

The Window

First
Presbyterian
Church of
Santa Monica

February 2017

Valentine's Day Mission Projects

February 12

We will join with churches in our Pacific Presbytery to provide backpacks for unaccompanied minors who have fled violence in Central America and are seeking political asylum status in the U.S. First Pres has committed to providing 20 backpacks. Please contribute what you are able, whether it be supplies that our children and youth can use to put in the backpacks, or a completed backpack.

*"Backpacks
with a Heart"*

Click the link below for the list of items or get a flyer from the church office.

[Backpacks with a Heart flyer](#)

*"Have a
Heart for the
Homeless"*

We will collect cookies, either home-made or store bought, and cards at church on February 12th and deliver them on Valentine's Day to the Winter Homeless Shelter at the Armory in West LA. You can also drop them off at the church office by February 13th.

Pastor's Pen

Two Golden Days¹

Words of wisdom from minister and author Robert J. Burdette (1844-1914):

There are two golden days in the week about which I never worry—two carefree days kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday. Yesterday, with all its cares and frets, all its pains and aches, all its faults, its mistakes, and blunders, has passed forever beyond recall. I cannot unsay a word once said. All that it holds of my life—of wrong, of regret and sorrow—is in the hands of the Mighty Love that can bring honey out of the rock and the sweetest water out of the bitterest desert. Save for the beautiful memories, sweet and tender, that linger like the perfume of roses in the heart of the day that is gone, I have nothing to do with yesterday. It was mine. It is God's now.

And the other day that I do not worry about is tomorrow. Tomorrow, with all its possible adversities, its perils, its large promise and poor performance, its failures and mistakes, is as far beyond my mastery as its dead sister, yesterday. It's God's day. Its sun will rise in splendor or behind a mass of clouds, but it will rise.

Until then, the same love and patience that held yesterday, holds tomorrow. Save for the star of hope and faith that gleams forever on the brow of tomorrow, shining with tender promise into the heart of today, I have no possession in that unborn day of grace. Tomorrow is God's day. It will be mine.

There is left for myself, then, but one day in the week—today! And you can fight the battles of today. Any person can resist temptation for just one day. Any man or woman can carry the burdens for just one day. It is only when we willfully add the burdens of those awful eternities, yesterday and tomorrow—such burdens as only the mighty God can sustain—that we break down. It isn't the experience of today that drives people mad, it is the remorse of something that happened yesterday, and the dread of what tomorrow brings. Those are God's days; leave them with God.

Therefore, I think and I do and I journey, but one day at a time. That is my day. Dutifully, I run my course and work my appointed task on that day of mine; and God, the Almighty and All-loving, takes care of yesterday and tomorrow.

Grace and peace,



¹ Robert J. Burdette in Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R., *Sower's Seeds Aplenty, Fourth Planting*, New York: Paulist Press, 1996, p. 34.

February 2017 Calendar

Feb 3rd

6:30 p.m. Vawters' Daughters, Renaissance Room

Feb 5th

11:15 a.m. Mariners Social, Renaissance Room (77th Anniversary of the Mariners)

Feb 7th

5:30 p.m. Session Retreat, Library

Feb 12th

10:00 a.m. Have a Heart for the Homeless & Backpacks with a Heart

11:15 a.m. Congregational Life Team Meeting, Dr. Wood's Office

11:15 a.m. Mission Team Meeting, Conference Room

11:15 a.m. Worship Team Meeting, Work Room

11:15 a.m. Children's and Family Ministry Team Meeting, Library

Feb 17th

7:00 p.m. Youth Group – Rock Climbing, Rockreation

Feb 18th

8:00 p.m. Jacaranda Concert, Sanctuary

Feb 19th

6:00 p.m. Kaleidoscope Concert, Sanctuary

Feb 21st

6:30 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Library

7:15 p.m. Session Meeting, Library

Feb 25th

8:00 p.m. Jacaranda Concert, Sanctuary

Feb 26th

11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

WINTER WEEKLY AT FIRST PRES

Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Gathering, Wictum Hall

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Church Mice, Church Mice Room; C.E. Building

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Youth Study Hall, Renaissance Room

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Midweek Groups Dinner, Renaissance Room

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Midweek Groups Activities

7:00 p.m. Yoga, Renaissance Room

Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, Library

Sundays: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Mission

Valentine's Day Mission Challenge

First Pres is participating in two Valentine's Day Mission projects this year. The deadline for both is February 12th.

"Have a Heart for the Homeless" – Cookies can be home-made or store bought.

