

*“God is our shelter and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.” Psalm 46:1*



First Pres ... First Responders

Soon after 2am on April 24th, Elder **David Stearns** received a call from our night watchman, **Harold Lund**, telling him that the Concord Police were asking to use our campus as a shelter for victims of a major fire at an apartment building under construction in downtown Concord. Without hesitation David agreed and rushed to the church to open up the Fireside Room and Fellowship Hall. When he arrived a small group of evacuees had already assembled.

Soon the Red Cross arrived to set up registration, food and blankets. **Darryl McCollum** had heard about the fire and came down to help. Later, **Ann Keirns** and **Rebecca Chase** started calling members to help. Over 30 church members took shifts to help over the next four days, donning purple shirts and offering information, comfort and counseling.

On that first day, over 40 evacuees took shelter in the Fireside Room. We listened to stories of people being told to evacuate the Renaissance Square apartment building next door to the site of the fire. Awakened from sleep and not sure if their building was also on fire, they had rushed out, some in their night clothes and without shoes or wallets. We heard stories of running through the streets of Concord while trying to avoid the falling cinders from the fire.

Later that day, the Red Cross set up cots in the Fellowship Hall so that people could spend the night. While most people had found alternative locations to go, a handful of people did sleep there that night, accompanied by Red Cross and church volunteers.

FPCC and the Red Cross continued to keep the shelter open for the next three days, during which time several neighboring businesses donated food, and the Vineyard Church (in the Presbyterian Community Center next door) opened their doors for evacuees to take showers.

One of our deeply-held, non-negotiable values is to be a **Community Hub** while we follow our mission to **“Love God, Love People... Serve”**. This was our opportunity to do exactly that. As a result of our actions during this disaster, we were able to form a deeper relationship with our City leaders and our community. A few weeks after the fire both Contra Costa County and the City of Concord recognized FPCC’s efforts, along with emergency responders, the Red Cross, and neighboring businesses at public recognition ceremonies in Martinez and Concord.



From the Desk of Rebecca Chase

Director of Community Care

Small Groups

The Small Groups have been humming along, digging deeper into Bible stories this last couple of months. From Modern Parables, to self-crafted Bible studies, groups have been gathering for spiritual growth, prayer, fellowship, and food.

The Tuesday and Wednesday night groups will be trying something a little different for a couple of months – a curriculum which takes the news and finds supporting Bible passages to work through the issues that come up.

If you want to be in a group but you need a different day, let me know! I also have all sorts of helpful tools and trainings available to get a group going - you just need a space to host! Partnering with someone works really well.

The Mission Sewing group is still meeting on Thursdays at 10:00 AM! Quilts are created as gifts for those in need. Beginning sewers welcome! Valerie Gardner leads this mission.

Children's Worship & Education

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! The Children celebrated Easter on April 1st with a fun Children's Message (thank you **Phyllis Graser!**) reminding them that Jesus wasn't in the tomb when the women came looking. It was empty! Just like the egg that was cracked on **Darryl's** head! The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. The littlest hunters found eggs in the courtyard grass, and the up-to-10-year-olds searched the whole courtyard area to find about 150 eggs! Many people contributed delicious food for the coffee hour – the Jello cups were a hit with the children.

The Children's Worship Team is gearing up for another wonderful meeting at The Well this summer.

Small Groups Meeting Schedule

Tuesdays	3:00 pm	The Carlton	Pastor Toby
Tuesdays	7:00 pm	Clayton	Jim & Marilyn
Wednesdays	6:30 pm	Fireside Rm	Darryl
Thursdays	1:30 pm	Fireside Rm	Judith & Rebecca
Other Bible Study Groups			
Tuesdays (men)	7:00 am	IHOP	David Dowell
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Fireside Rm	LaVerne Herren
1 st Thursdays (women Circle IV)	11:00 am - 2:00 pm	Varies	Anna Belle Horgan & Joanne Myers
2 nd Mondays	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Fireside Rm	Catherine Longoria

August 23rd through August 25th, children and adults will gather to refresh and renew our call to follow Jesus in this neighborhood and beyond. The Children's Ministry Team is partnering with leadership from the other churches on the campus for two evenings and a morning of songs, games, crafts, and conversation about ways to reach out and touch the lives of others. Our first planning meeting is on Monday June 4th at 7:00pm. We'd love your input.

