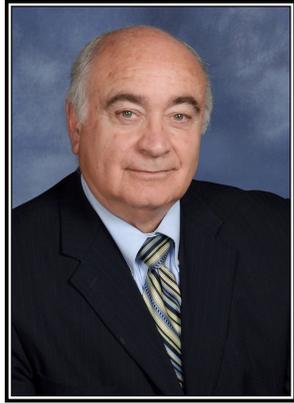


FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

June 2019



A NOTE FROM PASTOR DENNIS

I remember as a young associate pastor in my second church we had an elderly congregation. Jerry Minor, a man in his 70s was the clerk of session. He was a retired Captain in the Navy. He understood the value of being involved and how important it is to bring something to the table if you really want to see a difference. He was a man who was a member of what has been called the “Greatest Generation”. He served in the US Navy in World War II, was in the invasion of Normandy and D-Day. When we were talking about his war experiences, he mentioned the suffering, the deprivation, the horror of war. But then he said, *“Still, I look back on those years as the very best years of my life. For once in my life I really had the feeling that I was part of something, part of something bigger than myself. I was on the move. We had a mission. Maybe it’s sad to say, but I look back on those years as the best of my life.”*

... *“I was part of something, part of something bigger than myself.”*

That is what is happening to our membership... People are feeling like they are part of something much bigger than themselves. Here’s how I know... We had a wonderful Easter season... and as folks were walking out of worship Easter Sunday, I had a couple of different people, both in their 80s come past me and say, *“Wow... This feels like the olden days... lots of people in worship filled with joy and laughter.”*

And here’s why... In Luke’s Gospel Chapter 10 we read:

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. [2] He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. [3] Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. [4] Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

[5] “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ [6] If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. [7] Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

[8] “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. [9] Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’ [10] But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, [11] ‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.’

[16] “He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

[17] The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

[18] He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. [19] I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. [20] However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Luke claims that it was just that sort of mission to which Jesus called the 70 disciples. I know the gospel message is still applicable today as it was in His day. So I ask you ... Have you experienced “the best years of your life”? Or are they still ahead of you? This church is growing both spiritually and numerically because people like you have taken the initiative to be involved in your church.

What are you being called to do for the sake of the gospel? Be a Deacon? Be an Elder? Participate on a committee? Jerry Minor died making a difference both in the military and in his church. There is still a war going on both within our world and within our community. You are part of this church and your participation is needed. We are growing because of your response as a Christian to be involved by growing spiritually and applying your spirituality through this church... So, never forget that if you receive a call from someone from the church asking you to help... pray about your answer... and then say, “Yes.”

BOOK BROWSERS

On Tuesday, June 4, we will have our annual salad potluck to plan next year's schedule. We will meet in the Geneva Room at 5:45 p.m.

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

LIBRARY REVIEW

The *CSB Heart of God Teen Study Bible* (edited by Mark L. Strauss) has been added to the library and is on the book cart. The premise of this new study Bible, published by Baker Books earlier this year, is that every passage in the Bible tells us something about who God is, who we are as those created in his image, and what God's purpose is for us and for the world. In this edition, each biblical book includes an introduction discussing authorship, audience, and dating, the book's purpose, and its context within Scripture. Each biblical chapter or reading section includes a short introduction (Setting the Stage) and conclusion with questions to ponder or discuss (Seeing the Heart of God). Short sidebar articles throughout include: Biographical Snapshots of key characters, Behind the Scenes sections providing key historical and cultural information, Big Questions addressing difficulties in the Bible, and Encountering God articles that explore God's relationships with biblical people and how he relates to us today.

The translation used is the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) 2017, an easy-to-read version touted as an "optimal equivalence" translation that places equal value on fidelity to the original text and readability for a modern audience.

This Bible not only provides teens with the tools to get to know God better but also is appropriate for adults, especially those unfamiliar with the Bible or new to Bible reading. FPSLO member Kate Murray had the privilege of working on this Bible for three years as one of seven contributors. She wrote the introductions and articles for the Gospel of John, Ephesians, and eight Old Testament books.

