



Altar Light

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

— MAY, 2018 —

St. John's
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
432 Cleveland Street
Woodland, CA 95695
www.stjohnswoodland.net

Thoughts from Pastor Bill

Looking toward the day of Pentecost there in the Gospel of Matthew,[10] Jesus is prepping his disciples for their ministry in the world. Using words that kindle a spiritual revolution he tells them, “Don’t be afraid of what others will say about you. Rise up! You are on the side of my Father” ..”It is time to decide who you are...” ..as revealed in the glorious knowledge that we are children of God.”

“What I say in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.” It is time for the disciples to tell the world about God’s kingdom. It is time to proclaim the good news. This is their moment in history. Their shot to tell the world they are disciples of Jesus.

At a pivotal moment is the award winning play, “Hamilton” there is a glorious moment in song, “My Shot.” At a critical gathering of the colonial leaders, the abolitionist John Laurens calls those would-be-revolutionaries to lay aside their fear and act for what they know is right and says these profound words: *Rise up! When you’re living on your knees you gotta rise up! Tell your brother that he’s gotta rise up! Tell your sister that she’s gotta rise up!*”

It is time for today’s disciples, followers of Jesus, to put away their fear of what the world might say and *Rise up*. It is time to take our shot against racism, sexism, and classism, and give our allegiance to our Creator God and *Rise up*.

It is time for us to know that God cares enough about the burdens in our hearts, and share the Good News that our world needs to know a better way. It is time to combat evil, injustice and oppression in the many forms we see it and *Rise up!*

May we not throw away our shot to work for justice and righteousness, for the least, the last, and the lost. Friends, this is our task and may it begin in our worship and in our daily activities. Friends... *“Rise up!”*

Pastor Bill

Fiji Outreach

Last year we sent over 15 large wardrobe boxes of clothes to Fiji.

In January we sent 5 boxes.

This month we will be sending 5-6 more boxes to churches in three different areas of Fiji which will be distributed to many families

The shipment will include Sunday School and Vacation Bible School curricula which are no longer used by our church.



Heifer Project



During the Lenten season we collected over \$1,100 in donations for the Heifer Project. On April 14th, we held a potluck dinner following our worship service when we selected what we would like our Heifer Project donations to go towards.

The top items were 3 flock of chicks, a pig and gift of clean water. Bill Summers purchased a knitting basket in honor of Caryl, and the Albin/Truitt family purchased a sheep. We will also be purchasing a trio of rabbits and a goat.

Thank you for your participation

and support of this project.



I also worked part-time in Antique Stores 1994-2017. We collected many antiques over the years.

I did years of genealogy of the Hayes family back to Dover, England in the 1600's.

I have always enjoyed sewing and making items for many people, and take part in the church Craft Fair each year.

I am very happy we still own the farm which Jim, our son, now farms.

Everyone at St. John's is friendly and I have made a lot of very special friends over the years. I look forward to church each Sunday.

One thing Lawrence taught me: if you don't like what you are seeing or hearing, "Just look on in amazement and say nothing."

Thoughts from Pastor Bill (con.'t)

P.S. For those interested in joining St. John's, or learning more about St. John's and the United Church of Christ, I invite you to come to the Social Hall on Saturday, May 12th, from 10 to noon. For those interested, members will be received on May 20th at worship.

Pastor Bill

Dear Church family and friends,

We thank everyone for the love, well wishes and cards received following the passing of our Mom, Flo Cooper. Thanks also for the support and caring that has been shown over the years that she resided at the Village; it has made our loss easier to bear.

We particularly want to thank Marilyn Mitchell for alerting Pastor Bill to the sudden downturn that Mom took. Pastor Bill, there are no words to describe the comfort we derived from having you with us for the last rites.

With gratitude,

Bev and Tom Hall

Flowers in Courtyard

We want to thank Carl Rodegerdts for planting new flowers in our courtyard flower bed. For the last few years Carl has kept our floral beds looking beautiful. Thanks again.

We would also like to thank Carol Lou Bourke and Susan Collinsworth for trimming back the rose bushes so they can produce new roses.

Milestones

Call to submit your news:

It's that time again! Let's continue this lovely tradition. It's time to write up and send in any news, articles and announcements that you want to share in the May or June Altar Lights: graduations; new kindergarteners; fair entries, especially 4-H and FFA; other changes, milestones, awards, and achievements. E-mail them, or drop them off in the office.