During June and July the children will hear the story of Moses, from when he was a baby, through his call to help God's people escape Pharaoh, and including the Ten Commandments. During August, the children will hear the story of Esther – a favorite!

A special shout-out of thanks to our faithful leaders, **Carrie Smith** and **Nanci Powers**. They have been taking turns, month by month, leading the Children's Worship downstairs. We felt there was a need for some consistency for these little ones, and Carrie and Nanci have been stellar at keeping a consistent face for the Worship time. The assistants are **Marilyn Wollenweber**, **Ann Johnson**, **Beth Byrne**, and **Ashley McCollum**. Our loyal sub is

Diane Nickerson. (Beth has also been filling in for **Susan Soehner** at the organ, so Diane helped A LOT this last few months! Thank you so much!)

The Nursery is always ready for new little guests, but we could use your help. **Lynn Justice** is seeking warm arms and sharp eyes to help with the tiniest ones in our congregation. Talk to her or to me about dedicating an hour a month to the ministry of babies and toddlers!

Continue to be the wonderful welcoming family that you are by greeting new families and helping them find their way. If they need help you can't provide, please guide them to an usher, or to me.

Prayer and Healing

Continue to pray for your Pastor Nominating Committee! They are dedicating hours and hours of time seeking the right match for us. They are getting SO CLOSE, but keep praying! Ask for God's guidance and blessing on them, and for the pastor who is coming to us.

Recently, prayer warriors gathered to pray for protection and blessings on the church and congregants before a sermon on Satan and

Continued Next Page

Rebecca Chase (cont.)

demons. We always look for ways to be vigilant in not only praying for healing and discernment, but also for protection from any evil forces in this world. Now is not a time to be shy! Many thanks to the team, including those who prayed off-campus.

We are looking for Prayer Team members who can donate time in the Prayer Room on a Sunday morning to pray with those in need. Contact Robin or myself.

Don't forget about our MONTHLY Prayer Walk on the THIRD Saturday of the month. Non-walkers also welcome- in the chapel. Come at 9:30am for refreshment and prayer! June 16th, July 21st, and August 18th.

Please get in touch with your Deacon if you are heading to the hospital, need prayer, need communion, or want to keep your church family updated on anything. Your Deacon is such a wonderful resource! If you don't know who

your Deacon is, please call **Ann Keirns** in the office, or **Wayne Matzen**, Deacon Moderator.

What You May Not Know

On June 27th, Rebecca was installed as an Elder of the church! She is preparing to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor, starting in January 2019 when the new classes start. Prayers welcome!

Rebecca Chase †

The Great Commission Team – Making a Difference



Service Worship

On Saturday, April 21st, FPCC invited our members and friends to participate in Community Service Day. Twenty-three people showed up! Some did a prayer walk in Todos Santos Plaza; others visited with At-Home Friends. One group stuffed 37 complete and 16 incomplete Raise the Roof Academy gift-a-gallon bags. Another group marched determinedly and repeatedly from the basement to the dumpsters, throwing away many years of VBS props (and filling up the dumpster). Still others did upkeep on the grounds, pulling weeds from Beginnings & Beyond Preschool garden, trimming the landscaping along the street as well as in the patio, tearing down a wall, installing a new solar powered light. The interior of the buildings got attention too: polishing and cleaning kitchen and sanctuary.

Some folks even worked at more than one task! There is not space to recognize everyone by name, but their efforts are appreciated, their donation of time, talent and prayers to accomplish all of the above.

Winter Nights

FPCC helped the Winter Nights Homeless Shelter in their mission of assisting homeless families on their way toward permanent housing. There were 25 parents and children at the shelter when we co-hosted with St Andrews Presbyterian in Pleasant Hill from Tuesday evening through Thursday morning, May 1 – 3. Fourteen volunteers either donated food or spent a total of 48.5 hours on the site (2 of the 14 did both). The program finishes up at the first of June.

