

St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church

*Love, Grow & Share With Us*

The

# Lighthouse

November 2012

## *From the Pastor*

My dear family in Christ,

Walking out of a restaurant in Bakersfield last Sunday afternoon with Anita and some of the members of her family, my brother-in-law Tom turned to me and said, "Brett, I wanted to ask you about something. I can hardly bring myself to turn on the TV news anymore, what with all the senseless killings, stories of abuse, and downright tragedies that are reported there. I cannot imagine having your job. What do you tell people about a God who allows all these things to happen and doesn't seem to care?"

This is why I take vacations, so that I can take a break from religious concerns! Seriously though, Tom's question is an important one. It centers on the problem of evil, a spiritual dilemma that we Christians will never escape while living on this earth.

Three weeks ago, I told the New Members Class how important it is to go to church when we are on vacation, seeking out the family of God wherever we may be. I'm glad that I followed my own advice, because the morning of Tom's question I heard a sermon preached on guess what? That's right, the problem of evil! I said, "Tom, funny you should ask me about that, because I just listened to a message this morning in church on that very topic. The passage was Acts, chapter one. The pastor told us about the disciples needing to pick a successor to Judas, who had betrayed Christ. I had never before considered it from the disciples' point of view. They wondered, 'God, what's the use of us picking someone, when the one that Jesus chose first did evil?' Like you, they were ready to give up. But they continued to trust God, and they moved forward."

I went on to remind Tom that each of us has free will. If God did not grant us that, then we would be robots. But along with free will comes the possibility of doing evil. What we hear and see in the news are people's poor choices and the results of those choices, and oftentimes they affect otherwise innocent people. Couldn't God have designed a better and fairer plan, though?

The answer to that question might best be found in an out-of-the-way verse in the last chapter of the book of Genesis. Joseph, who had been sold by his brothers into slavery after they had contemplated killing him, says to them in Genesis 50: 20, "What you intended for evil against me, God intended for good, in order to bring about this present result..."

Tom and I talked about the importance of witnessing to God's goodness in the midst of a world where evil seems to reign. It doesn't reign, of course, because God sees it happening and will use it to bring about repentance and salvation for people who are lost and deceived. But waiting on goodness tests our faith and causes us to pray. How any thoughtful and compassionate person gets through this life without praying, I will never know.

The New Testament counterpart to Genesis 50: 20 is Romans 8: 28, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose." The Sunday morning preacher made clear that for people who do not trust God, all things do not "magically" work together for good. Just ask the people in the news. But those who love God have a different perspective. A long-range perspective. A patient perspective. A "waiting" perspective.

I learned something about prayer from the church's pastor that I had never really considered before. He said, "We don't pray to make God do something we want or to get something from God. We pray so that we will be prepared when God finally gives an answer." Prayer as preparation. That's something worth taking to heart. For who doesn't want to be prepared? And who doesn't want to experience as much of God's gift as possible when it is finally given?

By the way, the pastor I heard preach last Sunday was only twenty-three years old, which taught me one more thing. Wisdom comes from time spent with God, not necessarily time spent on this earth. Many years ago, I began my doctoral dissertation with these words from the great nineteenth-century preacher Phillips Brooks, "People would rather see old men than young men in their pulpits, if only the old men bring with them both elements of preaching, a faith that is eternally true, and a person that is in quick and ready sympathy with their present life. If they can have but one, they are apt to choose the latter, but what they really want is both...." I suspect that what we really want is the gospel preached to us, whether by old or young, women or men, as long as it is the good news.

As Tom and I concluded, the good news of God can be heard even amidst the evil we find in the world, if we are listening closely enough for it and if we are determined to follow it. What thing is God causing to "work together for good" in your life at present? I would love to hear about them.

Your brother in Christ,





## SESSION NEWS

At its October meeting, your Session:

- Welcomed the new member class to dinner fellowship, met with them and approved them for membership. The new members who joined the church on Sunday, October 14: David Benson, Karen Hayes, David Adams, Jamie Kuljis, Martha Hitchens, George Hitchens, Lisa Zamora, Frank Zamora.
- Approved renewal of the church insurance policies with the Insurance Board for the next year.
- Heard and discussed a report from the Treasurer regarding financials for 2012, pledge payments to date are behind budget.
- Approved adding several people to various Teams:
  - Hands on Ministries and Encouragement (HOME) Team - Karen Noffz (Chair), David Bohn, Nancy Doner, Marie Henderson, Cree Mann and Don Vickers.
  - From the Worship Team - Loa Wintz (Chair), Diana Lee, Ann Padden- Rubin and Jackie Parker.
  - Adult Education Team – Lisa DeBoer (Chair)
- Set the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 27 at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary. Purposes: Annual Reports received, 2013 Budget presented, approval of Pastor's Terms of Call.
- Heard about and discussed plans for the Voices of Christmas Dinner Theater on December 21 and 22. Approved designating that any excess funds remaining after all costs are paid for the dinner costs associated be added to the PYF account. PYF youth will be dinner servers for the dinner.
- Heard a report from the September 22, 2012 Presbytery meeting.
- Heard a report on the status of the Remedial Case. The Updated information can be found on St. Andrew's website: <http://www.standrewspcusa.org/news-a-events/remedial-case-union-presbytery.html>

