

MIDWEEK MESSAGE
July 31, 2013

Words to Consider: *"The first confession of the Christian community before the world is the deed."*
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ This **SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, worship** will be a joint service with Covenant Presbyterian Church in the **"bowl"** at Mitchell Park at **10:30 AM, (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE) followed by a pot-luck meal.** Bring food to share. Eating utensils and beverage will be provided. This is the same place we held last year's joint service. The "bowl" is just off the back of the parking lot at Covenant, 670 East Meadow, Palo Alto. There will be chairs to sit on or you can sit on the grass around the "bowl." We can definitely use volunteers to help with the set up and clean up. **Set up** will begin at **8:00 AM** at Covenant. For those who would like to sing in the **choir**, please come at **9:30 AM.** Invite friends and relations, neighbors and strangers to join us for this great time of worship and community in the park.
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY**, will be on hiatus for the next three weeks. We will begin again on **Tuesday, August 13, 10:30 AM** at the Terraces of Los Altos at Janet Maxwell's apartment. The address is 373 Pine Lane, #2106, Los Altos. Let Pastor Rick know if you need transportation.
- ❖ **MEN'S BREAKFAST, 8:00 AM, Wednesday, August 7,** at Hobe's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. All the men from our Church family are welcome.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

Our second **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING** will be held **Sunday, August 11** after worship. Eleanor Satterlee is looking for people to help serve and clean up after our traditional light lunch on that day. Also we are looking for **volunteers** to host Patio Hour on August 25 and September 1. Please call let her know if you can help - 650.326.5289, Email: ejgs@sbcglobal.

Memorial Service for Dorothy Aker will be **Sunday, August 18 at 2:00 PM** in the sanctuary.



The **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY** is for two EHP programs – their **Summer Food Program** and their **Back to School Program**. EHP is providing nutritious lunches for children ages 4 – 18 who attend their weekly Summer Food Program. The kids participate in a program of arts and crafts, hands-on learning in the vegetable and fruit gardens, and a reading program. They also provide new backpacks, school supplies, and clothing, including school uniforms as children head back to school. Along with our friends at Covenant Presbyterian and with the assistance of our own children and youth, we plan to purchase backpacks and fill them. Your donation of

cash, new backpacks and school supplies will be greatly appreciated. So far we have received **\$490** toward our goal of **\$500**.

IN THE WORLD

Bangladesh's "info ladies" connect rural villages with the world: Entrepreneurial "info ladies" are bringing Internet and Skype access to rural villages in Bangladesh, allowing residents to speak to family overseas and to access health care information. Fifty-six women have joined the pilot project organized by nonprofit group D.net. [The Guardian \(London\)/Le Monde](#) (7/30)

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks yield target date to end conflict: Israeli and Palestinian representatives have agreed to spend the next nine months working on a "final status" to end conflict. "They are on the table with one simple goal: a view to ending the conflict, ending the claims," says U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. [BBC](#) (7/30)

USAID food-security projects focus on 3 African countries: The U.S. Agency for International Development is creating two Feed the Future Innovation Labs to help relieve food insecurity in Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal through better technologies and techniques for small farmers as well as improved policies and investments. Those countries "have large populations of food insecure and hungry people. Focusing on those countries makes a lot of sense," says Oxfam International's Eric Munoz. [Inter Press Service](#) (7/27)

Iraq, Jordan try to cope with influx of Syrian refugees: Syrian refugees continue to cross into northern Iraq, where crowded camp conditions mean refugees are entering urban areas. Meantime, violence is preventing many Syrian refugees from crossing into Jordan. [IRINNews.org](#) (7/24)

NBA's Stephen Curry to fight malaria in Tanzania with Nothing But Nets: In a few weeks, NBA star Stephen Curry (of the Golden State Warriors) will travel to Tanzania to support the United Nation's Foundation's Nothing But Nets campaign in its global fight against malaria. Straight off a record-breaking season with the Golden State Warriors, Curry will visit a refugee camp and distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets that keep refugees safe from malaria. [NothingButNets.net](#) (7/23)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Charlie Lemke (August 2), Don Ha and Oleta Proctor (August 3)
- ✚ Kathy Gillam with thanks for a wonderful trip to France and Italy with Dick
- ✚ Carolyn Shephard for her mother-in-law, Marie, celebrating her 91st birthday this week
- ✚ Paul Tuan for his granddaughter, Alana, who enjoyed being in worship last Sunday
- ✚ Mary Martin for Ron and the ability to get out and sing; for Jan's musical leadership
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for the great women's brunch last Thursday
- ✚ For Barry and LeAnn Gunter Johns on the birth of their second son, Patrick, this week

Concerns – New:

- ✚ Michael Holmes for safe travel as he is on the road the next three weeks
- ✚ For Doug and Hegene Lee as they travel to New York City and Haiti
- ✚ For Pastor Tripp as he travels to England to deliver a paper at Ripon College, Oxford
- ✚ Yin Xu-Moore for her parents as her father lives with Parkinson's and for her own life transitions
- ✚ Jane Chin for Laura Garcia still recovering shoulder surgery and not yet able to drive
- ✚ Pastor Rick for Charlotte Jackson who is recovering from hip surgery; for his sister, Joan, who has a viral infection in the muscles around her right lung
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for her daughter, Lee, and Lee's husband, Norm, as they face physical and mental challenges; they are doing better and appreciate our prayers
- ✚ For Melanie Ramirez who is recovering from foot surgery
- ✚ Lynn Hunwick remembering Hiroshima Day coming up August 6
- ✚ Thelma Tuttle for the work of Ecumenical Hunger Program with children and youth
- ✚ For Romario Monnie and family in Malaysia who have requested prayer via email

