



MICHAEL BARBER

## Window 2.0

Brad Matthews of Hyland Studio in Santa Clara, California, successfully removes a portion of stained glass inside the Piedmont Community Church Sanctuary Thursday, February 8. The entire window, which contains text from Psalm 23, will be restored over a six-week period, matching the original design from 1922.

## Holy Week Begins March 25

*Music program brings special energy to holiday*

■ BY SCOTT FITZGERRELL

### Palm Sunday, March 25

Appropriately, we'll be presenting Orlando Gibbons' *Hosanna to the son of David*, an elegant celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

widely regarded as the greatest organist and leading composer of his generation, and his lifetime corresponded to a high point in English music. "Hosanna," with its complex, entwined lines for all four parts, keeps us singers plenty busy—to good effect, we hope.

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

See 'HOLY WEEK', Page 3

## Here's Your Sign

On Presidents Day weekend, I visited the small town of Pescadero on the coast south of Half Moon Bay.

It was packed with tourists and it seemed every motorcyclist in the Bay Area had decided on this bucolic location as a part of a holiday ride.



DR. WILLIAM MCNABB  
Senior Minister

Who could blame them as the sky was a blazing blue and the air warm and just a mile away huge breakers pounded the stunning coastline.

Everything seemed to shimmer in the glorious late afternoon light.

I walked to the end of this one-street town to check out the old white wooden church. Pescadero Community Church, founded in 1867, just two years after the end of the Civil War. Looks like it is served now by rotating ministers whose name they write on a chalkboard. The two most prominent activities being advertised were the Pancake Breakfast and the Potluck Supper after church.

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

As I turned to leave, I noticed a crude hand painted wooden sign in the shape of a heart that had been posted on the telephone poll in front of the church. "KINDNESS ROCKS". The simple truth of that notion struck me hard. Not only is it true...but it is perhaps the truest truth there is.

I thought back to one of my favorite novels, *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater* by Kurt Vonnegut. In it, a local minister has refused to baptize two twin babies because they were born

See 'SIGN', Page 3

# With Gratitude

*We celebrate the success of our 2018 pledge campaign. Because of you, Piedmont Community Church continues to thrive in ministry and as a community of faith.*

\* Pledges received after February 26 will appear in the April edition of *The Messenger*

Cynthia Adams and David Baraff  
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 Patricia Ruvkun  
 Walter Ruxton  
 Diane Scarritt  
 Joseph Scherer and Clare Maier  
 David and Marion Schmidt  
 Paul and Susan Schroeder  
 Stephen and Debby Senter  
 Weston and Lisa Settlemier  
 Horton Shapiro  
 Josephine Shuman  
 Brad and Sue Shuster  
 Paul and Lonnie Simonson  
 Peter and Jackie Slabaugh  
 Florence Slater  
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 Brenda West  
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 Scott Willis and Charmaine Clay  
 Mason Willrich  
 Susan and Chris Willrich  
 John and Mary Wilson  
 Bruce and Linda Wolfe  
 Bruce and Jan Wolfe  
 Fritz and Mary Wooster  
 Jerry and Julie Wu  
 Steve Wuebbens  
 Gayle Young  
 Glen Young and Helen Yang  
 Lorri Zimmer  
 Steve and Jan Zovickian

‘SIGN’, Continued from Page 1

out of wedlock. So, Elliott Rosewater volunteers to baptize them down at the Volunteer Fire Department where he lives. Rosewater is sort of crazy, but in a sweet and even wise way.

He isn’t sure what to say at a baptism, so he just blurts out, “Hello, babies. Welcome to Earth. It’s hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It’s round and wet and crowded. At the outside, babies, you’ve got about a hundred years here. There’s only one rule that I know of, babies — Damn it, you’ve got to be kind.”

Not bad Mr. Rosewater. Not bad.

Someone once asked the Dali Lama to describe his religion. He simply replied, “My religion is kindness.”

I think mine is, too.