### Remedial Case Update – Trial on November 9 & 10

Progress continues in the *St. Andrew's et al v. Presbytery of Santa Barbara* remedial case (Synod of So. Calif. and Hawaii Case No. 2012-03). The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission (SPJC) has set the trial date and notified all parties of pretrial procedures. The two-day trial will be on November 9 and 10 (Friday and Saturday), at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tarzana. Pastor Brett Becker and several St. Andrew's ruling elders will be among the group of Complainants attending the trial, some of whom may be witnesses. Thank you for your continued prayers for discernment, energy, fairness and peace for all involved throughout this important and active time in the process.

Remedial Case Fund: St. Andrew's has established a Remedial Case Fund to receive donations toward the costs of the remedial case and trial. Many of these costs (such as witness fees, copy costs, costs of trial transcript, travel and lodging for parties and witnesses) will be incurred before and during the upcoming trial. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Any balance remaining in the fund after all costs have been paid will be donated to the PC(USA) for support of PC(USA) seminaries. For further information about the Remedial Case Fund or to make a donation, contact Sandy Thoits, Clerk of Session at [standrewsclerk@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsclerk@gmail.com).

## FOCUS ON THE WORLD – by Harold Englund

I am nearing the end of a long task, that of writing my memoirs. They are written for the sake of my two sons and their children. I have no plans to have them published. Perhaps a copy might be sent to the churches I have served for their libraries. But in the present discussions going on in the Presbyterian Church, I can share two incidents from years back.

The first was an appointment made by two young women to see me in my study in First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley. The date must have been around 1965. With two morning services, 1200 worshippers in each one, including many students and other young persons, I always loved to meet those who wanted to become part of our church. Here were two apparently in their mid-twenties.

“We’ve been attending First Pres for some time,” one said, “and we want to join the church and become –part of it.” They had a strong faith in Christ and apparently a good biblical training in their backgrounds. “But there’s one thing we need to share with you. We’re lesbian girls, and we have lived together for a number of years. Is it all right for us to be part of your church?” I replied that a credible confession of faith in Jesus Christ was all that was required. Then I added, “If, for any reason, you should ever decide to separate and end your relationship, this could feel almost like a death, and you should get pastoral or psychological help right away.” They agreed. And they became part of the next new members’ class in “First Pres.” Berkeley.

About twenty-five years later, when I was preaching the Sunday evening service in the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, I was greeting the congregation at the door as they left. Two women in their fifties came up and said, “Dr. Englund, we saw that you were preaching here tonight, so we decided to come. We are the two girls you let join the Berkeley church many years ago.

The second memory is from my pastoral days in Sacramento in the 1970’s. One of our fine families, the father and mother both medically trained, wanted a large family. They eventually had eight children, boys and girls. One day, the mother asked Enid to come to their home. The youngest child, a boy, was different from his brothers. Still pre-school, his parents wondered if he might be expressing a girl’s gender. Consultation with specialists confirmed their questions. They were advised to love their boy, to let him express his inner nature, and to tell him there was a place for him in God’s world. Both Enid and I supported this strong family. The day was over when some people would tie a left-handed child’s left hand to make him right-handed. Or to try to force a child to deny his inbred gender and try to become something he wasn’t. He entered life, was fully educated, and found a partner, like the girls in Berkeley.

My role, I felt, was pastoral, not legal. And so as a pastor, I learned that parental love could accept and help such children to enter life, and to have the trust and support of their church. I could have chosen other examples. Now, ours is the generation expected to learn these lessons! Will we? I think so, some sooner than others. Scientists may uncover reasons for this split phenomenon; that would help. Meanwhile, God, give us the patience while we grow in grace!

