

St John's
U.C.C.



ALTAR LIGHT
OCTOBER 2018

PASTORAL THOUGHTS FOR OCTOBER

From Pastor Emeritus Bill Schroeder

Shirley and I attended the opening performance of “To Kill A Mockingbird” at the Woodland Opera House. It was very

well done and all of the actors did a great performance, particularly the young ones. We thank the Stalard family for bringing this wonderful story to the Woodland audience.

The book was published over 50 years ago, yet the story is so contemporary. It reflects the issues of race, class, and gender in the depression era of rural Alabama, yet it could be any town, anywhere, USA, today. The story is written from the perspective of a young female and her view of the community.

The main story is about a white lawyer, father, who defends a young black man against a charge of rape. The man is innocent, having been framed by a very prejudiced man, but convicted by the all white jury. We have witnessed that story many times. The play is worth seeing.

The questions that are raised in my mind is how can we reach a deeper understanding of ourselves and our growth as a moral and ethical people? How can it help the way we think or act? How can we cultivate in ourselves the values needed to build better and kinder and loving communities.

Just looking at history we have not made much progress in human relationships. Many of the attitudes toward race and society today are distressingly similar to the Kerner Report of 50 plus years ago. The civil rights struggles then are still the same struggles today, only more refined and less visual.

In the past couple of years we have seen the emer-

PASTOR DAN WYSONG TO BEGIN AT ST. JOHN'S OCTOBER 1ST!

At our special congregational meeting on September 9th, the congregation voted unanimously to call Dan Wysong as our new minister. Dan has been preaching here on a rotating basis since Pastor Will's departure. Here is a little about Dan:



Pastor Dan is passionate about living a life of joy, depth, courage, wisdom...and maybe a little adventure. Besides spending time with his wife, Heather, and kids: Abigaile, Grant, Ryan, and Gianna, some of Dan's favorite things include reading good books, writing, doing triathlons, scuba-diving, snow-boarding, mountain climbing, exploring the wilderness, and traveling with Heather.

Pastor Dan graduated from Union College with a Business Finance degree in 2001, and after spending some time praying about several corporate job offers, felt called to accept a position as a youth pastor in Kirkland, Washington instead. After completing a Masters of Divinity from Andrews University, Dan pastored churches in Washington, Nebraska, Sacramento, and Chico. His favorite parts of his job include spending time digging into the text, crafting inspiring sermons, and walking alongside people through life's mountaintops and valleys. Dan is deeply looking forward to getting to know each one of you.

THE ELDERS SEPTEMBER **MEETING REPORT**

Harvest Home Sunday Celebration: Invitations were sent out to area farmers affiliated with St. John's to attend the worship service and bring a small portion of their harvest to place upon the altar. A stew and soup luncheon will follow the service. Jeff has arranged for banners to be made for hanging in the front and rear of the church advertising Harvest Home Sunday. Jan will contact the Daily Democrat about publicity. Fliers will be made and posted around town. Tom Brannan will also post the flyer on our church website.

Narthex reconfiguration Update/Paint colors:

In August, the Elders removed a few pieces of furniture and reconfigured the Narthex in order to make the area less cluttered and roomier. Paint samples have been acquired and a color will be chosen to paint the narthex slightly lighter than the present color. The wall hangings on the windows in the back of the church have been removed. This has allowed light to come through the windows and brighten up the back of the church. Some wall hangings will continue to hang on the walls, while others will be rotated into use dictated by the season depicted in the art.

Church Welcome Pamphlet: The pamphlet will be updated when Pastor Dan can be involved with making changes and write his own message within.

W.E.M. Thanksgiving service at St. John's: We will be hosting this year's service on Sunday, November 18th at 4 p.m. The W.E.M. board will arrange publicity for the service.

Name Badges: Jeff designed name badges to be worn by our church goers each Sunday, to assist people in getting to know the names of others.

Pastor Dan's schedule: Carolyn reported that Pastor Dan will be working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday each week.

Membership Roll: An update of the church membership is in progress. Carolyn will be working with Hazel Peterson to determine which members are still active and/or wish to remain on the membership roll.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY-OCTOBER 7TH

We will take up a special Neighbors In Need offering on October 7th, which coincides with World Communion Sunday. **Neighbors in Need** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Special offering envelopes will be enclosed in the worship bulletin that Sunday and will also be available in the church office.

ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

We currently have 55 children enrolled in our preschool and 8 toddlers in the Toddler Option program. We continue to receive calls on a daily basis and give tours. We are in the process of hiring another teacher for the toddler room. Once that position is filled, we will be able to start 5 more children in the younger classrooms, where two teachers are needed.

Our annual Spaghetti Feed and Raffle was held Thursday, September 27th. The event was a great success. Jamie Vaughn and Jenny Henson prepared the spaghetti and sauce for the event. Preschool families, local businesses and staff provided raffle prizes for the raffle. Proceeds from this event will go towards the cost to replace the preschool windows.

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. If you can transport individuals to church, please let Carol Lou know. Most people who need rides transport best in a vehicle that doesn't sit too high nor too low. Also, let her know if you are able to transport a wheelchair, as well.



CHRISTMAS WREATH ORDERS

It's time to think about ordering your greens for the holidays! The final order will be placed November 1st and items will be delivered the first week of December. If you would be interested in selling or purchasing wreaths please contact Marilyn Mitchell at (530) 908-1676 (cell).

ST. JOHN'S HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRE NOVEMBER 16-17th



As we enter the holiday season, people are beginning to think about gifts and decorating. St. John's United Church of Christ will be hosting its 9th Annual Craft Fair and Boutique on Friday November 16th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. & Saturday November 17th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Social Hall where such items can be found. Local crafters will be selling a range of creations from homemade breads and jams to beautifully designed jewelry. St. John's Church will be taking orders for beautiful, great-smelling holiday wreaths to dress your front door or hang anywhere that needs a burst of Christmas.

If you are interested in selling at the Craft Faire, call or come by the church office to get a registration form.

Vender table sizes are: 10 ft-\$25,
8 ft-\$20, 5 ft-\$12.50 and 4 ft-\$10.





ADULT CHOIR MEMBERS

WANTED:

If you like to sing, how about singing with the St. John's choir. The rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and run for about an hour. We'd really love to get some more **MEN VOICES**, but more women would be great, as well! If you have any questions see Carolyn Reiff.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Rehearsals for the annual Christmas musical are Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All children and teens are welcome. The musical this year is "Christmas Around the World", with many roles available and some great music. We'd love to have your friends join us, as well!

HARVEST HOME WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OCTOBER 14TH

We will have a very special Harvest Home service this year, with local bounties brought up to our altar by the people who grow them. Following the service, we will have delicious stew and soup luncheon over in the Social Hall. Plan to attend!



FACILITY PROJECTS UPDATE

The preschool windows were completed in September. The church raised \$13,100 towards this project. The preschool will be donating about \$2,000 from the proceeds of the Spaghetti Feed. We had to replace the second air conditioner in the sanctuary last week. It cost \$3,750 to replace the unit, which was the cost of the first air conditioner we replaced in August. We are in the process of getting bids to replace the original single paned windows in back of the overflow room of the sanctuary. Two more panes were broken in the last couple of weeks. Over the last 3 years we have had to replace about 8 window panes. We are also getting bids to replace one preschool door and 3 doors that open to the play yard from the social hall.

OCTOBER MOVIE NIGHTS



We will be showing the following movies this month:

Friday, October 12th- 'People Like Us'
and

Friday, October 26th- 'My Fair Lady'

Come to the Social Hall at 6:15 p.m. and the movies will begin shortly after. Snacks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a snack to share, as well. The movies are always a time for great fellowship and entertainment.

SUPPLIES FOR CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

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



nounced as they have become more vocal and prominent. The Southern Poverty Law Center has pinpointed 954 hate groups in America. The groups include the Ku Klux Klan, White Nationalist, Christian Identity, Anti LGBT, Anti Muslim, Skinhead and more, and 18 of those groups are located in northern California.

The lawyer says to us: “You never really understand a person until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” Jesus said something about ‘treating others as you want to be treated.’”

Now the wise lawyer stated: “Remember it is a sin to kill a mockingbird. Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make music for us to enjoy .. but sing their hearts out for us to enjoy. That’s why it is a sin to kill a mockingbird.” There are many people in our communities who don’t hurt others, work hard, but may be seen to be outside of so-called cultural ‘norms’ and become the barbs by some.

