



# Altar Light

St. John's United Church of Christ  
Woodland, California

— JUNE, 2018 —

St. John's  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
432 Cleveland Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
[www.stjohnswoodland.net](http://www.stjohnswoodland.net)

## Summer thoughts from Pastor Bill

Fifty-nine years ago, I was ordained into the Christian ministry. Over the years, there have been many changes in ministry, many changes in the church, but I am grateful for the Christian faith, for the church, and the faith communities.

People often complain about our faith communities, but I would not want to live in a world without them. I am grateful for all the good they do, the help they provide, and believe they are one of God's greatest gifts in our world.

There is a story about a monastery in Greece that is perched high on a three hundred foot cliff. There was a time the only way the monastery could be reached was by a terrifying ride in a swaying basket suspended from a single rope pulled by several strong monks. One day a tourist hearing this story asked how often would they change the rope, as he noticed the rope was quite old and frayed? One of the monks replied, "Whenever the rope breaks."

Many people treat their faith like that. They never turn to faith until something breaks. Thank God, there are others who realize that a living faith is a lifestyle that works in our daily living. It is not just a last resort. It is a way to live. It is a way to relate to other people. It is a way to serve and honor God.

Hopefully we learn how to love sacrificially, to live courageously, and to be human enough to understand one another and divine enough to forgive.

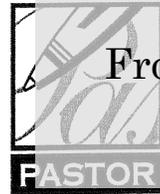
I give thanks for family, friends, home, health, and career... and knowing the joy of sharing faith in our faith and multi-faith's community.

Come and know the joy of sharing in worship and living out our faith with one another.

Pastor Bill

CONGRATULATIONS!

FROM THE



From the Woodland Presbyterian  
Newsletter for June: *discipleship*

*and sent in service to the world."*  
PC(USA) Book of Order, W-4.0301

Dear Friends,

By now you have received my letter, notifying the congregation that I will be moving to Athens, Georgia, because Will is beginning a new call as the PC(USA) campus minister at the University of Georgia on August 1. It is certainly bittersweet news for my family -- on the one hand, Will, Jack and I will miss Woodland Presbyterian deeply, and on the other, we are looking forward to being closer to our relatives in the Southeast. Rest assured, the Committee on Ministry (COM) of Sacramento Presbytery will be walking alongside Session to help guide next steps and the process involved with calling a new pastor.

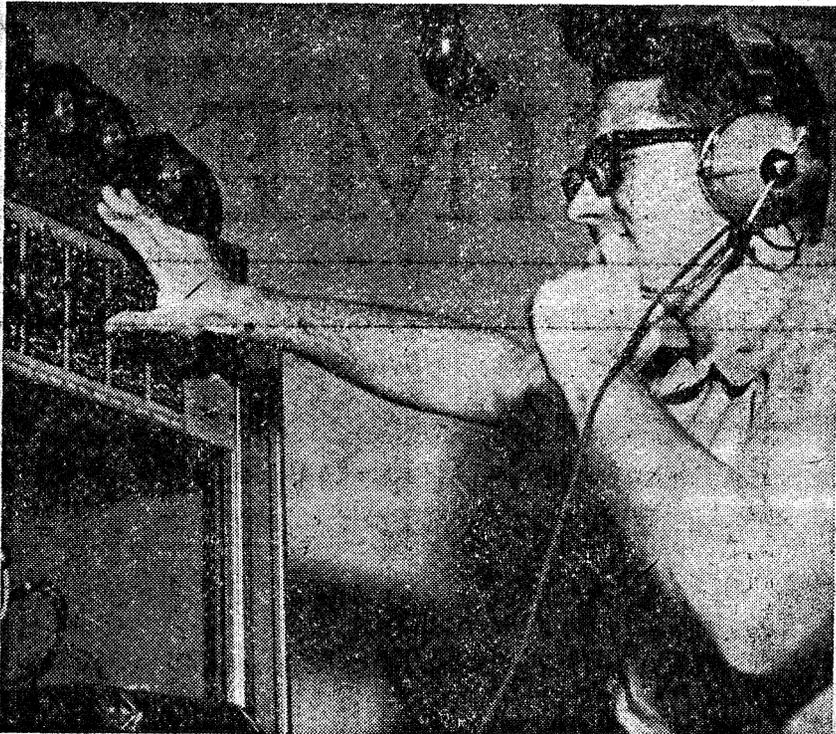
May the Peace of Christ be with you, today and always.

