

st John's
U.C.C.



ALTAR LIGHT
JANUARY 2020

FROM PASTOR DAN TO YOU:

The universe is full of rhythm. Earth spins on its axis, bringing night and day, followed by night and day, followed by night and day... Our planet orbits around the sun, bringing the seasons on after another spins, summer, autumn, winter. They keep repeating. And today is the last day of 2019 - the end of a year, and the end of a decade. Tomorrow starts the 20s. These are big milestones.

I love the intentional time to stop reflect on our lives. What are we doing with them? What are we happy about? What are we grieving for? What do we yearn for more of in our lives? How might we redirect our energy or restructure our lives in ways that move us closer to what we most want?

One of the things that brings me the most joy is our connectedness with each other. Church is a beautiful gathering of human beings who bear the image of God. We gather with the express intention of caring for one another, remembering that we are loved, and joining our energy together to make the world a better and more loving place.

Spirit is still hovering in the darkness, still looking to bring forth life and beauty. Being able to sense Spirit hovering in the darkness is, of course, the hard part. It takes looking a little more carefully, and lingering a little longer. I am looking forward with great expectation, awe, and wonder to what God is going to bring forth for us and through us in 2020. And since it is the start of 2020, and 20/20 is a metaphor for seeing well, I would like to leave you with a blessing for good vision and insight:

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly

realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. - Ephesians 1:18-23

I, with Paul, pray that the eyes of our hearts might be opened. That in 2020, we might see with 20/20 vision:

1. The hope to which we are called.
2. The power of God present in us.
3. The way Christ is filling everything in every way.

-Pastor Dan

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bill Summers, Paula Castles, Doug Castles,
Maggie Goodwin, Debbie Smith, Sammie (Collins) Thiel, Dottie
Fisher, Bob Jordan, Marilyn Holloway, Julia Meyer,
Jim Loman, Kathy Johnson, Jamie Vaughn, Alex Scholey,
LeRoy Ehresman, Bob Cantrell, Patty Cox, Jeff Bailey,
Jan Cauble, Dathion Ruiz, Charlotte Mast, Sheila Wills, Diane
Pozo, the family of Elaine Scott in her passing
The caregivers and first responders
in our communities, those serving in the military and their families,
Local, national, and international leaders,
All who suffer persecution around the world.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st Virginia Plocher
6th Hazel Peterson
30th Lice Rokotanaka



If you did not see your name in this birthday and anniversary section this last year, it is because we do not have that information from you. Please give Carol Lou your dates so that we can wish you greetings on your special day. Thanks!

THANK YOU S

“Thank you to Shirley Walton, Kathy Jordan, Abby Wysong and Holly Bourke for performing the Christmas Cannon arrangement I wrote for the Christmas Eve service. A special thank you to Holly for putting up with my constant changing of her part. All four of them accepted my request to play without knowing what I had in mind and it turned out beautifully.



Carol Lou Bourke



“Thank you to everyone for your generous giving to the Poinsettia Program this year. The donations allowed us to give \$387 toward the organ repairs. A big thank you to Carol and Jim for helping me keep this program up and running each year.”

Deborah Neilson

“Shirley and I would like to express our appreciation to all who sent cards, honors, and gifts to us during this Christmas season. Thank you and God’s blessings to all for a happy and healthy 2020.” *Shirley and Pastor Bill*

“THESE DAYS” DAILY DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE

There are complimentary copies of the January-March issue in the narthex. Please feel free to take one to compliment your daily spiritual readings.

ALTAR LIGHT VIA E-MAIL

If you would prefer to receive your Altar Light by e-mail, please give me your e-mail information. It also saves the church postage. Please note, you can have it e-mailed to you and still obtain a paper copy, if you’d like. Just make your wishes known. Thanks. *Carol Lou*

FIJI MISSION UPDATE

We sent 3 more wardrobe boxes to Fiji in December. Over the last three years we have sent over 85 boxes to churches in three different areas of Fiji. This year we also sent a small pump organ to an Anglican church in Fiji.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Thirty shoe boxes were delivered to 4th & Hope the week before Christmas. Thank you for your support of this project.

GRAVY FOR CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our church provided 300 packets of gravy for the Christmas Baskets this year. Thank you for your donations towards this mission project.

JUNIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL

The children will resume choir practice on Wednesday, January 8th at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you know of a child who would enjoy singing in the children's choir and performing in the Palm Sunday choral presentation, please encourage them to come to Wednesday rehearsals. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Reiff (530) 400-1654.

ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

Our annual Christmas Program was held December 12th followed by a visit from Santa in the social hall.

On Friday, December 20th we held our Polar Express party . The children watched the movie, "The Polar Express" while sipping warm cocoa with marshmallows. The preschool closed at noon that day and was closed December 23rd through January 1st.



NO TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

JANUARY 7TH

Pastor Dan will be on vacation January 4th through January 11th. If you have pastoral needs, please call the church (530) 662-5921 or church president, Carolyn Reiff (530) 400-1654.



