



June
2011



The Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara
21 East Constance Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805.687.0754 www.fpcsb.org

PASTORS: Rev. Dr. PETER BUEHLER & Rev. JUDITH MULLER

In this issue:

Joint Service	
Anne's Ordination	1
Lifeline	2
Member Updates	
Clerk's Report of Session	
Pastor's Message	3
Peter's Post	
Jottings from Judith	
Life Long Learning	4
Sunday Morning Classes	
Letter from Anne	
Who we said we are	
Mission & Outreach	5
Wheeler-Waddells	
Youth Activities	6
Alys IMPACT Trip	
Upcoming Events	
Children & Families	7
What's up in June	
Healthful News	8
Fellowship	9
Chariot of Friends	
Clipper Club	
PresbyFolks	
Church News & Notes	10
Peter & Clerk's report cont.	
Local Mission	11
Senior Activities Calendar	12



Joint Service

For the Installation of elders and deacons.
Be there for this very important occasion
in the life of our church.

June 5, 9:45

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church;

On behalf of the session I want to tell you about a blessing--the ordination of Anne Shelton to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Beginning August 1, Anne will join our pastoral staff on a part-time basis (10 hrs per week) using her special gifts to lead us in the area of Spiritual Disciplines. Anne will offer teaching and training in the areas of prayer and meditation; she will work with individuals and groups, including the staff and session.

Anne's title will be Stated Supply (Pastor) for the Spiritual Disciplines. This title reflects how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) works with local congregations to move a gifted and dedicated member like Anne into ordained service. We are grateful to the Presbytery of Santa Barbara for their help and encouragement in making this possible.

Anne's work will complement and strengthen that of the new Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Community Outreach, as well as Judith's and my efforts. I am excited by what will be an even stronger, more experienced--and intergenerational--pastoral ministry team.

Anne's position will not impact the church budget. Anne has graciously offered to serve without salary. Her compensation will be the use of her gifts and the blessing of our mutual growth in the Spirit.

Anne's ordination service will take place here at the church on **Pentecost—Sunday, June 12 at 4:00 p.m.** I know you will want to join Anne, husband Jim, family, and many friends for this joy-filled occasion.

Thanks be to God! Sincerely, Peter S. Buehler, Pastor

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Informal Worship and Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- Nursery Care is available
8:45 — 11:45 a.m.

Lifeline

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
805.687.0754

Member Updates

In Memoriam

Emily Nowell—April 6, 2011

Moved:

Mike & Julie Gregory (& Tyler)
27574 Dandelion Court
Temecula, CA 92591
E: julieg4sc@yahoo.com
E: sbgregory@yahoo.com

Louise Stevenson

1407 San Pasqual Apt. B
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
E: louise.m.stevenson@gmail.com

John & Kiran DeWilde

 (& Usha)

115 W. De La Guerra
SB, CA 93101
PH: 683-2165
E: dewildeones@yahoo.com

Married:

Jeanne Warden & George Goodall

Were married on
May 28, 2011



Mr. & Mrs. Goodall will reside at
3775 Modoc Road#263
SB, CA 93105
PH: 879-5592
E: gbgoodall@cox.net

New members:

Charles & Elise Meyer

 (& Jase)

6052 Paseo Palmilla
Goleta, CA 93117
E: elise.meyer@yahoo.com



Clerk's Report of the April Session Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Session Retreat, our devotion explored a portion of our study book, *Christian Prayer for Today* by Martha L. Moore-Keish. We shared our early experiences with prayer (how we learned, where we learned and what was meaningful).

Pastors' Reports:

One of Pastor Peter items was his review of Parish Associate Gordon Hess. He appreciates Gordie's ministry at First Presbyterian. He provides invaluable service.

He also announced that Debbie Armstrong has agreed to be on Session.

Deacon Report: Allen Braithwaite shared that they awarded two scholarships: to Alexa Hur and Marie Brashears.

Treasurer's Report: Bert reported that Church expenses are under budget year to date. The Church Income less Expenses is positive at the end of March by \$3,815.

The ECC was negative for March, but is still doing well over all. At the end of the first quarter, the ECC is positive by \$756.

