Spire

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A Note from Pastor Ed

Presbyterian founder John Calvin asserted that gratitude... constitutes the chief exercise of godliness, in which God would have us to be engaged during the whole of life." In other words, gratitude is the primary attitude by which God measures our spiritual maturity: the more grateful we are the more like God we are becoming! That sounds like a huge

challenge. While it is relatively easy to be thankful when life is free of problems, it is much more difficult when facing personal concerns, family problems, health challenges, financial struggles, and spiritual questions.

Rather than dismiss John Calvin's opinion as unrealistic for our complex world, I invite you to consider his challenge in light of Martin Rinkart. Rinkart is best known today as the author of the thanksgiving hymn *Now Thank We All Our God.* He was a German pastor during the Thirty Years War that decimated much of Europe. His walled town of Eilenberg became a refuge for the steady stream of hungry and homeless survivors who had been displaced by the war. At the peak of this turmoil, when Rinkart was the only pastor in town, he conducted as many as 40-50 funerals per day.

In 1636, amid this prolonged agony, he wrote the words to his well-loved hymn. The first verse was originally written as a table grace for Rinkart's family after meals. Listen to the words now that you know their background:

> Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices; who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

How could Rinkart write this inspiring hymn of thanksgiving amid continual death and destruction? (*Continued on page 6*)



How can you bring God's Love to many ministries and thousands of people this Christmas season right here on our PLCPC campus?

Alternative Christmas Faire Sunday, November 27, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Family Life Center Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

Sunday Classic Worship 8:30 and 10:15 am Sanctuary

> Café Service 10:15 am Chapel

Rev. Ed Girod Interim Senior Pastor Rev. Karla Shaw Associate Pastor www.pointlomachurch.org



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The Tree of Life

The Tree of Life in the Family Life Center provides an opportunity for an enduring record of persons and events in the life of our church, its families and friends. Since Beverly Smith's design and the crafting by John L. Spafford in 1990, the two trees of the display have sprouted hundreds of leaves documenting the rich history of our community.

To request a leaf, please complete the form in the church office.

THE SESSION OF PLCPC *Denotes Chair Rev. Ed Girod, Interim Senior Pastor (619) 223-1633 x202 pastored@pointlomachurch.org Rev. Karla Shaw, Associate Pastor (619) 223-1633 x204 karla@pointlomachurch.org Paul Diller, Clerk (619) 373-0060; pdiller50@gmail.com

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Debbie Fountain	619-871-0460	pfountain@cox.net
Personnel, Nominating Bob Giesick Media Ministry*	619-838-7689	thegiesicks@cox.net
Dianne Grafton Finance & Budget*	619-255-7076	degrafton@aol.com
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Ryan Spradling Men's Ministry	619-518-7580	ryan.spradling@cushwake.com
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Sam Laub Mission Beyond, Endowment	408-313-4233	selaub@aol.com
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Steve Smith Finance & Budget, Co-Chair Annual Stewardship	619-602-5950	ssmith@cwsl.edu
Barbett Wood Preschool	619-226-1644	makoakani@gmail.com

Church Ministry Program and Support Staff - (619) 223-1633

OFFICE HOURS Monday—Thursday 9 am to 5 pm Friday– 9 am to 1 pm

The Rev. Ed Girod

Interim Senior Pastor—Ext. 202 pastored@pointlomachurch.org The Rev. Karla Shaw, Associate Pastor karla@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 204 Ann Simoneau, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 203 ann@pointlomachurch.org Donald L. Brenneman Minister of Music/Business Administrator—Ext. 211 don@pointlomachurch.org Evelyn Lambino, Financial Secretary—Ext. 206 evelyn@pointlomachurch.org Heather Holliday, Communications Coordinator—Ext. 209 heather@pointlomachurch.org Bob Giesick, Director of Media Ministry r.e.giesick@gmail.com R. O. Smith, Director of Youth Ministry/Café Worship Leader ro@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 216 Elaine Burrell, Director of Senior Adult Ministry elaine@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 210 Nicole Hage, Preschool and TLC Director preschool@pointlomachurch.org (619) 223-3327 Joette Correia, Director of Toddler Learning Center joette@pointlomachurch.org—(619) 677-3762 Karen Connor, Director of Children's Ministry karen@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 215 Cynthia Hernandez, Child Care Coordinator/ Children's Ministry Assistant-Ext. 212 cynthia@pointlomachurch.org Sarah Butterfield, MOPS Coordinator—Ext. 212 sarahbutterfield@gmail.com Bryan Verhoye, Pianist/Music Associate mravgguy@aol.com Alicia McMillan, Organist and Director of Children's Choirs aliciaorganist@gmail.com Church Office / Front Desk—Ext. 201 frontdesk@pointlomachurch.org



