



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 11

February 2019

Annual Congregational Meeting

An Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 12:30pm. Copies of the Annual Report Booklets are available in the Narthex and in the front office. Please, one (1) copy per family.

MISSION

Our mission is to welcome all people, equip them for a deep and loving faith in Jesus Christ, and send them into the world to share God's love.



VISION

Our vision is to be a beacon for Jesus Christ. With His love and joy, we will draw people into a safe harbor where they are welcomed, healed, restored, and nurtured, becoming radiant witnesses.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 7-8

First Light

a monthly publication
of the
First Presbyterian
Church

First Presbyterian Church

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This being my first letter to you as your new pastor, let me introduce myself to you. My home is in Sacramento, California, where my wife will continue to be living while I am here in Fairbanks. We have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and a West Highland dog named Kenzy. I have been fortunate enough to have been born into a family of pastors. My father, James Baird, my grandfather, Jesse Baird, and my great grandfather, Henry Sandborn, were all Presbyterian pastors. I have two sons, each of whom are ordained Presbyterian pastors. Some would say that we were sort of stuck. I like to say that God will keep at it until He gets it right. I was also blessed with a rich academic background. After a Political Science Degree from Lewis and Clark College, I went on to three Masters Degrees, including an MBA from the University of Utah, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Finally, I feel blessed with over 50 years of ministry in 8 churches and 4 states,

small churches (10 members) and large churches (1,400 members), rural churches and inner-city churches and many opportunities of service in government, academia, business and the military. I only pray that God has not wasted His Grace on this poor servant and that you will be blessed with its use.

I come as your “Transitional Pastor,” called by your Session to assist you into your next chapter of life in Christ when a new installed pastor will join you here in Fairbanks. This probably raises in your mind several questions such as, “What is a Transitional Pastor”? A Transitional Pastor is an ordained minister sent to a local church to assist it in strengthening its old programs, developing new ministries, electing a Pastor Search Committee and guiding that search for a new pastor. It is a bit like an installed pastor, only it is not as long lived, and is called by a Session instead of the Congregation. Another question might be, “How long lived is a Transitional Pastor?” It would be easy to say, “It will take as long as it takes.” but that would probably not be as helpful as saying, “Anywhere from 6 months to a year and a half.” There may

be other questions you may also have. I hope that you will not hesitate to ask me those questions, as I will be looking to you for the answers to the many questions that I have. In this beginning time, my one request is that you will regularly help me learn your name and keep us all in prayer. I never forget a face, but the names will sometimes escape me. Together we have an exciting year in front of us and I can't wait to get started.

God bless,

Dr. Donald H. Baird, Pastor



Wedding Bells Are Ringing



*Holly Morris
And
David Zumbro*

You are invited to join Dwight and Deanna Morris as the whole family celebrate the wedding of their daughter, Holly Morris.

February 16 at 3pm

The only gift requested is your presence. Point of contact is Dave Dreydoppel at ddreydoppel@mac.com.



Loving Families

FPC's next Host Week for Loving Families is February 24-March 3. If you are interested in serving by either preparing a meal, staying a night in the church, or being the Project Coordinator, please contact Jim Williams at jimw101591@gmail.com, or call/text to 978-3320. Sign up at

<http://signup.com/go/MqaKosW>

Session Meeting

News From the Elders

What follows is a **brief synopsis** of the motions and decisions from the January 15th Stated Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will provide more information.

- Pastor Baird introduced the concept of the “Elder’s Corner” as a means to hear concerns from the congregation, on a weekly basis. Each month, 4 elders (2 per service) will be at a table in the Narthex after the service, and will be available to speak with anyone, on any topic. Pastor Baird will be presenting the process for the next two Sundays, and it will be implemented beginning in February. The Clerk of Session will be scheduling Elders to cover a month on a rotating basis.
- David Dreydoppel was re-elected as Clerk of Session for 2019.
- The Christian Formation and Discipleship Ministry Team moved **“to formally create a Children’s Minister Search Committee under the Personnel Committee, to include the Children’s Ministry Team.”** The motion **passed**.
- The Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team moved to **“approve the fourth draft of the 2019 Budget as presented to Session on January 15th.”** The motion **passed**.
- Use of the Time between Services (10 to 11 am): In order to make informed decision, the Christian Ed, Worship, and Fellowship Ministry Teams will research and bring back to Session in February, a report indicating the history, pros, cons, and recommendations from their respective teams.
- Sexual Misconduct Policy: Approval of the policy was tabled until the February Stated Meeting, to allow members of Session a chance to review the policy and address questions to the Administration Ministry Team.
- Personnel Policy: Approval of the policy was tabled until the March Stated Session Meeting, to give members of Session time to review the policy.