‘HOLY WEEK’, Continued from Page 1

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

As befits the day, we will present *God so Loved the World*, by the British composer, Bob Chilcott (b. 1955). The piece has been described as “fresh and unsentimental,” and yet it is very tender, as befits its message. Featuring a lovely soprano solo, it sets a much-loved text (Frances Townsend) to a 19th-century anthem tune by Sir John Stainer.

**Easter Sunday, April 1**

Easter sunrise: Bob Chilcott again, this time with a wonderful recasting of the Irish hymn, *Be Thou My Vision*, which we frequently sing in church.

The hymn has quite a history. The lyrics we use were translated into English in 1912, and set to the Irish folk tune, *Slane*, but the song is much, much older, having often been attributed to the sixth-century Irish Christian poet Saint Dallan, who was purportedly inspired by a hymn of St. Patrick’s. Just to confuse things, now historians date the text between 950 and 1100. The truth? Lost in Irish mists, it seems: what would you expect?

Easter Anthem: *Ride the Chariot*. This rousing spiritual was arranged by Wil-

liam H. Smith (1908-1944), a product of Boston Conservatory, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago—quite a pedigree. In his short life, he was an active composer and arranger, and “Chariot” is his best-known, enduring piece—for good reason. We hope you have as much fun listening to it as we do singing it!

Easter Offertory: *O, Clap Your Hands!* Fasten your seat belts, folks, we’re going for a ride, courtesy of Steve Main. It’s his rousing setting of a text from Psalm 47. Now, others have attempted the same thing, notably Ralph Vaughan Williams and John Rutter, but we’re betting none of them had nearly as much fun nor made as joyful a noise in so doing. The piece perfectly captures the joy of Easter, complete with bright, proclamatory brass and crashing cymbals. It’s guaranteed to send you off to your Easter feasting with joy in your heart.

**Palm Sunday, March 25**  
**Maundy Thursday, March 29**  
**Good Friday, March 30**

**Easter Sunday, April 1**  
**Sunrise Service: 6:30 am**  
**Worship Services: 9 and 10:30 am**

# Love Never Fails + Together We Can

## *All-Boards Retreat brings ideas, creativity into focus*



MAGGIE SPENCER  
Church President

Many institutions, including mainline Protestant churches, are undergoing challenging times. Piedmont Community Church is not immune from these struggles.

We have chosen to be proactive and are hard at work implementing plans and strategies to ensure our church remains both lively and secure.

With the mantras Love Never Fails and Together We Can to guide us, all three church boards met on a Saturday, January 20, for an All-Boards Retreat.

My main takeaways were three:

- All recognize that we need to grow membership, especially younger families
- Possibly the most connected people in the church - members of the governing boards - want to form more and stronger connections with each other to build community. They are eager to work actively with each other and to break down intra-church silos among the groups and among lay leaders and staff.
- There is a strong desire that our church be a truly intergenerational congregation, as evidenced in part by the desire to include children, youth and young adults in the worship services

Many ideas were generated, both general and specific, and all the boards will use them going forward, picking off the low-hanging fruit first and incorporat-

ing the rest into the next version of our Strategic Plan.

Much of the work listed on Strategic Plan Version 1 has been accomplished. We were truly blessed to receive a very generous gift for capital improvements. The benefits of the gift are apparent all over our facility: in the restored organ and sanctuary windows, kitchen, Chapel and many other places.

Websites are tremendously important in today's world and our website is how many people find our church. We therefore invested in a beautiful new website, with many bells and whistles.

And, finally, with the donor's consent, we used the gift to fund a Communications and Marketing Director position for three years, resulting in hiring our newest staff member, Michael Barber. He has been working non-stop to ensure that we will soon no longer be "the best kept secret" in the East Bay.

We have also been active in less obvious places, working to improve church operations. These tasks include crafting policies to guide the Nominating Committee, revamping job descriptions, strengthening Mexico mission trip budgeting, publishing financial information on the website, working towards a three-year budget and refreshing the policies that guide our Endowment Fund.

