Welcome to February and the new year. I think I have finally stopped writing 2013 on documents. Because of the timing on writing newsletter articles I am always writing them the month before, so this really is the first time I am writing an article in 2014. It has been my habit to try to keep the congregational leadership and the congregation informed about happenings in the larger church. I can generally keep the leadership of the church informed at our monthly Session meetings and a larger group of leaders once a month or so at our combined meeting of committees. I have fewer opportunities to communicate outside of worship with the whole congregation. So, hang on, this is it – what’s happening in our denomination and Presbytery.

If I were a serious writer this would be a book – fortunately for you and me, I am not. For many decades our denomination (now the PCUSA) has been in decline and losing members at a significant rate. Our total membership is now at 2 million or slightly below. I won’t try to enumerate the reasons – we all could come up with our own list and we would all be right. But what does this loss mean? Much of the change reflect changes in society. There has been a decentralization of authority and empowerment of regional bodies (Presbyteries) to direct ministry in a more local context; much more autonomy for larger churches that can afford to do ministry without the help of the larger structures; less clarity of unifying theological views and an increase in competition – consumerism, everything-ism and self-ism, etc.

Think about how many translations of Scripture were available to you as you grew up. Compare that with today. The definition of what it means to be Presbyterian has gone through as many iterations and translations of Scripture. We now want our favorite translation. Some will never be able to give up the KJV and others will read only Eugene Peterson’s “The Message.” We all used to identify ourselves with the KJV – not so any more. So if the PCUSA is not your choice or even your church’s choice, what does one do? Hopefully the church enters into a time of reflection, discussion and discernment about what it wants to be. We are in a time of transition when many of our sister churches are going through that discernment process. At this point hundreds of PCUSA churches across our country have discerned that they can no longer be defined as a PSUSA church and are looking at other reformed bodies that more closely resemble who they have become or are becoming. For those who feel comfortable within the PCUSA, it is very painful to watch this change and to understand why a church might want to change affiliation. As difficult and painful as this reality is, it is happening all around us.

I have had the privilege and honor of serving the church at a variety of different levels and been involved in many of these conversations. I feel the struggle and pain of this process as churches ask hard questions of themselves and of the PCUSA. I do not know of a single Presbytery (there are 72) that is not wrestling with these issues. In the Presbytery of San Diego, we have one church that is entering the conversation formally and a few others that are in discussion about whether to seek a formal path for discernment. Our Presbytery has adopted a “gracious dismissal policy” that gives shape to that process. As our Presbytery holds these conversations, so do Presbyteries across our country. We are in the midst of major change. Please pray for the congregations who seek to know God’s will for themselves and for the people asked by the Presbyteries to walk with them on this significant journey. Pray for FPC that we will be everything God desires us to be in the months and years to come.

Shalom, Chris
NOTE THESE IMPORTANT DATES:

- **January 31 - February 2.** Men’s Retreat in Pine Valley
- **February 8.** Movie Night: Gather at 6:30pm, movie starts at 7pm
- **February 12.** Daytime Hot Dog Stand: Meet at 11am for set up
- **February 20.** College Ministry Leaders Gathering from 11:30am-1:30pm
- **February 21.** Late Night Hot Dog Stand: Meet at 11pm for set up
- **March 5.** Ash Wednesday
- **March 9.** Daylight Savings Time begins
- **April 13.** Palm Sunday
- **April 20.** Easter Sunday

SERMONS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 2 – Guest Preacher—Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden

Four Week Series on the Sermon on the Mount
February 9 – “Singled Out for Hope”
  Matthew 5:1-12
  God does not want people to become meek – God wants meek people to know that they have someone on their side – the creator of all that is.

February 16 – “Changing the World with a Grain of Salt”
  Matthew 5:13-20
  The very image and quality of our lives impact the world in which we live.

February 23 – “Under New Management”
  Matthew 5:21-37
  Do we need tougher rules or a new way of looking at a restored world?
Cancelled Stamps and Soup Barcode Labels

Presbyterian Women continue to collect cancelled stamps and soup barcode labels. The big question is …….. WHY?

The short answer is: They’re important fund raisers!

