



Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Pastors: Russ & Erin Matteson

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

Annual Conference

It is strange for me to think as I write this before I leave for Annual Conference that the meeting will be over by the time most of you read what I have written. But here we are at the time for the Big Meeting of the Church of the Brethren once again.

For those of you who don't know, each year Brethren from across the country (and a few from other parts of the world) come together for a week of worship, fellowship, and to do the business of the church. The days are filled with meal events with speakers, five to six hours of business most days, a daily worship service, and a host of insight sessions to learn more about what the church is doing or gain ideas for the local church. Days begin early and end late. And if we are lucky we will find time for a bowl of ice cream with friends before packing it in for the night.

Some say this annual gathering is important because it keeps us connected to one another. That because we are a small denomination we need to get together regularly to maintain the bonds of relationship with one another. That if too much time went by without our meeting it might strain our connectedness with one another. Others think that meeting a bit less frequently might ease some of the tensions that exist when we gather like this. I don't know what the week will hold this year, but my prayers before conference are that it will be a week of talking and listening to one another in love, and offering room for all of us to be Brethren together.

New items of business for this year include having a conversation about how often and for what purposes we will meet, revisions to our corporate by-laws (very exciting stuff), guidance for implementation of an ethics paper, and a resolution against torture. Most of the old business is not due to return for discussion until we meet in 2011. All this business may seem odd for the church to be doing, but we do need to work out how we are being called to be the body of Christ at work in today's world, and at our best that is what we do when we gather for business. I don't yet know if we will do that poorly or well this year, but the pastors and our delegate Luella Cole will share some about that when we worship on July 18. I hope you will join us for our report on Annual Conference. Now I've got a plane to catch to Pittsburgh!

--Pastor Russ

Pray for NYC

Sixteen youth and three adult advisors will be heading out on July 16 via bus for Fort Collins, CO, and the 2010 National Youth Conference (NYC) of the Church of the Brethren. For six days they will gather with 3000 youth and advisors in worship (twice a day), small groups, and workshops. They will get the chance to go and spend a day in the Rocky Mountains and work in service projects around the community. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for most youth (the conference happens every four years) and is often a spiritual high for the young people. Keep NYC in your prayers from July 17-22,

that it will be a time filled with God's spirit and that our youth will be inspired by this time.

What story? What character?

How many times have we read/heard this story? What more can we learn, how can this account possibly speak to our hearts/lives? Read Luke 10:25-37 aloud (multiple times) with a focus on the seven characters: the victim, the Samaritan, priest, Levite, inn keeper, expert in the law, and Jesus! On July 11, Stephen Reddy will ask, "Which character are you?!"

Taking Jesus seriously

Read John 14:15 then come for a worship focused around the theme of Annual Conference. Enjoy special music and sharing from some of the delegates.



Welcome our new members!

Last week was a special worship with three baptisms of Terhesa Gamboa, Kim Watson and Tina Luna and one person, Lana Royer, was taken in by affirmation of faith. Please welcome these women when you see them in weeks ahead!



What's next in The Quiet Place?

Peace has many dimensions: Personal, family, between self and others, in a community, global. Many believe that we have to have peace within first and foremost to be able to move in and through the other dimensions of peace. On Monday evening, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. join us for an evening exploring and seeking **Personal Peace.**

Sanctuary Sound

Noise Reduction

During some recent worship services, there have been fairly high levels of noise as well as more visiting by those of us who enter the sanctuary. In at least one service, this carried over into the announcement time. Both the announcements and the prelude are integral parts of the worship service. We all need to remember to try and *lower our voice levels when we enter the sanctuary* and remember that some worshippers use this time to center themselves and do not prefer to be interrupted.

We'd like to remind everyone who attends our worship services of two things:

(1) Try to conclude your visiting in the Narthex or Gathering Place prior to the service and, if you have more visiting to do, consider completing it after the service.

(2) As you enter the sanctuary, remember to be mindful of those around you who are centering themselves in preparation for worship. If you need to make a comment to someone who you believe may be in the process of centering, perhaps make a mental note to do so immediately after the service, but please don't disturb him or her during this time of personal preparation for worship.

As we continue to work to balance a variety of needs in the community, the Worship and Spiritual Life Commission thanks you all in advance for your increased sensitivity to this issue.

Using a roving microphone

Key word: PATIENCE.

The issue: A very common annoyance for all of us is trying to speak to the congregation while holding one of the roving microphones (mics) when it appears to not be "on." The over-whelming human response is for us to utter either, "Is this on?" or "Is this thing working?"

The cause: Those who operate the sound board reduce the volume of the traveling mics to zero as they are carried from person to person. This is done to eliminate the greater annoyance of having a live mic, as it is carried from person to person, making a horrendous noise if accidentally dropped or banged against a hard surface such as the back of a pew or a hymnal. One of the countless tasks the sound board operators face is increasing the volume of each mic to a normal level once it is handed by a rover to the person to share the next joy or concern.

The solution: After you have been handed a mic, put the mic head up to your lips and count silently to yourself, "one, two, three." Then begin expressing your joy or concern by speaking directly into the mic. This slight pause gives the sound board operator enough time to figure out which mic you are holding so that the correct volume can be turned up from zero to normal while the other roving mic's volume is kept at zero.

