 26 Burt & Barbara Jones
Shel & Beverly White

Sept. 16th 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Proverbs 2:1-11
 Matthew 15:1-9
 Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 23rd 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 I Corinthians 12:12-27

Sept. 30th 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Psalm 25:4-10
 John 14:1-6



- 3 Pete Bonebakker
- 4 William Fentress
- 5 Kay Talbot
- 9 Catherine Patterson
Bärbel Frieze
- 12 Jasmine Vasquez
- 15 Christian Bergman
Sabrina Duvall
Cheryl Toth
- 16 Sally Fentress
- 20 Janet Sidelinger
- 21 Alison Seymour
- 23 Kirsti Allen (Harvey)
- 30 Wilma Johnstone
Kaye Whitney



Walking the Bible

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

During September and October, at 9:00 on Sundays, we will be watching this video program that was originally seen on PBS. It presents one man's epic journey – by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel – through the stories of the first five books of the Bible. This contemporary Biblical pilgrimage will take us across the Red Sea, up Mount Sinai, and to the burning bush.

Each week, we will view a short portion of the video, read the scripture passage it is showing, and talk about what this means to us today. Come and join us!

- 12 Jane & David Oetting
- 21 Rick & Karen Stierwalt



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.



Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

September 5th 7:00 p.m.

We will be continuing our study of the Psalms. Then, because a number of our members will be gone in September, we will wait until October 3rd to resume our weekly meetings.



THURSDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY

Above and Beyond Hearing God's Call In Jonah and Ruth

Many of us may remember the story of *Ruth* as a kind of Cinderella story. And, our impressions of *Jonah* may make it seem like the biggest "fish story" of all time! While these impressions are a place to start, they fall far short of what these Old Testament books have to tell us. Whether you can barely find these books in the Bible, or you know them like the back of your hand, there is something here for you to learn.

So – come and join this group – where we laugh, learn, care, and support each other! We meet weekly at the church from **10:30 – 12:00!** Books for this new study will be handed out on the first meeting which will be

Thursday, September 6th

Don't forget:

September 26th

Committees at 6:30pm
Session at 7:30pm



Bibles



In worship on September 9th, the following 4th graders will be receiving their very own Bibles!

Aaron McFarland
Spencer Seymour

Michael O'Leary
Zachary Taugher

MEN'S



Breakfast

The **Men's Breakfast** will meet at Pappa's (just up the street) on Saturday, September 8th at 8:00am! If you have any questions, please call Bob Saxby (252-1634).



Financial Report

General Checking:

Beginning Balance 7/01/07	825.04
July Cash Receipts	+ 10,649.70
Funds Available	11,474.74
July Disbursements	- 11,683.52
Cash Balance 7/30/07	(208.78)

Savings Accounts:

Memorial Fund	408.48
Reserve Fund	9,684.41
Building Fund	+ 6,598.95
Total Savings	16,691.84

Thanks to those who kept up their pledges over the summer. We are continuing to be able to pay our bills, but, obviously not much is left over. Any extra gifts would be most appreciated!

The Work Permits are making their way through City Hall for our Cell Site, and we do expect work to begin on that by the beginning of September. Also, we should be receiving our first checks from Metro PCS at the beginning of September!



“An Afternoon with Author: Anne Lamott”
A benefit event for Imani Fellowship
Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 14th
 3:00 – 5:30pm

Hosted at:
 The Vallejo Naval Historical Museum
 734 Marin Street, Vallejo

Tickets: \$30 in advance/ \$35 at the door
 contact info: 707-643-0077
www.vallejomuseum.org



Fair Trade Mission Project

If you have been away during the summer and are running low on coffee or tea, we have plenty in stock. They are available in Heritage Hall every Sunday after worship services, or by stopping by the church during office hours.

Our next bulk order of fair trade coffees and teas will be made at the end of August, and will arrive before Homecoming Sunday on September 9. So if you don't see your favorites out on the display table during fellowship in Heritage Hall, just fill out an order form **by August 26**.

For more information about how this mission project helps ensure small coffee and tea farmers around the globe earn a living wage, visit www.pcusa.org/coffee. For a full list of products available, visit the church website at www.hpcbenicia.org and click on “Service Opportunities.”

Sandy Kirkpatrick



Have you checked out our newsletter on line?
 It's in COLOR!

Go to www.hpcbenicia.org

Look on the left hand side for “newsletter”, click and it will take you right to the page. It's that easy.

If you want to start receiving your newsletter via the web, please email Joan in the office (hpc@pcusa.org). You will get an email when the newsletter is available on line. You should receive it a day or two ahead of “snail mail”. Why not try it out; you can always switch back!



Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Vacation Bible School Staff:

Thank you again for a wonderful V.B.S. for my grandchildren (Kayley and Logan). They went home to Arizona singing songs that they learned. I appreciated the dedication and work you displayed that week!

Sincerely,
Letha Little

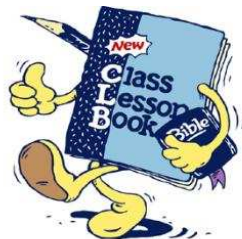


Dear Heritage

Thank you for your food drive donation of 147 pounds on August 2nd. We appreciate the tremendous support you continue to show towards our community!

We serve 2,000 people each month and distribute 30,000 pounds of food every working day. Those that receive your donated food, whether they are children, seniors, low-income or just hungry, gratefully appreciate your kindness in thinking of them. Again, THANK YOU for supporting those in need!

Sincerely,
Joan Tomasini
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano



New Member Classes

Saying Good Bye (sort-of) To Andrea!



For many years now, we have been blessed each week by the wonderful music of Andrea McFarland. However, Andrea has been, in reality, working 6 ½ days a week, and it is time for her to take a break. She is a full-time teacher, in addition to being a wife and mother, and she needs to have some time off!

Her last Sunday with us as our Choir Director and Accompanist will be on September 9th, and we will honor her on that day. However, Andrea, Robert, Megan, and Aaron WILL continue as members of our family, and will still be around and involved (HOORAY!!!!)

Please let Andrea know how much her ministry has meant to you!

And.... Saying Hello to Debbie Fries

On September 16th, our new Choir Director and Accompanist will be introduced and welcomed! Debbie lives in Benicia with her daughter, Alexis – and they are both musicians! Over the years, Debbie has played in a variety of churches, most recently she played and sang with the Praise Team at Northgate Church here in Benicia.

Through interviews with her with a committee, and then the full Session, and hearing her play and sing, we believe she is an answer to our prayers at this time! Please be here to welcome her as well!

Sunday afternoons
3:00 – 4:30pm
September 16th, September 23rd,
and September 30th
joining the church on October 7th
Please contact Pastor Beverly with
your questions.



Westminster Woods All Church Retreat October 12 – 14, 2007

A completed registration form along with half of the total fee is due to the church office by **September 1st**. Scholarships will be available for those who may need them to offset the costs.

	Adult	Child 6-11	Child 3-5
Retreat House Deluxe (linens included)	\$210	n/a	n/a
Hilltop House Semi deluxe (no linen service)	\$165	n/a	n/a
Standard Cabin (dorm bunks, walk to nearby restrooms)	\$140	\$95	\$50

Balance is due on September 30th.

Accommodations

House and cabin fees include 5 meals

Tent or RV Site: \$75 per site, limit 5 person per site, limit 2 tents per site
Plus meals at \$55 per adult, \$30 for kids 7 and older

Youth \$75 per person which includes camp site and meals

Our Junior and Senior high youth will be staying in the tents at Adventure Camp. Any youth attending without parents must have an "adoptive parent" for the weekend. Please write the name of the adoptive parent on the registration form. Youth will be under the supervision of the St. Andrews Youth Director and the adult volunteers ONLY when engaged in structured activities during the weekend. At all other times their parent or adoptive parent is responsible.

Children 2 and under are free.

Ropes Course \$41 for the half-day ropes course for adults and youth in 6th grade or higher.

Refunds

Partial refunds will be available until **October 7th**.

We will not be able to make refunds **after October 7th** when final payments and arrangements have been made with Westminster Woods.

Scholarships are available! Please do not let the cost be a reason not to attend! Talk to Pastor Beverly.

REGISTRATION FORM

Westminster Woods All Church Retreat

October 12 - 14, 2007

Names of all **adults** attending: _____

Names and ages of all **children & youth (under age 18)** attending: _____

Names of **adoptive parent(s)**: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Special Information

_____ **I need** transportation for _____ people

_____ **I can provide** transportation for _____ people

_____ **I need** scholarship assistance

_____ **I can provide** scholarship assistance of \$_____ to help someone attend the retreat

_____ I have a birthday this weekend.

Name _____

_____ I have special needs in the following areas:

_____ housing _____ food

_____ Other: _____

	Adult	Child 6-11	Child 3-5	Total \$
Retreat House _____ x \$210		n/a	n/a	_____
Hilltop House _____ x \$165		n/a	n/a	_____
Standard Cabin _____ x \$140		_____ x \$95	_____ x \$50	_____
Tent or RV Site _____ x \$75/site		= 5 persons and 2 tents per site		_____
Tent or RV Meals _____ x \$55		_____ x \$55		_____
Youth (6th-12th) _____ x \$80		Camp site and meals		_____
Ropes Course _____ x \$41		n/a	n/a	_____

GRAND TOTAL

\$ _____

(Children 2 and under are free.)

