



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
*San Luis Obispo*

*The Kirk*  
October, 2017



Isn't it interesting what some families squabble over? I remember when my boys were young our TV remote was the hardest thing to keep track of on a daily basis. It would never get returned to its proper place. Their mom and I would frequently tell them to "put it back where you found it". But it never seemed to sink in. I remember it got so bad that I finally designated a drawer for it to remain in and if it didn't end up there by bed time the boys would not be able to watch TV for every day it was missing. At one point it went missing for a whole week (I knew where it was...but didn't put it away on purpose) and our oldest confessed that he thought he was the last one to use it and it really wasn't fair to his brother to be punished.

WOW!

"Okay," I said, "but what's the rule?"

"Return it when I'm done," he said.

After looking diligently for about an hour (with a little coaching on my part) he found it and placed it back in the drawer and said, "Here's the remote, Dad."

At that moment I had a gratifying sense that my son was learning to be trustworthy. That gave me confidence to entrust things of greater value, like a Walkman (an old time cassette player) to his care. My goal was to be able to entrust anything to my boys with the full confidence that they will treat valuable things with the same respect as I would.

Why make such a big deal about a remote? Because learning to take care of someone else's property— stewardship— begins with small things. The issue is not the value of the item but the principle involved: faithfulness. When someone entrusts their property to you, you should take great care with it.

When we are careful to manage the small things, it shows we understand the concept. Faithful stewardship is the same whether it involves a remote control device, or a laptop, or a car, or a house, or your 401K. If we will compromise our faithfulness over a "remote," it shows how little we value stewardship. Why sell out your character for pennies even when corporate America seems to be leading the way?

That is the idea Jesus teaches on how we handle the small things. It is one of the most important lessons in character. Biblical stewardship, the giving of 10%, implies that one small thing God tests us with is money. If we can rightly manage God's money, we may be able to handle greater responsibility with significant spiritual ramifications. Consider tithing this coming year. It truly is a small thing compared to eternal investments. Which is longer— one's life or eternity? Which would you want to "invest" in?

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will entrust you with many things." —Matt 25:23

Someone once said, "To get money is difficult, to keep it more difficult, but to spend it wisely most difficult of all."

Humbly,  
*Dennis*

# CHILDREN'S ED NEWS

*Children's Ed is off to a great start this fall! We are excited about being in the midst of programs and special events.*

## WEDNESDAYS AT THE ROCK RETURNS!

Wednesdays at the Rock started September 13. We welcomed two new families! The kids enjoyed VBS so much they decided to join us for Wednesdays at the Rock. A big thumbs up from the kids.

Wednesdays at the Rock is open to any kids kindergarten through sixth grade. If you have kids that age or know families that do, invite them to join us. One of our sixth graders wanted to continue in the program so we started a junior helper component this year. Also, Alison Lewis is offering free piano lessons to kids in exchange for singing in the Children's Choir. We also are offering Nursery Care for younger siblings. Lots of new and exciting opportunities.

Testimonials from new families:

*"They loved it. Faye said, "I can't wait until Wednesday!"*

*"Kami can't wait for Wednesday to get here. You just don't know how happy it makes us. We don't have an extended family close by so she is enjoying it so much and for that we cannot thank you enough."*

We are looking forward to sharing what First Pres SLO is all about with these new families.

## ADULT EDUCATION

*"The Bible in Translation: From Hebrew & Greek into Languages People Speak"*

In September, we introduced the topic of Bible translation and looked at the earliest translations of the Hebrew Scriptures, before the Christian era. We discussed the inherent tensions of translation work. An old Italian adage states: "The translator is a traitor." And yet, the 18th-century German writer and philosopher J. W. Goethe claims that the "work [of

## SAVE THE DATE

*Fall Frolic*

At the home of Dave Bauer | October 22 | 2:00 pm  
Food, fun, fellowship, and of course, frolicking!

*All Church Movie Night*

In the church parking lot | November 3 | 6:00 pm  
Hot dogs, s'mores, and movie treats  
We will watch "The Goonies"

*Advent Night*

Wilson Hall | December 3 | 5:00 pm

*Children's Musical and Bake Sale*

December 10 | 10:00 am

Children's Ed would like to thank you for your continued support. If you would like to volunteer or donate to the program let Jen know. We love our kids and families and look forward to new faces. Any questions please contact Jen: 805-543-5451 ext. 205 or [jen@fpcslo.org](mailto:jen@fpcslo.org).

*Your Children's Ed Committee*

Jen Rabenaldt, MaryEl Hansen, Teri Cueto, Diane Shervem, Becky Falasco, Bonnie Kraemer and Becky Moseley

translation] is and will always be one of the weightiest and worthiest undertakings in the general concerns of the world."

