



Rockville WORD

December 2018

Pastor's Pen
The Rev. Joanne Martindale

A Christmas Story "Recognizing Jesus"

One of my favorite Christmas stories is about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him, he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.

Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.

When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "O Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave food to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street." (By Melvin Newland)

Pastor Joanne

Email: revjmartindale@gmail.com

Phone: 609.462.0242





UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

St. Andrew's Sunday

Sunday, December 2, single service at 10 a.m.
Andrew Louis Murphey

Andrew Louis Murphey, Autistic and incredibly talented, has been playing bagpipes since he was 13 years old. Andrew has recently been awarded an aggregate award for placing the most 1st, 2nd and 3rd awards as a solo bagpipe performer at the Pleasanton Scottish events.

His accomplishments have also upgraded him from Grade 4 (Novice) to Grade 3 (Intermediate) level bagpipe player. In conjunction to his many competitions, he now enjoys performing in events such as weddings, funerals and holidays.



Women's Book Study is reading *The Bookshop on the Corner* by Jenny Colgan
We'll meet to discuss the book on Sunday, January 13 from 1:00-3:00
At Kathleen Kinder-Leighton's home
Lunch will be served. Please RSVP Kathleen if you will attend.

Mission Study Leader Meeting

Sunday, December 2 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Rockville Presbyterian Fellowship – Pastor's office

Rockville Christmas Party

Karen and Peter Thor's residence
(Bring an hors d'oeuvre and a gift for exchange if you'd like to participate)
Saturday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.



FAITH GIVING (TITHING)

This way of tithing without pledge cards is nothing new and has been used quite successfully in many churches. Each person or family should give from their heart by faith in Jesus Christ...hopefully this faith will allow everyone to increase their giving for next year (2019) and into the future. Rockville Presbyterian is a good church and most of our members and friends give generously each year. Unfortunately our membership and attendance has been decreasing over the last five or six years...and accordingly we have not met our annual budget over that same time period, averaging an annual shortfall of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Please note that envelopes will be provided as in the past for those who want them. For questions regarding the stewardship plan for this year please call me at 707-422-2468 (home) or 707-249-2284 (cell).

Thank You and God Bless, Linn Benson

QUICK REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Christian Education	2nd Sunday	11:45	Sunday School Room
Congregational Life	Meets as Needed		
Deacons	4th Wednesday	7:00	Library
Finance/Stewardship	Meets as Needed		
Library	3rd Wednesday	1-3 pm	Library
MEC (Mission, Evangelism & Communications)	1st Tuesday	6:00 PM	Varies
Membership Development	Committee of One		
Session	3 rd Sunday	11:45	Pastor's Office
Worship	4th Sunday	Noon	Sanctuary

WORSHIP NEWS

We are presently considering your vote as to the configuration of the sanctuary. The results will be announced in the near future. Your input is and was valued.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

ROCKVILLE wants to light up the night this Christmas!

We would like to really stand out this Advent and Christmas season by bringing back the outside Christmas lights this year. It will take quite a few strings of lights to make it completely around our beautiful building.

Do you have outdoor lights you can donate to this mission? Bring them on in! An exact measurement hasn't been made yet, but it will take many strings of lights. If anyone has a large amount of the same lights, that is great, but all help is greatly appreciated. Let's light up the night!

Please contact Gary Dreibelbis at 707-631-4573, or email him directly at dr.dribs@yahoo.com



YOUTH



The youth are so excited because the youth room is being renovated and rejuvenated! We were so blessed to receive a new couch, a vacuum cleaner, and a carpet cleaning from our lovely parents!! Words cannot express our delight and gratefulness!!

We went to see *Small Foot* and had a great time of fellowship! We could be a little crazy because we had the whole theater to ourselves!

We are going to have youth group on November 28th, December 5th, and December 12th and then we take a short break till the beginning of January.

Our Christmas party will be held on December 12th with parents and kids. We will be having a potluck meal, white elephant exchange, and an "ugly sweater" contest. All sweaters must be handmade and NOT purchased!!

If you would like to sign up to bring the youth a meal or donate money for the renovation, please let me know!

Blessings to all of you, Alyson

SCRIP SALES



Don't forget to keep some scrip gift cards to have on hand for those unexpected drop-in guests bearing gifts for you. Our inventory is full ... we have Amazon cards for the young people on your list who like to shop online, fast food cards for busy nights ahead and so much more! Come see us between services on the patio.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

The Christmas Season is a time for giving and this year the Deacons are trying to make it a joyous time for the young adults that have reached the age of leaving the Foster Care system.