Clerk's Report:

Baptism: Porter Michael Murray (DOB 8-30-2007) and Oliver Flash Murray (DOB 6-19-2010), sons of Brian Murray and Sarah McCarthy Murray on April 24, 2011.

Death: Margaret Morris died 3-30-11

Death: Velma Patterson died 4-6-11

Church Attendance: For three services, we average 275. Elementary program is averaging 12-22, Junior High and High School programs are averaging 10 people per event. Adult education is averaging 25.

Action Agenda:

Finance/Facilities presented the following: In the event that the new Associate Pastor elects to rent a home, the Team is authorized to provide temporary housing assistance with a written agreement, the total cost not exceed \$1,000 per month. If the pastor decides to buy a home, the Finance/Facilities Team is authorized to execute a Real Estate Ownership Agreement with provisions similar to the one currently in place for our Pastor. Up to a total of \$300,000. of church funds may be used.

This motion carried.

Other Business:

Anne Shelton will be evaluated for ordination at the May 14 Presbytery Meeting in Newbury Park. She expressed her joy in being able to serve the church as a 1/4 time associate pastor.

Allocation of Elder Commissioners to Presbytery has been reduced due to our size. We have one official commissioner plus three because of population.

Diane Kirkpatrick, Clerk of Session

Peter's Post



Rev. Peter Buehler, Pastor

Dear Friends,

You now know that on May 10th the 87th presbytery in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted to affirm Amendment 10-A to our constitution. The vote of the Twin Cities Presbytery (Minnesota)

means that a majority of presbyteries (87 of 173) have now ratified the change in ordination standards approved by the 219th General Assembly (2010), making it possible for openly gay Presbyterians in same-gender relationships to be ordained as elders, deacons, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

The specific change in the constitution is to G-6.0106b, the Gifts and Requirements section. The previous "fidelity in marriage" and "chastity in singleness" language has been removed. The section now reads: "*Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*"

I appreciate what Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the General Assembly, said following the Twin Cities Presbytery vote: "Everyone was civil. There was no applause, no cheering. It was just reflective of the fact that we are moving forward one other step." It is indicative as well of our love and mutual respect.

A few points are worth keeping in mind:

Continued on page 10

A way to Meditate

Find a time of day and a place where you can have privacy and quiet for ten or fifteen minutes (minimum). This may be the hardest part. I like parks and beaches myself.

Pick a scripture to meditate on. It could be an old favorite or one you find at random flipping through the Bible. Perhaps you would like to read it in more than one translation. I often compare the NRSV with the NIV and with Peterson's The Message. Occasionally I like to get the King James version.

Sit comfortably and practice deep breathing for a few minutes to calm yourself. Be aware of your surroundings: a quiet room, a sunny garden, a foggy beach. Focus on your breathing. The breath of life. Repeat in your mind a verse or refrain from a favorite hymn or even a line of poetry. A refrain you could sing or say to yourself is:

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

This can be repeated a several times.

Read your scripture. Focus on words or phrases that seem to jump out at you. Why do they? What do you think it means in your daily life? As your mind wanders, and it will, return to the scripture and read it again. Anything new? If your minds cannot stay focused on the phrase consider why? Is something bothering you? Are there issues you need to deal with? Return again to your scripture, have you memorized it yet?

If you have the passage in more than one version, why are they different? Does one speak to you more clearly than another? What is the context of the passage? What's going on? Asking the questions may be more important than the answers.

At the conclusion of your scriptural meditation return to your deep breathing and your refrain or mantra. Return quietly to your daily life. Practice this daily for several decades.

Lifelong Learning

Adult Education for June

9:00 Anderson Lounge

June 5

No class; one service at 9:45 a.m.

June 12

Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God

A DVD series Leader: Meryl Gaston Last in series of 6

Join preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. This DVD study explores fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's relevance for today.

June 19

To be announced

June 26

KJV: the Making of the King James Bible

2011 is the 400th anniversary of the landmark publication of the King James Bible. This new film celebrates the KJV and its importance in the history of the English speaking Church.

10:30 AM

ANDERSON LOUNGE ODD-MONTH ED.

