

# THE MESSENGER



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Calendar</i>	2
<i>Session Highlights</i>	3
<i>Announcements</i>	4
<i>Birthdays</i>	5

**SESSION MEMBERS**

Current members of the Session are:

- Moses Bakhsh
- Mark Evans
- Wilson Kayange
- Marcia Fagan—  
Clerk of Session
- Harry Muaya
- Richard Frederick
- Luann Bangsund
- Kathleen Wilmot
- Ann Platz
- Jerri Rodewald
- Dick Jones
- Al Polchow
- Shirley Harry

## The Pastor's Corner



Happy New Year! Are you optimistic about the upcoming year? 2016 was a year to remember. When it came to an end, some expressed gratitude that 2016 was over and done as they look forward to 2017. Perhaps there are differences between the way an optimist and a pessimist enters the New Year. An optimist stays up on New Year's Eve until midnight in order to celebrate the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to midnight to make sure the old year leaves. And, indeed perhaps we are all a little of both.

The more important faith question might be what in your life during 2016 do you believe was of God and worthy of bringing forward? What in your life could just as well be left in the past with a fond (or not so fond) farewell? And what do you believe is God's vision for you in the year 2017? Since most New Year Resolutions are easier said than done, those questions are easier asked than answered. It is much easier to envision good resolutions than to make them happen.

According to the website, MyGoals.com, there are four key ingredients for accomplishing your goals:

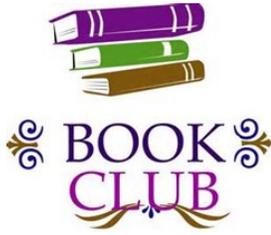
**Choose the Right New Year Resolution(s)**

- ◆ Create a Plan
- ◆ Stay on Track
- ◆ Remain Flexible and Keep Going

As Christians we hope that through prayer, worship, scripture, and service we will grow in our ability to view a vision for our lives, for our families and for our church through God's eyes. And so even as we think about "New Year Resolutions" it is good to remember that God keeps time differently than we do. Our clocks are set on Pacific Standard (*chronos*) Time. Our yearly calendars proceed through 365 days, 24 hours at a time. God operates in *kairos* time – on everlasting time. God fulfills vision in God's own time, and God's timing is always perfect.

As I personally reflect on 2016 I can see the fulfillment of God's vision in my life very clearly. For many reasons both in terms of *chronos* and *kairos* time, 2016 was the time for me to retire from full-time installed ministry even as I continued to feel enthusiastically called to serving PC(U.S.A.). While my circumstances changed the vision of serving God's church did not go away. I believe that my four months of serving the congregation at First Presbyterian of Redlands was a fulfillment of God's vision in my life and I pray for FPCR. I know that because during this short time of worshiping, teaching God's Word, and journeying through Advent together my motivation for using my gifts in ministry was renewed 10 fold! I've experienced a renewal of enthusiasm and creativity.

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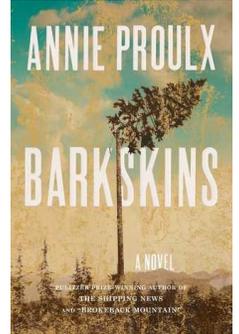
## FPC-Redlands *Monthly Book Club*

The January book club meeting will be held on Thursday, the 5th at the home of Marcia Fagan. The book of the month is *Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems* by Billy Collins.

Then in February we have *Barkskins* by Annie Proulx. Helen and Fred Waitz will host this one.

### THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

From Annie Proulx—the Pulitzer Prize– and National Book Award–winning author of *The Shipping News* and “Brokeback Mountain,” comes her masterwork: an epic, dazzling, violent, magnificently dramatic novel about the taking down of the world’s forests.



