

## Searching for Our New Pastor

As most of you know, Pastor Toby Nelson has been serving as our Interim Pastor for a little more than a year. As an Interim, Pastor Toby's primary responsibility has been to make the Session and congregation of FPCC ready to move forward. During Pastor Toby's time here he has helped us navigate through a time of turmoil, as we made the difficult decision to stay with the PC(USA). He has helped us to come out of this process pointed in the right direction, as we realize and define our mission here in the heart of Concord. It is now time for FPCC to begin the search for a permanent Called Pastor.

Presbyterian policy requires that we follow a 4-step process:

1. Session appoints a Mission Study Team (MST) for the preparation of a Mission Study, to be adopted by Session and approved by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM)
2. The Congregation elects a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), who review potential candidates and make a selection of a recommended candidate
3. The PNC nominates their pastoral candidate for approval by the Presbytery, Session and the Congregation
4. The candidate is installed during a Sunday worship service

**Step 1** of this process was begun at the February Session meeting, when Session approved the

formation of a MST, consisting of **David Dowell** (chair), **Susan Koester**, **Darryl McCollum**, **Jon Myers** and **David Stearns**. The MST held multiple meetings with various focus groups, reviewed the results of previous church surveys, and held one-on-one discussions with members of the congregation in order to define our mission. The Mission Study Report also included information about our

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church and the community designed to help prospective candidates to better understand who we are and whether or not God is calling them to ministry here with us. The final report was adopted by Session on May 10<sup>th</sup> and approved by the COM on May 11<sup>th</sup>. This quick approval (a record) reflects the commitment of the Presbytery of San Francisco to help us succeed in this next phase at FPCC. For those who would like to learn more about the Mission Study, we will hold a special presentation during the Sunday school hour on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and copies of the complete report will be available. You can also

view the report online at [www.fpccconcord.org/mission.pdf](http://www.fpccconcord.org/mission.pdf).

**Step 2** was begun with the election of the PNC at the Congregational Meeting held following worship on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>. The elected PNC members are **Eric Harvey**, **Ann Johnson**, **Susan Koester**, **Darryl McCollum**, **Maren Stanczak**, **Robin Stearns** and **Jim Whitfield**. We give thanks to the PNC in advance, as they begin what is sometimes a difficult, but ultimately joyful process. They will hold their first meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>. During this process the PNC will:

- Prepare a Ministry Information Form (MIF) which, along with the Mission Study Report, will provide to the candidate pastors information about our church and the type of pastor we are seeking
- Post the position on the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection (CLC), a web-based system that connects churches with pastors seeking a new call
- Receive and review candidate Pastor Information Forms (PIFs)
- Select candidates for further consideration, which may include listening to sermons, holding telephone interviews, obtaining letters of recommendation, visiting their current churches to hear them preach and see how they interact with their congregations, and conducting personal interviews

*Continued on Page 2*

Continued from Page 1

- Invite final candidates to preach at a local church (a “neutral pulpit”) so that the entire PNC can see them in action in a neutral environment
- Give final candidates the opportunity to visit our church anonymously for Sunday worship to get a better feel for who we are
- Negotiate the Terms of Call, including the compensation for the called pastor
- Make a final recommendation for our next Called Pastor for approval by Presbytery, Session and the Congregation

Our goal is to complete the search process as quickly as possible, hopefully by November or December. However, we recognize that God is in control, and many pastor searches take 12 months or longer. It is more important to find the right person whom God is calling rather than to rush it through.

Please hold the PNC and our next Pastor in your prayers. †

FPCC Staff	
Rev. Dr. Toby Nelson	Interim Pastor & Head of Staff
Paul Ferris	Director of Music & Worship
Rebecca Chase	Director of Community Care
Lisa Gonzalez	Administrative Coordinator
Ann Keirms	Admin to the Pastor & Elders
Susan Soehner	Organist
Harold Lund	Custodian & Night Watchman

## *Greetings from the Basement*

### *A brief update from Worship & Music*

#### **Hearing Loop System (T-Coil)**

The Sanctuary hearing assistance equipment is up and running again – finally! I was able to track a company down that provided the technical information needed to get it set up correctly. If you use a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can tune in to the system and, hopefully, you should be able to hear the services better.

