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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

OCT 9, 2017 (10/21 issue)

OCT 23, 2017 (11/4 issue)

Send submissions to
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abby@piedmontchurch.org

Piedmont Community Church
400 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611
510-547-5700

VISIT PCC ONLINE:
www.piedmontchurch.org

2018 Stewardship Campaign



(Excerpts from Sunday's Stewardship Moment talk)

From Jennifer Nixon: I'd like to tell you why I've been at PCC for 14 years, and why we support PCC with our time, talent - and treasure. It's 3 things: **community, suffering, and joy.** I've come to realize the importance of what **this church, and this religion,** bring to me in the **form of a community - a tribe.** We all have multiple tribes in our lives: family, church, neighborhoods,

work, etc. They us help define ourselves and hopefully become our best selves. PCC helps us baptize and raise our children, marries us, and buries our dead. They're involved in key transitions that mark out our lives, plus important fellowship. Ultimately, we all share the same vision of what a **good human being** should be: **"To live in such a way that when people see you, they see Christ living in you."**

So, why do we support PCC financially, and how does it make us feel? Giving to PCC makes me feel happy. Giving generously helps express the gratitude I feel. So we are increasing our gift again this year! I'm so grateful for the ways PCC creates and celebrates community, helps me and my loved ones deal with the everyday realities, and helps us realize every day that our cup runneth over with joy.

From Charlie Wood: I am a relative newcomer to PCC, and especially want to speak to those who are newer to the PCC experience. We have a lovely church, an amazing staff, many social events, a broad-minded religious experience, insightful and thought-provoking sermons, the best choir in the known universe, and a joyous community. This is truly a place where one can join in and create a foundation for one's life. And we seek that. Having this church, this community, makes our lives better. When I say "we," I mean anyone who chooses to sit here among us. That is we. We, the community, are our foundation. All of this is created by we... and I encourage you to participate. There are many ways to this this - being greeters, ushers, deacons, volunteering, taking classes -- but also through financial participation. Giving can be joyous, and is also a way to participate and join in this community, to sustain this community. Be a part of this community how you can, financially, spiritually, and through participation. But do participate. Please take a moment to think of what you can do - and make a mental note - and follow through. Our community, the community we create, is a better place for it.



Jennifer Nixon and Charlie Wood

PCC Engagement Survey - Deadline is October 8th

Please take a moment to fill out our **congregation survey** so we can understand your thoughts and feelings about the church. Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCC-Engagement>.

SERMONS SERIES



October 8, 2017

GROPING FOR GOD

Acts 17:22-31

Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn

October 15, 2017

OVERCOMING DESPAIR

Luke 19:28-42

Rev. Dr. William McNabb

October 22, 2017

WHAT ABOUT YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Romans 14:1-13

Rev. Dr. William McNabb

October 29, 2017

PCC at Imani

MILESTONES



John Jones

passed from this life on
September 7, 2017.

Beverly Bollman

passed from this life on
September 16, 2017. She is
survived by her husband, Ralph
Noyce. Services at St. Paul's
Towers in Oakland on Thursday,
October 12th.

Alma Emerson

passed from this life on
September 29, 2017 at the age
of 107. A Celebration of Life
will take place at Piedmont
Gardens on October 28th.

*Our thoughts and prayers
are with their families and
friends as we thank God
for their lives.*

Welcome Michael Barber! PCC's New Communications Director



I have known of Michael Barber and his work at First Community Church in Columbus, Ohio for several years now. I am tremendously excited about him joining the PCC staff. - Rev. Bill McNabb

Using funds we received from a foundation grant, the PCC Board of Trustees established a 3-year Communications/Marketing position to foster congregational growth and sustainability. After a national search, Michael Barber was unanimously selected.

For the past seven years, Michael Barber has led all marketing and communications efforts for First Community Church in Columbus. During his tenure, the church's message has been elevated by a robust print, website, social media and television ministry.

His innovative thinking paved the way for the creation of unique forms of outreach like *firstnews*, replacing the standard church newsletter with a 4,000 circulation community newspaper. His marketing efforts generated significant income through advertising and media gifts while reducing over-all operating expenses.

Second only to his ability to build and motivate capable teams, Michael's strength is in storytelling. His photographs, videos, features and columns combine insight and inspiration with a goal to further the missions of the church. Michael and his team developed and promoted the REALIZE Capital Campaign which helped raise \$15.4M for a new sanctuary for First Community Church and capital improvements.

Michael is looking forward to the many opportunities that await him at PCC. "Every interaction with church members, leaders and staff has been extraordinary," he said. "The passion and purpose of Piedmont Community Church is made clear by the commitment each person has to their ministries and to each other. I'm honored by your welcome and blessed to be part of your faith community."

Michael will relocate from Columbus to the Bay Area in late October with his girlfriend, Vicki, and 2 miniature Greyhounds, Charlie and Chloe.

Getting to Know PCC - October 10th, 7 pm



If you're new to PCC, would like to know more about us, or would like to become a member of our congregation, please attend "Getting to Know PCC" gathering at PCC.

The next date is **October 10th from 7-8:30 pm.**

Refreshments provided; child care available for kids age 10 and under.

RSVP to Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn to let him

know if you'll need childcare. For more information and to RSVP, please contact him at don@piedmontchurch.org.

