



**Piedmont
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

THE MESSENGER

BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 80

March 11, 2017

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

MARCH 13, 2017 (3/25 issue)

MARCH 27, 2017 (2/8 issue)

Send submissions to

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

VISIT PCC ONLINE:
www.piedmontchurch.org

Ensuring Our Future - The PCC Endowment Fund Sign Up for Your Brick **by April 1st**

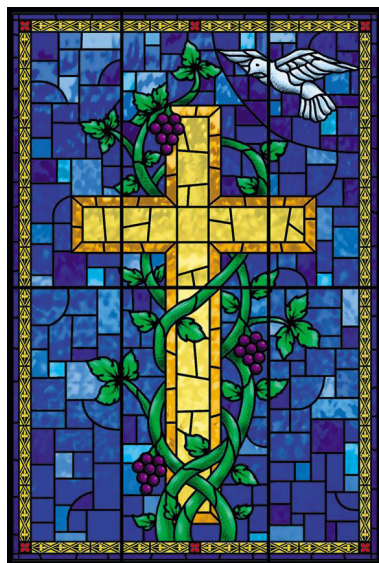


In 1906, Wallace and Mary Alexander donated the property which became Piedmont Community Church. Their generosity is still benefiting us today. Three years ago, the PCC Board of Trustees established the Wallace and Mary Alexander Society to honor members who make **gifts of \$500 or more** to the PCC Endowment Fund or, more importantly, **include the church in their will, trust or estate plan.**

We were excited when the walkway was unveiled in our courtyard displaying the bricks for the Wallace and Mary Alexander Society.

Over the last three years, 114 PCC families and individuals have joined the Alexander Society. Each year, we are expanding the brick walkway and adding families who have joined the society in the past year. We hope you will join those who are helping to ensure a strong financial future for the ministry of PCC. As our church enters its second century, it is imperative that our mission, outreach and values continue and grow. An Endowment in your will or trust is a wonderful way to continue the work of the Church for generations to come. **We invite you to join the Alexander Society and have your name or the name of a loved one inscribed on brick.** This year's bricks will be unveiled on May 21st. If you have any questions, please call Dr. McNabb 510-547 or Frank Arthur 510-816-5914.

Adult Education Series: *Seeing Ourselves in Those Who Saw Jesus* Sundays, March 5th-April 2nd, 11:30 am



During the season of Lent, join Dr. Don Ashburn for a five week class series called, **"Seeing Ourselves in Those Who Saw Jesus"**. During Jesus' lifetime, he was confronted by, and he confronted, various groups with different understandings of how God was active in the world, how salvation would come, and how people should treat one another. We will look at groups such as the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots and Romans. We'll consider the similarities and differences between how people living long ago saw and reacted to Jesus, and how we do this today. Classes will meet consecutive Sundays from March 5th to April 2nd at 11:30 am in the PCC Chapel. No prior knowledge of the Bible or of ancient of history is needed. For more information, please contact Dr. Ashburn at: don@piedmontchurch.org, or 510-547-5700, ext. #105.

SERMONS SERIES



March 12, 2017

THE GRAND ESSENTIALS
Part 2 – Something to Love
1 John 4:7-12

March 19, 2017

THE GRAND ESSENTIALS
Part 3:
Something to Hope For
1 Corinthians 15:58
Revelation 21:1-5

March 26, 2017

TBD

April 2, 2017

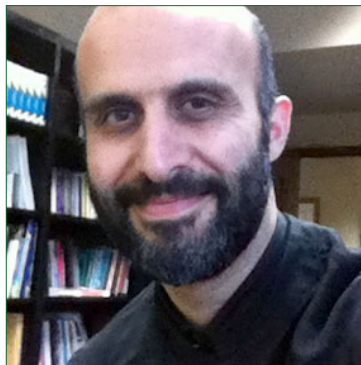
THE JOURNEY IS
THE REWARD
March 8:27-28

MILESTONES



Is there a milestone in your life that you would like to share with us: a wedding, a birth, an engagement, the passing of your dear one? Please contact Abby Rose at 547-5700 ext. 103 or abby@piedmontchurch.org

Piedmont Forum: Christian Orthodoxy with Father Ninos A. Oshaana Sunday, March 12th at 5 pm (rescheduled from January)



Join us on Sunday, March 12th for a conversation about Christian Orthodoxy. Following our Forum topic last spring of “What a Rabbi Wishes Christians Knew About Judaism,” we will continue our series on “What We Should Know About ...”.