Do you or someone you know need help with things such as minor home repairs, stacking firewood, yard work, house cleaning, cleaning gutters, making an appointment, grocery shopping, prescription pick up? The Board of Elders is implementing a FREE service project and want to help. Simply call the church office (530) 662-5921 or email the church at saintjohnswoodland@gmail.com and make your request known.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP JANUARY 21ST

We will have our first Adult Fellowship gathering of the new year beginning with a potluck at 6:00 p.m., followed by a presentation by our own Bertha Preciado, who is part of the Pediatric Peritoneal Dialysis program in the Sacramento area. Her involvement with the program has granted her recognition as a Daisy Award Honoree and Children's Miracle Network nominee. She trains parents, caregivers and patients to safely and efficiently perform peritoneal dialysis at home.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES:

January 10th: The Biggest Little Farm

A couple are followed through their successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the desolate they purchase begins to thrive and its transformed.



We will meet at 6:15 p.m. and begin the movie at 6:30 p.m. If you do not have time to eat dinner before hand, bring dinner for yourselves and a dessert to share

FAMILY GAME NIGHT FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck meal and then play board games. Bring your favorite game and a dish to share and join in the fun. As always, bring your friends, too!

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

The stewardship drive started December 1st. So far 25 pledge cards have been returned for 2020. Your pledges help us to prepare our budget for the upcoming year.

2020 COMMITMENT ENVELOPES

The 2020 commitment envelopes will be available in the narthex on Sunday, January 5th. If you have not used them in the past, but would like a box for 2020 please contact Marilyn Mitchell at 530-908-1676.

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26TH

The church's annual meeting will immediately follow worship in the narthex. We will have a soup luncheon in the social hall following the meeting. If you can bring a soup or dessert for the luncheon, please contact Jamie Vaughn (530) 379-6203

IN THE PEW SPOTLIGHT WITH JIM HIATT

Our family’s story, which includes me, began at our state’s beginnings on both sides. J.P. Goodnow, on mother’s side, came here from Missouri in 1852 and ultimately settled in Hungry Hollow, which he named as such in his



first efforts at gold panning in the hills here and came up pretty empty and remarked “A fellow could go hungry here quickly trying to make a living at this, and as the farm was in the hollow of the hill, named the area “Hungry Hollow”.

He was christened “Phineas White Goodnow”, but used to say, “Awww, hell, nobody can SPELL ‘Phineas’; just call me “John”! He freighted a number of years (hauled farm things by very large buckboard) from here to Nevada and back and earned enough to buy 4 parcels including this one between here and Rumsey. He had 5 children (with 3 of those surviving), the oldest of which was Chester Melvin Goodnow, whose daughter, Gayle Goodnow (Hiatt), was my mother. Gayle came to St. John’s in 1958, when she started me in Sunday School at Hazel Peterson’s suggestion.

In 1849, my great, great grandfather, George Washington Hiatt, landed in Hangtown, leading a covered wagon party, again, from Missouri. From Hangtown, the Hiatts split, with one branch settling along the Sacramento River, and the balance, my own half, settling in the Arbuckle/Dunnigan/Woodland area. Eventually George would be one of Woodland’s first mayors.

His son, William Elijah Hiatt, at age 10, rode shotgun with him up front and saw burned out wagon parties along the way. They settled and began farming in the

same area. W.E. had 8 children, which included James Thaddeus, my Grandpa, who inherited from him a 50 or so acre farm 3 miles outside of Dunnigan. Grandpa married Verna Myers in 1908. He ran the farm and the butcher shop in Dunnigan and was the area's only mechanic. Verna helped on the farm, ran the general store and the post office in Dunnigan. Dad and his sister Dolores rode their bikes to the Dunnigan school some 3 miles away. They did well enough, until the Depression came in 1929, and by 1931 the 50 acre ranch they had outside Dunnigan couldn't make taxes with depressed crop and milk prices. They folded and came to Woodland with \$12 to their name. They initially moved into the Jackson Apts. at First and Bush Streets, and a little later settled into the little gray shake house at the end of the alleyway behind the State Theater (the house is still there) and they lived there while Dad went to Woodland High School, graduating in 1939. They watched the State Theatre being built and opening in 1937.

Meantime, while living there, in 1945 Dad met Mother at the Elwyn Richter (of Yolo) and Lois Parker (of Esparto) wedding reception in Esparto. Dad asked her out for a first date, and they married May 24, 1947 at the Methodist Church,. They stayed with Dad's parents in the house behind the State for the first two years.

Grandma still wanted a home of their own and walked the town to find two 50' X 180' lots side by side behind the Woodland Motel, which had originally been the Yolo Brewery,-the one whose fire back in 1934 cast embers into the wind that took out our old original church here.

Those two lots had been the old horse stables/corral

and Grandma paid \$400 a piece in cash for both lots, so they and Dad/Mom could live side by side. Dad and Mother built this house at 134 Court Street between 1948 and 1950, and designed/did up the blueprint for 136 Court Street home for Grandpa and Grandpa at the same time. Mother mixed the mortar for Dad to lay the cinder blocks for the house in the evenings and on Saturdays as Dad's goal for each evening was 16 blocks. They'd take in a matinee on Saturday afternoons as a fun thing to allow themselves.

Two years later, James Melvin Hiatt-ME (Jimmy for a while) came along on Aug. 2, 1952 and was the first of 3 sons. David came along 3 years later and Randy in 1961. Now that the 3 of us were settled in, Mother wanted a place to make a church home and a place to start me in Sunday School. She and Hazel Peterson had been childhood best friends out this way and had ridden the school bus together with Fay (Mast) Brannan. Mother called Hazel to ask if she could recommend a church. Hazel was already attending St. John's and very much enjoyed it, so she suggested Mom give St. John's a try.

Mother enrolled me in Sunday School in 1958 at age 6. Back then, Sunday School had large numbers in every grade. The classmates I can for the most part remember, and most of them was confirmed with and were Michael Kleespie, Robert Nakken (now my attorney), Stuart Mast, Debbie Oliver, Ron Mendes, Marcia Mast, Joan Pollock, Randy Youngclaus, Bonnie Stewart, Leslie Leonard and Tom Loewen, are the ones I can see in my mind's eye. I can still remember Olive Sloatz, Barbara Rietzke, and Barbara

Kleespie as teachers.

Rev. Melvin Miller was the pastor who confirmed us many years later. I still know by heart some of the songs we sang together as well, “Jesus loves me, this I know”, “Tell me the stories of Jesus”, “The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me”, “Jesus Wants me for a Sunbeam”, “We’ll be Children of THE WAY” and all the Christmas songs, and others too. They always handed us that week’s “Trailblazer”, our weekly 1st grade newsletter as we left. Grandma Lulu would join us at the church shortly after we began attending. She met August Comontofski there and they were married in 1961. (August’s brother Ed and sister Emma also attended St. John’s.) He had a 22 acre orchard in the Willow Oak area. Grandma had our farm here in Hungry Hollow, where I now live, and has been in the family since 1867. Could do another paper like this one on our early history there. In 1965 I was confirmed and made officially a member with Baptism. I remember one day at class Rev. Miller shared with us that he made \$6500 a year. Something that stuck in my mind. He was a gun enthusiast, and on one deer hunting trip DID bag a buck but Grandma gave him no end of grief for popping it in the “hams”(backside) before harvesting it! As for my education, I went to kindergarten through 4th grade at Maxwell School at Walnut and North Streets, just two blocks east and two north, and loved my time there. Fifth grade was at Beamer, School. Lucille Whitmire was my favorite teacher-she was like all us kids’ favorite grandmother. I attended 6th grade at Freeman School, Junior High at Lee School, and then onto the OLD High School (which is now Douglass Junior High). I was in the next to the last

class to graduate from the old high school, a member of the class of 1970.

I went on to get a Bachelor's in Animal Biology and minor in Chemistry at CSUS in 1978. I met and married my wife Annette and over the years we had 4 kids: James, now 40, David, who turned 38 Christmas Eve, Sarah, now 36, and Carrie, now 31. My first granddaughter, Anna was born to Sarah about a year ago.

My career was initially with Mosquito Control, but then went to work with Yolo County Public Works at the Landfill and the Esparto Convenience Center. I took a second job taking care of the methane gas wells at the Landfill to keep the power plant going for 20 years part time. I finally retired at the end of 2011 after 32 years.

By the mid 1980s with two jobs at the Landfill, and 7 days a week for years, I wasn't able to attend church. When my second job ended at 20 years exactly, it freed up some time. When Dad passed in late 2010, I gave his tribute here at St. John's and began trying it again. There were lots of new faces, but a good many whom I'd grown up with. When Mother passed 7 months later, I gave her tribute as well. Now we have Dan as our Pastor and besides getting Jan nature pix for the website, I am also videoing special event Sundays for the library and for all who'd like copies to keep.

On the church building itself, my lifelong treasures here are two: the organ and our stained glass windows, and a good deal of this is the Germanic heritage we've had for above a century and a quarter. That organ of ours is so majestic and I was trans-

fixed by it as a child. I love color as well, and the stained glass windows are a heritage in themselves.

I treasure most of all the memories and growing up in a church with a history going back past a century and a quarter that began with the farmers of that time, and many in my own area.

And a last thought and one worth leaving is from the mid-1960s. In one or two of our high school Sunday School classes, some of our older folks might remember James and Mattie Hash and family, who for years were the only black family in the church. Jim was a teacher we “kids” loved, as he was so real and just a friend. At classes' end Jim would frequently make a certain point, as in “You know, kids, you never know when one word of wisdom or one profound thought you share will affect another in this class 20 or 30 years down the road. He was prophetic in a sense. At high school reunions some of those same kids I was in class with would express that something I’d forgotten that had proved helpful and even key in some decision they made in their lives and that is so humbling.

That same principle has been the case for me, as well, and though I haven’t seen Jim in the years since, his thoughts DID affect me through the years and for the good, and that’s why God had gifted him to us as our Sunday School teacher in a time in our lives when it had maximum impact. That IS a ministry. He was a friend and a treasure.

Jim

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