SERVE Opportunities: Saturday, November 5, join us for our big SERVE day, and November 20 for family SERVE

All participants are asked to board buses at PLCPC at 7:30 am to be taken to the project sites in Logan Heights (please do not drive your own vehicle). After the morning session we will meet for lunch at the Boys and Girls Club and then go back to the projects for the afternoon session. Buses will pick up everyone at 3:30 pm and bring them back to PLCPC. Projects include four to six home enhancements, a community project, and a hospitality team.

Sign-ups are almost full, but check out <u>http://vhub.at/plcpc</u> to see if there is still space available. Everyone MUST sign-up online and must be age 14 and up. Each family member must register separately.

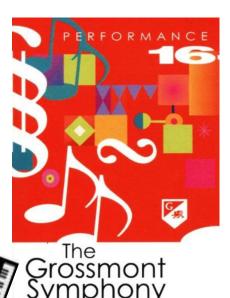
On **Sunday, November 20** in the Family Life Center, we invite you to **family SERVE**. For those of you with kids under the age of 14 who are not able to participate on our **big SERVE** day, join us from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Family Life Center to make toiletry kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. These kits will help those domestically and nationally who are involved in major disasters. Please let us know of your attendance by emailing Pastor Karla at <u>karla@pointlomachurch.org</u>. Lunch will be provided.

P L C P C Sunday, November 6, 5:00 pm Sanctuary

Featured soloists **Bryan Verhoye** pianist, **Audra Nagby** soprano, and **Michael Sokol** baritone, with the combined forces of the Grossmont Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale, conducted by Randall Tweed

Repertoire: Mozart—Music from the motion picture Amadeus (multimedia) Beethoven—Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major Schubert—Mass No. 2 in G Major

General \$10, Student \$5



Children's Ministries Karen Connor, Director (619) 223-1633 x215 karen@pointlomachurch.org



Sunday School at 8:30 and 10:15 am

Come and learn God's Word! Ages 4 yrs-Kindergarten—Room 2 Grades 1-3—Room 8 Grade 3—Bible Memory Class in Room 5 (8:30 only); Grade 4-6 in Room 6 Childcare, ages 6 mo.-3 yrs—Nursery



Kids Club meets on Thursdays in the Family Life Center:

2nd-6th Grade, **4-5 pm** 4 years-1st Grade, **5-5:45 pm**

Nov. 03Paper Tube TurkeysNov. 10Teepee Sand ArtNov. 17Pumpkin Pie in a CupNov. 24Happy Thanksgiving!



Route 56 on Mondays

5 to 7 pm, Family Life Center. Dinner included (\$5 donation) Friends are **always** welcome!

Nov. 07 Meeting in FLC Nov. 14 Here Comes Camp! Hosted by Forest Home



Forest Home Winter Camp for 4th-6th **Graders.** Weekend of Jan 27-29, 2017. Find out more information on Monday, **November 14**, at **"Here Comes Camp"** in the FLC. 5-7pm. Hosted by Forest Home



Bible Memory Course

Join **3rd & 4th Graders** in a special Sunday School class for the 2016-2017 school year. **8:30am in Classroom 5**. Sept-Dec will be a quick overview of the Bible. Jan-May kids will be memorizing and learning how Bible verses pertain to their daily lives. Those completing the work will be awarded a personalized Bible on Mother's Day, May 14.



Save the Date for a **Red Brick Christmas** on **Sunday, December 11**, from 2 to 4 pm in the Family Life Center. Gingerbread houses, crafts, Santa, and more! Bring a dozen cookies to share with neighbors. Join the family fun!

