



First Presbyterian Church of Richmond

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The Connection is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, 3415 Barrett Ave., Richmond, California, 94805, and (510)234-0954. Co -Editors: Kathy Cichanowski & Emily Niccolls; Mailing Team: Lynda Wheeler.

Copy deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's publication.

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Phoebe Chen, *Pastor to Mandarin-language Ministry*

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The Connection



The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond July 2014 Vol. 113 No 7



Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 28 – Friday, August 1

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Sunday Celebration

August 3

9:30AM – 1:00PM

*Food * Fun * Fellowship*

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Ministers,

As I write this, one of the biggest “religious” events is happening in our world. People from all walks of life and from most countries are dedicating lots of attention, amazing passion, and tremendous amounts of money to World Cup Soccer. Thousands crowd into stadiums all over Brazil, but billions are participating through TV and Internet. According to the Harvard Business Journal, over 3 billion people will be watching, generating over \$23 billion in revenues. These are staggering numbers. It’s hard to imagine that many people all focused on the same thing for almost two hours. But it is happening over and over as 32 teams battle their way to the final game. Watching a recent match, I saw fans with faces painted, wearing their team colors, shouting, singing, chanting and cheering.

I was reminded of the passage in Revelation 5 where angels, saints, and all of creation are focused on the throne of God, giving praise to Jesus Christ with songs, chants, and movement. If human beings can produce World Cup Soccer, an event that captures the attention and passion of half the world at one time, then think what God can do. The celebration of Heaven will be orders of magnitude greater. The passion, energy, excitement, and focus of the crowd of witnesses is already underway. When one lost soul is found and comes to Jesus, there is cheering in heaven.

I really enjoy watching soccer – especially World Cup soccer. But I can’t wait to be a fan in heaven, cheering in the crowd around the throne!

In the mean time, anyone interested in watching some jogo bonito (beautiful game) with me?

Blessings,
Pastor Jim



THANK YOU!!!

Lynda and I really appreciate all the encouragement we have received from so many of you over the last few weeks. It has been an honor and a joy for us to serve with the FPCR family for the last nine years. God has done wonderful things among us, and we look forward to lots more ministry with you here!



10:30 AM Sermon Series

July 6, 2014

James 2:14-26
Walking the Talk

July 13, 2014

Habakkuk 3: 16-19
Steve Niccolls Preaching

July 20, 2014

James 4:1-17
A Recipe for Success

July 27, 2014

James 5:1-12
A Message for the Rich and the Poor

August 3, 2014

Vacation Bible School Sunday
Kids Presenting
Free Lunch Fun Activities

People's Page

KUDOS:

A very big THANK YOU to Barbara Lockie Brown for an entertaining and amazing organ and piano recital. We are truly blessed to have her talent in our church family. Check out the pictures on the "Coming Attractions" page.

SHARING BOX:

Keep the sharing going by putting things you no longer need or have never used in the box for someone else. Check around your home and you can probably find several small items - maybe some with price tags still on them. The box only works if things are put in, as well as taken out.

Know Someone in need?

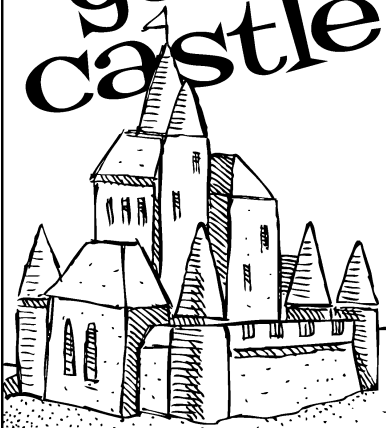
If you know someone who is need of groceries, contact Tom Welton (230-1525) or any other Deacon and they will prepare a bag. Please do not take items directly from the Deacon's closet.

***Congratulations to our recent High School graduates:
Aleska Chamorro (Gateway High – SF)
& Bernard Ojeh (Branson High – Ross, CA) – going to USC***



This page is for you, so - what other things would you like to see on this page?

Color your castle



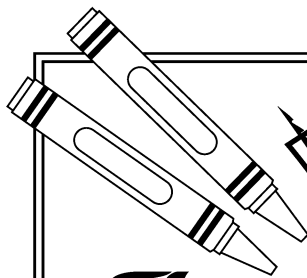
Summer is the perfect time to build a sand castle, whether in a sandbox or on the beach. Use this fun idea to add color to your creation.

What you need:

- Empty spray bottles
- 1 cup water per bottle
- 4 Tablespoons cornstarch per bottle
- Food coloring

What you do:

1. Remove the lid from each bottle and pour in the water and cornstarch.
2. Replace the lid and shake the bottle to dissolve the cornstarch completely.
3. Add drops of food coloring to achieve the desired color.
4. After building a sand castle, spray it with your colorful mixtures.

