



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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Khamside Keola, *CLP to Khmu Ministry*

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Mike Jefferson, *Custodian*

Chanthong Vilaysak, *Gardener*

The Connection



The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond June 2014 Vol. 113 No 6



Sunday, June 8 - Refugio Valley Park



Sunday, June 15th



Portugues-language Ministry

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 21st



ORGAN CONCERT

Sunday, June 22nd - 2:00 PM

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Ministers,

Lynda, Trinity, and I just got back from a trip to Brazil. While there, we helped the First Presbyterian Church of Petrolina celebrate its 26th anniversary. The church received us with typical Brazilian hospitality. We ate wonderful food, saw the sights, and got to tour a fruit orchard and a vineyard/winery. I always thought that grapes needed a winter freeze, but not these. Since the weather is always warm, and there is little rain, the vine growers use irrigation from the river to get two or three harvests per year. After a harvest, they simply stop the irrigation, and the vines “think” that winter has come. The leaves fall, and the plants go into hibernation, and they get pruned. After a few weeks, the vine growers turn the water back on, and “spring” begins for the vines. New growth happens. Flowers bloom, and fruit forms.

This process reminded me that God works in a similar way with us. Jesus tells us in John 15, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.... My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit....” God wants us to produce the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God also wants us to bear fruit by bringing new souls into the Kingdom.

Sometimes God moves us into times of discomfort by trimming off unnecessary parts of our lives, or, like the Petrolina vine growers, maybe God turns off our water. In these times of discomfort we can choose to complain, or we can focus on the fruit God wants us to produce. In order for us to become more loving or patient, God gives us opportunities to practice love and patience. In order to show his power and grace most effectively, Jesus shines through us when we are broken, weak, and dependent on him.

Where are you in the process of bearing fruit? Whether you are feeling well-nourished or dry, comfortable or struggling, just remember, if you are in Christ, you were made to bear fruit!

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

CONGRATULATIONS!!

On June 1, 2009, Pastor Alcenir & Míria joined our church family to help lead the Portuguese-language ministry. We thank God for the Oliveiras as they have served with us over the past 5 years. Come celebrate the 9th Anniversary of the PLM as well as the Oliveiras on June 21.



10:30 AM Sermon Series

June 1, 2014
Revelation 5:1-14
Heaven's Song

June 8, 2014
Acts 2:1-12
When the Spirit Moves

June 15, 2014
James 1:1-8
The Man of God

June 22, 2014
James 1:19-27
Quick to Listen

June 29, 2014
James 2:1-13
Who's Your Favorite?

People's Page

A BIG thank you, from the ladies of the congregation, to the guys who cooked, served, and cleaned up for the Mother's Day luncheon, with special thanks to Chef Marcelino!

Take a look at the SHARING BOX in the corner of Sanford Hall. *It's for everyone to use. We all have things around the house that we've never used (strange gifts for example) or things that are in very good condition that we don't use any more. Someone else might be able to use them so:*

- Put in the box anything you can share that is new or in good condition (no clothing please)
- Take out what you need
- Let's keep the sharing going

Vacation Bible School Needs:

Please save regular size tuna (clams, chicken) cans and toilet paper rolls for VBS crafts. Remember to get postcards and hand them out to the children in your neighborhood.

Recent Achievers!!

Congratualtions to Susan Niccolls, Law Degree from Regent University School of Law and Richard Ojeh, Master in Healthcare Adminstration from University of Maryland University College



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.

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

A WORD COLLAGE FOR Dad

Create this artwork to express your love and appreciation for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.



What you need:

- A white painting canvas, foam-core board or poster board
- Letter stickers (or foam letters and glue)

What you do:

1. Using the letters, spell out words that describe your dad's character (loving, honest, godly, etc.) and/or his titles (protector, provider, mentor, etc.).
2. Arrange words in a crossword style, both horizontally and vertically.
3. When you have a design you like, stick the words onto the blank canvas or board.
4. Present the gift to your dad or another special man on Father's Day. He'll enjoy this reminder of your love and appreciation.



A FATHER'S LOVE

Psalm 103:13 (NIV) describes what God the Father feels toward us:
 "As a father has _____ on his children, so the LORD has _____ on those who fear him."

Directions: Match the biblical children to their father, using the clues by the father's name. Then write the corresponding letter on the line to complete the Bible verse above.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| • Shem, Ham and Japheth = M | • Rachel and Leah = S | • Cain, Abel and Seth = O |
| • Solomon = O | • Isaac and Ishmael = P | • Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Gad, Naphtali, Asher and Dinah = S |
| • Jonathan = I | • John the Baptist = N | |
| • Jesus = C | • Jacob and Esau = A | |