Respectfully Submitted

Dave Dreydoppel, Clerk Session

Church Elders

Donna Brewer

June Champlin

Dawn Cogan

Dave Dreydoppel

Michelle Harpole

Mikaila Holt

Barbara Page

Terry Reichardt

Mike Repasky

Jake Sirevaag

Russ Vander Lugt

Jim Williams

Dr. Donald Baird: Moderator



Our Gifts and Offerings at Work

God created us in his image, giving us life, abilities, time, and resources. We glorify God when we responsibly manage the gifts he has given us. During 2018, First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks directed \$5000 (a portion of the offerings you presented to God in worship), to EPC World Outreach toward the support of Mike and Tami in Malaysia. Mike and Tami are part of an EPC World Outreach "Engage 2025" team in Malaysia. The goal of "Engage 2025" is for each EPC presbytery to engage with an unreached Muslim people group, and send a team of disciple-makers to them by the year 2025. Our presbytery, Presbytery of the Pacific North West, has adopted the Malay people.

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country in Southeast Asia and one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in the region, outranked in GNP only by Singapore and oil-rich Brunei. The Federation of Malaya became an independent country on 31 August 1957. The Malay, 50% of Malaysia's population, are an unreached Muslim people group, which means there is no Christian witness within the entire Malay population. Malay is the official language of the country. There are many other languages, but most people also speak English. There is freedom for other religions to exist as long as they do not proselytize. In fact, the law of the land forbids proselytizing Malay people and forbids the possession of a Bible by a Malay person. Bibles are allowed in the country but are clearly stamped "for Christians only". The EPC missionary team along with Christians in Malaysia, and EPC Churches in our Presbytery are in a season of prayer titled "Call unto Him 525". Malaysia was divided into 52 zones (one for each week of the year) to lift in prayer for 5 years. Prayer has been going on for 2 years already. There are three years to go.



I challenge you to join in daily prayer for the unreached Malay people. Pray for "People of Peace" (Luke 10:6) and for those who do not yet know the gospel of Christ.

A **Person of Peace** is simply someone that God has prepared ahead of time to hear the message of the gospel.

The **Malaysian population** (2016) of 31.6 million includes many ethnic groups: Malay 50%, Chinese 24%, Indigenous 11.0%, Indian 7%, non-Malaysian citizens 7 %.

Religions include: Islam (60%), Buddhism (20%), Christianity (10%), Hinduism (6%), Confucianism (2.6%), Animism (1%), others (including Taoism, Sikhism, Baha'i faith).

Languages: Malay, Cantonese, Hokkien, Mandarin Chinese, English, Tamil, indigenous.

Literacy: 94%.

Government: Malaysia is a federation of 13 states, the country's political system is a constitutional monarchy based on the British Westminster parliamentary system. The nine *Malay States* (Sultanates) are constitutionally headed by a king, who is chosen every five years from the ranks of the rulers of the nine Sultanates according to the principle of rotation. Executive power is vested in the cabinet led by the prime minister, who is the head of government.

Barbara Page

Stewardship and Finance, Elder

Relax by Reading Christian Fiction Novels

Probably ten years ago one of my orchestra students was reading a book afterschool in my classroom. I asked her what she was reading and she was reluctant to tell me that it was Christian Fiction – I was captivated and very interested. This was my introduction to the world of the Christian author Robin Jones Gunn. The very next day my student gave me a book from her mom titled *Secrets*. I started reading and could not stop. *Secrets* is the first book of eight in *The Glenbrooke Series* by Robin Jones Gunn. I searched all of the Christian fiction books in our libraries trying to find the rest of the series and had to special order a few of them from other libraries and through book stores.



Through her writing, the author, Robin Jones Gunn, takes you on a spiritual journey in each of her books and ministers you through each story. She began her journey as a writer of books for young girls in her Sunday school class and she created *The Christy Miller* series. Her other young adult novels include *The Sierra Jensen Series*, *The College Years*, and *The Katie Weldon Series*. As her characters have aged, she now has Christy Miller – the Baby Years series, too.

After I finished *The Glenbrooke Series*, I discovered the *Sisterchick* Novels for women in their middle years, in which Robin Jones Gunn takes you on a special journey with two girlfriends as they travel to different locations with Jesus always beside them. The author has also written three holiday themed books about *Finding Father Christmas* that Hallmark recently transformed into beautiful movies.

When my family went to Maui in August of 2017, I emailed Robin Jones Gunn a few days before we left Alaska, on a whim, that I might meet her in her hometown. My dream came true and Robin met my family and me at her church and she visited with us for over an hour. It was exciting and definitely a “God Thing.” I encourage you to relax and pick up a book by Robin Jones Gunn. Her books are for everyone –young adults, women, and men. You can visit her website at www.robjgunn.com

Barbara Nore

Moderator of the Deacons



You are Invited!!



