

# "The Grapevine" November



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
NOVEMBER 6**

**DON'T FORGET TO SET  
YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
1 HOUR!**



- 2- Adam Reich Jr.
- 4- Don Bisbee
- 5- Ellen Opie
- 9- Everett Bosch
- 11- Jacob Gahm
- 12- Ann Swenson
- 19- Jessie Riddle
- 28- Hannah Clarke
- 30- Terry Donaldson



I would like to wish 2 of my favorite people a Happy Work Anniversary. W.W...aka... Pastor David, & Carolyn Gamino both started on November 15<sup>th</sup> at FPC! Happy 20 something years to Carolyn, who has been here so long no one actually knows how many years it is! Haha! Carolyn, you are one of the most loyal, selfless beings I know. Happy 1 year, Pastor David, we are immensely blessed to have you! Thank you both for all your hard work! May God Bless you both always!



## Flower Calendar

- Nov. 6 - Gladys Smith
- Nov. 13 - John & Sunday Borges
- Nov. 20 - Joel Pena
- Nov. 27 - Paul & Lynda McCormick



## Church Calendar

- Church Work Party**  
Saturday, Nov. 5 @ 8am – 12pm
- Communion Sunday/ Deacons Offering**  
Sunday, November 6
- "Feasting on the Word" Bible Study**  
Sunday's after worship
- Fellowship Hall in Use**  
Saturday, Nov. 12 (2pm – 6pm)
- Veteran's Day – Office Closed**  
Monday, Nov. 14
- Kirkin' O' the Tartans Worship Service**  
Sunday, Nov. 13  
(Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Mike Preaching)
- Men's Breakfast**  
Saturday, Nov. 19 @ 8am
- Thanksgiving – Office Closed**  
Thursday, Nov. 24 & Friday, Nov. 25

## *Pastor David's Monthly Message...*

Dear First Presbyterian Tracy Family,

We are coming into the fall season, the days are shorter, and the weather is cooler. We have already had our first fall rain and snow fall! This season is also the time in which we celebrate Thanksgiving and begin to prepare for the Advent Christmas Season!

When we consider "THANKSGIVING", what are the things or times that you have been thankful? I am certainly thankful for my family, my friends, and serving here at First Presbyterian Church of Tracy! When we reflect on things or people, and our Lord's gracious love, we are reminded of "ALL" that God has done through and for us!

The Bible teaches about prayer and I want to focus on prayer in this article. The highest form of prayer is "PRAISE"!!! When one can praise our Lord just because God is God, and we are God's creation, this is the highest form of prayer! Praising God for being God, a giving God, our highest, and most powerful affirmation! We are not asking God for anything but celebrating but celebrating and rejoicing in God being our Lord!!!

Thanksgiving, I would suggest is the second highest form of prayer. There are other forms of prayer, such as, confession, intercession, seeking guidance, asking for healing, asking for illumination of receiving God's word in scripture and proclamation, or insight & understanding of God's Word in our personal, professional, and family life.

We could list, and I am guessing, there are many situations and relationships that we can give God the praise and thanksgiving in our lives. "***Count your many blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, and see what God has done.***" The red Gospel hymn still reminds us to give God the Praise, the Glory, and Thanksgiving for all Jesus has done and is doing in our lives and those of our families, friends, church, communities, countries, and entire world we live in!

Christ Has Risen! Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Your Friend, & Pastor in Jesus' Love,

**DAVID**

## *Session Updates...*

As of the end of September there were 122 members on the rolls, however Rev. Dr. Hill, and the Evangelism and Membership Committee, are conducting a two-part new members' forum and it is expected that six new members will be received into membership at a special Session meeting prior to the worship service on October 30<sup>th</sup>. As part of the service, they will be publicly welcomed.

The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of North Central California recently conducted training for Clerks of Session. Due to health concerns, this was the first such event in over three years, so there was a lot of material to cover. One of the Presbytery's recommendations was that a representative from the Board of Deacons be present during each meeting of the Session. It was noted that communication between the two boards has declined; separation due to the pandemic undoubtedly is the cause of some of this, but whatever the reason, the adverse impact of this decline in communication needs to be reversed. The Session voted to postpone discussion of this matter until its November meeting in order to reflect on its ramifications and allow the Board of Deacons to comment.

The Building and Grounds Committee will be having a work party the morning of November 5<sup>th</sup>. There are several items on the list, but a significant one is the painting of the exterior stairs behind the church office.

A great deal of the Session's time has been devoted to the declining financial reserves. So far this year there has been just two months where monthly income has exceeded monthly expenses. In September the income was \$19,373.48 and expenses were \$15,363.09. However, \$10,000.00 of that reported income was a gift from the Manteca Presbyterian Church. As they close the church, the Manteca Session has decided to distribute undedicated funds to each of the churches in the former Presbytery of Stockton. Without that unexpected gift the \$4,010.39 income over expenses that was experienced in September would have been a monthly deficit of \$5,989.61. Typically, the monthly shortfall has been in the range of \$4,000 throughout 2022.