One hundred pounds of sermons on race relations and tolerance will weigh far less in the scale of enlightenment that the small book bearing the title, “To Kill a Mockingbird.” I suggest, if you have the opportunity, to see it [or read the book] and more importantly, heed its message. Our community will be better for it. And yes .. it might also help to attend worship regularly.

Pastor Bill

RICHARD KRANIG CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A celebration of life service will be held for Richard Kranig on October 20th, at the San Juan Masonic Lodge in Sacramento. Pastor Bill will officiate at the service.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Faye Brannan, Jim Brannan, Paula Castles,
Sammie Collins, Al Massa, Derril Peabody,
Bob Moeller, Lois Lawson, Judy Ness, Dathion Ruiz,
and Wendy Griffis

Those serving in the military and their families
Those suffering persecution globally
Our local, state, national and world leaders

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CLUB

2nd Carol Neilson
8th Heidi Truitt
24th Faye Brannan
26th Bruce Krause
26th Carol Griffin
28th Charlotte Mast



ANNIVERSARIES

25th Noreen and Chuck Chase
27th Barbara and Al Massa
27th Diane and Bruce Krause

LOCAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

We are continuing our collection of ***new or gently used bath towels and wash cloths*** for 4th and Hope. We are also still collecting ***unopened pet food, new and used towels*** and ***laundry detergent***



for the Yolo County Animal Shelter. 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.



SALLY REED

On December 19, 1936 at 5:10 a.m., Dr. Flanagan made it through the snow just in time to deliver me into this world in a

big farm house where my parents, Arnold and Sadie Luebcke lived. I was born a month early during the Great Depression. My father was the manager of a farm in Crown Point, Indiana. In 1938, my sister, Carole was born. Then in 1942, my brother, Arnold (Butch) was born. My father was very happy to finally have a son! In 1940 my father got a job as a manager of Congressman William T. Schulte's 500 acre dairy farm near Lowell, Indiana. He had 40 cows to milk morning and night, bred Holstein cattle, raised several pigs, many chickens, 2 horses and always turkeys for November and December holidays. My father hired a fellow to help him with all the work to be done on this farm. Yes, we drank raw milk, churned our own butter and the bread my mother made was baked in an old-fashioned cook stove. We had a huge vegetable garden every year. But, then came the canning of vegetables and fruit from all our different fruit trees. What a lot of work! My sister and I went to a two room schoolhouse one mile from where we lived. We walked to school every day because there was no bus service on

the gravel road where we lived. The school had grades 1st through 8th. Next to the school was the Community Church, where we attended every Sunday. Also, one of the ladies from church had Bible study every Wednesday at her home after school, which my sister and I always attended. My mother became a 4-H leader for the county so my sister and I joined 4-H. In the summer of 1951, my father resigned from working for Congressman Schulte. We then moved to my paternal grandfather's farm near Crown Point, Indiana to take care of him. My father got a job working in the US Steel Mill in Gary, Indiana and also farmed my grandfather's farm, where he raised beef cattle and chickens. Again, living on the farm was always a lot of work, but the family worked together to make it a success. I am so thankful for my dad, mom, sister and brother. We were a hard working team! My father and mother bought the farm after my grandfather passed away in 1953. I went to high school at Merrillville, Indiana and graduated in 1955. After graduating, I began working Calumet Title Insurance Company. I worked my way up to Assistant Supervisor in the Preliminary Department. In this department, we did the title search on properties, which required spending time in the recorder's office at the court house, getting information needed in preparing the final paper work for buyers. I worked 11 years for the title company. In 1966 I moved to Concord, California to live with my

aunt. My aunt and her girlfriend always went dancing at a ballroom in Oakland on Saturday nights. One Saturday night, they asked me if I would go with them and I did. This fellow, Howard Reed, asked me to dance and we danced all evening long together. Howard asked me if I would like to go with him to Lake Tahoe the next day. I accepted and this was the beginning of our courtship. He was a hairdresser and owned a beauty shop in Oakland and also in Concord. He was divorced and had one son.