- Kate Murray

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To the following seniors (over 85) who have birthdays in June.

Starr Jenkins – June 1
John Evans – June 8
Barbara (Lexie) Daily – June 11
Vic Buccola – June 20
Lark Carter – June 26
George Daniel – June 26
Joe Barnett – June 29
Stan Thompson – June 30 (85 this year)

And to everyone else with a June birthday!
If we have overlooked anyone, please contact the Church Office at (805) 543-5451.

GET ON THE BUS THANKS YOU!

As you read this, our Get on the Bus families are back home, with fun and happy memories of the day spent with their loved one. GOTB provides hope and brings families together. During their special visit, the prison was closed down to only GOTB visitors. There were games and pizza, and the children ran around and laughed, played, and were held by their dads. After the families left CMC, we had our "Rest Stop" party at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church. The families were able to relax and unwind before they climbed back on the bus for the long trip home to Oakland, Stockton and Sacramento. When they boarded, they were given sack dinners, teddy bears, and a framed photo taken with their dad that day, along with a letter. They also took home memories of caring strangers, who helped make that day possible. Thank you so much for your generous contributions, your time, and your prayers.

- Margo Smith



COMING UP

JAZZ VESPERS

Jazz Vespers returns to the historic sanctuary at SLO First Presbyterian Church Sunday, June 9 at 4 p.m. welcoming the Dave Becker Trio playing Brazilian choro music. With Dave Becker on various woodwinds, Jeff Miley on guitar, and Darrell Voss on vibraphone and percussion, the concert promises to provide rich melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic textures and creativity. The concert is free/donations appreciated and will be followed by a reception. First Presbyterian Church SLO is at 981 Marsh Street (at Morro) in San Luis Obispo. For more information, see @JazzVespersSLO on FaceBook or call (805) 543-5451.

SLO BOATS!

Stop and smell the flowers on June 15. Join SLO Boats on a journey to Lompoc to visit grower Ocean View Flowers, which will include a walk in the flower fields. There will be a bit of heaven as you walk into a field of colorful fragrant stock. Meet in the church parking lot to car pool at 8:45 to depart at 9 a.m.

After the tour we will go to Sissy's for lunch. The cost will be \$20 per person including tax and tip. You may order from a menu of their specialties. We will arrive back in SLO between 2:30 and 3 p.m.

Contact Pam Rodewald to sign up by Monday, June 10. Please let me know if you plan on carpooling! (805) 215-2396 (please leave a message!) or email me at psrmony@mac.com

INVITATION FOR FUN!

The Congregational Life Committee is privileged to be responsible for the fun part of our church. We plan and organize fellowship activities, help out with all food and social aspects of the church, as well as being responsible for membership opportunities, Presbyterian Women, and groups such as SLO Boats.

We need more committee members. So please come join us at 4 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Geneva Room and help with the fun part of the church and its activities. Questions? Contact either Virginia Walter or Pam Rodewald

BROWN BAG

Musical Theater Vocal Workshop in *Showstoppers of Broadway*. Come see the students of the musical theater vocal workshop showcase their talents in some of the most beloved showstoppers that ever came out of Broadway!!! Friday, June 7, 2019, at 12 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, at Marsh & Morro. (805) 543-5451.

YOUTH

Hello First Presbyterian SLO Family!

Here are our plans for June:

The Youth are starting a new season and we look forward to new and exciting opportunities. Please keep the program in your prayers as we transition with new leaders and current and new students. We have a fun and busy summer planned and look forward to spending time with the kids. If you are interested in volunteering or supporting this program in any way please let Jen know.

jen@fpcslo.org - or - (805) 543-5451 ext. 205

Youth Schedule ...

Sunday

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Power Hour - Jr. and Sr. High - 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group - Jr. and Sr. High - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays - 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - come and hang out at the church - lunch will be provided - discussion and planning - a time to relax.

Watch for exciting events each month this summer - details to come.

Looking forward to it!

