



Pastor Search Update & Call for a Congregational Meeting Called after worship today

Session met with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) representatives last Sunday. COM has a few possible candidates in mind already. They recommend that we call a new pastor 3/4 time for a 2-4 year contract. At the end of this contract, we can renew it, cancel it or change it. They will present 3 candidates to Session and we will interview them. That way, we can have a new pastor in September and avoid a lengthy search and interim pastors. There will be a congregational meeting on May 31st to designate Session as the Pastor Nominating Committee. Monte's last day is July 17th. There will be a going-away bash in his honor that week.

Summer Camp Fundraiser next Sunday, June 7th after worship

Come to worship hungry as we'll be having a meal at which you can donate money to help raise funds to enable all of our children to attend summer camp at Westminster Woods Camp and Conference Center this summer! A week of camp costs \$475. We continue to envision sending *our* kids to grow in faith at camp as our responsibility as a community alongside their nuclear families!



Women's Worship Sunday, June 14th

Sunday, June 14th will be a women led worship celebration here at Fruitvale Presbyterian Church. Joan Curtis is again helping to organize and facilitate this unique, congregational-led worship gathering. You can sign up to help lead particular parts of the service through the sign-up sheet in the church entryway this morning. The theme for worship that day is that we are the hands of God in the world, making God visible through our service, ministry & relationships. Talk to Joan if you have questions or want to get involved!

STAFF

Bill Bryant
Custodian

Geraldine Martin
Organist

Rev. Monte McClain, Pastor

Cell phone (510) 517-3514 • email: montemcclain@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm

(PLEASE REMEMBER THAT FRIDAYS ARE THE PASTOR'S DAY OFF)

2735 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602

(510) 530-0915 • fax (510) 530-0723 • fruitvalepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com • http://www.fvpc.org

CCLI# 1010366

Welcome to FRUITVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 31, 2009



"Hope is not lost.

Though in the valley of despair or death, God will not leave us for dead but will give us new life and restore our hope."

Luke A. Powery, The African American Lectionary, 2008.

"Even the early experiences of God's Spirit are experiences of how a new beginning is made toward restoring the community of God's people. They are experiences of the forgiveness of sins, of the raising up of the 'crushed and oppressed,' and of the renewal of the forces of life."

- Michael Welker, God the Spirit

"We do not know what to do with the world of the Spirit, we tend to not give it a central place in our historical study of the biblical tradition. But the reality of the other world deserves to be taken seriously."

- Marcus Borg, Jesus: A New Vision

Welcome to Fruitvale Presbyterian Church! We're glad you here with us today! As a community, we believe that worship is a family event, where all generations participate together. If you need assistance during the service, please speak with the greeters and ushers, so that they might help you with directions or hearing assisted resources. A nursery is available downstairs for children 7 & under. Please turn off your cell phone (or set to vibrate) – We want to hear God calling all of us in worship! Activities for children are in the Narthex and in the back row of pews in plastic bins. Please come and join us for our Coffee Hour immediately after worship, downstairs in Lyman Hall.

“*” PLEASE STAND (AS YOU ARE ABLE) CONGREGATION TO READ ALOUD/SING THE **BOLD PRINT**

COMING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

- Gathering Music “God Will Take Care of You” (Thyrgeson)
 Welcome and Invitation to Worship - Pastor Monte McClain
 Centering Prayer of Preparation “Spirit of the Living God” #322 (HYMNAL)
 * Gathering Song: “Hakuna” #116 (SONGBOOK)
 * Opening Affirmation (*inspired from the story of Pentecost in Acts 2*) - Fruitvale Youth
 Leader: On Pentecost day, people came from all over.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 Leader: They came from Rome, Crete, Egypt, and Galilee.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 Leader: They all spoke in their native tongues, from their native cultural backgrounds.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 Leader: Through the Spirit, they all understood as one.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 Leader: Today, many issues divide your people.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 Leader: Politics, class, culture, prejudice, pride, definitions of marriage, questions of ordination, and approaches to our pluralistic world.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 Leader: In our weaknesses help us to stand.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 Leader: Make us one people, young and old, woman and man.
People: Unite us, Holy Spirit!
 * Songs of Worship “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #316 (HYMNAL)
 Confession of Sin:
People: O God, by your Holy spirit, you gather, unite and stir your people to action. We long to stand together as your children, called to your purposes. You nourish your children and fill them with good things. We lift our voices and songs to you, in whom we have our hope. You pour your Spirit over all of creation, changing and renewing our lives. We hungrily await the coming of your Spirit, when our

songs and our daughters shall prophesy and our young and old shall see visions. We want to live prophetic lives. We want to have purpose and vision.

