



MICHAEL BARBER

Piedmont Community Church floral designers (from left) Sue Coffin, Alice Wong Roth, Lonnie Simonson and Susan Hill gather as a group for the first time at Susan Hill's home.

## Designing Women

*Floral Creations Bring God's Glory to Worship*

■ BY MICHAEL BARBER

As Vivaldi's Four Seasons plays softly in the background, Susan Hill's dining room takes on the air of an elegant social event. Flower arrangements in small tin pots adorn the table. Each guest is treated to a gourmet salad, a glass of white wine and a fancy dessert covered in red berries.

For the four Piedmont Community Church women gathering together for the first time, it's an occasion.

Though they are otherwise friends and have been working as a team for several years, it turns out that designing flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship services is very much a solo sport.

"You're doing it by yourself," said Sue Coffin. "I sometimes listen to a book, though it's difficult to multi-task."

Dining with Sue are Lonnie Simonson, Alice Wong Roth and host, Susan Hill. Conversation is lively and diverse with topics of flower arranging and church

*"Being able to make arrangements to glorify the Lord is such a gift."*

- Susan Hill  
*Floral Designer*

life blending nicely with compliments on the meal.

"It's from Whole Foods," Susan reveals. "I've learned to let the professionals do all the work."

Everyone laughs.

**'DESIGNING'**, Continued from Page 1

## *"I always think of the people I'm making the arrangement for."*

- Lonnie Simonson  
*Floral Designer*

"Our group is relatively anonymous," Susan said. "That way we don't have to fear public criticism."

More laughter.

But the conversation turns slightly serious as the women focus on the task at hand - recruitment. Each of the women assumes multiple volunteer roles within the church, so they are pleased to share this opportunity with others who share their passion for petals.

"We're willing to train," Sue said. "Most people are not used to doing the size arrangements the church needs."

Their system is relatively simple, though each order requires about four hours of time.

Alice is currently in charge of the group, taking requests from congregants eager to shell out \$85 for two custom arrangements in honor, or memory, of someone special. She contacts the group by email and a volunteer among them emerges. From here, the real work begins.

"It's not all fun and games," Lonnie said. "It's a job," Alice chimes.

Once the order is received, flowers matching the donor's preference must be gathered from one of their favorite suppliers and arranged days ahead of time. Some of the women do their best work at the church while others prefer the solitude of home.

The women consider their task to be an important part of church ministry, especially when making an arrangement in memory of person who has passed.

"It's very meaningful," Susan said.

"Being able to make arrangements to glorify the Lord is such a gift. It's also a gift you can use to glorify an individual. It's very important to develop a sense of respect for the past and to acknowledge the people who have influenced us. Of course, it's also very sad, but a wonderful way to communicate using flowers."

"I always think of the people I'm making the arrangement for," Lonni said.

Susan, a Master Gardener, also finds the arrangements to be a good way to reconnect people to the beauty of the earth, especially those who have not grown up around gardens or yards densely populated by plants and flowers.

"It's a way of bringing God's glorious creations and the complexity and the textures and color indoors," Susan said.

"People would miss them if they weren't there," Lonnie said. "I think it really enhances the service. It's one of my favorite ways to do service."

As their time together winds down, Susan turns her attention to her guests, offering a final beverage.

"I have coffee and tea, if anybody wants that," she said.

"I'm happy with wine," Lonnie said.

## Videos Show Church in Action

If every picture is worth a thousand words, then moving pictures must write volumes.

The inclusion of short, shareable video pieces on PiedmontChurch.org and social media outlets (including the church's Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter accounts) has expanded Piedmont Church's reach in the wider community.

As we grow our social media presence, please consider following, liking and sharing the videos that show the world what God is doing here.

## Endowment Brick Ceremony May 20, Deadline April 10

The Endowment Committee will conduct a formal unveiling of bricks, purchased by members and friends of Piedmont Community Church to benefit the Endowment fund.

Each brick will contain the name of an individual or family recognized for their contribution to the church.

Refreshments will be served in the courtyard immediately following the 10:30 am worship service.