Easter Offering

We've made a difference in Ethiopia, too. This year's Easter Offering

raised \$1,744. That will enable nearly seven 20W home solar panel systems for Maji (\$250 each to import, transport and install on a family home)! Our gift will continue to help shine His Light to lighten the darkness of this isolated village.

It is amazing what we can accomplish together with God's help!

Uganda Rummage Sale

On Saturday, May 12th, we had our first Uganda mission rummage sale and made a little over \$800. Thank you to all who helped out by sorting, pricing, setting up and taking down, and working the day of the sale. Also thank you to all who donated items for sale. We could not have done it without all of you. **Esther Chin** and **Robin Stearns** will be leaving for their Uganda mission on June 27th and 28th and will be gone for two weeks. †

Worship & Music

by Andrew Cardiasmenos – Director of Worship & Music

As the choir season comes to a close, we will feature 6 or 7 of our favorite anthems we sang this year on Father's Day (June 17th), which we're calling Pops Sunday. It will be a great way to celebrate the end of a wonderful season for the choir. I'm proud of all the work they have done this year and look forward to starting again in the fall.

In the meantime, beginning in July, we will start summer choir. Anyone is welcome to join us on a Sunday morning to sing in worship! The music will be very easy and fun to learn and very low commitment – just a quick rehearsal before service starts. If anyone is interested, contact me at 718-928-4805 or andrew.cardiasmenos@gmail.com

– or simply come see me after service ends! Hope to hear from you!

A couple goals I have for the summer include writing compositions for the Flock and the choir, and reaching out to the other churches on our campus for opportunities to join together in song – strengthening our fellowship in Christ. †

Deacons

by Wayne Matzen - Moderator

The deacons would like to thank everyone in the congregation for helping make our annual All Parish luncheon such a great success. We feel it is critically important to be able to build connections with people living in the same geographical area and their deacon.

With our deacon board down to 9 parishes this year, each deacon is tasked with ministering to between 25-30 people (this includes nonmembers and regular

visitors). We try and do our best to keep up with the many things happening in our parishioner's lives but it can be challenging. We ask for your help to notify your deacon or the church office if you are facing a hospitalization, major illness, or need help in any way. Perhaps you may be in a position to notify us of one of your friends that need assistance. We want to be there for you but may not know of needed assistance.

In the same manner, if you would like to talk to the church office or your deacon about planning for final arrangements and things you would like included in a service and maybe don't feel comfortable discussing directly with a family member, let us know how we might be of assistance. This information will be kept confidential and in place for use by loved ones who will be tasked with carrying out your final wishes. †

Estate Planning

by the Finance Ministry Team

Planning for what happens to our estate after our death (Estate Planning) is something none of us likes to think about, but proper planning is a sign of love for our children and other loved ones, and also a time to consider our love of God and his Church.

There are many different options on how the disposition of our estate may be handled. The worst, and potentially most costly option for our loved ones, is to do nothing, as this could mean the decisions will be made by a probate judge.

Listed below are several estate planning tools for consideration:

1. **The Will** is one of the most basic and simplest, nobody should go without a will. You can utilize the

services of an attorney, or you can do it yourself. But if you want to make sure it will stand up in probate court you should probably hire an attorney.

2. **The Trust** is another option. There are many types of trusts, and in order to set one up you will need an estate planning attorney.

3. **Inter Vivos Gifts** are another option. This is a technique that you can use to give part of your estate away while you are still alive. By doing this, you will be able to reduce the amount of your estate and potentially get under the estate tax allowance.

4. **Non-Probate Assets** are certain assets that do not have to go through probate when you die.

This includes life insurance policies, retirement accounts and titles that have a beneficiary's name on them.

5. **Bequests** are a method for giving property to an individual or organization after your death. You can state your intention to bequeath property in your will, or you can bequeath the property while you are living. A **Charitable Bequest** may be made to any charitable organization and may benefit the giver at tax time.

Each of these methods has certain tax implications for both the giver and recipient of the estate property. It is best to seek the advice of a tax planning attorney to determine what is right for you. †

Family News

Grieving:

Family and friends of Mark Wolfe, **Lorraine Coleman's** son, who passed away on Tuesday, April 10th.