Next question: Who benefits? Revenue from cancelled stamps goes to the Mission in Tecate and the Mission in Tijuana, which supports their church. Both of these missions are havens for impoverished children, some of whom would live alone on the streets if not for these missions.

Money from the Campbell Soup labels helps support the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This school, with classes for grades 6-12, was founded over 100 years ago by a Presbyterian minister. Since its first graduating class in 1906, more than 90% of Menaul graduates have gone on to higher education. In more recent years, that number has increased to 98% of graduates continuing their post-secondary school education.

**Trimming the stamps:** Please use scissors to trim the stamps, leaving a border between ¼” and ½” outside the stamp. It’s risky to tear off the stamps. If the border isn’t sufficient the stamp dealer will reject them.

**Bar Code labels:** We don’t need the entire Campbell Soup label, just the LABELS FOR EDUCATION portion, pictured here.

**Keep in mind:** Whenever you take the time to trim one of these items, you’re helping a child!
God's Love

We can't measure God's love for us. It starts before we're born and continues for eternity.

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

20 ___________ “M a ___________
4 ___________ y ___________
99 ___________ u f a l ___________
7 ___________ l o ___________
1 ___________ b ___________
28 ___________ ___________ h ___________
60 ___________ u ___________
40 ___________ l _ d ___________
70 ___________ ___________ a ___________
12 ___________ ___________ ___________
64 ___________ p t ___________
14 ___________ ___________ ___________
81 ___________ ___________ ___________
9 ___________ ___________ ___________
24 ___________ ___________ ___________

Psalm 33:22, NIV

NEVER-ENDING GIFT

Seven days a week, remind someone special about God's love, the gift that truly keeps on giving.

John 3:16

What you need:
- Large plastic pill box with a compartment for each day
- Construction paper
- Craft glue
- Black permanent marker
- Heart stickers
- Scissors
- Bible
- Pencil
- 7 small treats (fish-shaped crackers, small candies, trail mix, etc.)

What you do:
2. Cut seven slips of paper. On each slip, write out one Bible verse about God's love. (Examples include Psalm 63:3; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 15:12; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9.)
3. Fill each compartment with a different treat. Then place a folded slip atop each treat.
4. Give away the present. Tell the recipient to open the correct day for a week — and then refill the treats and verses and "regift" God's love to someone else.
DAD’S NIGHT AT THE PRESCHOOL

Children were excited to take their daddy to school to show them all the things they like to do there.

In a couple of classes they were decorating frames with various materials. A picture was taken of father and child to be inserted into the frame for a memory of the evening.

In another class the children and their fathers were creating wood structures.

Other children enjoyed curling up with daddy to read.

A good time was had by all!
A JOYOUS Christmas Season!

Throughout Advent, the Sunday School children created beautiful artwork that expressed their perspectives of the Christmas story.

At the Family Christmas Eve Service, the families led the service and pictures of the children dressed up in costume were shown throughout the service.
On the Sunday after Christmas Day, the Sunday School hosted a “Happy Birthday Jesus” party for the congregation!

Cakes were decorated, signs made, balloons and decorations put up, birthday cards for Jesus made…it was joyous!

A special thank you to the people who made the cakes!

To celebrate Epiphany (when the Wise Men visited Jesus), the children led the Children’s Message and pictures of the children dressed up were shown. On Epiphany Sunday, we completed the Nativity scene as we completed the Christmas season!

Thank you for a joyous season! Let us continue to remember the gift of Jesus Christ!
SUNDAY SCHOOL – In January we returned to our regular Sunday School classes. We learned about Jesus’ dedication at the Temple, Jesus teaching in the Temple, and John the Baptist. Thank you to the wonderful teachers: Emilia Modrusan (Preschool and Kindergarten), Carolyn Taxer and Rich Volkert (1st-5th Grade)!

NEW YEAR’S YOUTH PARTY – To start the year off in fellowship and with the Lord at the center, we brought together past and present youth! We had fun with crazy games (classic youth group style) and had a meaningful discussion with hopes for 2014 and Scriptures.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT –
The youth group repainted two walls in the Narthex. It looks great! Thank you Sharon Gehl for your guidance!

