

# KENSINGTON PRESS

MAY 2019

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ:

After 9 years as the editor of our congregation's newsletter, the **Kensington Press**, Virginia Thibeaux plans to retire. Her last edition will be the next issue, the June/July edition. I can't thank Virginia enough for the time, skill and aesthetic gifts she has brought to her work and to our church communications. Month after month, we rely on the KP for schedules, news, articles and important announcements. We will celebrate Virginia and her ministry during worship on June 23.

Before we look for a replacement editor with Virginia's gifts, Session is exploring whether the role the KP has played in our communications can be served in other ways. Many churches have abandoned a monthly newsletter for a more substantial announcement section in the Sunday bulletin, coupled with weekly emails and longer articles posted on the website.

We currently use a number of ways to share news, announcements, and articles of interest with this congregation. Office administrator Joanna Magee has been creating weekly emails for announcements about upcoming events for a while now. Our Facebook page currently functions as a vehicle for

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## ...from the Choir

The chancel choir, soloists, and orchestra under the direction of Maestro Daniel Canosa will present **Requiem for the Living**, by Dan Forrest, on Saturday evening June 1 at 8 pm in the Sanctuary, as well as during worship on Sunday June 2. We invite anyone to come Saturday or Sunday; donations will be gratefully accepted for the Saturday evening performance. Dan Forrest is a contemporary American composer with many choral and orchestral works to his name. This work is particularly captivating and exciting! Come hear us!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
SAN ANSELMO  
CHANCEL CHOIR, SOLOISTS,  
AND ORCHESTRA,  
DANIEL CANOSA,  
DIRECTOR

*Present*

REQUIEM  
*for the*  
LIVING

DAN FORREST

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 AT 8PM (FREE WILL OFFERING)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10AM



## Youth News

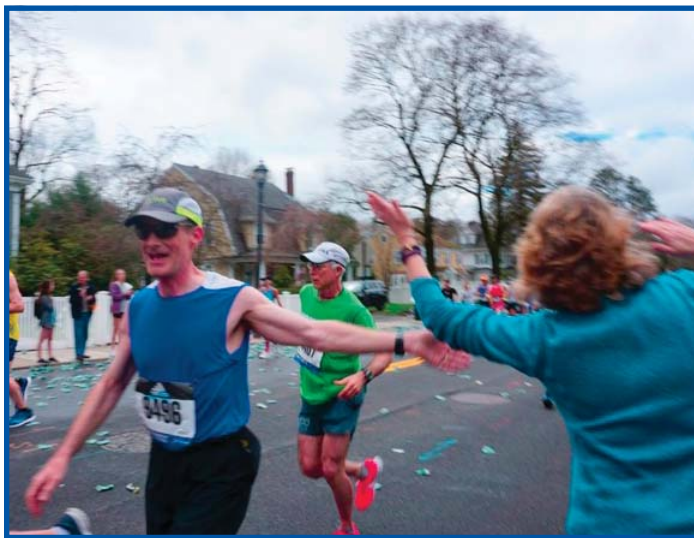
Hello, church family! We hope all of the children had fun hunting for eggs on Easter Sunday. We certainly had fun placing them! This month, the youth are organizing a service activity (possibly a church clean up, but if you have other ideas let us know!) and we're going to plan a fun activity too for before summer begins. We'll keep you up to date as we plan and get organized!

This month will be my last month as Youth Director here at FPCSA, as my internship is coming to an end. I wanted to thank everyone for their participation and kindness during my time here. I've had a wonderful experience with this congregation, and I will carry the memories and new things I've learned with me through the rest of my seminary education and beyond.

Thank you again for the wonderful blessing you've been! ~Heather Gordon

## The (Boston) Marathon Man

After 18 weeks of training, David Conant competed in the Boston Marathon, a lifetime aspiration, finishing the 26.3-mile race after 3 hours and 15 minutes. Huzzah!



Rebecca Conant reaches out to congratulate David on finishing his well-run race.

## THEATRE OUTINGS



### Theatre Outing on Sunday June 9th, 2:00pm "Moll Flanders"

You are warmly invited to join theatregoers at 2:00pm in the **Barn Theatre** at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross, on June 9th, to frolic through the colorful adventures of Moll Flanders. Adapted by Jennifer Le Blanc from Daniel Defoe's eponymous 1722 novel, this lively morality tale depicts the bawdy story of an independent, spirited woman, making her way through a man's world, in seventeenth century England.