Time for silent prayer.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness and Grace:

- * Passing of the Peace of God in Christ “DI YIN BE WHIN LONG DOO” (NAVAJO)
 * Sung Response “El cielo canta” #1 (SONGBOOK)
 YOU ARE INVITED TO PLAY ONE OF THE INSTRUMENTS IN THE BASKET DURING OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE!

Sharing the Faith Box with our children
 Announcements

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

- Prayer of Illumination - Caroline Yee
 Reading of Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:22-27
 Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Moment of Silence for Reflection and Preparation in Response to God's Written Word

AND APPLYING WHAT GOD SAYS TO OUR DAILY LIFE IN THE WORLD

- Sermon “Moving Beyond Practical Atheism in a Material World” - Monte
 * Responsive Song “In My Life, Lord be Glorified” #56 (SONGBOOK)

WE RESPOND TO GOD BY GIVING OF OURSELVES

- Prayers of The People, concluded with the Lord's Prayer
 Invitation to Offer Our Resources and Gifts to Strengthen the Church & Do God's Mission
 Offertory “More Love to Thee” (Doane)
 * Song of Praise “Doxology” #592 (HYMNAL)
 * Prayer of Dedication - Caroline Yee

STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY – THE BREAD OF LIFE & CUP OF SALVATION

Invitation to the Open Table Fellowship of the Lord's Table

Communion ALL WHO SEEK CHRIST ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR TABLE CELEBRATION.
 TODAY WE CELEBRATE BY REMAINING IN THE PEWS, BEING SERVED BY ONE ANOTHER.

Unison prayer after Communion

“As this bread is Christ's body for us, let us be the Body of Christ for the World – in our actions, words, presence and relationships, starting here from the corner of MacArthur & Coolidge to the ends of the Earth.”

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE IN THE WORLD IN JESUS' NAME

- * Sending Song “Thuma Mina” #39 (SONGBOOK)
 * Charge and Benediction:
 Musical Amen: “For All The Saints” (Innes)

THIS WEEK @ FRUITVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MAY 31– JUNE 7

TODAY	11:00 AM	Worship Celebration with communion by intinction, followed by Coffee Hour
	12:05 PM – 12:15 PM	Congregational Meeting (<i>Lyman Hall</i>)
	12:15 PM – 12:15 PM	Pentecost Multicultural Potluck (<i>Lyman Hall</i>)
	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Bridal Shower for Serena Hai (<i>Memorial Room</i>)
Tuesday	7:30 PM	AA Meeting (<i>Memorial Room</i>)
Wednesday	8:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Senior Center (<i>Lyman Hall</i>)
Friday	8:30 PM	Al-Anon (<i>Memorial Room</i>)
Next Sunday	11:00 AM	Worship Celebration with communion served in the pews, followed by Coffee Hour
	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Session Meeting with COM (<i>Memorial Room</i>)

LEADERSHIP NEXT WEEK

Godly Play: Stay in Worship
Worship Leader: Will you help
Preaching: Monte McClain

Affirmation: Youth
Coffee Hour: Pentecost Potluck
Nursery: Sarah Hai

Detail's of Last Week's Offering (05/17/09)
Envelope (regular pledges):\$556 Loose: \$28.50 Designated: Deacons: \$10; 2 Cents:
\$65.13 Total Per Capita Monies collected as of 5/17/09: \$1345



*Following today's Pentecost Potluck Lunch
there will be a wedding shower
for Serena Hai in the Memorial Room.
We hope that you can join the fun!*

The June edition of the Voice will be published and mail after the Session Meeting of June 7th in order to include information and decisions made at that time regarding the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee Ministry.

Pastor Monte will be at a retreat for under 40 Presbyterian Clergy entitled Alt7 Monday, June 8th through Thursday, June 11th. For pastoral care emergencies during that time you can contact Pastor Sarah Reyes-Gibbs 909-5556 or Pastor Matt Prinz 856-7434.