Christin

WISHING YOU THE BEST!

See the [picture below] for something  
the church does not know about me.

MONROE E



**PREPARES TO FIRE ROCKET** — First Lt. William H. Summers, son of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Summers, Cuba City, prepares to fire a propellant test rocket at the Air Force Systems Command's Rocket Propulsion Laboratory at Edwards AFB, Calif. Lt. Summers has received the Air Force Systems Command's Junior Officer Noteworthy Accomplishment Award at Edwards AFB. He was honored in AFSC's special recognition program for lieutenants and captains for his achievement as a chemical engineer. Lt. Summers' wife, Caryl, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Goecks, 1609 16th St. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

*The Students of C.C.A.  
cordially invite  
the members of St. John's church  
to attend their  
eighth grade graduation program  
Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.  
A reception will follow  
in the Social Hall.*

*We would be honored to share  
our year's activities with you.*

**Patriotic Musical  
Sunday, July 1st, 2018**

**Come join us on Thursday evenings at 7  
until then to learn some songs,  
and to practice together.**

**It's completely unnecessary to join the Choir,  
but it would be okay, too.**

**Either way, just come and sing;  
have some fun, enjoy the camaraderie.**

## **ELDERS- Committee Report for the May 2018 meeting**

The Elder's discussed ideas for Adult Fellowship, which will be held once a quarter with Bill Summers as the contact. We will advertise on our website and on Facebook and possibly The Daily Democrat. It was also discussed to list the person preaching and the title of the sermon every week on our website. We will try to get the Daily Democrat to include other events such as Harvest Home, the receiving of new members.....

Veronica Parker, a student from the Epic Bible College has been well received and will be used in the future as a guest pastor.

Our bulletin has been updated (a small change at the top regarding cell phones has been deleted) which gives it an easy to follow flow.

We will have the head ushers hand out prayer concern forms as people arrive to church.

The St. John's Introduction Pamphlet will be updated.

We discussed making the entrance to the Narthex bright and welcoming. Paint color, murals, and lighting were mentioned. Suggestions from the congregation are being requested.

## **TRUSTEES**

### **Security Updates**

In order to stop individuals from walking through our facilities we will be replacing the wooden gate between the preschool and sanctuary with an open metal gate and adding a second gate between the church office entrance to the sanctuary. Both gates will be locked at night.

We will also be adding an additional outside light on the NW corner of the office and brighter LED light by the North office door.

### **Property Projects**

The new railings have been installed at the entrance to the sanctuary. The parking lot was restriped on our workday May 26th. Thank-you to the members that helped with this project.

We are getting bids to replace the carpet in the sanctuary. We are also looking into replacing our sound system in the sanctuary.

Melody graduated from Satellite Beach High School during our time in Florida. Also, during my stay in Satellite Beach, I taught graduate courses in the applications of low gravity conditions in the production of materials in space for the Florida Institute of Technology.

Finally, my family and I made it to Woodland California when my last Air Force posting in 1985 took me back to McClellan AFB, where I became the Deputy Director of the brand new 23 million-dollar McClellan Central Laboratory. We settled in Woodland because we had service friends (Tom and Pat Majchrowski) who lived in Woodland and because it was much like the small Wisconsin towns Caryl and I grew up in. My two younger sons, Robert and James, graduated from Woodland High School.

We started attending St. John's in 1985 when Caryl saw the church's sign while shopping in the shopping center across from the back-parking lot, and because St. John's was her church as a child. We found the congregation to be very friendly and we liked the services provided by the new pastor Rev. Schroeder. It didn't hurt that he was also a Midwesterner. Since then I have served on the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees, taught Sunday School for the High School Students and adults, conducted Wednesday night study programs, am the Head Usher of the first Sunday of the month, and was president of the congregation. My son James was married to Allison Croft in the church just after we completed the remodel of the sanctuary 1992.