In these and many other ways, your leaders have been working diligently behind the scenes. More visible has been the work of a

new ad hoc committee, the Engagement Team. Led by Immediate Past President Mary Margaret Sinnema, this dedicated group conducted a church-wide survey last fall. At the All-Boards Retreat, we received a preview of the survey results.

In March, they will hold a series of facilitated discussions for various groups within the congregation. We all look forward to the report the team will generate when all the data has been collected and analyzed. This information will also guide the next iteration of the Strategic Plan.

The energy and commitment evident on that recent Saturday morning was inspiring, but not surprising. We have a strong and vibrant membership, as seen in the untold numbers of dedicated volunteers and staff who bring their talent and time to a myriad of tasks every day.

We continue to look for ways to energize our programs and shore up our church grounds. We are getting the word out about what who we are and what we do. We are not only welcoming, but inviting others to join us. After all, we offer a diverse community of faith that supports and serves each other and the wider community. What we have to offer is needed now more than ever!

Working together with love, we are making Piedmont Community Church even more vibrant and secure, to ensure it will be here to serve the generations to come.

**2018 Piedmont Community Church**  
**TREASURES**  
 furniture, books, linens, housewares, toys,  
 jewelry, china, silver, crafts, sports items, art,  
 garden supplies and much more!



**MARCH 10**  
**9 am - 3 pm**

**MARCH 11**  
**9 am - 2 pm**

# Let's Talk

## Engagement Team takes next steps

■ BY MARY MARGARET SINNEMA AND ELIZABETH BECKER

Piedmont Community Church is committed to growing engagement (one's emotional connection and sense of belonging to the church, not just involvement) as a vital way of achieving our strategic plan to improve our sustainability, vibrancy and communication to thrive in coming years.

When a congregation has a high percentage of highly engaged members, great things happen, like serving others more, inviting others more, having a greater sense of life satisfaction, growing spiritually, giving more, feeling cared for and appreciated and developing deep friendships.

These elements make a strong community for us now and in the future while creating an inviting, thriving community for new people to join.

Dedicated to guiding the engagement growth process this year, our committee needs to learn your thoughts and feelings about the church before we know how to grow engagement. We are learning in two phases. Phase 1 was the Congregational Survey that was completed last fall. Phase 2 is a series of Congregational Conversations that will take place in March.

### The Survey

We heard from over half of our active members, which is exceptional for survey participation. Your voices really matter. However, we found that several important voices to the future of our congregation were under-represented in the survey - new members, parents of teens, parents of children under 13 and inactive members.

### The Conversations

In March, we will host focused, 90-minute, facilitated conversations to gather insights from those who did not participate in the congregational survey and from the rest of the church community, for example - new members within 3-5 years, parents of teens, parents of children, seniors, recent empty nesters (parents with youngest child 19-26 years), inactive members, past leaders, friends of Piedmont Community Church who are committed non-members and membership at large (everyone).

We will email and host courtyard sign ups after worship to invite your interest in participating. Please only say "yes" if you are interested and available on the date specified. While many could fit in more than one group, there is only the opportunity to attend one conversation per person. We'll invite you to the one in which we feel we need your input the most and after making sure we have a diverse, balanced group.

With the most productive group size of 12-15, we thank you for understanding if not everyone can participate.

Please sign up after worship in early March or contact Liz Becker at (510) 388-6169 or [ebecker@beckercompany.com](mailto:ebecker@beckercompany.com)

Thank you for participating and encouraging others to do the same. With everyone's support, we can grow together in so many ways.

*The Engagement Team is Robin Asbury, Liz Becker, Eric Behrens, Anne Conneely, Debi Fitzgerrell, Kristine McCabe, Joe Scherer, Mary Margaret Sinnema, Dr. Don Ashburn and Dr. Bill McNabb*

# Family Fellowship Evening Event

Don't miss this evening of friendly conversation, food and wine. Friday, March 2 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at a local home. The event will be a time for parents and children to enjoy each other's company. Bring a dish or drink to share. RSVP to Leslie at [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org)

# GOOD NEWS!



## THE MESSENGER

has changed format, turning church information into welcomed inspiration. And, while reading online is a good thing, receiving your own copy by mail is even better.

