

# THE MESSENGER



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**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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Little in life is more precious than a child with a gift to give, a gift prepared for a loved one. Children bring a sense of unbridled joy and overwhelming anticipation to the process of gift giving. The moment finally arrives when it is time to offer the present and anyone who has been on the receiving end of such delight can tell that this is something the little one has planned carefully, probably put much effort into making, eagerly thought about and is now bursting at the seams to see the joy the gift will bring. Children give from their hearts, which allows them to be emotionally present throughout the process of giving, and spiritually present as well. A child's gift is clearly motivated by love. How very precious is that experience!

What motivates your giving? Stewardship can be described as "the wise use of, and the joyous intention to become more generous with, all of God's gifts: time, talent, treasure, and terra firma." If we could just bottle the "joyous intention" that motivates a child's giving we would really have something.

So, what does motivate your giving? It has been noted that a Christian's understanding and motivation for giving to their church is connected to the generational experiences that a person has. This approach comes out of the



"Generations Theory" research conducted by William Strauss and Neil Howe that was published in their widely read book, *Generations: The History of American's Future, 1584 to 2069*.

Four living generations are identified:

- The GI Generation includes people born between 1901 – 1924
- The Silent Generation includes people born between 1925 – 1942
- The Boomer Generation includes people born between 1943 – 1960
- The Xer Generation includes people born between 1961 – 1981
- The Millennial Generation includes people born between 1982-2002

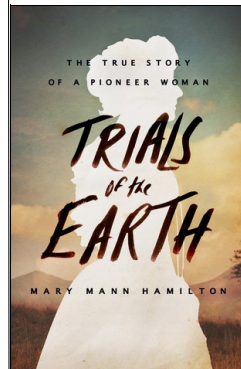
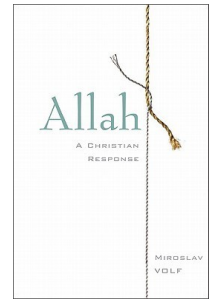
Here is a synopsis of how one's generation might affect a person's relationship to giving.

The GI and Silent Generations experience of money and stewardship was an aspect of childhood training. They were trained to save nickels and dimes "in the milk box". Because they have a high level of trust and participation in the local church they are for the most part "first fruits" givers. This generation sees giving as a civic or public necessity and responsibility. Gratefully they are the likeliest to pledge during an annual stewardship campaign and also the most likely generation to be titers. For GI  
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## FPC-Redlands Monthly Book Club

The November book club meeting will be held on Thursday, the 3rd at the home of Chris & Lisa Kane. The book of the month is *Allah: A Christian Response* by Miroslav Volf.



Then in December we have Mary Mann Hamilton's *Trials of the Earth*. Dick & Mary Lou will host this one.

*Conveyed in frank and expressive prose by a natural-born writer, and withheld for almost a lifetime, Trials of the Earth will resonate with readers of history and fiction alike—an emotional testament to our ability to endure, as well as the story of extraordinary love and the allure of pioneer life.*

Goodreads.com

November 2016



<b>November 3 Thursday</b> 10:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m. FPC Book Club	<b>November 16 Wednesday</b> 1:30 p.m. Wenonah Circle
<b>November 4 Friday</b> 10:00 a.m. Knitting Companions	<b>November 18 Friday</b> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Shop Circle
<b>November 6 Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. English Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Indonesian Worship Svc.	<b>November 20 Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. English Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Indonesian Worship Svc. 5:30 p.m. Indonesian Youth Activities
<b>November 7 Monday</b> Church Secretary Vacation Day	<b>November 21 Monday</b> 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting
<b>November 10 Thursday</b> 9:30 a.m. Christian Education	<b>November 24 Thanksgiving</b> Church office closed
<b>November 11 Veterans Day</b> Church office open 9:30–1:30	<b>November 25 Friday</b> Church office closed
<b>November 13 Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. English Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Indonesian Worship Svc. 5:30 p.m. Indonesian Youth Activities	<b>November 27 Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. English Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Indonesian Worship Svc. 5:30 p.m. Indonesian Youth Activities
<b>November 14 Monday</b> 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee	<b>November 28 Monday</b> 12:00 p.m. Bridge Club
<b>November 15 Tuesday</b> 5:15 p.m. Property & Finance Committee meeting	<b>November 30 Wednesday</b> 12:00 p.m. Advent Devotion & Music