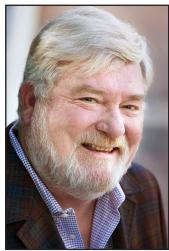
Deadline for placing a brick order is April 10. For more information, contact Bob Leslie, Endowment Development Committee Chair, at (510) 654-5125

# NO SUCH THING AS NoMa1

Sermon Series by Dr. William McNabb  
**Begins Sunday, April 22, 9 & 10:30 AM**

## In Celebration of the ‘Lost Cause’

*On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb....*  
Luke 24:1



DR. WILLIAM  
MCNABB  
Senior Minister

One of this year's big films *Darkest Hour* is about Winston Churchill and his efforts to lead Great Britain during WWII.

I recall the story of Churchill who in the last few years of his life was invited to give the graduation speech at his old public school. It was a small town and no one excepted Churchill to accept but he did and it became a major event.

Everyone turned out, there were banners and bands and when it came time for the speech, Churchill stood up and looked across the crowd from behind the podium. He said, “Never give up!” and then sat down.

His words remind me of the paradox of Easter – Lost Causes Are The Only Ones Worth Fighting For.

This is the paradox of the cross. Selfless love is a lost cause. Loving one's

enemies is a lost cause. Interpersonal harmony is a lost cause. The perfection of human beings is a lost cause. Some would say that global warming and gun violence in America and conflict between the world's religions are lost causes.

Maybe they seem lost because they're so important and we seem so far away from solving them. But that was the message of that day on Golgotha. Lost causes are the only ones worth fighting for.

We Christians of all people should understand lost causes. The church, of all institutions and groups, should understand the paradox within which lost causes are won.

What “never give up” really means is don't give up when they think you're going to. Hang in there a little longer.

That's what Jesus did. One Easter Sunday in the dawning rays of the early morning sun, the lost cause of the cross looked completely different.

I look forward to celebrating that lost cause with you soon.

## Tiny Time Commitments Help Big Time

Many of our volunteer activities take minimal time and effort and are great ways to get to know folks at the church in small settings.

New members will enjoy this easy way to contribute to their church and meet new friends.

**USHER OR GREET** at the 10:30 am service (simple training sessions available). Check your calendar and sign up after church.

**SET UP FOR CHURCH DINNERS**  
Contact Jay Foreman at  
[jayforeman777@yahoo.com](mailto:jayforeman777@yahoo.com)



**HELP IN THE KITCHEN** with our volunteer cooking crew, Loaves and Fishes. Contact Steve Wuebbens at [sawuebbens@gmail.com](mailto:sawuebbens@gmail.com)

**PROVIDE A MEAL** through our Food Angels for a member going through a difficult time. Contact Linda Rice at [ljrice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljrice@sbcglobal.net)

## Seniors Set to Brainstorm Future Involvement



Church member Susan Elliot joined the Seniors Sharing Coffee and Conversations group held at the church on March 21, for an animated discussion of how to vitalize senior participation in the church program.

Three questions motivated the conversation; How do we start? What can we do? How can we be effective?

Happy memories were shared about past programs over the years, including the Thursday club for trips sightseeing and movie discussion groups. Not to mention the retreats and houseboat adventures. I must have gone on five retreats.

I loved them!

The separateness from everyday life, the companionship sustained my spirit and gave me much joy. I still remember the gentle rock of the houseboat.

Some viable goals explored were reviving the bus that brought homebound seniors to the church and the activities that brought them together for work, prayer and joy.

Please join us at our next meeting at the church, April 4, when Dr. Don Ashburn will join us in conversation.



Instagram

@PiedmontCommunityChurch



MICHAEL BARBER

**Ebony O'Brien, 8, sits on a giant bean bag chair with her Toy Cup Poodle, Bailey, by her side while a crowd of people pass through the Piedmont Church Treasures Sale Saturday, March 10. Ebony and her family recently moved from Australia to Piedmont. The annual sale, benefitting an upcoming Mission trip to Mexico where 18 homes will be built for impoverished families, took 80 volunteers a full week to set up.**

## Treasures Sale Nets \$34,000

■ BY SUE COFFIN

Piedmont Community Church's 2018 Treasures Sale raised nearly \$34,000 with the efforts of the hard-working Treasures Sale team. Proceeds benefit the Mexico homebuilding mission. Thank you to all who donated their lightly used items to the effort to send our youth to Mexico to build 18 houses.