In October, we continue with Bible translations of the early Christian era in and around the Roman Empire (October 8, 15), crossing the English Channel to look at the earliest English translations—before English was English (October 22).

NO CLASS on October 1 or October 29. Questions? Contact Kate at [katym2@gmail.com](mailto:katym2@gmail.com) or 858-395-3001.

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## POTLUCK & BIBLE STUDY KICKOFF

The introduction to the Presbyterian Women's Bible study luncheon held in September was presented by Mary Blythe and Becky Falasco. It was well attended and a fun time to share and discuss our ideas of who has helped us in founding our faith and who are the people in our cloud of witnesses that help us in our ongoing faith journey. A new approach to including hymns in conjunction with each lesson was a fun time singing with Becky's piano accompaniment. We so appreciate the talents of these women. The study is based on the book of Hebrews.

Donations of diapers and wipes were taken at the lunch, for the Living Word program with a generous value of about \$900.00. Dana Easton delivered them that same day to the Nipomo Presbyterian Church. Thank you all for your support.

In October the study is lesson one, "In Community With Jesus." Each of the nine lessons begins with an opportunity to reflect on the upcoming scripture and the theme with a DVD to view, scripture readings, and discussion questions. We always take time to share with one another our cares and concerns and prayer needs which builds our community of friendship, trust, and love for one another.

## LIBRARY REVIEW

*Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain* by Dan Siegel is a book that has been added to the church library and it can be found on the book cart.

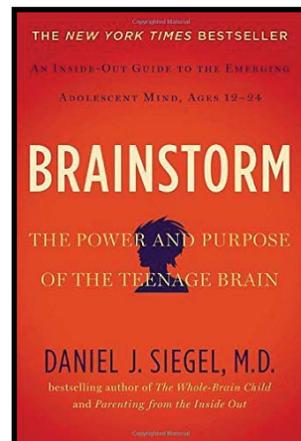
Between the ages of twelve and twenty-four, the brain changes in important and, at times, challenging ways. In *Brainstorm*, Dr. Daniel Siegel busts a number of commonly held myths about adolescence—for example, that it is merely a stage of “immaturity” filled with often “crazy” behavior. According to Siegel, during adolescence we learn vital skills, such as how to leave home and enter the larger world, connect deeply with others, and safely experiment and take risks.

The new format of the Sunday church bulletin will be listing the ongoing times of the Bible study group meetings. If you are able to select a time that works for you to attend please don't hesitate to call the contact person and let her know. The **Dorcas Wilson Circle** meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am in the Library (contact Dorothy at 541-6779); the **Friendship Circle** meets every Thursday at 10:00 am in the Library (contact Barbara Gillson at 543-0475); the **Virginia Terry Circle** meets the second Wednesday night at 7:00 pm at Dorie Larson's home (contact Dorie at 544-7512); and the **WOW "Women of the Word" Circle** meets in homes on the first and third Wednesday at 12:45 pm (contact Nellie Beecher at 544-1627).

Time flies quickly so mark your calendar for the PW get together on December 7. It will be a fun time to gather and share on Lesson 3. All women are welcome.

*-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator*

Drawing on important new research in the field of interpersonal neurobiology, Siegel explores exciting ways in which understanding how the brain functions can improve the lives of adolescents, making their relationships more fulfilling and less lonely and distressing on both sides of the generational divide. Siegel offers teens and parents a road map for understanding the adolescent mind that will help families not just survive but also thrive the “teenage years” and beyond.



# MUSIC NEWS

As we get into the fall season and get back into our 'routines' for each service, it causes me to think about why we do the things we do in worship and what makes them appropriate in our reformed theology. As I was pondering, I received an email from our organist/accompanist, Alison Lewis, that struck a chord (no pun intended) with me in general. So in this article I would like to 'set the stage' with this thought of 'inattentiveness in worship' as I explore the different components of our worship and the purpose, in the next few articles.

## Inattentiveness in Worship

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:17

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

*Reflection: Inattentiveness in Worship* by John Tillman

As stodgy as C.S. Lewis sounds in his letter on Liturgiology one might mistakenly assume that he is campaigning for unilateral and unchanging homogeneity in worship style and liturgy. However, that is not the case. Lewis seems to appreciate variety, as long as the attention of the worshipers is drawn to God rather than the creativity of the celebrants.

Lewis chides his readers for casting judgment on the worship practices of others, making an appeal to variety within the community of the church. "Broaden your mind, Malcolm, broaden your mind! (*Malcolm is a fictitious friend, standing in for Lewis's reading audience.*) It takes all sorts to make a world; or a church. This may be even truer of a church. If grace perfects nature it must expand all our natures into the full richness of the diversity which God intended when He made them, and heaven will display far more variety than hell. 'One fold' doesn't mean 'one pool.' Cultivated roses and daffodils are no more alike than wild roses and daffodils.