Sign up in Duncan Hall beginning May 19th or contact Maureen Kalbus, [maureenkalbus@comcast.net](mailto:maureenkalbus@comcast.net) or (415) 444-0302, to secure a group rate ticket. [\$22 for twelve or more people]



3 generations of Conant men, Loring, David and James, basking in the light of David's glorious achievement.

"Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed."

~ Hebrews 12: 11-12

## RESOURCES

### The Church Greened, Always Becoming Greener

#### Have you noticed?

The Northern California wildfires of October 2017, the Ventura-Santa Barbara fire in December 2017, and the 2018 Paradise Fire were the result of increasingly favorable conditions caused by climate disruption. Greatly influenced by these deadly, costly and intense wildfires, changes have been made on the FPSA campus to reduce fire risk and to reduce water usage.

Multiple trees requiring less water have been planted in front of the church, on Bolinas Avenue, in front of Duncan Hall, and in the patio. The brick planters in front of the sanctuary have been planted with lantana and the areas in front of them with Spanish lavender. When established, they too will need less water.

The latest additions are two rainwater catchment tanks located in front of Duncan Hall. Each tank holds 265 gallons when full and will be used for watering plants in the immediate area.

Our landscaping team is open to feedback and would like to hear your ideas.

Ron Vestal, Co-chair, Landscaping Team



*The Rev. Douglas Olds, Parish Associate, is working with several Bay Area congregations as part of his Doctoral Dissertation, examining how congregations go from being carbon producers to becoming carbon neutral, and then to help individual members in their journey to become more carbon neutral in their day-to-day lives. The Session is very grateful to Doug for his expertise in the area of carbon emissions analysis, and for his valuable insights into how we continue to reduce our carbon footprint.*

### 2018 Carbon Emissions Report First Presbyterian, San Anselmo

#### By The Rev. Douglas Olds

The atmosphere is a fundamental creation of God for the flourishing of human and non-human life. Carbon loading of the atmosphere from human activity threatens to cause (additional) catastrophic environmental degradation, social upheaval, extinctions, and unjust distribution of costs and privation from climate and ecological change. In terms of God's justice and humanity's mission for global creation care and trusteeship, Christians have a special call to reduce the carbon emissions from their economic and householding activities. In 2006, the Presbyterian Church USA, (PCUSA) asked its 2.3 million members each to "make a bold witness by aspiring to carbon-neutral lives." Creation care and environmental stewardship is a primary goal and initiative at First Presbyterian San Anselmo.

Like I did at FPSA in 2008, I recently undertook to measure the Carbon Footprint of FPSA's 2018 operations. I categorized and implemented a survey of various processes at the church to quantify their embedded carbon emissions. The sum of these processes revealed that FPSA had a 2018 Carbon Footprint of 121 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e [Carbon dioxide and equivalents]. To put this figure into perspective, the direct operations of the church approached the carbon footprints of about 2.5 average Marin County households—or 3.5 average national households. About one-fifth of the footprint was attributable to natural gas heating, one-fifth to stakeholder commuting, one-fifth to embedded emissions of production and transport, and another one-quarter to the 6-person mission trip to Puerto Rico in October.

To visualize this amount of carbon dioxide, imagine 23 large [3-5 person] hot air balloons filled with gas. If this amount of gas were converted to solid coal, it would fill about 3/5 of a standard freight railcar.

My report of this audit included recommendations to lower or zero out this carbon footprint. Stay tuned for information how our congregation can participate in mitigating (directly reducing) and offsetting (investing in) carbon emission reductions on- and off-site toward FPSA approaching carbon neutrality, which means net zero emissions.

An abridged report of this Carbon Audit with Recommendations is available at <https://www.togetherweserve.org/carbonfootprint>. If you would like to request the full report, email me at [douglasolds@togetherweserve.net](mailto:douglasolds@togetherweserve.net).

## RESOURCES/CHURCH & SOCIETY

### Carbon Dioxide Emission Offset Credits—Act Locally

What can we do to offset the carbon dioxide emissions due to our travel? There are many national and international organizations with websites that calculate the carbon emissions from a person's car, plane, or cruise ship travel. And many offer opportunities to offset those carbon emissions by planting trees, capturing landfill methane, or building renewable energy projects such as wind or solar panels.

However, it takes some research and diligence to make sure the carbon offset programs offered on a website are legitimate and that the projects can be verified. But what about a carbon offset program where the project is both legitimate and verifiable because you can see it when you are standing in the patio between the Sanctuary and Duncan Hall?

The Church and Society Committee and the Resources Committee are working on a carbon dioxide emissions credit program. The program would buy additional solar panels at the church to reduce the church's carbon dioxide emissions. The capital campaign has \$30,000 earmarked for additional solar panels, but we could install another \$30,000 worth of new panels to help us become more carbon neutral. So these committees are working to set up a carbon credit program where you can give money to a special account that will be used to pay for additional solar panels.

If you want to offset the environmental impacts of flying to LA, New York, Europe, or New Zealand, you won't have to search the web to purchase carbon credits. You can do it right here at 72 Kensington Road and see the solar panels as they go up.



## CONNECTIONS

### Women's Connection Meets on 2nd Mondays

Women's Connection is a monthly gathering, usually 2nd Mondays, from 7:00 to 8:30pm, of members and friends of the church who are seeking an informal and smaller nurturing community. Some seasons are spent in book study, some in guided prayer practice and others are simply some special time in one another's company.

Please email or call/text Raquel Nelson at [raquel@thenoisefloor.com](mailto:raquel@thenoisefloor.com), or 415-328-6676 if you would like to join us.



### 2nd Saturday Women's Breakfast

About 25 women attended the inaugural 2nd Saturdays Women's Breakfast. Attendees got to listen to Pastor Joanne tell about her life story.

This is a great opportunity to connect in a friendly, informal setting, where a light breakfast comes together by potluck. If you would like to come, just show up with a light, breakfast-like food item. (Cruellers, anyone?)

Meet in the Fireside Room, from 9-10:30am, with plenty of time to get to your baseball games.

Next up is Ruth Sempell.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE



### Spotlight on Our Deacons

The Board of Deacons consists of church members elected and ordained to serve in a caring ministry in and beyond the congregation. They may do some of the things that family members do for one another - prepare or deliver a meal, offer transportation, visit shut-ins, bring a bouquet of flowers or send cards. Each member of the church community is included in the "flock" of one of the deacons. When there is a memorial service, the deacons provide a reception after the service. On Sunday mornings, one of the deacons is stationed near the front door of the sanctuary to assist anyone who needs help getting into the church. There are 18 deacons all together and the tasks are distributed among the group.

The deacons meet once a month on the first Tuesday at 7:30pm to check in with one another and support one another in this ministry. Once the new deacons (each year there are 6) have been elected, they are ordained and installed during a Sunday morning worship service. A deacon's term typically lasts three years and starts in April.

While we've just elected a new group of deacons, let's give thanks to those who served in 2018-19: Joan Basore, Jim Bell, Al Flood, Joan Flood, Chris Francisco, Jennifer Frisch, Joanie Jacobsen, Marita Mayer, Sue Neil, Anne Poore, Cheryl Prowell, Phyllis Schlobohm, Juliana Steccone, Anne Towler and Mary Waetjen.

Why do deacons enjoy serving? Here are a few thoughts they shared:

- It's a chance to help build and support a caring community
- Doing something useful for those who need help, a listener or just a little attention
- A chance to get to know church members better
- I like feeling gratitude and love whenever I visit someone in the hospital or take flowers or food to someone who is house-bound
- An uplifting and inspiring experience, showing me the vastness of the ways in which we can be of service to others

If you're interested in serving as a deacon, please contact one of the co-moderators, Mary Waetjen and Phyllis Schlobohm, or Martha Wall, 2019-20 Nominating Committee Chair.

## CHURCH & SOCIETY

### San Rafael Street Chaplaincy Is An Enduring Ministry

The Street Chaplaincy continues its 20-plus years of sharing stories, prayers and a warm meal every Tuesday evening at 1st Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, via what is called **The Wellness Gathering**. This program has undergone several iterations ... and now, the meals are being served by 18 congregations/groups, who are almost entirely former participants from the discontinued REST program.

Joy Snyder (FPCSA) coordinates the volunteers, and very recently The Street Chaplaincy was delighted to welcome Michael Baranowski (of St. Luke Pres) to serve as the Kitchen Manager.

The Street Chaplaincy program is different from REST in more than a couple of ways. First, it is coed, with its various participants arriving on foot, bike or car. They come anytime between 5:30-7:00pm for the sharing of spiritual and their various community needs/concerns. And the crowd often includes other concerned community members—as well as the volunteers who serve the dinner—who want to show and share support.

The Street Chaplaincy provides dinners, as well as leftovers in "to-go" containers ... an option which is very popular. As the "only show in town" for dinners (with the exception of Mill Street, whose numbers are limited and guests must be registered to make various commitments), The Street Chaplaincy's Wellness Gathering continues to generate strong support.



**S T R E E T**  
**CHAPLAINCY**  
of San Rafael  
**W E L L N E S S**  
**GATHERINGS**



## WORSHIP

### Worship in May 2019

- May 5** 3rd Sunday of Easter  
Communion  
**"Feed My Sheep"**  
John 21:1-19  
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
- May 12** 4th Sunday of Easter  
**"They Who've Come Out of the Great Ordeal"**  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
Heather Gordon,  
Seminary Intern, preaching
- May 19** 5th Sunday in Easter  
**FAMILY SUNDAY**  
**"Old and Young Together"**  
Psalm 148  
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
- May 26** 6th Sunday in Easter  
**"Visions"**  
Acts 16:9-15  
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

## CHURCH & SOCIETY

The following story is excerpted from *Counterpunch* an alternative news site. It can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2VPeVil>

### Paradise Lost: Reflections on the Camp Fire by George Wuerthner | April 5, 2019

The Camp Fire burned through Paradise last November (2018) killing 87 people, mostly older residents. Plus destroying 14000 homes and another 4800 structures (like commercial buildings). Another 637 structures were "damaged" bringing the total estimate by CAL FIRE of 19,336 structures destroyed or damaged. At least five public schools were ruined, part of a hospital, several churches among other destruction.

The Camp Fire is the deadliest wildfire in California history and one of the deadliest in the United States. By the time the fire was contained, it had burned an area of 153,336 acres.

Before the fire, Paradise was home to 27,000 people. Within six hours of the first ignition, some 90-95% (over 18800 structures) of the buildings in Paradise and the nearby community of Concow were reduced to rubble.

One cannot imagine how complete the destruction from this blaze is until you have seen it firsthand.

To me one of the most remarkable features of standing on the main street of the town in the aftermath of the blaze were the standing green trees. If you looked down a highway or street, it often was a tunnel through live forest, but underneath those trees there were no standing houses—just burned out foundations. And of the trees that were burnt, most were facing the foundations indicating that it was the house fire, not a wildfire, that scorched them or killed them.

Even more stunning to me was to see entire commercial centers like a shopping mall or church completely burned to the ground with nothing but twisted steel girders and debris to show where once large buildings once stood. I used to believe if there was significant "blacktop" like a large parking lot surrounding buildings, they would survive a fire—the Camp Fire proved my assumptions were incorrect.

### Fuel Reductions Failed

The second important point is that the area surrounding Paradise had experienced extensive "fuel reductions" of one sort or another. Most timber industry and logging proponents, as well as politicians from California's governor Newsom (as well as most other politicians across the West) to President Trump, argue that "fuel reductions," i.e., logging (and in the case of Trump more raking) would preclude large fires.

Yet it is climate/weather with extreme conditions of drought, low humidity, high temps and high winds, not fuels, that is responsible for all large wildfires. I have not seen a single exception.

In a sense, the continued advocacy for "fuel reductions" by various public agencies, forestry schools, collaboratives, and the like is delusional, and borders on malfeasance since it lulls communities into believing if they only cut enough trees and brush, they won't have to worry about wildfire.

### Solutions?

The climate/weather factors that led to the Camp Fire are undeniable. Severe drought, combined with higher temperatures and of course wind events, are part of the changing climate pattern attributed to climate change. There will undoubtedly be future "Paradises" across the West.

What I've seen is the focus on fuel reductions, particularly those occurring far from communities create a sense of complacency in communities. The average person thinks if we only log enough forest, do enough prescribed burning; large wildfires will be prevented. The scientific evidence for this is limited. Indeed, numerous studies conclude under "extreme fire weather" most fuel treatments fail, in part, because spotting of embers jumps all barriers.

What does seem to work, to the degree that anything works, is efforts to reduce the flammability of homes. Studies by Dr. Jack Cohen and others have demonstrated that wooden walls require continuous heating to ignite. Most fast-moving wildfires like the Camp Fire do not linger long enough to ignite a wall. But if there are other flammable materials nearby whether it is firewood piled next to a house or a gutter full of pine needles and leaves, then the house is vulnerable to flames.

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short announcements, updates, and photos. Facebook and the weekly emails could also be used to lead people to the church website, where they could read articles or more detailed descriptions of events. We can post the worship and preaching schedule on the website, reachable by a drop down menu. We are also exploring ways to create a print publication on a less frequent basis.