Applause and gratitude goes to Linda Adams, Tami Becker, Nancy Brahm, Ellie Campbell, Selma Chin, Joan Chow, Doug Clemetson, Rick Coffin, Jan Crago, Amy Edgerly, Roger and Karen Eliassen, Veronika Feigerl, Mary Fielder and Robert McCafferty, Wayne Guidici, Patti Heilbron, Sara Hirsch,

Dottie Hutch, Mittie Igo, Kim and Jim Kellogg, Aija Koch, Joan Leonard, Rebecca Littenecker, Margaret Lum, Lynne Robertson and John Finston, Kristi Marcelle, Chris Modera, Sally Moed, Bill Molmen, Janet Peterson, Lizz Polzak, Toni Polzak, Marion Schmidt, Kate Sovocool, Helen Steers, Christy White, Charlie Wood, Bob & Judy Wright, Mitchell Wright, and Jan Zovickian.

In addition to the crew who put in hours of preparation, we had an additional group of cashiers for the 2-day sale.

Thank you for all your help: Rick Coffin, Larry & Margaret Lum, Steve Senter, Kate Sovocool, Kathy Hull, Helen Steers, Zookie Todd, Christy

Guidici, Donnaluci Williams, Ann Lin, Audrey Sung, Deb Obendorf, Shelagh Udovch, Lynn & Brad Olander, Dottie Hutch, Caroline Benson, Linda McClain, Adam Thacher, Rita Liston, Janet Peterson, Ron Koch, Anne Lenkert, and Toni Polzak.

We were also lucky to have the help of several merchants in pricing, spotting valuable items and repairing: J Sahadie Jewelry, Ken Katz, Rick Hudson Estates, and the bike guys, Sean and Josh.

I sincerely hope every team member has treated themselves to a massage, mani-pedi, glass of wine, a good book, a bouquet of flowers or whatever is a treat. You deserve it.



## Bellot Family One Of 18 To Recieve New Home In April

■ BY REV. SCOTT KAIL

The Bellot's are one of our families that we will be building a house for the first week of April. There are nine of them living in a two room dwelling, that the father, Daniel, has built, on a small piece of land that they are purchasing with monthly payments.

Daniel, his wife Lizeth and his sister Flor are factory workers making \$206 a week combined. Their parents Ramon and Luz Maria live with them along with their children Carlos, 1, Flor 13, Gerardo, 7 and Lizeth's sister Violeta, 19.

Two of the children attend primary school and walk to classes each day. The area they live in is called Ojo de Agua on the outskirts of Tijuana.

We are eager to meet them and build them a new home with a locking front door and two windows.

The statistics show that once they have their new home (that we will build with love and care at no cost to them) they will all have an 80% greater chance for staying healthy, finishing school, enjoying safety and maintaining a much higher standard of living.

I hope you will join us in praying for the Bellot family and others as we head down to Mexico on Easter night. There are 300 of us and we will be building 17 other homes as well.

Each year, this Missions trip serves to be transformative for not only the families we build for but all of those who go.

## GOOD NEWS!

The Messenger

VOLUME 72 NO. 1 JANUARY 2018

All Things New  
This being the first new edition of the newsletter since last fall, I thought it wise to reflect on the coming year. I hope that the year will bring many surprises, a cure for cancer, more opportunities for the senior latchkey kids to play and hangout, a rescue mission that doesn't predate on the community, and a church that actually works!

But there is another type of surprises that never has been surprising that in old and worn out things can find a new way. I hope that the year will bring some surprises that have a whole new life to them. I hope something lost over the years will be found again.

These like a renewal of circles and cycles, a new tolerance of diversity and a renewed sense of compassion. For a renewed sense of compassion.

One of the great promises of scripture is in the prophet Revelation 21:5 God says, "Behold I make all things new." I am looking forward on that promise, I am looking forward to the year. If it talks about Jesus Christ, I have a wonder why as enter this new

The Messenger

VOLUME 72 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2018

Building Relationships  
Marzolf celebrated for 20-year Mexico mission

By MICHAEL BARBER

If this because I love it,  
I do it for recognition.

The Messenger

VOLUME 72 NO. 3 MARCH 2018

Giving Her All  
Rev. Maggie Henderson journeys from Piedmont Church Sunday School to...

Story and Photos by Michael Barber

Rev. Maggie Henderson prepares for worship at Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco.

The Messenger

VOLUME 72 NO. 4 APRIL 2018

Here's Your Sign  
On Presidents' Day weekend, I visited the small town of Half Moon Bay, California, on the coast of the San Francisco Bay Area. It had decided to hold a festival as a part of a local holiday.