### 2013 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, February 9

Saturday, May 4

Saturday, September 28

Tuesday, November 12



**A DVD OF THE OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> ART  
SHOW IS AVAILABLE IN THE  
CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WANT TO  
CHECK IT OUT!**

## Encouraging Stewardship in Children & Youth

Among the few things I have learned about children is that they do what they see their significant adults do, and they are often motivated by a challenge. At this time of year when stewardship giving and discussions of how we deal with our resources are being held, I'd like to share some ideas with those of you who may be parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or adult friends of children and youth of any age who are learning to use what God has given them in thoughtful and faithful ways. The second idea is one I wish I had thought up myself!

**Give an offering yourself.** If your children are young, even if you have your bank automatically send a check to the church each month (my way of remaining faithful and not forgetful), consider putting a small amount in a pew envelope anyway, so that your child sees that you are ready to give an offering during worship. If they are older, explain how you come up with your plan for how much to donate and how you feel about that discipline of giving.

**Challenge them with a matching gift.** If you have the means, suggest to your child that any project that they decide is worthy of their giving (something for others, not necessarily the new video game they want) is something that you will consider matching their gift and in essence doubling their generosity to that cause. This would be a great way to encourage them to give for special offerings like One Great Hour of Sharing.

You can be part of raising a "cheerful giver" in God's family. Don't be afraid to talk about this aspect of stewardship of our material resources with your children and youth.

Julie Sommers



### Welcome to New Members

Karen Hayes, David Adams, Jamie Kuljis, Martha Hitchens, George Hitchens, Lisa Zamora, Frank Zamora. David Benson (not in photo)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO HOST FAIR-TRADE BAZAAR

### Sunday, November 18, 11a-3p

On Sunday November 18, Presbyterian Women will host a Fair-Trade Bazaar in Morgan Hall from 11a.m. to 3p.m. Goods will be provided by various fair-trade vendors on a consignment basis. All profits will be returned to the vendors, who, in turn, give them to the crafts people. Vendors include SERRV, Mayan Hands, Upavim, Rahab's Rope, Rwanda Partners, and Pal Craft Aid. Items will range from \$5 - \$40, with a few items over \$40. Goods will include artisan-made jewelry, textiles, wooden artifacts, hand-woven baskets, chocolate, coffee, and olive oil.

## ANGEL TREE

Once again there will be an Angel Christmas Tree to benefit the families in Santa Barbara that cannot afford to buy Christmas gifts. Select an Angel off the tree in Morgan Hall, buy the gift listed on the Angel, return the gift unwrapped to St. Andrew's and the gifts will be delivered to the Christmas Unity Shoppe in Santa Barbara. Please pick your Angel from the tree and return the unwrapped gifts by **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. This is a wonderful opportunity to include your children in the joy of giving to those who are less fortunate in terms of material possessions.



## BIRTHDAYS BEING CELEBRATED IN NOVEMBER

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 02 - Edward Carrillo, |                      |
| 04 - John Chaves      |                      |
| 05 - Chris Putman     |                      |
| 07 - Matthew Wilson,  |                      |
| Tana Thomas,          | 17 - Bob McWilliams  |
| John Rubin,           | 20 - Cecilia Putman  |
| Margaret Knauss       | 23 - Wendy Keyzer    |
| 08 - Luke Wilson,     | 26 - Maggie Varner,  |
| Tom Weisenburger,     | Fred Walters         |
| Diana Lee,            | 27 - David Sommers   |
| Martial Keyzer,       | 29 - Margaret Siadal |
| 09 - Jessica DiMizio  | 30 - Brian Wise      |
| 10 - Arlene Douglas   |                      |
| 13 - Wendy Gonzalez   |                      |
| 14 - Diana Villanueva |                      |



## ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIRE – CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Your Mission Team will be conducting the annual Alternative Gift Faire on December 2 and 9 immediately after the regular Sunday worship service. This event allows you to make a gift in honor of someone dear to you. We will provide you with a card you can give to that person so that he or she will know that a gift in his or her honor is helping someone in need this Christmas. This year you can contribute to a variety of worthy causes. With a contribution to World Church Service you can help poor rural families in developing countries achieve self-reliance with the use of seeds and tools, or you can have a huge impact on a family's health and food security by providing them with 50 baby chicks who will become egg-producing chickens, or you can provide blankets to persons in need of warmth after a disaster. With a contribution to the local Food Bank you can support that agency's backpack program that provides good nutritious food to schoolchildren who do not have enough to eat during the weekends. With a contribution to Transition House you can provide clothing and school supplies to local students who temporarily reside at that facility for the homeless. With a contribution to the Unite-to-Light project, you can provide solar powered lights for students and their families in Africa who lack electric power in their homes. The Unite-to-Light program was developed by our own John Bowers and others on the UCSB staff.