June 5

Life Group Open to all

Leaders: Esther Hur and Maureen Granger: Final meeting of this series

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased and happy to accept the call to serve in pastoral ministry at our church! This position in Spiritual Disciplines is the very thing I have been doing for many years.

To find this call at this point in my life is a true gift and deep blessing!

I have been a candidate for ministry in the Presbyterian Church for many years having gone to seminary in the 80's and 90's as a response to God's call to serve in ministry when I was 19 years old.

I will be working in all of the inward and outward Spiritual Disciplines from Prayer and Worship to hospitality and stewardship, along with outreach to others in our commu-



Joyfully,

Anne

Who We Said We are

Folks:

As we prepare to call a new associate pastor I thought it would be a good idea to remind everyone what we said about ourselves in the Church Information Form (CIF). This is who the new pastor will expect us to be. I sincerely hope this IS who we are. The entire CIF is available on the church's web site. I'll include more from the CIF next month.

Brief Church Mission Statement

By the grace of God We are a Christian community of people who **Seek** intergenerational fellowship, **Find** spiritual truth, and **Respond** in joyous service in Jesus' name

SEEK. FIND. RESPOND.

Seeking intergenerational fellowship, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has maintained rich programs for adults, youth and children. We purposefully schedule intergenerational services and all-church events.

We **find** spiritual truth through 3 inspiring Sunday services, each with distinct liturgies and musical styles. Through service to God, small groups, outstanding adult education, and retreats we further enrich our spiritual growth. *continued next page*



Meet people and learn more about First Presbyterian Church!

Volunteer to help at the front desk on Sunday or weekday mornings. Call: Pat Corn (682-1848) or Alice (687-0754) To sign up for one Sunday a month, or for a weekday morning spot. All the information you need is at the front desk. It's fun!

We **respond** in joyous service to the Great Commission through evangelism, being good stewards of God's gifts, participation in Presbytery's mission programs, as well as reaching out locally with financial support and service.

Please write a brief description of your church/organization programs or accomplishments.

FPC successfully completed a Financial Campaign in 2009 with the primary objective of ensuring the support of the entire congregation to add another Associate Pastor. Despite launching the campaign during a recession, we were able to raise funds to call you, while also sustaining current programs.

FPC is committed to helping you with housing and would offer a three month sabbatical with pay after seven years.

It is clear that FPC is ready for you and wants to do everything necessary to ensure that our church is a vital part of this community well into the future, just as we have been for the last 141 years.

We are blessed with a diverse and dedicated staff and volunteers who are committed to our church. Our current Associate Pastor will continue to serve the congregation and community with her passion for senior ministries (going from full time to half-time).

We have a beautiful campus with a licensed childcare program open to the community serving 70+ families from infants through preschoolers. Our facilities are in constant demand for community events. We are a Red Cross emergency evacuation site and Safe Parking participant for the homeless.

Although our children and youth demographic is not large, we offer a complete program including Sunday school, youth groups, summer camps, family outings, mission and service opportunities.

FPC is frequently described as being exceptionally warm and welcoming.

Folks, this is who we say we are, let's be sure this is who we are.

Your editor.

See related APNC Update on page 10.

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THE WHEELER-WADDELLS??

That's a good question! If it's May, it must be Jacksonville... Oregon, that is.

We love what we're doing, but we're realizing that perhaps we are not the jetsetters we thought. We returned from Africa the beginning of April and jumped into preparations for travels back East the end of the month. The expected member care training in VA for May had to be postponed so that trip was shorter by a week.



Our time in Ethiopia with the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST) ended well in March with a quick visit to our TAP (The Antioch Partners) partner Zondra in her place of ministry south of Addis Ababa. We then had a wonderful week also, with another TAP partner and colleague, Eric, in Nairobi. That week also was filled with reconnecting with Kenyan friends, for me (Anne) as far back as Chogoria days in the 1980's, and for the both us from our time in Kikuyu at Alliance High School and the Pastoral Training Institute in the 90's.