Please make checks payable to "Heritage" and write "Westminster Wood" on the memo line.

**New Orleans Mission
Potluck Saturday,
September 15th**



Mission Potluck

**BIG NEWS:
One-Room Church
Schoolhouse During
Worship Begins
September 9!**



So do you want to know what we really did in New Orleans? Come to the Mission Potluck on 9/15/07 at 6PM for a full report. We will have a great video that Sarah put together, some other pictures that we can use for questions and answers, a demonstration of how to prepare a "wonderful" MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) that we ate for lunch and stories of where we saw God in our great experience. We have invited the rest of the group from St. Andrews, so hopefully some of them can join us.

Because New Orleans has such great food, we decided to have New Orleans food. There will be a sign up sheet at church, with some "easy" recipes for some real New Orleans specialities. Come and enjoy the fellowship and information of what God is doing in the south, and what still needs to be done.

Hope to see you there.
Karen & Sarah Stierwalt, and Ed Won



**Youth Take a Dive!!!
At Swimming Party, That Is!**

All youth entering 5th grade through high school are invited to a swimming party at the Sue and George Murphy's House, Sunday 26 August from 2 to 4:30. Sue Bonebakker and Shannon Rourke are pitching in to make this event a playful and refreshing start to our year. Bring your ideas for other events you would enjoy in the future! Feel free to bring a friend! Do RSVP to Sue Murphy at 746-6735.

We are trying a brand new approach to make your family's Sunday mornings less stressful, more exciting, and, we believe, even more spiritually rewarding! This fall, only the adult class will hold church school at 9 am. All of us will gather for worship at 10; then, right before the sermon, all children and interested youth will head off to our **One-Room Church Schoolhouse** for Scripture-focused lessons, activities, games, and music. Adult-youth teams will teach these 30 to 40 minute sessions, using our tried-and-true One-Room Church Schoolhouse materials.

So, parents, make plans to bring your kids each Sunday this fall! Don't let them miss learning about Ruth, Samuel, Saul, David, Goliath, Jonathan, and Solomon this semester. We'll be doing the parables next semester. Our goal is for your children to enjoy both worship and learning about the Bible, as they grow closer to each other and our dedicated teams of teachers.

We won't hold One-Room Schoolhouse every Sunday, for example, we will all remain together in worship on special Sundays like Easter, specified holiday weekends, and Communion Sundays (the first Sunday each month). We'll publish a calendar letting you know exactly which Sundays our One-Room Church Schoolhouse will be in session and what Bible stories and specific verses will be taught, so you can study along with your kids!

Our goal is for your children to enjoy every moment they spend in God's House. Our goal is for them to "enter into His Courts" with thanksgiving, joy, and praise—sort of the way they rush into Vacation Bible School! We'll evaluate in December, so let me know what you think—often!

Melody Seymour
Christian Education Elder

Footprints IN THE SAND



Try this craft at the beach, at the park or in your own sandbox at home. It will remind you whose footprints we should follow.

What you need:

- Plaster of Paris
- Sand (beach, park or sandbox)
- Small shells (optional)
- Water
- Small bowl
- Stick, toothpick or skewer (optional)



What you do:

1. Find some moist sand by digging down a little.
2. With a bare foot, make a footprint in the sand.
3. (Optional) Place shells face down on the toe imprints as toenails.
4. Follow the plaster of Paris directions for mixing the dry plaster with water in bowl.
5. Fill the footprint with the plaster and smooth the surface.
6. (Optional) Using a stick, toothpick or skewer, write "Direct my footsteps" (Psalm 119:133) or "Follow Me" (John 10:27).
7. When dry, place the foot in your garden, yard or room.
8. Remember to turn the foot over to remind yourself of whose footprints we should follow, and that we are never alone.



Unique Creations

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed the footprints you make in the sand? A famous poem called "Footprints in the Sand" reminds us we are never alone.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprint. See what Psalm 119:133 (NRSV) says about our footsteps. (The bold letters are the first letters of the words.)



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Psalm 119:133, NIV

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."



Kick Off Sunday will be September 9th!

9:00am Adult Bible Study

10:00am Worship

11:00am Potluck Lunch

See sign ups in Heritage Hall

**This will also be Andrea's last day as
Pianist/Choir Director.**



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

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Blessed Tidings is published by Heritage Presbyterian Church

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Dated Material!

