



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF ALAMEDA

July 2017
Volume 25, Issue 6

Good News

Dear Friends,

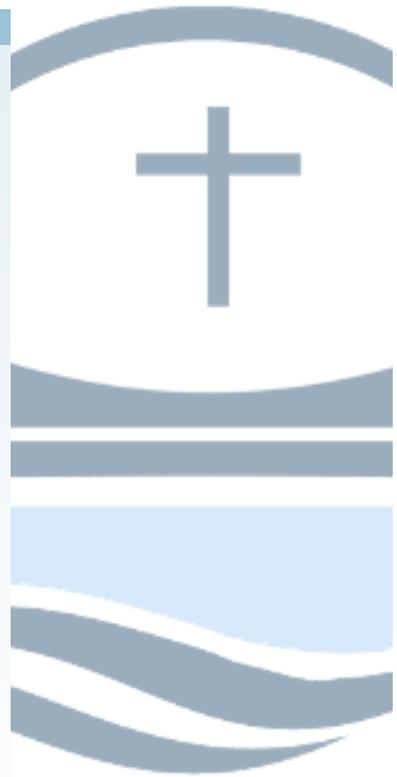
This issue we are focusing most of our attention on our Church Retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest. We hope what we are sharing will inspire you to join the experience for yourselves this year.

The following is provided by our *Membership Committee*.

Retreat Testimonials

Our all-church retreat will be at St. Dorothy's Rest in the Sonoma redwoods on September 8-10. Once again we'll be partnering with College Avenue Presbyterian Church. Register now to secure your place! (See Bruce Johnson to register.)

We asked three frequent attendees to write about what the church retreat has meant to them. As you'll see, there is much that brings them back year after year. The retreat experience touches people in many ways. It is something really special that our church does, and it has been enriched by sharing it with CAPC. We encourage you to give the retreat a try. We're sure you'll come back again.



Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Christopher Peterson
Pastor@AlamedaChurch.com

Music Minister

YoonGeong Lee
Music@Alamedachurch.com

Church Secretary

Ankie Schuitema
Office@AlamedaChurch.com

Bookkeeper

Cindy Hovermale
Finance@AlamedaChurch.com

Event Coordinator

Kate Stiling

Church Office Hours

Monday 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Tue-Thurs 9:30 to 2:30 p.m..
(510) 522-1477
office@alamedachurch.com
www.alamedachurch.com

FPCA Session Elders

Rev. Christopher Peterson-
Moderator

Jamie Cortes-
Nominating Committee Chair

Michael Helbush-
Fellowship Committee Chair

Angie Klein

Kay Lamon-
Mission Committee Chair

Nancy Lewis-
Membership Committee Chair

Claudia Perkins -
Personnel Chair

Kathy Smith-
Clerk of Session,

Deb Saltzman-
Older Adult Ministry Chair

Barbara Wildman

FPCA Deacons

Parish A

Bruce Parker
Cathy Parker
Marilyn Johnson

Parish B

Damon Rodrigues
Stacey Rodrigues-
Moderator
Kate Stiling

Parish C

Lorene Eggett
Andy Eggett
Bruce Johnson

Parish D

Rob Ade
Andy Henning
Rheem Henning

Please contact your Deacon
Deacons.fpca@gmail.com

Continued from front page...

Sharon Buckley Hernandez:

I've been to all but one of the retreats since 1995. I love the Church Retreat for many reasons, including the peaceful beauty of St. Dorothy's Rest. But also because getting out of the day-to-day busyness to worship and learn in a casual setting allows me to recenter my life on what matters - God, my faith, my family, myself. The retreat also allows us to interact as if we really are family - God's family! That's what it's all about - getting to know God and seeing Him in each other. Come as you are, and leave a little more like God created you to be.