As a Midwesterner, and because my grandfather was a cattle buyer for a Chicago meat processing company, I am a steak and potatoes man. My favorite dessert is a ski cake, which Caryl had an interesting time making, as she spread a mixture of melted chocolate over a two-layer white cake with butter frosting. My hobbies are reading technical journals, stamp collecting and traveling. I have been above the Arctic Circle and on the Antarctic Continent, and traveled in Europa, Russia and South America.

My closing thought:

In living the Christian life, we may have to consider a few U-turns to make our lives come back in line with God's directions.

*(Turn the page to see something the church does not know about Bill.)*

atory, Edwards AFB near Lancaster, California in April 1963. It was also during this time that I started my connection to the Sacramento area, as I monitored rocket propellant development contracts with Aerojet General. Little did I know then that I would spend the greater portion of my life in the Sacramento area. It was also at Edwards where my son, William and my daughter, Melody were born, and I was assistant Scout Master for the Base Scout Troop. During the time at Edwards I earned a graduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from USC.

I was posted to the United States Air Force Academy (1968) where I taught basic chemistry and the physical chemistry laboratory course and directed the operations of the chemistry laboratories and supply division for the Chemistry Department. My sons Robert and James were born at the Academy. I also was Scout Master of the Academy troop. Caryl volunteered as the Girl Scout coordinator for the Academy and developed a newspaper recycling program that won the Academy and Air Force award for conservation.

In 1973, I was posted to the Technical Operations Squadron (TECHOPS), McClellan Central Laboratory, McClellan AFB in Sacramento, California. The Central Laboratory was a world class radiochemical laboratory and a part of the Air Force Technical Operations Center (AFTAC) and I would stay in this command for the rest of my Air Force career. During my first tour at the Central Laboratory I directed wet chemical operations, was branch chief of the Gas house gang, and ran the Laboratory Operations Division. I also continued working with the Boy Scouts, and in the base chapel adult Sunday school programs. In addition, I earned a second graduate degree in Systems Management from USC.

In 1979, I was transferred to AFTAC headquarters at Patrick AFB, Satellite Beach, Florida where I managed the Laboratory Division of the Nuclear Technology Directorate and oversaw all the radiochemical processing programs in the Air Force. I then moved up to the Deputy Director position of the Nuclear Directorate where I oversaw the day to day operations and budgetary planning functions of the Directorate. I continued working in Scout and church programs and Caryl started substitute teaching. My son William and daughter

## ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE

SJRV received over \$8,000 on the Big Day of Giving which took place on May 3rd.

The updated web site [www.sjrv.org](http://www.sjrv.org) for SJRV is now live. It is so much more colorful and so much easier to navigate! There will be much more content added as we go.

SJRV new online donation page will accept single amount donations at any time. We are also excited about the capability of handling recurring monthly gifts through our new "Heritage Club".

Chef Kap resigned to open a restaurant in Roseville. He will be sadly missed. Kap's assistant, Antonio Romero, has been hired as our new Food Services Director. Tony has been employed at SJRV for over 10 years.

A Reception/Dedication for the outdoor complex and putting green area was held Friday, May 18th.

Our popular Rhythm & Ribs BBQ and fundraising event will be held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds in Waite Hall on Saturday, September 22. Please mark your calendars, as this is our largest fundraiser of the year. The event will include the Dave Russell Band playing the music, RDMAudioVisual providing the sound, and Keith McLane Auctioneers.

### *Laughter Yoga*

**June 11th | 10:15a.m.-11:15a.m.**

*Laughter Yoga is a new form of exercise that utilizes laughter as a form of physical exercise. It can promote strengthening of the immune system, increase happiness and reduce stress. Join us for an unforgettable hour of fun and get a great workout too.*

### *Healthier Living- Chronic Disease Self-Management Program- July 5th | 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m*