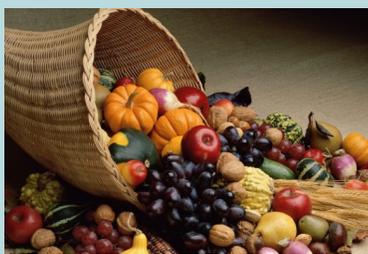
Next Adult Education Series - Starts October 8th



Many of you have heard of Rob Bell. He's the best-selling – and, for some, highly controversial – author of the book, "Love Wins". He has recently published a new book with the intriguing title: ***What is the Bible: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything***. You're invited to join Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn for a 5 week series of classes, when we'll use this new book to guide us as we reflect on the meaning of a very old, and very Good Book. The classes will meet in the Kettlewell Room, located beneath the Guild Hall, from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm on Sunday, October 8th, 15th and 22nd and November 5th and 12th. You don't need to know anything

at all about the Bible to participate. But, please purchase a copy of the book prior to the first meeting. It is available online in hardcover or kindle formats. For more information, please contact Dr. Ashburn at: don@piedmontchurch.org, or 510-547-5700, ext. 105.

Harvest Dinner - October 12th, 6:30 pm



Everyone is invited to the all church Harvest Dinner, which takes place this year on Thursday, October 12th at 6:30 pm in the Guild Hall. Our own Loaves and Fishes will provide a sumptuous autumn feast, and our own Lisa Lindsley and her trio will be performing for our entertainment. Visitors and new members are especially encouraged to attend.

This will be a festive opportunity to make new friends and experience the best of Christian Fellowship at PCC! Please sign up at the Deacons' table before or after church services, or by emailing Jean Leahy at: jean@piedmontchurch.org. For those adults, 18 and older, who sign up by the Sunday service on October 8th, the discounted price will be \$15.00. For adults who sign up after that date the cost will be \$20.00. Children 10 to 17 will be charged \$5.00, and those children under the age of 10, are free and will be treated to macaroni and cheese. If you would like to volunteer to help with cooking, please contact Steve Wuebbens at sawuebbens@gmail.com.

Adult Fellowship Wine Tasting - October 27th, 7 pm

OFF THE BEATEN PATH – Great Wine Values from Around the World



Never tasted a Godello, Marsanne or Limoux? Never heard of Lirac or Monastrell? On Friday, October 27th at 7pm in the Guild Hall, Adult Fellowship will present a wine tasting of delicious, relatively unknown wines from around the world that retail for \$20 or less. We invite you to join the ABC Club (Anything but Chardonnay or Cabernet) and explore some real treasures from France, Spain, Italy and California.

The tasting will include varied appetizers (not dinner). Cost is \$30 per person. Your hosts will be Mike Osborn Founder of Wine.com, Gwendolyn Osborn a certified wine educator and former staff member of The Wine Spectator, and our very own Dr. William McNabb. Please call the church office at 510-547-5700 to register and send in your check marked "Wine Tasting". *Registration closes October 24th.*

Giving Tree - Burckhalter Elementary School

PCC is hosting the annual Giving Tree benefiting Burckhalter Elementary School in Oakland the first three weeks of October. Items needed are **hand sanitizer wipes, band-aids, liquid sanitizer and paper towels** (no paper, pencils and other supplies, please). The Giving Tree will be by the Deacon's Table on Sundays during church; the collection bin will be outside the sanctuary. Help Burckhalter Elementary School students get their supplies; select a school supply tag from the tree and return the supplies to the church. For more information contact Jim Clarkson at jcpiedmont@pacbell.net.



Where Was God in Las Vegas?

As I write, I've just heard about the mass shooting in Las Vegas. So, by the time you read this, many details will have emerged,

questions answered. But one question will remain unanswered – at least “this side of heaven.” And that is: Where was God? Faith tells me God was there in some powerful way. I just can't tell you how. Even so, I know lots of other people will try. Some will say a person died because “God just needed another angel.” Some will say God just looked the other way as an evil person took innocent lives. And some will see it as a sign of divine judgment; as when Mike Huckabee wrote after Sandy Hook: “We ask why there is violence in our schools, but we have systematically removed God from our schools. Should we be so surprised that schools would become a place of carnage?” “Answers” like these make me cringe as a Christian. Instead, I think in times like these it's wiser for us to sit with our questions, and confusion and grief for a while, before we try to explain things away.

After the death of his own young son, Nicholas Woltersdorff, wrote *Lament for a Son*. And in the form of a prayer, he writes:

“How is faith to endure, O God? You have allowed rivers of blood to flow, mountains of suffering to pile up, sobs to become humanity's song – all without lifting a finger that we could see. You have allowed bonds of love beyond number to be painfully snapped. If you have not abandoned us, explain yourself.”

Yet we get no explanation – at least not one we can easily digest as human beings. Even so, as Christians we at least receive a hint of hope. For, as Jesus died on the cross, we believe God was somehow both witness to, and victim of, extreme violence. And in pondering that reality, as Woltersdorff puts it, sometimes “through our own tears we see the tears of God.” And we know that somehow, God is present – in the pain, in mutual support, and in our endeavor to set things right and heal from tragedy. That is all we can know for sure, for now. I hope and pray it's enough.

Peace, Don



Piedmont COMMUNITY CHURCH

Office Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 8** - New Adult Education Series Begins, 11:30 am
- Oct. 9** - Office Closed/Indigenous People's Day
- Oct. 12** - Harvest Dinner, 6:30 pm
- Oct. 27** - Adult Fellowship Wine Tasting, 7 pm
- Oct. 27-30** - Adult Mexico Mission Trip
- Oct. 28** - Berkeley Men's Shelter, 7 pm
- Oct. 29** - PCC at Imani
- Nov. 5** - Operation Christmas Child
- Nov. 5** - Project Peace/Go Forth
- Nov. 12** - Forum with Martha Sommers, 5 pm
- Dec. 1 & 3** - Annual Christmas Concert & Reception
- Dec. 10** - Children's Christmas Pageant & Advent Dinner

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