

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk
October 2018

WHEN DO WE STOP DREAMING?



We are about ready to kick off our annual stewardship campaign for 2019. Do you have time for a story? It's one that should help us realize that over these past four years we have begun to see our dreams of what a church should be doing in the 21 Century. What these past four years should tell us is that we are never too young to change, nor too old to have our dreams realized. We dreamed of more missions opportunity and adapted a school in Haiti. We dreamed of easier access to the third floor and are in the process of installing an elevator. We dreamed these dreams because we continue to believe that Jesus is doing some magnificent things in and through our lives as a congregation at this time and in this place and through this facility and we need all the space past generations built for us and that future generations will help us to proclaim the gospel to this community and beyond, in a current relevant way. So we realize our dreaming about the future of this congregation isn't over.....our dreams are just continuing to be realized. So the obvious question is: What are your dreams for this coming year, these next few years....and will you help realize them? You know that if they are dreams they will not be easy to accomplish, but, if they are Christ centered, and divinely inspired they will be exciting to achieve. In just a few short weeks we will announce next year's final budget seeking to continue doing what our ancestors began for us over one hundred years ago.

So to the story. Do you remember your earlier days....when you were back in school?.....I remember some of mine.....I remember I couldn't wait to graduate high school and "make something of myself"and then I went to college because everyone told me "you'll never amount to much without a college degree"and I thought once I finished college I'd be through learning.....that is until I attended a freshmen religion class at Point Loma College in San Diego where.....The first day of school our professor, Dr. Clifton Fisher, introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, elderly lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being. She said, "Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?" I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course you can!" and she gave me a giant squeeze. "Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?" I asked. She jokingly replied, "I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, and have a couple of kids" ... "No seriously," I asked. I was curious as to what motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age. "I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!" she told me. After class we walked to the student union building and shared a strawberry milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this "time machine" as she shared her wisdom and experience with me. Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She was living it up.

At the end of the semester I invited Rose to speak at my gymnastics banquet. I'll never forget what she said. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five cards on the floor. Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, "I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer last week and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in any kind of order so please let me just tell you what I know." As everyone laughed she cleared her throat and began, "We don't stop playing because we're old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy, and achieving success. You have to laugh and find humor every day. You've got to have a dream and pursue it. When you lose your dreams, you die.

PASTOR'S NOTE, CONTINUED:

We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it. There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you're nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old. If you are eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything you will turn eighty-eight. Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding opportunity in change. Don't have any regrets. Us elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we didn't do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets."

She challenged us to dream and live them out in our daily lives. At the year's end Rose finished her college degree she had begun all those years earlier. One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over five hundred college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example the value of Friendship.....Love.....and Truth in order to improve and elevate the character of humanity.

So here's our challenge dream about what YOU want this church to become, what we can do, how people outside our walls should see us and what people will say about us when we're gone.....

2 Corinthians 9:7-11

7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

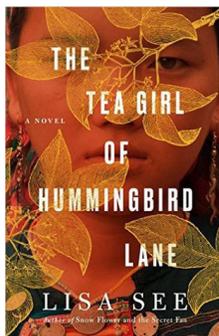
8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

9 As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." [b]

10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity [c] in you.

11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

BOOK BROWERS



Book Browsers will meet Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 7:00 pm in the library to discuss *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See.

On November 13th the book is *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Shervem at 805-543-1473 or dshervem@charter.net.

COMING UP

BROWN BAG CONCERT

Opera San Luis Obispo artists and Maestro, Brian Asher Alhadeff, will present in anticipation of their October 13th and 14th 2pm matinee performances of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE* - a production especially for families with children as well as opera aficionados alike! Join us at Noon, Friday, October 5 in Wilson Hall, First Presbyterian Church, Marsh & Morro!

SLO BOAT EVENTS

Please come to the next SLO Boats event on Saturday, October 6th, at 11:00 AM. We will attend the Dress Rehearsal for the opening night of the San Luis Obispo Symphony. The performance will be Brahms Symphony No.3 and Cabaniss "Double Rainbow" Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, featuring Michael Shinn and Jessica Shinn.