To attempt to deal with situation, the Session is pursuing the sale of the Children's Center. The current lessee is interested in purchasing the property and has made an offer. The Session is considering the offer, but no agreement has yet been reached. Even after an agreement is reached there are several steps, unique to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to be completed. The congregation must approve the sale, then the Trustees of the Presbytery must approve, and finally the Presbytery must approve.

In looking at the figures presented in the summary financial report included in the *Grapevine*, some may take note of the funds currently deposited with the Synod of the Pacific and conclude that the church has sufficient reserves. By far the largest fund on deposit with the Synod is the Manse Fund, with a current balance of approximately \$145,000. This fund is dedicated to the assistance of a called pastor with the purchase of a residence within the community. This fund has been available to several of the called pastors who have served this church over the last several decades.

The manner in which it functions is that each called pastor enters into a Shared Equity Agreement with the church. The ratio of the funds lent to the called pastor by the church to the total financed cost of the residence is the church's share of the equity in the called pastor's home. When the called pastor no longer is serving

the church, the residence is either sold or refinanced, at which time the church receives its share of the proceeds and is placed in an interest-bearing account with the Synod of the Pacific and made available to assist the next called pastor. If this financial assistance were not available, the likelihood of a called pastor being able to afford to move to Tracy would be significantly diminished.

While the balance in this manse fund is significant, the amount that was available to assist the immediate former called pastor was insufficient to cover the needs, and the church reached out to the Presbytery of Stockton's pastor housing assistance fund to make up the difference. With the Presbytery of Stockton merging into the Presbytery of North Central California, that pastor housing assistance fund is no longer available, so maintaining the Tracy church's manse fund is all the more important.

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***Finance Committee***

A few people have asked Jill, our Church Secretary, if we are selling our parking lot or the duplex which houses our office. I also have heard the rumor. I am telling you as Chair of the Finance Committee that it is not true. I am also going to let you know that the Church has had more expenses in the last few years than income. The Finance Committee came to session four months ago pointing out that we would have a zero balance in our checking by February 2023. At that time our committee was given the task of seeing if we could sell the Nursery School Building. Session is exploring that possibility, which would give us capital for several years, while we work on building our membership and look at some other methods for savings on some of our expenses.

While at the same time we are very Blessed. We had a successful fundraiser with the selling of fireworks, which went into the in and out account for Building and Grounds. Building and Grounds will have money to do repairs and upkeep to our buildings. We received \$10,000.00 from the closing of the Manteca Church, which has given us a few more months to find solutions to our short fall. Other things the committee has done to make savings: Moved the Manse Fund into a greater percentage account (\$145,325.19), since that money has been set aside to help a new minister be able to buy a house; not hiring a bookkeeper, a savings \$2,441.40, thanks to Bob Opie, who has been balancing the checking account and doing that job; we are also looking into Solar Energy, if it will work for us, while keeping expenses down. I would like to thank, the hard-working Committee: Lynda Mendoza, Bob Opie, Shirley Gahm, Jeanne Weisenberger, and Pastor David Hill.

This month Church Members will be receiving our annual Stewardship Letter. I ask that you prayerfully consider filling out a pledge, since this is critical to doing our budget. You may ask me about the finances of the Church, I welcome your interest.

In Christian Service,  
Finance Committee Chair, Roy Patterson

# Deacons' Doings'...



We have heard a few people saying “Why are the Deacons always asking for money?” The Deacons begin the year setting a budget. The biggest expense is for the Thanksgiving baskets. The budget also includes regular donations to Tracy Interfaith Ministries, Tracy Community Connections, Tracy Volunteer Caregivers, and CPL Palmer Memorial Troop Fund. These all have a close connection to our church, many of which began in our church and which we continue to support. The Deacons also supply food after memorial services, send cards to those who are ill or bereaved, provides funds to church members and others who are in need. And there are also many unexpected expenses that arise. Just because there is money in the bank does not mean that it will not all be spent. The Deacons count on your donations placed in the offering the first Sunday of the month, the money donated for the flower fund, and other special donations throughout the year to meet this wide variety of needs. The Deacons also provide in many areas that do not require money, but may ask for help from church members. This is a giving and caring church.

The Deacons would also like to start sending cards to members who are away at college or in the military. If you know someone who would like to be a recipient, please give their name and address to Sandi Clarke so she can send them cards from the church.



## Financial Summary September 2022

| DESCRIPTION                              | MONTHLY            | YEAR TO DATE          |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>               |                    |                       |
| INCOME                                   | \$ 19,373.48       | \$ 90,286.33          |
| EXPENSES                                 | \$ 15,363.09       | \$ 111,825.65         |
| <b>GENERAL FUND INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$ 4,010.39</b> | <b>\$ (21,539.32)</b> |
| <b><u>DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE</u></b>    |                    |                       |
| DEPOSITED WITH THE BANK OF STOCKTON      |                    |                       |
| SPECIAL FUNDS                            |                    | \$ 12,390.61          |
| IN-AND-OUT FUNDS                         |                    | 14,711.78             |
| DEPOSITED WITH THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC  |                    | 151,952.89            |
| <b>TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS</b>             |                    | <b>\$ 179,055.28</b>  |

\* \$10,000.00 was a gift from the former Manteca Presbyterian Church