Underneath the back pews are Children's Borrowing Boxes filled with toys and books or younger children to use during worship time. Please return items to the boxes at the end of worship. Thank you!

Personal Reflection on the Scripture for Sunday, May 31, 2009

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION)

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Romans 8:22-27 (NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION)

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reflection Questions for going deeper:

- What word, phrase or image grabs your attention in these texts? How does it touch your life, work, relationships, challenges, today? How is the Spirit of God inviting you to change, act or grow through this passage?

Personal Reflection on the Scripture for Sunday, June 7, 2009

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION)

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

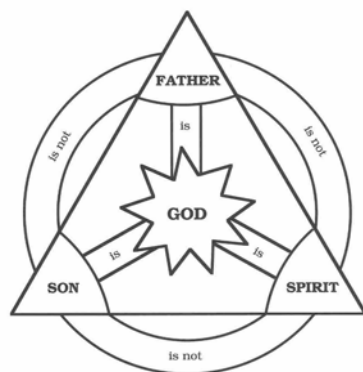
Romans 8:12-17 (NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION)

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

Reflection Questions for going deeper:

- What word, phrase or image grabs your attention in these texts?
- Today is Trinity Sunday, when we are invited to ponder the mystery and paradox of the Trinity: One God who is Three yet one. We tend to think of it materially, asking what is God made of. Orthodox Christians tend to focus on the Trinitarian thought that God is fundamentally relational, in relationship between the Three and inviting, even pulling us, into that relationship.
- How do you experience God as fundamentally relational? What does that mean for you?
- How does it touch your life, work, relationships, challenges, today?
- How is the Spirit of God inviting you to change, act or grow through this passage?



THIS WEEK AS YOU PRAY – PRAY WITH YOUR WORDS & YOUR FEET FOR:

- Irene Norgaard who has been sick recently. Send notes of encouragement to her at 4010 Masterson St. Oakland, 94619;
- Kenny Blake’s mother, Mary Sue Blake, who is very sick. Pray too for strength for Kenny. Send notes of encouragement & love to him at: 1137 Walper Street, #87, Hayward, 94541;
- For our church Session to be elected as the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee today, as they consider pastoral candidates and discern the right choice for our church in this season;
- Edna Frietas, recovering at home from a recent fall and gaining strength after angioplasty. Send notes of encouragement to her at: 4238 Laguna Ave., 94602;
- Hilda, the daughter of Maria Crabb, for love, health and strength to work through her grief;
- For Mary, Heather’s Mother, family of Elaine, who has been in the ICU in Vallejo with severe breathing problems;
- Mary Owens who has progressing dementia and has been moved to Piedmont Gardens;
- Rebecca and Mark Anderson as their child grows during this time of pregnancy;
- Malia, the grand-daughter of Bill & Carmen Bryant, diagnosed recently with cerebral palsy;
- Eva, Deborah Brook’s mother-in-law, who recently turned 97 and is facing issues about staying in her own home or moving;
- Felicity Anderson (Diane Ball’s grand-daughter) as she adapts to a new life, friends and community following her recent move to Oregon. You can send her notes of love and encouragement at her new address: 15215 SE Gladstone Dr., Portland, OR 97236;
- Elena’s friend Emma and her family in need of prayer support to choose hope and life;
- Darlene Lee: pray for her health, in particular her heart & lungs;
- All those coming to our church for food that they would experience the love, power and promise of Jesus the Christ when they are here;
- Marie Jaynes who is unable to attend worship because she needs transportation. Can you help? She lives at The House of Psalms, 4648 Tompkins Ave., 94619, 482-6300;
- Carol & Ben Weir who have settled at Piedmont Gardens for health reasons. Send notes to: 33 Linda Ave., Room 2303, 94611;
- for all those that are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families;
- that we may know & practice resurrection in our lives as disciples; our church as we face the challenges of ministry in the Bay Area;
- Pray for wisdom with our money, gentleness with our words, & vision for our ministry.
- For Kathleen (Biruta’s friend) both of whom are dying of cancer and on hospice care. Pray for peace, serenity & compassion.
- For our church in this time of transition, and growth opportunity through change.

PRAYER CONCERNS