The cost of a ticket is \$20 and may be purchased ahead of time or on the day of the dress rehearsal at the PAC. This is open seating. Please plan on lunch afterwards at the Upper Crust Trattoria on Los Osos Valley Rd. at 1:00 PM. Please call Barbara Gregg at 805-541-4372 with your lunch reservation by Oct. 4th.

JAZZ VESPERS

Jazz Vespers returns to the beautiful First Pres sanctuary with The Marshall Otwell Quartet Sunday, Oct. 7 at 4 PM. Joining Marshall are Talia Ortega, flute & vocals; Ken Hustad, bass; & Daryl Vandruff, drums. Artist reception follows. Marshall Otwell was pianist & musical director for jazz legend Carmen McCrae. He also performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival several times, (including last month!). Message delivered by Dr. Dale Wolff.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The November Bible study, lesson 2, will be “God With Us in Our Uncertainty.” God accompanies the called; it is God’s presence in our weakness that equips us for our calling, based on Exodus 3:1-12 - Judges 6: 11-27. Each lesson focus on Biblical leaders. This lesson is God’s call to Moses and Gideon...what do you know about Gideon....come and find out more about this mighty warrior and why the angel of the Lord says, “The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior.” The meeting places and times vary, watch the Sunday bulletin for a group or call Dorothy 805- 541-6779 Heads up on Thank Offering - this reminder is to tell you that the work of this Offering is extremely important.... and to remind you that our own Dana Easton made a request for the ‘Shower the People’ (a homeless service project) and they received \$44,000.00 from this Offering. This service is provided by the coalition of churches and covers the south county area. More information will be in the November Kirk on the Offering for 2018-2019 projects.

Navajo in the newsa very interesting article on ‘Jesus Among the Navajos’ was published in the ‘Presbyterian Today’ magazine in the August/September issue. Presbyterian Women has been supporting the Navajo mission church for years. In December we collect material items and school supplies for Christmas gifting. The article includes a message of the the Pastor Norma McCabe a Navajo Pastor of the Kayenta Church we support. The challenge of her work with Navajo is in their traditions and practices. Pastor Norma says, “We need to go beyond ourselves into what ever culture we find ourselves as Christians,” “There is good and bad everywhere, and we must reach out to people who are hurting . This is what Christ meant when he called us to recognize him in the hungry, the naked and the sick.” “ I feel that somebody needs to pray for them, show compassion.” A loving message. Norma is the only Navajo woman ordained as a Presbyterian minister of word and sacrament . She also serves as a consultant for Northern American Ministries of the Presbyterian Grand Canyon, overseer of Navajo congregations.

Several women support the work of PW with regular financial support as well as service on the board. These regular donations help to finance programs. All of our mission giving comes from our Remembrance Fund which is not used for operating and we are not in the Church’s

Budget so these contributions are very important. Bible study groups are encouraged to have a free will Offering taken each month to support the PW work in our church. Our scholarships, the cost of our Honorary Life Membership award, purchase of our study books, postage and program cost are covered by these collection. We really appreciate their support and dedication.

Honorary Life Membership Award will be presented in December (6) at a joint meeting of all Bible study groups. Every year it is a surprise presentation. We have awarded it to 67 Women over the past 70 years. In the past few years current active members who have received this honor include :

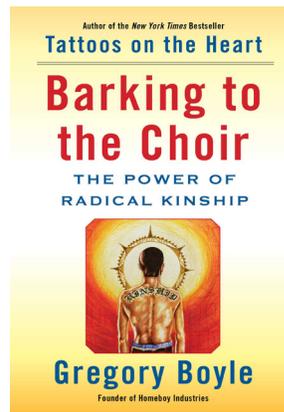
Evelyn Ruehr -1992; Mary Ruth Mach - 1979 & 1993; Dorothy Truesdale -1995 and 2004; Gloria DeKliene -1999; Dorie Larson and Dana Easton -2003; Doris Bryan - 2005; Susan Updegrove -2007; Nellie Beecher - 2010; Kay Emmons - 2011; DD Patrick - 2013; Erma Prinslow - 2014; Margo Smith -2015; Pam Rodewald - 2016; Judy Springer - 2017 - ... Who will it be selected in 2018???

