

Blessed Tidings

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

February 2012



Feedback Frenzy

Rev. Thomas Long, a Methodist Pastor, recently wrote an article with this title in the Christian Century magazine. I was fascinated with his thoughts and want to share some of them with you. He begins by saying, “Perhaps it’s self-flattery, but I’m wondering why everyone wants my opinion these days.” And, he goes on to enumerate the various places he has been asked to share his “judgment” of some product, experience, or person.

I think most of us can identify with this. We go shopping, and the clerk says, “Just call this number and tell them about your experience today.” Or, on Facebook, we give a thumbs up, or click “Like this” and offer our judgments as well.

Long wonders about the “larger cultural meaning of being summoned to make flash judgments about everything from restaurant entrees to couples on Dancing with the Stars.” And, he asks, “How healthy can it be to think of life not as something to be lived and savored, but as a series of episodes that I am expected – and entitled – to rate up or down?” He even asks, “Are we being turned into toddlers who dump our applesauce onto the floor, screaming, ‘Don’t like! Don’t like!’”

His concern about all of this, in his article, boils down to the question – does Jesus even care about any of this? And, indeed, he thinks, and I agree with him, that Jesus does care because “Jesus was concerned about the role of judgment in forming our personal and social character.”

When Jesus warned “do not judge, so that you may not be judged,” Long comments “he was not thinking about rental cars or cell phone service, but he was speaking to our tendency to make judgment a sharp edge on our character, an inclination to filter the whole of life through narrow judgmental slits.”

Over the years, here at Heritage, we have often talked about these particular words of Jesus, and about the danger of being “judgmental.” And yet, we know that we all go through life making judgments! Long’s take on these words is that Jesus is not prohibiting judgment here, but tempering it, reframing it. Immediately after his words, “Judge not,” if you remember, Jesus moves immediately to speak about taking the log from our own eye before removing the speck in another’s.

“Judge not,” says Long, “is not a stop sign; it’s a flashing yellow caution light: when you judge, judge not as the culture does. Don’t leave yourself and a proper humility out of the equation. Before publicly smearing mud all over a waiter, remember that you stand knee-deep in the muck and mire yourself.”

So, what do we do with all of this? Long’s suggestion is that we remember that no experience or encounter can be “fully assessed in the present tense. Until God gathers up all time, we don’t know the whole value or meaning of any isolated moment.”

And, he concludes by saying, “The next time Delta asks me to evaluate a gate agent, I’ll need to give the matter more thought. It might puzzle them when I respond, ‘I won’t know until Resurrection Day.’ Or maybe I’ll log on as Julian and respond, ‘All will be well, and all will be well, and every kind of thing will be well.’”

Blessings,

Beverly



Dear Pastor Beverly and the Kitchen Crew!

I want to thank you for another collaborative year of feeding our neighbors in Benicia. We appreciate you all so much! It gives our crew and cooks a break and it's fun having all of you sharing in this important ministry. Together we are the hands of Jesus working in our own neighborhood. We look forward to 2012 and continuing to work together.

Blessing to all.

In grateful appreciation,
Debi Hall
Coordinator St. Paul's Community Meal



Don't forget the first Sunday of each month to bring in non-perishable food items for the Solano County Food Bank.

Feeding the



We are always looking for help at St. Paul's. Please sign up – it helps with scheduling the workload. Our day to help is the third Wednesday of the month, & will be Feb. 15th (March 21st & April 18th).



Worshipful Thoughts

For the last six years, Heritage has enjoyed the leadership of Jane Oetting as Worship Elder. Jane declares that the thing she most enjoyed about working on our worship services is that we do **not** follow the Seven Last Words of the Church by Martin Marty, cited by Pastor Beverly in her January 20th sermon: "We have always done it that way!" Jane says she was never told "No" when she offered an idea for experimenting with how we worship. Instead, both Beverly and the congregation greeted new ideas with "Let's try it, and see what happens!"

Among the changes Jane most enjoys are the use of the screen for hymns and readings and also the use of slides before the service to prepare us for worship. Jane believes their message is "Focus! You are here to worship God!"

Jane encourages the congregation and this new worship elder to keep our openness to change going and to keep support from all church members growing. Jane has faith that Heritage is one in supporting this thought: Change is good!

So I ask two things of each of you: #1: Share your ideas and thoughts about our worship with me in person or at drmdseymour@gmail.com #2 Next time you see Jane Oetting thank her for all she has done to help us all worship the Lord!