End of April we headed back to Atlanta, flying over and arriving before the heavy thunderstorms and high winds. It was hard to imagine the destruction going on only a state or two away. The Ethiopia Mission Network gathering was a rich time of input from Ethiopian partners and connecting with friends of Ethiopia from around PC (USA). An added blessing to our few days in our first visit to Atlanta was spending part of Saturday afternoon visiting with Kenyan friends. Johnson K. had been a student of mine (Anne) at Pastoral Institute and I had the joy of giving the message at Mary's and his wedding. Johnson has earned a PhD in Biblical Studies and is praying about God's leading for return to Africa. (Know anyone looking for a New Testament scholar/professor?).

From Atlanta we dropped down to Florida to visit colleagues/friends from Kenya who are now also supporting us in our ministry with The Antioch Partners. Gordon and Carolyn are the blessed kind of friends where, after 2 or 3 years, you meet and just pick up with from where you left off.

So, while the travel takes its toll, the rich blessing of relationship continues to be a marvelous grace. We pray that those kinds of relationships/friendships may be forming here in S. Oregon, if we can be here long enough for that to happen!

Youth & Children

Hi Everyone!

My name is Alys Garrison. I am 20 years old and just finishing my sophomore year in college. Last year I was at Columbia College Chicago, this year I have been at Santa Barbara City College where I will continue next year. I have also been an intern with the high school youth group at First Presbyterian Church Santa Barbara, and a nanny.



Awhile ago I was presented an amazing opportunity; to travel to the Ukraine with IMPACT. International Mission Project and Cross-cultural Training, was started by the Santa Barbara Presbytery in 1993 and offers an opportunity to serve God by helping those in need, in other countries. My team will travel to the Ukraine and: work in an orphanage for boys with mental retardation, bring wheel chairs to the homes of those in need, follow up with those IMPACT helped in the past, and teach Vacation Bible School. I am blessed with this is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I know what I learn from this trip will be with me for a lifetime, and I hope that I can use it every day. I am excited to work with my team and spread God's love to those in need.

Each Team member needs to raise \$3,400, for housing, transportation, food, lodging, insurance, a donation to our host ministry, and project materials. Our goal is to raise this money through sponsorship from our friends and family. If you able to financially sponsor me, I would be forever grateful.

To donate, please make your check payable to "Presbytery of Santa Barbara" with my name in the memo. This is tax deductible. You can also donate online at: <https://sna.etapestry.com/fundraiser/IMPACT/impact2011/individual.do?participationRef=2963.0.4416537>

While meeting our financial goal is very important, your **prayers and support** are crucial for my success and all of Team Ukraine. I am so excited to go on this trip, and it would not be possible without all of you. Thank you so much! E-mail me if you would like updates or want me to email you the fundraising site link. My email address is alyscb@gmail.com.

In Him, Alys Garrison, Team Ukraine 2011

What's Happening For Youth Regular Events:

Wednesdays at 7PM

Hi School Group in Youth Lounge

Thursday at 6:30PM

Jr. High Group in the Youth Lounge

Sunday Mornings

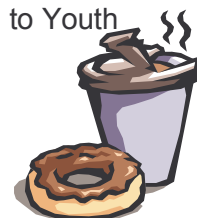
Jr. High Sunday School

Begin at 9am worship then walk down to Youth Lounge together for our own time.

High School and College

Coffee Shop Pilgrimage

Meet on the Patio at 10:30



Upcoming Youth Events:

JH Summer Camp at Forest Home Ojai, June 26-July 1

HS Mission Trip to New Mexico Navajo Reservation July 24-30

HS Summer Camp at Mt. Hermon/Pondi?

JH Day Camp Aug. 15-19

??? Call Josh Murray Director of Youth Ministries

Office 805.687.0754 ext 104,
cell 805.279.2391,



Adelle Rodkey Director of the Cherub Choir

805.687.0754



Susan Croshaw Director of Children's Ministries

Office 805.687.0754 ext 115,
scroshaw@fpcsb.org



For Children and their Families



Sunday School for Summer:
Toddlers and PreK theme is The Lost Sheep

Early Elementary ages (K-3) Will begin a summer of lessons about Prayer.

First is Praying in Color

Upper Elementary (4th and up) join Josh

Watch for order forms for
Presbycamp jam!