The Summary: This issue of mic use is, in the overall universe of God's creation, a miniscule but recurrent annoyance that has affected nearly everyone who has attended one of our Worship Services. Let's work together with those who facilitate our Joys and Concerns by carrying the roving mic, and those who toil away in silence behind the sound board each Sunday, by demonstrating just a bit more patience before we begin sharing our joys and concerns. And patience is a virtue!



Prospectors get together in July

When: 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Where: Home of Bill and Margaret Johnson, 3504 Sagewood Ct. Modesto (522-0746)

What: Potluck in the back yard. Bill will be grilling hot dogs, so bring another dish to share.

Swimming- if you want

Games, cards- If you have a favorite, bring it

Personal notes

Senna Akpovi has the only July birthday (at least in the Chimes records). Senna will be 15 on July 13. It was noted that Cica, Senna's sister, was 12 on June 1. Happy birthday to both of you. Please let the church office know of other birthdays we have missed. Thanks.

Recently Robert Messamer called from her home in Bristow, Virginia. She wanted you all to know that you all are still very special to her. She is still so appreciative of the Modesto faith community and how you all helped her to serve Christ and the church in so many meaningful ways while she was living here in Modesto. She enjoys being close to her family in Virginia, but says that she really misses the Modesto faith community.

--Lila McCray

Hello, All, Please change my e-mail address to danielgalt@gmail.com. Thanks!

--Dan Galt



Senior Ministries bus/boat trip

BLUE & GOLD FLEET BAY CRUISE
LUNCH AT FOG HARBOR FISH HOUSE
Pier 39, San Francisco
August 11, 2010
Cost: \$60 per person

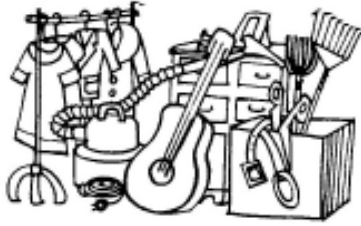
We will meet at the church at 7:15 a.m., and the bus will leave at 7:30 a.m., and return by 4:30 p.m. The cost includes the bus ride, bay cruise and lunch at Fog Harbor Fish House at Pier 39.

We have reservations for the 10:15 bay cruise, after which we'll have lunch at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be soup (clam chowder) or green salad, salmon or chicken, mashed potatoes, steamed veggies and dessert of ice cream or cheese cake. Coffee or tea is also included.

There will be some free time on Pier 39 before the bus leaves at 2:30, returning to the church by around 4:30 p.m..

Sign up and pay no later than July 30, 2010. Make check made payable to Modesto Church of the Brethren. Room for the first 44 only and you don't need to be a senior to join us! Send your checks to Bob Sesser, 1901 Landini Way, Modesto, CA 95355, and include your lunch choices (soup/salad, salmon/chicken and ice cream/cheese cake).

Questions? Call Bob Sesser at 209-527-8613.



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

EACH SUNDAY

No Classes during the summer starting Jun 6
9:30a Worship 9:30a starting Jun 6
7p 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
Yoga class: Mon 7-8p
Pastors' usual Sabbath Day out of office: Tuesday
Senior Fitness: Tue & Thu 11-12a
Skate Nite 3:30p
SERRV shop open: 10a-noon Sat & Sun after worship

Articles for next *Chimes* due Friday, 16
Next *Chimes* mailed July 20 & Aug 3

Big Yard Sale!

To help fund our Community Outreach efforts, we will be hosting a Church Family Garage Sale occurring on July 31. To pull this effort off and make it a huge success, will we need your help. We will need help with sorting items prior to the garage sale (between July 25- July 29) and selling items on the day of the garage sale.

If you have a truck we will need your help picking up large items on July 30 and hauling leftover items away on July 31 after the sale ends. Please look for sign ups in your email, in the church narthex, or contact Leah to sign up.

We will also be needed Garage Sale Items to sell! However, due to the enormous volume of donations, we will be asking that each person donate only 20 items or less and that all be in workable and/or wearable condition. Donations will only be accepted at the church from *Sunday, July 25, to Thursday July 29*. If you have large items, they will be brought or picked up on July 30 ONLY. If you have a large item and do not have a way to get it to the church, please get the measurements of the item(s) as best you can and either call the office to sign up.

Questions? Call the office @ (209)523-1438.

Save the Date!

As a second fundraiser for our Community Outreach efforts, we will also be hosting *An Outreach Affaire* on Saturday, September 18 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the church. This event will showcase our programs, share our outreach information and will feature the chocolate fountain, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and more. Mark your calendars for this event and stay tuned for more information including ticket costs and when tickets go on sale.

--Leah Knipe, Community Outreach Coordinator

IN THE DAYS AHEAD

- Jul 17-22 - National Youth Conference
- Jul 18-23 - Jr/Jr. High Camp
- Jul 18-25 - Hosting Family Promise
- Jul 23-30 - Late Family Camp
- Sat Jul 31 - Big Yard Sale
- Aug 7-8 - Beginners Camp
- Aug 8 11a - Grieving Conversation following worship
- Aug 14 - Graffiti Clean Up
- Aug 15 – All-Church Picnic -Martinez Home
- Aug 20 - Family Movie Night
- Aug 20-- 22 Men's Weekend at Camp
- Aug 21 - Kitchen Clean-Up
- Sept 1-3 - Closing Camp
- Sept 10 - Taize Worship 7p
- Sat Sep 18 - An Outreach Affair
- Oct 3 - World Wide Communion Sunday
- Nov 12-14 - District Conference Hillcrest

Coffee makers: volunteers
Deacon on call or July: Barbara Switzer