Sunday, May 21st
Endowment Sunday, 11:30 am
Estate Planning Workshop & Luncheon, 11:45 am, Clara Barton

What the new Republican administration means for estate planning and charitable planning; strategies for taking care of the people and institutions we love in these uncertain times.

Susan von Herrmann and Brett Zudekoff, partner and counsel at the personal planning group at Perkins Coie LLP. They specialize in estate planning, charitable planning, family wealth transfer, business succession planning and estate and trust administration. Susan and Brett will bring us up to speed both on the current tax laws that affect estate planning and charitable planning and what needs to be done to make sure that plans are both up to date and optimal from a tax perspective. They will review the most popular charitable planning techniques and provide some insight on what might happen if Trump’s campaign promises with respect to tax reform come to pass. The session will be interactive; questions and comments will be welcome!

PCC’s Web Team has worked hard over the past several months, with the support of Staff and the Board of Trustees, to bring you a completely redesigned, simple to navigate and modern looking website. Please take a moment, surf around and enjoy the more modern design and intuitive navigation. Know that the site will continuously evolve over time with new information and resources to make it easier for you to engage with PCC online. Go to http://www.piedmontchurch.org/, and tell us what you think. Engaging online with PCC will be easier than ever before!

A big "Thank you" to Steven Thorne, Don Ashburn, Abby Rose, Brad Kellogg, Griffin Ashburn and Leslie Quantz for bringing this project from idea to completion.
Sam Fleming, passed from this life on April 27th. A memorial service will be held at PCC on Saturday, May 20th at 1 pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as we thank God for his life.

Remembering Cheryl Vaughn
On April 20th, beloved staff and PCC member Cheryl Vaughn passed away after a long battle with cancer. Cheryl became actively involved with PCC in 1980. She taught Sunday School, helped with our youth groups, spent 15 years as a leader on the Mexico Youth Mission trip, and played in our handbells ensemble. Cheryl spent 32 years as a parent and employee in the Piedmont Schools. She was the first person to greet Havens Elementary School children every day. She had an amazing ability to connect with everyone. Cheryl is survived by her two daughters, Jennifer Kohler and Meghan Wittich, and by 7 grandchildren. The family requests that memorial donations be made to: Mexico Trip account, c/o Scott Kail, or to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, 886 Cannery Row, Monterey CA 93940.

Mexico 2017!
Five days - 250 Students - 50 Adults - 18 Houses Built!
Countless lives changed for the good! Theirs and ours!
**DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

**Annual Report Financial Meeting** - Sunday, May 21st - 9:45-10:30 am

The 2016-17 Annual Report Financial Meeting takes place in Guild Parlor on Sunday, May 21st. Treasurer John Chiang and the finance committee members will make PCC’s fiscal statements (through April 2017) available to interested members. This is your chance to ask questions about PCC finances before the June 4th Annual Meeting.

**Community Service Day** - Saturday, June 3rd, 9 am to noon

PCC is partnering with Project Peace for another Community Service Day! Project Peace brings together local faith-based organizations and non-profits to serve our community. Please join together to volunteer on Saturday, June 3rd. Volunteer opportunities include leveling books at Laurel Elementary School, general maintenance and gardening at Claremont Middle School or Harbor House Oakland, and general cleaning and sorting clothes at YEAH - Berkeley (homeless shelter serving youth from 18-25 years). Additional information and sign-ups will be available in the courtyard after services or contact Selma Chin at 510-290-5732 or selmachin@yahoo.com. For additional information about Project Peace Eastbay: www.projectpeaceeastbay.org.

**PCC Annual Meeting** - Sunday, June 4th

All members are invited to attend our annual meeting in Guild Hall after the 10:30 am service. Reports will be presented by the President, Treasurer and Senior Minister. The congregation will be voting on the proposed **2017-2018 budget** and will elect board members. Lunch will be served; babysitting provided. The annual report will be available after worship services, in the church office, and on the website after May 21st.

**PCC Family Camp at Westminster Woods**

*September 2nd - 4th*

PCC Family Camp at Westminster Woods will take place Labor Day weekend, September 2-4. More information to follow. Questions? Contact Leslie (leslie@piedmontchurch.org).

**Thank you to all the Mexico curtain seamstresses!**

As has become a PCC tradition, each of the 18 houses our students constructed during the Mexico Mission trip were hung with two pair of custom made team color appropriate curtains lovingly made by our church members. Many thanks go to: Joan Chow, Jan Crago, Elizabeth DaCosta, Sarah Gahl, Dana Gordon, Connie Hosemann, Betsy Lalli, Suzanne Latham, Ann Lin, Nancy Marvel, Janet Peterson, Linda Rice and Brenda West.

**Christianity & Citizenship (continued from back page)**

permanent. Dr. Toynbee gives a brilliant analysis of how and why each of these lost civilizations grew and why they declined. The floor of God's workshop is strewn with the broken pieces of the civilizations that lost their usefulness in God's greater scheme of things.

God's plan, as recorded in the Bible and specifically lived by Jesus, is for individuals and groups of individuals to live peacefully, kindly, helping one another, and without judgment. Let us pray that the country we love will do the difficult work necessary to live up to the tenets of Jesus, and that we will not become disobedient debris on God's workshop floor. We could go either way.

Signed,

Dr. William H. McNabb
Senior Minister
Christianity & Citizenship

For the first three hundred years Christianity was a religion without a country, and Christians were at the mercy of the laws of whatever state in which they happened to be. Since Christianity was promulgated primarily within the bounds of the Roman Empire, the attitude and policy of the reigning Emperor was a matter of crucial importance. Treatment of Christians ranged from being casually ignored to being systematically persecuted. It varied from the cruel and capricious treatment by Nero in the first century to the acceptance of Christianity as the official religion under Constantine in the fourth century.

Some Emperors viewed Christianity as a threat to the government and Roman culture. Under these Emperors Christians were persecuted, but the persecution never lasted long enough, nor was it systematic enough, to destroy this new faith. The historian, T.R. Glover, wrote that the Christian "out-lived" the pagan, "out-died", and "out-thought" him. The Christians made a place in history that was unequalled even by the Emperor. People today name their sons Stephen, Peter, and Paul, but certainly not Nero.

The enemies of Christianity in the first three centuries put out false and incriminating reports, each of which were designed to vilify the faith in the eyes of the community and the country. For example, they quoted words from the ritual of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Drink ye all of this, for this is my blood which is shed for you and for many," and asserted in early tabloid style that "They meet at night. They kill their own. They drink blood and eat human flesh." Scary!

Perhaps the most damaging charge by the enemies of the early faith was that Christians did not make good citizens because they were a threat to the state, the culture, and the accepted religions of the realm. To some of this general charge Christians had to plead guilty. Christians refused to join the army, and they solicited others to not join. They boycotted civic activities that were cruel and barbaric, such as the gladiatorial games. They refused to worship the Emperor as a God. Saint Justin, an early Christian apologist, who later became a martyr, wrote a point-by-point refutation of the charge that Christians are not good citizens. He noted that Christians supported an orderly process of law as constituted by the government, and that Christians paid taxes honestly (upon the instructions of Jesus that they render to Caesar what belonged to Caesar and to God what belonged to God.) Therefore, he argued, Christianity and good citizenship go hand-in-hand. Arnold J. Toynbee in his twelve-volume treatise, A Study of History, has pointed out that during the five thousand years of recorded history there have been twenty-one major civilizations, of which only five survive today. Each of the sixteen now extinct civilizations believed they were

(continued on page 3)