

“The Grapevine”

April 2018

Flower Calendar

April 1

Easter Lilies from the Congregation

April 8

Jean Reed

April 15

Jake & Shirley Gahm

April 22

David Edwards

April 29

Belle Twitchell

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Deacons Barrel Item:

**“PEANUT BUTTER**

**& JELLY”**

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EVENTS

Easter Sunrise Service @ Community Garden

Sunday, April 1 @ 630am

Easter Worship

Sunday, April 1 @ 10am

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 1 after worship

Community Garden Work Party

Saturday, April 7 @ 8am

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Saturday, April 7 @ 10am

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, April 16

Men’s Breakfast

Saturday, April 21 @ 8am

Fellowship Taco Luncheon

Sunday, April 22 after worship

Women’s Tea

Sunday, April 22 @ 2pm – 4pm

Newsletter Folding Crew

Wednesday, April 25 @ 845am

T.I.M Workday

Saturday, April 28 @ 10am

5th Sunday Mission Offering

Sunday, April 29

2018**APRIL****2018**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
630am Sunrise Service 10am Easter Worship/ Easter Egg Hunt 1pm KC 5pm IC 1	Youth Group Snow Trip 7pm Evangelism 2	7pm Deacons 3	10am Bible Study 530pm Feeding the Hungry 4	7pm Choir & Quilters 5	6	530am KC 8am Community Garden Work Party 10am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7
10am Worship/ Communion/ Sunday School 1pm KC 5pm IC 8	7pm Finance 9	3pm Gustine Admin. Committee (Lea Lounge) 10	630pm Worship 11	545pm Mission 7pm Choir & Quilters 12	13	530am KC Presbytery Planning Meeting in Turlock 14
10am Worship/ Sunday School 1pm KC 5pm IC 15	Newsletter Deadline 16	7pm Session 17	18	7pm Choir & Quilters 19	20	530am KC 8am Men's Breakfast 21
10am Worship/ Sunday School 1130am Taco Luncheon 2pm Women's Tea 1pm KC 5pm IC 22	23	24	845am Newsletter Folding Crew 25	7pm Choir & Quilters 26	27	530am KC 10am T.I.M Workday 2pm Violin Recital 28
10am Worship/ Sunday School Fellowship Cake 5 th Sunday – Mission Giving 1pm KC 5pm IC 29	30					

INTRODUCING...Robert & Ellen Opie

Bob and Ellen met in Pierre, South Dakota, when Bob was sent to South Dakota for the construction of the Oahe Pumping Plant. Shortly after meeting, we were married. Both our daughters were born while we lived in Pierre.

Choosing a church in which to rear our daughters was not an easy decision as we came from diverse religious backgrounds. Bob's preference was the Presbyterian Church. Ellen grew up in a Scandinavian Lutheran Church near her family's farm, and after her family moved to a small town she became a Methodist. After church shopping at several denominations in Pierre, we finally chose the Presbyterian Church.

Bob's career in construction gave us the opportunity to move to many different locations from the West Coast to the East Coast and back again, including five different counties in California. In all our moves the church has been our anchor. Over the years we have been involved in numerous church activities and committees and served as an Elder or a Deacon.

First Presbyterian Church of Tracy is a special place for us. We have been members here twice. We first became members in 1986. A little over a year later, Bob was transferred to Northern Virginia. His next assignment was in Los Angeles, and in 1995 he was transferred back to the Pleasanton area. Instead of minimizing the commute, we decided to buy a house in Tracy because of our fond memories of friendships made here at First Presbyterian in 1986-87. We had no idea when we returned to Tracy that we would still be here over 20 years later...the longest either one of us has ever lived in one location.

Since Bob's retirement, we enjoy traveling to New York and Ohio several times a year to spend time with our daughters, our son-in-law, and our four grandchildren. Life is good.

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## Deacons

One of the important things the Deacons have done is to establish the Prayer Chain. When the office receives a request to pray for someone, that request is sent to members of the Prayer Chain. They have committed to praying for those persons or conditions. Names are confidential, unless it has been requested that the entire congregation pray for them. Prayer requests are sent from the office and received via e-mail or text.

It is time to update the Prayer Chain. If you would like to add your name as a person willing to pray, or if you are currently a member of the Prayer Chain and would like to no longer continue, please call Jill in the church office. All members of the church are eligible, not just Deacons.

