Choir Sunday - June 11th

TWO NEW PIECES FROM STEVE MAIN

Choir Sunday features two new pieces from our own, esteemed Steve Main. Here’s what he has to say about them:

“The task of composing vocal music is made infinitely easier when one starts with good texts. And what a privilege it is to set these words to music! Although very different in their historical and cultural contexts, the poets I’ve used for these two pieces share important similarities, including a profound conviction of God’s presence throughout creation.

“The English poet William Blake (1757-1827) published ‘The Tyger’ in 1749. It presents a duality between aesthetic beauty and primal ferocity, as Blake believed that to see one (the Divine hand that created ‘The Lamb’), one must also see the other, the hand that created the fearsome tiger. Could it be, Blake asks, that the merciful hand of God could create such a terrifying beast? (‘Did he who made the Lamb make thee?’) Commissioned by a PCC chorister, The Tyger at PCC on June 11th.

“Where Everything is Music was commissioned by the Contra Costa Chorale. The texts are drawn from the poetry of the Islamic mystic Jalal-ad-Din Rumi (1207-1273) whose ecstatic poems have been revered for centuries and play an important part in the spirituality of the Sufi mystics. He sees music as woven into the very fabric of reality, not just an art form that is sung or played. Music, like its sister, poetry, springs up from something deeper than words: the primal source is the divine being who plays us like instruments. I arranged the poems so that the piece would hinge on the question: ‘who are we, that we should remain in being beside Thee?’ For Rumi, though we are unworthy instruments for the divine, a life without music is unthinkably bleak. The climax, presented by solo soprano, is the realization that, like the ecstatic song of a bird, the task of a musician is to allow the Universal Soul to ‘practice some song…through me.’ According to Rumi, beyond rational thought, beyond society’s rules, beyond the ups and downs of everyday life, we find ‘the joy of our Music Master.’”
PCC Family Camp Registration is Open!
September 2nd - 4th
*Please reserve your spot by June 15th*

PCC’s Family Camp takes place Labor Day weekend. We arrive at Westminster Woods on Saturday, September 2nd in time for lunch, and stay through breakfast on September 4th. The cost is $180 per person (ages 6 and older), $70 for ages 3-5, under age 3 is free. This includes 2 nights in a tent cabin and 6 delicious meals. **Registration forms are available in the church office, in the CE Building on Sundays, and online at our church website, piedmontchurch.org.**

Family Camp is a magical time for making new friends and reconnecting with old ones. Every year, we take time to relax and worship in the woods. There are many opportunities to enjoy nature and get to know other church members and friends. Westminster Woods is in Occidental California. We’ll have organized activities throughout the day or relax on your own. You can hike, make crafts, or just relax. There are many trails for bike rides, softball, volleyball and swimming in the afternoon. We’ll have shared time together for socializing before dinner. After dinner is a campfire, singing and s’mores. After Sunday breakfast, we hold an outdoor church service and communion. There is something for everyone at Family Camp! For more information about Westminster Woods, go to their website: www.westminsterwoods.org. For questions, please contact Leslie Quantz (leslie@piedmontchurch.org).

**Prayer Requests**

Every Tuesday, our staff sits and prays together for our members. **If you have a special prayer request**, please call 510-547-5700 or use the prayer request ministry on our website www.piedmontchurch.org. All requests are kept in confidence.

**Berkeley Men’s Shelter - June 24th, 7 pm**

Experience what it is like to truly love our neighbors. The Berkeley Men’s Shelter is a wonderful organization that houses up to 65 homeless men. PCC cooks and serves meals at the shelter on the fourth Saturday of each month. You can make a dessert, appetizer, or a complete meal, or you can simply help us serve at the shelter. It only takes 1.5 hours to serve these men. The men love the food and company! Please contact Barbara Crawford through the church at 510-547-5700. No long-term commitment is necessary. Just sign up for the days that work best for you. Thank you for supporting the homeless.
Welcome to New PCC Members!

**Katie and Alex Colbert** will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this year. Their oldest child, Owen, is in 9th grade at Piedmont High and plays basketball and golf. Brady, age 11, is in 6th grade at Piedmont Middle School and plays soccer, basketball, tennis and football. Lily is in 3rd grade at Wildwood and loves gymnastics. Katie, Owen, Brady and Lily were baptized Lutheran, and Alex will soon be baptized at PCC. They are excited to join PCC and thoroughly enjoy the services, especially the pastors' sermons and the wonderful music and choir. They already feel welcomed by the PCC community, and look forward to getting involved in our service opportunities and youth programs.

**Jake Furber and Lindy Lowe** are happy to be a part of the PCC community. Lindy Lowe is deputy director of planning programs at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. She is married to Jake Furber. Their son, Alexander, is 10 years old. As a child, Lindy was baptized into the Mormon Church and attended both Mormon and Baptist churches. The whole family will soon be baptized at PCC. Lindy was drawn to become a member of PCC by the sermons, music, structure and the commitment PCC has to making positive change and building community. It’s taken Lindy a long time to find a spiritual home; she has no hesitation in making that home at PCC.

**Hope Healy** was baptized in an Episcopal church. She is a mother to her wonderful 9 year daughter, Quinn. Her immediate family is her aunt and uncle, Mary & Rick Blake, and cousins Alex and Chris Fraim. They all used to come to PCC and urged her to join. Hope works in sales with investment bankers selling deal toys. She and Quinn are very happy to be part of this community.

Take a Look at PCC’s New Website! - http://www.piedmontchurch.org/

Please **take a moment, surf around and enjoy the more modern design and intuitive navigation**.

Our new site will continuously evolve over time with new information and resources to make it easier for you to engage with PCC online.

Engaging online with PCC is easier than ever before!
Raising an Ebenezer to His faithfulness

Robert Robinson wrote one of my favorite religious hymns in 1757. The melodic stanzas of the song “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” bring a certain reflective feeling that prompts me to ponder the love that God has for His children. Each time I hear this hymn I find myself humming the tune throughout the day with the words playing in my mind. I have always found the first phrase of the second verse to be particularly curious: “Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I’ve come”. “Here I raise my Ebenezer”? What is the meaning behind this phrase? Certainly it’s not a reference to the resurrection of the lead character in Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol—Ebenezer Scrooge. Admittedly that may be our only reference to the word.

It’s in the Old Testament that we gain further understanding of what it means to “raise my Ebenezer.” In 1 Samuel 7 we read that the Israelites were under attack by the Philistines. Outnumbered and in fear for their lives, they pled with the prophet Samuel to pray for God’s help. Samuel offered a sacrifice and prayed for protection. In response the Lord smote (really cool OT word) the Philistines, and they retreated to their territory. This victory is recorded in verse 12: “Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, “here the Lord has helped us.” In Hebrew the word ebenezer means “stone of help.” This raised stone was a reminder to the Israelites of what the Lord had done for them. This Eben-ezer quite literally was a monument set to remember the great help that God granted the one raising the stone. The Old Testament is full of examples of the children of Israel forgetting the many miracles and spiritual experiences given to them by the Lord. I hope that as this program year ends the same is not said about us. What has God been responsible for in your life this year? How was he faithful? In what time of need did you feel His presence and comfort? Many times at the end of a school year I will pose this to our students and it is so wonderful and profound to hear them make a list, give thanks, and raise an Ebenezer! Won’t your join us and raise your own?

Scott Kail, Pastor of Student Ministries