Contact [Michael@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Michael@PiedmontChurch.org) to request your subscription.



SCOTT FITZGERRELL

## Good Moon Rising

Not many would argue that the Piedmont Community Church courtyard looks great in just about any light, but church member Scott Fitzgerald found moonlight best suited his ideal photograph. Taken on January 31 near the time of the Super Moon, Scott made this image with lighting help from church doorkeeper Nick Baz. Scott's camera was a Nikon D800E fitted with a 17-35mm lens. His exposure time was 8 seconds.

## Spring Cleaning Day is March 24

■ BY JIM KELLOGG

The Building and Grounds Group and the Handymen Team are sponsoring a Church Spring Cleaning Day Saturday, March 24, 10 am - 3 pm.

Church members and their families are invited to participate to help make the church an even more welcoming and inviting place, just in time for Easter. We will start in Guild Hall on Saturday

at 10 am to sign up for a project, pick up tools and materials (as well as donuts and coffee).

We will provide instructions and leadership for each project, as well as all of the parts and equipment needed.

We are grateful to the Men's Bible Study Group, led by Scott Fitzgerald and Eric Behrens, for volunteering to repaint the founders room.

We invite other groups to take ownership of projects, including; cleaning and refinishing selected walls in our main courtyard, cleaning and resealing our courtyard benches, replacing old light

bulbs and miscellaneous carpentry work in selected areas around our facilities.

We will also provide the opportunity for spring planting. Families can adopt a planter bed in selected areas of the campus that are in need of reinvigoration.

We will provide the materials and the families can design a layout for new flowers and planting appropriate for the location, plant and then watch it grow.

Contact Jim Kellogg at [jimkellogg49@gmail.com](mailto:jimkellogg49@gmail.com) or Jay Foreman at [jayforeman777@yahoo.com](mailto:jayforeman777@yahoo.com)

## Coming Home



JODY EARLE  
Guest Columnist

My first memories of Sunday School and church were of Chaplains on the different bases where my father, a Marine, was stationed.

In 1939, my mother led a Sunday school class on the U.S. Naval Receiving station – Yerba

Buena or Goat Island as we called it, in the middle of San Francisco Bay.

George Snavely Rentz was our Chaplain. Our lives were orderly and happy.

We sang *The Church By The Side of the Road* and watched fireworks from 300 yards away as they were detonated at the World's Fair on Alcatraz Island.

Four years later, we were in San Diego, California. My father was overseas in the South Pacific. My mother was trying to hold things together.

Chaplain Rentz had been awarded the Navy Cross after his ship, the USS Houston, was torpedoed and sunk in the battle of Sunda Strait. Seems he took off his life jacket and ordered a young

sailor to put it on and disappeared into the South China Sea.

My older sister Peggy and I decided we needed a church. We knew my mother was Catholic and my father Lutheran. We began visiting local churches and listening to the sermons. We did this as a private mission without any true discipline. I remember one had a motto "I AM" which I didn't understand and crossed it off the list.

We found Kensington Community Church on a quiet tree-lined street in San Diego. I joined their Junior Choir. They let me sing, even if I was off key. I can still hear, echoing in my ears "wherever I roam, it is calling me home, the Church by the side of the road."

Years passed and in the fall of 1957, I moved to Piedmont, started my new life and family just down the road from Piedmont Community Church. I was home.

*Share your stories with us in Seniors Sharing Conversations and Coffee for senior men and women in the Guild Parlor of the church on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11 am. No reservations, nothing to give, just drop in and chat.*

## Inspiring News

In the February edition of *The Messenger*, we met Rev. Maggi Henderson, Senior Pastor of Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

Her story as a student of Piedmont Community Church Sunday school is an inspiring example of the impact our church has on lives. A great example of the content we seek for the newly-designed monthly newsletter.

