



## Modesto Church of the Brethren

2301 Woodland Avenue Modesto CA 95358-9501 (209)523-1438  
fax: 209-343-0847 ♦ e-mail: [goodnews@modcob.org](mailto:goodnews@modcob.org) ♦ web site: <http://www.modcob.org>  
Pastors: Russ & Erin Matteson

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

### Commencement

Last week, the last month really, has been filled with reports on commencement exercises, really quite a wonderful name to give to the process of graduating. So often we think about graduation being a time of having finished something: 8th grade, high school, college, trade school. What we have been doing is done. We have met the requirements for the diploma. We have finished the course of study.

But the service is one of commencement - a service of beginning. Instead of this being the last day of high school or college, the ending achievement, we are encouraged to think of graduations as beginnings. The beginning of a new phase of education, the beginning of a new time of volunteerism, the beginning of a career. Graduates are encouraged to take just a moment to take in what they have accomplished, and then they are turned towards the future and how they will make use of the time and opportunities that lie ahead.

We Brethren folks should understand this well, because in many ways this is similar to how we talk about faith. Baptism is not the ending ritual that says we have made it into the Kingdom of Heaven, baptism is the beginning of a deeper journey of following after the way of Jesus and working even more passionately to be a part of God's kingdom here on earth. We talk about the life of faith being made up of daily choices, that each morning we commence the walk of faith anew.

And as we seek to continue the work of Jesus together in this place we are never done. Each day there is a new opportunity for us to extend hospitality, share love, work for peace and justice, offer acts of service and compassion, you get the idea. So each day gives us the opportunity to commence our work anew, to begin with a new spirit and new energy as we work to be a part of God's healing work for our world. I look forward, as always, to working with you.

Shalom, Pastor Russ

### "Peace Between Us"

As we get ready to begin our week of Peace Camp/VBS we will explore the theme of "Peace Between Us" in worship June 13. How we live out relationships with those closest to us, family members, friends, sisters and brothers in the church, are key to building a more peaceful world. The Modesto High School Chamber Choir will bring special music during the service.

### Our own special messenger

Read 2Corinthians 4:6-10 and 16-18 before June 20. Join us for this special Sunday when Kelsey Boardman, who was selected to bring part of the message for a worship service at National Youth Conference, shares her message with us.

### Hold in God's light . . .

. . . **The Owen Family** following the May 31 death of **Roy**, patriarch of a large, loving family.

### Important council item

Be sure to read the report from the Community Ministry Center Committee recommendation. It's down a ways.

### Thanks to our great custodian

Mike Breshears, Modesto Church of the Brethren's custodian, was recognized for 20 years of caring for our church facility. Church members wrote words of commendation on a giant anniversary poster which was presented to Mike along with gift cards for dining and movie entertainment. We feel blessed to have Mike as our caring custodian.

--Personnel Committee

### Add these events to your calendar

#### **Faith Bites on Sabbatical**

With Wednesday Night Faith Bites not happening this summer, don't forget the challenge to invite small groups of folks into your home for dinner this summer. What a great way to get to know old and new friends better!

#### **Plan to be at Council Meeting**

Join your sisters and brothers after worship on June 13 as we discuss and vote on the recommendation from the Community Ministry Center Building Committee to terminate the project. There will be a lite lunch served before we begin the meeting. The next Chimes will have some additional sharing from the Building Committee to further explain the recommendation they have brought to Council.

#### **Father's Day BBQ waiting for you!**

Join us Father's Day, June 20, immediately after worship for a little earlier lunch as we enjoy a meal of wings and salads in honor of dads and good men everywhere. Fellowship & Recreation will provide the chicken wings and you are invited to bring any kind of salad to share. Invite a friend and enjoy the fellowship!

#### **Prospectors have summer meal together**

Prospectors are invited to Carla Messamer's home/back yard, 1017 Mathia Dr., 523-0629, for a potluck supper on June 27 at 5:30. Bring a dish to share.

#### **Lectio Divina in The Quiet Place**

Come for a quiet time of silence and prayer with others. Monday June 28<sup>th</sup> is the date and you are invited to sign-up ahead of time in the church narthex area or by calling the church office. All are welcome.

