

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Family and Friends

My heart has been breaking this past month over the persecution our Brothers and Sisters in Christ have been experiencing around the world. Jihadist terrorists stormed a church in Normandy, France during mass and murdered an 84-year-old priest and took nuns and worshipers as hostages. In Russia, a new law makes sharing your Christian faith outside a church building (as well as meeting in house churches) illegal. One of the faithful attendees of our Men's Bible Study constantly asks us to pray for his Egyptian Brothers and Sisters in Christ who have had their homes and churches burned to the ground by Muslim mobs. And in Nigeria, Christian farmers are being targeted and killed by the radical Boko Haram group. All this is in addition to the thousands of Syrian Christians who have had to flee for their lives and are now living in refugee camps. The fact that this kind of persecution has become a regular part of our brother's and sister's lives is enough to break the hearts of Christians everywhere.

Of course Jesus said that the world would hate His followers because of their hate for Him. We read in John 15:18-20, *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his Master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."*

We know that the Church grows through persecution. Paul writes in Philippians 1:12-14, *"Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly."* We saw this happen in China and most recently in the Sudan and Ethiopia where the number of Christians has skyrocketed (in the hundreds of millions) after years of horrendous persecution.

But how should we, as caring and loving Christians, respond to this persecution. Even though we as American Christians do not naturally think about Christians around world, we are told in God's Word to *"Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering since you yourselves also are in the body (Hebrews 13:3)."* That word "remember" is not a passive word. In God's Word it implies more than having someone cross our minds. It implies action. It means to be engaged with them. It means active participation. If one of our own relatives was among the Christians facing the scenarios faced by Christians in Syria, France, Egypt, or Nigeria we would be letting people know about their plight and doing whatever we could to make it stop happening. The same should be true in the Body of Christ. Paul writes, *"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it (1 Corinthians 12:26)"*.

**Pray** for their physical protection and for greater freedom to practice their faith openly. **Pray** that they would fearlessly make Christ known and that their lives would serve as a testimony to the truth of Christ. **Pray** that they would completely trust in God. **Pray** that they will love their enemies and God's love can work through them. And **pray** that they would be able to rejoice in their glorious future. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matthew 5:10-12)."

Thank you for being a caring, encouraging, faithful, and engaged church, even to Christians you have never met.

In His Grace,

*Pastor Ed Suedeker*

Log on to these websites: [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org); [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com); [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org);

**Felton Presbyterian Church**  
**6090 Highway 9**  
**Felton, CA 95018**



## Redwood Bark

August 2016

### Kids Club

Malcolm Mackinnon

It seems only a little while ago that we had our last Kids' Club of the 2015-16 school year. We quickly followed that with our "Submerged" VBA, then finally came up for air (see what I did there?). After a few weeks of recharging our batteries, we are ready to begin what we hope will be a great Kids' Club and Connect Group for the upcoming school year. The first club of the year will be on August 24th, and will run as usual from 1:30 to 5:pm. There were indications from many of the new parents at VBA that they would like their children to attend on Wednesdays. We hope to see many of the regular children who have been such an integral part of Kids' Club for several years.

We have been blessed with so many excellent helpers in all forms of Children's Ministry here at FPC. It was wonderful to discover new helpers during VBA who had clear child giftings. We are always looking for new people, in all kinds of capacities, to help us with what we hope will be a fantastic year ahead. Please ask Elder Kathleen McNair or me if you want to be involved in some way, even if you can't commit to every week.

We are also hoping that Good News Club will begin again in SLV Elementary. This will probably start a couple of weeks later than Kids' Club. Please pray that we have enough helpers and children attending to make this another fruitful year. It is still a significant breakthrough to be able to run a Bible-based Christian club in a local state school. And finally, many thanks for all your prayers regarding the children's work here. Please continue to pray.



August 13 - To benefit Children's Ministry

Sign up for a space - \$20

## August Birthdays

Gary Smith	August 1
Linda Weston	August 6
Glenn Dunn	August 7
Tom Godsoe	August 7
Flora Schweizer	August 8
Alice Schweizer	August 14
Dave Huemoeller	August 17
Steven Harris	August 18
Theodora Crider	August 23
Landon Lockridge	August 23
Luci Mitchell	August 25
Karen Snedeker	August 29

**Patrick Henry** *I wish I could leave you my most cherished possession - my faith in Jesus Christ! For with Him, you have everything; without Him, you have nothing.*

## Looking for Jesus...!

*Nancy Maruska*

This summer, we're taking a brief respite from our Adult Bible Study, "The Story".