#### **Special Music Sunday**

On Father’s Day, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the choir will lead a mostly music worship service called “Pops Sunday”. The service will be crafted around our favorite pieces from the past year. The choir will be on summer break during July and August, resuming September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please let these faithful people know that their commitment week after week, year after year is appreciated.

#### **Tech Team**

The tech team is still running on fumes. We need a few more people to step up and support the sound and PowerPoint crew during Sunday worship.

*Blessings to you and yours, and Happy Summer!!*

*Paul Ferris*



## **Property Management Work Party**

### **Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>**

Calling all able-bodied Christians looking for a way you can use your physical abilities to serve God. Property Management is planning a work party for Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> to take care of some overdue maintenance items and beautify our campus. We will start at 9am and work until about 1pm. Drinks and doughnuts will be provided.

Some of the projects include:

- trim bushes and pull weeds in courtyard and parking lot
- spray cracks in courtyard and parking lot with weed killer
- paint touch-up - information board by Sanctuary entrance, glazing around Sanctuary windows, etc.
- wash windows - Fellowship, Fireside, Office
- refinish wood around Fireside windows.

If you can help, even for just an hour or two, please contact **David Stearns**, chair of Property Management.



## Great Commission

### Save the Date! Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> by Susan Koester

On the morning of Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have a second **Service Worship Day**, where we have opportunities to worship God by serving our community. Plans are underway for new and similar activities to those of our February 26<sup>th</sup> Service Worship Day where the congregation participated in:

1. packing Beans and Rice for Monument Crisis Center
2. creating Braid Missions Cards of Hope – birthday cards for youth in group homes
3. assembling Guest Mugs – to give to visitors
4. cleaning up John F Baldwin Park (Bonifacio St & Beach St)

If you can think of an opportunity for service, such as a person with limited mobility that can use yard work, please let **Susan Koester**, 675-1156, know. In addition, when you go traveling, please gather up travel-size toiletries for a homeless goodies bag to be built later this year. More information will be provided as we get closer to August. For questions, contact **Susan Koester**, 675-1156. †

### God Sighted at Winter Nights by Maren Stanczak

This year for the fourth time, FPCC acted as a co-host for the Winter Nights Shelter at St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill. But we are a different church now than a year ago, so the Mission Team wondered if we could still do the job. We should have trusted God more.

For the second year in a row, our slot was scheduled for the last weekend in April. That meant a conflict with the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Homeless Dinner at the Concord

Shelter. I didn't think we could handle both. But God had a plan. At the first planning meeting of all the churches co-hosting at St Andrews, Faith Lutheran, the church covering the first week of Winter Nights at St Andrews, announced that they were planning to prepare dinner on Saturday night! We would need to prepare breakfast and lunch, cover the afternoon and provide someone to sleep over, but that we could handle.

**Susan Lawson**, the co-coordinator for FPCC, was laid-up with a hematoma on her leg, which later required hospitalization and surgery, but she put together the menus as she usually does. Obviously, she couldn't cook the 2 meals she'd planned. God provided again. My (Maren's) daughter, **Heather**, came for a visit, said she'd like to help, and looked up recipes online. We shopped together, and she recruited her brother, **Karl** to help with breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Working together, Heather, my sister Kathy and I put together Chicken Parmesan and Crumbly Apple Pies for Sunday dinner at home and helped transport them.

**The Flock** praise band has played as entertainment the last 3 years, but couldn't do it this year. But my son, **Jason**, thought he could put together a program of songs with his guitar – two 45-minute sets around dinnertime on Sunday, which we all enjoyed. Decky Thompson, coordinator at St Andrews wrote a thank you to him on the Winter Nights Shelter blog

Overall, 15 volunteers spent a total of 139 hours at St Andrews. Food for the meals was provided by 13 people; of those, 7 spent time on-site as well as providing food items. **Ann Johnson** and **Bev McHale** led the crew that prepared

and served the dinner at the Concord Shelter, with help from some of the same people and many more. And God was with us the whole time! Many thanks to all those who stepped up to the plate to help the less fortunate! †

### SHARE Food Pantry by Judith Snider



As a congregation, FPCC supports SHARE Food Pantry 3 or 4 times a year through financial and food donations. SHARE is the oldest independent ecumenical emergency food pantry in the county. It is located at First Christian Church on Willow Pass Road. SHARE feeds those in need by providing three days of emergency food to residents of central Contra Costa County. SHARE is run by volunteers and receives funding from religious and social groups and individuals.