- God:** "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." C
- Adam:** God gave him another son because his older killed the younger. _____
- Noah:** His sons were blessed and told to multiply and replenish the earth. _____
- Abraham:** God promised he would be a father of many nations. The Jews and Arabs descended from these two sons. _____
- Isaac:** His older son sold his birthright, and his younger son tricked Isaac and received the blessings for the firstborn. _____
- Laban:** He had two daughters; the older was tender-eyed and the younger very beautiful. Both married Jacob. _____
- Jacob:** Two wives and two handmaids gave him 12 sons and a daughter. _____
- Saul:** His son was David's best friend. _____
- David:** He had many children, but one was known for his wisdom, for having many wives and for building God's temple. _____
- Zechariah:** His son, a cousin to Jesus, was born to be a messenger of repentance. _____

DRIVE-IN MINISTRY

Dear Friends

Most of you know that Emily and I spent the first part of May celebrating Susan's graduation from Regent University School of Law. On Friday, May 2, the founder and Chancellor of Regent University, Dr. Pat Robertson (of 700 Club fame) stood in front of the graduating Law Students and talked about the French term "Noblesse Oblige". That phrase points out that when one has the benefits of nobility, one also has obligations to the citizenry. He went on to point out that each of the graduates, by virtue of their degrees, was in the class of nobility and therefore had an obligation to society.

Dr. Robertson was right, but I want to take his challenge one step further. Each of us who profess Jesus Christ as Savior and obey Him as Lord is also nobility. We who are Christians are adopted children of the King of Kings. That makes us princes and princesses! We are under the obligation of Noblesse Oblige ! What is our obligation? We are told of our obligation by our Lord in Matthew 28:19(a) "Go and make disciples of all nations, ..." Let us go out in the name of Christ and fulfill our noble obligation. Let us go and make disciples of all people!

See you in the parking lot,

Steve

Quote of the Month

Evangelism is not an option for the Christian life.

Cuis Palau

June Scripture

<i>June 1:</i>	<i>Genests 3</i>
<i>June 8</i>	<i>Collstians 3:8-17</i>
<i>June 15</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:10-18</i>
<i>June 22</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 3: 16-21</i>
<i>June 29</i>	<i>Daniel 3</i>

DEACONS

Deacon's Ministry

Pastors often give care to people who are going through illness, grief, or some other painful struggle. We do know, however, that pastors can't be everywhere all of the time. The twelve Deacons who serve First Presbyterian Church Richmond seek to serve others and, on many occasions, are able to come alongside a sister or brother in Christ in their time of need. We are reminded through the Holy Spirit that **we are all** ministers of God's grace and mercy to one another. Compassion and thoughtfulness happen in many ways throughout our church...every day and every week. Let's try to reach out even more in the days to come and follow Paul's instruction in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."



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**, 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 \$60.00 (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 June – contact office for phone numbers

June 1 – 7	Peggy Williams & Gregory Harris
June 8 – 14	Miria Oliveira & Cida Cassman
June 15 – 21	Claudine Hughes & Rob Henderson
June 22 – 28	Tom Welton & Sarah Obasi
June 29 – July 5	Lidia Anduesa & Ebube Nwosibe



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-things you didn't know and how you can help

Did you know that VBS is older than anyone in our church? Chances are that many of us attended VBS when we were young.

The origins of Vacation Bible School can be traced back to Hopedale, Illinois in 1894. A Sunday School teacher felt she was limited by time constraints in teaching the Bible to children, so, she started a daily Bible school to teach children during the summer. The first Bible school enrolled forty students and lasted four weeks. In 1898, the director of the children's department at Epiphany Baptist Church in New York started an "Everyday Bible School" for slum children at a rented beer parlor in New York's East Side. Subsequently, a handful of summer schools were established through the Baptist Mission Society, which were taught by students from the Union Theological Seminary. During one summer, one thousand students were enrolled in five different schools. In 1922, the World Association of Daily Vacation Bible Schools was founded. One year later, Standard Publishing produced the very first printed VBS curriculum - a five-week course for three age levels.

Today, many churches run their own Vacation Bible School programs using themed curriculum programs from their denominations or from independent publishing houses which provide easy preparation. Modern programs usually consist of a week-long program of religious education including Bible stories, religious songs, arts and crafts, skits, or puppet shows which cater toward elementary school-aged children.

Each year First Pres has about 100 church and neighborhood children enroll for our VBS. This is a wonderful gift to our community but it takes a lot of people to make it happen. All the children are divided into "crews" with crew leaders and helpers so leaders and helpers are needed. This year's theme is "WEIRD ANIMALS, where Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind" and includes games, snacks, crafts, stories, and really super music! Sanford Hall will be totally transformed for the theme, and a creative crew has already started making the decorations. More help is needed during the July 28-August 1 VBS week to assist the kids with making the daily crafts, setting up and supervising games and activities for the different age groups, donating and setting up the daily snacks, registration, directing traffic in the parking lot, greeting parents, and more. Introduce children you know to VBS. Come have fun and help our children grow in the Lord.

If you're available to help, contact Katrina Croda or Ruth Stellina.



COMING ATTRACTIONS: a chance to get involved, invite friends

SUMMER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES JUNE 3 & 4

The first Bible study begins Tuesday June 3 at 7:30 pm and continues for 10 weeks. The study will be "Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn From Them" (\$12 per copy). The leaders will be Katrina Croda and Lisa Janz.

