



The Chimes

April 10, 2018
Volume 18 Number 8

Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



My calling to become a CASA volunteer was nothing bold or loud - It was more a matter of hearing a small voice in my head or heart that kept pushing me persistently, and then when I started to respond having everything fall into place.

Back in 2014, I'd been retired for 3 years and was involved in several worthy causes. But I still found myself checking the BEE's "LEND A HAND" column each Sunday to read about organizations' needs for volunteers. One with an intriguing title caught my eye- COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) OF STANISLAUS COUNTY. The article explained that CASA volunteers advocate for foster children in our county. That sounded like a very worthy cause. So I continued reading the description.

It explained that a CASA volunteer works specifically with one or several foster children and serves as each child's voice and as the judge's eyes in court hearings. It involves getting to know the child and spending time with him or her several times a month, to be their friend, but also to take

note of the child's situation and treatment in the foster home and progress in school, and so on, and then to write up the findings in a formal court report to be read by the judge before each 6-month hearing. That report would include my recommendations on the child's placement and other matters. The idea of making recommendations and supporting them before a judge sounded very intimidating to timid me. I had no experience with court proceedings and I wondered if I'd be able to handle something like that.

So I pretty much dismissed the whole idea, but I kept on noticing that article in the newspaper 's weekly column. Finally, I decided to attend an orientation meeting-no strings attached. There I learned more about the job, and I again suspected that it wasn't for me. We were asked to schedule a one-on-one interview with a staff person as the first step in joining the program. It turned out that I'd be in Pennsylvania when the interviews were to be held-a perfect out for me. As I headed for the door, the trainer asked why I hadn't signed up for an interview and I explained that I'd be gone at the times available. She offered to schedule a later appointment with me right after my return

from PA. So what could I say but OK-still no strings attached.

At the interview I admitted my doubts that this position was a good fit for me. She encouraged me to take the training with the assurance that I was free to drop out at any time. I learned that the trainers would be observing each of us trainees as they got to know us and would be judging whether we had what it would take to do the job. Then there would be an exit interview where we would mutually decide whether I should become an advocate. There would still be no strings attached-not until the judge swore me in after the training was completed.

So I began the training with the thought/hope that surely something would come up that would be a perfect excuse to drop out. But after the 6 weeks of training I was still there. At my exit interview I was encouraged to accept the challenge-and after some prayerful consideration, I did. In December 2014 I was sworn in by Judge Amaral-stepping far out of my comfort zone.

The following month my case manager helped me choose my first case. She told me about an 8-year-old boy in a foster home on a ranchette in Valley Springs. He was on the adoption track with his foster family, so it would be a simple case that would end happily as soon as the adoption was finalized. A great easy starter case.

So, just over 3 years ago I met the young man I'll call Robby. We hit it off just fine-all seemed good. But less than a month later, the apple cart was upset. Robby was exhibiting troubling behaviors - especially at school-and his foster parents decided they were too old to commit to raising a problem child. So all of a sudden the adoption plans ended and Robby was moved to another foster home. That was the beginning of a tough heart-breaking year of moves and turmoil for Robbie until he was placed in his current foster home. The 2 years since then have had their ups and downs but currently Robbie is thriving & happy. And I'm still his advocate.

So that's how I was called first to take the CASA training, then to be sworn in and finally to take on a "simple" case that has turned out to be very demanding. Despite all my doubts and foot-dragging, I'm glad now that I accepted that call.





Pastor's Schedule

Monday & Wednesday through Friday - In office 8:30 to 11:30
Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath

April 8-19 in Modesto
April 20-24 at my home in La Quinta (city, not hotel)
April 25-May 13 in Modesto
May 14-20 - Attending Church Planting Conference for District
May 21-28 - Vacation
May 29-? - in La Quinta

Please feel free to schedule other appointments by contacting me by email at mfletch21625@aol.com or by phone at 313-303-1227. Texting is ok, but please identify yourself when you do text.

Upcoming Study and Fellowship Opportunities

Wednesday Evening Bible Study



Wednesdays - 5:00 in Library - A Walk Through the New Testament

- April 11 - Other Voices: Hebrews through Jude
- April 18 - Questions about what we've done so far.
- April 25 - Revelation Pt. 1
- May 2 - Revelation Pt. 2
- May 9 - Wrap Up

Coffee and Conversation

Our next Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, April 14, 9:30 in the Gathering Place, our topic will be: The Future of the Church of the Brethren.



Pastor's Roaming Office

(Check church's Facebook page for updates)



Pastor's Roaming Office is an opportunity for anyone to chat in an informal manner about what is happening at the Modesto COB. For serious concerns setting an appointment would probably be better. This is something I've done in previous stops with very mixed results. For the time being I will limit the roaming offices to Mondays and Thursdays when I'm in Modesto (although someone suggested I schedule them in Palm Springs because people might want to make a road trip).

Monday, April 9, 1:00 pm - Panera Bread (New on Dale near Vintage Faire Mall)

Thursday, April 12, 7:00 pm - Starbucks, 1800 Oakdale (Oakdale and Merle).

Monday, April 16, 7:00 pm - Mimi's Cafe - 3401 Dale Rd

Hold in God's Light

Keep in your prayers Mimsie Farrar's friend in the loss of her baby; Dan Onoroto's wife facing a cancer diagnosis; the family of Pat Roberts at her passing. Hold in your thoughts all those who grieve, those who are ill, and those whose pain is too deep for words.

Sermon Snippets

Finding Our Voices



April 15 - The Prophetic Challenge - Amos 7:7-17- Speaking for God will be opposed by the powerful who always prefer the status quo. The challenge to those who wish to be faithful is often find ways to be subversive in communicating the message.

April 22 -



April 29 - Church Retreat Final Worship - Still Moving Forward - More info to come.



"Do this in remembrance": A reflection on Communion

I just have such a strong, passionate desire to share my experience from the Maundy Thursday Love Feast on March 29th. WOW! What an overwhelmingly spiritual service it was for me. Each year the service of remembrance has a beautiful, purposeful impact in my personal journey, but this one was so much more intimate and touched me to the core of my soul. Though we were only 13 in attendance and the sacraments were the same, the program was prepared and presented in such a thoughtful, inclusive & meaningful way. Scripture readings and monologues read by various individuals.

Hymns that brought us to various stages of Jesus' example: Our Lord, Our Teacher, Servant, Our Friend, and Our Savior. The Service of Tenebrae, where each individual read scripture from 13 different passages in the Bible: Betrayal, Denial & Forgiveness, starting with a Hymn verse sung at the beginning of each theme, closing with, the Hymn, "Were You There" (...when they laid him in the tomb).

Thank you to those individuals who planned, prepared and participated in this extraordinary service of "Remembrance", which provided me with a personal sense of being in the Upper Room.

Sincerely & Respectfully, Jeannie Canter.
03/30/18

Good News from the Search Committee!

The Search Committee has received 5 excellent Pastoral Profiles of candidates who are specifically interested in our congregation. We have selected some of these candidates for a video interview via Zoom during April. After those video interviews our committee we will do in-person interviews as needed. Then we will invite the candidate who we feel is the best fit for our congregation to come for a weekend 'meet and greet' with our congregation. Stay tuned for further updates as we continue to move forward along the search journey. --The Search Committee



In the Days Ahead

We are now about 3 weeks out from our work day (9 til noon). We have some gaps and work opportunities.



Our big project for this work day is the replacement of sanctuary lights. We have a full crew (Jim B, Bill J, Russ D, Derek, Bob S) of about 5 for that and we should be ok. We have 2 folks who have signed up to help clean toys in the nursery (Fran ,Anita and Jeanie C) and could use at least 1 more. We have repainting parking stripes and no one has signed up for that. It could use a crew of 4 to 6. We have a crew of 3 (Bonnie, Gayle and Evan) to walk the field and move bricks rocks etc to the edges so that the mower (coming in May) will not suffer damage. We could use 3 or 4 more in this group. This work would take about an hour. For cleaning solar panels we have only 1 signed up so far (Linda Flores). We need about 2 to 3 more. For our noon lunch preparers we have a full crew of Tammy, Luella, and Karleen. We have about 15 signed up so far and really could use a dozen more. Its only about 3 hours of service. It starts with donuts at 8am and ends with a nice lunch at noon. Don't miss out !!! ~Bill Johnson Building and Grounds



The Second Annual SCIC Prayer Supper is coming! This year the hosts will be the Sikh Temple on Hatch Road in Hughson. The temple will provide a traditional vegetarian main meal, and participating congregations are asked to bring desserts. Rabbi Shalom Bochner and Imam Ahmad Kayello will engage in a dialog about the role of prayer in their lives. A facilitator will sit at each table and get conversations started among persons of different faith communities. Tickets are available at PrayerSupper2.bpt.me or by check to SCIC, P.O. Box 3365, Modesto, CA 95353 by April 28!



MCOB's annual church retreat is ON...however...the venue has changed! The retreat will be held at church in The Gathering Place. Same dates: April 27-29; same theme: Still Moving Forward; same leader: Dan Poole from Bethany Seminary. The cost is \$10 (What?). The place and price are right, so hope you're on board to join for a weekend of community, looking forward. Check with Stephen Reddy or Eddie Hernandez.



Just a reminder that the **Red Hills Nature Walk** was postponed due to rainy weather. A new board will go up when the new date is decided.