"In a consumer society and culture, our identity is tied up in our taste and our tastes are broadcast through our criticism. The superiority of the role of worship

critic is more attractive to us than the supplicate posture of a worshiper.

"What pleased me most about a Greek Orthodox mass I once attended was that there seemed to be no prescribed behavior for the congregation. Some stood, some knelt, some sat, some walked; one crawled about the floor like a caterpillar. And the beauty of it was that nobody took the slightest notice of what anyone else was doing. I wish we Anglicans would follow their example. One meets people who are perturbed because someone in the next pew does, or does not, cross himself. They oughtn't even to have seen, let alone censured. 'Who art thou that judgest another's servant?'

"We must cultivate in worship a certain kind of inattentiveness toward other worshipers and even toward the leaders—maintaining our attention on God as the focus of all our joined efforts." —Excerpts from *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*, C.S. Lewis.



As we worship together, you will also see a new face in leadership. Scott Glysson, Choral Activities Director of Cal Poly is joining our music department to direct the Chancel Choir for the 11:00 service and assist the Praise Teams that lead our

congregational music in the 8:45 service. We will have more detailed information about Scott and his role at FPCSLO in the November issue of the Kirk.

Respectfully,  
*Becky Falasco, Director of Music*

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## REAL ESTATE AVAILABLE

We are currently offering for sale two funeral plots at the Los Osos Valley Memorial Cemetery:

"Garden of Reflection" (Plot #445C, \$2,495)

"Garden of Memories" (Plot #228D, \$3,495)

Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY, ESPECIALLY:

For the Rev. Dennis Falasco as he pastors our congregation,

For our elders and deacons as they lead and guide us,  
For Jen Rabenaldt and our Children's Ministry,  
For all those involved in our Youth Ministry, especially leaders Ryan Joslin, Sarah Dirk, and Jake Wolfe,  
For Joel Drenckpohl and the Front Porch Campus Ministry,

For those who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church's elderly, especially those confined to their homes or care centers, like Allene Anderson, Cathy Anderson, Charles Blair, Gladys Brannum, George Daniel, Jean Honeyman, Jeanne Hoyt, Lorna Hudson, Stella & Starr Jenkins, Marie Kammenzind, Hulda Nickel, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, Dottie Jean & John Stechman, Ernest Triebel, Carol West, and Richard & Lou Wiens,

For the women and men who do so much to support the countless ministries, missions, and activities of our church,

For the local and global missions our church supports,

For members and friends serving in the military:

Drew Descary (stationed at Camp Pendleton)

Laura Kraemer (attending Navy Medical School in MD)

Jim Shelton (deployed on an aircraft carrier)

Michael Poe (stationed in Florida)

Joseph Sall (son of Anne Ramirez; stationed in Carlisle, PA)

Travis Hatakeyama (grandson of the Luensers; stationed in Germany)

Brendan Humphrey (grandson of Leila & Bob; on Navy Aircraft Carrier)

*And for all of us as we serve God wherever He calls us.*

**BROWN BAG CONCERT** See and hear principals from Opera San Luis Obispo's upcoming production of Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* Friday, October 6 at 12:00 pm in Wilson Hall.

**BOOK BROWSERS** will meet on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 pm in the library to discuss *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin. Our book for November is *The Wandering Gene and the Indian Princess* by Jeff Wheelwright. Questions? Contact Diane Shervem at 543-1473 or dshervem@charter.net.

**JAZZ VESPERS** will be October 15 at 4:00 pm with the Bob Harway Trio. Reception in Wilson Hall to follow.

**KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS** will be held October 29 at 10:00 am (*only one worship service that day*). After the service there will be a finger foods luncheon in Wilson Hall. Please bring items such as small sandwiches, veggie plates, fruit plates, cheese and crackers, deviled eggs, etc., to share. We're looking forward to a meaningful service and wonderful fellowship luncheon.

**LIGHT UP A LIFE** A ceremonial event to remember loved ones no longer with us. This annual event, hosted by Wilshire Hospice, will take place here at FPCSLO on Thursday, November 2 at 6 pm. To have your loved one's name read and photo included in a special presentation, please email [lualwhoc@wilshirehcs.org](mailto:lualwhoc@wilshirehcs.org) or call 547-7025 x18. In addition to honoring those who have died, this event will offer community resources that assist in coping with the extra challenges that may arise during the holidays.

## KIRK ARTICLES

Due every month on the 15<sup>th</sup>

Please send articles for consideration to Mia at [secretary@fpcslo.org](mailto:secretary@fpcslo.org)

*Thank you!*

# STEWARDSHIP

*This letter went out in the mail last month. If you didn't receive a stewardship letter or pledge card, please contact the Church Office.*

Hello friend,

Please give me five minutes of your time. We have something very important to talk about. Christ has given us gifts that we can use in glorifying God. God has planted His gifts in all of us. Now, it's up to us to make them grow.

