

St John's
U.C.C.



ALTAR LIGHT
MARCH 2019

A Note From Pastor Dan:

Water is amazing. I'm sitting here listening to the rain drops hit the roof, gathering together into rivulets and streams, cascading down the gutters and dripping into puddles. I cannot hear it or see it, but it is also seeping down into the soil, slowly filling aquifers, where it will wait until it is pumped out to irrigate fields and provide drinking water. It is running into the gutters and sewers, forming rivers, and flowing towards the sea, where it will evaporate and return as more rain drops.

Water is such a gift. (Easy to forget this when we have had as much of it as we've had this winter.) Our own bodies are over 60% water. The earth's surface is 71% covered with water. In fact, if there wasn't so much water evaporating, we wouldn't have the live giving rain.

Water flows around us, through us, and enables all life on our planet.

God created the water, with all its fascinating properties. He made it a fundamental building block of organic life. And then taught us to see it as a metaphor for God's own presence in us:

"Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For whoever believes in me, as the Scripture said, 'From their innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" - John 7:38

What a promise: that God would freely give God's self to us: living water. Life itself, flowing into us, and as we take it in, God causes rivers of life to flow forth from us.

Imagine this: you yourself are a life-giving spring. A place where cool, clear water flows forth to bring life wherever it runs.

This is what God intends for you and I: to be oases in the desert. To be a source of love, encouragement, and hope where we flow.

I don't know about you, but that changes my perspective on myself and my day a bit.

May you, as Jesus said, come to him that He might give you living water. And as you drink deeply of the life-giving water God freely gives you, may you become a source of this life flowing freely to all around you.

As the saying goes (in California)
February showers bring March flowers.

-Pastor Dan



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - **MARCH 6TH**

The service will be at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Communion will be served and Pastor Dan will impose the ashes. This beginning of the Lent season service is always very special and meaningful.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Paula Castles, Doug Castles, Debbie Smith,
Wendy Zane, Sammie (Collins) Thiel, Julia Meyer,
Debbie Swetz, Jen Goss, Dathion Ruiz,
Lois Lawson, Charlotte Mast

For 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.

THE ELDERS REPORT

The Elders have started tracking Sunday attendance. If they see consecutive absences, an Elder will check on the member to see if they are ill, or if they need assistance of any sort. Pastor Dan will follow up, if needed.

The Elders met with Pastor Dan and with Music Director, Carolyn Reiff, for an annual reflection . They discussed the past year and ideas for the coming year(s). The Elders feel that the congregation is in good hands with both the music program and the ministry of St. John's.

The Elders are trying to get as many from the congregation to participate each Sunday as liturgist or greeters. So far, we have seen some new faces helping in the worship services. If you haven't been asked to participate and would like to be a greeter or liturgist, please contact the church office, Pastor Dan or one of the Elders to be sure they know that you are willing to help out.

Jamie Vaughn has volunteered to maintain our church's Facebook page. Thank you, Jamie.

Jan Cauble continues to keep our church website current and looking good.

FIJI OUTREACH

We sent 4 more wardrobe boxes in February. Over the last three years we have sent over 50 wardrobe boxes to 3 churches in Fiji. This is one of our largest ongoing mission projects.

In the next issue of the Altar Light, we will have pictures to share from Fiji, as well as the thank you letter we received from Flo Tamanilatui's daughter. Her Fiji community is so very grateful for everything from the clothing and household goods to the worship materials.

PRESCHOOL REPORT

We currently have 56 children enrolled in our pre-school 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.

Our Krispy Krème fundraiser was a success. We sold 134 dozen donuts which were delivered on Friday morning, March 1st to the residence, work place or picked up at the preschool that morning.

Community Helper Week where our children learned about the helpers in our community is scheduled for the week of March 4th – 8th. We will be visited by a children's dentist, the Willow Oak Fire Department, and Woodland Police Department.

We will be taking school photos March 26th-28th. We started taking our own school photos about four years ago. This has turned out to be our best fund raiser.

MARCH FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHT

March 8- "Game Night"-*is about a weekly game night that turns into a murder mystery party gone awry with twists and turns that will keep you on the edge of your seat.*



Movies are shown in the **social hall** at **6:30 p.m.** We gather at **6:15** and share snacks, food and desserts.