Previously we worked our way through the Old Testament, enjoying the stories and the build up to the birth of Christ Jesus! For the summer break we have put together some readings in Psalms and Proverbs! Read a few chapters every day. Read Psalm 106:10-15 and Proverbs 18:10. Do you find mention of Jesus here?

Join us as we begin looking into the New Testament.

**September 11 at 9:00 am** (Sunday – Old Kitchen classroom downstairs) or **September 14 at 7pm** (Wednesday – Sanctuary)!

All are welcome!

## Financial News

*Elder John Kegebein*

Congregational giving is down \$3000/month. The good news is that the month of June ended in the black. For financial report, check the bulletin board in the narthex.

## Criticizing Others

*Barbara Bell*

Why can we so easily overlook in ourselves the faults we are quick to spot in others? It is easy to be objective when it comes to criticizing our friends, family members and co-workers. It is more difficult to be honest about our own shortcomings.

Only when we recognize that we are all humans, with the same faults and failings, do we begin to develop that wonderful quality of tolerance that enables us to accept others as they are and ask nothing in return. Replacing faultfinding with "goodfinding" is never easy. When you become one who always compliments instead of criticizes, you become the kind of friend we would all like to have.

## Carrie Jones

*Ken Clouse*

Carrie Jones of Long Beach, Mississippi, spent several years worshipping with us at FPC. She lives near Pearlinton, MS, where members of FPC labored to help the local church recover from damage due to Hurricane Katrina.

A member of the Pineville Presbyterian Church, Carrie included in her recent note a news article about the Pearlinton area. Look on the bulletin board to see her note and the newspaper article. Carrie also expressed appreciation for receiving the *Redwood Bark* and sent a generous donation for its support.

## Greet the Guest

We have long had a tradition of gifting a newcomer to FPC with a loaf of bread. That is one tell-tale sign that lets you know to greet a guest. If you are not good at greeting strangers, maybe the following methods will help.

- G** ..... **Greet** by a simple phrase - "Glad you are here today."
- U** ..... **Use** their name. Introduce yourself and ask their name.
- E** ..... **Establish** their needs. They may need information.
- S** ..... **Show** interest - asking where they live, etc.
- T** ..... **Thank** them for coming

## Buildings and Grounds Work Day

*Harold Whaley*

The next Work Day is scheduled for August 27. One of the jobs listed below could be 'right up your alley.'

- Painting trim boards
- Weeding (check out how the weeds welcome you from Highway 9)
- Trimming brush and trees away from building
- Repair rot damage downstairs
- General inside cleaning
- Washing windows
- Trimming ivy outside Taylor Hall

## Roof Repair Report

FPC has a new roof. Good news! No wood rot was found. Some repair work was needed on the torch-down roof over the Taylor Hall portico. Some new gutters were installed and some fascia boards needed to be replaced.

No insulation of the sanctuary was needed. The sanctuary had been previously insulated.

The total cost of our much needed roof is \$30,160 (\$11,040 less than estimated cost). It is not too late to help pay for this improvement. Envelopes for your donation are in the pew rack.

## Name This Apostle

A fisherman

Called the "Apostle of Passion"

Nickname was "Son of Thunder"

Was present during the transfiguration, the resurrection of Jairus' daughter, and was in the garden of Gethsemane with Jesus

Enlisted his mother to lobby for the most prominent place in heaven

Only apostle whose death is listed in the New Testament

The first of the disciples to die. Herod was responsible for his death.

## Free Lunch Tuesday

*Joan Maruska*



Michael Kerry



Ellen Cindy

Do you believe that FPC should be involved with ministry to the poor and homeless of Felton?

Have you witnessed the blessings of feeding these folks? I have! I cook lunch one Tuesday a month.

Ellen Maruska and her faithful crew - half of them from churches **other** than FPC - (except for Lee Williams, Jeff Juliano and Barb Carlisle) would welcome a cook for the fourth Tuesday of the month.

If you would be willing to cook **once a year**, you would be blessed. A pot of soup, a favorite casserole. How about giving it a try!

## Sweaty Sheep

This is a Christian group who is working with the homeless in Santa Cruz. Christopher Drury, pastor at SC Garfield Park Community Church helped organized a group of about 20 homeless people and 20 Christians who spent an afternoon fishing together aboard a yacht.

They caught 70-plus fish and barbecued and feasted later at Twin Lakes State Beach.



One Sunday, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle. On his way out just before reaching the safety of the narthex, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me."

*Charlie Johnson*