



The Chimes

Date: July 2, 2018
Volume 18 Number 14

Modesto Church of the Brethren

2301 Woodland Avenue, Modesto, CA 95358-9501 (209)523-1438

fax: 209-523-1469 ♦ e-mail: office@modcob.org ♦ web site: www.modcob.org

Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



By the time you receive this issue of the Chimes, I will be on my way to Cincinnati, Ohio, to represent this congregation at Annual Conference. I am excited to be able to sit at the round tables with members of other congregations as we hear 9 reports and deliberate over 7 matters of unfinished business and 4 items of new business that will be brought before the delegate body.

I have been a delegate before, but not since the conference began seating the delegates at round tables, deliberately assigning delegates from diverse congregations to sit together and deliberate the business from differing points of view. I expect that it will be an exercise in patience, and I pray that we will all discuss the business before us in good humor and try to discern the will of God for our denomination's future.

Among the items of business are a statement on a "Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century" which the delegate body will be asked to ratify. A committee appointed in 2013 has studied research, scripture and the history of the Church of the Brethren to affirm the history of our denomination in maintaining positive relations with other faith communities.

The delegate body will also hear a report of the Creation Care Study Committee, which will present scriptural support and research data regarding the use of fossil fuels, climate change, and their impact on human life. The report challenges every Church of the Brethren member to integrate understanding of the reality of climate change into daily life, and into the life of each congregation. The Office of Public Witness has called a group of volunteers called the Brethren Creation Care Network as a resource to the denomination in this effort.

Several items of unfinished business will remain unfinished or will not change denominational polity after the 2018 conference, including Annual Conference Agencies, Bylaws, and Denominational Leadership Gathering.

Greatest emphasis of the 2018 Annual Conference will be given to a recommendation from the Council of District Executives, that the Conference develop a Compelling Vision for how we as a denomination will continue the work of Jesus together. One full day's business session and part of a second will be dedicated to engaging the delegate body in developing such a vision. After the 2018 Conference, each district will be asked to hold a gathering to provide additional input for the development of a denominational vision statement. Annual Conference 2019 will be primarily dedicated to developing and adopting that vision statement.

Items of New Business include: First, "Brethren Values Investing": a terminology change from "Socially Responsible Investing", defining the types of companies that Brethren Benefit Trust will refuse to invest in--those that generate 10% or more of their gross annual income from abortion, alcohol, gambling, tobacco, pornography, defense and/or weapons manufacture, and those who violate the environment or human rights. Second, consideration of Brethren Benefit Trust Director nominations: a change from four nominees to two. Third, review of a statement of Vision for a Global Church of the Brethren. Fourth, Polity regarding election of a District Executive to the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee.

I hope I will return from this year's Annual Conference with greater understanding of denominational business that I intend to share with the members of the congregation. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. ~Luella Cole



From Pastor Michael:

Interim Ministry Update

While I'm optimistic that the search process will soon find the church's next pastor, I also have decided I need to have some definitive plans concerning my future.

I therefore have notified the Church Board that my time as Interim Pastor will not extend beyond Sunday, November 18. That date could be moved earlier when a pastor is called to serve, depending on circumstances.

Hopefully my service here has been helpful for the congregation in preparing for a new and exciting next phase in your history. I have several goals to this end that I will be focusing on in the final months that I serve in Modesto, they are:

1. Lay a foundation for a young adult ministry.
2. Help in the development of a ministry of advocacy.
3. Encourage the church to consider some form of involvement in church planting in the district.
4. Begin a conversation about new ways to organize and conduct the operations of the church.

My experience in Modesto has been extremely rewarding on a personal basis. Still, it has been difficult to be separated from my family as much as is required and this is the primary reason for my decision. I hope that I will be able to maintain a relationship with the church in the future.

July and August Sermon Series: Living the Questions



I believe that the deeper a person's faith grows, the more questions and challenges arise as to how we can relate to our life of faith. My hope is that beginning on July 22nd and continuing through September 2nd we can consider some of those specific questions and/or challenges during an interactive sharing time during worship.

(What I'm really trying to do is get you to do some of my job for me.)

I'm inviting everyone to consider what questions your faith journey has raised. Then let me know what questions and/or challenges you wrestle with. If it's something that I think we can build a message around, we will talk about how to present it to the congregation and go from there.

If you feel there is a question about or a challenge to your faith, let me know and we'll discuss it and consider ways to build a Sunday morning message around it. Please consider this and I hope to hear from you soon.

Pastor's Schedule

(When in Modesto) Monday & Wednesday through Friday: In office 8:30 to 11:30
Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath.

Other times by appointment: Contact me by email at mfletcher21625@aol.com or by phone at 313-303-1227.

July 2-8 - Annual Conference - Cincinnati OH
July 9-16 - Vacation
July 17-18 - Working from So Cal
July 19-Aug. 20 - in Modesto

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.

I'll be setting up some roaming offices when I return to Modesto in July. I would welcome suggestions as to locations and times to conduct these gatherings.

Sunday Morning Study

We continue to meet on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 in the church library for a time of thought provoking conversation based on a 10-12 minute video that takes a look at a spiritual issue from what is often a very unique perspective. Some of our conversations have been quite interesting as we consider these various topics. Each week is a unique topic and so anyone can just drop in for a session and join in the discussion.



Rejoice at the birth of Baby Quinn Jackson, who was born June 19 at 5:14am via C-section. She weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. and is 18 inches long. Tera will bring her to church when she is up to it.

Keep in your prayers the family of Louise Roy as they prepare for her memorial service on July 7 at 10:30 AM.

Pray for Joan Beaton, mother of Michele Wolfe and grandmother of Tera Thayer-Jackson. Joan is very ill.

Terhesa Gamboa asks us to pray for the neighborhood family of Elijah, a 2-year-old boy who drowned in the family pool Friday evening.

Rejoice with the Martinez family at the births of two new granddaughters.

Congratulate John Miller at his 5th place finish in a body-building competition.

Pray for travel mercies for Monique's sons, Marquis, at Boy Scout Camp, and Alex, touring Europe.

Rejoice with Felton at the participation of 23 Modesto Church of the Brethren members

in the Families Belong Together immigration protest march Saturday morning.

Les Roy thanks the congregation for their care and concern for his family.

Nancy Deal and Karleen Daniels introduced their friend, Janeen Studley.

Erin Matteson has transferred her membership to Live Oak Church of the Brethren.

Pastor Michael asked for travel mercies for himself and Luella Cole, delegates to Annual Conference.

Deacon on Call for July:
Marye Martínez

Sunday Morning Greeters

One thing that I find extra special while coming to church on a Sunday morning is to be so warmly greeted at the door. A friendly welcome with a smiling face warms my heart. It has been a tradition for the Modesto Church of the Brethren to have two "greeters" at the door each Sunday morning.

In July, you will be seeing the following greeters:

July 1 st	Linda Flores & Rita
July 8 th	Monique Sanders & Marquis
July 15 th	Evan Campbell & Pat Easley
July 22 nd	Jim & Bonnie Costello
July 29 th	Russ Davis & Raeann

If you would also like to be able to share a friendly welcome on a Sunday morning, please call Eddie & Gayle Hernandez (857-5982) to get you signed up as an official "greeter".

In the Days Ahead

Prospector Potluck July 8

The next Prospector Potluck will be at the Hernandez's house, 3708 Fuchsia Lane, at 6 PM. **Please note that this potluck will not be right after church.**

Our next Summer Potluck will be July 11th, at 6pm. This will be Christmas in July; we are asking you to bring your favorite holiday foods. No need to bring your table service this night as I have Christmas themed table service for us to use.

