



Staff

The Rev. Dr. William McNabb
Senior Minister
bill@piedmontchurch.org

The Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn
Associate Minister
don@piedmontchurch.org

The Rev. Scott Kail
Pastor of Student Ministries
scott@piedmontchurch.org

Dr. Stephen Main
Minister of Music
steve@stephenmain.com

Toni Fischer
Business/Financial Manager
toni@piedmontchurch.org

Jean Leahy
Office Manager
jean@piedmontchurch.org

Leslie Quantz
Director of Children's Ministries
leslie@piedmontchurch.org

Rev. Dottie Hutch
Minister of Parish Visitation
dottie@piedmontchurch.org

Abby Rose
Publications Coordinator
& Webmaster
abby@piedmontchurch.org

Rachel Petrillo
Nursery/Childcare Coordinator
nursery@piedmontchurch.org

Shirley Prince
Building Maintenance

Nicholas Baz
Doorkeeper
nicholas.baz@gmail.com

Katherine Vieira-Mendes
Youth Intern
katherine@piedmontchurch.org

Jeremy Kaetzl
Youth Intern
jeremy@piedmontchurch.org

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

SEPT 25, 2017 (10/4 issue)

OCT 9, 2017 (10/21 issue)

Send submissions to

Abby Rose at

abby@piedmontchurch.org

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

VISIT PCC ONLINE:
www.piedmontchurch.org



2018 Stewardship Campaign

"What are you grateful for today?"

It might be your family, health or faith. With our church season back in swing, we hope you're also grateful for Piedmont Community Church.

Our annual operating budget is solely funded by your financial support. Only with your dedication can we continue the programs you find most rewarding- be it worship services, Christian education for children and youth, the music program, our fellowship activities or extensive mission outreach.

As we do every year, with gratitude, we again ask for your continued generosity by pledging to the 2018 PCC Stewardship Campaign.

Look forward to a **pledge card being mailed to you**. Alternatively you will be able to **pledge online** at <https://www.piedmontchurch.org/give/stewardship/>.

Growing Engagement

As you know, Piedmont Community Church is committed to improving our sustainability, vibrancy and communication so it can continue to thrive and continue its mission to welcome, nurture and serve inside and outside the church community in its next 100 years.

A very important means of achieving those goals is by increasing our members' "engagement". **Engagement is one's emotional connection and sense of belonging to the church, not just involvement.** When a congregation has a high percentage of highly engaged members, great things happen, such as serving others more, inviting others more, giving more, having a greater sense of life satisfaction, feeling cared for and appreciated and more. In other words, when we grow PCC members' engagement with PCC, the effects will help us to thrive and grow.

The first step in the growing engagement process will be a **congregation survey** so we can understand where engagement stands today. To better connect with you and grow engagement at PCC, we want to understand your thoughts and feelings about the church. The results will be shared in December, and will help to guide church leadership to make good decisions for today and for the future. Your responses will be kept confidential. **We are hoping for 100% participation.**

This link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCC-Engagement>) will be live starting September 24th in the Bulletin, Messenger, our website and an eblast. Paper surveys can be completed after church September 24th and October 1st in the Guild Hall. All surveys must be completed by October 8th.

Thank you! The Community Engagement Team - Robin Asbury, Eric Behrens, Anne Conneely, Debi Fitzgerald, Kristine McCabe, Joe Scherer, Mary Margaret Sinnema, Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn and Rev. Dr. Bill McNabb

SERMONS SERIES



September 24, 2017
HOLDING THINGS TOGETHER
IN A WORLD THAT'S
FALLING APART
Part 2:

"Confronting the Powers"
Colossians 2:1-15
Rev. Dr. William McNabb

October 1, 2017
HOLDING THINGS TOGETHER
IN A WORLD THAT'S
FALLING APART
Part 3:

"Clothing Optional"
Colossians 3:1-17
Rev. Dr. William McNabb

MILESTONES



Arthur B. Edmunds Sr.,
father of Arthur Edmunds,
passed from this life on
September 7, 2017.

Margo Anderson,
passed from this life on
September 13, 2017.

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

Getting to Know Piedmont Community Church



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 dates are: **Saturday, September 23rd from 9-10:30 am; Saturday, September 30th from 9-10:30 am; Tuesday, October 3rd from 7-8:30 pm; or Tuesday, October 10th from 7-8:30 pm.** Refreshments provided; child care available for kids age 10 and under. RSVP to Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn with your choice of date, and if you'll need childcare. If you can't make any of these times, Dr. Ashburn can set up an alternative time and date to meet with you individually. For more information and to RSVP, please contact him at don@piedmontchurch.org.

Confirmation Mentors Needed

Adult mentors are needed for PCC's 2017 Confirmation class students. This consists of striking up friendships with students and meeting with them 2-3 times during the 9-week class. No need for Bible scholars, just folks willing to share a bit of their journey and come along side the students on theirs. Please contact Rev. Scott Kail if you're interested: scott@piedmontchurch.org.

Adult Mexico Missions Trip - Register Now!

October 27th-30th



Last October we took a team of 15 to Tijuana and had a wonderful, impactful weekend getting to know the beautiful Ramirez Family and building them a new home. I can only begin to tell you how much this mission changes the lives of those we build for. Their lives improve with an 80% better chance for health, education, and safety. We want to offer another chance to join us on a similar trip this October. Please consider this and save the date of October 27-30, 2017.