Come in December to see.

-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator

LIBRARY REVIEW

Barking to the Choir by Gregory Boyle is a book that has been added to the library and can be found on the book cart.



In a moving example of unconditional love in difficult times, the Jesuit priest and bestselling author of *Tattoos on the heart*, Gregory Boyle, shares what three decades of working with gang members in Los Angeles has taught him about faith, compassion, and the enduring power of kinship....After the successful expansion of Homeboy Industries, Boyle returns to reveal how compassion is transformIng the lives of gang members. In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence this book offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins....This book is guaranteed to shake up our ideas about God and about people with a glimpse at a world defined by more compassion and fewer barriers.

Tattoos on the Heart is also on the book cart.

DEACONS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 7TH

“One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.”



In our October Communion Service we join in a very special, world-wide celebration of Christian unity. While the emblems, look of the tables and certain customs may vary around the world, we all come to share this meal, as the family of God.

World Communion Sunday is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. It first started at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. The concept spread slowly at the start. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, “because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense.”

The Deacons will prepare our communion table with breads from many cultures around the world. And as we share Christ’s peace with one another, we can share that peace with those beyond our doors. Along with other Presbyterians, we will be taking a Peace and Global Witness Offering. Twenty-five percent of this Offering will go to our Presbytery, joining with other congregations to support regional peacemaking work. The second 25 percent of this Offering stays with our congregation, so that we can commit ourselves to active peacemaking. And 50 percent of this Offering supports the work for peace being done by Presbyterians everywhere.

-Margo Smith, moderator

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Ralph Nunley – October 8
Bob Gordon – October 19
Carol Dover - October 28
Ruth Gordon – October 31

And to everyone else with a October birthday!
If we have overlooked anyone, please contact the Church Office at 543-5451.

FRONT PORCH

A new year has just begun at Cal Poly, and Front Porch opened its doors on September 20. Let me introduce you to the staff. Joel Drenckpohl, director, and Dom Barrett, associate director, will be heading a team of two new interns--Annalisa Balestreri and Theresa Eads.

Annalisa and Theresa both graduated from Cal Poly last year; and after volunteering at Front Porch, they wanted to become part of the ministry. We are delighted that their smiling faces and good cheer will continue to reach out to students on a daily basis. Kyle Smith is the final member of the team, with the title of Community Relations Lead. Kyle came to Joel with the request to join the Front Porch team and offered to raise his total support for the year.

After numerous meetings of the Council and in consultation with Presbytery, the position was created and Kyle began his fundraising. His success is an inspiration to us all! Kyle graduated several years ago from Cal Poly and has been working in ministry since then. In addition to his daily contact with students, he will be developing contacts and strengthening relationships with the Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo community.

Front Porch will be serving coffee on September 30. Stop by to chat with those staff and/or students who prepared your coffee.

For any questions or more information, please contact Joel Drenckpohl at director@frontporchslo.org or any of the Council members: Mary Blythe, Tad Miller, and Susan Updegrove

-Susan Updegrove, Front Porch Council Member

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

ENDOWMENT

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Youth programs here at our church benefit from the endowment!