Melody Seymour, Worship Elder

Nursery Needs



Needed: used porta crib for the nursery. Please contact the office.



Worship Schedule

February 5th

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1:29-39
Communion
Food Drive
Souper Bowl Offering

February 12th

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1-14
Mark 1:40-45
Two Cents A Meal

February 19th

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12
Mark 9:2-9
Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

February 26th



Genesis 9:8-17
Mark 1:9-15
Communion



Ash Wednesday worship will be on
February 22nd at
First Presbyterian Church
1350 Amador Street
Vallejo
7:30pm



Bible Study News

Thursday Morning Study

This group meets on Thursdays, from 10:30 – noon. In February we are continuing our study of some of Jesus' parables. At the end of February, for Lent, we will begin a new study on the Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, etc. Come and join us!

Thursday Evening Study

This group has resumed and meets from 7:00 – 9:00. We're studying 1 & 2 Kings from the Old Testament. How long has it been since you studied the stories of the prophet Samuel and Kings Saul and David?

Sunday Morning Study

This group meets at 9:00 a.m., before worship. At the end of February, we will also, for Lent, begin a new study on the Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, etc. Come and join us!



Let us keep the following members and friends in our prayers

Jane Oetting, Homer Kryger (brother of Karen Kryger-Cohea), Karen Kryger-Cohea, Dr. Joseph Robinow (Jane Oettings' doctor), Jessie Nigosian, Margie Farmer (Angela Owston's mother; cancer), Janel Wright, Kirk Smith (brother of Kathy Manifold, cancer), Wilma Johnstone (fractured toe), Steve DeMello (chemo treatment), Walter Yamasaki (Ed Kawashiri's step-dad – cancer), Lou Radcliff (Jessie Nigosian's sister-fall), Dorothea Nowling (health concerns), Karen Stierwalt's brother (heart problems), Shel White (heart problems), and Theresa (Charlene Lucy's sister—lung tumors).

FELLOWSHIP

First, Thank you. How heart-warming to see the number of people who stay after worship to share time and fellowship with other members of our church family. It is great to see that chairs are scarce in Fellowship Hall following Sunday worship. And, too, thank you for all of your support during the year in serving our church, whether it is serving as an usher, being a lay reader, providing Fellowship, or the special few who help with clean up. It is wonderful. So on behalf of all of the Fellowship Elders – Thank you, but please continue to help.

And Happy New Year! It's a time of new beginnings – fresh starts. How appropriate, then, that we begin this year's Fellowship activities with our **Lenten Series** – a series of mid-week dinners, which precede a program which pertains to Lent. The only thing you have to bring is yourself/your family. Dinner will be provided by a local restaurant. The dinners are every other week during Lent, beginning February 29th. We'll have sign up sheets to help us know how much to order, and the schedule will look like this:

- February 29th – pizza and salad night
- March 14th - Chinese food
- March 28th - Mexican food

The cost is \$5 per person; \$15 per family. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for these Wednesday evening dinners.

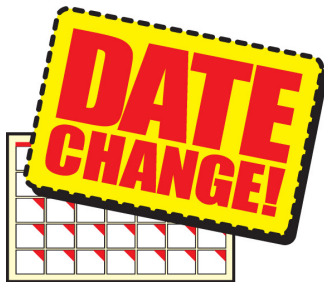
Dinner will be from 6:00 – 6:45, then from 6:45 – 7:30 our program will involved two choices of activities:

- Join in with the Intergenerational Tone Chimes Choir who will learn one or two songs to play on Easter!
- Join in with a study led by Melody Seymour entitled "On the Cross". We will look at the symbolism of various crosses.

Sue Murphy, Angela Owston, and Cathi Till
Fellowship Elders



FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Mark your calendars for HPC's
"All Church Family Retreat"
at Westminster Woods
October 12-14, 2012
Details to follow...
FUN—FELLOWSHIP—FOOD!

NEW ELDERS

Ron Cohea	Administration
Barbara Combs	Christian Education
Bob Fentress	Clerk of Session
Kathy Manifold	Mission
Sue Murphy	Fellowship
Melody Seymour	Worship
Cathi Till	Fellowship
Susan Watkins	Christian Education
Ed Won	Administration
Barbara Wood	Mission



Nine of our energetic youth went on an ice skating trip to Napa on January 8th. They "fueled up" at In-N-Out Burger and then spent a few hours ice skating on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. They enjoyed hot cocoas courtesy of 'Downtown Joes' before heading back to Benicia. It was a fun afternoon with only a few bruises. The youth were chaperoned by Kimberly Taugher and Susan Watkins. Looking forward to our next youth trip. Let me know of any ideas you have.