To help in growing these gifts and to repay God for His loving generosity to us, we need to live lives that reflect His teachings and support His church, the First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo. This is our responsibility...no one else will step up to do it for us; not the local City Council, the County Board of Supervisors, Sacramento or Washington D.C. The responsibility of maintaining our church as a refuge from a chaotic world and a place where we can gather with loving, caring friends falls squarely on our shoulders.

This year's budget was \$614,759. If that responsibility were to be divided by the 249 families that rely on us during the year for meaningful sermons, music, Christian education, weddings, funerals, memorials, and our mission outreach during the year, it works out to a little under \$2,500 each. Not everyone has the means to contribute that much but with God's grace there are many loving members who can contribute more so that we can grow the church.

Before filling out the enclosed Pledge card and the Time and Talent slip, we ask that you spend a few minutes in prayerful reflection. Think about what First Presbyterian means to you...this building, the friends whom you've nurtured and have encouraged you, and most of all, reflect on how God has blessed you.

Thank you for all your generous and loving gifts...big, small, increased or not.

## REPAYING GOD FOR HIS LOVING GENEROSITY

All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God's good and bounteous gifts. And once received, those gifts are not to be used solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others.

Please prayerfully reflect on the gifts you have received. And then kindly complete the Pledge card you received in the mail and return it in the return stamped envelope.

We are all grateful for your generosity and dedication to First Presbyterian Church here in San Luis Obispo. The Rock at Marsh & Morro.

Sincerely,

The Stewardship Committee

*Diane Brocato, Steve Lumm, Tim Smith*

## PLEASE NOTE

As of October 13, the Church Office will be closed on Fridays.

# MISSIONS

As always, I am so proud to be a member of a church that is strongly committed to both local and global missions. In two Sundays, you raised enough funds to sponsor St. Esprite Grade School in Marigot, Haiti and to also add a kindergarten, which is so important as the feeder program for their entire school. In addition, there were also sustained pledges of almost \$4,000 for future years, about half our annual goal.

Thank you so much for this wonderful gift to these students. Any additional funds each year will be used to provide books, school supplies, and soccer balls.

Be assured that all of the funds will be used for the operating costs of our school, salaries for the teachers, and other student needs. The Haiti Education Foundation's liaison, Susan Turbeville, has been working with schools in Haiti since she was a young woman, learning from the founder, Francis Landers, who began this ministry in 1981. As I said in our presentation, in all my 17 years of working in Central America, I have never known of any organization like HEF that has no overhead costs. Friends of mine, who have volunteered on medical missions to Haiti were amazed that such an organization existed in Haiti. We are indeed fortunate to be working with HEF.

In the future, we may want to look at helping HEF fund a kitchen and/or a food program, a library and another kindergarten. For those who funded an entire classroom, we will get plaques made for each classroom and one designating our church as the school sponsor. While this is not really important to us, it is a source of pride for the school and the kids.

Our next step will be to have a picture taken of our entire congregation thanks to help from Kate McCormick. We will have a poster with the picture sending our greetings to the school. Then, a delegation of 4 or 5 from the church will take the poster and the plaques to St. Esprite either this fall or next spring. If you have an interest in going with me to Haiti on this trip to solidify our sponsorship, please talk to me next Sunday. There is at least one scholarship to pay for airfare.

-Steve Walker

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To the following seniors (over 85) who have birthdays in October:

**Ralph Nunley:** September 3

**Bob Gordon:** October 19

**Ruth Gordon:** October 31 (Celebrating 90 years!)

To everyone else who has an October birthday! If we have overlooked anyone, please contact the Church Office at 543-5451.

## INQUIRER'S CLASS EVERY SUNDAY FROM NOVEMBER 12-DECEMBER 3 10:00-10:45 AM IN THE LIBRARY

What does it mean to become a Presbyterian? Would you like to know the history of our church? Would you like to meet other inquirers and members? This is an opportunity for you to find out about the life and ministry of our church and gives you prayerful consideration to whether you want to become a member of our church. *Participation in the class does not commit you to church membership.*

Contact Bob and Glenda Morgan with any questions at 543-3901.

# CHURCH BUSINESS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

August 31, 2017

	Actual		Budget
	August	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Income	\$61,976	\$399,194	\$409,839
Expenses	\$52,814	\$410,148	\$409,839
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$9,163</b>	<b>(\$10,954)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

As part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the church is asked to pay a per capita apportionment. This year the level of support is \$80.00 per member. Per Capita income received to date is \$6,580.

-Your Budget & Finance Committee



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*San Luis Obispo*

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981 Marsh Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
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## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**FIRST SERVICE: 8:45 am**

**EDUCATION HOUR: 10 am**

**SECOND SERVICE: 11 am**

*Skilled Childcare Available*