Family and friends of **Carolyn and Don Sukk**. Carolyn passed away on January 22nd and Don passed on March 12th, one day after his 99th birthday.

Family and friends of **Warner Kimball**, who passed away on April 16th, just a few weeks before his 104th birthday.

Family and friends of **Wayne Strongman**, who passed away on April 23rd, a few weeks after his 100th birthday. A memorial service was held June 2nd.

Judith Snider and family at the passing of Judith's mother on May 26th.

Mary Alice Freeman and family at the passing of husband **Wally Freeman**, on May 31st.

Prayers and Praises:

Prayers and praises for **Eric Hansen's** recovery from a massive heart attack on May 6th. Eric is now at home and is doing much better, but continue to hold him in your prayers.

Pray for Mike Gott, **Julie Siddall's** brother, who was bitten by a spider,

which sent him to John Muir Hospital.

Pray for **Judy Nelson** as she continues to recover from a surgical procedure.

Congratulations:

Congratulations and prayers for Melanie and Chad Brinkerhoff, **Jerry and Ann Johnson's** daughter and son-in-law, as they navigate a brand new baby.

Thank You:

Thank you to all of the people who stepped up and ministered to the victims of the major fire in Concord in April. You came alongside the folks from the Red Cross, created a place of solace for hurting people, and showed our community the love of Jesus Christ in action.

PNC Update

On Sunday May 27th **Eric Harvey** shared with the congregation the progress of the PNC using the analogy that the PNC is now rounding 3rd base to head home. In terms of the process, for our top-tier candidates we completed our reviews of their resumes, listened to both audio and video sermons, checked references, and where possible listened to candidates in their churches. We are now moving into the next phase where we are

listening to sermons in neutral pulpits here in the Bay Area along with select members from Presbytery interviewing the candidates. Lord willing, we will have a candidate to bring to our pulpit in the July/early August timeframe.

How can you help? Read 1 Samuel 16: 1-13 as to what the LORD looks at for a leader of a nation. Likewise, pray that PNC as a unified body will see the candidate's heart and mind, as well as hear the candidate with the eyes and ears of the LORD. ☩

FPCC Staff

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

June Birthdays

- 1 Lucille Hawthorne
- Carol Worsdell
- 5 Diane Nickerson
- Gary Rowe
- 8 Frederico Speedy Gonzalez
- 15 Karel Peer
- 16 Eleanor Chin
- Beverly McHale
- 19 Ann Rowe
- 22 Ileana Garcia
- 23 Debbie Hansen
- 25 Susan Curry
- 26 Ashley McCollum
- 29 Catherine Longoria

July Birthdays

- 6 Marilyn Wollenweber
- 8 Judith Snider
- 9 Kristin Harvey
- Lorena Peer
- 11 Jo Kitchen
- 18 Mary Alice Freeman
- Carol Hance
- 21 Clayton Worsdell
- 22 Anna Belle Horgan
- 28 Wally Sunga
- 29 Larry Cruzen

August Birthdays

- 1 Jenn Gardner
- Chancey Henneman
- Jim Morrison
- 2 Robin Stearns
- 4 June Gibbon
- 6 Bertha Roush
- 7 Laura Magu
- 11 Ann Keirns
- 14 Ann Johnson
- 19 Rose Marie Hansen
- 25 Bill Gilmore



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 27, 2018**

*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!*

Office Hours!

Monday, Wed. & Thursday
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Closed Friday

Mission Vision & Values

Our Mission:

Love God, Love People ... Serve

Vision:

*As a community hub, connect
with the needs of people, joyfully
sharing Jesus and serving where
God calls.*

Values:

*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.*

Save the Date – August 5th!

Pastor Toby's last Sunday with us will be August 5th. This also marks Toby's and Judy's 50th wedding anniversary. Plans are still being developed, but you can be sure there will be a **PARTY!**

Come to The Well – August 23rd – 25th

The Children's Ministry Team has begun planning for The Well this summer on August 23rd through August 25th. We will be partnering with leadership from the other churches on the campus for two evenings and a morning of songs, games, crafts, and conversation about ways to reach out and touch the lives of others. For more information or to volunteer to help speak with Rebecca.

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. 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.