Susan Watkins
Christian Education Edler



Calling all 4th – 12th graders to Westminster Woods!

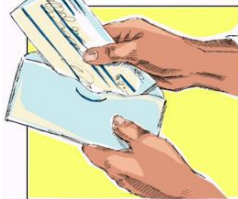
Summer is right around the corner and that means camp! Stay tuned for more information.

Forest: grades 4th – 6th
Elevation Camp: grades 6th – 8th
High School: grades 9th – 12th

For more information please contact Susan Watkins (552-1858).

The Presbyterian Church as a denomination uses this method to cover administrative costs of the denomination and its governing bodies so that National Mission Dollars are not diverted to "overhead" expenses. Each Presbytery collects this amount from its churches for each member listed. This year our Per Capita Expense is \$29.50 per member. We thank all who are able to contribute toward paying this year's Per Capita!

*Per Capita
2012*



FEBRUARY



3 Andrea McFarland
4 Peter Bonebakker
13 Sandy Kirkpatrick
15 Ron Cohea
24 Rick 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. You are invited to participate in these blessings during the month of your birthday or anniversary.

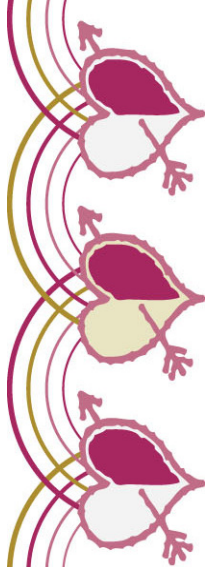
The **Men's Breakfast** will meet at Pappa's (just up the street) on Saturday, **February 11th** at 8:00am! If you have any questions, please call Pete Bonebakker at 748-0677.



DOLLAR\$&CENTS

General Checking:		
Beginning Balance	11/30/11	\$ 2,339.82
Receipts		<u>18,709.65</u>
Funds Available		21,049.47
Disbursements		<u>(20,474.15)</u>
Cash Balance	12/28/11	\$ 575.32
Savings Accounts:		
Memorial Fund		\$ 27.22
Reserve Fund		13,092.61
Building fund (Bank of the West)		<u>1,118.23</u>
Total Savings	12/28/11	\$14,238.06

FEBRUARY 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Offering AA—5:30pm	6	7	8 Tae Chi 7:00am-8:45am Wednesday Quilters 9:00am-2:00pm	9 Bible Study 10:30am 7:00pm AA—6:30pm	10 Bible Study 10:30am 7:00pm AA—6:30pm	11 Men's Breakfast 8:00am
12 <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Two Cents A Meal AA—5:30pm	13	14	15 Tae Chi 7:00am-8:45am Wednesday Quilters 9:00am-2:00pm	16 Bible Study 10:30am 7:00pm AA—6:30pm	17	18
19 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> Birthday/Anniversary Blessings	20 Session 6:30pm	21	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Tae Chi—7:00am Quilters—9:00am Worship at 1st Presbyterian Church Vallejo—7:30pm	23 Bible Study 10:30am 7:00pm AA—6:30pm	24 AA—6:30pm	25
26 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Communion AA—5:30pm	27 Native Plant Society 6:30pm	28	29 Tae Chi 7:00am-8:45am Wednesday Quilters 9:00am-2:00pm Lenten Dinner Series	AA—6:30pm	AA—6:30pm	

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

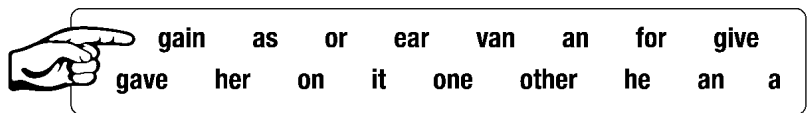


FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 5th

Bring \$1 to worship to help
feed the hungry. This year's
offering will go to the
Community Action Council.



The Staff, Officers, and Ministers of Heritage Presbyterian Church

Ministers: The Whole Congregation

Rev. Beverly White: Pastor

Joan Burnett: Church Secretary

Andrea McFarland: Pianist and Choir Director

Bob Fentress: Clerk of Session

Brook Seymour & Cheryl Toth: Treasurers

Joan Burnett: Newsletter Editor

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Dated Material!

February