FAMILY POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT

On Friday March 22nd, we will have Family Game Night in the Social Hall at 6:15 p.m. Bring friends, game(s) to play and a potluck dish to share.





JANE MARTIN

Jane was born on a Sunday in 1958. She was the third child of John and Lydia Alexander, sister to Barbara and Tom. The following Sunday she attended St. John's UCC for the first time.

Raised on the family farm north of Yolo, she enjoyed a comfortable childhood. She says her father knew everything. On clear summer nights, he would bring out the telescope and show the kids all the stars. He knew them all. Her mother taught her to sew and cook. There was always some embroidery or crocheting to do. And, of course, darning dad's wool socks. Jane really liked the cooking, and figured out by the second grade that if she made the cookies, she got to lick the beaters without sharing. Her chocolate cake was entered in the Yolo County fair, but never got a ribbon for that. Family always enjoyed the cake, which is what counts. She also helped with the huge vegetable garden her mother always planted. When she was old enough, her father taught her to drive the swather to cut the hay and the tractor to rake the hay. As a teenager she worked sorting tomatoes in the summer.

Reading was a household past time. Her mother took them to the library in Yolo or Knights Landing every week. Everyone always had a book they were reading.

Jane was a good student. It was tough following her sister, who was at the top of her class. In high school she was invited to attend UC Davis during her senior year. This is where her father attended when it was the UC Berkeley Farm. Barbara was also a student there. Much to her surprise, it turns out she was considered a continuing student, and her dream of attending UC Davis full time was realized. Starting as a math major like her mother and sister, that D in calculus provided her with the realization this would not work. She had also taken a Plant Science class, which was a breeze because she spent her entire life before that growing vegetables and crops. It was easy to decide to change direction, and did receive a degree in Plant Science.

While in college, mutual friends introduced her to Pete Martin. They were married at St. John's church in 1979. They have three children, Matthew, Maressa, and Sara. Matthew brought home Maressa from daycare (well, she carried him), and Maressa moved into their hearts and eventually into their home. She has five grandchildren, Gillian, Drew, Natalie, Easton, and Cora. She currently gets to spend two days a week taking care of Cora. Jane

ended up working for Yolo County at the Department of Child Support Services where she retired from in 2017. While there, she became a subject matter expert in the enforcement of the civil orders, helped write the State training curriculum and participating in the design of the prior and current computer systems.

St. John's church has always been an important part of Jane's life. From the first day of attendance to present, she could not have grown in faith without her family and church family. It has been her honor to have served as a Sunday School teacher, Consistory member, and church president. She continues to serve on St. John's Retirement Village board. Every Sunday she volunteers at the Village church service either gathering residents or playing the piano. She enjoys learning more about the scriptures. Her favorite scripture is Matthew 19:14: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We are all children of God. Jesus will never push us aside.

LOCAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

We continue to collect gloves, blankets, toiletries and towels (gently used too) for 4th & Hope. We also continue to collect unopened pet food, towels (new and used) and laundry detergent for the Yolo County Animal Shelter. Donation boxes are in the back of the church.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5th-Alyssa Bourke

7th Kathy Rahn

9th Heather Truitt

12th Paula Castles

19th Mike Truitt

21st Seth Albin

ANNIVERSARY

4th– Chuck and Marilyn Mitchell



FACILITY PROJECTS UPDATE

Future projects we will be working on include:

Replacing the lower roof in the overflow area and back of sanctuary. We have received 2 bids and will be getting 3 additional bids in the near future.

The current bids range between 15,000 to 22,000.

Once we approve a bid we will have a property fund drive to help pay for the replacement of the roof.

Replacing one preschool door, 3 doors that open to the play yard from the social hall and 1 sanctuary door south of altar area. Quote of \$7,000 received for door & labor. The cost of the doors without labor is 4,770.

Painting the outside of the preschool and social hall facing the courtyard.

Painting the front of the preschool.

Painting the social hall wall and preschool wall facing the play yard.

Replacing the original single paned windows in back of the overflow room of the sanctuary, the CCA classroom window near the ramp and two windows in the sound room. Quote \$6,254. The sound room windows may be deferred until later.