



## *Deacons Doings...*

The Deacons would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to provide 72 needy families with food for Thanksgiving. Brochures about the church were included in the boxes. It is good to follow Jesus's commandment to feed the hungry. But your generosity does not stop there. More able-bodied members came to help us do the heavy lifting in decorating the sanctuary and social hall for Christmas. Members of the Korean church also helped to decorate. We are grateful for you. The Deacons are also thankful for everyone who donates food for after funerals and for dinners for those who are ill. We are a very giving and generous congregation.



## *Finance Committee...*

Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church by now you should have received your personal Fellowship Letter in the mail. As you can see from the letter, we have many challenges, while also we have many blessings. We have asked that you prayerfully consider filling out the pledge form. We thank those who pledged last year and all others who have given throughout the year.

This year there will be a beautiful box on the back table in the church. We are asking those who come to church to place their pledge form in this box. Of course, we will take pledge forms that come by mail. In First Presbyterian Church, all pledges are confidential, only the Financial Secretary and the Church Secretary see names for record reporting to the person who pledged.

Thank you for your support this year.



- 7- Rosemary Lara
- 12- Bill Swenson
- 15- Rebecca Dubie  
Gwen Wagner
- 18- Tiffany Cole
- 20- Peyton Pardo  
Kaya Vella
- 23- Kendyl Thomsen
- 28- Jenelle Burton
- 30- Pat Kruse

## *Happy Anniversary:*



- 2- Pastor David & Connie Hill
- 12- Paul & Linnea Senden
- 19- Jake & Shirley Gahm

## *Pastor's Page...*

Dear FPC Family,

We are now into the season of Advent. This means we are now focusing our hearts and minds on the “birth” of our Lord and Savior! This is a season of waiting. We need to be reminded that



being patient is part of the theme of this season. We are also called to be ready for the Son of Man to come in maybe new ways through the work and power of the Holy Spirit! Our preparation may include an attitude that is calm or anxious. Can we offer ourselves as part of the radical welcoming that Jesus would want? Joseph, His earthly dad was certainly surprised and maybe overwhelmed. The Angel helped him through the issues of disbelief and societal expectations to do as the Angel commanded him, taking Mary as his wife. Joseph was obedient to the word of the Angel, and married Mary. This great step of faithful commitment must have been a mixture of joy, wonder, and excitement!

How are we preparing our families and friends for Jesus coming to us and to dwell in our hearts? The joy, hope, peace, and love that God promises us through Jesus' birth among us maybe a clue for our preparation. God's word has now been fleshed out in Jesus' birth!

The joy of Jesus' presence in our lives is a wonderful gift. We are called by this Infant to walk in the ways of hope in a hopeless world and work for the peace and wellbeing of everyone who crosses our path. We are called to become peacemakers in a hostile broken world. Most of all we are called and empowered by this Infant child to be filled with Love for God, Love for our neighbors & for our enemies, and Love for God's creation!

There are gifts God has given us to give away to the broken hearted, the lost, the hurting, and the alienated ones of God's world. Through Jesus' birth new life has been created for us and all people. Rejoice in this good news and have a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season!

In the name of the Child born to be our Lord and Savior! Blessings to each of you and your families!

*Pastor David*

## Session...

As of the end of October there were 128 members on the rolls, an increase of six from the previous month. During the service on October 30<sup>th</sup>, Evelyn and Robert Agdoma; Richard Clinton; Madisyn Maloney; Zach Michelsen; and Fang Xie-Burnett were publicly welcomed following a special Session meeting at which the Session voted to receive into membership. The Agdoma's were received by letter of transfer from the Manteca Presbyterian Church while the remaining four were received by reaffirmation of faith.

The Session voted to set the date of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 29, 2023. Previously the Session voted to begin the process of establishing a mission study as part of the agenda of this meeting.

Roy Patterson, the Chair of the Finance Committee, announced the resignation of Jeanne Weisenberger from membership of that committee. Jeanne served as the Church Treasurer for many years, and accordingly was an *ex-officio* member of the Finance Committee. After leaving the position of Treasurer, Jeanne continued to serve on the Finance Committee. Jeanne's unmatched knowledge of the church's financial processes has been of great benefit to the Finance Committee over many years and her insight and wisdom will be missed. Thank you for all your years of service, Jeanne.

The Session has become aware that some members and friends of the congregation require transportation assistance in order to get to and from church services, primarily on Sundays but possibly at other times as well. Please consider offering assistance as you are able.

The Session voted to obtain an appraisal of the property currently leased to My Curious Monkeys Child Care, Inc. After receiving the appraisal report Session voted to accept the lessee's offer to purchase the property. Roy Patterson and Robert Opie were appointed to serve as representatives of Session during this process. At some point a congregational meeting will be called to obtain approval of the sale. Approval must then be given by the Presbytery before the sale can be finalized.

In September the Session voted to establish an *ad hoc* committee to consider all options for the utilization of the new site parcels. Members of the congregation have volunteered to serve and at its last meeting the Session appointed Don Burnett, Robert Opie, Roy Patterson, Nancy Rusch, and Roger Winkler to serve on this *ad hoc* committee, which has been given until the Session meeting in May 2023 to issue its final report.



## Letter from the Nominating Committee...

The Book of Order for the Presbyterian Church tells us that each year there will be a Nominating Committee to nominate Elders, Deacons, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. Two members from Session, one from Deacons and up to six from the Congregation. I as Chairperson, and Reiko Flanigan, as Vice Chair, representing

Session, Nancy Rush, representing the Deacons, Elizabeth Dubie, Rosemary Lara, David Lee, Nancy Morgan Link, and Ellen Opie from the Congregation.

At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, Shirley Gahm and Robert Opie were nominated and elected Elders for the Class of 2025. Sandi Clarke, Richard Clinton, and Tricia Winkler were nominated and elected Deacons for the Class of 2025. Shirley Gahm was nominated and elected Financial Secretary for the year 2023.

There is still one Elder position, a three-year term still open and a Treasurer position still open. Elders do meet at least once a month, on the third Tuesday and chair at least one committee. The Treasurer must learn the balancing of the Church Check Book and reporting each month's Treasure Report. I always ask anyone who accepts any position to prayerfully consider. If you would like to talk about any of these positions, feel free to ask me.

I thank those who accepted the leadership roles. I especially thank each member on this year's Nominating Committee for their dedication to this Committee.

In Christian Service,  
Roy Patterson, Chair of Nominating Committee



*Financial Summary*  
**OCTOBER 2022**

DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY	YEAR TO DATE
<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>		
INCOME	\$ 7,372.00	\$ 97,658.33
EXPENSES	\$ 10,306.80	\$ 122,132.45
<b>GENERAL FUND INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (2,934.80)</b>	<b>\$ (24,474.12)</b>
 <b><u>DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE</u></b>		
DEPOSITED WITH THE BANK OF STOCKTON		
SPECIAL FUNDS		\$ 12,475.00
IN-AND-OUT FUNDS		14,422.78
DEPOSITED WITH THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC		152,080.88
<b>TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ 178,978.66</b>