"Backpacks with a Heart" - Here is the list of items you can include in the backpacks:

For School: Pens, Pencils, Notebooks. Lined paper, Folders, Binders, Highlighters, Post-its, Index cards, Pencil case, Stapler, Ruler, Calculator, Scissors, Dictionary

Personal Hygiene: Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Kleenex packages, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Comb & Brush, Deodorant, Blanket

Children's, Youth, and Family Ministry

February 2017



YOUTH GROUP

February Events

February 17th – Rock Climbing
7:00 -9:00 p.m., Rockreation
We will meet at Rockreation:

11866 LaGrange Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025

RSVP to David by February 12th.
An additional release form is needed
for this event.

Sunday Faith Groups

Church Mice (Preschool – Kinder)

Feb 5 – *Jesus heals a servant*
Feb 12 – *Give and pray*
Feb 19 – *Building on the rock*
Feb 26 – *Jesus stills the storm*

Faith Discovers (1st-2nd Grade).

Faith Explorers (3rd-5th Grade)

Feb 5 – *Love your enemies*
Feb 12 – *Give, pray, fast*
Feb 19 – *Building on the rock*
Feb 26 – *Hidden treasure*

Middle School Youth (6th-8th Grade)

High School Youth (9th-12th Grade)

Feb 5 – *Remain in Worship*
Feb 12 – *Heroes of the Old Testament*
Feb 19 – *Heroes of the Old Testament*
Feb 26 – *Heroes of the Old Testament*

MIDWEEK FAITH GROUPS

Kids meet on Wednesdays for fellowship, games, and Bible study activities led by Peter Earhart, Irene Navarro, Paula Lowe, and David Derus

Church Mice (Preschool – Kinder)

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
Church Mice Room, C.E. Building

Faith Discoverers (1st-2nd Grade)

Faith Explorers (3rd-5th Grade)

5:30 p.m. Dinner in Ren Room
6:00 p.m. Meet for activities, Wictum Hall/Big Yard

Youth Group (Mid High and Sr. High)

3:30 p.m. Study Hall in Ren Room
5:30 p.m. Dinner in Ren Room
6:00 p.m. Meet for activities, Youth Lounge

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Children's Ministry Team and the Wednesday Morning Gathering, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the "Toys for La Casa." Once again, our congregation opened its heart to those less fortunate than ourselves. We helped to make Christmas brighter for the children of La Casa and it meant a great deal to their families. Thank you for sharing your good fortune with others. ~ Pat Armacost

A **BIG THANKS** from the church staff for your generous Christmas donations. We are grateful for your many expressions of love throughout the year and the extra gift at Christmas was especially appreciated. Thanks from each of us.

Ash Wednesday – March 1st

Come to the annual, family-friendly soup supper in the Renaissance Room.
Dinner - 5:30 p.m.
Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Over the next two months, First Pres Santa Monica will have at least four service opportunities for individuals and families to participate in. In order to encourage families to get involved, I am sharing an excerpt from an article by Eugene C. Roehlkepartain of the Search Institute entitled "Engaging Families in Service: Rationale and Resources for Congregations" which discusses the benefits to families of becoming involved in service opportunities together.

Nurturing Growth in Faith

Engaging in service with one's family can be a powerful opportunity for growing in faith. Both children and adults are more likely to have a growing, strong faith when their family serves others together than those who are not engaged in serving others together. Furthermore, it shapes their views of themselves, their work, and God. "Acts of service teach our children that every human being is made in the image of God," writes J. Bradley Wigger. "Acts of care teach the holiness of others." Search Institute research has found that family service is a key dimension of family religiosity, which is, in turn, a stronger predictor of faith maturity among youth than any variables in congregational life.

Lifelong Commitment to Service and Justice

People who live lives of service, justice, and advocacy often point to early experiences in family as being formative. As Diana Mendley Rauner writes: "Caring habits and skills are primarily passed along from parents to children, from generation to generation, as parents consciously and unconsciously convey messages about the child's responsibilities and roles in her environment through explicit instruction, expectations, modeling and reinforcement." This benefit appears to be a major reason families choose to volunteer or serve together. The relationship between parental engagement in serving others and youth engagement reinforces this perspective. For example, Search surveys of 217,000 sixth- to twelfth-grade youth in public schools (1999-2000) found that youth who say their parents "spent lots of time helping others" are almost twice as likely themselves to serve others.

Family Strength

Though much of family strengths literature overlooks family service as an important dimension, Dolores Curran's classic study lists "valuing service" as one of the top 15 traits of a healthy family, based on the perspectives of 555 professionals who work with families. In addition, most family strengths research points to shared values as an important family strength, one that is clearly expressed and reinforced through serving others together.

Time Together

Instead of pulling families into different directions for different projects, providing opportunities for families to serve *together* can actually help to deal with the time crunch in contemporary life. As Paddy Bowen and A. J. McKechnie write about general volunteerism: "Family volunteering allows parents and children, siblings and many other family constructs to spend quality time together while achieving the goal of contributing to the community and the causes they care about.