Heart to Heart has recognized the need of these young people between the ages of 18-26, many with children of their own but without family support.

Many of these young people have not had a Christmas or birthday present in their lifetime. This year, with your financial assistance, we would like to give each one a gift of their own, nothing huge, just something for them to have and open as their own.

Since they don't have a wish list, the gift would be the same for all the adults, along with appropriate gifts for the little ones. Judy Boswell has already started knitting hats.

If you have any questions, please contact Reta Jones at 707-580-8641. Thank you very much!



Do you know who has a SECRET PRAYER PARTNER praying for them? I do.

My name is Pam Nelson and I host our Secret Praying Partner group. I know who is praying for you! Each year in February a luncheon event is held to unveil the current years' Secret Praying Partner and draw a new name for the upcoming year.

Prayer Partners secretly pray for their partner, occasionally sending a card or gift without signing their own name. Secret Prayer Partners often recognize birthdays, anniversaries or significant events in lives of their Prayer Partners while keeping their own identity secret until the unveiling party the following February.

Please plan to join the prayer group on February 10, 2019 for lunch at noon. No meetings to attend. No rules other than to remember your Secret Prayer Partner in prayer and the occasional note or card or gift. It is fun to have a secret and even more fun when you realize you have a secret partner praying for you too.

If you are currently a Secret Prayer Partner and you have not heard from your Secret Prayer Partner this year, please contact Pam Nelson right away. There may be a health or medical issue or other concerns that prevents them from contacting you. Pam Nelson—707- 863-9111 home, pamnelson2412@gmail.com

One thing you can be assured of—YOU ARE BEING PRAYED FOR!

Blessings,
Pam Nelson

UPDATE ON PARADISE DONATIONS FROM ROCKVILLE PRESBYTERIAN MEMBERS

Thank you so much for your contributions recently. We made 3 stops. The first was at Del Oro Animal Shelter where we donated paper towels, toilet paper, four 9x16 tarps, 48 wash cloths, as well as sheets, blankets and a rug. The next stop was at "tent city" in the Walmart parking lot where we handed out the 20 care bags from the church, flash lights and about \$200 in gift cards. Then we took the rest to Miracle City, the long term donation center that opened on the 20th. There, we dropped off the soap donated by Napa Presbyterian plus so much more: 30 brand new blankets, 20 brand new pillows and protector cases, almost 20 brand new jackets, 48 new hand towels, 48 new washcloths, many bottles of shampoo, conditioner, 4 huge bottles dish soap, Tide, bleach, toothbrushes, toothpaste, first aid supplies, 2 cases of baby wipes, and more tarps. Oh yeah! and tons of feminine hygiene stuff. Almost \$200 of all different types of feminine hygiene that I could find at Costco. And tissues! Plus, I have a great contact up there now so if anyone else is still interested in helping I'm happy to help facilitate that.

God bless all who have helped to quickly help people and pets in need!

Sabrina Woods

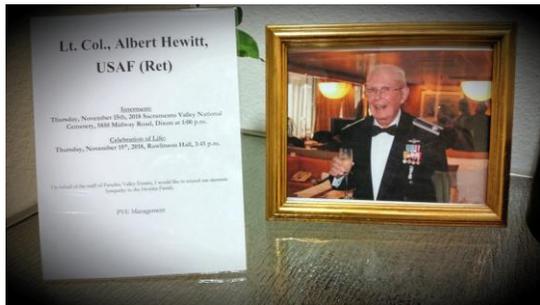


HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Rockville Presbyterian received a thank you letter from Marlene Plain, our Heifer representative, for our recent gift of \$1200 that provides livestock and training in sustainable farming techniques for families in need. In 2017 alone, Heifer International assisted over 2 million families through both the direct gift of livestock and Heifer families Passing on the Gift. Progress will continue to support the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals of zero hunger by 2030.



NOVEMBER 15, 2018 SERVICE AT SACRAMENTO VALLEY NATIONAL CEMETERY FOR ALBERT HEWITT



Do you, a loved one or a friend need prayer? Contact Pam Nelson or call the church at (707) 863-0581 and your request will go out to 86 families who are committed to praying for you.