January 2017



<b>January 1</b> 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday New Year’s Day</b> Come as you are! English Worship Service Indonesian Worship Svc.	<b>January 15</b> 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> English Worship Service Farewell Reception Indonesian Worship Svc. Indonesian Youth Study
<b>January 2</b>	<b>Holiday</b> Office closed	<b>January 16</b> 6:30 p.m.	<b>Monday</b> Session Meeting
<b>January 5</b> 7:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Thursday</b> Sunrise in the Narthex Deacons Meeting FPC Book Club	<b>January 18</b> 1:30 p.m.	<b>Wednesday</b> Wenonah Circle
<b>January 6</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Friday</b> Knitting Companions	<b>January 20</b> 11:00 a.m.	<b>Friday</b> Coffee Shop Circle
<b>January 8</b> 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> English Worship Service Bible Study Indonesian Worship Svc. Indonesian Youth Study	<b>January 22</b> 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> English Worship Service Welcome Pastor Raine Indonesian Worship Svc. Indonesian Youth Study
<b>January 9</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>Monday</b> Worship Committee	<b>January 29</b> 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> Multicultural Worship Service & Congregational Meeting Potluck Lunch
<b>January 10</b> 5:15 p.m.	<b>Tuesday</b> Property & Finance	<b>January 30</b> 12:00 p.m.	<b>Monday</b> Bridge Club
<b>January 12</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>Thursday</b> Christian Education		

## Session Highlights

December 2016

by Marcia Fagan



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regular scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday, December 19, 2016 and took the following actions at the meeting:

- Received the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2016:

Total Income:	\$28,750.74
Total Expenditures:	\$21,569.78
Excess Income/Expenses:	\$7,180.96
Balance in General Account:	\$64,807.71

- Approved eight vacation days for Pastor Sara McCurdy.
- Approved Rental Agreements with the various FPCR renters for 2017, based on a recommendation from the Property & Finance Committee.
- Approved joining with three other churches from the area around Cajon and Olive Streets (First Baptist, First Congregational, First Methodist) to contract together for a nightly security patrol at a total monthly cost of \$1,101. This monthly cost will be divided evenly among the four churches. The approval is contingent on checking with our insurance carrier for issues of liability or additional cost of insurance to FPCR for the nightly patrol.
- Approved the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service to be held in John Knox Hall on Sunday morning, January 1, 2017, with the Rev. Ron Duvall leading the service.
- Approved a reception for Pastor Sara McCurdy in John Knox Hall after the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, January 15, 2016 (her last day with FPCR), to express our gratitude for Pastor Sara's service and commitment to our church.

Continued from page 1

Pastor's Corner

So even though on some level I could join the crowd happy to see 2016 end, all and all I thank God for 2016 largely because of the last four months and I look forward to what God has in store for 2017. Thank you God! Thank you FPCR!

I know that God has wonderful things in store for FPCR as you welcome your long-awaited Installed Pastor in 2017. In *kairos* time God's vision is being fulfilled. And so I encourage you to remain prayerfully open to catching God's vision for your church. Seeing the value of your past and setting out toward a New Year through God's eyes can be the most motivating, mysterious, and challenging experience that can happen. Here is another set of key ingredients. These are meant to help align your vision and goals with God's will for you.

#### Characteristic of a God-Given Vision

- ◆ The vision won't go away.
- ◆ The vision does not change, even when circumstances do.
- ◆ The vision is confirmed and directed by God through people.
- ◆ The vision brings confidence and endurance.
- ◆ The vision brings motivation and dedication.

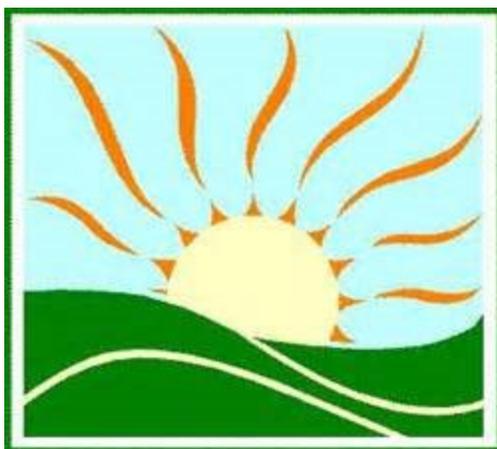
Please know that as I prepare for my mid-January departure from FPCR, your support and encouragement has renewed my love for the local church and confirmed my belief that God's love will continue to be present directing us personally and corporately in 2017. The moment and duration of God's timing is always perfect. Memories of my time with you are of God and are certainly worthy of bringing forward as I bid you a very fond farewell.