## *Congratulations to our Graduates*

We extend our congratulations and prayers to our new graduates. Graduating from Beyer High School were Kelsey Boardman, Nick Browning, and Vincent Castaneda. Graduating from Modesto High School were Vic Jacobs, Emily Matteson, Megan Mizuno, and Haley Walker. Carlee Farrar graduated from CSU-Humboldt. Best wishes to you all for the future. Sorry we don't have pictures of all of you.



## *Can you help with lost items?*

Deacon table clothes, napkins, etc... are kept in the main pantry in the kitchen and marked. A few days ago, it was discovered that about 24 of the new plastic table clothes placed there are missing. If you know someone or you might have taken them not realizing they were deacon supplies, please let Pastor Erin or Marye Martinez know. Thanks for any help.

## *Update your "Graduation" plans*

It has been a couple of years since we have encouraged folks to fill out their directive/wishes for time of death and after—a graduation, as it might be considered. There is a packet that includes

- 1) Planning Ahead for Graduation,
- 2) Personal Information for Time of Death and Post Death Planning Wishes for Committal/Funeral/Memorial,
- 3) Information for Time of Death for Your Personal File,
- 4) Five Wishes,
- 5) Advance Health Care Directive Form and Emergency Medical Services Pre-hospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Form.

The Ministry of Grieving recommends that you get a packet from the office and fill out all or part of it. Those who have theirs on file, you might want to update-add/subtract.

If you have any questions or would like to have someone help you with the process please call Marye Martinez-523-0449.

The Deacon Ministry of Grieving

## *Womæen's Caucus at Conference*

If you are going to Annual Conference is some information about Womæen's Caucus:

1. Nancy Faus-Mullen will be the speaker at the Womæen's Caucus Luncheon at noon on Sunday during Conference. Everyone is urged to come!
2. Donated items are being sought for the silent auction that takes place during the Womæen's Caucus luncheon. If you have something for the auction, those of us who are going to Conference could take it along. In past years, items auctioned include art work, pottery, and knitted/crocheted items.
3. Volunteers to man(woman??) the Caucus booth in the

exhibit hall are needed. Signup in the booth.

4. Monetary donations are always welcome to support the production of Femailings (the Caucus newsletter), scholarships, and projects around the world in support of and by women. Make checks out to: Womæen's Caucus and mail to: Womæen's Caucus, 202 SE Uehlar Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 or go to the Womæen's Caucus website <http://www.womaenscaucus.org/index.html> and donate through a secure online link.

## *We need your help!*

Our custodian Mike Breshears will be on vacation for 2 weeks from June 20 to July 4. During that time the Building & Grounds Commission could use some help keeping the church cleaned up and ready for use. This includes vacuuming, cleaning the bathrooms, collecting trash, and mowing the church lawn. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these capacities, talk to John Cosner the chair of Building & Grounds. Thanks for helping out.

## *Council Meeting on Building Committee Recommendation*

**Plan to stay and join us for a Council Meeting following worship on June 13.** Following worship we will have a light lunch in the Gathering Place (donations to cover the cost of the meal) and then return to the sanctuary for our meeting. The meeting will begin with a report from the Committee, an opportunity to ask them questions about the recommendation, and then move into conversation about the recommendation, and finally to action on the recommendation. Below you will find the recommendation from the committee and some additional background on the reasons behind their recommendation. The Moderator and Board Chair asked the committee to prepare this information and share it prior to the Council Meeting.

### ***Recommendation of the Community Ministry Center Building Committee***

The Building Committee recommends that the current building project be terminated at this time due to insufficient funds and pledges.

### ***Reasons for this recommendation***

Capital Campaign - The committee undertook an extensive campaign in January and February of this year to seek commitments for \$1 million for this project. The campaign yielded pledges of \$94,650 with responses from 15 members or friends of the congregation. All those related to the church were either visited, attended a meeting, or received a letter and pledge card. Response was far short of what is needed for the project.

Loans - The committee considered the possibility of loans (commercial or from members). This might have been a feasible possibility to cover costs while pledges came in, but based on the response we received to the capital campaign loans would be needed to cover between \$750,000 to 850,000 in costs. The payback on loans like this would add \$76,000 per year to our operating costs (\$750,000 at 6% for 15 years) when we are currently barely covering our expenses. This does not seem like a realistic possibility.