# Session Highlights

by Marcia Fagan

October 2016



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regular scheduled Stated Session Meeting on October 17, 2016, as well as a Special Called Session Meeting on October 3, 2016, and took the following actions at the two meetings:

Received the Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2016:

Total Income:	\$17,853.50
Total Expenditures:	\$18,553.12
Excess Income/Expenses:	(\$699.62)
Balance in General Account:	\$55,353.66

- Approved a special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, October 30, 2016, after the 11:00 a.m. Multicultural Worship Service, for the purpose of hearing a recommendation about a pastoral candidate from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), approving the recommendation to call the candidate (Teaching Elder), and approving the Terms of Call for this Teaching Elder.
- Received information from Christian Education & Evangelism Committee about some very important upcoming activities:
  - ~ Redlands Faith Community Thanksgiving Service: Sunday, November 13, 2016  
(at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Redlands)
  - ~ "Bridges of Peace from Shadows of Grief": Saturday, November 19, 2016  
(San Bernardino Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tragedy Remembrance at Orton Center at U of R)
  - ~ Las Posadas: Saturday, December 17, 2016
- Expressed gratitude to Chris Kane for the recent Adult Education classes on St. Paul.
- Approved Pastor Sara and Chris Kane as Adult Education Sunday School Teachers.
- Received information on the upcoming "Fall Giving Tree," which will be in the Narthex from Sunday, October 30, 2016 through Sunday, November 13, 2016.
- Approved the establishment of a Stewardship Committee. Dick Jones and Jerri Rodewald will be Co-Chairs of this Session Committee. Approved the timeline for the Stewardship Campaign.
- Approved the recommendation from the Worship & Congregational Life Committee that The Lord's Supper be included in the Multicultural Worship Service on Sunday, October 30, 2016, in lieu of having The Lord's Supper at the 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Worship Services on Sunday, November 6, 2016.
- Received information from the Worship & Congregational Life Committee about an upcoming musical offering by the a cappella group **Laudat** at the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, December 4, 2016. Session then approved that this talented group of singers be permitted to use the Sanctuary for an additional performance that afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

## Deacon's Report by Gayle Timillione



The Board of Deacons would like to inform you of two very important programs: one that enables you to give without donating a penny; and the other a priceless contribution to the community.

First, our church has a partnership with Provident Bank (a local bank with branches in Riverside, Redlands, Moreno Valley, Temecula, Sun City, Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Hemet, Corona, and Blythe). Provident generously donates an amount based on a percentage of funds on deposit by our members and friends. Not only checking accounts, but money market, certificates, and other deposit accounts, figure in to what they donate every year. All you have to do is designate FPC Redlands as the non-profit of your choice to start the money rolling into the Deacons' account. This costs you **nothing** and it's perfectly confidential. The church doesn't even know

who participates. So, sign up today!

The second "priceless" part is the work that Christian Counseling Service does in our community.

As the Moderator, I was invited by Mary Lou Jones, who is on the Board, to attend their Annual Report Dinner and program. I was impressed with the expansion of their many services, including the opening of their new location at 101 E. Redlands Blvd. (in Centennial Plaza, across from the Tartan restaurant).

Christian Counseling Services is a non-profit organization providing assessment, screening, therapy, and educational services to church and community organizations and the general community. Their primary focus is on children and families, incorporating pastoral care with counseling.

CCS is dependent upon the support of this church and their community of donors. Their "priceless" work depends upon all of us, including Provident Bank.

Thanks again for your support.