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS - Starting February 9th from 1-3pm at Faith. We will not meet the 1st Sunday of the month in order to encourage family time. Please keep this ministry in prayer as we rebuild!
The spring semester has begun and this ministry is back into full swing! At the beginning of the year, the College Committee had an ALL day meeting to plan, vision, and discuss the different areas of this ministry. We are excited for what is to come!

The new semester kicked off with a Prayer and Worship night led by InterVarsity. Faith participated by leading a portion of the night. The worship night kicked off the 48-Hour Prayer Room. The theme this semester was “Revive: The Kingdom Come.”
**OUR FIRST LATE NIGHT HOG DOG STAND** was quiet as not many students had returned from break; however, we did meet about 100 students and were able to get into great conversations! Praise the Lord! Great job crew! During the first week of school, we had two Daytime Hot Dog Stands to welcome back the students. More report and pictures to come in next month’s newsletter.

Before the new semester started, Faith hosted a College Ministry Leaders Gathering. 21 leaders came, representing 9 different ministries. During lunch, the leaders discussed the high points of their break and their hopes for the new semester. Joys were celebrated, concerns were brought forth, Scripture was read, and the leaders prayed with and for one another! A beautiful picture of unity in the Body of Christ!

**SOMETHING NEW!! FAITH’S COLLEGE GROUP ~ SUNDAYS AT 11AM**
The purpose is to bring the students and church members together for fellowship, discussion, accountability, and nourishment! This will be in addition to Bible studies. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for more info and ways to be involved!

**UPCOMING EVENTS** – Please see the Sunday bulletin announcements for more information!

- February 8\(^{th}\) – Movie Night: Gather at 6:30pm, movie starts at 7pm
- February 12\(^{th}\) – Daytime Hot Dog Stand: Meet at 11am for set up
- February 20\(^{th}\) – College Ministry Leaders Gathering from 11:30am-1:30pm
- February 21\(^{st}\) – Late Night Hot Dog Stand: Meet at 11pm for set up
**Financial Report**

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<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeted</td>
<td>$30,694</td>
<td>$30,694</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>$26,966</td>
<td>$33,982</td>
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Total envelope offer for 2013: $378,162

**Philippines Disaster Asst.** – We collected $710

**Christmas Joy Offering** – We collected $3373

**Death:**

January 10  □ Lori Barfield

**Contribution Envelopes and Year End Statements**

There are still some contribution envelopes for 2014 in the Narthex. They are prepared for all regular contributors, not just those who have pledged.

Statements of Giving for 2013 are also in the Narthex.

The Per Capita envelope is the bluish one at the front of the envelope box. This year the Per Capita amount for each member is $31.00. This offering goes to support Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly expenses.

If your pledged amount comes directly from your bank, you can write a check and place it in the offering plate. Just write “Per Capita” on the Memo line.

If you have any questions about your envelopes, please contact Beverly Martyn.

**DIRECTORY CHANGE:**

Joan Comer has a new phone number

Contact the office for more information.
From the Deacons

The birthday celebrations in February are:

Lenora Lindsay - February 12

Esther Crawford - February 14

PILP STATUS:  The year 2013 will give our church a rebate of $10,203, which was less than last year but still pretty good. Last year we were getting the maximum rebate for only half of the year. In 2011 we were getting the maximum for the full year. The consistently low interest rate does not make an attractive investment. The real plus of investing with PILP is the knowledge that we are helping other churches grow and at the same time getting cash rebates for our church. We have now received a total of $102,945 in rebates since our loan started in 2003. So thank you everyone who has been and still is participating. For information on how you can participate call Stu Elder  619-582-3157.


* indicates newly ordained

The following were installed as Deacons:

Mary Beck*
Bob Radcliffe*
Michelle Crownhart*
Terry Powers
Tom Rowe
Marilyn Helkenn

The following were installed as Elders:

Sarah Scardino*
Joe Huffaker*
Steven Wood*
Al Cass
Ron Gonzales
Rick Tobin (replacing Jon Sartori in the Class of 2015)

Gift of Dance meets on Tuesdays at 7pm in the sanctuary. See Rev. Mikel Taxer, director, for questions or if you would like to join the group. No dance experience is required.
Columbarium Update

The columbarium was purchased and installed in 2007. It provides 64 niches, each providing for 2 urns. To date 17 niches have been purchased, so there are 47 niches still available. Thirteen members of our church family have been inurned (indicated in the owners’ chart with *).