International Friends of Compassion Complimentary Family Dinner

Friday, March 1 at 6:30pm

Door of Hope Church Auditorium

**Come hear how God is moving in
Indonesia and how the poorest of the
poor are being served.**

RSVP REQUIRED

RSVP at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 17 or 24 or
Call or email Jim Aldrich at (907) 479-2582, jwaldrich@gmail.com or
Email Carl Cady at carl@ifcus.org

SEWING Social

Schedule of Events

March 3

April 1

May 6

Bring those unfinished projects!! Bring a dish as well to share during the potluck at each session. Point of contact is JoAnn Mills at 799-0108.

Opportunities To Serve

Do you have the desire to serve the church by providing volunteer hours? The church is in need of volunteer assistance in the following ministries:

Front Office Desk

Answering phones and assisting at the desk each day for approximately 30 minutes to an hour.

Children's Ministry

Assist the administrator with various projects on a weekly basis.

Youth Group

Assist the Youth Director with various projects on a weekly basis.

Distribution of Food Boxes

The church is in DIRE need of volunteers to assist with unloading and distributing approximately 5200 pounds of food boxes each week. Unloading from the trucks begin each Wednesday at 12:45pm, and distribution of food boxes are from 2-4pm

For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Front Office



Bible Studies



Women's Bible Study

This study examines the lives of Dorcas, Lydia, Phoebe, and many other less frequently mentioned women in the New Testament. Come and discover how these women surrendered their abilities and wills to God and the amazing ways the Holy Spirit was able to use them because of it. Invite a friend and join us in the FPC Conference Room each Tuesday from 10-11:30 am. Childcare is provided. Please contact **Donna Brewer** at billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com or text at **907-378-3351**.

Bible Study

Do you ever wonder how the church got started? Come, walk through the Book of Acts and find out! Please meet us each Sunday at 10am upstairs in the FPC Conference Room. For additional information, please contact Jerry Cleworth at akcoins@mosquitonet.com.



ROOTS

ROOTS, a Bible Study and Fellowship for Grades 4-6, meets each Sunday, from 4-6pm. Dinners are provided. If you have the desire to sign up for a meal, please refer to the following link:

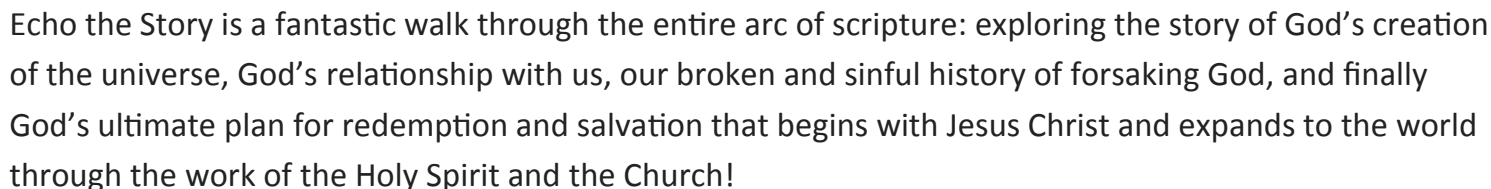
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1exrlu7ft56bOY3sHV-ND6P2gPajdqaN7q6BZceE2row/edit?usp=sharing>

Led by Brian and Stephanie Rozell
907-687-0702 or 907-687-3730

brianrozell@gmail.com or Stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com



We are excited that for our next Bible study curriculum: Echo the Story!



Super Bowl Party!

February 3rd will be our annual Youth Group Super Bowl Party! We will begin the party at the normal youth group time of 1pm, but youth are invited to stay until the game is over! Usually about 7pm. Feel free to leave as needed, but plan on bringing a snack to share and a critically thinking mind as we watch the game and commercials and take a deeper look at what commercials (and pop culture) are “selling” us!

David McConnell-Booher
Director Youth Ministry



4 Chole Albert
6 June Champlin
7 Russ Vander Lugt
7 Hayden Masterson
8 Diane Henry
9 Austin Foster
12 Samuel Craft
13 David Jones
15 Autumn Vander Lugt

15 Lily Sunderland
17 Christina Repasky
19 Ellucia Boswell
20 Lonny Marney
23 Lauren Scott
23 Claude Klaver
24 Dale Feist
27 Brett Johnson



The Well

The Well is an outreach ministry that offers free hot dinners, fellowship, and prayer opportunities for all who come. It is open to all. Dinners are served each Wednesday from 6-7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Playgroups

Please join us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the church for some kid playtime and adult conversation. For additional information, please contact Amber Sunderland at 970-497-9481.