Jim Lewis:

I went to my first church retreat reluctantly, only because my young teenager daughter really wanted us to go. I didn't think it would be my kind of thing. But I've been back to almost all of them since. The speakers and lessons are (mostly) interesting, but that's just the excuse for the rest, and best, of it. St. Dorothy's Rest is a perfect setting, its rustic buildings and towering trees simultaneously relaxing and awe-inspiring. The time with our friends from FPCA (and now CAPC) at meals, playing games, singing songs, and just hanging out is great. But the best part, for me, is the Sunday communion service in the beautiful little chapel. Our songs, our thanks for our happy experiences, and our prayers for those we love but who are absent move and inspire me as no other worship does.

Continued from page 2...

Kate Stiling:

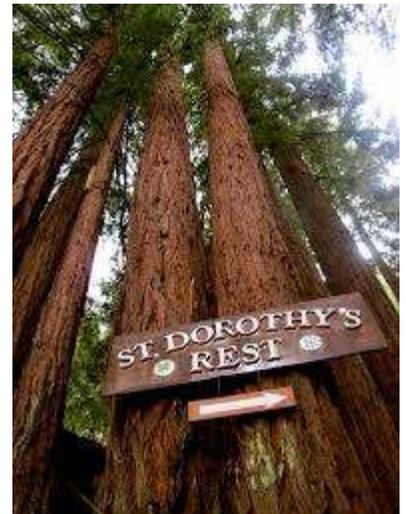
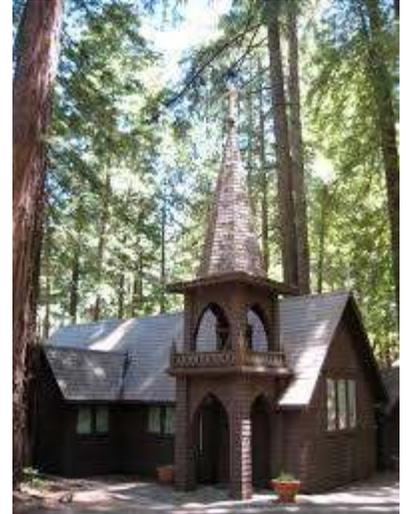
I have been attending the church retreat at St. Dorothy's since 1998 or so. The retreat has been a huge part of my history at the church and my children's memories of being part of the church. For me, the retreat is weekend experience full of faith, family and fellowship.

Being away from home in a beautiful setting allows a unique perspective to focus on my relationship with God. I was able to devote a weekend to strengthening my faith and learning about whatever the speaker's topic was that year without distractions. The retreat ending worship service in the Chapel is always such a moving and emotional experience and I always leave with gratitude and hope.

Getting away with my family has given me precious time with my children; a vacation from our day to day life. Before my Mom passed away we were able to have three generations at St. Dorothy's one year. My kids love the retreat so much that they would remind me every year to register first so we could win the early bird trophy. There is also a good balance of time where the children are taken care of by the youth staff so that I could focus on the teaching with the adults.

I found that being a part of the church outside of the church building strengthens the fellowship of the extended church family. Learning; worshipping and eating together in an intimate setting is a great way to feel a part of the church; I met people without even trying. I loved randomly sitting at a table in the dining area and starting a conversation with whomever I sat next to. Saturday afternoon of the retreat weekend allows for free time to explore the area with a group of people; spend time with friends or family, or just take a nap. My favorite tradition of the retreat is the infamous trivial pursuit challenge - a game that I found has unified all generations as each decade is necessary to win the game.

By far, my favorite story about the retreat was the year that I almost didn't go. My twin daughters were 6 months old, my older two kids were 6 and 8, and my husband was out of town working. I thought it was going to be horrible, but I didn't want my older kids to suffer because of the babies. I almost cry when I think about it; everybody helped me with those babies, they just passed them around the room. I love the church retreat at St. Dorothy's; great memories of special times with a great church family.



From the Retreat Chair...

Last year was the first year we partnered with College Avenue Presbyterian Church. We had 88 people attend, our biggest retreat ever. This year's retreat will be September 8-10th, at beautiful, idyllic St. Dorothy's Rest in the redwood forest of Sonoma County.