The price is \$500/person all inclusive. Interested? Fill out the two documents posted on the PCC web site (see News & Events, bottom of home page), and turn them in along with your fees. The first trip meeting is Saturday, October 14th. Please contact Scott Kail with any questions: scott@piedmontchurch.org.

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 most needed are **hand sanitizer wipes, band-aids, liquid sanitizer and paper towels** (no need for 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. Please help Burckhalter Elementary School students get started with all the necessary supplies. Just 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.

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.

Housing Angel Needed!

PCC is hiring a new director of Communications and we are in need of housing. If you know of a guest house or apartment that would be available for rent in the Piedmont/Oakland area starting in late September/early October, please contact Dr. Don Ashburn at 547 5700 ext. 105 don@piedmontchurch.org.

PCC Doing Its Part to Combat Climate Change



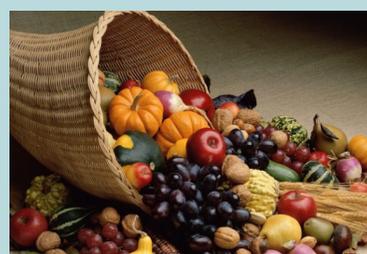
PCC is joining other Religious leaders worldwide who've embraced the concept that fighting global climate change is our duty to 'God's Green Earth.' *"Man has been appointed as a steward for the management of God's property, and ultimately, he will give account for his stewardship."* Luke 16:2.

Leveraging a gracious gift specified for infrastructure upgrades, 74 solar panels have been installed on the church's roof. The expected return on investment is approximately seven years, but reductions in operating costs are already being seen. "The ability to combat global climate change while simultaneously providing for the church's economic health long-term is unquestionably a 'win-win' scenario," says Trustee Tim Recker, chair of PCC's Finance Committee. "We believe that this type of investment demonstrates our desire to be good stewards of both our financial and environmental resources." Rev. Dr. William McNabb adds, "God created this wonderful home we call earth and he gave it to us to take care of. He gave us 'dominion' over the earth. So technically we are stewards of this planet."

The project was financed by a memorial fund honoring Langan Swent and was managed by PCC's Buildings and Grounds Committee. The work was performed by SunWork, a non-profit contractor that utilizes trained volunteers to help make solar more affordable and widely used.

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.



Never Shoot An Iguana

In her beautiful book "Out of Africa," Isak Dinesen has a section called "From an Immigrant's Notebook," which is a collection of inimitable vignettes.

In one of the stories she tells of shooting an Iguana in the hope of making something from his beautiful skin. She describes the big lizard as having such colorful skin as to appear like a pane cut from an old church window. A strange thing happened when she shot the Iguana, which created for her a memory that she never forgot. As she was walking up toward the dead lizard, he faded, grew pale and all the color died out of him as in one long sigh. It was the life of the Iguana that radiated all of the glow and splendor, and now that the flame of life was put out, the beauty and soul of the Iguana was also gone.

She then wrote a brief commentary on her memory of the experience. Ever since that time when she "shot an Iguana," the memory came back to haunt her each time she tried to capture some part of nature's beauty and take it for her private use. She recalled a line from the hero of a book she read as a child: "I have conquered them all, but I am standing amongst graves." She concluded: "For the sake of your own eyes and heart, never shoot an Iguana."

This pensive little story spoke volumes to me, and I recall the many sad experiences that I have had in trying to snatch natural beauty from its living source so that I could have it for myself. I remembered crushed butterflies, dead fireflies in a jar, cut flowers and dead song birds (killed with a slingshot) which could no longer sing. Perhaps, we have all, at times in our lives, tried to capture for our own private use something of beauty which really did not belong to us exclusively, only to discover that it slowly (or quickly) died in our selfish grasp. Maybe it was more than a cut flower found dead the next day or a crushed butterfly. Perhaps you have smothered a person in the process of trying to possess them for yourself in a way in which one human being can never belong to another. Perhaps it was children you did not allow to grow up because you loved them just like they were – dependent. It could be a husband or wife or an employee whose beauty, usefulness and love died when you held them to close.

In a "cut flower" civilization such as our own, where we are tempted to separate beauty from its source for fear it will fly away, or for fear someone else will take it, Isak Dinesen has a word or wisdom worth remembering: "For the sake of your own eyes and heart, shoot not the Iguana."

Yours in Christ,

Dr. William H. McNabb



Piedmont COMMUNITY CHURCH

Office Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 23** - Berkeley Men's Shelter, 7 pm
- Oct. 8** - New Adult Education Series Begins
- Oct. 12** - Harvest Dinner, 6:30 pm
- Oct. 27** - Adult Fellowship Wine Tasting, 7-9 pm
- Oct. 27-30** - Adult Mexico Mission Trip
- Oct. 28** - Berkeley Men's Shelter
- Oct. 29** - PCC at Imani
- Nov. 5** - Project Peace/Go Forth
- Nov. 12** - Forum with Martha Sommers, 5 pm
- Dec. 1 & 3** - PCC Christmas Concert/Reception, 7:30 pm

The Messenger (USPS permit # 432-100) is owned, managed, published, and circulated on a biweekly basis by Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Ave., Piedmont, CA 94611, Ph. (510) 547-5700. Subscriptions: \$25 a year. Periodicals postage pd. at Oakland, CA, 94615.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to above address.

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