



TEMPLE TIDINGS



First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, 2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA

February 2012

Community Bible Study Series

Mondays February 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2012 7:00-8:30 pm

Members and friends at First Church interested in bible study are encouraged to take advantage of a new opportunity available to congregations of Presbyterian churches in the East Bay. The first meeting of the series will be held at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1940 Virginia Street, Berkeley. The focus for the series is the Gospel of Mark and the title, "A Gospel made for Telling." It will be taught by Dr. Anne Wire, author of the recently published book entitled, "The Case for Mark composed in Performance." In this book Dr. Wire moves upstream against current scholarship by arguing that the narrative in the Gospel is not the product of a literary author but composed by oral storytellers who told it to early Christian communities over several decades. She will teach each of these classes in a different location around the East Bay.



Feb 6—Where and when was this Gospel composed? its political and social world—its **location**.

Feb 13—How was this Gospel composed? Its language, stories, and structure.—its **purpose**.

Feb 20—Who composed this Gospel? Its tellers, artists, writers, and preachers—its **journey**.

Feb 27—What is the message of this Gospel? Its telling today —its **continued** life.

This series will involve work by participants with the text of Mark, in response to slides of 2nd and 3rd century Roman, Jewish, and Christian art, maps, and interpretations of Mark developed in Anne's book named above. Participants will be advised of locations of the classes at the first meeting on February 6th in Berkeley. Mark your calendars now for this excellent offering.

Anne lectured on her understanding of Mark this last summer to a pastors' symposium in Korea and last fall to congregations in Southern California. Anne is professor emeriti of New Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union, and an elder at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

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THE SEASON OF LENT

This year Lent will kick off with a delicious **Pancake Breakfast at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, February 19th** hosted by the Fellowship committee in the hall following Adult Education. Plan to bring your family and friends to enjoy brunch together before we enter the season of Lent.

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22nd the **Ash Wednesday** service will be held in the Sanctuary. **Ash Wednesday** formally introduces Lent and provides us with a time to gather as a congregation to begin this reflective season. Ash Wednesday is self-consciously penitential and contemplative, the better to establish the unique quality of Lent and launch the people of God along the path that leads inevitably to the cross. This enables us to better comprehend and to celebrate the empty tomb. Plan to join us for this very important service.

Pastors Column

We have recently celebrated the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., one of my heroes and a man who certainly made a difference in our world. Reading Dr. King's works has greatly influenced my theology and my understanding of the gospel. He has also had much to say about the church. In his book, "Strength to Love", he says the following:

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority. If the church does not participate actively in the struggle for peace and for economic and racial justice, it will forfeit the loyalty of millions and cause people everywhere to say that it has atrophied its will. But if the church will free itself from the shackles of a deadening status quo, and, recovering its great historic mission, will speak and act fearlessly and insistently in terms of justice and peace, it will enkindle the imagination of humankind and fire the souls of men and women, imbuing them with a glowing and ardent love for truth, justice, and peace. Men and women far and near will know the church as a great fellowship of love that provides light and bread for lonely travelers."

I believe our church embodies many of the positive attributes of which Dr. King speaks. In the weeks and months ahead may First Presbyterian Church of Oakland strive to be more of the church of which Dr. King, and our Lord would be proud. And thank you for the privilege of serving as your interim pastor.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack



Mission Committee

Giving Tree a Success!

First Presbyterian members and friends are an extremely caring and generous bunch! When the Mission Committee offered over 30 opportunities for service and outreach to the church and community throughout the season of Advent, everyone came together to participate. Some examples of the ways you came through in ministry and love are:



- Toys collected for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department (for children of the incarcerated)
- Toys for the Oakland Mayor's Toy Drive
- Funds and supplies for the Food Pantry
- Funds and offers of help for the First Presbyterian Garden Committee
- Sports equipment for an Oakland middle school
- Clothing and money for a homeless family of 5
- Gift cards and monetary donations for needy individuals in our church community and beyond

These were all distributed, and were greatly appreciated.

Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Now that the Giving Tree has been taken down, please don't forget that your help is always needed. If you would like to make a difference through hands-on outreach and service, please talk to a member of the Mission Committee or come to a meeting.

Some ideas of how to get involved in local mission:

- Volunteers are needed to tutor or read to students at local public schools
- Serving at St. Mary's Center (coming soon!)
- Work days with Habitat for Humanity
- Gardening at the church
- Toiletry donations for the Giving Hands (run by Randy Ortiz) on Fridays
- Clothing donations to be handed out at the Food Pantry

Thank you!

Jan Busch, Mission Chair
(janbusch4@gmail.com)



Parish Soup and Salad Potluck Luncheon

Don't miss the first annual Parish Luncheon on **March 4!** Bring your family, your neighbors and a salad. Break bread with church members who live in your neck of the woods. For more information, please contact Liz Pauw Hillman, 510-529-9815.



Parish 6 EPIPHANY BRUNCH Gathering

On Saturday, January 7th, a most ambient setting was established to host a Parish 6 Brunch in the spirit of Epiphany at the home of Marilyn Williams and Joan Herrington in North Oakland. Walking into their cheerfully decorated home was like walking into little Sweden, highlighted by a beautifully decorated hostess table, complete with a miniature Christmas Tree, surrounded by plates of cookies, cakes, coffee, juice, etc. However, more memorable than the decor was the spirit of hospitality conveyed by our co-hosts, Marilyn and Joan.

We want to thank them for their imaginative initiative in bringing our Parish Area together!

- From appreciative Parish 6 attendees

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

BBC BIBLE STUDY on Romans 12 will be held **Saturday, Feb 4, 9-12 noon**, followed by a Chinese lunch. St. Paul in Romans 12 challenges us with a vision of the "Beloved Community." Martin Luther King also had a vision. What is our vision for our church? Do you also have a vision? Come and share yours as we study Scripture together in small groups. B.Y.O.B. (Bring your own Bible). Contact Rev. Bill Ng to sign up for this event 510-704-0365



Per Capita Tax

Every year the Presbytery notifies us of the **PER CAPITA TAX FOR MEMBERS AND FOR 2012** it is **\$32 per member (\$64 per couple)**. First Church out of operating funds sends to the Presbytery \$32 for every member. Due to the ongoing deficit budget situation, it would be much appreciated if every member at FPCO would, in addition to their pledge, pay their own per capita to help reduce deficit spending. There is a blue per capita apportionment envelope in each person's box of pledge envelopes. The yellow initial offering envelope is used to offset the cost of envelopes. We are suggesting \$5.00.



Thank you

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE COMMITTEE

A public "Thank You" to all members of FPCO for your support and participation in the Stewardship events held during the past four months. As of January 8, 2012, fifty-seven family units have submitted their pledges.

This is a strong start as the economy has certainly dictated our ability to give from our treasures and will continue to do in 2012. The Stewardship and Finance Committees are counting on those units who have not pledged to prayerfully consider doing so as soon as possible. A large part of the church budget is based on the amount of pledges that are received. May God continue to bless each and everyone of you as we strive to accomplish our stated mission at FPCO.

Vernon Clark, Chair, Stewardship Committee
Judy Rowan, Chair, Finance Committee



Birthdays of the Month

February Birthdays

- 2 Gwendolyn Buchholz
- 3 Martin Woodin
- 5 William Bradshaw
- 5 Fay Cooley
- 6 Fiona Gray
- 9 Marilyn Williams
- 10 Grace M'Rithaa
- 11 Martha Hill
- 13 Matthew Inadomi
- 14 Vernja Lee Clark
- 14 Jason Witt, Jr.
- 16 Lorraine Provost
- 16 Marian Walton
- 17 Leslie Olrich
- 18 Maria Ekwoe
- 20 Harvey Whittenburg
- 22 Cole Provost
- 22 Judy Rowan
- 24 Dorrie Dodge
- 28 Rose Mary Richmond



February Anniversaries

- 5 Peter van der Loo and Amy Oakland
- 25 Carrie and Ernie Besso

If you have a February birthday or anniversary not mentioned above please email Becky at the church office at becky@firstchurchoakland.org to add your name to the list.