Half Moon Bay in the sky was packed with people and activities. I was surprised to see the air warm and just a few steps away huge breakers crashing the stunning village.

Everything seemed to shimmer in the sunlight.

I walked to the end of this one-street town to check on the old town cemetery. It was founded in 1856 two years after the end of the Civil War. It served many by rotating a minister. It was the most popular in a town of 100 people.

It was packed with people and activities being held by the town and the Pottuck Supper after church.

If there is one thing that is universal it is that people love to eat.

I turned to leave, I noticed a crude hand painted sign had been placed near the telephone pole. It read:

"Palm Sunday, March 25. Appropriately, we also Preaching the Good News of the Resurrection of Christ, an elegant sermon, will be delivered, at the same time, in the

church, at 10:30 AM. Come and listen, Let us sing together plenty happy and good cheer, we hope."

Widely regarded as the greatest hymn and leading composition of the English language, it was composed by a fifth

point in English history, for the first time.

It is a hymn that has been used in

the service of God for centuries. But it is

probably the most well-known hymn in the world.

I thought back to my favorite hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," written by Karl Vossler, in 1908. It is a hymn that has been

used in the service of God for centuries. But it is

probably the most well-known hymn in the world.

One of the last great polyphonic English composers, Gibbons (1583-1625) wrote

the hymn "Palm Sunday, March 25."

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## New Member Reception

If you have become a member of Piedmont Community Church within the past 18 months, you are cordially invited to a reunion featuring appetizers and desserts held on Tuesday, April 24 from 7-9 pm at the home of Dr. Bill McNabb and his wife, Maureen.

This is a great opportunity to meet other new members, hear about the many ways you can engage in the vibrant and multi-faceted life of your church and share your experiences.

Please RSVP to Joan Chow at [jmchow@comcast.net](mailto:jmchow@comcast.net) by April 17.

The address is 352 Wildwood Avenue, Piedmont.

## Bible Sunday is April 22

■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ

Each year, Piedmont Community Church gives Bibles to our third-grade students as a way to enrich their lives.

These Bibles are presented to them during the 10:30 am church service.

If you have a third grader, you will be receiving an email from Leslie Quantz asking if you want to participate. We also include older children who are new to Piedmont Community Church and haven't received a Bible in the past.

If you haven't received an email from Leslie and would like your child to participate, please contact Leslie at [leslie@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:leslie@piedmontchurch.org).

## Inspiring News

If you would like to share your personal story about the way in which your church has impacted your life - or if you wish to suggest a feature about a fellow congregant - contact Michael Barber at [Michael@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Michael@PiedmontChurch.org) or call (510) 547-5700 ext. 104



**Shanna Farrell has been hired as church nursery coordinator. She and her husband, Eric, and three children, Faith, Tyler and Lilianna (pictured), live in Oakland.**

## Shanna Farrell is New Church Nursery Coordinator

■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ

Shanna Farell has been hired as Piedmont Community Church nursery coordinator.

She grew up in Hawaii and attended the University of Hawaii, Kapiolani campus.

Shanna moved to Oakland in 2014 to pursue a career as a paralegal. She met her husband Eric in Oakland and they

moved back to Hawaii for a short time.

They are back in Oakland where they live with their three children Faith, Tyler and Lilianna.

We like to spend time together traveling in our RV and going to local performing arts performances," Shanna said. "I am so excited to be working in the church because I believe all good things come from God and it is important to give back."

# Endowment Fund Seeks Contributors

■ BY RICK EIGENBRODE

I have been attending Piedmont Community Church for more than 35 years. The sanctuary today is even more beautiful than when I first walked through the door. What we see and experience today is the result of the vision, the generosity, the dedication, the commitment and the faith of many individuals over the years.

Two of those individuals were Wallace and Mary Alexander. Piedmont Community Church opened its doors 100 years ago this past January on land donated by the Alexanders. Their generous gift started it all. But maintaining and updating the church facilities is the responsibility of each generation of members and friends of the church who worship here.

Today, that responsibility lies with us.

Most of you have – or will - receive in the mail a beautiful brochure about the Wallace and Mary Alexander Founders Circle that honors contributors to the church's endowment fund. Contributions to the fund will help secure the financial viability of this church – our church - for next 25, 50 or 100 years.