SAVE THE DATE

Patriotic Musical Sunday, July 1st, 2018

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

The new member class is coming. *It will be a 2 hour class led by Pastor Bill on a Saturday or Sunday. Stay tuned for the actual date which will be determined soon. See Thoughts from the Pastor for the time and date announcement.*

The 'Time and Talent' form has been updated. It is available in the Narthex and will also be passed out by the head usher on Sundays. This is an opportunity for all who wish to become involved in

We took the group on many trips: to Camp Cazadero, Santa Cruz, New Brighton Beach, Soda Springs' snow, and San Francisco. We had swim parties at Bill Reiff's ranch. The Frankes, Matsons, Fischers were always there to help.

Lawrence and I traveled together in the 1970's and 1980's to many countries: Europe, Scandinavia, Australia and New Zealand, and took many cruises, too. We both liked to travel. Besides traveling, we liked to folk dance and to ballroom dance.

In 1960 – 1961 we built our home where I still live.

Our son James married in 1971 and gave us three beautiful grandchildren: Tara, Traci, and Leland; 8 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. It has been so exciting to have five generations for this time- August 2013-2018. We also had five generations when Lawrence and his mother were still alive in 1992-1993.

It was so difficult when I lost Lawrence in May of 1993 after a two year battle with cancer, but it seemed there were many of us who lost our spouses. The church really became my second family with the support of Dr. Sill and Pastor Bill Schroeder and our meetings with the other members.

Thanks to my mother-in-law, Wilhemine - she gave me her recipe for Pomegranate Jelly. I have lost count of how many Fairs I have made jelly for over the years. I became known as the Jelly Lady.

In Summer of 1948 I drove Bulk Truck in the barley harvest and Lawrence was separator man on the harvester. The last day of harvest he asked me for a date to go to San Francisco. On January 29, 1949 we were married in St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church by Rev. Robert Nienkamp. Lawrence said he waited for the farmer's daughter to grow up.

On June 1949 I joined the church and Lawrence, his mother, Wilhemine, and his sister, Hazel Peterson, transferred from Esparto Community Church.

Lawrence continued to work for my Dad until 1953. He worked for the U.S. Post Office for eleven years, then Cranston International until he retired in 1985.

My first job was for District Attorney Les Means in the old Court House from February 1949 – 1950. Back then you could not work if you were pregnant.

November 9, 1950 our son James was born. I was a stay at home mom until 1957, then went to work at The Daily Democrat through 1985.

Lawrence and I were both active in the church. Lawrence was Treasurer for seven years, I was on the Trustees Board for ten years. We also were sponsors for the Pilgrim Fellowship Youth group. Dale Hampen was youth minister 1967—1968 – lots of fun.

ELDERS (con.'t)

activities in the church and to share their talents in new ways.

The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae, led by Pastor Bill, was very moving and well received. It will be repeated in the years to come.

We have a new source for guest speaker/pastors. Veronica Bethel Parker, a student from the Epic Bible College, will be preaching on April 15th & 29th. Please come out to listen and greet her.

The Pregnancy Support Group will once again give a presentation at Adult Fellowship, the date is to be determined. Planned Parenthood will be contacted also for the same opportunity.

The Easter Services and our advertisement in the Daily Democrat, and our weekly Daily Democrat ad, were reviewed and a few changes were noted for next year.

TRUSTEES- Security Updates

In March security cameras were installed off the preschool building and social hall to view the parking lot, courtyard, play yard and north side of our preschool building.

The trustees approved adding two additional cameras off of the church office to view activity from the sidewalk to and from the sanctuary. These cameras were installed in April.

At night the cameras are showing a lot of individuals and cats walking through our facilities to take a short cut to get from the street to the parking lot. 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.

ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Reading Buddies is one of our favorite community outreach programs. This inter-generational reading program pairs a St. John's resident with a 3rd grade student at Freeman Elementary School for reading practice and skills enhancement. On Monday March 5, the group celebrated Dr. Seuss Day. The Cat in the Hat himself, a.k.a. our very own Norman Callaway, read to the students. The students also read from one of their favorite Dr. Seuss books to our residents. It was a memorable day for the Reading Buddies program.