In Loving Memory of



Marjorie Walker

1/11/1922 - 1/11/2012



Financial Report as of 12/31/11

INCOME	Budget to date	ACTUAL
Pledged support	\$210,000	\$189,162
Other support	33,000	35,788
Building use	175,755	176,605
Investments	35,378	33,096
EXPENSES	\$521,682	\$486,988

Special Giving for 2011

INVESTMENT FUNDS \$524,155

Food Pantry	\$5,020
Deacons	5,029
One Great Hour	1,366
Peace	1,032
Christmas Joy	1,240

Submitted by

Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer



Christmas Eve 2012



**First Presbyterian Church of Oakland Christian Formation – Adult Education
Winter & Spring 2012**

January

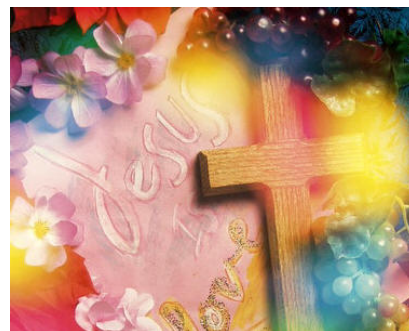
Sunday the 8 th	<i>Sermon Feedback with Herman Waetjen</i>
Sunday the 15 th	<i>Introduction to Islam with Peter van der Loo*</i>
Sunday the 22 nd	<i>Introduction to Islam with Peter van der Loo*</i>
Sunday the 29 th	<i>Introduction to Islam with Peter van der Loo*</i>

February

Monday the 6 th	Inter-church Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark with Dr. Anne Wire <i>Intergenerational Community: Talking about Racism & Building Cultural Confidence*</i>
Sunday the 12 th	
Monday the 13 th	Inter-church Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark with Dr. Anne Wire <i>Embracing an Adult Faith: God</i>
Sunday the 19 th	
Monday the 20 th	Inter-church Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark with Dr. Anne Wire <i>Embracing an Adult Faith: Jesus</i>
Sunday the 26 th	
Monday the 27 th	Inter-church Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark with Dr. Anne Wire

March

Wednesday the 7 th	Bible Study with Peter van der Loo <i>Embracing an Adult Faith: Salvation</i>
Sunday the 11 th	
Wednesday the 14 th	Bible Study with Peter van der Loo <i>Embracing an Adult Faith: Practice</i>
Sunday the 18 th	
Wednesday the 21 st	Bible Study with Peter van der Loo <i>Embracing an Adult Faith: Community</i>
Sunday the 25 th	
Wednesday the 28 th	Bible Study with Peter van der Loo



April

Thursday the 5 th	Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner & Service
Sunday the 8 th	Easter Sunday
Sunday the 15 th	<i>Kairos: A Perspective from Christian Palestinians with Walt Davis*</i>
Wednesday the 18 th	BBC study group on the Kairos document
Sunday the 22 nd	<i>Sister Abigail: Ministry to AIDS Orphans in South Africa</i>
Wednesday the 25 th	BBC study group on the Kairos document

May

Wednesday the 2 nd	BBC study group on the Kairos document
Sunday the 6 th	Intergenerational singing at Agesong Lakeside Park Alzheimer's Residence
Wednesday the 9 th	Bible Study with Rev. Jack Shriver
Sunday the 13 th	Mothers' Day
Wednesday the 16 th	Bible Study with Rev. Jack Shriver
Sunday the 20 th	<i>Our Urban Ministry and Oakland's Uptown Renaissance</i>
Wednesday the 23 rd	Bible Study with Rev. Jack Shriver
Sunday the 27 th	<i>Our Urban Ministry and Oakland's Uptown Renaissance</i>
Wednesday the 30 th	Bible Study with Rev. Jack Shriver