For those of you that haven't attended a church retreat, here's what people enjoyed at last year's retreat:

Rest

Peace

Time with God

Community

The youth activities

Being back at St. Dorothy's, being in this sacred space

Food

Company

Setting

Meeting new people

Being with immediate and extended church family

Joining two churches, seeing 2 congregations joy in fellowship & faith

Knowing kids were well taken care of so I could focus on adult activities

We have invited Pastor Sarah Reyes to be our retreat leader this year. You will remember Sarah from the workshops she led at FPCA few years ago as we developed our mission statement. Sarah has recently retired, after eighteen years, as pastor of the Bethel Presbyterian Church in San Leandro. (Her bio is on the next page.)

Based on the recommendations from both churches, we plan to add small discussion groups to this year's program.

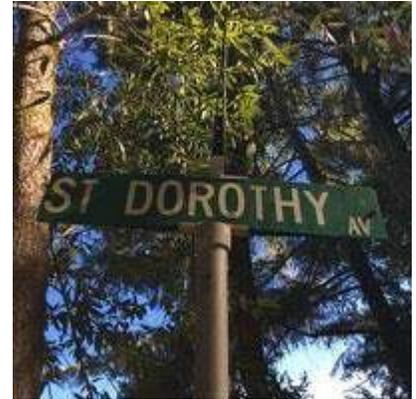
We had our first fund raising event June 24th, An E-Waste recycling drive at our church. We had a steady stream of drops-offs all day long. We raised \$730.00. Thanks to Angie from FPCA, Ellen, Anne-Marie and Ben from CAPC.

Sharon and Victor Hernandez will be leading a day of family fun in August. Chef Victor will be preparing his fabulous pizza again. We hope you will plan on attending this day-long event. Bring an appetite and some friends! More details will follow soon.

Registration is open. Forms are available at coffee hour or on-line at:

<http://www.capcoakland.org/church-retreat>

Sign up today!





About Our Retreat Speaker: Rev. Sarah Reyes

Sarah Reyes graduated from the University of San Francisco with a BS in Organizational Behavior, received a Master of Arts Degree in Education, and a Master's in Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Sarah received a Doctorate in Ministry in Parish Revitalization in May 2009 from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Sarah and her husband live in San Leandro and have four children. They are Lolo and Lola (Filipino for grandpa and grandma) to their five granddaughters. God nudged her into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament through her son, Bruce Reyes-Chow who was ordained four years before her -- probably one of the very few times where a mother has followed her son into ministry.

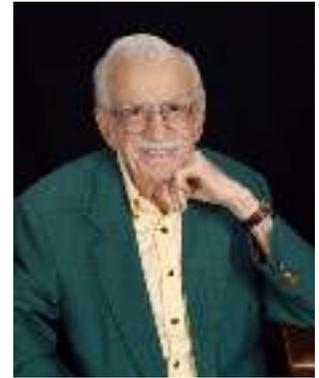
Called in 1999 to serve Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, Sarah brought to the parish her experience of twenty years in the California Legislature, eight years as a high school teacher and project coordinator of a Drug Free School Zone Program. "I have learned how to say no to people and have them walk away feeling that I said 'yes.' I have frisked students for weapons and broke up gang fights...I think God has prepared me well for the church!"

Sarah has recently retired Bethel Community Presbyterian after eighteen years. She describes her as a "journey of transformation knowing that God has plans for us." She feels blessed in a faith community that invites all generations to participate, "sharing their faith with joy, tears, and laughter."

Hear some of what Pastor Sarah has in mind for us as the teaching leader at this year's Retreat when she preaches at our worship service at First Presbyterian Alameda, on Sunday, August 27th.

Zino Connors' Gift to Us

Before his passing last year Zino Connors set aside a generous memorial to 1st Alameda. We have recently received his gift and we thank God for Zino's and the Connors' family's generosity. We praise God for Zino's legacy of faith.