Available in June at the front desk

Or, call Susan to place an order

687-0754 x115



June Kid birth- days...

Megan Gainey (3rd), Martin Cros-
haw (4th), Lily and Isabelle Harger
(14th) Oliver Murray (19th), Hannah
Croshaw (25th)

July Kid birthdays...

Catie Kerman (8th) Jordyn Terry

Calendar

**June 1 Wed. 4
pm**

Youth and Children's
Ministries Meeting in
the Youth Annex.

June 5 Sunday
Cherub Choir sings at
Combined Service

June 6 Six weeks of
Presbycamp
begins...

June 13, 10am
Anderson

Lounge:

Betsy Kain presents on
Goats for Life to Pres-
bycamp. Event open to
everyone!

June 22 10am in
the CFC Thrift Store
Fashion Show –Open to
everyone!

July 15, 6:15 pm
in the CFC, Presbycamp
Variety Show, followed
by BBQ. Bring a side
dish to share and \$3 to
help pay for the meat.
This is a “Don’t

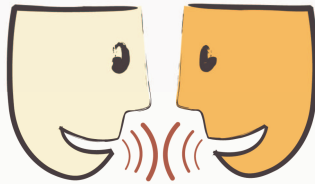


Healthful News

Dealing with Dementia

Some hospitalizations are expected and some are not. Recently I visited a patient in the hospital that had Alzheimer's. For a person who has Alzheimer's or dementia the best choice is to have the reassurance of a family member close by. Their new environment, with strange faces, and change in routine, can all contribute to confusion and anxiety. Remember Alzheimer's disease causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

One noticeable change I see in people with Alzheimer's or dementia is the change in communication. People have more difficulty expressing their thoughts and they also have more trouble understanding others. You as a caregiver for your loved one might be spotting some of these changes:



- ◆ They struggle to find the right words
- ◆ They use familiar words repeatedly
- ◆ They invent new words
- ◆ They forget the meaning of words
- ◆ They have difficulty organizing words in the correct order
- ◆ They use more hand gestures and speak less

So how can we better communicate with those we love who have Alzheimer's or dementia?

- ◆ Get the person's attention – approach the person from the front, identify yourself, and call them by name.
- ◆ Maintain good eye contact – we relate to one another by facial expression, body language and tone of voice.
- ◆ Use short sentences with simple words- keep it simple, only one question at a time.
- ◆ Talk slowly and clearly – speak calmly and non-demanding.

Sharon Troll, RN

Parish Nurse

Parish Nurse Hours Tuesdays

Call for appointment

(687-0754x103)

or email strollrn@aol.com



- ◆ Repeat questions or requests – if the person does not respond.
- ◆ Use gestures – like pointing.
- ◆ Be patient for a response – the person may need extra time to process their thoughts. Be supportive.
- Consider hearing and or visual limitations – check hearing aid batteries are operating

Remember the healing power of touch can communicate love, acceptance and encouragement.

Blessings, Sharon



The Clippers

Friday, June 10

Social time 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00



PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

Cost is \$13 per person, reservations required.

Call
Carol & Doug DuCharme 685-8232

"A reservation Made is a Reservation Paid!"

Chariot of Friends

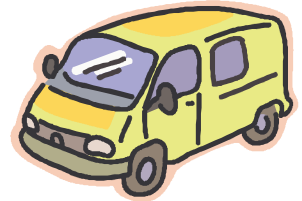
This month the Chariot is going to

A SURPRISE DESTINATION

We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. at the church
on Wednesday, June 15th

- ◆ Ride the Church Vans
- ◆ Meet people from Church
- ◆ Enjoy a meal out
- ◆ Share great fellowship

Cost is \$15 per person.
To learn more about the
"Chariot of Friends"
or to make your reservation call
Pat (682-1848) or Geri (445-8190).



FOOD

FIRST SUNDAY
of each month,
bring non-
perishable foods
for
Transition
House



In-Gathering

A PresbyFolks Adventure

FPC All Church
BBQ in the Park
At Shoreline Park
Saturday June 25
11:00-2:30

\$5 per person
(kids free)

Eastern parking lot (look for the balloons)
We'll play games (bocce ball, croquet, etc)
Lunch at noon, drinks and main dish provided
Sign up to bring salad, veggies or dessert



Church News and Notes

Peter's Post continued from page three

Decisions about who may be ordained are made by local governing bodies—sessions and presbyteries. The larger church does not force these decisions.