Youth Connection (Middle and High School) and *Joyful Noise* (elementary children) and Childcare run concurrently with classes on Sunday. * Co-sponsored by Building the Beloved Community

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 PM Covenant Care 6:00 PM Personnel	2 9:30 AM Food Not Bombs 7:00 PM Women's Circle	3 10:30 AM Finance Meeting	4 9:00 AM B.B.C. Bible Study
5 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM Temple Choir 4:00 PM First on First	6 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Community Bible Series off campus Fellowship	7 7:00 PM BBC 7:15 PM Worship/Music Committee	8 7:00 PM Outreach	9 9:30 AM Food Not Bombs	10 9:30 AM Food Pantry	11
12 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Godly Play 11:15 AM Fellowship Mission 11:30 AM Adult Education Youth Connection Joyful Noise	13 9:30 AM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Community Bible Series off campus	14 9:30 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Buildings & Grounds 	15	16 9:30 AM Food Not Bombs	17 9:30 AM Food Pantry	18
19 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Godly Play 11:30 AM Adult Education Youth Connection Joyful Noise 12:15 PM Pancake Breakfast	20 8:00 AM Office Closed / Presidents' Day 7:00 PM Community Bible Series off campus	21	22 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 	23 9:30 AM Food Not Bombs	24 9:30 AM Food Pantry	25
26 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Godly Play 11:15 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM Adult Education Joyful Noise Youth Connection 5:00 PM Lenten Service	27 9:30 AM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Community Bible Series off campus	28 9:30 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Session	29 7:00 PM Children & Youth Advocates			

SPIRITREADS What books move you?

Barbara Brown is probably familiar to many of you as she is often quoted by preachers. All kinds of people like her. She was an Episcopalian minister in Georgia for many years and has published several books of sermons, Bread of Angels being one of my favorites. She has a special gift; she is kind of in-your-face with the truth but not in a negative way. You know how a very direct expression of truth can be funny? That's Barbara Brown Taylor. Fred Craddock has worked with her many times and says she is not primarily a preacher or a teacher; she is a worshiper and brings you with her before God. She is mindful of her listeners and of God. She talks about being aware that on any given Sunday she will be speaking to three people who know they are dying. She has a way with words; she talks about us humans being limited by words, being limited by the 26 letters of the alphabet, and as soon as we utter or write something down it is already incomplete and dies but like a shooting star that displays a blazing if momentary glory before it dies.

She is a wonderful story teller. In her sermon, The Prophet Mary, John 12:3-5, she sets the scene; Lazarus has just been raised from the dead and Jesus and all the friends are gathered in the house of Mary and Martha preparing supper. "Lazarus is still clumsy from his four days in the tomb, handling the paring knife like a tree saw and staring at the potato in his hand as if he had never seen one before. Martha notices this and gives him a wooden spoon instead. His job is to stir when she says stir." The author draws the reader into the scene. The story continues with Mary anointing Jesus's feet and wipes them with her hair. She is anointing Jesus for burial.

Barbara Brown Taylor has written about a dozen books, and all of them are very worthwhile.

Shelley Stafford

What have you read or watched lately that has enriched your spiritual or religious life? Share the book/poem/movie/etc. with your church family in this new Christian Formation feature in Temple Tidings. Please let Kristin Stangl (kstangl@gmail.com; 415-531-2177) know if you have something you would like to share.



