



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. Editor: Emily Niccolls; Mailing Team: Valerie Malone and Lynda Wheeler.
Copy deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's publication.

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Mike Jefferson, *Custodian*

Chanthong Vilaysak, *Gardener*

The Connection



The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond May 2014 Vol. 113 No 5



May 1st – 7:00 PM
Service in our Sanctuary



Sunday, May 11th



Monday, May 26th – Office Closed

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Ministers,

In 1981, M-19 guerrillas entered the mission house, looking for my dad. At the time, he was serving as an administrator for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Bogotá, Colombia. My dad wasn't in that house so they took another missionary, Chet Bitterman, hostage. The M-19 group gave their ultimatum to the Wycliffe missionaries – "Get out of Colombia, or we will kill Chet." What the M-19 guerrillas didn't realize was that all of the missionaries had signed papers saying that if they were kidnapped, there would be no negotiation. After some rounds of communication and several weeks later, when the guerrillas discovered that the missionaries were not leaving, they executed Chet.

When his body was found, Chet's widow flew up to Bogotá to complete necessary paperwork. When my dad met her at the airport, there were all sorts of reporters and media wanting to ask her questions. My dad told them to leave her alone but offered to answer whatever they wanted to ask him. One reporter blurted out, "So how does it feel to have someone die in your place?" After a brief moment, my dad responded, "It wasn't the first time someone died in my place." Then he told them how almost 2000 years earlier Jesus had died for him and for the whole world. The next day, the national newspapers had the headline, "It wasn't the first time someone died in my place."

God did not answer the prayers of the missionaries that Chet be released safely. However, through Chet's death and because of the gracious response of the missionaries and Chet's family, God worked wonders in Colombia to open doors for Bible translation. Many people turned to Jesus, including a number of guerrillas!

The power of Jesus' death and resurrection comes to life when ordinary people give their lives to follow Him. God gives amazing courage and will surprise us with miracles even today.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

MIRACLE SUNDAY

Praise God! Almost **\$42,000** came in though our Miracle Sunday campaign. We have enough to start on the sanctuary heater, replace some carpets, and more.

If you were not able to give to the campaign, you may send in an offering to the church office. Please continue praying for financial, physical, emotional and spiritual miracles.



10:30 AM Sermon Series

Miracles of Jesus

May 4, 2014

Acts 2:43-47; 3:1-16
Lame Man Walking

May 11, 2014

Acts 9:32-43
Dead Woman Walking

May 18, 2014

Ephesians 3:14-21
Steve Nicolls preaching

May 25, 2014

2 Timothy 2:1-13
Remembering the Battles

People's Page



Congratulations to Susan Nicolls on her receiving her law degree from Regent University on May 3rd. Susan is moving home and studying for the Bar Exam, which will take place the last week of July. Please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this next phase of her life.

* * * * *

Thank you to all those who helped me with the information and materials for the Statistical Report and End of the Year Report.

This couldn't have been completed without your help!

Peace Pat Overshiner, Clerk of Session



It is no secret that I love music. Thank you, God's people, for your support of our church music program and the repair of our pipe organ. I have scheduled an organ concert on Sunday, June 22nd at 2PM to say THANK YOU and so that some of my out-of-town family members will be able to attend. I hope you will join us for an afternoon of music!

Barbara Lockie-Brown

What a wonderful retreat the Lord provided for our women (over 50 attended) on April 4-5! Lynda Wheeler and I would like to thank all the women who worked so hard on the retreat in various capacities: Lidia Andueza, Katherine Bacher, Luzia Carvalho, Katrina Croda, Kelly Flores, Terrie Hammer, Angela Haynes, Claudine Hughes, Lisa Janz, Yuni Kam, Eileen Malone, Cathy Nance, Emliy Nicolls, LaVonne Rasmussen, Lourdes Rodriquez, Marli Silva, Ruth Stellina, Karel Waldron & Dorothy Walker.