In addition to quarterly financial donations, we give our congregation a chance to support this local organization with food drives, collecting canned goods, cereal, rice, beans, peanut butter and other nonperishable items for SHARE to use to make up food packets for hungry folks.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> barrels will be located in the Narthex to collect food items for SHARE. We invite you to join in supporting this worthy cause. If you would like to find out more about SHARE, contact **Judith Snider** at 695-5736.

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## Preschool



### Hear the Bells Ring!

Thank you all who helped support Beginnings & Beyond during our See's Candy fundraisers. Though we did not raise enough for the bells plus the extension materials, we were able to get started with just the bells. The children are enjoying listening to the beautiful sounds of each bell, and matching the notes with the pair.

Throughout the year, if you desire a box of See's chocolate, the preschool can continue to purchase for you, and funds will be raised for our next project. Contact **Robin Stearns** for more information.

*Robin Stearns M.Ed., Director  
Beginnings & Beyond Montessori  
Christian Preschool and  
Kindergarten ☩*

## Praise In The Park – July 15



On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Praise in the Park will host 11 of the best local Christian bands, along with our headliner, Citizen Way and Missy Robertson from NBC's The Voice, for a day of music in our own Todos Santos Plaza. Raise your hands and voices in praise, along with thousands of other Christians from our community!

Praise in the Park is a FREE public supported Christian Music Festival and a hub for community services. Through the collective Faith, Love and Service of churches of many denominations, we partner with local charities in our community and pair those in need with valuable services.

Being a part of the community is important. It provides us with an opportunity to serve others. We invite you to join us in our mission and help in building a better community. Come on out, listen, worship, volunteer and be part of the solution.

T-shirts will be available for presale. Contact **Darryl McCollum** if you are interested in a t-shirt, wish to volunteer, donate, or participate on a prayer team.



## Deacons Say "Thank You"

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who joined us for the All- Parish Luncheon on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>, making it a fabulous event. Particular thanks go to **Ann Johnson** and her kitchen staff for producing such wonderful salads, and to **Nancy Sansom** for organizing the deacons and coordinating the layout. A lot of work went into this event and we are truly grateful.

As the summer starts, please keep your deacon up-to-date on anything that needs prayer or more practical assistance. If you know of someone that needs assistance please contact your deacon or **Ann Keirns**.

*Wayne Matzen  
Deacon Moderator  
☩*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
C O N C O R D

1965 Colfax St., Concord, CA 94520

Change Service Requested

## ***First Press***

Deadline for Sept/Oct Issue:  
Monday, August 21, 2017

*Thank you for your contribution.*

*Submit all news in writing. Digital photos are also welcome as long as we may use them on our website.*

*Please contact the church office with address changes!*

### ***New Office Hours!***

Monday, Wed. & Thursday

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed Friday

### ***Sunday Bulletin***

EVERY **MONDAY** @ 12 Noon

### ***FPCC Values Statement***

*Guided by Scripture and prayer,  
we are a welcoming place  
where people, service,  
and God's love meet.*

*Focused on hospitality,  
inclusiveness, and spiritual gifts,  
we worship God with delight.*

*Unified in Jesus Christ,  
we are led by the Holy Spirit  
to invite, engage, and share  
God's Truth with each other,  
our community and the world.*

## **Father's Day "Pops Sunday" June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for a special music Sunday worship service.  
See Page 2 for details.

### ***First Press Distribution***

The primary distribution of First Press is electronic via e-mail. If you did not receive this and would like to be added to the electronic distribution please email [FirstPress@fpccconcord.org](mailto:FirstPress@fpccconcord.org). A pdf copy is also available on the FPCCConcord.org website, and a limited number of paper copies will be available in the Narthex and office. We can also mail copies to those who do not have access electronically and who cannot make it to church. Please call the office to request this service.