### Looking forward to Advent

Please put these dates on your calendar:

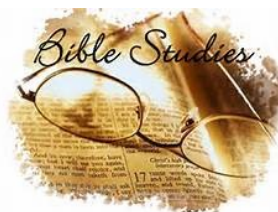
**Music and Meditation** begins on Wednesday, November 30, at Noon in the Sanctuary. There will be 30 minutes of meditative music and then time for meditation (self-determined). It continues through Wednesday, December 21.

**Sunrise** begins Thursday, December 1, 7:00 a.m. in the Narthex and continues every Thursday, through January 5, 2017.

Sunday, December 4, **Laudat** will be singing during worship and then present a one-hour concert at 1:30 p.m. This is the a cappella women's group that sang for us last year.

**Advent devotions** will be in each Sunday's bulletin, as well as emailed to members/friends weekly.

**Christmas Eve service**, Saturday evening, December 24, will be held in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. Worship service on **Christmas Sunday** will be at the regular 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. hours.



The **Coffee Shop Bible Study Group** meets the second Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Marcia Fagan will be hosting the November meeting (on the 18th).

The Wenonah **Circle** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, at 1:30 p.m. Veta Arnold will be hosting the group on November 16th.

**The Giving Tree** will be in the Narthex through November 13. Every year we coordinate with Family Services of Redlands to make sure that children and teens from low income families have at least one new gift to open for Christmas. Pick a gift to give from the tree and then see Terry or Ann to donate your gift.





# Look who's having a birthday!

Happy Birthday!	
November 1	Erie E. Tan
November 2	Ernawati Ompi
November 3	Laura Dwight Greene
November 3	Janet D. Jackson
November 4	Alexandra Chamberlain
November 7	Gary Leslie Platt
November 10	Nusrat Foster
November 16	Debbie Hamada
November 19	Grace Baldwin
November 20	Steven Sihombing
November 21	Callie Lockwood
November 21	Alison Kayange
November 23	Elke Liesl Zak
November 23	Mark Evans
November 26	Christine Evans

## Thanksgiving Celebration

Celebrating Redlands Multi-Faith Traditions  
 Sunday, November 13th, 4:00 p.m.

Redlands Area Interfaith Council invites you to the Annual Thanksgiving Service. The host church is Redlands Seventh Day Adventist Church at 520 Brookside Avenue, in Redlands.

Experience one of the treasured holiday interfaith events of the year. There will be beautiful music, which includes a Redlands area Community Choir, and refreshments.

Free-will donations will be accepted to benefit the Food Bank with Family Service Association of Redlands. Call (909) 792-9414 for more information.

## Bridges of Peace from Shadows of Grief

will be held November 19th, at 7:30 p.m., at the University of Redlands Orton Center. This event promotes community peace and understanding as we approach the first anniversary of the deadly violence of last December. World-renowned theologian, Miroslav Volf, will lead through a time of remembrance and reflection.

Dr. Volf is a public intellectual who has spent his career offering practical and scholarly insights for meeting the complex tasks of gaining peace among conflicting cultures and viewpoints. He is known internationally as a "theologian of the bridge." He has also authored many celebrated books.

## Annual Warm Coat Drive

Help keep someone warm this winter by donating your clean, gently used, or new cold weather clothing.



- Hats
- Gloves
- Coats
- Scarves
- Jackets
- Boots
- Sweaters
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags

Collection by the Redlands Service Club Council, local community organizations, churches, public and private schools in RUSD, and the University of Redlands

Sorting, cleaning and repairing will be done by  
*Women of Faith Redlands*  
on Thursday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.

Call Jean Arnott (909) 648-3436 if you would like to assist.

Your donated items will be distributed to Family Service Association of Redlands, Fire & Burn Foundation, Inland Temporary Homes, Angel's Closet, Youth Hope, Building a Generation, and the Blessing Center. The last pick up will be on Wednesday, December 7th.

Warm thanks for your kindness!

*For more information, contact: Women of Faith Redlands – Jean Arnott (909) 648-3436 or University of Redlands Student Volunteer Center – (909) 748-8463*

## Stewardship 2017 at Redlands First Presbyterian Church

It's that time of year again! Except, this year, there is more than usual excitement in the air with the announcement of our new pastor and her arrival in our community. Along with the excitement and anticipation, there are also increased needs! Our stewardship commitment is one of our most important investments. We are investing in a very hopeful and aggressive future as we approach 2017.