Many Thanks, Brenda Motomura

Carol Johnston, our wonderful speaker, mentioned a website for "pray as you go" and the url is : <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/>



FREEBIE: Old portable sewing machine. Needs oil because it hasn't been used in a while, but still works. Let the office know if you can use this.

This page is for you, so -

What other things would you like to see on this page?

Blooming Button Flowers

For Mother's Day, add a special touch to any houseplant with this easy craft.

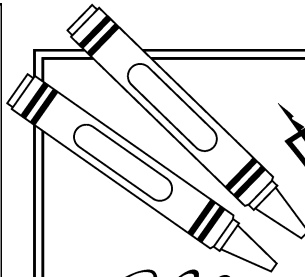


What you need:

- A small houseplant with leaves
- Colorful buttons of various sizes
- Green 26-gauge floral wire
- Wire cutters

What you do:

1. Stack three buttons from largest to smallest, with the smallest on top. Align the button holes.
2. Cut 8 inches of wire. Thread it up through one hole of the stacked buttons and back down through another hole.
3. Twist the wire just below the bottom side of the button stack to secure it.
4. Insert the "flower" in the plant's soil and repeat the process.
5. Present this to Mom and wish her a happy Mother's Day!



PUZZLE

Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

Directions: First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

MOTHERS

Ev^e bore
 Sa^rah bore
 Re^bekah bore
 Ra^qchel bore
 Le^ah bore
 Zi^pah bore
 Bi^llah bore
 Jo^chebed bore
 Na^omi bore
 Ru^th bore
 Haⁿnah bore
 Ba^thsheba bore
 Eliza^beth bore
 Ma^ry bore
 Euⁿice bore

CHILDREN

Caⁱn, Ab^el and Se^th
 Isa^ac
 Ja^cob and Es^au
 Beⁿjamin and Jo^seph
 Re^uben, Si^meon, Le^vi, Ju^dah,
 Issa^{ch}ar, Ze^bulun and Diⁿah
 Ga^d and A^sher
 Daⁿ and Na^phtali
 Mo^se
 Ma^hlon and Ki^lion
 O^bed
 Sa^muel
 So^lomon
 Jo^hn the Ba^ptist
 Je^sus
 Ti^mothy



“ ;
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 W
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33
 F
 34 35 36 37 38 39 31 41 42 3 43 44
 !”

PROVERBS 23:25, NIV

Answer: "May your ... mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!" Proverbs 23:25, NIV

DRIVE-IN MINISTRY

Dear Friends

It is quite possible that John 3:16 is the most recognized Bible verse in the United States. I can still remember seeing "Rainbow Man" appearing at all the big sporting events in the 1970s with his wild rainbow wig and his tee shirt with John 3:16 printed on it. Furthermore, John 3:16 is one of the first verses we memorize in Sunday school (and with good reason). However, recently I noticed a pattern. John is not the only book of the Bible with an important verse 3:16 in it. During the month of May (and it could well run over into other months as well) every sermon will be based on a 3:16 verse. I am excited for the possibilities this sermon series presents. Please feel free to suggest your own favorite 3:16 verse if I haven't selected it to do a sermon on it.

On a personal note, I am excited that our intern, Cindy Towle Kephart, will be delivering the message on May 4 while Emily and I will attend graduation ceremonies for Susan who will be receiving her Juris Doctorate. Cindy and I first met during a series of Greek classes we were taking together. I know she will do a great job, and I am happy that a fellow Fuller Northern California seminarian will be filling the pulpit in my absence.

See you in the parking lot,

Steve

Quote of the Month

To endure the cross is not tragedy: it is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

May Scripture

*May 4 Matthew 28: 1-15
Elder Cindy Towle Kephart guest preaching*

May 11 II Timothy 3:10-17

May 18 Ephesians 3:14-21

*May 25 Colossians 3:8-17
(Memorial Day Weekend)*

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 May – contact office for phone numbers

April 27 – May 3

Peggy Williams & Gregory Harris

May 4 – 10

Miria Oliveira & Lidia Andueza

May 11 – 17

Claudine Hughes & Tom Welton

May 18 – 24

Norm Waldron & Ebube Nwosibe

May 25 – 31

Sarah Obasi & Rob Henderson





IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

DEACONS-what are they and what do they do?