April 21st -

8 am

This is earth day and all church work day. This year we have been asked to participate in the all church work day. This is a great opportunity to be of service to the congregation! Please let Tera know if you can help as the project we will be assigned for this day is based on how many of us will be there.

April 22nd -

10:30 am Youth worship! We will be leading worship on this Sunday. Come prepared and ready to rock. Arrive a little early so we can go over all the last-minute questions and details you may have!



Fellowship and Recreation is planning a lovely Sunday afternoon Baby Shower for Tera and her husband. Come join us Sunday, May 6th at 4pm in our Gathering Place for some fun and light refreshments. The Youth will be planning games and lots of fun for us, and like always we will give some goodies for you to enjoy.

Tara had been registered at Baby's Are Us, however since they are closing her registry was wiped out. She does have some things registered at Target and of course gift cards would allow her to purchase what is still needed. This will be an event for everyone so please join us. ~Fellowship & Recreation



Felton's Devotional for Senior Ministries

I wrote this as a devotion for the Senior Ministry Committee. The committee members asked me to share it with the church as an article in The Chimes.

Preparing for our devotion today I was thinking about the work we do. A lot of our activities are social, fun and entertaining. I was thinking how does our work apply to church and our Christian beliefs?

I thought about what we understand about Jesus and his life. There are a few instances that we know about where he went off by himself. One of these moments was in the beginning of his ministry where he was tempted by Satan. Another was near the end of his life when he went by himself into the garden to pray. I am sure there were other times he was alone as well.

But it seems to me over all he led a very social life. He gathered up 12 disciples to start with. He talked to a lot of crowds. He went to parties at people's houses. It seems more often than not he was with a lot of people.

I think we need a lot of socialization too. Like Jesus we humans today need the interaction and the connectedness that we can only receive from others.

We minister to very healthy active people and some, because of health issues, that are less active. We provide social stimulation. But, even more than that we provide mental stimulation because of the wide variety of activities we plan. We lead people to think about things and take them places that they have never thought about before. These new experiences create mental stimulation by opening all of us up to the wider world. We need to be social and we need to keep learning. At the same time our activities have brought people into our community of faith. Our work is very much a part of the program of the church. We are following the example set by Jesus and we too are setting examples for others. Yes, our program is very social like Jesus' life was, but like his life it provides much more to so many. That is my thought for the day. ~Felton Daniels



San Luis Reservoir-Romero Visitor Center April 19, 2018- Getting Started

-Plan to be at the church by 8:45 so we can depart by 9.

-We will be traveling by car and appreciate drivers willing to take those who need a ride. The drive takes a little over an hour.

-If you do not plan to leave from the church, please let Margaret Johnson know so the group will not wait for you.

Romero Visitor Center 10:15-noon

After arriving, we will meet at about 10:30 for a talk, by guide Caitlin Boyer, followed by two short films. One gives the historical background of the dam and water system. The other features an aerial view of the water system put to music. The remainder of the visit will allow time for checking out the exhibits and tremendous views. This facility is accessible. It is all on one level, no stairs.

12:30- Lunch at Pea Soup Andersen's in Santa Nella

-The menu can be viewed at their web-site.
-We will be eating in the dining room.

Cost: Lunch at the restaurant

- If you are a passenger, \$5 contribution to your driver for gas.

***Be sure to sign up for this event by April 15 on our Senior Ministry bulletin board in the Narthex.**

Questions: Margaret Johnson (209)522-0746 or (209)404-4287



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A new address for Dave Keller and Kevin McDermott:[11511 Parkhill St., Overland Park, KS 66210](https://www.google.com/maps/place/11511+Parkhill+St,+Overland+Park,+KS+66210)



Monday

6:15 Board Meeting

Tuesday

Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday

5pm Bible Study

6pm Faith Bites

7pm Choir

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

9:30am Coffee & Conversation-

The Future of the COB

Next Sunday--

9:30am Brethren History Class-Room 1

11am Worship

12:30pm Prospector Potluck-Forcier's

April

April 19 Sr. Ministries Trip-San Luis Reservoir

April 20 6pm Family FUN Night

April 21 8am All Church Work Day

April 21 Earth Day in Graceada Park

April 22 Earth Day

April 26 5pm Ladies Night Out-Sizzler

April 27-29 Church Retreat

May

May 6 4pm Tera's Baby Shower

May 13 Mother's Day

May 17 12pm Sr. Ministry Event

May 20 12:15pm Stephen Reddy's Retirement Dinner

May 28 Memorial Day-Office Closed

Do you have an announcement you would like the congregation to see on the big screen, before Sunday worship begins? Please send any announcements to Anita Pennock at pedersea@gmail.com by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!



*Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by **Thursday, April 19**. Use article name in the subject line and email to: chimes@modcob.org*

The Editor thanks you.