This month we will be joined by **Father Ninos A. Oshaana of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension in Oakland**, who will provide an introduction on the historical and theological roots of Orthodoxy, and share with us some of the spiritual practices that

guide this tradition of Christianity. The Forum will take place in the Chapel of the Christian Education Building from 5-6:30 pm. It is free and open to the public as well. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn at: don@piedmontchurch.org, or 510-547-5700, ext. 105.

“Getting to Know PCC” - March 14th & 18th

Are you interested in learning more about Piedmont Community Church, or becoming a member? Please come to a “Getting to Know PCC” gatherings. It’s a great way to learn more about our congregation – what we believe, what we do, who we are. If you’re led to become a member, this is the first step in joining. The gathering are led by Dr. Don Ashburn and include refreshments.

The dates and times are: **Tuesday, March 14th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm** and **Saturday, March 18th from 9:00 – 10:30 am**. If these times don’t work for you, please contact Dr. Ashburn to set up a time that fits your schedule. To RSVP and for more information, contact Don at: don@piedmontchurch.org. You are also welcome to meet with PCC’s senior minister, Dr. Bill McNabb (bill@piedmontchurch.org), or Rev. Scott Kail (scott@piedmontchurch.org), Minister to Students - or call the church office at (510)-547-5700. New members of PCC will be welcomed and introduced at our 10:30 worship service on Sunday, March 26th.

Easter Lilies

Help beautify our worship space for Easter by donating lilies in memory or honor of someone special. You may take your plant home after the final Easter service. Lilies not taken will be given to seniors, the bereaved, and the home bound. \$16 per plant.

Return this form and your check (made out to PCC; “lilies” in memo line) to: 400 Highland Ave., Piedmont, CA 94611, or drop it in the collection plate **no later than April 9th**.



☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of _____

Donor name: _____

☐ I would like to take my lily(ies) home following the final Easter service.

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$16/plant)

Just Passing Through (continued from page 4)

Since we cannot stay, and since we will not pass this way again, whatever good and lovely thing we can do, we must do it now. There will be no replay of the opportunities of today. As the sun sets on this day, it is gone forever, and our deeds are indelibly done or left undone.

Etienne De Grellet penned a classic and noble thought we would do well to remember as we make our rapid, one-way passage through life. "I shall pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Bill Dr. William McNabb, Senior Minister



Sunday, March 11th

James Whitbourn (b. 1963) is an internationally-renowned composer recognized as "a truly original communicator in modern British choral music." In him, the fine tradition of English choral writing lives on, and no more so than in ***Give us the wings of faith***, a luminous setting of Isaac Watts' mystical musings on the lives of the saints in heaven. In harmonic interweavings, the four sections of the choir trade ascending and descending lines that become almost unbearably transcendent in their cumulative effect.

Sunday, March 19th

We will sing ***How lovely is thy dwelling place***, a setting of Psalm 84 by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897). It comes from the composer's German Requiem, for which he won fame throughout Europe in 1868. The music is plangently beautiful, the harmonies elegant and sophisticated, and the expression deep. Brahms came a long way in his life. At the age of 13 he was earning fifty cents a night playing piano for sailors and their girls in Hamburg's lowest dives. By the end of his career, he was one of the "three B's" of classical music.