As we try to learn more about each other we will try something new at each potluck. There will be a question presented for you to give answers. This last potluck the question was, "Did or do you have a nickname and how and when did you get it?" Just a hint-don't ever refer to Eddie Hernandez as "Bubbles". It was fun to hear some of the nicknames, so come join us for Christmas in July and learn something new about each other. See you July 11th. ~Fellowship and Recreation

Ladies Night Out-July 12

The Prospector Ladies and friends will meet for dinner at La Parrilla in McHenry Village at 5 PM, Thursday, July 12.

New Community Project/Ice Cream Social

David Radcliffe will be in Modesto on **Saturday July 14 at 6pm** to update us on the work of his organization, which describes itself as "...a small organization with a big goal-to change the world by changing the way we relate to the planet and its people. We offer resources that challenge us, experiences that change us and a community that gives us hope."

Homeless in Modesto July 19, 7PM

Homeless In Modesto is a video documentary produced by Richard Anderson and his video documentary team. This powerful movie will screen for its second time at the State Theatre July 19, at 7 pm. The event is a fund-raiser, with the \$5 ticket admissions going to Modesto Family Promise. The movie will be followed by a panel discussion from 8-9 PM. SEE FLYER!

The Panel for the Q/A Discussion:

Kristi Ah You, Modesto City Councilwoman;
David Fuller, long-time Valley resident who is currently homeless;

Galen Carroll, Modesto City Police Chief;
Brad Hawn, local businessman and Chairman of the Focus on Prevention;

Tamra Losinski, Director of Modesto Family Promise.



The next F.U.N. night will be Friday, July 20!
Come at 6 PM for dinner, games and FUN!



Gail's Adventure in Mexico!

Gail will be moving to Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico in July. Join us on Friday, July 20 at 6:30 PM for cool and delicious light food and drink in Margaret and Bill's backyard at 3504 Sagewood Court. Please RSVP: Gail Kristaponis, gailk38@hotmail.com (209)996-6370. See flyer attachment.

Bike and Build



A few months ago we heard that the Bike and Build tour would not be coming to Modesto this year. Last Friday, Luella got a call from one of the organizers, saying that their route had changed and they will be here after all, on July 23, for one overnight. Karleen, Sue and Luella are planning to provide snacks, dinner and breakfast for the Bike and Build riders. Any help will be appreciated.

Senior Ministries Upcoming Events

On the "Save the Date" flyer that was recently distributed, there is an error. **Our August event is Thursday, August 16, NOT August 15.**

Check out our bulletin board by the drinking fountain in the Narthex. There are more photos of our recent trip to the airport/SkyTrek Aviation. Later, in mid-July, we will post more information about the August 16 event with a sign-up sheet.

Sky Trek Photo:



The Condensed Calendar



JULY

Monday

Tuesday

Annual Conference July 3-8

Wednesday

4th of July

Office Closed

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

10:30am Memorial Service for Louise Roy

Next Sunday, July 8th

9:30am Sunday Morning Study

11am Worship

6pm Prospector Potluck-Hernandez's

July 8 **6pm** Prospector Potluck-Hernandez's

July 11 6pm Summer Supper Potluck-
Christmas in July

July 12 5pm Ladies Night Out La Parrilla
McHenry Village

July 15-20 Jr. High/Youth Camp CPP

July 20 6pm FUN Night

July 20-25 Family Camp CPP

July 25 Summer Supper Potluck

AUGUST

August 8 6pm Summer Supper Potluck

August 17 6pm FUN Night

August 19 **6pm** Prospector Potluck - Johnson's

August 19-26 Hosting Family Promise

September

September 28 6pm FUN Night

**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
Pedersen-Pennock at
pedersea@gmail.com by
Wednesday evenings.**

*Articles and photos for the
next issue of Chimes are due
by Thursday, July 12. Use
article name in the subject
line and email to:
chimes@modcob.org*

The Editor thanks you.