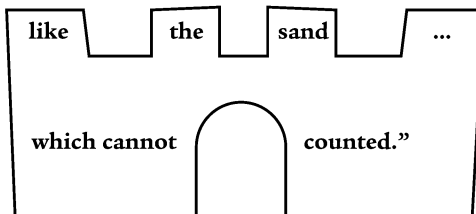
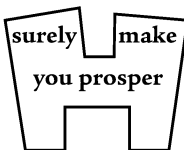
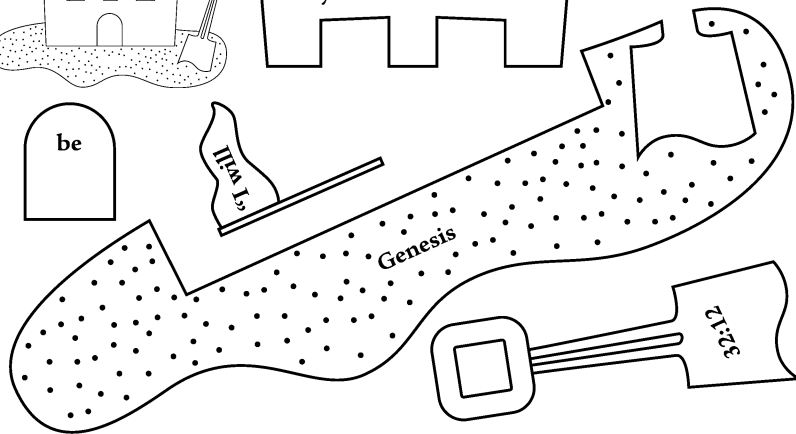
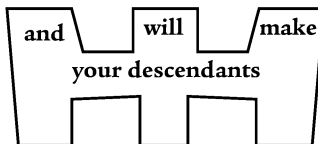
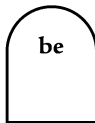
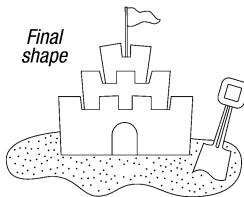


PUZZLE

A promise kept

In Genesis 32:12 (NIV), Jacob remembers a promise God made about his family. We, too, can be part of that promise. God always keeps his promises.

Directions: "Build" a sand castle using the shapes below. Cut out and assemble the shapes to complete God's promise. (Use the "final shape" image as a guide.)



Answer: "I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand ... which cannot be counted." Genesis 32:12, NIV

DRIVE-IN MINISTRY

Dear Friends

This month will conclude our sermon series on 3:16's of the Bible. Hopefully the last couple of months have been enlightening as we see just how many 3:16's in the Bible are worthy of memorizing. (And I have skipped some 3:16's such as 1 John 3:16 because I recently preached on it before this sermon series.) On the first weekend in July, Pastor Jim is preaching. Then the next two weeks, we will dig into my favorite book of the Bible (Habakkuk) and then look at what Proverbs has to say about wisdom in the third chapter of that book. Finally, we will end the 3:16 series by looking at what Christ had to say to the church in Laodicea. (Isn't fitting that the last sermon in the series closes with Revelation?)

With one sermon series ending, that means in August I will need to start another series. I do not have any thing in mind, so if there has been a topic or a book of the Bible you have be anxious to hear some sermons preached on, let me know. There are a number of ways to get the information to me. 1) Tell me on Sunday mornings. 2) Call the church office. (Believe it or not, Emily sees me just about every night.) or 3) Email me the suggestions at srnicolls@att.net.

See you in the parking lot,

Steve

Quote of the Month

"The Bible is clear that those who fail to heed the Lord's discipline – whether nations, cities or individuals – suffer devastating consequences."

Charles Stanley.

July Scripture

July 6

James 2: 14-26

Pastor Jim preaching

July 13

Habakkuk 3:16-19

July 20

Proverbs 3: 4-24

July 27

Rev. 3:14-22

DEACONS

Deacon's Ministry

Clothe Yourselves with Kindness

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience."*

Colossians 3:12



The Apostle Paul's words remind us that **kindness** should be a part of our Christian nature. The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary gives the following definition of **kindness**: 1. the quality or habit of being kind, kind nature or disposition: kind behavior. 2. A kind deed, a considerate act. 3. Kind feeling, fondness, affection, good will. Syn. Gentle, compassionate, sympathetic.

Food for Thought: Can we do more as God's ambassadors for Christ to be kind to others? As we pray, is God speaking to your heart about someone who needs an act of **kindness**?