If you would like to share your personal story about the way in which Piedmont Community 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

## Stay Connected All Week Long

Consider following Piedmont Community Church on our website at [PiedmontChurch.org](http://PiedmontChurch.org) and on Facebook at [Facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch). Enjoy worship and event updates, along with stories highlighting the life of our church are told.

### 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.*

**MARCH 4**  
**SIMPLY CHRISTIAN**  
**Part 2 – How to be Rich and Still be a Christian**  
**Luke 12:48**  
**Rev. Dr. William McNabb**

**MARCH 11**  
**SIMPLY CHRISTIAN**  
**Part 3 – How to get Ready to Die Without Pretending It's No Problem**  
**Mark 9:24; 1 John 4:18**  
**Rev. Dr. William McNabb**

**MARCH 18**  
**SIMPLY CHRISTIAN**  
**Part 4 – How to Talk About Prayer Without Making God Look Bad**  
**Romans 8:26-28**  
**Rev. Dr. William McNabb**

**MARCH 25**  
**SIMPLY CHRISTIAN**  
**Part 5 – How to Hold Your Family Together**  
**Ephesians 4:1-3**  
**Rev. Dr. William McNabb**

## Sunday School

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

**March 4**  
2 Kings: God Provides for Elisha and a Widow, "God gives us what we need"

**March 11**  
Ezra: God Sends Ezra to Restore God's People, "God sees our hearts"

**March 18**  
Psalms: God Is David's Shepherd, "God watches over us"

**March 25**  
Jeremiah: God Chooses Jeremiah, "God knows who we really are"

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

# What Made it Through the Burning



DR. DON ASHBURN  
Associate Minister

The season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday which, this year, just happened to fall on the same day as Valentine's Day.

It's a seemingly odd congruence of holidays - one sacred and sombre; one secular and romantic.

Yet both, at heart, are about a great love - a creative spark - that ties us together as human beings and with the God of creation.

A poem I read helped me make this connection. It's called *Blessing the Dust*, by Jan Richardson. She wrote it for Ash Wednesday, and I share it with you, as a way to think of "dust" in a more holistic and holy way.

*All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial—*

*Did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?*

*This is the day we freely say we are scorched.  
This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning.  
This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes, that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.*

*So, let us be marked not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked not for shame.  
Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are but for claiming what God can do within the dust, within the dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made, and the stars that blaze in our bones, and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.*



Nearly 300 students and adult volunteers from Piedmont will travel to Mexico in April to build 18 homes for people in need. The Treasures Sale benefits this mission.

## Treasures Sale Benefits Mexico Mission Trip

*Event Set for March 10, 9 am - 3 pm and March 11, 9 am - 2 pm*

The Piedmont Community Church Treasures Sale raises funds for the Youth Mexico service trip. Students and adults build houses for the poorest of the poor in Tijuana.

These students forego a typical spring break vacation to serve others who are less fortunate and come back transformed.

Come to this important sale and leave with treasures ranging from furniture, books, linens, housewares, toys, jewelry, china, silver, crafts, sports items, art, garden supplies and much more.



# Simply Christian

A Sermon Series by Dr. William McNabb

Every Sunday in March  
 Piedmont Community Church  
 400 Highland Ave. 94611



## Drivers Needed to Make Worship Possible for Seniors



REV. DOTTIE HUTCH  
 Minister of Visitation

Piedmont Community Church offers programs which help to keep the seniors in our congregation well grounded, loved and socialized.

Each Sunday, volunteers pick up seniors at their homes and give them a ride to the 10:30 am Sunday worship, then take them back home after worship.

This is a valuable ministry to the church, and to the senior citizens, but we are running short on drivers. The commitment is minimal. The satisfaction and thanks are monumental.

If you feel called to help seniors come to church, please contact me and offer your service to assist in this ministry.

As one lady put it, "My week revolves around my worship time in church. It is the most important thing I do."