Four years ago, the Board of Trustees established the Alexander Circle to honor those who make gifts of \$500 or more to the Endowment Fund, or those who have included the church in their estate plans.

Since then, well over a hundred families and individuals have joined the Alexander Circle. We honor and remember their

generosity in the inscribed bricks on the walkway in our courtyard. The brick walkway is expanded each year to recognize those who have joined the Circle in the past 12 months.

This year's class of bricks will be unveiled on Sunday, May 20, after the 10:30 am service. If you are not yet members of the Alexander Circle and now wish to contribute to the church's endowment fund, you can take the first step to buy a brick by April 10 and do your part to help ensure a strong financial future for this church and its ministry.

If you are already a member of the Alexander Circle, we invite you to add to your initial gift as a sustaining member.

Current gifts are not the only way to support the Church's financial future. We hope you will also consider including the Church in your estate plan.

Contributions to the endowment fund represent additional giving opportunities for us. These are over and above the generous giving we seek each year through the Stewardship campaign to support the church's annual operating budget.

By comparison, we might want to think of the endowment fund as a 401k or an IRA for the Church to which even small contributions made over time can grow into a significant sum in the future.

I hope you will consider becoming a new or sustaining member of the Alexander Circle with a contribution to the endowment fund that reflects the importance of this church in your life.

*Editor's Note: Deadline for brick orders is Tuesday, April 10.*



## Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter - Oh My

In addition to checking out the church website at [PiedmontChurch.org](http://PiedmontChurch.org) frequently, please consider following us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch), on Instagram @PiedmontCommunityChurch and on Twitter @Piedmont\_Church.

These social media connections help us reach the wider community. Your support of these efforts is greatly appreciated.

## MONTH OF SUNDAYS

*Each Sunday, we gather to celebrate our faith and our friendships. All are welcome to participate in worship at 9 and 10:30 am.*

### APRIL 1

#### EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service, 6:30 am  
Worship at 9 and 10:30 am

### APRIL 8

Rev. Dottie Hutch, preaching  
**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**

### APRIL 15

**MEXICO CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

### APRIL 22

Dr. William McNabb, preaching  
**NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL PT 1, EVERYBODY IS WEIRD**  
Romans 3:10-18

### APRIL 29

Dr. William McNabb, preaching  
**NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL PT 2, THE LONGING TO CONNECT**  
Mark 2:1-12

## Sunday School

*We invite you to continue traveling through the Bible in one year.*

**April 1** – Easter Sunday, everyone together in Sanctuary

**April 8** - Daniel: God Saves Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, “God helps us stay strong.”

**April 15** - Daniel: God Saves Daniel, “God won’t let us down.”

**April 22** - John: Jesus is Coming and John the Baptist Prepares the Way, “God came to be with us.”

**April 29** - John: Jesus Answers Nicodemus’ Tough Questions, “Jesus isn’t afraid of hard questions.”

Contact Leslie Quantz with questions at [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org) or (510) 547.5700 x109)

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### APRIL CALENDAR

**Saturday, April 7** – Volunteer to Serve Lunch with CityTeam (ages 12 and over), 11 am – 2 pm, 722 Washington Street, Oakland

**Saturday, April 7** – Volunteer to Serve Dinner with CityTeam (ages 14 and over), 5-7 pm, 722 Washington Street, Oakland

**Sunday, April 8** – Psalm 23 window dedication, 10:30 am

**Monday, April 9** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2-4 pm, Guild Parlor

**Friday, April 13** – Kidz Club, 3:30 pm, Youth Room

**Saturday, April 14** – Ed Bartlett Memorial Service

**Sunday, April 15** - Mexico Celebration Sunday

**Monday, April 16** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 7-9 pm, Clara Barton Room

**Sunday, April 22** - Bible Sunday

**Saturday, April 28** – Berkeley Men's Shelter, 6:30 - 8 pm, call (510) 547-5700 to volunteer

### RECURRING EVENTS

#### Sundays

Rock Youth Group, 7-8:30 pm, Youth Room

#### Mondays

Spiritual Formation Group, 4:30 pm, Guild Parlor

#### Tuesdays

Small Group Bible Study, 7 pm, home of Bob and Judy Wright  
Rock Pizza Lunch, 12:45 pm, Youth Room

#### Wednesdays

LiveWire, 2:30- 3:30 pm, Youth Room

#### Thursdays

Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Guild Parlor

#### Saturdays

Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am, Founder's Room