

st John's
U.C.C.



ALTAR LIGHT
AUGUST 2018

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS
MON-TUES & THURS 12-4:30 PM*

PASTORAL THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR BILL

The Sacramento Bee in its July 15th edition did an article on the tableau on the lawn at Parkside Community UCC Church. Kneeling on the church lawn were the figures of Mary and Joseph inside a cage constructed of chicken wire. A few feet away, the baby Jesus lays in the manger, also in a chicken wire cage. Parents and child unable to touch. A sign said, "Seeking Asylum in America today." [See bulletin board in Narthex]

Many may react saying the church should not get involved in political discourse. I get that. The church should be a refuge. A quiet place for meditation. But there are times when evil takes so cruel a turn that a response is required. Snatching babies from mothers whose only crime is their seeking safety for themselves and their children. Yes, I hear all of the excuses ... 'They shouldn't come here'. "It's illegal." But out of desperation I also hear, "Damn the torpedoes... full speed ahead." A hope for love and compassion to abide in this nation. America is better than turning innocents away.

Doctrines, creeds, ideas, beliefs, no matter how eloquent, carry very little conviction in themselves. It is when they walk the talk before us in flesh and blood that they become contagious. Placing the purity of doctrine ahead of the integrity to love is a distortion of the gospel in any language and in any faith. No injunction is more fundamental than 'to love one another'.

We who call ourselves Christian must not remain silent in the face of such inhuman policies expressed. It is in moments like this that silence may be more unchristian than any action. Nonviolence is an act of faith. It takes courage and love to be a peacemaker ... called to spread God's love thru-out the world. May it be that one day, we will give, thru God's love, love and peace a chance.

I thank Parkside Church for its silent witness to call us to be better.

Pastor Bill

ALERT EVERYONE

by Shirley Schroeder

from June 2018 issue of National Geographic "Planet or Plastics?"

We made it! We depend on it! We're drowning in it!!!
We made it: 150 years ago we created a lightweight, strong, and inexpensive material.
We depend on it: Today this miracle material helps keep hearts beating and planes in the air.
We are drowning in it: More than 40% of it is used just once and tossed. Some 90 MILLION TONS of it ends up in the ocean EACH YEAR.

PLASTIC!!!

If plastic had been invented when the Pilgrims sailed from Plymouth, England to North America and the Mayflower had been stocked with bottled water and plastic-wrapped snacks, their plastic trash would likely still be around, four centuries later.

It is unclear how long it will take for that ocean plastic to completely biodegrade into constituent molecules, but the estimated range is from 450 years to never. Ocean plastic is estimated to kill millions of marine animals every year... thus a big toll on wildlife. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are harmed visibly, eating micro-plastics.

There is a threat to us because tiny bits of plastic harm marine life, including fish and shell fish which we eat. Do they harm people? Scientists are racing to find out.

There are six things you can do ... [and feel no pain!]

- 1] Give up plastic bags [Take your own reusable bag to the store]
- 2] Skip straws or use paper ones
- 3] Pass up plastic bottles [use refillable water bottle]
- 4] Avoid plastic packaging [bar soap instead of liquid][Plastic plates cups]
- 5] RECYCLE WHAT YOU CAN [Compared to Europe .. 30% China 25% U.S. 9%] Shame on us.
- 6] DON'T LITTER!!

This is a major plea from National Geographic, so HELP ... PLEASE HELP. Our oceans and our lives depend upon it . And just remember: NINE MILLION TONS of plastic ends up in the ocean every year. The past is our lesson ..The present is our gift .The future is our motivation .We really have to save our planet!!

ELDERS REPORT

The Patriotic Musical, held July 1, was well attended. Members of our church, as well as the community, were happy to see the return of this event. Suggestions were made to make next year's event even better.

The Altar Committee duties list is being updated.

The narthex was rearranged by the Elders in order to make it less cluttered and congested as people enter and leave the church. Better lighting, and possibly a fresh coat of paint are being discussed.

Tom Brannan is doing a great job keeping up the church website, as well as the church Facebook page. Jan Cauble is also doing a wonderful job by staying in contact with the Daily Democrat and giving them information on our upcoming events.

Two special event banners were made for the Patriotic Musical. One was displayed on the fence on the Cleveland Street side and one was displayed on the fence of the back parking lot. Easter and Christmas banners will be made later in the year as a form of advertisement for our church's special events.

New St. John's Church invitation cards are available for distribution. Studies have shown that only 2% of people invite others to church, while 84% of those who join a church, do so because they were invited. Please grab some of these very nice cards to hand out.

We are coming up with some new ideas to make Harvest Home a major event

The pastoral line up for July and August includes the rotation of Pastors, Bill Schroeder, Dan Wysong, Veronica Bethal Parker, and J.C. Sowers



CAROLYN REIFF

i was born June 13, 1947 and I wasn't alone. My sister, Marilyn, was born 5 minutes before me. What a surprise it was to my parents, Bob and Jeannette Reiff. They had no idea my mother was expecting twins! Plus, we were born a month early. We were raised on a farm just southwest of Yolo. When we were 3 years old, I got another sister, Barbara. My family was close and we did everything together. My mother would always keep in touch with all of our relatives. We were involved in 4-H and my parents were Community Leaders for our club. We learned to sew, cook, raise animals and grow vegetables. When I was in 8th grade, my pig won Grand Champion at the Spring Show.

I went to Cacheville Elementary, which was K-8 at the time. When I was 6 years old, I started piano lessons. When I was old enough to start band, I played the accordion, then switched to clarinet. In Woodland High School, I was in the Marching Band and Pep Band. I continued to take piano lessons through high school and started organ lessons at Yuba College.

When I was 14, my mother died of Leukemia. I could not understand how this could happen. My dad had a big job ahead of him taking care of 3 girls. He told us he couldn't have made it through that time without God and his church family. The following year, Marilyn and I got to travel by bus, along with 43 other 4-H members, to Washington D.C. for a citizenship short course. We took a southern route going and a northern route returning, stopping at many historical monuments and points of interest along the way. We were in D.C. while President Kennedy was in office. We got to see so many monuments, battlefields and the White House with only 2 chaperones for all 45 of us! It is a trip I look back on with so many fond memories.

My jobs while growing up were helping my dad with the sheep and driving barley truck. I worked at Foster's Freeze while in high school and on a tomato harvester. In college, I worked in the dorm as assistant house mother and worked as a maid in a motel in Lake Tahoe. After that, I worked as Director for the Summer Park and Recreation Program for 10 seasons.

My education included 2 years at Yuba College, where I earned an AA degree. I spent 3 years at Chico State University, where I earned a BA in psychology, and a minor in Sociology and Social Welfare. I received a Life Elementary Teaching Credential. I later went to Sacramento State University and received a Masters Degree in Education Administration.

I was hired in 1970 as an elementary teacher for the Pierce Joint Unified School District. I taught K-3 in Dunning-

gan for 7 years and was made Teaching Principal. When Dunnigan Elementary closed, I was transferred to Arbuckle Elementary and taught kindergarten for 5 years and was Vice Principal and in charge of the state and federal funds. In 1983, I became Vice Principal of Pierce High School and in 1986 became Principal. I loved that job and especially working with the students. I went to all activities and athletic events. It was important for me to be there for all the students.

After 13 years at Pierce High School, I helped start and taught at Arbuckle Alternative High School. After 10 years there, I retired with 39 years of service with Pierce Joint Unified School District.

My hobbies are golf, music, baseball, scrapbooking, gardening, cooking, swimming and taking care of my pets. Some of these things I can't do anymore, but I enjoyed them while I could.

I have attended St. John's Church all of my life. I love this church and our church family. I have taught Sunday School, been Youth Leader with Marilyn and been a Consistory member for many years. I have enjoyed being the Junior Choir Director. I feel I can teach the bible to the children through song. I have also enjoyed being Music Director for the church. I have appreciated the opportunity lead the Patriotic and Christmas musicals. I guess the best thing about this church is the fellowship. I live with 2 chocolate labs, who adore me and I love them. Their names are Callie and Layla. I used to be a cat owner and still consider myself a cat lover. I

had 4 indoor cats living with me all at one time before I became a dog owner.

Do you want to know what is my favorite food and dessert are? I like white cake with lemon filling and white fluffy frosting and I like anything BBQ. One thing some of you may not know about me is that Carol Lou Bourke, the church secretary, and I are cousins. My dad and her grandma were brother and sister.

Reiffism: "You can do anything you put your mind to" and "always believe in yourself but most important be kind."

Sunday Evening Bible Study

If you can't make Wednesday Night Bible study, or you you'd like another Bible study to add to you faith walk, we have just the answer at 7 p.m. every Sunday in the Social Hall. This is not a potluck evening, just a group study aimed to enhance God's word.

School Supplies For Christmas Shoe Boxes

In August, we will be purchasing school supplies for the 30 shoe boxes we give to 4th & Hope families at Christmas. See Marilyn Mitchell to make your financial contribution for this purchase. Other items for the shoes boxes will be purchased in December.



RHYTHM & RIBS

MUSIC • BBQ • LIVE AUCTION

Same great food, same great Dave Russell Band,
same great auction opportunities!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22, 2018

6-10 p.m.

**YOLO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
WAITE HALL**

1250 Gum Ave, Woodland, CA

\$100 VIP EXPERIENCE

\$45 Advance / \$50 DOOR

**BBQ DINNER AND DANCE
WILL BE INDOORS AND
AIR CONDITIONED THIS YEAR!**

**UNLIMITED BEVERAGES • RESERVED SEATING
VIP SERVERS • EARLY ENTRANCE 5PM
MEET & GREET BAND • COMMEMORATIVE PHOTO
T-SHIRT • BONUS RAFFLE TICKET • ETC...**

A community event benefiting St. John's Retirement Village, Inc.
- a 501c3 non-profit organization -

For More Information: Website: sjrv.org • [facebook.com/
st.johnsretirement](https://www.facebook.com/st.johnsretirement) • 530-662-1290

ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE

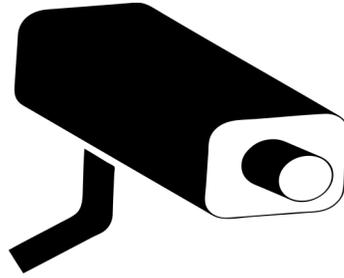
A six-week Healthier Living-Chronic Disease Self-Management Program started on July 5th from 3:00 –5:00 p.m. This program is sponsored in partnership with Dignity Health to help those affected by ongoing long-term health issues such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, heart or lung disease, COPD, depression, obesity and other conditions. The Free six-week program will cover: goal setting, communication skills, medication use, partnering with your doctor, nutrition, relaxation and community resources. **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 Dave Russell Band playing the music, RDM Audio Visual providing the sound, and Keith McLane Auctioneers.

FIJI OUTREACH UPDATE

We recently sent 5 more wardrobe boxes to Fiji. Children's clothes and items left from the multi-family sale were included in the shipment. Over the last two years we have now sent over 30 boxes to churches in three different areas of Fiji.

LOCAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

4th & Hope is in need of *new or gently used bath towels and wash cloths*. The Yolo County Animal Shelter is in need of *towels and small blankets*, as well as *detergent* for washing the laundry. You may bring these items to the social hall or the back hallway of the church where there will be designated boxes to put the items.



SECURITY UPDATES

In order to stop individuals from walking through our facilities we have replaced the wooden gate between the preschool and sanctuary with an open metal gate and added a second gate between the church office entrance to the sanctuary. Both gates will be locked at night. Two additional lights were installed on the north side of the church office.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Faye Brannan, Jim Brannan, Paula Castles,
Sammie Collins, Al Massa, Derril Peabody,
Dathion Ruiz, June Rodegerdts,
Sue Hornbuckle and family in the passing of Al
and Jan Hawk and family in the passing of Mike**

AUGUST BIRTHDAY CLUB

August 6th Mel Ehresman
August 17th Bill Summers



****CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS*****

MON-TUES & THURS 12-4:30 PM

Please call Marilyn Mitchell (908-1676) if you need assistance during the week when the secretary is not in.

RIDES TO CHURCH

Want to go to church, but don't have a ride? Please call the church office (662-5921) to set up a ride. We have members that will gladly take you to and from church. If you discover you need a ride on Sunday morning, no worries! Call Carol Lou (867-5045) and she will arrange a ride for you.

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING VOTE

A special congregational meeting was held Sunday July 8th following the worship service to vote on changing Article VII Section B. of the bylaws.

A financial transaction in excess of \$10,000 ~~\$25,000~~ by the Board of Trustees, or a recommendation by Consistory to buy, sell, mortgage, or transfer real property, shall require a 2/3 affirmative vote by written ballot of the members present at a Congregational Meeting.

The motion was approved to change the amount to \$25,000.

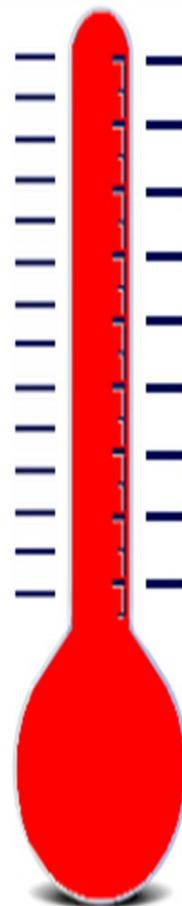
ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

During the summer the children that will be going to kindergarten have left in stages as the other children are moving up to new classrooms and new children are starting at our preschool. This year we will have one Pre-K classroom. That will give us the opportunity to enroll more three year-old children. We currently have 60 children enrolled in our preschool which is the number we are licensed for and 7 toddlers in the Toddler Option Program. We continue to receive calls on a daily basis and give tours. We are full until the summer of 2019.



PRESCHOOL WINDOW REPLACEMENT

On July 8th we had a special congregational meeting to vote on replacing the original, 57 year-old, single-pane windows in the preschool with double-pane windows. Replacing these windows will decrease our utility costs in the future. The motion was approved. The cost to replace the windows is \$14,776. The windows will be installed by FitzPerfect Windows on Saturday, August 18th. We are seeking donations towards this project. The preschool will also contribute to this by designating the profit from their Spaghetti Feed in the fall.



15,000

14,000

12,000

10,000

8,000

6,000

5,000

****We Have Raised \$4450***

as of 7/23/18

4,000

3,000

2,000

OUR GOAL IS \$15,000

TO REPLACE THE

WINDOWS

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
432 CLEVELAND STREET
WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695

Address Service Requested