Jesus' burden of commitment is light, when done under the yoke of Jesus' love.

Please consider ministering to others with the gift of transportation to church. The rewards are intangible, but wonderful!

## Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

Dinner to be held in Guild Hall at 6:15 pm, March 29, followed by a Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Sign up at the Deacon's table after worship or contact Jean Leahy in the church office at (510) 547-5700 or Jean@PiedmontChurch.org. Price is \$15 for adults 18 and older before March 25, \$20 thereafter. Children 10 - 17, \$5. Free macaroni and cheese for children under 10.



## Malawi Famine Relief

In the photo above, Elders of Kafita Church in Malawi stop to enjoy the moment as they distribute a portion of 248 bags of maize flour to 248 famine-stricken families in Malawi, on February 21.

More than 1.3 million Kwacha (roughly \$1,900 US) was spent using money donated by members and friends of Piedmont Community Church.

Additionally, some families were given assistance by way of cement to rebuild, clothing and rent.

## Good Boy, Charlie

*Man's best friend teaches this dog new tricks*



MICHAEL  
BARBER  
Editor

My 16-year-old Italian Greyhound, Charlie, died a natural death last month. He stopped eating 2 days earlier signaling his time on this earth, and in my world, had come to an end.

Charlie was never any trouble, save for a broken leg he suffered once as a pup while chasing a cat. Darn cat. Oh, and there was that time he swelled up like a Macy's Thanksgiving Parade balloon after a bee sting, remedied by a doggie dose of Benadryl.

When Charlie was 10, I brought home his ruffian counterpart, Chloe. I made the mistake of thinking all dogs of the same breed were, well, the same. Not so. In fact, just the opposite. If Chloe were part of an Italian Greyhound mob, she would likely have a nickname like, "Chloe the nut job" or "Crazy Chloe." Or simply, "Screwball."

Meanwhile, Charlie maintained the demeanor of a "Gentle Don", quietly in control, in spite of Chloe's constant annoyance.

As Charlie turned 13, and 14, I teased that he was "the dog that would not die." He became cantankerous, often using his increasing age and decreasing senses to ignore commands like "come here" or "get in your crate" or "leave the trash alone." Funny, he never missed the faint sound of a cheese wrapper from 50 feet.

At 16, Charlie was mostly blind. He experienced difficulty walking. He had no teeth, causing his tongue to hang out one side of his mouth, which only added to his ornery demeanor.

In saying goodbye, I reflected on the life Charlie had made for himself. He refused to come in from the outside, choosing instead to face the sun in what appeared to be some canine connection to the Divine; to sniff the warm breeze; to run into the neighbor's garage in hopes they would pay a visit; to curl up next to Chloe under a blanket for hours; to enjoy a slice of cheese.

By embracing the small blessings we all take for granted, Charlie enjoyed what we all seek.

An unhurried life. A simple life.

A dog's life.

## Imani and Piedmont Choirs Unite March 4

The Imani Voices of Faith Choir and Piedmont Community Church Chancel Choir come together for an inspiring afternoon concert at Imani Church on Sunday, March 4 at 4 pm.

Imani Community Church is Piedmont Community Church's sister congregation in Oakland.

Their choir is led by Terrance Kelly who also directs the renowned Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Kelly and our own Dr. Stephen Main will bring these two stellar choirs together under one roof at Imani.

Each group will perform separately and then together in one large ensemble.

A fellowship reception will follow, giving you the chance to spend time with the wonderful members of our sister church.

Friends and neighbors are warmly invited.

Imani Community Church is located at 3300 MacArthur Blvd. in east Oakland.

## Notes from the Choir

■ BY SCOTT FITZGERRELL

*March is certainly music month for us toilers in the choir, and we are woodshedding in earnest. Here's what's up:*

### Sunday, March 4

*Jesus, I Adore Thee* is a luminous, polyphonic setting of a 13th century plainsong melody. The text is a loose translation of words originally attributed to Thomas Aquinas, with added passages from the Gospel of John. The composer, Stephen Caracciolo (b. 1962) is an American choral conductor widely recognized throughout the United States and Europe, and now working in Ohio.