Every Friday of the month six bags of food are distributed to needy families in the Richmond community. The following are some of the items that make up a bag of groceries for the needy: canned fruit (always needed), breakfast cereal, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti, pasta sauce, canned soup and cups of soup, tuna, packages of pasta or macaroni and cheese, canned meat, rice, and beans. We do accept perishable items but ask they be delivered to the church either on Thursday before 1:00 PM or Friday before 10:00 AM. Items can be brought to the church office during office hours. Tom Welton is our Deacon in charge of the pantry. He does all the preparation of the bags each week and distributes them on Friday morning. If you have any questions regarding this loving ministry ask a Deacon.

Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for 2014 is available on the bulletin board just outside the church office. Please consider donating flowers to celebrate important events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. Flowers are now \$65.00 (tax included). Miria Oliveira is the Deacon to contact regarding flower orders. She will be sending reminders to each person donating flowers.

Deacons on Call for July – contact office for phone numbers

June 29 – July 5

Lidia Anduesa & Ebube Nwosibe

July 6 – 12

Peggy Williams & Claudine Hughes

July 13 – 19

Gregory Harris & Sarah Obasi

July 20 – 26

Miria Oliveira & Lidia Anduesa

July 27 – August 2

Tom Welton & Ebube Nwosibe



COMING ATTRACTIONS: a chance to get involved, invite friends

Summer Women's Bible Studies – Fireside Room

The ladies are studying "Bad Girls of the Bible" on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM. A group of ladies is studying "Personal Revival" on Wednesday mornings 10:00 AM. Both are open for new members.

Weird Animals - Vacation Bible School JULY 28 – AUGUST 1

We are actively looking for children... any and all children entering kindergarten through just completing 6th grade. Our weeklong morning program is packed with fun and engaging activities that teach children about Jesus' love. Please prayerfully consider inviting many kids, registration cards are available on Sanford bulletin board or register online at p-richmond.org. We are still looking for green strawberry baskets and tuna cans. There are bags in Sanford Hall for each.

Child Safety Training - July 13

In preparation for Vacation Bible School, Terrie Hammer will be holding a Child Safety Training on Sunday, July 13. If you have not taken the class in the past year please plan on attending.

Mandatory Meeting - July 22

Our mandatory VBS training meeting will be on Tuesday, July 22 at 6:00 PM. with a BBQ dinner. We are excited to gather our awesome team for a great time of learning and getting to know each other. Bring your enthusiasm and energy!

Save the Dates:

September 21: All Church Picnic

September 27: All Work Day

September 23 – October 21: U-Night

December 12-13: Back to Bethlehem



Barbara's Organ Concert



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ONE WEEK OF FUN

July 28 - August 1 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

For all children age 4 through just completing 6th grade.

God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures... including you!



JESUS LOVES YOU...

...even when you're left out
...even though you're different
...even when you don't understand
...even though you do wrong
...even when you're afraid

WOW... DON'T YOU WANT TO SHARE THESE TRUTHS WITH KIDS ?

Talk with Ruth Stellina to join the amazing VBS team!

Only training meeting: Tuesday, July 22 at 6:00 pm. Dinner provided.



Coffee Hour July

6: Tim Condon

13: Megan Timberlake

20:



27:

Drive-In July

Elder: Joe Green

Sound: Don Landis

Driver: Bennie Wilson

Greeters: Bennie Wilson

Communion: Pastor Jim

Property & Finance Committee Minutes -June 16, 2014

Property: The issue of storage was tabled to a later meeting. capital improvements: Furnace replacement (COMPLETED) Thanks to Caesar Flores for oversight of the project. Carpeting for Verkuyl and Sunday school rooms – rooms will be painted and ceiling tiles replaced before new carpet goes in Estimate carpet \$2500 + installation. They discussed having painting projects mapped out and costs figured before July 1 so that it can be included in a grant request. Discussion about Verkuyl projects: Jim will speak with Alcenir and PLM to develop a plan with costs to be forwarded by July 1. Renovation of big kitchen: need to develop plan for renovations. Congregational Life Committee discussion comments include need to better organize existing space, need for grill. Church has been offered a new commercial stove; Marcelino will contact contractor to obtain an estimate for renovations to the kitchen. Replacement Projector (COMPLETED) Thanks to Pat Miles, Marcelino Nuño & Jose Ku for locating vendor and for setting it up! Bike racks: Decided on bike rack to be mounted on end of metal shed in parking lot; cost \$525.00. Approved request to permanently install LED lights along front breeze way for evening activities. Advise Session budget deficit.

Other meetings in June and the person heading the committee:

Congregational Life – Marcelion Nuño & Kelly Flores

Christian Education – Katrina Croda

Worship Committee – Weldon Miles & Kelly Flores

Session Notes - June 23, 2014

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:15 by Pastor Jim.

Listening to God's Word: James 2:1 – 13: James talks about favoritism we favor what we are most comfortable with; we gravitate toward those who are most like us; our church tries to be welcoming to everyone and not show favoritism to new or old friends.