## INTRODUCING...**Raj & Saro Ambrose**

We came to the United States in 1982. Saro grew up in Singapore and Raj grew up in a mountain resort in South India at an elevation of about 8000 feet. Saro's dad was a popular school teacher in Singapore, and the pastor of a Methodist church. Her parents went to India after her Dad retired. They settled in a town near Kandithankulam. Our church is familiar with the Kandithankulam welfare projects that Saro has been spearheading for the past three decades. Saro started teaching in a women's college and Raj was then teaching in a men's college in the same town. They met in a book club and got married in 1966. The two colleges in which they were teaching were founded by British missionary societies. After teaching for about two decades, Saro and Raj came to the U.S. to pursue their doctoral studies at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX.

Raj completed his Ph.D. in Physics in 1986 and joined the faculty of Monmouth College, IL. Saro started her doctoral program one year later and had completed her course work and comprehensive exams by the time they moved to Monmouth. Hence, she wrote a Thesis on Faulkner's women and got a Masters' in American Literature. Her other Masters' is in English literature. Both of us enjoyed teaching at Monmouth College. We liked the town and enjoyed worshipping at the local Faith United Presbyterian Church. We both served as Elders and chaired the Mission Committee at that Church. It is an interesting coincidence that the Pastor of that Church, Rev. Jerry Hazen, knew Everett and Hilda very well in Montana. Soon after we became members of this church, we learned that Ann Swenson's parents had met at Monmouth College and that several of her relatives had studied there. It is indeed a small world!

When we were in Monmouth, we arranged a tour for 14 members of the Faith Church and Monmouth College faculty mainly to see South India. Of course, the group visited Taj Mahal. On their return they stopped for a few days in Singapore. They spent almost a day in Kandithankulam to see the development work we have done there. Many members of the group said that Kandithankulam was the highlight of their trip.

At Monmouth College, Saro was an Adjunct Professor. She considered the Kandithankulam projects as the true fulfillment of her mission in life. She would go to India once a year or once in two years to select the beneficiaries and direct the various projects. Raj steadily moved up in rank and became the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty before his retirement. After spending 26 years in Monmouth, we came and settled in Tracy in 2012. We chose Tracy, CA, because our son

and his family live in Sunnyvale, about an hour's drive from here. Saro's brother, Bapu, a Software Engineer in Boeing, also lives close by, in Los Altos. He came to the U.S. three years before us and was instrumental in our coming to this country.

When we were in India Raj completed a Master of Divinity program as an external student of the United Theological College, Bangalore. As Monmouth College is a liberal arts college his theological background was very much appreciated there. He designed a Science and Religion course titled Cosmology and Creation which became a popular Senior level course and was even cross-listed in the Religion department. A few years ago we did an Adult Sunday class on Science and Religion extending over seven weeks.

Rev. Everett Bosch asked Saro to preach in one of our Services mainly on the village development work she has been doing. It was followed up by two weeks of Adult Sunday classes on that topic. Raj has enjoyed the opportunities he gets to preach at our Church. We enjoy our Church and the congregation and count many of them as our good friends. This is a caring church with an enlightened congregation and we hope we will get a new Pastor who can lead it to new heights.

We have one very caring and loving son and two adorable grand-daughters. Our son, Vinod and his wife, Velen, are engineers at Intel Inc. and work in Santa Clara. Vinod, like Raj, got his Ph. D. in Physics from Texas Christian University. They were guided by the same professor and have published a joint paper. Vinod and his family travel to Mexico quite often, as Velen is from that country. Our grand-daughters will, in a couple of months, be five and two years old. Both are very attached to us. One day last year, Victoria, who was not quite four, was very concerned that we are not working. So, she expressed her concern to her dad. "Dad, Grandpa and Grandpa are not working, right?" Vinod said, "That's right, Darling." "In that case", she continued, "I'll give you my money, then you give yours to Grandpa and Grandma" With such grandchildren, we have nothing to worry!



## Attention Graduating Seniors

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Through designated Memorial Funds, First Presbyterian Church of Tracy, provides scholarships to all High School graduating seniors who plan to attend college or other post-secondary education and who are members or are active in the life of our church.

To apply for this lifetime opportunity, please pick up an application from Jill Bailey, our church administrator, during business hours or Alex Pineda after Sunday Services. Please submit your completed application by no later than **April 20, 2018**.

For any additional information or questions, please contact the church office at (209) 835-3247.