*We are partnering with Dignity Health to bring you Healthier Living*

*A six-week program to help those affected by ongoing health issues.*

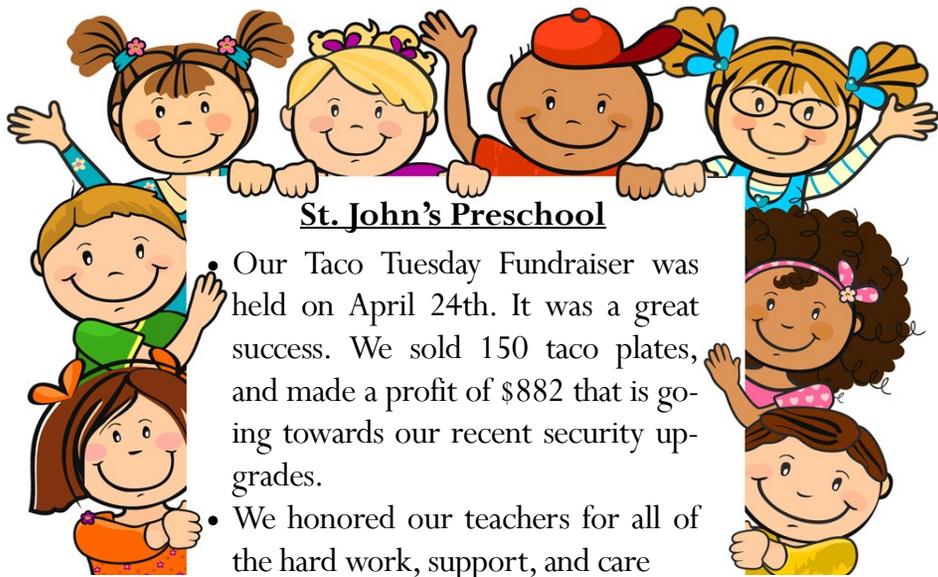
***This program is for anyone affected by long-term health condition such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, heart or lung disease, COPD, depression, obesity and other conditions.***

***This FREE six week program will cover: Goal setting, Communication skills, medication use, partnering with your Doctor, nutrition, relaxation, and community resources.***

**RSVP to reserve your space at these free events!**

*All events will be held in the St. John's chapel.*

**Please call (530) 662-1290 or email [jmartinez@sjrv.org](mailto:jmartinez@sjrv.org)**



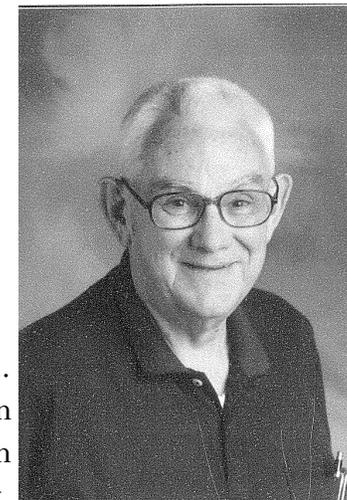
### St. John's Preschool

- Our Taco Tuesday Fundraiser was held on April 24th. It was a great success. We sold 150 taco plates, and made a profit of \$882 that is going towards our recent security upgrades.
- We honored our teachers for all of the hard work, support, and care

they show our children every day, the week of May 14th – 18th. The parents participated by making monetary donations that were split equally among the teachers.

- This month each child has made a gift for their mother on Mother's Day.
- Open House was held May 17th. Parents were able to check out their Child's classroom. We also held the Scholastic Book Fair that week.
- The Sacramento Zoo Mobile will be coming to the preschool on June 1st.
- On June 2nd the Kiwanis Club of Woodland will be purchasing and replenishing the play sand and bark in our play yard.
- Pre-K Graduation will be held on June 14th at 10:00 a.m.
- We currently have 60 children enrolled in our preschool which is the number we are licensed for and 6 toddlers in the Toddler Option Program. We are in the process of enrolling more toddlers into the program over the next few months. We continue to receive calls on a daily basis and give tours. We are close to be full in the fall. We only have 5 openings in our Pre-K classrooms in the fall. We are already full in the 2 & 3-year-old classrooms until the summer of 2019.