Youth Staff,

Brecken DeOilers, Jake Wolfe, Kelsie Krueger, Hailey Firstman

CHILDREN'S ED

We are looking forward to summer and all the fun activities. This is a great time to invite families to join us. And most especially kids!

Summer Schedule ...

Register for VBS at fpcslo.org

VBS

*June 10 - 14 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
The "Bee" attitudes 1 - 4

*July 8 - 12 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Christmas in July

Special session for older kids watch for details -
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*August 5 - 9 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. -
The "Bee" attitudes 5 - 8

There are lots of volunteer opportunities - please let Jen know if you are interested!

Sunday Worship Schedule

Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Children will be excused for Sunday School after the Passing of the Piece

Nursery Care available 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Adult Ed - 9:00 a.m.
Childcare available

Thank you for being a blessing to our kids ...
MaryEl, Anne, Stephanie, Bonnie, Diane, Teri and Jen

ADULT

EDUCATION

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASS
SUNDAYS AT 9 A.M.**

What does it mean to be Presbyterian?

Whether or not you are a member, you may want to attend a four week course on understanding the significance in playing an active role as a member of the church.

All that is required to be a Presbyterian is to:

**C
T
P
C**

If you can fill in the blanks, you probably don't need to attend, but if you can't, then you can expect:

A time for overview.

A time for questions and answers.

A time for reflection.

And a time for decisions...

I hope everyone will attend.

- Rev. Dr. Dennis Falasco

CONGREGATION CARE CORNER

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 those who help with our Children's Ministry - **Karlyn Tremaine, Stephanie Vigil, Grace Power Smith, Delaney Romo, Anne Walling, and Ian Rabenaldt,**

For all those involved in our Youth Ministry, especially leaders - **Jake Wolfe, Becken DeOilers, Hailey Firstman, and Kelsie Krueger,**

For **Joel Drenckpohl** and the Front Porch Ministry,

For those of our church family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church's senior citizens, especially those who are confined to their homes or care centers, like Linda Beyer, Gladys Brannum, George Daniel, John Evans, Barbara Frank, Jean Honeyman, Lorna Hudson, Starr Jenkins, Ralph Nunley, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, John Stechman, and Richard Wiens,

For the family and friends of Cathy Anderson and Carol West, who passed away in May,

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

For members, friends & family serving in the military,

Nic Beem – serving overseas

Drew Descary – stationed in San Diego

Laura Kraemer – Navy Medical School in Maryland

Michael Poe - stationed in Meridian, MS

Joseph Sall (son of Anne Ramirez)

– stationed in Carlisle, PA.

Travis Hatakeyama (grandson of Luensers)

– stationed in N. Carolina

Brendan Humphrey (grandson of Leila)

– on the Carl Vinson - Navy Aircraft Carrier

Sean Gillson (grandson of Barbara and Gene)

-stationed on Whidbey Island

R. Brooks Anderson (grandson of Dorothy

Truesdale)

– stationed in Groton, CT

Chris King (grandson of Lois Morgan)

– stationed in Colorado

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.

BUDGET & FINANCE

HALF PRICE SALE!:

2 Los Osos Valley Memorial Park Lots

Plot #501C & D in Serenity Garden area \$2,495

Plot #228D in Garden of Memories area \$1,750

Call First Presbyterian Church of SLO office or (805) 543-6244

-Diane Brocato of Budget and Finance Committee

ENDOWMENT

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

A Joyful Steward with Generous Heart

Virginia Walter is a many talented, longtime leader at First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo. One of her latest gifts has benefited the First Presbyterian Church Endowment.

Virginia arrived in San Luis Obispo in 1974 to teach Ornamental Horticulture at Cal Poly. She was naturally attracted to First Pres., having grown up in the PC(USA). Having fellow Cal Poly Horticulturalist and Chancel Choir member Bob Gordon as a mentor, Virginia joined the Choir. By the latter 1970s, Virginia was a Session Member, while the Rev. Jack Springer, followed by the Rev. Barbara Haddon, were Pastors. Virginia's first Session assignment was STEWARDSHIP. She worked with Art Dekleine, learning the ropes of creative approaches to our annual fundraising, while Cathy Anderson took on missions. Later, Virginia served on Property and Finance with David Williams, getting to know the buildings and grounds as well as budget management challenges. She described those years as "good times".