**Christian Education Committee**

Happy Birthday To:

- 2- Liz Hanson
- 3- Bernice White
- 4- Greg McCreary
- 6- Ina Brekke-Danforth
- 10- Rowena Donaldson
- 11 Raj Ambrose
- 12- Hilda Bosch  
Carol Gutierrez
- 15- Andre deVos
- 16- Cindy Palmer
- 17- Marietta McLellan  
Sharon Little
- 18- Douglas Palmer
- 20- Tracy Thomsen
- 21- Kayla McGuinness
- 22- Harold Reich  
Yvonne Clinton
- 23- Joan Rhoads
- 25- Diane Tolbert
- 28- Saro Ambrose  
Tony Hernandez
- 30- Sunday Borges  
Cole Link  
Kathy Juarez

Happy Anniversary:

- 12- Roy & Marie Patterson

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SAVE THE DATE:
Zephyr Point Family Camp
July 15 – 20, 2018

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**2018 PER CAPITA =**

**\$22.00 PER MEMBER**

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“Budget Report”

General Fund:

Balance Fwd: \$29,118.06

Income:	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
February:	\$10,598.00	\$24,060.00

Expenses:		
February: \$	<6,688.76>	<14,281.88>

Balance: \$3,909.24 \$38,896.18

New Site Mortgage Fund:

Balance Fwd:	\$ 5,721.26
2018 Income to date:	<u>\$ 3,760.00</u>
Total Income:	\$ 9,481.26

Expenses – 2018:

Synod Loan	\$ 1,696.32
Synod Principal	\$
Presbytery Loan	\$ 562.00
S.J. County taxes	\$

Total Expenses \$<2,258.32>

Total on Hand: \$7,222.94

Synod of the Pacific Loan:

Principal balance owed Synod:	\$46,966.33
(12/31/17)	
Principal paid 2018:	\$ 1,309.03
Interest paid 2018:	\$ 387.29
Current balance owed Synod:	\$46,291.68
(2/28/18)	

Presbytery of Stockton Loan

Balance owed 1/1/18:	\$25,920.00
Principal paid 2018:	<u>\$ 720.00</u>
Balance owed 2/28/18:	\$ 25,200.00

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly. Meetings began on October 29 and the PNC has now completed over sixteen meetings. After reviewing the mission study and other materials that you, the congregation, have been contributing over the past two years in your effort to identify our church's vision, the committee completed what is called a Ministry Information Form (MIF). This form was submitted to the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection that matches Pastor Information Forms with Ministry Information Forms. As a result the committee has received and reviewed over forty Pastor Information Forms (resumes). There has been a considerable amount of reading by all members of the committee as we absorb what these pastors have to offer and how they might fit with our church's mission.

The committee members have been reviewing the PIF's since January 2, 2018 and have conducted phone interviews with a handful of candidates. We are currently excited about the fact that we have identified a few that may fit within our church's mission. But more time will be spent with these potential candidates for them to learn more about us and for us to learn more about them before a recommendation from the PNC will be forth coming. We are working hard and diligently to keep this process moving as quickly as possible. We continue to meet three to four times a month in addition to the time we spend on our own individually reading about candidates and listening to sermons online.

If you have any questions about the process please don't hesitate to talk to any of the committee members. This update is respectfully submitted by David Weisenberger on behalf of committee members Kathleen Buffleben, Dale Brandes, Mike Little, Paul McCormick, Harold Reich, Nancy Rusch, and David Weisenberger.

ARE WE READY FOR A NEW PASTOR?

As our pastor search progresses we are getting nearer to finding a full time pastor! This is an exciting time! And as we continue to get closer to the time when a new full time pastor arrives, are we each ready for that new pastor? Are we clearing our minds of the worldly challenges that we face and preparing our minds and bodies for the arrival of a new pastor? A new pastor will be arriving here with dreams and visions of building up the church, not only within our walls but within our community. Are we willing to listen to those dreams or vision and collaborate with the pastor? We should ask ourselves as individuals how we are going to contribute to the success of building the Church and provide real assistance and support to the effort. All of us are blessed with our own gifts from GOD, are we prepared to use them in support of the pastor and the mission? We will be entering a new joyful and exciting time! Please continue to prayerfully consider your role and gifts in building up the church!

Respectfully submitted to the Grapevine
for your prayerful consideration.



Join Us for Fellowship and Tea on Sunday, April 22, 2018

Mark your calendar for the third Sunday in April, the 22nd, from 2:00 P.M. until 4 P.M. and join us for the 2018 Women's Tea. All women who attend Tracy First Presbyterian Church (bring a friend) are invited to join us for a variety of teas and a wonderful time of friendship. We welcome all mothers. Grandmothers, daughters and friends to sign up on the sheet in the Social Hall to let us know that we can expect to see you!

This is the day that the Honorary Life Membership in the Presbyterian Women will be presented to one of our members. Your Secret Sister for 2017 will be revealed, if you have not already revealed yourself to them. And, we will draw names for our 2018 Secret Sisters.

We look forward to having you join us.

For more information, call Jill (835-3247) or contact
Lynda McCormick (612-1613) or Shirley Gahm (599-6200)