In 1967 I took the civil service exam and was asked to come to the USDA Conservation Service in Berkeley for an interview to work in the procurement department. I was hired and started to work in June 1967. I also enrolled in Laney College in Oakland and obtained my AA degree in business administration. On September 28, 1968, after Howard and I had been dating for two years, we got married. We bought a one bedroom home near Mills College. It was a cute, little, rustic looking home. Howard decided he would like to remodel our home. He added on five rooms. We both worked on the project and when we finally finished in 1973, I was given the news that my office was moving to Davis! My husband felt it was time to retire from the beauty business, so I was willing to move with the office to Davis and was transferred to the contracting department.

Howard and I bought our home on Gibson Road in September 1973. He started buying homes that needed repairs –and some needed more than just repairs! When he would finish the repairs, he rented the homes out. This became quite a business for

him and he did quite well. I worked my way up to the position of Contracting Officer for SCS for the State of California, supervising three workers. We put out bids for building concrete, rock riprap channels and built a couple of dams in Tehachapi. I traveled to all the job sites up and down the state. I worked very close with the engineer and design departments. I also traveled to the USDA building in Washington D.C. for meetings with other contracting officers. Washington D.C. for meetings with other contacting officers. When there were floods, fires or earthquakes, it seemed like there was always damage around waterways, which our agency would get involved in repairing. This was called EWP (Emergency Watershed Project). On my job, I worked with a lot of flood control districts in the counties where we had work to do. It was an interesting job and I met a lot of good people. I retired in 1995.

When we moved up to Woodland, we had gone to several churches. Betty Bramham also worked for SCS and we carpoled along with Virgil Backland. Betty told us we should go to St. John's church. Howard and I went and liked the minister, Arlan Fick. The people were very friendly. We started going to the church and eventually joined in the late 70's We loved the beauty of the old church, the minister and the people made you feel like family.

After I retired, we bought a motor home and did a lot of travelling. We also bought a timeshare in Orlando, Florida, which we could exchange for places in other states of the U.S., as well as places in Canada, Mexico and Europe. We sure

enjoyed Hawaii and Alaska. I went deer and antelope hunting with Howard in Montana with his family who lived there. We had 35 acres in Westcliff, Colorado, where we use to camp and hunt. There were a lot of elk and deer there. We wanted to build a home and move there, but it got too cold in the winter.

I have many potted plants I try to keep alive. I also enjoy playing cards and always enjoyed dancing with Howard. My favorite food is salmon with sweet potatoes or rice and lemon meringue pie for dessert. I feel very blessed to have my stepson (son) and daughter-in-law, two granddaughters, one grandson, two great granddaughters and two great grandsons. My wonderful family live near Phelan, California.

I have been determined, since Howard passed away in February 2007, to keep up with what we had together and believe and trust in God, who has always been there watching over me. I am thankful for my church family and all the support they give me. I became active in the church after Howard passed. I work on the Lay Life (Congregational Life) committee, am an Altar committee member, and share coffee hostess duties with Noreen Chase on the second Sunday of each month. I also help Marilyn as I can, with church rummage sales. Howard and I always believed in exercise. We joined the Cross Court Athletic Club when we moved to Woodland, back when the club was first being built. I am still a member.

The one saying that has stuck with me throughout my life is what my mother used to always say, "where there's a will, there's a way".

ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Our 12th Annual Rhythm & Ribs BBQ and fundraising event was held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds in Waite Hall on Saturday, September 22nd. Over 300 people attended the event. The food was great. There were over 35 raffle prizes, a silent auction, cake auction and live auction. The change of venue helped to make the event a success.

FIJI OUTREACH UPDATE

We sent 7 wardrobe boxes to Fiji last week. Over the last two years we have sent over 35 boxes to churches in three different areas of Fiji. We also purchased and sent \$500 of school supplies to a school in Fiji that was completely destroyed by a hurricane last year.

UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION

In an effort to maintain current contact information, we are requesting that the members and friends of St. John's Church update their contact information (address, e-mail address(es) and both home and cell phone numbers) and e-mail to:

saintjohnswoodland@gmail.com or call the church office (**662-5921**) or mail in the information (**432 Cleveland Street**).

Thank you to those of you who have turned in information cards. This information will help in updating our church directory and aid in contacting members when needed.

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

Address Service Requested