This is our first shot at his work: it's unaffectedly beautiful.

### Sunday, March 11

Next up is *Happy and Blest are They Who have Endured*, by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). It's a movement from his larger work, the oratorio *St. Paul*, which he wrote when he was only 25 and which was very popular in his lifetime, although rarely performed today in its entirety. In the piece you hear the orderliness of the classical period fused with the nascent Romantic period to which Mendelssohn belonged. Melodic, gently flowing, and ravishingly lovely, this is a piece to treasure. (As Steve said in rehearsal one evening, "See, good music really is better!")

### Sunday, March 18

*The Light that is Felt*, by our own Stephen Main. This one is really special, folks. The text is a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), the American Quaker, abolitionist, and author. In three short verses, the poem winds its way from the image of a little child going to bed in the dark to a transcendent vision of God illuminating the lives of all humanity (still not quite sure how Whittier did this). And the music? Well, it's Steve's, so it's...well, illuminating doesn't quite do it justice. The music is a perfect setting for the beauty and subtlety of the words, and the result is a major piece in Steve's ever-evolving oeuvre—sensitive, gorgeous, and absolutely not to be missed.

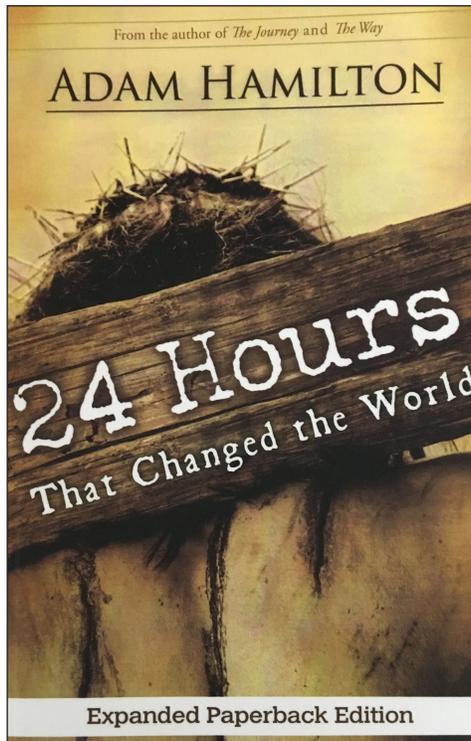
## Lenten Gatherings Address Christ's Last Days on Earth

This March, you are invited to join Dr. Don Ashburn for 4 weeks of prayer and conversation, based on Adam Hamilton's best-selling book, *24 Hours That Changed the World*.

The book helps us to relive the one day in history that changed everything, and to experience and understand the significance of Jesus' final hours for us today. Participants should purchase and bring a copy of the book to the first meeting.

Lenten Gatherings will take place on Thursday evenings; March 1, 8, 15 and 22, from 7 – 8:30 pm in the Christian Education Building Chapel.

For more information, or to order a copy of the book, EXPANDED PAPERBACK EDITION (which is available online at Cokesbury and Amazon.com), contact Dr. Ashburn at Don@PiedmontChurch.org



### PARISH REGISTER

#### DEATHS

*Carl Moore* passed from this life on January 31.

*Flora Larson*, mother of Christie Guidici, passed from this life on February 16.

*Kay Fisher*, mother of Robin Asbury, passed from this life on February 27.

## Thank You, Boy Scouts

Piedmont Church wishes to thank the young men who served as ushers on February 11, Boy Scout Sunday.

From Troop 1, Seamus Meagher, Frank Udovch and Cooper Ford.

From Troop 11, Francisco Cheung, Tommy McNeil and Patrick Bransfield.

## Lenten Food Drive

■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ

Kidz Club is sponsoring a Lenten Food Drive for the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) through April 1.

Look for food donation barrels in the Christian Education Building and by Guild Hall.