Increased Participation

In addition to the potential benefits of family service for family members, there are also potential benefits for the congregation. Search Institute research shows that young people who engage in more service through their congregation are more likely to say their church matters a great deal to them. Indeed, the more time young people spend in service through their congregation, the greater their loyalty and commitment to that congregation.

So please join us for Make-a-wich, Cookies for the Homeless, Backpacks for Unaccompanied Minors, or Upward Bound House's Adopt-A-Unit and experience the joy of serving together as families and the power of participating in building God's kingdom.

Blessings,

Peter



New Deacons at First Pres

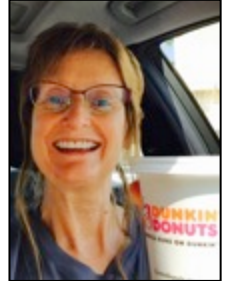
Jeff Droege



I was raised in a small town northeast of Sacramento called Fair Oaks, which has become famous for its wild chickens. I graduated from Del Campo High School – Go Cougars! – followed by American River College in Sacramento. I moved to Los Angeles in the early 1980s to work for Hughes Aircraft Company. After 24 years with Hughes, I got a job with Raytheon, an aerospace company, in El Segundo. Jim Jenkins recruited me to be an usher at First Pres after just a few years at the church. This will be my second stint as a deacon, a position that I am looking forward to carrying out.

Phyllis Kai-Kee

I was born and raised in Fayetteville, NC. I met my Northern Californian husband while I was attending summer school at the University of Chicago. He was a lofty grad student. I fell in love at first sight, and he couldn't get rid of me. Thus, I ended up in San Francisco at age 20 and made California my second home. My job brought to us LA two times, Santa Monica 1988-1994 and Mar Vista 1996 to now. I shopped around for a church in Santa Monica for a couple of years before being drawn back to FPCSM again and again. There was something about the people here ... I joined the church in 1994, and three months later was transferred by my employer to (hold on ...) Chicago! We lasted two years there that time; I was lucky enough to find a new job in LA in 1996. I've been active in FPCSM since then. I retired from corporate banking in 2015 and have been happily spending more time at the church engaged in multiple volunteer activities. I really love my church home and church family.



Kent Lewis

I was born in Northern California; however, my parents moved to Los Angeles in 1940. I was a member of the Santa Monica DeMolay during high school. I can still remember my grandmother driving me up the California Incline in 1947 and stopping to eat at a coffee shop on Wilshire Boulevard. My Dad told me to go to UCLA because he thought it was a good school. I did. I worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District as a third-grade teacher for a few years, then went to work as an upper-elementary school teacher at UCLA's Seeds University Elementary School. I spent seven years as the principal of the Smith College Laboratory School in Mass., which was very similar to the University Elementary School in educating student teachers. I returned to UCLA as a teacher, summer school principal, assistant principal and principal and retired from that wonderful school after 27 years of good experiences. I have always enjoyed volunteer work. I planned, staffed and operated the Friends Book Store for the Santa Monica Public library for 11 years. I've been a resident of Santa Monica for more than 30 years and have a sister, Jan, who lives in Panorama City. I joyfully came to the Santa Monica Presbyterian church because of the strong influence of religion from my grandmother and grandfather.



Karen Register



I grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and moved to Los Angeles in 1991 when my college sweetheart, Peter, and I decided to get married. We've raised two college age children, John and Emma, in Santa Monica. I consider myself a "professional volunteer" now that the kids are (mostly) out of the house :) I've enjoyed many rewarding years at Saint John's hospital, where I've never gone home without feeling a deep sense of gratitude. The past four years have also been filled with time as a literacy mentor to first and third graders in the public school system. I get great joy out of camping, reading, yoga, animals, cooking up vegetarian fare, and avoiding my car as much as possible by walking everywhere I can in the neighborhood. It was important to me to find a church that was inclusive, progressive, and concerned with social justice, and I'm proud to call First Pres my church home. I look forward to becoming more deeply involved in our community here, and serving our members as a deacon.

FIRST PRES COMMUNITY

Wednesday Morning Gathering

If you like to crochet, knit, work on crafts or just visit, we would love to have you join us on Wednesday mornings at our gathering. We meet at 9:00 a.m. and have coffee at 10:00 a.m. We work on our projects and try to solve the problems of the world. Hope to see some new faces this year!

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the mini bazaar. Thanks for helping us set up and tear down on Sunday. Thanks for helping us price and sort our items before the bazaar. Thanks to everyone who made items and donated items for us to sell. A great big thank you to Dio and Antonio for their help. We made \$765.00 which was donated to the church's general fund.

Bible Study

Romans—Paul's Magnum Opus of Hope, Joy, and Peace, Join Dr. Wood as we delve into the apostle Paul's great work proclaiming the hope-filled good news of God in the Spirit of the living Christ, 9:30 a.m., Thursdays, in the library.