In our analogy of our church as a human body, the Deacons are the hands. They are the ones who reach out to those in need and perform many of the caring functions in the church that often we take for granted or don't think about.

Deacons work under a Board of Deacons, meet the first Monday of each month and are headed by a moderator, currently Lidia Andueza. There are 12 Deacons for our church and they each have one or more responsibilities. Deacons, like Elders, serve for three years. Two of the Deacons are always on call if help is needed, such as transport to a medical appointment. The names of the on-call Deacons are published in the weekly Bulletin or available from the office.

Deacons do so many things that it is difficult to list them all, but we'll cover most of them, starting with the ones you see regularly. The flowers that brighten the sanctuary every Sunday, the beautiful lilies you saw at Easter, and the poinsettias at Christmas are handled by the Deacons and are taken to our families at home or in the hospital. Deacons set up and clean up Communion every month. Your donations of food stuffs for the pantry are bagged and given out by the Deacons and additional boxes are distributed at Thanksgiving.

You may not know, Deacons do all of the planning and arranging of the receptions after funerals and memorials at the church, visit those who are hospitalized, visit all of our home-bound family members, and provide food and assistance and transportation to those who may need the help. A Deacon also maintains a contact with other church committees as well.

It takes a willing heart and loving hands to care for our church family and many of the Deacons have served on this ministry many times over many years. If you feel this may be the right ministry for you, contact Lidia Andueza, Claudine Hughes, or Peggy Williams and let them know you want to help.

Check out the Deacon's page in the Connection issues for more information on specific things they are doing.



Session Notes: Good News Items: Miracle Sunday; Women's Retreat; Good Friday and Easter Services; Prayer Vigil; PLM; Palm Sunday Celebration; and Cindy Towle Kephart, our Intern. Discussion/Brainstorm: Commission Lay Pastor details for Boon Kham, Cathy Nance, and Khamside Keola. **MSC** to complete the commissions for Boon Kham and Cathy Nance. Looking Ahead: National Day of Prayer; Presbytery meeting; New Member Celebration; joint Worship Service and Picnic in early June.

Next Stated Meeting: Monday, June 23^d at 7:00 pm.

Worship Committee: Did not meet in April. **Next meeting:** Monday, May 12

Christian Education Committee: U-Night: Encouraged by new people, new curriculum worked well – Fall dates Sept 30–Nov 4. Desire to have children participate in a few worship services: music, greeting, scripture memory, short skit, etc. Joint Worship with PLM – Pentecost, June 8 with picnic following. Women's Retreat–Enjoyed format for retreat. Interest in women's get-together, another retreat next year, Women's Bible Study, and Home Bible Studies. Edna F. to teach in Meadow; discussed possibilities for new teachers; Terrie will do background checks. Child Safety Policy–both trainings were well-attended; PLM and VBS Worker training is still needed. Mother's Day–Marcelino and crew serving lunch after church; some children/youth to help. Nutrition Class–Discussion of having a class on healthy eating or a diabetic support group. Concern about amount of sweets at coffee hour and amount consumed by children. Boys/Mens Event–Car night at Mark Croda's shop for boys in grades 5-8. Discussion of possible leaders for devotion portion. Adult Bible Study Coordinator–Brenda to pray about taking position; responsibilities included recruiting small group leaders and researching curriculum. Discussion of campaign in the Fall. Prayer, Care, Share–**Orientation Meeting:** May 18 with 12-week class beginning in June. Parenting Class–tentative dates; Friday, August 22; Saturday, August 23. Prayer: direction as to curriculum/topics that meet needs of our parents to raise Godly children. **VBS Training Meeting:** July 22, 6:00 pm. **Decorating Meeting:** Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 pm. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, June 10, 9:15 am.

Property and Finance: The Fall Clean-up will be September 27. There was a discussion concerning setting priorities for capital improvements in conjunction with the Miracle Sunday fund drive (furnace, carpeting for Sunday school rooms and Verkuyl, painting projects, and Verkuyl redo), and also discussion on developing a plan for the renovations needed to the large kitchen. Other items discussed included changing locks, bike racks, and padded chair use in other rooms. The Treasurer's report showed an increase in the amount expenses exceeded income. If this continues it will be referred to Session for discussion and action.

Coffee Hour May

4: Luzia Carvalho
11: Niccolls/Marcelino
18: Marcelino Nuño
27: OPEN

Drive-In May

Elder: Joe Green
Sound: Don Landis
Driver: Bennie Wilson
Greeters: Bennie Wilson & Alice Strain
Communion: Joe Green

COMING ATTRACTIONS: a chance to get involved, invite friends

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 1

First Pres is hosting a National Day of Prayer service in our sanctuary at 7 pm on Thursday, May 1. The choir will be singing and several other churches from West Contra Costa County will be participating. Join hearts with others as we pray together for our nation and our neighborhoods.

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY COFFEE HOUR MAY 11

Lunch for moms, so be sure to bring your mom to church, and stay for lunch.

VBS DECORATING – MAY 13 – 6:00 pm

Come help prepare decorations and do background work for this summer's VBS.

PRAYER/CARE/SHARE GROUP Orientation Meeting – May 18

Interested in sharing your faith with the people in your life? Join a Prayer/Care/Share team! All are invited whether you completed the training last September or not. Orientation meeting on Sunday, May 18 from 12:00 to 1:00. Twelve weekly meetings beginning in June. We will support each other as we practice gentle ways of sharing our faith with others. Leave a message for Cindy Towle Kephart at 234-0954 or an email at firstpresrichmond@sbcglobal.net if you are interested.

YOUTHIES MAY 20

This is a semi-formal event for all high school students, a night of fun to celebrate the graduating seniors. Parents of graduating seniors are also invited.

ORGAN CONCERT , at 2:00 PM on JUNE 22

Barbara is planning an afternoon of organ music favorites, with a "sprinkling" of piano to add flavor i.e. Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor and Debussy's Golliwog's Cakewalk. Bring your friends and family and enjoy this wonderful afternoon of music. See Barbara's note on the People's Page.

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 TRAINING MEETING – JULY 22, 6:00 PM

More information in future Connections.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 28 – AUGUST 1

The theme for VBS this year will be "Weird Animals". Check out VBS article in the June Connection on how to get involved.



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.



May Prayer List

1. Mark & Katrina Croda,
Michelle & Nicholas
2. Regan Curtis
3. Gloria Daniels
4. Shannon Davenport
5. Steven Davenport
6. Lind Davis
7. Roy Davis
8. Jennifer De Alba & Kanani Bowie
9. Terry DeVoss
10. Cecil & Boonsey Douglas,
Yasmine & Michael & AndreyI
11. James & Joyce Downs
12. Jakea Dunn,
13. Luis Estrada & Mabeyli Pool, & David
14. Bill & Joan Edmunds
15. Marilyn Edwards, Aaron & Austin
16. Arthur & Marina Farinha, Samantha
17. Mark & Emily Feil, Joshua & Jenna
18. Mike & Linda Fernandes, Tony
19. Tulio & Milene Ferreira, Edson
20. Juan & Maria Elena Flores, Karen & Sam
21. Cesar & Kelly Flores, Eric & Kaila
22. Donald & Das Graças Fonseca
23. Abby Fisher
24. Adah Fisher
25. Andrew Fisher
26. Dale & Marti Fisher
27. Rev. Kathleen & James Fox
28. Bill & Carol Frank
29. Amber Franklin
30. Christa Franklin,
31. Nick Franklin, USMC

Our church will pay \$35 per member to our Presbytery in 2014. Total amount is \$7200. We have received \$1491, 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 March 31, 2014

Receipts	\$67,744
Disbursements	<u>97,079</u>
Over/Under Expenses	<29,335>
Budget for first three months	87,921
Average weekly offering to date	5,417
Weekly offering needed	7,372
Average weekly increase per adult needed	\$9.75