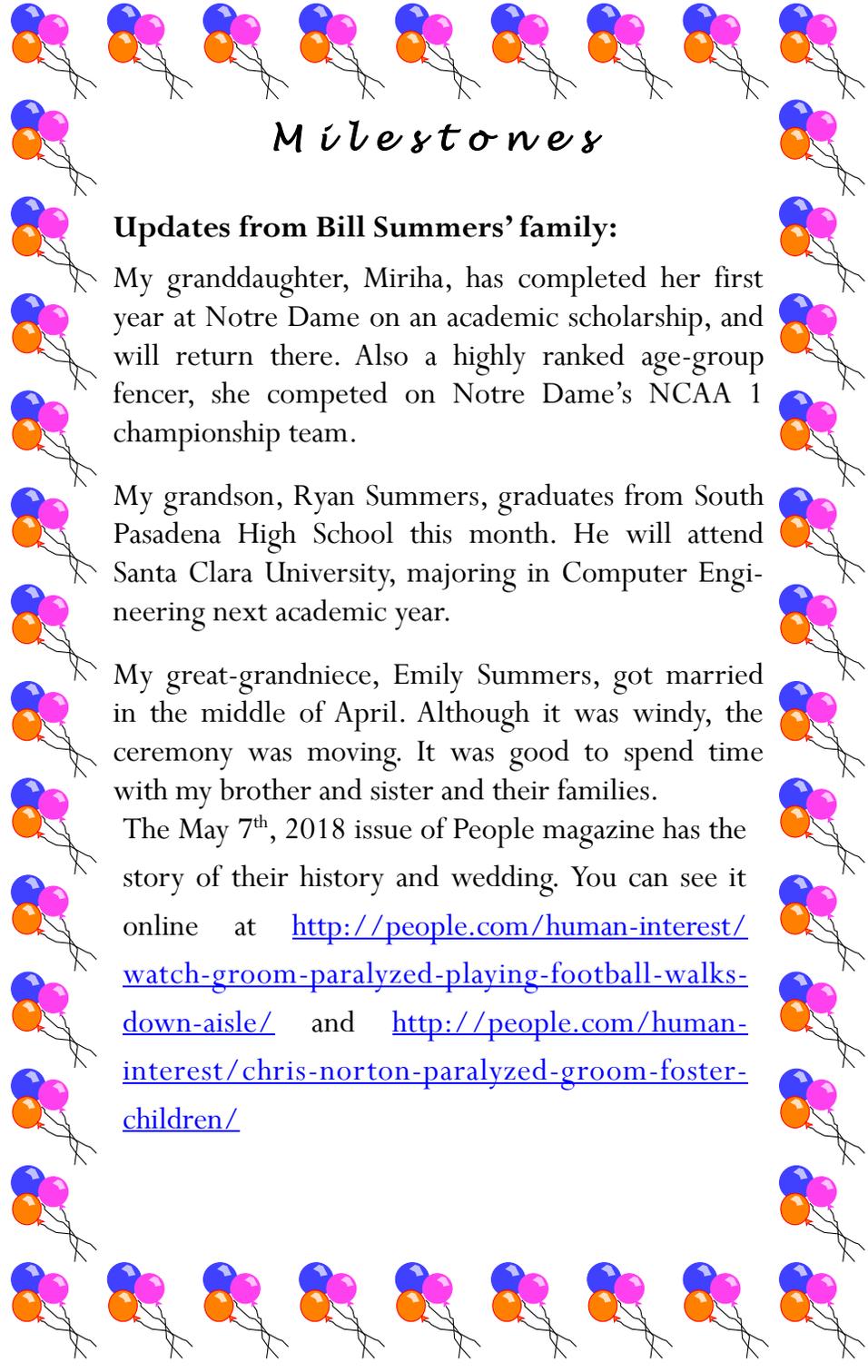
### Bill Summers



I am a Midwesterner born and raised. I was born on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1940 in Decorah, Winneshiek County, Iowa. In the early forties, I lived in La Crescent, Minnesota on the Mississippi River, where I started school. Then in the middle forties my family moved across the river to La Crosse, Wisconsin. The City's name comes from some game the French fur traders saw the Indians playing on the plains by the Mississippi near the present city. It is here that I started my Scouting activities that would eventually lead to the award of the Eagle Scout rank in 1956. In 1950 my family moved to Boscobel, Wisconsin (the small Midwestern town where the Gideons were founded). I graduated from Boscobel High School in 1958 and went to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I graduated in 1963 with a degree in chemical engineering and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. That's right folks, I am a Badger!

In the summer months of my high school years, I worked at a Boy Scout camp (Canyon Camp, US Grant Council) where I taught rowing, canoeing, swimming and lifesaving. During a parent's night in the summer of 1957 while I was monitoring boating activities, I met the sister of one of the scouts and asked her if she would like a canoe ride. She said yes and that is how I started a relationship that continued during our time at University of Wisconsin and would lead to Caryl and I being married in her church (St. John's UCC, Monroe, Wisconsin) in August of 1962.

My first experience in the great state of California was during my initial Air Force assignment to the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Labor-



## Milestones

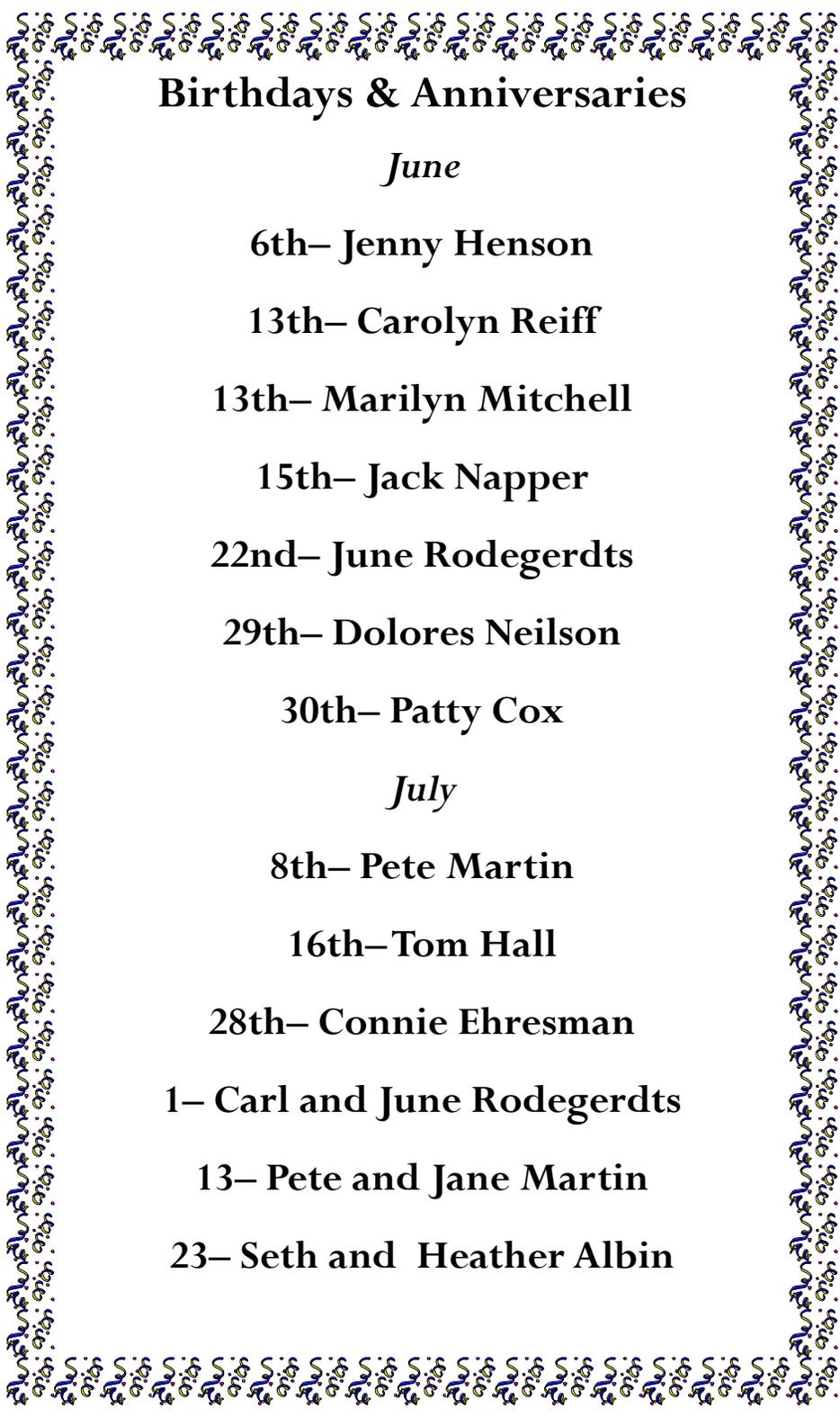
### Updates from Bill Summers' family:

My granddaughter, Miriha, has completed her first year at Notre Dame on an academic scholarship, and will return there. Also a highly ranked age-group fencer, she competed on Notre Dame's NCAA 1 championship team.

My grandson, Ryan Summers, graduates from South Pasadena High School this month. He will attend Santa Clara University, majoring in Computer Engineering next academic year.

My great-grandniece, Emily Summers, got married in the middle of April. Although it was windy, the ceremony was moving. It was good to spend time with my brother and sister and their families.

The May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 issue of People magazine has the story of their history and wedding. You can see it online at <http://people.com/human-interest/watch-groom-paralyzed-playing-football-walks-down-aisle/> and <http://people.com/human-interest/chris-norton-paralyzed-groom-foster-children/>



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### June

6th– Jenny Henson

13th– Carolyn Reiff

13th– Marilyn Mitchell

15th– Jack Napper

22nd– June Rodegerdts

29th– Dolores Neilson

30th– Patty Cox

### July

8th– Pete Martin

16th– Tom Hall

28th– Connie Ehresman

1– Carl and June Rodegerdts

13– Pete and Jane Martin

23– Seth and Heather Albin

## Thank You from Fiji



### Fiji Outreach

We have sent over 20 wardrobe boxes to churches in three different areas of Fiji over the last two years. This month we sent 4 more boxes to Fiji.

These pictures show the shipment as it is received, before it is divided for distribution.



## Thank You from Fiji (Con't.)



Dear Churches:

On July 15, 2017, while vacationing with family in Hawaii, Derril stepped back and his foot wedged between two rocks. Losing his balance, his body twisted, and he fell into a nearby Coy Pond. His foot was severed from his leg except for a ligament and a blood vessel. Even with the loss of one-half of his body's volume of blood, he survived. Three surgeries later his foot was reattached to his leg and we returned home to California.

In the meantime, Derril sought treatment for a foot that was not healing. After two further surgeries to remove broken bones, screws and other metal hardware, and with the assistance of umbilical material, the foot was fused to his leg. The foot is now healing, and he can walk with the use of a boot and a cane.

Inexplicably, In October 2017, Derril started to cough up large quantities of blood. A pulmonary doctor took an x-ray and sent him home saying his lungs were clear. Continuing to cough blood, in December, at a routine visit to his primary physician, he was sent for a CT scan. A large mass in the lower right lobe of his lung was revealed.

The cancer has metastasized into his abdomen. Tomorrow he starts the second cycle of six 21-day infusion cycles. Derril is tolerating chemotherapy well. To keep his spirits high, he continues to work a limited time each week and to preach at the United Congregational Christian Church, in Lodi, California.

Forgive me that it has taken me nine months to write to you. It finally was revealed to me that we should reach out to all the churches we have attended or served in our short lifetime.

We need prayer.

Derril is suffering. I am his caregiver.

Thank you for lifting our names to our Father (Abba, our Daddy) for comfort. I ask Him to hold us in His arms as a father would hold a child.

We pray God's Will be done. Then we watch what happens.

In Christian Love,



Derril and Linda Peabody  
1611 Cherrywood Way

Lodi, CA 95240

(209) 663-1311 Derril

(209) 663-8283 Linda



# June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV			5:30 Potluck & Adult Study	6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Patriotic Musical Practice	6:15 Movie Night Song Of The Heart	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV		6:00 Board Meeting 7:00 Consistory	5:30 Potluck & Adult Study	6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Patriotic Musical Practice		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV			5:30 Potluck & Adult Study	6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Patriotic Musical Practice	6:15 Movie Night God's Not Dead 2	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV			5:30 Potluck & Adult Study	6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Patriotic Musical Practice		