



MICHAEL BARBER

## Gospel Truth

Clutching her new Bible, Piedmont Community Church third grader Stella Sucato listens intently to Dr. William McNabb while he delivers a brief message as part of an annual Bible presentation Sunday, April 22. Dr. McNabb encouraged the thirteen children who received Bibles to read the Gospel of Mark, first.

## A Treasure In Earthen Vessels

The Apostle Paul told early Christians to remember who they are and whose they are. It is just as important now 2,000 years later for anyone who seeks to serve God to do the same.



DR. WILLIAM  
MCNABB  
Senior Minister

As the congregation I serve turns one hundred eight years old, we will be trying especially hard to remember and be faithful to the mission to which God has called us.

Paul said Christians are a “treasure in earthen vessels.”

A contemporary translation called *The Message* puts it this way:

“Remember, our Message is not about ourselves...all we are is messengers, errand runners for Jesus...We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That’s to prevent anyone from confusing God’s power with us.”

So, who are we? “Errand runners for Jesus” carrying the message of God in the fragile imperfection of our personal lives. We are “cracked pots,” (some say cynically), imperfect servants, in which we make real the perfect love of God.

And, whose are we? We belong to God. Belonging to God does not make us self-assured and full of answers. Instead, belonging to God calls us to give ourselves to others in order with them to “live the questions.”

The contemporary church is meeting with unimaginable cultural change. Perhaps the healthiest approach to change is when change is greeted like the rings

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on trees: new rings are added without discarding the old ones.

The first miracle of Jesus had to do with earthen vessels (clay pots) in which he turned water to wine for a party that lasted a week! The community of faith needs to take its cue from that first miracle of Jesus and remember that celebration is an essential part of the religious life.

It is my hope that the religious community in the East Bay will join together to work more closely on the problems our world faces in the future.

May all churches, synagogues and mosques be willing to worship, learn, remember, party, and count the rings on the tree from the past and look with anticipation to the new ones that together we will add.

## Past Presidents Gathering

In our church's one-hundred plus years as a community church, a similar number of members have served as board president. Over the recent decades, this becomes a sizable group of people who have served in an important position, and then quietly moved on to other roles.

It's also an important resource of talent and committed individuals. In order to both recognize their service and begin to build a community of past presidents, on a recent Sunday following worship, Kirk and Christina Miller hosted a gathering of those who served since the 1980's.

About half of the group, including some who have since moved out of the area, were able to attend.

"I just thought a gathering of this group could only lead to good things," Kirk said. "The idea was simply to reunite one of the many groups of church volunteers, in hopes that it would encourage new and additional service, and that anytime there is such a gathering, the inherent synergy in the event can lead to new ideas and new church opportunities."

## Endowment Brick Ceremony May 20

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.

For more information, contact Bob Leslie, Endowment Development Committee Chair, at (510) 654-5125

## Adult Fellowship BBQ

Summer's on the way. And a great way to get it started is the annual Adult Fellowship BBQ on Friday, June 1.

We'll gather at 6:30 pm at the home of Alison and Guy Avagliano (7 Muir Ave, Piedmont).

Main dishes of salmon and beef will be provided. The rest is up to you, including salads, side dishes, desserts and beverages to share.

You can sign up starting on Sunday, May 13 in the courtyard after worship or by contacting Jean Leahy at [Jean@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Jean@PiedmontChurch.org) or (510) 547-5700. Cost is \$5



Instagram

@PiedmontCommunityChurch

## Psalm 23 Window Renovation

■ BY MAGGIE SPENCER

The Psalm Window restoration is complete. And, it is my great privilege to publicly heap praise on all those who were involved in this very special project.

Its completion brings to an end the larger project of repairing all of the windows in the sanctuary that needed work. We were able to take this on due to the generous anonymous fund gift we received.

But having the money is not enough. We also need people power. Our cup truly runneth over in that respect. The Board of Trustees' Buildings and Grounds Chair this year is Jim Kellogg. It's hard to imagine how any of this could have been done without Jim's skill set and leadership. He engaged Hyland Studios to do the work and was with them every step of the way.

When it came to the Psalm Window, we faced an unexpected choice. We had originally contracted for some repairs, but another option presented itself. You may recall that the panes of glass varied considerably in color and light. Repairs over the years had included replacing some of the glass panes with plastic, among other quick fixes.

Hyland proposed replacing all the panes, of course for a considerable extra charge. This is where Jim's participation became essential. He worked long and hard to ensure that the replacement panes duplicated the originals as closely as possible. This included finding a suitable font style that allowed the writing to fit within the panes.

Jim assembled an advisory team to weigh in with opinions as to whether he and Hyland were on the right track. In addition to the other B&G members, Jim Fleser, Scott Fitzgerrell, Bob Wright, Bob Leslie, Jay Foreman and Lani Taylor helped. And, when Marion Schmidt learned about the restoration plans, she and David participated in a very generous fashion as well.



## Engagement Team Readies Results

■ BY MARY MARGARET SINNEMA

*Measuring engagement and creating strategies to grow it is like enriching the soil for an abundant harvest.*

-Albert L. Winseman  
*Growing an Engaged Church*

The Engagement Team thanks you for sharing thoughts, feelings and experiences about your connection to the church. About 215 of us participated in the survey and 80 convened in conversation.