Please pray for our church family, especially:

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

For our elders and deacons as they lead us,

For Jen Rabenaldt and Karlyn Tremaine, Stephanie Vigil, Grace Power Smith, Ashley Carder & Ian Rabenaldt, who help with our Children's Ministry,

For all those involved in our Youth Ministry, especially leaders Sarah Dirk, Jake Wolfe, Brecken DeOilers, Hailey Firstman and Kelsie Krueger,

For Joel Drenckpohl and the Front Porch 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 Cathy Anderson, Charles Blair, Gladys Brannum, George Daniel, Jean Honeyman, Lorna Hudson, Starr Jenkins, Marie Kammenzind, Ralph Nunley, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, Dottie Jean & John Stechman, Carol West, and Richard 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, friends, and family serving in the military:

Drew Descary (stationed in San Diego)

Laura Kraemer (in Maryland)

Michael Poe (stationed in Florida)

Joseph Sall (stationed in Pennsylvania)

Travis Hatakeyama (stationed in Germany)

Brendan Humphrey (on the USS Carl Vinson)

R. Brooks Anderson (on the USS North Dakota)

Sean Gillson (stationed on Whidbey Island)

Chris King (serving in the Middle East)

For all of us as we serve God wherever He calls us.

If you have a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at 805-543-5451.

First Pres Youth appreciate all of the support we get from the Endowment Funds. The Gaustad, Kendall, and McMillan, families have left bequests to partially endow our Youth Programs. These funds have allowed the Youth and Youth Leaders to enjoy opportunities such as Summer Camp, Winter Camp and Special Events. We continue to honor those who so generously set up these special accounts for our Youth. We make sure the funds are used responsibly. These funds are used to support students through scholarships and to support programs that might not otherwise have the budget to succeed. We also use them for outreach in hopes of letting students and families know more about First Pres SLO and what a great place it is to be a part of.

Thank you for your continued support and for keeping these programs vital not only for First Pres SLO but for our community.

By First Pres Youth Ministry

Editor's note: At the end of 2017, the three funds name above had a combined value of \$101,821 and since 1999 have provided \$44,484 to our Youth programs.

If you'd like to consider a gift of any type, please talk with a member of our church's Endowment Committee: John Eichler, Jane Maxwell, Diane Shervem, Bert Townsend, Dorothy Trusedale, Roger Verity, or Virginia Walter. Even a modest gift will make a difference.

ADULT EDUCATION

MEN AND WOMEN IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

New Adult Education Series begins October 21 with facilitator Kate Murray

The Gospel of John is different from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke). Paying attention to its differences is instructive and enlightening for anyone who studies the Bible for faith, literature, or history. We will look at the unique way John chose to present his characters and their interactions with Jesus.

The first class will be an overview of the Gospel of John with an introduction to the concept of characterization and why it matters. Classes 2 – 4 will focus on individual characters in John. Women are particularly interesting: John's female characters are all portrayed positively. How is each an example of discipleship? How do they contrast with male characters (who are both positive and negative)? What do these men and women mean to us today?

This course will encourage people of faith who "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (John 20:31). It will also interest those who wish to better understand the history, literature, and culture of the Bible and early Christianity.

Sign up in the courtyard between services on October 7 & 14. Questions? Contact Kate at katym2@gmail.com or 858-395-3001.

CHILDREN'S ED

As we jump into Fall mark your calendars for all of our upcoming events. We look forward to you joining us and seeing what we are up to. Children's Ed. has been blessed by so many of you and we truly appreciate your support. Please feel free to invite any kids you know to join our programs.

If you are interested in being a "Special Guest" at Wednesday's at the Rock let Jen know. We are looking forward to having members of our congregation come and share a talent or special interest with our kids.

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We started a Confirmation Class for our Middle School students. If you have a middle school student or know of one it is not too late to join us. Any questions - let Jen know.

As many of you know - Jen is working towards becoming a Certified Christian Educator. She is currently enrolled in one of the required courses, "Religious Education Theory and Practice," and looks forward to completing Certification within the next year.

She will be traveling to Union Presbyterian Seminary the beginning of October to complete the on sight course work for this current class. Please keep her in your prayers.

FALL FROLIC

October 21 • 2:00 pm • At the home of Dave Bauer
Please join us for this fun event! Everyone is welcome.
Food, fun, fellowship, and of course frolic.