Brochures telling the story of our columbarium garden and how you may become a niche owner are available in the church library. Our columbarium committee is also planning a memorial wall that will honor other deceased church members that are buried or inurned elsewhere.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NICHE OWNERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Charles C. Harber *</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Nancy Harber</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Stewart Elder</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Irene Elder</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Elder Family</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Al Cass</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Fran Cass</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Bob Arthur</td>
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<td>Charlene Arthur</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>David Helkenn</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Marilyn Helkenn</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Patti Rogers</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Barbara Shive</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>James H. Reed *</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Ardith Reed *</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>Susan Gonzales</td>
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<td>Almon Reisweber *</td>
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<td>Marion Rowe Tolle *</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Tom Rowe</td>
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<td>LeRoy Lafferty</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Judy Lafferty</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Glendale E. Cass *</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Dorothy F. Cass *</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Nancy Lou McCollum *</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Edward L. McCollum *</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Brad Staff *</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Hazel O. Staff *</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Gordon L. Hopps *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Judith M. Hopps *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Ann C. Weir *</td>
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I struggled this month to find something to write about. One month a friend commented that he had read my “blog” and enjoyed it. Yesteryear we wrote in diaries and kept the writing secret. Writers are encouraged to keep a journal. In today’s world we write a “blog” that is open to the world. I didn’t keep a diary, I don’t journal and except for the occasional reflection, I don’t blog. If I did, so far this year the blog would be pretty boring and nothing to put in a “reflection.” My flights to and from New Hampshire were mercifully uneventful. I can’t think of anything out of the ordinary happening this week other than I had to go to the 7 Eleven and buy peanut butter to make cookies. When the clerk heard what I was making he asked me to bring him some. I think he was pretty surprised when I did. With nothing much in my life to write about my “reflection” source is once again an email.

The email title was Stress Management for Women but I think men could use most of the advice as well. You can let me know men.

A young lady walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, “half empty or half full?” Instead she asked, “How heavy is this glass of water?” Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, “The weight doesn’t matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I’ll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.” She continued, “and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on.” So you have to put the burdens down for a while and rest before holding them again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden.

To avoid some of the stress in life think about these:

1. Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
4. Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
5. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
6. If you lend someone $20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
7. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
8. Never buy a car you can't push.
9. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
10. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
11. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
12. The second mouse gets the cheese.
13. When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
14. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
15. Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
16. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are
Christmas is over as of January 6th. We are now in Ordinary Time.

To some, “ordinary” means “so-so” or “whatever” or “same old, same old.”

Ordinary Time in the Church Calendar means -- no special time such as Advent, Christmas or Lent and Easter; “ordinary time” is the other. Church Calendar records more than 30 weeks in Ordinary Time. At Faith, the color of green in the paraments and the lights behind the Cross tell us “It is Ordinary Time.”

For many of us, use of the Church Calendar is rather new. In the early Church, leaders of churches met at Councils with the aim for some consistencies for beliefs and celebrations. In the 4th century, the Council of Nicea agreed on the Creed used sometimes at Faith. Very likely, the dates of Christmas and Easter were discussed but not set until several councils later.

Schedules and readings for Ordinary Time serve as guides. Directions for other times are optional. What is the guide for these many weeks? Conversation with Pastor Chris proved helpful to me; he offered this challenge — “Apply what you learned in the days of celebration.”

In the course of the “ordinary” of each day, the unexpected happens, unplanned meeting occurs or recalled prompting deeper thoughts. The event seems far greater than a meeting and words more than a casual exchange. The ordinary unexpected happening or exchange moves the inner world. The day becomes lighter and brighter — a God moment. At the time, the casual meeting is recognized as a rare blessing — a gift — a God moment. Life is enriched by such gifts. These are not “ordinary” gifts but ones giving wealth and ease for the journey.

What was learned during Advent and Christmas?

Immanuel. God with us.
Faith Presbyterian Church
5075 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED