



January 19, 2020

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

January is like a bridge—it connects us to the prior year and opens us to the prospects of a new year. During January our leadership focuses on the administration and business dimensions of our church. Together with office staff we work to close the financial books, write an annual report of ministry highlights, and prepare for our annual meeting of the congregation to review what transpired in 2019 and anticipate what the coming year might bring.

In some respects 2019 was a difficult and challenging year: as a congregation we experienced more loss of life than any other year in recent decades. In the fall, we opened our church facility to serve as a shelter for dozens of families who were evacuated during the Kincaid Fire. In other respects, we experienced valuable gains, such as: growing adult discipleship through educational classes and the apprentice immersion program, hiring Shawna Rundstrom as Director of Children’s Ministries with re-envisioned direction and emphasis. With bequests, we made significant improvements to our facilities and launched a 2½-year pilot program for young adults. To support specific priorities in 2019, Session decided to make use of retained income, projecting expenses to exceed income by \$20,000 to \$30,000. However, rather than draw down our retained income by that amount, in actuality we increased it by \$15,000 because of strong and faithful giving and reallocation of accounts.

Congregational Meeting ~ Sunday, February 9, 11:30 a.m. in Ingram Hall

Our meeting as a congregation is a vital expression of our shared life together. We enjoy table fellowship over a brunch meal, and hear stories of personal experiences related to our church. Our lineup of speakers this year includes: Teresa Jepson sharing about the added value of our facility improvements and building refresh projects, Jacob Wright sharing his reflections of how he first came to this church and what has kept him coming back, and Stacy Nuss reporting on the formation of our young adults fellowship group. We will also review highlights from 2019 and vote on the annual renewal of our pastor’s terms of call. This meeting is open to all (members and friends) as a great way to enjoy fellowship and learn more about our church’s priorities and operations. Children are welcome to attend with their families.

In conjunction with this meeting written copies of the annual report will be available the Sunday prior (February 2) and online.

Alongside you for Christ,

Dale

TODAY @ THE CONNECT CENTER

Sign up for:

- ◆ Dinners for 7 or 8
- ◆ Nomadic Shelter volunteer
- ◆ DivorceCare support group

Pick up:

- ◆ Youth and First Kids calendars
- ◆ Your Lifetouch Picture
- ◆ Lost & Found items
- ◆ F.I.S.H. flyer

Drop off:

- ◆ Recycled moss from Advent wreath

Click to read:

- ◆ Newsletter & 10:30AM

WE SERVE

Nomadic Shelter

First Pres hosts the homeless—through Redwood Gospel Mission's Nomadic Shelter—the first Tuesday evening of the month (through April). Get more details and sign up at the Connect Center to serve on February 4th.

Decade Mexico Mission 2020

The Mexico Mission Information Meeting will be held on January 26, from Noon-1:00 PM in room 224. ***All potential high school participants, as well as their parents, need to be present for this meeting.***

F.I.S.H. - Donations given on the last Sunday of each month for "2-Cents-A-Meal" are directed to "Friends In Service Here" (F.I.S.H.) to provide up to three days' supply of food from their food pantry to local residents. Flyers with details are available at the Connect Center.

WE CARE

Toni Faxon Memorial

Saturday, January 25, 1:00 PM

A memorial service for Toni Faxon will be held here on Saturday with a reception afterwards hosted by the Deacons.

Divorce Care

Join us February 6 at 6:00 PM in Room 113 to gain practical information, personal support, and growth through recovery. Sign up at the Connect Center or contact Colleen Soldate 890-8012.

Prayer Needs

~ *for health concerns:* Ron Hays, Theresa James, Mary Kemnec, Jacque Peacock, Carolyn Prud'homme, Anna Smith, and Lorraine Watson.

~ *for those serving in the military:* Benjamin & Jerra Brown, Josh Berto, Tom Cuneo, Blake Deal, Destinie Gacusana, Ian Gilliom, Edward Guerrant, Michelle Hauprich, John Hays, Rob Hills, Angel Hobbs, Matthew Kirby, Roger Klein, Josh Landreth, Rich Lawson, Treven Lipsey, Zackary Lipsey, Ryan MacLeod, Cooper Maloney, Luke McDonald, Vickie McDonald, Connor Aydan Momsen, Kevin Niles, and Travis Tre've.

WE GROW

Dinners for 7 or 8

Register by Feb. 16 to be part of a friendly, social group to connect and get to know each other in a personal way. Sign up at the Connect Center

Church Office Will Be Closed

Monday, January 20th

In Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the church will be closed. We will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 21st