Children's Choirs on Thursdays

All children are welcome. 4:00-4:50 4-year olds, K & Grade 1 5:00-6:00 Grades 2-6

During the fall/winter seasons, children prepare a Christmas musical for the Christmas Eve Family Service. Choirs also will sing during Sunday worship November 13, and December 18. The older group will sing at the Christmas Concerts on December 4. For more information or to register, contact aliciaorganist@gmail.com



Brick Singers

All students Grades 7-high school welcome! Meets selected Sundays 11:30-1:30 (w/snacks) Performances: 11/20, 12/4, 12/17, 12/24. RSVP to aliciaorganist@gmail.com



Meetings in church Library, 9:30-11:30 Nov. 1 Coffee House

Nov. 8 Playdate at Liberty Station

- Nov. 12 Mom's Night Out, Offsite
- Nov. 15 Nonie Levi, MFT "Communication in Marriage"
- Nov. 17 Book Club, Living Room Café
- Nov. 29 Danica Golden, "Creating a Healthy Relationship with Money"

Info: www.meetup.com/playgroup-754 sarahbutterfield@gmail.com



Ministry Opportunities in Youth

We have needs for caring, loving adults to work with junior high (7th & 8th) and high school (9th-12th) students. Here are some ways you could be involved:

<u>Midweek Small Group Leader</u> – lead Bible studies & discussions with students

<u>Mentor</u> – meet one-on-one with students

<u>Behind the Scenes</u> – take photos or videos, engineer sound, design flyers, etc.

<u>"Indirect Volunteers"</u> – If you would like to assist in helping carry out events (set up, tear down, hosting event at your house, web design, videographer, etc.)

If you are interested, please contact RO Smith at <u>ro@pointlomachurch.org</u>

Senior Adult Ministry

Elaine Burrell, Director (619) 223-1633-x210 elaine@pointlomachurch.org

Red Brick Senior Center—**NOVEMBER**—Family Life Center

- 10 to 11 am Senior Center opens for snacks and coffee Blood Pressure Screening on 3rd Tuesdays
 11 to 12 noon Musical Performance 12 to 1 pm Lunch
- 11/1 HALLOWEEN PARTY COSTUMES ENCOURAGED! Salvador Padilla, Baritone sings the classics; Spaghetti & meatballs, Caesar salad, garlic bread, dessert
- 11/8 HONORING OUR VETERANS SPECIAL VETERANS DAY PROGRAM Navy Band Southwest Woodwind Quintet and PLHS JROTC Color Guard American style lunch, and Patriot cake.
- 11/15 THANKSGIVING FEAST Richard Thompson – Guitar and humor; Preschool singers at **10:45 am** Turkey, stuffing, potatoes & gravy, green beans, cranberry, pumpkin pie

Reservations are required by the previous Friday. Lunches are \$6.00. Contact: Elaine at (619) 223-1633 Ext. 210



SENIOR BOOK GROUP

Concluding on Wednesdays, November 2 and 11. 10 to 11 am — Parlor

The Grammar of God by Aviya Kushner is a fascinating book that explores the mysterious intricacies of translating meanings from the syntax and vocabulary of ancient Hebrew to the grammar and lexicon of modern English. Join this 4-week discussion group led by church elder and retired college professor, Emery Cummins. Contact Emery at (858) 270-8056 for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

December 4, 3:00 pm—Christmas Dinner December 4, 5:00 and 7:00 pm—Christmas Concert December 14, 12:00—Feats, Fears & Faith with Capt. Charles Mac Vean, USN, (Ret.)

Cultivating the Garden of Your Soul

Come for a day of quiet reflection facilitated by Lynn Ziegenfuss. Thursday, November 17 – 9am-1:30pm – \$35. Includes admission, parking, light breakfast, lunch, and materials. San Diego Botanic Garden 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. To sign up, email karla@pointlomachurch.org. Check payable to PLCPC. **LUNCH & LEARN** Wednesday, November 9, 12-1:30 pm- Family Life Center

Medicare Insurance Changes

for 2017 Presenter: David Weil Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program

Bring a sack lunch. Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to Elaine.

Ageless Fitness Mon/Wed/Fri 9 to 10 am Family Life Center \$3.00 per class All ages and fitness levels welcome. Sue Webber, Certified Fitness and Yoga Instructor. Contact: Fran Styles

(619) 223-8204



Red Brick Preschool Fundraiser

Please support our church Preschool while decorating your home with beautiful poinsettias. Simply:

Contact Nicole Hage before November 14 at (619) 223-3327 or preschool@pointlomachurch.org with your order.

or, fill out this pre-order form below by Sunday, November 13, and return to the Church office with your payment (payable to PLCPC.)

Pick-up your poinsettias on Sunday, November 27 in the Family Life Center at the Alternative Christmas Fair.

Name_

Phone email

8" pot Red Poinsettia \$25 each: Quantity____Total \$____

6" pot Red Poinsettia \$15 each: Quantity____Total \$_____

Thank You for supporting our Preschool!

Adult Studies and Groups

Sunday Scripture Group—10 to 11 am, Parlor. November and December bring us back to Ken Bailey and two of his popular and timely series: "What Jesus said about Who He Is," and "A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus." Please join us for our DVD time with Dr. Bailey followed by stimulating discussion. Contact: Bob Simoneau grs55@cox.net.

Moms' Bible Study—Mondays, 9:15-10:30 am, Parlor. For moms of kids elementary age and younger. Pastor Karla is leading us in a study on *Mudhouse Sabbath*, by Lauren Winner. In November we will do a two-part series on *Spiritual Practices for Families*. Free childcare provided by contacting cynthia@ pointlomachurch.org. There will be no Bible study on November 7 or 21.

Rachel Circle—3rd Mondays, 9:30 am, Library. For our meeting on November 21, our own Judy White will enlighten us with the history of Presbyterian Women. Come join us at 9:30 and bring a friend. For questions, contact Judy at (858) 565-6375.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study—9:00 am in the Parlor for women of all ages. Pastor Karla is leading a study on "How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth." For questions contact: Clara Blenis (619) 223-5950. **There will be no Bible study on November 8 or 22.**

Men@Work—Wednesdays at 8:30 am in the Library. Em Cummins will lead us in a discussion of Pastor Ed's sermon from the previous Sunday. Thank you, Em, for purchasing new Bibles for our group! Contact: Don Griffith at don-pete@cox.net.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study—During October we will suspend our study to attend the sessions of TALK RACE—CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION in the Chapel from 6:45 to 7:15 pm.

Contact: jamesgrisolia@gmail.com.

The Bridge will meet on Friday, November 4 and November 18, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Parlor. The Bridge, a casual study group for 20s-40s, meets every other Friday. Child care is available for a small fee. This fall we are reading *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact: Julia Roller at juliaroller@yahoo.com for more info, or to RSVP. **Note from Pastor Ed** (*Continued from page 1*) Was he in denial that prevented him from seeing life's challenges clearly? Or were his heart and mind numbed by the endless demands of burying thousands of people? In reality the words of this hymn reveal the answer and announce the same truth revealed in scripture. He was not in denial, nor was the apostle Paul when he wrote from his prison cell, *"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice."* (Philippians 4:4)

Over the years one of my faith struggles has been to thank God for the good times and to try to forget the hard times. How easy it is to divide our lives into the happy days to remember and the painful moments to forget. Once we accept the division we quickly develop an attitude which hopes to collect more good memories than bad, more things to be thankful for than regrets to resent, more experiences to celebrate than to complain about. But this attitude leads to a dead-end when it comes to gratitude.

Henri Nouwen has been my spiritual mentor for a number of years and helped me rethink my attitude toward gratitude. He writes: "Gratitude in its deepest sense means to live life as a gift to be received gratefully. But gratitude as the gospel speaks about it embraces **all** of life: the good and the bad, the joyful and the painful, the holy and the not so holy."

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, may we cultivate an attitude of gratitude which thanks God for all of life: good and the bad, the glad and the sad, the holy and the not so holy. Often we discover in those not so good, not so glad, not so holy moments that God has been most present with us!

Gratefully Yours, Pastor Ed

Life Events

Deaths

- Marianne Muse passed away October 22, 2016. Private family services will be held.
- William "Bill" Turnquist passed away on October 25, 2016. A memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary on Monday, November 21, 2016, at 3:00 pm, with a reception following.



How can you bring God's Love to many ministries and thousands of people this Christmas season right here on our PLCPC campus?

Alternative Christmas Faire Sunday, November 27, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Family Life Center

Your Best Christmas ~ Guaranteed!

The Alternative Christmas Faire is an amazingly transforming way to kick-off your Christmas Season. This annual event brings together many representatives from local, regional, and international missions that PLCPC actively supports. All are eager to answer your questions about how they are sharing the love of Christ near and far.

Dedicate a portion of your Christmas budget to meaningful Mission giving in the name of those you love! You will receive a gift card acknowledging your contribution made in their name.

Please come by before and after church on Sunday, November 29, and be part of how PLCPC is sharing God's love around the world, remembering the Christ of Christmas every day.

Not here on November 27? No problem! We will have an Alternative Christmas table on the Plaza each Sunday until Christmas, so you may also make your contributions later.

Brought to you by your Missions Beyond Committee Contact Monica Ball at (619) 708-3512 or email <u>mbrealestate@cox.net</u>

> **Boy Scout Troop 24** will be taking pre-orders for wreaths (\$20 each) and evergreen centerpieces (\$15 each) at the Alternative Christmas Faire.

The wreaths will be available for sale or pick-up from a pre-order on the Plaza the first 2 Sundays in December.

Please consider supporting our Boy Scouts this season with a holiday decoration purchase.

Endowment

ave you been receiving notices from your tax advantaged IRA account of a required minimum distribution and don't want any further personal taxation this year? There is helpful news for you. One can donate directly to the PLCPC endowment fund from an IRA that requires a minimum distribution. The PLCPC tax number is 95-1648185 and "Endowment" must be stipulated.

A little background: For taxpayers over the age of 70 ¹/₂. Congress has voted to make permanent the exclusion from income of up to \$100,000 per person, per year, for Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distributions which are given directly to charities. This ends the uncertainty which has existed for the past several years when taxpayers were trying to decide whether to direct their IRA distributions to charity. One of the key benefits of the direct charitable contribution from your IRA is that the distribution counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You can contribute more than your RMD to charity as long as you do not exceed \$100,000 in a calendar year. The gift can satisfy a pledge that you have made. However you may not receive anything (other than an intangible religious benefit) from the charity as a quid pro quo for your contribution. The charity must provide you an acknowledgement stating the amount of the charitable distribution and that no goods, services, or benefits of any kind were or will be provided to you in consideration for the distribution from the IRA. Also, the contribution cannot go to a donoradvised fund, supporting organization or private foundation.

Disclaimer: This is provided for information only limited to IRAs and is not tax advice as each taxpayer's situation is different. US Tax laws are complex and you should always consult your tax advisor in advance.

Sam Laub for the Endowment Committee (408) 313-4233 selaub@aol.com



E ach Christmas our Sanctuary is decorated with poinsettias, greens and candles to enhance the Advent Season. You are invited to share in providing the Christmas decorations in one of three categories—special occasion, thank you, or memorials. If you wish to participate, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by **Monday**, **December 12, at noon**. Names of those remembered will be listed in the Christmas Sunday bulletin.

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS

Please check the appropriate category

[] Special Occasion [] Thank You [] Memorial

Person Honored:

PLEASE PRINT

Donor:

PLEASE PRINT

Amount enclosed: \$_____

Please make check payable to PLCPC noted "Christmas Decorations" Return to church office by 12/12/16

MOM Christmas Toy Drive

November is the month when we donate toys for the children of E-5 and below military families that are part of **Military Outreach Ministries**. The toys are for children ages **newborns to 12 years**.

Please bring **unwrapped** toys to the MOM's table on the Plaza every Sunday in November, or leave them in the MOM's toy box in the church office during the week.

For non-shoppers, donations of cash or checks (made out to PLCPC) are very welcome to help purchase **bicycles**, in particular, and other toys.

On December 3, the MOM's Toy Store will be in the Family Life Center all set up and ready for the military families to "shop" for their children.

If you would like to help with the set-up, please sign up on the Plaza on Sundays. For more information please contact Ed Lynds at (619) 223-1472 or elynds@cox.net.





a concert for the community

New Covenant Choir, Ringers ReJOYce! Children's Choirs, Brick Singers, Worship Band members of the San Diego Symphony Bryan Verhoye, piano/Alicia McMillan organ Don Brenneman, director

Sunday, Dec. 4, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. Freewill offering (suggested donation: \$15. per person/\$30. per family) tickets available in the church office