Fundraising - The committee considered this possibility, but again, the lack of capital campaign response leaves us with a very large amount to cover with fundraising. In our estimation raising \$100,000 through fundraisers would be a major undertaking and still not put us anywhere close to the amount of funds needed for the project.

Local grants - We had explored the idea of approaching several local institutions about making contributions towards the project. Most of these possibilities required large commitments from the primary organization to the project and they might meet 1/3 to 1/2 of the cost, but we are not anywhere near the 1/2 level for the project. It was our determination that we could not make these approaches based on our level of financial commitment to the project.

Termination - We have recommended that we bring this project to a halt and remove having an active building project in our congregation. It is certainly possible that at a future time, if things are different financially or congregation size is larger, a future council can certainly choose to create a new project that can address the needs at that time. For now, largely based on the lack of financial support, we are recommending to the congregation that this project be terminated.

**Our current Financial Update**

Giving to Support Budget through May	\$121,905
Budget Expenses through May	\$134,447
Giving Needed to Support Budget	\$143,662
Amount Behind through May	\$ 21,757

*Oops*

We missed the birthday of Josh Roy. He was born June 27, 1997. Let the office know if other children's birthdays are unreported.

*Seniors had a great day at Yosemite!*



**JOIN IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES!  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION**

Coffee Makers: Volunteers June through August  
Deacon on call for June: Mary Baucher

**EACH SUNDAY**

No Classes during the summer  
9:30a Worship 9:30a  
7:00p Worship at Casa de Modesto

**WEEKLY**

No Classes during the summer  
9:30a Worship  
7:00p Worship at Casa de Modesto

**WEEKLY**

Office hours – Mon thru Fri 8:30-11:30a & 12:30-4p  
Quiet Place open: Mon-Wed: 7a-4p; Fri 8:30a-4p; Sat 9-12  
Sun 7a-12:30p

Mon 7-8p Yoga class (not Jun 14)  
Tue Pastors' usual Sabbath Day out of office  
Tue & Thu Senior Fitness, Young at Heart 11-12a  
Wed Skate Nite 3:30p  
Sat SERRV shop open 10a-12 & Sun after worship

**IN THE DAYS AHEAD**

Thu Jun 10 Senior Ministry BBQ lunch at Johnson home  
Sat Jun 12 Graffiti clean-up & Skate-build 9a  
Sun Jun 13 Lite lunch and council meeting after worship  
Jun 13-17 Kids Peace Camp/VBS 6-8:10p  
Jun 18-25 Early Family Camp  
Sun Jun 20 Father's Day BBQ following worship  
Thu Jun 27 Men's Group at Denny's 6a  
Thu Jun 27 & Jul 3 Knitting Ministry at Baucher home 2p  
Jun 27-Jul 3 Youth Camp  
Jul 3-9 Discovery Camp  
Jul 3-7 Annual Conference in Pittsburg PA  
Jul 18-23 Jr/Jr High Camp  
Jul 23-30 Late Family Camp  
Jul 7-8 Beginners Camp  
Sun Aug 8 Grieving conversations following worship  
Sun Aug 15 All-church picnic at Martinez home

Articles for next *Chimes* due Fri, Jun 18  
Next *Chimes* mailed Jun 22 & Jul 6

*Well, how was it?*

With e-Chimes you get more information and pictures! You also save postage for the church and lots of paper and envelopes. If you have email, which obviously do or you wouldn't be receiving this, it's hoped you will make use of this new method of keeping up with the church family and events and inspiring thoughts. Please let the office know if you are NOT willing to accept the bi-weekly *Chimes* on your computer. Let Pastor Russ or me know if you have suggestions or would like to see changes. We are VERY new at this and are very much in the learning mode. Thanks!

--Mary Baucher, Editor

P.S. If you have pictures you think might be useful in future issues, please email them to Pastor Russ or to me at [baucherm@sbglobal.net](mailto:baucherm@sbglobal.net). I can't guarantee they will be used, but it would be great to have some from which to select for publication. --Mary