Pastor Sara McCurdy

## The Redlands Area Interfaith Council Meet and Greet

On Thursday, January 12, 2017, The Redlands Area Interfaith Council invites you to come Meet and Greet the 2017 officers and representatives from the various member faiths.

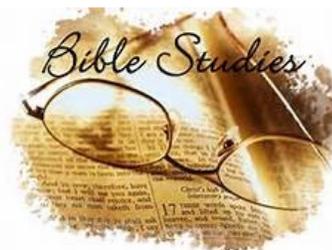
The meeting will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. at First United Methodist church and includes food and drink— At least bagels and coffee and other items brought by volunteers. Called an "Annual Meeting" but combined with a coffee club, RAIC satisfies its by-laws and you meet old and make new friends!



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunrise** wraps up the current session Thursday, January 5th, 7:00 a.m. in the Narthex.

The **Coffee Shop Bible Study Group** meets the third Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Karen Dwight will be hosting the January meeting on the 20th.



The **Wenonah Circle** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, at 1:30 p.m. Helen Waitz will host the meeting this month.

*Wenonah [wenon-ah] as a girls' name is a Native American Indian name, and the name **Wenonah** means "first-born daughter". **Wenonah** is an alternate spelling of Winona (Native American Indian): from Sioux Indian.*

Happy Birthday!	
January 1	Adrian Rioballove
January 16	Isabel Browne
January 16	Albert Frans Ompi
January 17	Lois Bohlman
January 20	James R. Appleton
January 20	Gayle Timilione
January 24	Larry Dwight
January 29	Joyce Crawford
January 31	Mary Lou Martinez
January 31	Sorta Ruth Alice Tobing (Sirait)

### Deacon's Message



We dropped the ball on getting the forms for poinsettia dedications into the bulletin this year (it was in the Christmas Day bulletin only) and so, we didn't get everyone's dedications into the following week's bulletin either. The following people remembered loved ones despite short notice:

**Jean A. Crowell & Judy Crowell Kenny**, in loving memory of Donald & Gertrude Anderson, parents and grandparents;

**Amanda Thompson** in loving memory of her grand parents Joan and Chuck;

**Patti Robertson** in loving memory of Emma and Ray Lloyd and Buff Robertson;

**Karen and Larry Dwight** in loving memory of Karen's mother, Ruth Speckman;

**Izar Martinez** in loving memory of Carol Jean

**Mary Lou Martinez** in loving memory of Lee Arnold

**Judy Tanner** in appreciation of the many friends made at FPC Redlands;

**Martha Jane Bannister** in memory of Rev. Robert Bannister.

If you would like to lend a hand this year, the Deacons Nominating committee would be delighted to hear from you. If you're not the "committee type" but would like to help others on a more casual basis, you can sign up to be part of the Auxiliary Team to do Communion set-up, visit shut-ins, deliver meals, or provide transportation. Call the office or see Gayle Timilione for more information on how you can assist.

**First Presbyterian  
Church of Redlands**

100 Cajon Street  
PO BOX 2009  
Redlands, CA 92373

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

Phone: 909 793-2839  
E-mail: [fpcredlands@verizon.net](mailto:fpcredlands@verizon.net)

Visit us on the web at:  
[fpcredlands.org](http://fpcredlands.org)

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## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF REDLANDS

An Inclusive Community of Faith, Hope and Love

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands is to grow spiritually with the community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all who seek to know God through worship, prayer, fellowship, and evangelism.