When the Session asked for your participation in determining our most urgent needs, you told us that John Knox Hall was the highest priority. The 2017 budget will include \$7,500 for entryway doors and floors, and new room dividers to provide additional creative space for activities. Another addition will be a budgeted amount of \$3,000 for consultation services as we begin to determine modifications for the Sanctuary.

The major addition to our budget will be the costs related to the pastor's salary package in an additional

amount of \$15,800. These three items amount to an increase of 15 per cent over and above our budget for this year. So, as Session budgets for 2017, including these additional costs, we are asking you and your family to consider a 15 per cent increase in your pledge/donation to First Presbyterian Church.

We know that not everyone will be able to increase their pledge by that percentage; whereas, hopefully some will be able to go beyond it. We are asking for a stretch by all of us, so that our goals can be met.

You will hear more about our stewardship plans during November worship services and by letter to your home. This is our opportunity to express our commitment and extend our faith in the church and community. Please prayerfully consider your commitment.

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*The Pastor's Corner*

generation members giving is always worth the sacrifice. Folks from the Silent Generation give generously out of their commitment to the church - its programs and ministry. We are grateful for the GI and Silent Generation. They have a special legacy in the church and have much to teach about stewardship!

Baby Boomers and X'ers were born into the post-war economic boom. Many did not receive the same early childhood training and some come from un-churched backgrounds so stewardship might be a new conversation. Many Boomers were taught that giving is a personal option, a personal possibility, not a public or civic necessity. For Boomers, money is a tool. Money is meant to be spent as a means of exchange whereby the church can get what it wants and needs. So rather than saving money for a "rainy day", both Boomers and X'ers are most likely to feel motivated to give generously when they feel an emotional connection with the something to which they give. Boomers and X'ers have much to teach regarding a Christian's need to give. They see giving not so much about what the church is going to do with the money as it is about the believer's need to give. Giving for this generation is seen as a spiritual discipline. God is generous. God's grace is freely given. God died for us. The believer's need to give in response is practiced like prayer that leads to growth along the spiritual path of becoming more Christ-like.

While the Millennial Generation has a very different experience of the world, it is identified as having some of the same characteristics as the GI and Silent

generations by way of being civic-minded. This is a generation whose identity is largely formed by the events of 9/11 and after. While they may need to be more informed on the actual costs of running a local church, they are more likely to give out of commitment and trust. The church for Millennials is seen as different than any other volunteer organization. Rather than being a "volunteer", the church is an organization to which God calls us. Church is a unique institution. While one can choose to be a member of the Rotary Club, it is God who calls us to the church. We have much to learn from this generation also. For the Millennials giving starts with their understanding of God's call on their lives and branches out from there.

What motivates your giving? We can certainly learn from one another.

But this question applies to members of all ages. How can we all be more like a child who is filled with the experience of unbridled joy and eager anticipation at the prospect of giving our tithes and offerings to the church next year?

Through prayer, through the experience of knowing yourself and your own motivation, my prayer is that you will find the motivation to give to the annual stewardship drive in a way that will fill you with the joy of a child whose gift comes directly from the heart.

In Christ,  
Pastor Sara McCurdy

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*Stewardship 2017*

In II Corinthians 8:7, Paul reminds us, "just as you are rich in every respect, in faith and discourse, in knowledge, in total concern, and in the love we inspired in you, you may also abound in this work of grace", and verse 12, "so long as the heart is willing, it's what you have that is acceptable, not what you don't have."

Pledges will be received and dedicated on Sunday, December 4.

Jerri Rodewald & Richard Jones, Stewardship Co-Chairs

## STEWARDSHIP



***The Growing Power  
of a Grateful Heart***

**First Presbyterian  
Church of Redlands**

100 Cajon Street  
PO BOX 2009  
Redlands, CA 92373

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

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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.

