



The Chimes

Date: June 4, 2019
Volume 19 Number 12

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

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



NEW LIFE, ARE YOU FEELING IT?

By Felton Daniels

I will paraphrase a story from the Bible that you probably have never heard. I am paraphrasing Acts 1:13-16, and 21-26. After Jesus had ascended into heaven the followers, about 120 in all, returned to Jerusalem and the upper room where they had been staying for some time. A few days after they returned, during a meeting, Peter stood and said they should fill the position left by Judas in order to carry Jesus' message to as many as possible. Peter led them in a process to elect from the group of men that had been with Jesus through his whole ministry "a person that really knew him" to replace Judas.

Two men were nominated from that group, Matthias and Barsabbas.

The group prayed to the Lord saying he knew the hearts of these two men. They asked the Lord to give them an indication as to which one he would choose if he were there. They drew lots and the lot fell to Matthias. Taking that as a sign from the Lord, Matthias became the thirteenth disciple.

There is no other information in the Bible about Matthias. We do not know where or how well he worked.

Lloyd J. Ogilvie, General Editor of The Communicator's Commentary on Acts, indicates that Luke would have undoubtedly reported work that was unusual.

What does this story of Matthias, the new disciple, have to do with our sermon today? This was the time of the formation of the Church of Christ. It was no longer a group walking with Christ. This was new. It was now a group trying to follow what Christ had been teaching and working to teach others. And, Matthias was the first leader elected in this NEW organization. In a real sense everything was new! Matthias' election symbolizes the change from the work with Jesus to the work of the new organization without Jesus.

Before we leave this story about Matthias I want to share with you one other "New Life" story related to Matthias. I became interested in the name Matthias when I learned my grandfather on my mother's side, 6 times back, was named Matthias Gisch. Matthias Gisch in 1733, along with his family, crossed the Atlantic with Johannes Naas, a leader in the Brethren movement. They were among the last Brethren to leave Germany to come to America. All Brethren on that ship, The Pennsylvania Merchant, traveled all that distance to start a "new life" for themselves, in a new country, free of religious persecution.

Pastor Andrew is coming soon with his new look at our congregation, his new ideas, his new personality, at least to us. He will surely present ideas for new programs or give old ones a new twist. But, his coming will change us too. I learned in my Social Work classes that the addition of one person in a group changes the group and everyone in it. So, in a real sense our congregation will be new.

I worry that when he comes we will relax and expect him to do all of the work of the church. Although things will be new, it is my hope that we will remain as involved as we have been this past two years.

New things are being talked about even now before Andrew arrives. We have a new postcard that we have sent out to people in this neighborhood. The youth group will soon be divided into two groups one for junior high and the other for high school. And that is new. There is talk of walking the neighborhood and meeting our neighbors. And that is new.

Going back to the time Jesus was teaching: I have been told that there were others in Jesus time that did miracles and prophesied. Then why Jesus? Why aren't we worshipping some other speaker from that era? What made the difference? Was it the organization? After all Jesus called the twelve disciples and there were at least 120 involved as followers as well. Maybe it was the organization that made the difference.

Or was it?

What did make the difference?

I think it was Jesus message about God that made the difference.

But, what about God?

Jesus message about God was in a "new" way. The message was about a merciful God. A God of grace. A God of hope. A God of the second chance. A God for the individual. The story of Easter. You can have New Life! You can have hope! You can have a new beginning! NEW LIFE, ARE YOU FEELING IT?

It is a message that transcends organization, although the early church does appear to be well organized as we already have discussed. We also know that we humans need organization to carry out our work effectively.

It is a message that speaks to each of us. It is a very personal message. It is a message for everyone. Every one of us is a child of God. The rich, the poor. The educated, the ignorant. The sick, the well. The gay, the straight. The powerful, the weak. The politician, the voter. The married, the single, the widowed.

The New Testament has many stories of the people Jesus reached out to. Some of these include the innocent - the children, those with handicaps - the blind, those with the lowest status of society - the prostitute, the most feared - the leper, those least respected - the tax collector. Linda read us this story, where Jesus invited the tax collector to sit and eat with him for he too was one of God's children. Jesus' message is a message of "New Life" to all. It is the Easter story. It is Christ's story about God. And I believe as near as I can tell that message was new in that world at that time. And, I believe it is a message to be heard as "new" by many people in our world today.

We, I, you, are all important in this message from Jesus about God. But I think there is more. When I read and hear about Jesus' teachings I think he was saying that not only are we important, we are able to make ourselves "new"!