Virginia's experience struggling for building maintenance funds inspired her latest gift to the Alden Fogo Church Maintenance Endowment, created by Lou Fogo in 2018. She has been a donor to several First Pres. programs.

Virginia remains a faithful Presbyterian, enjoying the traditional Second Service, where she can be spotted in the Chancel Choir. She is a Ruling Elder, serving on the Congregational Life and Budget & Finance Committees. She also Chairs the Endowment Subcommittee.

If you'd like to consider a gift to the Alden Fogo Church Maintenance Endowment Fund, or to any other fund, please talk with a member of our church's Endowment Committee: John Eichler, Jerry Kaml, Jane Maxwell, Bert Townsend, Dorothy Truesdale, Roger Verity, and Virginia Walter.

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

P.S.: A special THANK YOU to the members who donated to the David Williams Homeless Programs Endowment following the May 2019 article on that topic.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Lesson 9 is the final lesson for our program year. The lesson subject, 'God With Us', based on Matthew 18:15-20 and 28:16-20. The focus is Jesus as he extends the promise of presence to his followers, whom he sends into the world. Like all of our lessons this is and has been a challenge to see how God has been with us in so many ways and why he gives us all this assurance in our final lesson. What is the most difficult concept in all of this?... Come to discuss this lesson with us!

THE 2019-2020 STUDY

Next year's study has been written by our beloved Rev. Eugenia Gamble, who pastors the Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church. The study is "A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments, Loved Carved In Stone." The introduction to this study will take place in our church September 5 in Wilson Hall at 9:30 a.m. Place the date on your calendar. This lessons follows Pastor Dennis's series on the Ten Commandments, so let's see where Eugenia takes us in this study. Even if you are not yet in a study group, you are welcome to this introduction to get an overview of what this study will cover. You are always welcome to attend any group that meets your available time to come.

Two groups meet in the Library on the First Thursday of October through June and two groups meet on Wednesday one at 12:45 p.m. and one at 7:30 p.m. Call Dorothy for details. (805) 541-6779.

SOCIAL MEDIA OR DAILY CONNECTIONS

Con-nect-ion / noun / the act of connecting; the state of being connected; relationship in fact; a relation of personal intimacy; a means of communication. (See back cover of Horizons Magazine)

A prayer for consideration from the March / April Horizons Magazine:

“ Living and Holy God, you who have created us for communication, for intimacy, for community, fill us with your love, that we might be open to those around us, especially those who are in need. We acknowledge the ways that we are closed off, not only to others, but to you, and even ourselves. Grant us the eyes to see the possibilities of your presence in every moment, in every time and place and your continuous call to also make present your compassion, whether in word or deed, comment or post. Give us courage to ask, to seek, even make those inevitable mistakes, trusting that you hold and carry us always. May we be attentive to your power in our lives - your joy, your hope, your strength - for the sake of bearing and carrying your kingdom into this world. In Christ's name. Amen”

By Mihee Kim-Koerting

This issue of Horizons also lists the nationwide 2018 Honorary Life Membership Recipients and our own Mary Blythe is among them. We are so proud of her!

Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator

SERVICE SCHEDULE

ONE SERVICE SCHEDULE:

9 A.M. EDUCATION HOUR

10 A.M. SERVICE

JUNE EVENTS

JUNE 7TH

-Brown Bag Concert featuring Musical Theater Vocal Workshop in *Showstoppers of Broadway*

JUNE 9TH

-Congregational meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the Election of Officers

-VBS Workday 11 a.m. in Wilson Hall. Join us to help set up for VBS (lunch provided).

-Jazz Vespers at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary featuring Dave Becker Trio

JUNE 10TH

Opening Doors to Interfaith Understanding at the Mosque of Nasreen, 1136 Walnut St., on June 10 at 7:30 p.m.

JUNE 10TH-14TH

VBS 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
The "Bee" attitudes 1 - 4



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