Ongoing:

- ✚ Bob and Lucille Towner as Bob continues at Manor Care in Sunnyvale
- ✚ Laura Garcia for Janice and other family members with health concerns
- ✚ For Joanne Jones who is suffering from back pain
- ✚ For Patrice and Richard Heath as she lives with cancer
- ✚ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns
- ✚ For Don and Mary Granholm, Ruth Clark, Earl and Virginia Knechtel, Carl Schilling, June Lee
- ✚ For Dan and Sarah Chetti and their mission work in Lebanon
- ✚ For Dan Buttry and his mission work as a global peace advocate
- ✚ For Ruriko Uda's congregation, Izumi Parktown Church, in Sendai, Japan

- ✚ For Ramesh Kumar and the ministry of Balasore Technical School in India
- ✚ For our sister church in Corinto, Nicaragua
- ✚ For refugees and all victims of war and disaster everywhere
- ✚ For the well-being of our church: wisdom and guidance for our leaders and its future
- ✚ For the economies of which we are a part (global, national, state, local)
- ✚ For the care of the earth
- ✚ For the peoples of the world striving for freedom and dignity
- ✚ For peace in a war-torn world, food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, justice for the abused and oppressed, and hope for the future
- ✚ For those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways these make us less safe and less free

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2013

One Bread, One Body

Reading for the Week: **ROMANS 12.**

When reading this text, I like to think of how bakers use different amounts and types of flour based on what they are producing--whether it's cake flour for pastries, self-rising flour for bread or all-purpose flour for cookies.

Similarly, different amounts and types of faith may lead people to different roles. One person might have the kind of faith that leads her into a career as a missionary, and another may have the sort of faith that leads her to work as a corporate lawyer and use her expertise to serve others as God provides opportunities. Both life models can be appropriate for people in the church.

Paul's main point about spiritual gifts, mentioned in verse 6, is that God has given us these as members of the body of Christ. So we are to use the particular gift God has given us to help the body function, not to promote ourselves or show how we as one body part are better than others who are another body part.

Do you want to present your body as a living sacrifice and be renewed in your mind as Paul challenges us? Then seek to live out your measure of faith and exercise your gift in a way that best contributes to the body of Christ! (Mark Reasoner, Commentary on Romans 12:1-8, workingpreacher.org).

Prayer: *Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.*

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

It was good to be away for two weeks, attending Peace Camp and visiting with my family, but it is also good to be home in Palo Alto where the temperature never stretches to triple digits. (It got up to 102 in Boise, though it's nice, dry heat.) Peace Camp went very well. Spokane and the Gonzaga University campus were attractive. Highlights included a plenary address and workshop by Miguel de la Torre, an outstanding Christian ethicist from Iliff Seminary in Denver. Miguel, who claims Southern Baptist identity, is Cuban American with a strong voice for justice. Right now his focus is on both immigrant and LGBTQ people. There was a documentary film series, including a fascinating movie on the rise and fall of the Aryan Nation in northern Idaho in the 70s and 80s. (Coeur d'Alene is only 16 miles from Spokane.) There was excellent worship, fine workshops and even a wedding for April and Deborah, who are long-time leaders in the BPFNA. (Washington is a state that recognizes marriage equality.) As usual, young adults, youth and children helped lead worship and were highlighted in the open mic sessions. It was also great to see friends and colleagues, old and new.

This Sunday will be our annual joint service with Covenant Presbyterian Church. You can see the details above. The service is intergenerational and will feature a drama rather than a sermon as well as communion. Afterwards we will share a potluck meal together. This service, held in the "bowl" in Mitchell Park, was a hit last year. I hope you will plan to be there for the celebration. This is a great opportunity to bring someone along with you. See you Sunday at 10:30 AM (unless you can help set up at 8:00AM or want to sing with the choir at 9:30 am.)

May God's new thing flourish within us and among us.

Pastor Rick



iSing Concert on July 27



Thanks to Pastor Tripp, Oleta and everyone else who helped things run smoothly in my absence. By all reports our mission project, iSing (girls' choir camp,) was a great success, highlighted by a concert and cook out on the last day. The program was led by Jennah Delp and Shane Toll. Both Pastor Tripp (banjo) and Jan Gunderson (piano) participated in the concert. We are looking forward to the growth of this program in the coming school year.

Pastor Tripp is in England this week where he is delivering a paper at a conference on church music at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford!



All God's Children listen and learn!



A couple of time corrections for Sunday:

Set up is at **8:30 AM** and we could really use some folk to help set up tables and chairs.

Choir rehearsal is at **9:45 AM**, if you'd like to sing (an arrangement of the spiritual, (Plenty Good Room."))

Service is at **10:30 AM** (not 10:00 AM.)

Clean up will come after the lunch.

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