Confirmation Class of 2017

Eighteen confirmands were celebrated during worship services on November 12, with the help of their mentors. Please welcome the newest members of Piedmont Community Church.

CONFIRMANDS: Kate Aubrecht, Laine Avaglano, Oliver Cheng, Caroline Collins, Nico DeFazio, Megan Hiller, Allison Mandel, Mary McCabe, Scott McKenzie, Andy Melian, Quincy Munyan, Jo Jo Murphy, Angela Napper, Sydney Parkhurst, Lindsay Recker, Alexandra Wilson, Max Young. MENTORS: Jeffry Asbury, Jeffrey Asher, Patty Dunlap, Tina Farman, Angela Guidici, Jeffrey Hiller, Jeremy Kaetzel, Garrett Kail, Scott Kail, Bob Leslie, Gwendolyn Osborn, Diana Peters, Zookie Todd, Katherine Vieiramendes.

‘The Messenger’ Ready for Change

By Michael Barber

Publications Coordinator Abby Rose and I are very excited to make significant changes to the church newsletter in coming months. You should look forward to receiving a product that is more vibrant in design, easier to read and full of event information and inspirational content.

One of the immediate changes will be the way we accept articles for publication. We ask that you now send all submissions to NEWS@PiedmontChurch.org. This newsletter does not exist without your great content. Keep it coming!

All content will be edited for continuity and presented in a space that will ensure high visibility. The Messenger will also be more connected to our website, PiedmontChurch.org, and our social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

If you have suggestions for change, please contact me at Michael@PiedmontChurch.org.
A magnificent performance of choral and orchestral music celebrating the beauty, magic and mystery of Christmas on Friday, December 1, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 3, 7 pm. Concert features original music by Dr. Stephen Main, Minister of Music, as well as unique arrangements of familiar carols featuring complex harmonies. Afterward, enjoy a buffet of savories and sweets in Guild Hall. Tickets available until two hours before the concert. Visit PiedmontChurch.org or purchase after worship Sunday or at the door. General admission tickets, $40, reserved/patron seating, $125

Alternative Gift Market (AGM)
Sundays, December 3, 10 and 17
Make a real difference in the world this Christmas. Shop the Alternative Gift Market catalog to help alleviate the daily struggles of those in our community and abroad. More information: Rev. Don Ashburn (don@piedmontchurch.org) or (510) 547-5700.

Christmas Caroling
December 6, 7:45 pm
An evening of old-fashioned Christmas caroling and hot cider. Sing along with the Chancel Choir under the direction of Steve Main. Wonderful refreshments served. Don’t miss this wonderful Piedmont Community Church tradition.

Adult Fellowship Annual Christmas Potluck
December 8, 6:30 pm
A festive evening of food, song and games. Highlands Country Club (110 Hiller Dr. in Hiller Highlands). Contact Jean (jean@piedmontchurch.org) or (510) 547-5700. Admission is $5.

Children’s Christmas Pageant & Advent Dinner
December 10, 5:30 pm
Christmas Pageant: The children will be singing Christmas Carols and performing Radio Station Y-U-L-E, a Christmas play about the Nativity. Includes the Salvation Army Band. A great way to enjoy the Christmas season.
Advent Dinner (after the Pageant): In Guild Hall. Adults, 18 years and older, $15. Youth, $5. Those under age 10 who would like macaroni and cheese, free. Call the church office to sign up (510) 547-5700. Payment at the door.

Christmas Eve Worship Services
December 24
5 pm - Family Service.  9 and 11 pm - Candlelight Service with Full Choir
I speak as an elder church member of Piedmont Community Church. We think the music is fabulous, the sermons uplifting, and the many occasions for worthy actions are inspiring.

To illustrate my gratitude I’ll pull out three M’s for special notice: One M is for Malawi and Kafita Church members. Many of us have been there and become close friends and admirers. I experienced the great gift of unconditional love as we lived for two weeks with those remarkable people, and later had a few of them here as guests. The second M is for Mable, a special person who left the Kafita Church and organized a widows group in another city. The third M is for medical missionary Martha Sommers who recently visited us. She’s a warm-hearted brilliant doctor with experience in several countries. I am so grateful to have found a church whose ministries reach across the boundaries of communities, countries and continents.

Stewardship Testimonial from Alice Cary

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Memorial Poinsettias

The sanctuary will be adorned for Christmas with traditional poinsettias, to be designated in memory or honor of someone special. To donate a plant, please fill out this form, attach your check ($15 per plant), and mail to: Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Ave., Piedmont, 94611, or drop off in the office. Make check payable to PCC, noting “poinsettia” in the memo. Forms must be received by December 18.

Enclosed is $_____ ($15 per plant)  Donor Name ______________________________

Donor Address______________________________________________________________

Give in Honor / Memory (circle one) of: ______________________________________

Alternative Gift Market (AGM)
Sundays, December 3, 10 & 17

Make a real difference in the world this Christmas. Shop the Alternative Gift Market to help alleviate the daily struggles of those in our community and abroad. Your catalog will arrive soon. 100% of your gift will go to the ministries you support.
Walking the Talk

One afternoon in 1953, reporters and officials gathered at a Chicago railroad station to await the arrival of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner. He stepped off the train – a giant of a man, six-feet-four, with bushy hair and a large moustache. As cameras flashed, city officials approached with hands outstretched and began telling how honored they were to meet him. He thanked them politely and then, looking over their heads, asked if he could be excused for a moment. He walked through the crowd with quick strides until he reached the side of an elderly woman who was struggling as she tried to carry two large suitcases.

He picked up the bags in his big hands and, smiling, escorted the woman to a bus. As he helped her aboard, he wished her a safe journey. Meanwhile, the crowd tagged along behind him. He turned to them and said, “Sorry to have kept you waiting.” The man was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary-doctor, who had spent his life helping the poorest of the poor in Africa. A member of the reception committee said to one of the reporters: “that’s the first time I ever saw a sermon walking.”

There is an old saying….“I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day.” Every day of our lives we have an opportunity to be a sermon walking. That’s why in the benediction at the end of the worship each week I remind us all that we go forth as ambassadors and representatives of Jesus Christ. So, we must remember to live in such a way whether at home, at school or at work, that when people see us they will see Christ living in us.

Let’s watch how we walk, remembering that we all have the potential to be a sermon walking.

Yours in Christ,

Bill

Dr. William H. McNabb
Senior Minister
Piedmont Community Church