We have asked, listened and learned, and are ready to share the results of this important research with you. These

insights will be vital to inspire ideas and opportunities to grow engagement at Piedmont Community Church, together.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 23, 7 pm in the chapel.

Look for details soon in the bulletin and in your email about how to RSVP. Based on the interest, we will adjust the venue as needed to accommodate you comfortably.

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

**We need to understand where engagement stands today in order to identify and implement opportunities for growth.**



## Tiny Time Commitments

Many of our volunteer activities take minimal time and effort.

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

**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)



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

### PARISH REGISTER

#### DEATHS

*John Whalen* passed from this life on March 25.

*Paul Nancarrow* passed from this life on April 2.

### MONTH OF SUNDAYS

*Each Sunday, we gather to celebrate our faith and our friendships during worship at 9 and 10:30 am.*

**May 6**

**NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL**

**Part 2 – The Longing to Connect**

Mark 2:1-12

Rev. Dr. William McNabb

**May 13 Mother's Day**

**NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL**

**Part 3 – Put Down Your Stones**

Romans 15:7; John 8:1-4

Rev. Dr. William McNabb

**May 20**

**NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL**

**Part 4 – Spiritual Surgery**

Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Dr. William McNabb

**May 27 Memorial Weekend**

Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn preaching

## Sunday School

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

**May 6**

Matthew: Jesus Sends Out Twelve Disciples, "Jesus trusts us to do what he can do."

**May 13**

Matthew: Jesus Talks to the Pharisees, "Jesus doesn't want us to pretend to love him."

**May 20**

Acts: God Sends Christians the Holy Spirit, "The Holy Spirit gives us power."

**May 27**

All in sanctuary

Contact Leslie Quantz with questions at [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org) or (510) 547-5700 ext. 109

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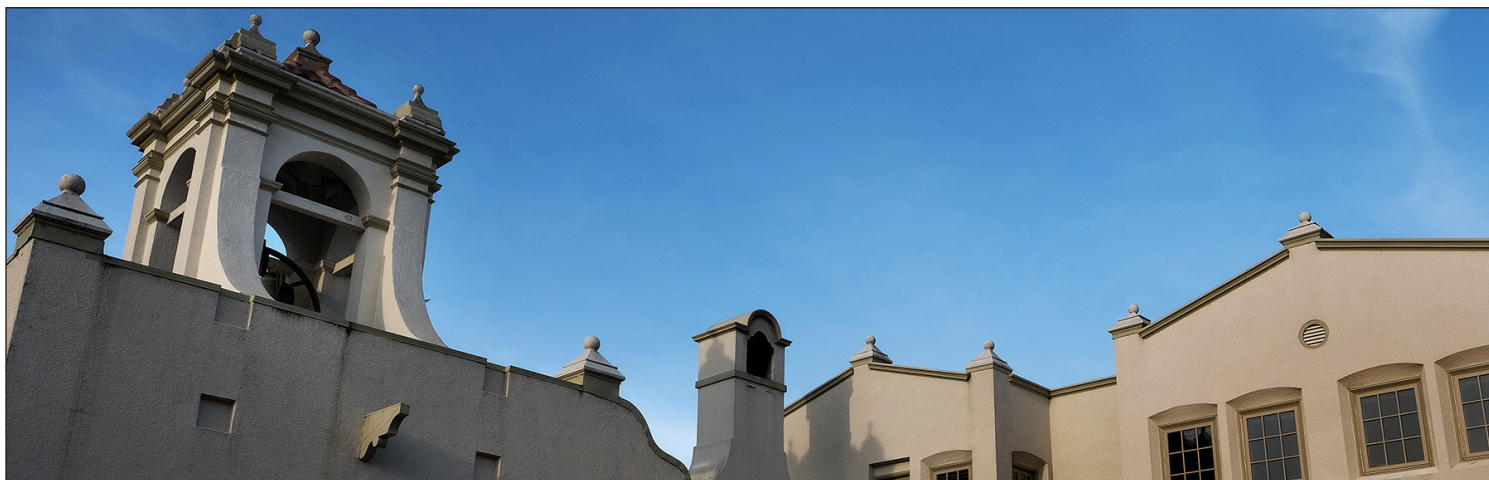
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## MAY CALENDAR

**Tuesday, May 1** – Come and See, 7 pm

**Wednesday, May 2** – Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Guild Parlor

**Saturday, May 5** – Volunteer to Serve Lunch with CityTeam (ages 12 and over), 11 am - 2 pm, 722 Washington St., Oakland

**Saturday, May 5** – Paul Nancarrow memorial and Reception, 2 pm

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

**Sunday, May 6** – Communion Sunday, New Members join

**Sunday, May 6** – Family Picnic, Piedmont Park, 11:30 am

**Monday, May 14** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2 - 4 pm, Guild Parlor

**Wednesday, May 16** – Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 - 11:30 am, Guild Parlor

**Friday, May 18** – KIDZ Club, 3:30 pm, Youth Room

**Sunday, May 20** – Endowment reception and brick dedication following 10:30 am worship

**Monday, May 21** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 7 pm, Murdock Room

**Saturday, May 26** – Berkeley Men's Shelter, 6:30 - 8 pm, call (510) 547-5700 to volunteer

**Monday, May 28** – Memorial Day, church office closed

## 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