Good News Items: An afternoon with Barbara; ninth anniversary of Wheeler's at our church; nine years of PLM; church picnic; Liturgical dancing.

Discussion/Brainstorm: Officer Training: To train and help new officers internalize what is expected of them and what the roll and vision of this church is. **Standard Operating Procedure:** What organizations develop for ongoing staffing; who is accountable; what is expected of church leaders; spiritual growth.

Action Items: **MSC** that Kelly Flores be appointed as assistant treasurer and approved as a check signer for our Mechanics Bank account **MSC** that we approve the Rescue Mission hosting a luncheon here to promote the new women's and children's center. **MSC** that the PLM be able to use the facilities on a Saturday to do a fund raiser.

Looking Ahead: Session Prayer Retreat – July 19; VBS – July 28 – Aug. 1; VBS Sunday August 3. **Next stated meeting:** Monday August 25th at 7pm, closed in prayer at 9:35 pm.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Getting to know Cindy Kephart, our new intern:



Thank you for the warm welcome that each of you has extended to me. I am enjoying my time with you and thank God for allowing me to spend this season as a pastoral intern at First Presbyterian Church. Two places define home for me, New England and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Cindy says "The town of 1100 people where I grew up was located in a beautiful river valley. I have happy memories of walking downtown to get our mail at the Post Office and crossing a large green bridge, where it was exciting to watch a train pass below. My grandparents lived "up on the hill", and all of the grandchildren loved to play in the fields and woods of our grandparents' small retirement farm, scooping polliwogs out of the pond to take home and watch grow into tadpoles, or picking beetles off the rows of vegetables in the garden, and then after dark, dash around the front yard catching fireflies in mason jars. In the fall, we would watch Grampie split kindling in the wood shed and in the winter, we built snowmen in the field while Nana knit mittens and scarves to keep us warm.

My mom, pictured with me, was born in my town, as was my grandfather, and great grandfather. Many families lived in our town for multiple generations and it was a wonderful place to grow up, yet in every generation of our family, someone chose to leave and go west

I am the westward traveler in my generation. I went west to attend college in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Then I continued all the way to the Far East to spend two years in the Philippines as a Peace Corps volunteer. Finally, I moved to California. The San Francisco Bay Area has been my home for 34 years. I am delighted to meet each of you and to become familiar with your home of Richmond. Already I have taken many hikes in the beautiful Kennedy Grove, enjoyed the Rosie the Riveter Museum, and have spent many hours in the library, which, to my delight, has a number of excellent Christian resource books. It is a joy to get to know another region of my San Francisco Bay home, and I thank you again for your warm welcome."

Cindy will be with us at First Pres until December. She is "shadowing" Pastor Jim, as her primary purpose here is "to learn to be a pastor". This will involve her in many of the events and activities of the church, so be sure to greet and get to know Cindy and make her welcome at First Pres.



July Prayer List

1. Carroll & Annabelle Hunt
2. Bob Jefferson
3. Mike Jefferson
4. Sandy Jensen
5. Georgia Johnson
6. Chris & Lydia Kam
7. Tom & Yuni Kam
8. Diana Keola, Jessamae & Aiden
9. Khamside & Saeng Keola
10. Linda Keola and Anthony Wong, Brendon, Kaylee & AJ
11. Amanda Keosaeng
12. Somboon Keosaeng
13. Chan Keosaeng, Det & Chinda
14. Boon & Phai Kham
15. Lisa Kham, Deven & Trinity
16. Steven & Poumpouy Kham & baby
17. Nicole Kittelson, Rachel Serhan Anthony & Nick Bonetta
18. Barbara Klubben
19. Jose Ku & Lidia Andueza
20. Bob & Jean Kuhl
21. Joan Kunze
22. Sebastiao & Rosa Lacerda, Amanda & Julie
23. Joseph Lammers
24. Don & Joan Landis
25. Rev. David & Kristen Leard, Madeline
26. Cheryl LeBeuf
27. Marcus LeBeuf
28. James Lee & Lisa Janz, Sophia, Vivianne
29. John Lockett
30. Jim & Barbara Lockie-Brown
31. Delonzo Logan

Our church will pay \$35 per member to our Presbytery in 2014. Total amount is \$7200. We have received \$1355 from members so far. Please consider giving \$35 as part of your extra giving this year (mark checks/envelopes "per capita")



If you would like to activate the prayer chain or put a request or praise in the bulletin, please contact Emily at the church office 234-0954 or firstpresrichmond@sbcglobal.net. Prayer requests can also be left on the church website, www.pcrichmond.org

FINANCIAL STATEMENT As of May 31, 2014

Receipts	\$117,000
Disbursements	<u>146,200</u>
Over/Under Expenses	<29,200>
Budget for first four months	\$144,000