We are weighing all of our options for replacing the **Kensington Press** with other useful and relevant informational tools. We'll look at the pro's and con's of each option, try new things, and keep you informed every step of the way. Martha Olsen Joyce will be leading this effort, if you would like to reach out to her directly.

Until then, please thank Virginia and every member of the Kensington Press team: Joanna Magee, Frank Ferguson, and Barb Shindelus. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Together we serve,  
Joanne



**Camp Fire** Continued from Page 6

The second lesson of the Camp Fire is that these fire reduction efforts must be made on a community-wide basis. They cannot be voluntary. Even if you remove the pine needles from your roof or put a girdle of gravel surrounding the foundation of your home, your place may still burn to the ground if your neighbor's home catches fire. Structure fires put out more heat and more embers than a wildfire.

The third lesson is that communities must plan in advance for emergency evacuations. There must be a warning system in place that warns residents that a fire may be approaching. Setting up a system of public alarms like the old air raid sirens that were used during the Cold War to alert residents of a possible air attack could be one answer. And as in Paradise, you cannot assume that electricity and things like cell phones will be working. So alternative means of communication must be set up—in advance.

Long term, the ultimate cure is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It should be pointed out that logging forests release far more GHG than a wildfire. For instance, logging is the most significant source of GHG emissions in Oregon. So keeping carbon in the forest just as keeping fossil fuels in the ground is a long term and practical means of helping to cope with climate change.

None of us wants to see a repeat of Paradise. But as long as politicians and others with a vested financial interest in logging/thinning that includes forestry professors, foresters, timber companies, and others continue to harp on "fuel reductions" as the cure, we will not see a significant reduction in death and home losses.

*George Wuerthner has published 36 books including **Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy**. He serves on the board of the **Western Watersheds Project**.*

**Are you concerned about the risk of wildfires in Marin?**  
Talk to someone from the Church & Society Committee, or come to one of our monthly meetings, 2nd Tuesdays, 7pm Conference Room (Church Office).



72 Kensington Road  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
415.456.3713  
www.togetherweserve.org  
mail@togetherweserve.org

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
10:00am  
(Nursery Care)

**The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt**  
Pastor and Head of Staff

**The Rev. Doug Olds**  
Parish Associate  
**Laurie Buntain**

Church Accountant

**Daniel Canosa**

Director of Music

**Heather Gordon**

Director of Youth Ministries and  
Seminary Intern

**Tom Lannert**

Church Custodian

**Joanna Magee**

Office Administrator

**Audrey Mahler**

Sexton

**Natsuko Murayama**

Organist

**Patrick O'Connor**

Godly Play Teacher

**Martha Spears**

Coordinator of

Older Adult Ministries

**Mary Wright Gillespie**

Associate Pastor Emerita

**Sally Johnson**

Director of Music Emerita

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**Frank Ferguson &  
Barbara Shindelus**

Mailing

## SUNDAY SEMINARS

Sunday Seminar May 26th:

Community Land Trust Association of West Marin, Kim Thompson, Executive Director

### CLAM Creates Affordable Housing in West Marin

The Community Land Trust Association of West Marin (CLAM) is a community-based organization that acquires property and removes it from the speculative market, creating affordable homes and community strength along the rural coast. CLAM works in an environmentally inspiring way, including developing **the first new construction Passive House\* in the state**. CLAM is now positioned to acquire and repurpose a major property for affordable housing in the County- the former US Coast Guard Housing Site in Pt. Reyes Station. CLAM's work includes project development, community organizing and policy advocacy, and is one of many Community Land Trusts across the globe addressing growing income inequality and ensuring community self-determination.

Kim Thompson, M.Div, is an SFTS alumna and has served as Executive Director of CLAM for seven years. She is from the San Joaquin Valley, where she worked with Southeast Asian refugee communities on housing justice, and on environmental policy. She is an early participant in the PC (USA) Young Adult Volunteer Program.

### \*What is a Passive House?

Buildings are responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions each year. Constructing buildings on Passive House principles is one way to cut those emissions dramatically. A Passive House is a very well-insulated, virtually air-tight building that is primarily heated by designing the house for maximum warming by sunlight and by the heat generated from people, electrical equipment, and other household operations. A constant, balanced fresh air supply is ensured through air ventilation technology. The result is a building that not only saves space-heating costs, but also provides excellent indoor air quality. The Passive House concept can be applied in both new and retrofit construction—in residential, commercial, and institutional projects.