In December we will also receive the Christmas Joy Offering. This is one of four annual offerings sponsored by our national Presbyterian Church. Funds collected during the Christmas Joy Offering are used to provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and to enable deserving students to attend Presbyterian related racial ethnic colleges and schools. The several church related schools and colleges provide education to Blacks, Latinos and Native Americans who might not otherwise receive an education that can help bring them out of poverty.

When you do your Christmas shopping this year please think about helping out others who are in more need than we are by participating in both the Alternative Gift Faire and the Christmas Joy Offering.

### Directory corrections:

**Eleanor Vos**  
**623 W. Junipero Street,**  
**Room 106**  
**Santa Barbara, CA 93105**  
**Phone 245-8358**

**Bev Raber phone 967-1997**



### Flowers for the Communion Table

If you would like to have flowers placed on the communion table to commemorate an event, or in honor or memory of someone, please contact Nina Chamberlain (687-8567) or the church office. The cost is \$25.00.



***Church Work Day Saturday,***  
***November 17, 9a-12n***

### WINDJAMMERS

No meeting in November



## ST. ANDREW'S PRESCHOOL NEWS

November holds time for family gatherings. We too, as a school will have our gatherings this month. Our parent meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> will be a time for fellowship and good food. We will also have our 9<sup>th</sup> annual craft show for a fundraiser that evening. We have made projects with the children's art, and have them for sale to benefit our program.



November curriculum will include a study of Native Americans. The Pre-K class will have a field trip to the museum at Cachuma Lake. We change room 3 into a Chumash Village. Come and see the children as they are investigating and exploring a different culture.

We will end the month by having our traditional community "snack." On Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, we will make a meal together, set the table, and then sit down together with our parents to enjoy the food our hands have made. Praise God for our school family.

May your November be a month of cherished moments with your family and friends.

God Bless You,

Cindy

### *Meditation for November*

Some prayers are best left infinite, God of all good gifts. This will be an ongoing conversation between us. Each day I discover new gifts you offer me, and my list of reasons to be thankful grows. As I gratefully accept your gifts and cherish them, guide me to become a person who shares with others so that they, too, can live abundantly. May someone, somewhere, someday say of me, "I am thankful to have this person in my life."

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

On Sunday, December 2, at 2:00 in Morgan Hall, we will once again gather to enjoy the Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea. This annual event is a delightful way to kick off the Holiday Season and share fellowship with each other.

Bev Ford is taking sign ups and all women of St. Andrew's are invited. Also, anyone interested in being a hostess and/or bringing refreshments would be greatly appreciated. Please mark your calendars for this special event.



## THE NOVEL BOOK GROUP



The Novel Book group is reading "Honolulu" by Alan Brennert for our meeting on November 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. We meet in the Vos Room. Join us as we discuss the book.

## PYF: MOVES Forward...

PYF gave back a lot during October and had fun doing it! We kicked off the month with PYF and our **Cookies for Caring**. Everyone came in with two dozen cookies from home and a good thought for our congregation. We wrote letters to and packaged the cookies for mailing to college students and personal delivery to congregation members at home and in assisted living facilities. We received some wonderful thank you cards and notes on Facebook!



PYF also participated in the church work day, in which we cleaned out and painted the youth lounge. Thanks Laura and Marie Henderson, Billy Spencer, Sandy Thoits, Willy Hughes and Padden-Rubin family.

Zodo's Bowling night was a blast!

**But now PYF moves forward toward a November full of exciting events:**

Starting with November 4, 6:00-8:00PM: PYF at Church for the PRAYER PARTNERS GAME NIGHT! Come enjoy a night filled with great food, friends, and games.

November 9-11: PYF Fall Retreat at Camp Ocean Pines. PYF takes off for the weekend at Camp Ocean Pines. With a weekend out of the house, interacting with nature, building friendships, and furthering the development our relationship with Christ, PYF is sure to make this a memorable experience.

November 18, 6:00-8:00PM: PYF at Church, a relaxing night for PYF includes; dinner, games and devotional time.

November 25- No PYF for thanksgiving weekend, enjoy the time with your family!



# VOICES OF CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER



*Come See and Hear Perspectives  
Around Jesus' Birth*

December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> • 6:00PM

*Family Event • Festive Holiday Dinner Will Be Served*

Followed by Live Performance • Special Movie Alternative for Children

Dinner Cost \$9 per person, \$4 children 12 & under

**Sign up and purchase tickets beginning November 4 on  
Sunday mornings after worship or contact the church office.**

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**

**Dr. Brett Becker, Pastor**

**4575 Auhay Drive**

**Santa Barbara, CA 93110**

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