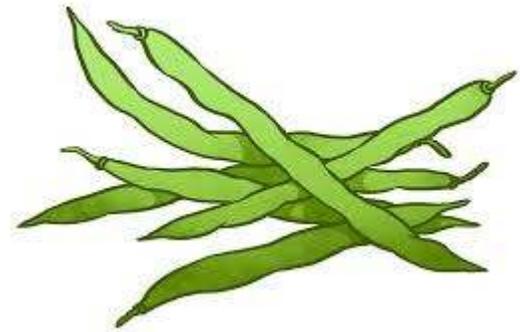


From the Deacons...

Are you hungry? Do you know someone who is? The Deacons have a Ministry of the Casserole that can easily help. Even if it's for someone who doesn't attend church, we'd love to help with a hot meal. It can come at the right time for someone who needs to know they are not alone in their hunger or loneliness. Reaching out to others to show the love of Christ is what we do as Christians and as Deacons.

In Matthew 18 Jesus told his disciples, "If two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

We are all hungry for fellowship and friendship. The faith that we share is a sharing faith. Let us know if someone could use a meal delivered and the Deacons will arrange it. When there are two or more of us gathered in Jesus' name, he is with us. Call the church office, send us an email or contact one of the Deacons and we'll start praying, cooking and gathering.



Rob Ade



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

July 1	Cindy Hovermale Mark Hovermale	July 21	Kathy Kennedy Shirley Lustig
July 5	James Burke Raymond Cortes Alisa Peterson	July 22	Leonard Malanche
July 6	Jackie Barker	July 23	Rev. Dr. George Fitzgerald
July 7	Ruth Wagner	July 24	Evelyn Zaches Samantha Zaches Torrey Zaches
July 14	James Lewis	July 28	Sally Ward
July 17	Megan Stiling Rebecca Stiling	July 30	Andy Eggett
July 18	Victor Hernandez	July 31	Jane Peterson

Happy Anniversary

July 2	Stacey & Damon Rodrigues
July 10	Sharon & Victor Hernandez
July 15	Kathy & Matt Smith
July 21	James & Tina Shum
July 25	Lorene & Andy Eggett

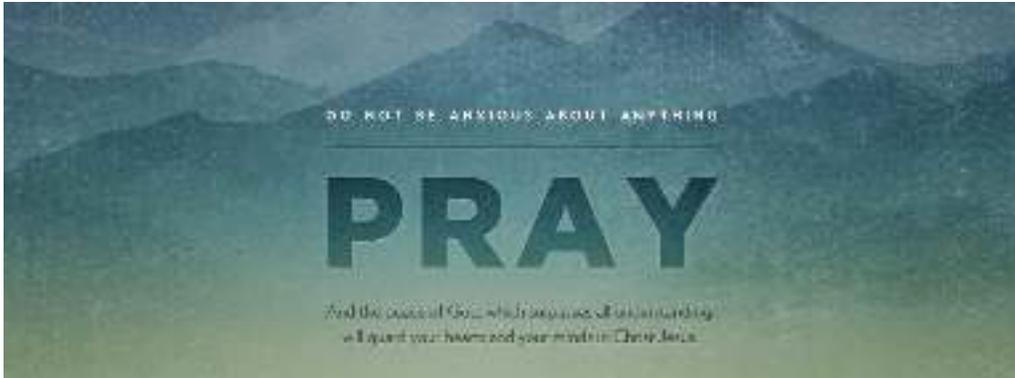
Mark Your Calendars

Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4

OAM High Tea Party
Thursday, July 27

Worship in the Park
Sunday, August 20

Church Retreat
September 8–10



From the Office...

Please remember to provide the office with updates for the "Prayers of Encouragement for" section of the weekly bulletin. Our goal is to have this be a meaningful and current representation of our church family prayer needs. Also, we appreciate input from you for our newsletter. Please give articles and graphics to the office by the last day of the month so we can include your contribution in the following month's newsletter.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF ALAMEDA

2001 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: 510.522.1477
www.alamedachurch.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