ADVENT NIGHT

December 2 • 5:00 pm • Wilson Hall
Join us as we prepare for the birth of Christ.
Everyone is welcome.
Crafts, fellowship, caroling and snacks.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL AND BAKE SALE

December 9 • 10:00 am • Wilson Hall
You will not want to miss this special tradition at First Pres. Especially this year - it will be full of surprises.
If you can bring something for Children's Ed to sell at the Bake Sale that would be fantastic. Cookies, cake, jam, peanut brittle, scones, etc....

Thank you for all your support of Children's Ed!
Teri Cueto, MaryEl Hansen, Bonnie Kraemer, Diane Shervem, Anne Walling and Jen Rabenaldt

Jen's contact info: jen@fpcslo.org
805-543-5451 ext. 205

STEWARDSHIP

INVESTING IN OUR MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS

Hopefully this overview of the 2019 FPCSLO budget will help you see how your gifts are used and what a difference they make. We thank all of you who make our ministry possible through your time, talent and financial contributions.

Our proposed 2019 operating budget is based on the recommendations of our church committees. It shows the projected costs of performing the ministries and missions of FPCSLO.

The 2019 projected budget will be similar in proportion to this year's budget, while the actual numbers will increase by about 10% overall. This increase is the result of higher utility costs, increases in mission ministries, increases in personnel salaries, and increases in media design and advertising costs.

Our hope is that you will decide to increase your pledges in 2019 to enable us to provide the ministries and missions to those who need them.

This is an ambitious, but reachable goal. If you have questions, please contact a Stewardship Committee member (Richard Andrews, Mary Blythe, Diane Brocato, Peggy Estes, Don Green or Virginia Walter). Please use the enclosed envelope to mail in your financial pledge card and time and talent pledge card to the church office, or place it in the collection plate on any Sunday. We need your pledges by the end of October 2018.

The Ministry of FPCSLO Through the 2019 Operating Budget

Ministry Income

Pledges and other giving	\$ 636,000
Per Capita giving	9,000
Pre-School rent	9,000
Endowment Income	9,000
Facilities Use Fees	5,800
Investment Income	4,500
Other	3,800

Total Ministry Income **\$677,100**

Ministry Investments

Worship Ministry \$291,550

This ministry is coordinated by the Worship Committee. Worship ministries are provided by our Pastor (50%), Director of Music, Organist, Chancel Choir, Praise Singers, and Handbell Choir. Included are costs of music, worship supplies, worship copyrights, equip-ment maintenance, and Sanctuary Arts.

Education Ministry \$137,550

This ministry is coordinated by the Education Committee and includes adult education, children's education, youth program, nursery ministries, and recreation activities. These ministries are provided by our Pastor (20%), Director of Education, Director of Children's Education, Director of Youth, and volunteer staff.

Missions \$ 96,150

Coordinated by the Missions Committee, these ministries include God's Hidden Treasures, New Horizons Foundation USA, Refugee Relief (new in 2019), Green Pastures, People's Kitchen, Maxine Lewis Homeless Shelter Dinners, CASA Camp Scholarships, Christmas Giving, Women's Shelter, Wilshire Hospice, Front Porch, Get on the Bus and People of Faith for Justice.

Congregational Life Ministries \$68,800

Coordinated by the Congregational Life Committee, these ministries include communi-cations with current membership, attracting and preparing new members, and coordinating and providing hospitality and fellowship (receptions, meals, etc.).

Pastoral Care Ministry \$58,800

Pastoral care is provided by our Pastor (10%) and our Director of Memorial Services and Weddings.

Note: Each of the above five ministry budgets includes allocated portions of costs of personnel, property maintenance, utilities, administration, and communications.

Presbyterian Partnerships \$24,250

Our connections to the Presbytery of Santa Barbara, the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, and the General Assembly are funded through Per Capita contributions.

Sincerely,
Stewardship Committee



**FIRST
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CHURCH**

San Luis Obispo

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web: fpcslo.org

TWO SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:45 AM SERVICE

EDUCATION HOUR at 10 am

11:00 AM SERVICE