We are also participating in their Virtual Food Drive program. Visit <http://bit.ly/2n0qPpa> or the Alameda County Community Food Bank website at [accfb.org](http://accfb.org). Click on "give" go to Virtual Food Drive, click on "find your group."

Using their purchasing power, the food bank can turn a \$1 donation into \$7 worth of produce, eggs, milk and other healthy food. In Alameda County 1 in 5 residents access the ACCFB's services.

Contact Leslie at [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org)

## 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)

Spend a few hours at a **CHURCH WORK DAY** (next one March 24). Contact Lynn Nelson at [lnelson480@gmail.com](mailto:lnelson480@gmail.com)

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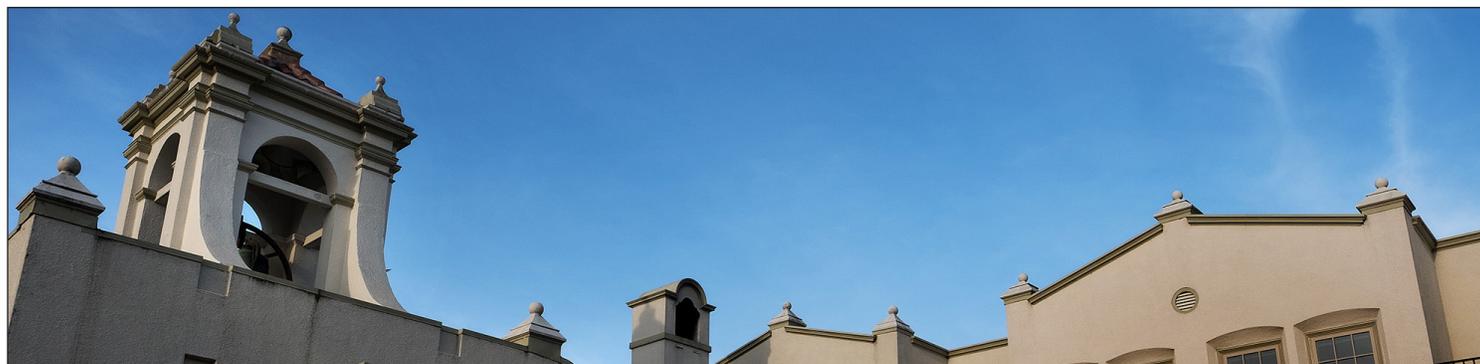
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## CALENDAR

**Thursday, March 1** – Lenten Gatherings, 7 pm

**Saturday, March 3** – Volunteer to Serve Lunch with CityTeam (ages 12 and over), 11 am – 2 pm, 722 Washington Street, Oakland

**Saturday, March 3** – Volunteer to Serve Dinner with CityTeam (ages 14 and over), 5-7 pm, 722 Washington Street, Oakland

**March 3-7** – Treasures Sale Donation Drop Off: Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 2 pm, Monday through Wednesday, 9 am – 7 pm.

**Sunday, March 4** – Imani & Piedmont Choir Concert – at Imani Community Church, 4 pm

**Sunday, March 4** – Communion Sunday, New Members Join

**Thursday, March 8** – Lenten Gatherings, 7 pm

**March 10 and 11** – Treasures Sale: March 10, 9 am – 3 pm, March 11, 9 am – 2 pm.

**Monday, March 12** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2-4 pm, Guild Parlor

**Thursday, March 15** – Lenten Gatherings, 7 pm

**Friday, March 16** – Kidz Club, 3:30 pm, Youth Room

**Monday, March 19** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 7-9 pm, Clara Barton Room

**Thursday, March 22** – Lenten Gatherings, 7 pm

**Saturday, March 24** – All Church Spring Cleaning Day

**Saturday, March 24** – Berkeley Men's Shelter, 6:30 - 8 pm, call (510) 547-5700 to volunteer

**Thursday, March 29** – Maundy Thursday Dinner (6:30 pm) and Service (7 pm)

**Friday, March 30** – Good Friday Service, 7:30 pm

## 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