The second Bible study begins Wednesday morning, June 4 at 10 am and continues for 12 weeks. The study will be on "Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival" (\$18 per copy). This study will be led by Brenda Motomura.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

We will be meeting at Refugio Valley Park for a time of fellowship following the 10:30 service on Sunday, June 8. Watch the bulletin for more information.

PRAYER/CARE/SHARE JUNE 19 to JULY 24

Join us for the first meeting of Prayer/Care/Share on:

Thursday night, June 19, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Fireside Room.

This summer small group will meet five times (skipping July 3). All are welcome whether or not you completed the training last September.

We will support each other as we pray for our friends and practice gentle ways of sharing our faith. Leave a message for Cindy Towle Kephart at 234-0954 or an email at firstpresrichmond@sbcglobal.net if you would like more information.

PLM ANNIVERSARY – JUNE 21

We celebrate with our sisters and brother in Christ as they celebrate 9 years of ministry with a dinner on June 21st.

ORGAN CONCERT JUNE 22 at 2:00 pm

Join our own Barbara Lockie-Brown for an afternoon of organ music favorites, with a "sprinkling" of piano. Invite your family, friends, neighbors to join you for this afternoon of wonderful music on our refurbished organ.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP JUNE 21-30

Our high school youth are doing a mission trip to Okanogan Washington to do painting, carpentry, home repairs, build wheelchair ramps, and spread the love of Jesus. They can use both your prayer and your monetary support.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 28 – AUGUST 1

The theme for VBS this year is "Weird Animals, where Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind". Check out the pages in this issue for more about VBS and see what you can do to help us welcome all the children next month.



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 June

- 1: Brenda Motomura**
- 8: Young Adult/Church Picnic**
- 15: PLM**
- 22: Wheeler's**
- 29: Choir**

Drive-In June

- Elder: Joe Green**
- Sound: Don Landis**
- Driver: Bennie Wilson**
- Greeters: Peggy Williams & Lori Varner**
- Communion: Pat Overshiner**

Property & Finance Committee Minutes: May 19, 2014

Property discussion:

- *Storage issue update: continued for further study; possibility of obtaining an additional steel shipping container discussed.*
- *Church grounds clean up postponed to August*
- *Capital improvements – Miracle Sunday fund drive estimated amount received almost \$41,000 as of April 20.*
 - *Furnace replacement completed May 19 for \$17,230*
 - *Second priority - carpet for Sunday school rooms and Verkuyl*
 - *Next priority painting projects*
 - *Next priority renovation of Verkuyl considering PLM needs*
- *Changing locks will cost \$45 per door so suggestion is to set up key log and hold off on change action*
- *Bike racks – continued to June meeting*
- *Replacement of sanctuary projector – Research completed and Steve will order the projector immediately; cost approximately \$4800 (ordered 5/21)*
- *Other: Swain & Cates wrote advising us that the maintenance contract on the pipe organ was being increased to \$1464 yearly effective June 1, 2014*

Finance:

- **Treasurer's report: Expenditures continue to exceed income: **deficit amount to date: \$25,726.00!****
- **Recommendation to Session that Kelly Flores be appointed as back up treasurer with George and be included on list of those authorized to sign checks.**

The following committees did not meet this past month: Session (next meeting 6/23), Worship (next meeting 6/9) & Christian Ed. (next meeting 6/10)

June Prayer List

1. Keith & Virginia Freeman
2. Edvaldo & Eusane Freitas,
& Ananda
3. Pedro Gallegos
4. Jose Batista & Lucyvaine Gomes
5. Brian & Lucy Gierhart, Grayson,
Elijah & Nolton
6. Curt Goodenough, Gerry Sewell
7. Joe Green
8. Rev. Ricardo Green & family
9. Ruth Haley
10. Matthew & Patricia Hall , Edwin
11. Michael & Crystal Hall, David
12. Rosemary Hall
13. Carey Hammer
14. Jerry ♥ Terrie Hammer
15. Glennis Harris
16. L'Tosha Harris Brechelle,
A'sha, C'ash & Davion
17. Tim & Samantha Hartley
18. Andreinne Hawk-Pratty
19. Zoe Hawk-Pratty
20. Harland & Millicent Hawk
21. Michelle Hernandez,
Ricky & Ryan
22. Rob Henderson
23. Norm & Doris Hewlett
24. Jim & Carlotta Hillis
25. Janice Hollin, Joseph
26. Sally Holmes
27. Golda Howard
28. Joseph Hughes , USAF Reserves
29. Larry & Claudine Hughes
30. Rev. Phillip & Nancy Hughes,
Sena, Cara & Jordan

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 April 30, 2014

Receipts	\$ 97,604
Disbursements	<u>123,330</u>
Over/Under Expenses	<25,726>
Budget for first four months	\$114,858
Average weekly offering	4599
Weekly offering needed from May Connection	7372
Average weekly increase per adult needed (approx.)	10