Kidz Club - Friday, March 10th, 4 pm



The next KIDZ Club meeting will be held on Friday, March 10th, in the Youth Room of the CE Building from 4 pm to 6 pm. KIDZ Club is for all 4th, 5th and 6th graders. For more information, contact Julie Hofer (julie@donahue.com or 653-3362) or Leslie Quantz (leslie@piedmontchurch.org or 547-5700, ext. 109).

Treasures Sale Donations Needed - Drop Off March 18th-22nd

(Sat/Sun: 9 am - 2 pm, Mon-Wed: 9 am - 7pm -- Guild Hall)



The **PCC Treasures Sale** raises funds for PCC's Youth Mexico Service trip.

We are looking for clean and gently used items: Antiques, Artwork, Belts, Bikes, Books, China, Crystal, CDs, LPs, DVDs, Collectibles, Dishes, Furniture, Games, Garden Supplies, Hats, Holiday Items, Housewares, Jewelry, Lamps, Linens, Luggage, Musical Instruments, Pet Supplies, Purses, Puzzles, Rugs, Scarves, Silver, Small Appliances, Sports Equipment, Stereo Equipment, Throw Pillows, Tools, Toys, Flat Screen TVs only. (no clothing, computers, mattresses, large appliances or magazines, please)

The last day to donate is Wednesday, March 22nd

The **Treasures Sale** will take place at PCC on **March 25th and 26th**.



Just Passing Through

In a letter dated July 15, 1813 John Adams wrote Thomas Jefferson: "You and I ought not to die before we have explained ourselves to each other". As

I read that interesting and profound challenge, it occurred to me that it would not be possible to explain ourselves to someone else until we come to a basic understanding of ourselves. How would you explain yourself to a friend or a stranger without lying? Life is so brief, and yet so complicated. We came from a place we do not remember, and we are moving toward a destiny we cannot see. It is difficult to honestly explain our place in the scheme of things.

The Venerable Bede, English historian, scholar and monk (AD 673-735) described the nature of our existence on earth as being like a single sparrow on a dark night flying swiftly in at one end of a great hall and immediately flying out the other. Somewhat like this, says the Venerable Bede, is the life of man, "but of what follows or what went before, we are utterly ignorant". Thomas Carlyle, Scottish historian and philosopher, characterized the nature of our existence as: "One life, a little gleam of time between two eternities". *We are just passing through.*

If you were given a minute at the end of your life to explain yourself, what would you like to be able to say? What would you write in a single sentence epitaph that would honestly sum up your life?

When Loren Eiseley, noted anthropologist, naturalist, and writer died in the summer of 1977, he had already chosen an epitaph for his wife and himself. Like so much of his writing, this simple sentence spoke volumes to those who have ears to hear. It reads: "We loved the earth, but could not stay." It reminded me of something Arlo Guthrie once said: "The world has shown me what it has to offer. It is a nice place to visit, but I would not want to stay."

While most of us live as if we will be here forever, and most of us are hard put to imagine how the world could possibly get on without us, in our more reflective moments we know that we are not here to stay. For the most part our pilgrimage in this world is beautiful and full of meaning, and we should stop and smell the flowers along the way. Life is a marvelous adventure, which many feel is but a prelude to something even greater. Whatever the meaning and purpose of our pilgrimage in this dimension, it is clear that it was never intended that we stay here again."

(continued on page 3)



Piedmont COMMUNITY CHURCH

Office Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11 - Kidz Club, 4 pm

March 12 - Piedmont Forum: Christian Orthodoxy, 5pm

March 18-22 - Treasures Sale Drop-Offs

March 20 - Immigrant Hospitality Task Force, 7 pm

March 25 - Berkeley Men's Shelter, 7 pm

(Live Wire Volunteers at Men's Shelter)

March 25 - Treasures Sale, 9 am to 3 pm

March 26 - Treasures Sale, 9 am to 2 pm

April 2 - Piedmont Forum, 5 pm

April 9 - Palm Sunday

April 14 - Good Friday service, 7:30 pm

April 16 - Easter Sunday

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