It is a message of how we might live our life. Or how we might change our life. It is a message of how we might see ourselves being. Are we able to feel forgiven and move on to a better day as Eddie talked about a few weeks ago? Are we able to forgive others? Do we lie or tell the truth? Is it hard to accept others? Can my skills be improved? Can I take on more responsibility? Are you moving from self to service to others? Are you ready for new adventures? Are you staying vital? It has been said that attitude is everything. Does your attitude need adjusting? You have the power to adjust it! You have the power within you to live a richer, healthier, happier life.

You see, I think we will experience new life in our church organization with the coming of our new minister and with the new programs we help to create. And I am looking forward to that as I am sure you are too. But, I think the real message of New Life was present a few Sundays ago when we celebrated Easter. And that is the promise of hope, of grace, a promise of the second chance. The idea of being able to change our lives for the better, that is the Easter story, the story of our loving God, and one that Jesus taught over and over again while he was here on earth.

You can have a new beginning! **NEW LIFE, ARE YOU FEELING IT?**

(Sermon delivered May 26, 2019, text edited for space.)

Invitations to Worship

For worship on June 9..."Holy Spirit's Coming...Are We Ready?"

Please read Psalms 104:24-34 and Acts 2:1-21. The birth of the church is traditionally celebrated on Pentecost Sunday...and we will too. It's a time when many people heard the Gospel in their own language. What will we each hear? All are invited to wear red, orange or yellow to worship in observance of Pentecost. Stephen Reddy

For worship on June 16..."A Lesson Learned". Please read Matthew 1:18-20, 24-25 and John 8:1-11. A well-known Jesus story in John when combined with Joseph's dream/decision allows for some curious pondering. Did Jesus' inaction come from something that he had learned from Joseph? On Fathers' Day, what do fathers and father figures hope to instill in future generations? ~Andrew Sampson



6/9/19 Linda Flores & Renee Gokey

6/16 /19 Mary Pieczarka and Cal Aukeman

6/23/19

6/30/19 Al & Elaine Forcier



Kelly Gepley , after attending the memorial of man who helped her family after the death of her dad, asked for prayers for the friend's family.

Evan Campbell asked for prayers for his wife, Jaimie, who is having surgery.

Peggy Hoover remarked on the devastation along Clark's Fork Road on the way to Peaceful Pines.

Kim Boardman rejoiced that Peaceful Pines was spared from fire damage.

Jolinda Reddy reported that Chelsea Feeney was anointed for her upcoming surgery.

Eddie Hernandez is celebrating the birth of his great-granddaughter.

Terhesa is caring for her dog, Rommie, who is ill again.

Jeannie Canter asks for prayers for a friend with stage 3 breast cancer and also rejoices that her sister is here to begin their yearly Sister Trip.

Jolinda Reddy has talked with David Keller and Kevin McDermott. David is back in Palm Springs, working, and Kevin is in Kansas City, but had no problems with tornadoes.

Tammy Firch is rejoicing a weight loss.

Richard Harvey asks for help to repair a cabin at Peaceful Pines.

Fran Atkins' sister Lucille Absher had a fall and is in Memorial Hospital with a compound fracture that required surgery.

Pat Royer saw in Newslite that David Shetler reported no churches in his Southern Ohio District were damaged by tornadoes, but some church members lost everything.

Renee Gokey reported that her father lives in Jefferson City, Missouri and is cleaning up after tornado damage.

New Home! Derek and Jenni Castle have moved to a new house. Their new address (Park Avenue) is already in the directory, however, they have disconnected their home phone number. Please contact them via their cell phones.

Special Council Meeting June 9, 2019

Be there to  vote!

Recommendation from the Board:

To separate the Treasurer/Bookkeeper position into two positions. This would provide two sets of eyes on all financial transactions.

Explanation:

Treasurer: The Treasurer would be an Ex-Officio elected member of the Board and the Stewardship Commission. The Treasurer would sign checks, and report all financial transactions to the Board and Council

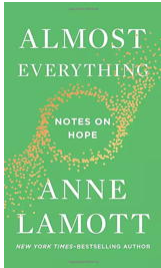
Bookkeeper: The Bookkeeper would be a paid position and keep a book of accounts, receive the financial secretary's deposit slips, disburse funds by preparing checks for the Treasurer's signature, make written reports of all financial transactions and submit accounts to an annual audit.

If Council votes this structure change, the change in the Bylaws would go to Council in November for a vote; a Treasurer would be nominated for vote in November and the change would take place in January 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June Book Study

Almost Everything: Notes on Hope



By Anne Lamott

Meeting Thursdays in June:

June 6,

June 13,

June 20,

June 27

6-7:30 PM



Summer potlucks begin Wednesday, June 12th at 6pm. For our first potluck the theme will be **picnic food**. We will provide hot dogs and hamburgers; you will bring the other food that says picnic to you: salads, desserts, relishes--and what is a picnic without deviled eggs? So, get creative and come for dinner with your contribution to share. That night's question will be: "What is the craziest thing that ever happened to you at a picnic?" Put your thinking caps on and be ready to share. See you there. Fellowship & Recreation



Summer is coming!

Join us for the next After-Church Potluck, June 30, 2019. Eddie and

Gayle Hernandez will be our hosts.

3708 Fuchsia Ln. Modesto

Bring a dish to share.



JUNE 15-11 AM

This event isn't just for fathers, it's for men and young men of all ages. We will provide lunch, brats, potato salad and chili beans. Dessert will be made during the Dutch Oven Cooking class, I hear it's a berry cobbler topped off with homemade ice cream. Come join in on all that good food and games. In order for this to happen we need at least 10 to sign up. We will watch the sign-up board, but by Wednesday June 10th, if we don't have 10 signed up we will have to cancel the event, so it's all up to you get signed up and get others to as well. Get signed up and let's have some fun. ~Fellowship & Recreation.



LET'S GO CAMPING at Camp Peaceful Pines!!

There is a camp just right for you in the beautiful high Sierra Nevada Mountains at Camp Peaceful Pines! We offer a variety of camping experiences in our rustic but comfortable style of camping for all ages... and best of all, 3 wonderful meals a day provided by our excellent cooks in the cozy Dining Hall.

A Women's Retreat Weekend June 21-23 features Resource Leader Mary McDonald who will share about her challenging faith journey as she facilitates study/discussion sessions & campfire time. Also, there are crafts, recreation, singing & opportunities for meaningful conversation throughout the weekend. See the sign-up in the narthex.

We have 2 options for families - ***Family Camp July 26-30th*** features Robert Aguirre, Resource Leader for morning study sessions and evening campfires. There are afternoon crafts and organized recreation, plus a hike day/day away.

At ***Discovery Camp June 30-July 5*** Joe Vecchio will provide leadership at campfires, with more informal recreation opportunities at camp or away. Creativity abounds with quilting projects in the dining hall.

Junior / Junior High / Youth Camp July 21-26 is just for youngsters completing 4th through 12th grades. Although campers spend much of their time together, they are separated by grade level in cabins and for other group sessions. Garry & Karen Pierson return as Resource Leaders for discussion groups. There are organized crafts, recreation, a hike day, free time before campfire and activities afterward.

Registration information is provided in 2019 Camp Brochures available on the table in the narthex. Talk to Peggy Hoover, Edie Ransom or Elaine Forcier (Camp Board Members) or see the camp Facebook page. Lynda Sesser is Camp Registrar (209) 527-8613. **You can also register and pay with a credit card online. Go to the camp website: CampPeacefulPines.org** and look for the link associated with each camp.

Elaine Forcier, Camp Peaceful Pines Rep

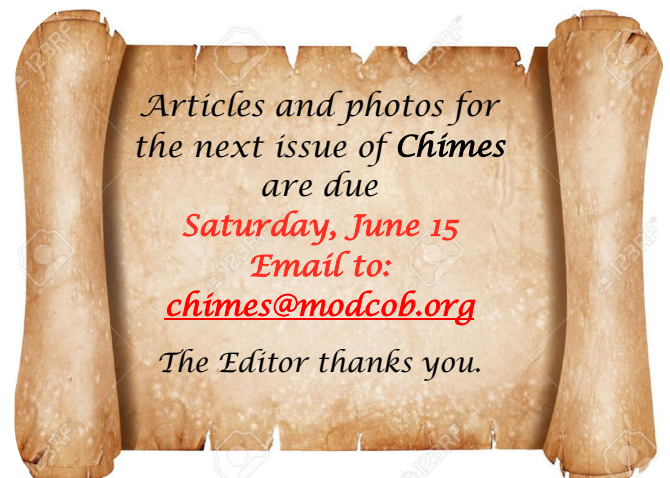
More Camp Peaceful Pines News

Summer Jobs at Camp

There is a great job opportunity for someone who wants to spend time at camp and get paid. The camp needs a cook's helper from Friday June 28th through Friday July 5th. You would not be responsible for any meal planning, just be a cook's helper (basically a go-fer)

You will be up early in the morning and on the job until early evening. Accommodations are camping—bring a sleeping bag. You may get the opportunity to go to campfire--always a highlight of camp. All that and you get paid \$70.00 per day. This might even be fun for a couple. Just think--no cell phone and no technology of any kind.

The camp has yet another cooking job. The last few days of Family Camp there is a need for a head cook and a helper. You would have 3 meals to plan and prepare on Monday, July 29th and Tuesday, July 30 and breakfast Wednesday morning, July 31. These are also paid positions. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, contact Sue Messamer, 209 505 0222 or email dsmessamer@att.net



"PEACE·WEEK"·¶

June·10th·14th·2019¶

9:00am·12:00pm¶

KINDERGARTEN·THROUGH·6TH·GRADE¶



Learning about making peace within ourselves, ¶
our community, and the world! ¶

Come join us for interesting stories, fun crafts, games, singing, and
snacks ¶

Bring a Friend!!!! ¶

Modesto Church of the Brethren ¶
2301 Woodland Avenue, Modesto, Calif. ¶
\$15.00 per child or \$35 per family. ¶

Register now! 209·484·3163 ¶

PEACE WEEK FOR KIDS! JUNE 10-14

9 AM - 12 NOON

"Unity: Coming Together For Peace"

REGISTER SOON!



Eat. Pray. Love!

Third Annual Interfaith PRAYER SUPPER



THURSDAY JUNE 20 Modesto Islamic Center
6-8 pm

1445 N. CARPENTER ROAD, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Offering appetizers, a buffet of halal (approved) vegetarian dishes & fish, plus ethnic desserts contributed by participating congregations!

This Year's Theme is...

"Can Prayer Heal Our Divided World?"

...featuring keynote speaker **LENG POWER**, community builder, peace activist and Stanislaus County Outstanding Woman Honoree for 2019... plus another rare opportunity to dine with members of other faith communities while sharing our experiences with the healing potential of prayer, meditation and spiritual reflection.

\$15. per person (includes all applicable fees) *

Reserve your seats at **www: prayersupper3.bpt.me**

or send your check to: SCIC,
P.O. Box 3365, Modesto, CA
95353 by June 17.

*Proceeds from tonight's Supper will support the ongoing bridge-building work of SCIC.



Organized and Sponsored by the
Stanislaus County INTERFAITH COUNCIL

For more details call 209-402-2915

The Stanislaus Interfaith Council's Third Annual Prayer Supper will be hosted by the Modesto Islamic Center, Thursday, June 20, beginning at 6 PM. Tickets for the buffet are available at [https://prayersupper3.bpt.me./](https://prayersupper3.bpt.me/)

The theme of the evening is "Can Prayer Heal Our Divided World?". Speaker this year is Leng Power, community builder, peace activist, and Stanislaus County Outstanding Woman Honoree for 2019.

Plus you will have another rare opportunity to dine with members of other faith communities while sharing our experiences with the healing power of prayer, meditation and spiritual reflection.

Condensed Calendar



Monday, June 3

Tuesday, June 4

Wednesday, June 5

REMEMBER! NO FAITH BITES!

Thursday, June 6

Friday, June 7

Saturday, June 8

Sunday, June 9

Pancake Breakfast 8 AM-12 noon

11 AM Worship

12:15 Special Council Meeting

12:45 Witness Commission

June 6 6 pm June Book Study

June 10 6:30 pm Board Meeting

June 10-14 Peace Week

June 12 6 pm Summer Supper Potluck

June 13 7:05 Sr. Ministries Modesto Nuts
Baseball Game

June 14 6 pm FUN Event (culmination of
Peace Week)

June 15 11 AM Fathers' Day Bash

June 16 Fathers' Day

June 16 Pastor Andrew Sampson first sermon

June 17 5:30 pm Ladies' Night Out
Sizzler

June 20 6 pm SCIC Prayer Supper Modesto
Islamic Center

June 21-23 Women's Retreat—CPP

June 26 6 pm Summer Supper Potluck

June 30 Prospector Potluck-Hernandez' home



July 3-7 Annual Conference-Greensboro, NC

July 4 Independence Day Holiday
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 the
church office at
office@modcob.org by
Wednesday evenings.**

Thank you!