Presbyterians historically have encouraged freedom of thought and conscience. We also believe that we are led as a church by the Holy Spirit. This does not imply that we all think alike; it means that we seek the truth in prayer, scripture study, and personal engagement with the issues of the day.

No matter what side of the ordination issue we are on, it is important that we listen well to each other. Some friends of ours are hurt and disturbed, others are gratified and encouraged. I hope we will continue to love one another as we love the Lord—this is the power of unity in the church and the strength of our witness.

Information about the significance of the vote may be found at the PC(USA) website (<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2011/5/10/presbyterian-church-us-approves-change-ordination/>).

The church-wide letter on the website closes with a prayer. I invite you to make it your own.

Almighty God, we give thanks for a rich heritage of faithful witnesses to the gospel throughout the ages. We offer gratitude not only for those who have gone before us, but for General Assembly commissioners and presbyters across the church who have sought diligently to discern the mind of Christ for the church in every time and place, and especially in this present time.

May your Spirit of peace be present with us in difficult decisions, especially where relationships are strained and the future is unclear. Open our ears and our hearts to listen to and hear those with whom we differ. Most of all, we give thanks for Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who called the Church into being and who continues to call us to follow his example of loving our neighbor and work-

Grace and peace,



APNC Update

Now 17 months into the search for a new Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Community Outreach, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) shared their reflections on the process with the Session at the annual retreat.

Most notably, the APNC is impressed with the extremely high quality of the candidates. It has been encouraging to read about, speak to, and meet such excellent candidates; who offer the relevant experience, intellectual curiosity, and enthusiasm for which the committee has been searching. Over 110 candidates have been reviewed, and about 25 have been interviewed via Skype. Several candidates have visited with the APNC in person. Applicants have hailed from as far away as Malawi, South Africa, and Jamaica, and from as close as Lompoc, Oxnard, and Ojai.

Many candidates have said how impressed they are by the commitment the church has shown to this new position, especially in regards to the funds raised to support the new position. Candidates also appreciate the clear and compelling vision for the position, communicated via our Church Information Form, which shows the congregation's support and enthusiasm for the new role. Our candidates recognize the years of preparation the church has invested in this important search process.

APNC members also said that the search process has provided an opportunity to learn more about the church. The committee has spent many hours in self-reflection: Who are we, the members of First Presbyterian? What do we want? Where are we going? What do we need to reach our potential as Christians in the community?

The committee is discerning God's plan for the person (or couple) who will help us to answer these questions. Meanwhile, the committee members agree that they have all experienced personal and spiritual growth and continue to learn from each other.

The committee is confident in their common vision for the new Associate Pastor and have faith in the process. They ask for the congregations prayers, as well as for the candidates who will not receive our call.

Keeping their minds and hearts open to God's plan, the APNC is making great strides in their search for a new Associate Pastor who will be a great fit for FPCSB, while offering the potential to challenge the church to grow in ways beyond what we might imagine. Exciting times, indeed!

Tom Blaby for the APNC

Honors & Recognition



We received the following letter from McCormick Theological Seminary and felt it important to share with the congregation.

The Session & congregation
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure and thanks that I write to share with you that your pastor, the Rev. Dr. Peter Buehler, was honored last week with McCormick Theological Seminary's highest award for a doctor-of-ministry student: The John Randall Hunt prize.

Peter was co-recipient of the Hunt Prize, awarded annually to one or more graduating students for outstanding DMin thesis and overall academic work. The prize was established by the First Presbyterian Church in Cape Coral, Florida, in honor of their pastor, John Randall Hunt, and comes with a monetary award. The winners are determined by a vote of the McCormick faculty.