We're excited to be participating with Big Day of Giving again this year on May 3. Please mark your calendars and thank you for considering a donation to St. John's that day.

The updated web site 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. Our thanks to Kelly Newsom of Elm Street Media Services for her patience and expertise in putting it all together for us.

Our 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". With a simple, one-time set-up and authorization that will then continue monthly, you will become a member of the "Heritage Club" and receive a Declaration of Gratitude as well as a fun gift from St. John's! If you have questions, please contact Craig at 530-662-1290 or email cjones@sjrv.org

Dolores Neilson



I was born June 29, 1929, at home, in a big two-story ranch house on Rd. 19, 12 miles west of Woodland. I was named Dolores May Hayes.

I always felt blessed to be raised on a farm by my loving parents, Leland and Florence Hayes, and having an older brother, Darrel, who was very protective. We went to a one room school one mile from our home (Clover) with all grades – one teacher for 14 students. Then we went to Esparto High School -125 students total - and I graduated in 1947. Then I went to Heald's Business College in Sacramento for 1 year.

I first knew Lawrence Neilson when I was 7 and he was 14. Each summer he would work on the ranch for Dad. World War II came, and he was drafted in 1943. Lawrence served until December 1945. He was in Germany and France – First Army Engineers 254th Combat—serving at Normandy on D-day, and at the Battle of the Bulge.

St. John's Preschool

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

17th– Martha Gutierrez

30th– Carol Lou Bourke

June

6th– Jenny Henson

13th– Carolyn Reiff

13th– Marilyn Mitchell

15th– Jack Napper

22nd– June Rodegerdts

29th– Dolores Neilson

30th– Patty Cox

We took school photos March 21 – 23. We started taking our own school photos about three years ago. This has turned out to be our best fund raiser.

On April 2nd we had an in-service day. Staff received training on mandated reporting. This training is a state requirement that now has to be done every two years.

The Elks Club provided vision screening for our children. This is done at no cost to the preschool. We are one of 170 schools in 6 counties that receive free vision screening.

This month we received a generous donation from Jane Martin to replace a round table in the red room which is used by the church for Sunday School. The children in the red room sent thank you letters to Jane.

As part of farm animal week, Jim Neilson brought 3 little pigs to the preschool for the children to see. They were a big hit.

St. John's Preschool held its annual Taco Tuesday fundraiser on April 24th. We sold Taco plates that included 3 tacos (steak or chicken), rice and beans for \$10. The event was a great success. Proceeds from this event are going towards our security upgrades.

May 2018

St. John's United Church of Christ, Woodland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am - Worship, Sanctuary 11am - Fellowship Hour 1:15pm - Worship, SJRV Chapel	30	1	2 2pm - Jr. Choir 5:30pm - Potluck & Adult Study	3 7pm - Patriotic Musical Practice	4	5 Cinco de Mayo
6 10am - Worship, Sanctuary 11am - Fellowship Hour 1:15pm - Worship, SJRV Chapel	7	8 6pm - Boards and Consistory	9 2pm - Jr. Choir 5:30pm - Potluck & Adult Study	10 7pm - Patriotic Musical Practice	11 6:15pm - Movie Night Wonder	12
13 Mother's Day 10am - Worship, Sanctuary 11am - Fellowship Hour 1:15pm - Worship, SJRV Chapel	14	15 5:30pm - Adult Fellowship	16 2pm - Jr. Choir 5:30pm - Potluck & Adult Study	17 12pm - Altar Light Deadline 7pm - Patriotic Musical Practice	18	19
20 10am - Worship, Sanctuary 11am - Fellowship Hour 1:15pm - Worship, SJRV Chapel 4pm - Pam's Annual Student Recital	21	22	23 2pm - Jr. Choir 5:30pm - Potluck & Adult Study	24 7pm - Patriotic Musical Practice	25 6:15pm - Movie Night Peaceful Warrior	26
27 10am - Worship, Sanctuary 11am - Fellowship Hour 1:15pm - Worship, SJRV Chapel	28 Memorial Day	29	30 2pm - Jr. Choir 5:30pm - Potluck & Adult Study	31 7pm - Patriotic Musical Practice	1	2 Rectangular Snip