Christian Formation – Adult Education February 2012

February

Wednesday the 1 st	Inter-church Bible Study
Wednesday the 8 th	Inter-church Bible Study
Sunday the 12 th	<i>Intergenerational Community: Talking about Racism & Building Cultural Confidence*</i>
Wednesday the 15 th	Inter-church Bible Study
Sunday the 19 th	<i>Embracing an Adult Faith: God</i>
Wednesday the 22 nd	Inter-church Bible Study
Sunday the 26 th	<i>Embracing an Adult Faith: Jesus</i>
Wednesday the 29 th	Ash Wednesday Service



THE DORDT COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR

VISITS OAKLAND!



Dordt College Concert Choir Spring Tour Performance will be held in our sanctuary on **Wednesday, March 14, 2012** at 7pm. For information email mmulder@dordt.edu.

News from Worship committee 5 p.m. LENTEN SERVICES

The **5 p.m. evening service** will be offered this year again on Sundays in the Reception Room during the season of Lent. The first service will be held on **Sunday, February 26**. These services, coordinated by Di Pagel, featuring Greg Murai, will involve:

- gathering music
- presentation of a Scripture in the Godly Play style
- time for wondering together
- silence and art response.
- community art response

Each service ends with prayers of the people and singing. Fabric artist and Elder, Carrie Besso will provide a fabric table for a communal response to the story each week. It is hoped that it will appeal to all those seeking an informal, interactive yet reflective way to prepare hearts and minds for the events of Holy Week.

This year the theme is “God’s Reign” and the focus each Sunday will be on the parables of Jesus. The parables are the closest approximation we have to the actual voice of Jesus. Plan to come as a family or bring a friend!

Questions, contact Di at di@firstchurchoakland.org or at ext. 3.



To Fast or not to Fast....

Recently one of the children in Godly Play stated “soon it will be Lent and I have to give something up! My mom has to give up chocolate.” Christians of many different traditions observe personal fasts during Lent – giving up food or habits or pastimes. It can help us focus on the sacrifice of Jesus but it can also sometimes simply become a Lenten obligation that may not necessarily make us feel closer or more reliant on God. It may be appropriate in your home to use this time to bring more discipline to some eating habit such as less meat, or avoiding candy or soda, less television or video games.



In some traditions the fast can be broken after sundown, or if not each day, certainly on a Sunday or Lord’s Day. A fast is not always about giving something up. You could consider *adding* something to your Lenten observance. That kind of “fast” might include writing notes or cards with affirming words to family or friends, visiting those that are sick, preparing a meal for someone in need, or offering to care for a child for a single parent who might need a night off. Such possibilities are limited only by our imagination.

(adapted from “All Through the Day, All Through the Year” by David Batchelder)

Women’s Circle




WOMEN’S CIRCLE will next meet on **Thursday, February 2 at 7 p.m.** in the Session Room. The group comes together to hear concerns, pray the Scriptures and discern how God may be moving in their lives. It is a listening circle where all are welcome. The group is planning the second annual Women’s Retreat for Saturday, May 19th at the church to be led by Rev. Caryl Menkhous Cresswell from Portland, Oregon. Mark your calendar now and plan to give yourself the gift of a day for reflection. More details to follow.



In February

- Feb. 04 9 am BBC Bible Study
- Feb. 05 4 pm Youth Fun Nite
- Feb. 19 12:15 am Pancake Breakfast
- Feb. 22 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb. 26 5pm Lenten Service




The Temple Tidings is a monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, 2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612. Temple Tidings is posted on the church website, please contact the church office if you no longer wish to receive a paper version mailed to your home. Office phone 510-444-3555. For more information please visit our website: www.firstchurchoakland.org

First Presbyterian Church
 2619 Broadway
 Oakland, CA 94612



Friend's Name
 Address
 City, State, Zip

Church Staff



Rev. Jack Shriver, *Pastor*
 Di Pagel, *Director of Christian Education & Church Administrator*
 Becky Dimanlig, *Office Manager*
 Greg Murai, *Artist in Residence*
 Milton Williams, *Music Director*
 Hilary Guter, *Church Organist*