The announcement was made Friday, May 13, at a reception for all McCormick Doctor of Ministry graduates. Dr. Melody Knowles, associate professor of Hebrew Scriptures at McCormick, presented the award. Here are her words:

Although we as McCormick faculty only see doctor of ministry students for short, intense, periods of time, your work here colors so much of what we do. Week by week we work primarily with masters level students who, mostly, are just wading into their ministerial vacation. And then, for these intense periods, we get you, straight from the trenches of ministry, ready to help us rethink our work and rethink what it truly means to serve the church today. So, for all of you that have done the hard work of this program, thank you.

In the course of reading and evaluating your work, the faculty have judged four theses to represent the very best examples of what these projects can be, and recommended them to be considered for the Hunt Prize. I'd like to announce the prize winning theses:

. . . Peter Buehler: "Hear the Word of the Lord: How the Practice of Learning Scriptures by Heart and Performing them in Worship Transforms Preaching"

We all say the Bible should be central in preaching, but this centrality is not often experienced by the congregation listening to sermons. Almost three years ago Pastor Buehler heard David Roads recite Matthew 5-7 by heart, and he was struck to the core. The familiar words of the Sermon on the Mount performed that day took on new meaning, new urgency, and asked him new questions that no sermon on this text had asked him before. And so he began a three-year-long exploration of how this fairly straightforward technique—to learn and perform Scriptures by heart—could transform the way he and his congregation heard the Word and it connected Scripture to sermon.

But of course you presented more than just a technique here. You examined performance theory, reflected theologically on your task in light of the tradition, and explored how your congregation was processing this new engagement with the Bible. As a preacher, you took some pretty big risks. As a pastor, you engaged your congregation in such a way that they were able to take these risks along with you. As a biblical scholar, yearning that the Bible play an even more prominent place in the life of the congregation, thank you.

McCormick Seminary also recognized Peter at its 177th Commencement Service on Saturday May, 14. He shares this award with the Rev. Dr. Margaret Lindsey, a Presbyterian pastor currently serving as a hospital chaplain with the Adventist Midwest Health Systems.

It was an honor and a privilege to have Peter in the ACTS DMin in Preaching program as a McCormick student. He is deeply and uniquely gifted pastor, dedicated not simply to your ministries in Santa Barbara but also to the ministries of his colleagues in the program. For the remarkable ways in which God has called and is using Peter, and to each of you; and for your willingness to support him through this process, I give thanks to God.

With all good wishes and blessings.

Jeffery Japinga, associate dean
Doctor of Ministry programs
McCormick Theological Seminary

First Presbyterian Church
 21 East Constance
 Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. Postage
 PAID

Santa Barbara, CA
 Permit No. 467

Dated Material



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

21 E. Constance Ave, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
 (805)-687-0754



Senior Activity Program

June 2011

June 3—Friday

10:00: Gathering Time
10:15: Video of a volcano
 "Eruption Update"
 Hawaii's Kilauea has
 been going for 25 years!
 This is a first hand
 account. Part 1
11:15: Movement and
 Motion—with Nicole
 Clancy
12:15: Birthday Lunch
1:00: Part 2 of the video

June 10—Friday

10:00: Gathering Time
10:15: "Celebrating
 Edythe" a play about our
 delightful friend by Ann
 Braithwaite
11:15: Movement and
 Motion
12:15: Scrumptious
 Lunch
1:00: BINGO with prizes!

June 17—Friday

10:00: Gathering Time
10:15: Beth Preston,
 Back by popular demand
 with more about her joy
 of teaching.
11:15: Movement and
 Motion
12:15: A Fabulous Lunch
1:00: Pictionary
 This is an easy and fun
 game. You won't want to
 miss it.

June 24—Friday

10:00: Gathering Time
10:15: Jeanne West
 bringing us up to date on
 POLST (Physicians'
 Orders for Life
 Sustaining Treatment)
11:15: Movement and
 Motion
12:15: Anniversary
 Celebration!
1:00: Bible Study with
 the Rev. Judith Muller

*This is a great program with wonderful
 people wanting to stay
 active, fit and involved.
 You are welcome to join us for
 any part or all of the day's events.*

Questions or suggestions?
 Call Nancy Johnson
 at 967-7675



The Senior Activity Program is for active and independent seniors and not for those requiring care or supervision.