Mariners Social

Mariners socials include lunch, entertainment, and informative presentations year round. This group meets one Sunday a month following the church service.

Sunday, February 5, 11:15 a.m.

The Mariners will celebrate their 77th Anniversary in the Renaissance Room after worship. Lunch provided by Teddy's and the music of Cali Rose with her ukulele to entertain us. Tune up your voices and be prepared to sing along. Diane will provide a special anniversary cake. Please contact Diane Henszey at 310.470.2536 or the church office to RSVP.

Vawters' Daughters

Join the women of the congregation the first Friday of every month. In honor of those spunky sisters who played such a vital role in the history of the church, we are the **Vawters' Daughters**. Contact the church for more details.

Flowers

They beautify our sanctuary, honor your loved ones and provide cheer to our hospitalized and homebound parishioners. The deacons divide each week's arrangement into two or three bouquets and deliver them to members who can't get to church because of illness or frailty. It keeps our "friends at home" connected to their church family in a meaningful way.

We also can put to good use any vases that may be taking up space in your cupboards at home. If you'd like to reserve a date please see Pat Alston during the coffee hour or call the church office 310.451.1303. The cost of the flowers is \$65.

Greeters Welcome You

The Price Is Right. Do you know the TV show that gives you prizes if you know the correct price of an item? It's fun to guess along with the guest, isn't it? Today, we want you to know that this place is right. You don't have to know anything except that God loves you and so do we. We greet you and give you a warm welcome because we are happy that you are here. Please join us in fellowship and worship. You are invited to be a part of the Greeter ministry; call the church office or contact Carole Riggs at ccriggs@hotmail.com.

Westside Food Bank

The Westside Food Bank provides immediate hunger relief to the people of our community. Bring your donations of cash and checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with Westside Food Bank in the "memo" line to church the first Sunday of every month. Canned food and durable goods are also welcome, but donations of cash or check are preferred, as the Westside Food Bank multiplies these donations tenfold through its bulk buying power. A list of needed food items is available. Call the church office for more information.

Need a Ride to Church?

If you are in need of a ride to church, our van driver, Tyrone DuBose has been providing transportation to First Pres members and friends for thirty-four years. He will make sure you get to church on time and in style in the First Pres van, and take you back home after the service. To schedule a ride call Tyrone directly at 310.920.0410.

Hatha Yoga

Join us for yoga in a supportive relaxing atmosphere! Knowledgeable, trained, innovative teacher. Bring water and a mat to the Renaissance Room, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. The suggested donation is \$25 per month. Questions? Call the church office 310.451.1303.

February Birthdays

February 3 Stan Micallef
February 4 Jungmi Han
February 6 Tom Ong
February 7 Mina Milosevic
February 8 George Balian-Leverette
February 9 Allegra McIver
February 10 Tucker Gissendanner
February 10 Miller Levin
February 10 Robert Perrin
February 12 Tanyon Harber
February 13 Evelyn Armitage
February 14 David Derus
February 15 Amy Kazanegras
February 15 Beckett Simpson
February 18 Alexander Matkovic
February 18 Sophia Matkovic
February 20 Kate Kunitz
February 20 Terry Tannenbaum
February 21 Brooke Schmalte
February 22 Annelise Sebastian
February 23 Theo Hedges
February 23 Adam Rose
February 25 Anne Lukas
February 25 Tyler Ullrich
February 26 Charlotte Hou
February 26 Barbara Markay
February 27 Diane Sherman
February 28 Amy Iorio
February 28 Peter Pistor
February 28 Quynh Sebastian



Concerts



Sunday, February 19, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.
Maurice Ravel – *Pavane for a Dead Princess*
Ralph Vaughn Williams – *The Lark Ascending*
William Hagan, Violin
Scott Ordway – *Tonight We Tell the Secrets of the World* (west coast premiere)



Saturday, February 18, 2017 – 8:00 p.m.
DIOTIMA: PARIS
Hugh Leveck: Quartet No. 4 – U.S. Premiere
Eric Tanguy: Quartet No. 2
Pierre Boulez: *Livres pour Quatuor* revise Ia, Ib – U.S. Premiere
Henri Dutilleux: *Ainsi le Nuit*
Artists: Diotima Quartet

Saturday, February 25, 2017 – 8:00 p.m.
DIOTIMA: VIENNA
Arnold Schoenberg: *Presto*; Quartet No. 2
Anton Webern: *Five Movements* fro String Quartet
Alban Berg: *Lyric Suite*
Artists: Diotima Quartet; Elissa Johnston, soprano; Adriana Menfredi, alto



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SUBMISSIONS:
Send newsworthy information
about church activities for
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