Reminder Our website is www.rockvillepresbyterian.org. Please visit the website and contribute updates to Stacey McNeill so it can stay informative for all!

MILITARY MATTERS
Please pray for our military



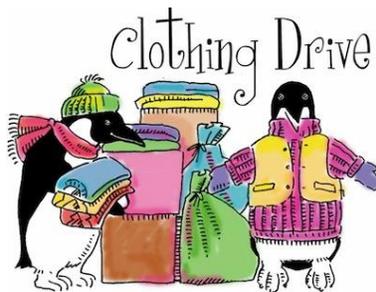
- **Shane Dooley**, Grandson of Betty Dooley
- **Francisco Rodrigo Galvan & Anthony Vincent Perez**, sons of Lorena & Tony Perez
- **Kayla Boardway**, Granddaughter of Lorraine & Larry Vilardo
- **Robert Barnes**, former pianist (1st service)

If you have current information for this list, please send a note to Layna and the church office.

Warm Clothing Drive for the Homeless

Thank you for all your generous donations of hats, scarves, sweaters, jacket, socks and blankets. I will be taking donations through the 2nd of December and am looking at dates to coordinate with Salvation Army for distribution in Fairfield. Donations can be dropped off at the church.

Sarah Meadows



Goats for An African Christmas

Our very own Missionary, Josh Heikkila, has again requested that we do a special fund raiser for Goats to be given to the African Pastors' wives so that they can support their families. The Pastors receive very little funds from their congregations in the poor regions Josh serves.

He sends his best wishes to us for a wonderful Advent and Christmas for our Church and thanks us in advance for our generosity.

Joan Gaut



Attending the Salvation Army Red Kettle Kickoff Luncheon



Veterans in uniform



Bell choir brings new sounds to our worship



Recap on the Mission Study groups



Honoring Christ the King Sunday!



Personal thanks to veterans



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Lee Peterson
 12/1 Jamie Lloyd
 12/3 Jean Vaughter
 12/5 Natalie Leighton
 12/6 Gillian Young
 12/7 Benna Young
 12/8 Joy Downey
 12/9 Gaile Talbott
 12/9 Bob Hall

12/11 Tony Perez
 12/14 Lucitrianna Agbigay
 12/14 Norrie Gardiner
 12/15 Sean Smith
 12/16 Andrea Agbigay
 12/20 Reta Jones
 12/22 Kari Lloyd
 12/26 Aria Isadore
 12/26 Patrick Jones

CHURCH CONTACTS DIRECTORY

PASTOR

Rev. Joanne Martindale

STAFF

Melody McCloskey, **Office Manager**, 707-863-0581, rockpres@aol.com

Alyson Barrett, **Youth Director**

Lynn McDonald, **Accountant**

Stephanie Benton, **Music Director**

Steve Clark, **Praise Team Leader**

Andrew Benton, **Pianist**

Joan Gaut, **Substitute Pianist**

Lindsey Hardy, **Childcare**

Faith Clark & Daphne Woods, **Power Point Technicians**

Sharon Peterson 1st service and Carol Kreisman 2nd service, **Sunday school teachers**

VOLUNTEERS

Stacey McNeill, **Web Master**

Layna Kinsman, **Newsletter** (substitute, Carola Sanders)

- **Proofreaders:** Gary Dreibelbis and Joan Gaut

2018 SESSION ELDERS

Jack Batson, **Administration**

David Woods, **Buildings & Grounds**

Paula Suarez-Hevia, **Christian Education**

Carla Grokenberger, **Clerk of Session**

Linn Benson, **Treasurer/Stewardship/Nomination**

Sara Isadore, **Congregational Life**

Dave Gaut, **Mission, Evangelism and Communications**

Diana Bryggman, **Membership Development**

Gary Dreibelbis, **Worship**

2018 DEACONS

Sabrina Woods, **Moderator**

Reta Jones, **Treasurer**

Sharon Swicker, **Secretary**

Claudia Wathen

King Chittenden

Norrie Gardiner

Steve Vidmar

Peggy Rollins

Karen Thor

Judy Boswell

Sharon Peterson

Rockville Presbyterian
4177-A Suisun Valley Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 am Traditional Worship
10:30 am Contemporary Worship

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor: Rev. Joanne Martindale
Youth Director: Alyson Barrett
Church Administrator: Jack Batson
Praise Team Leader: Steve Clark
Choir/Music Director: Stephanie Benton
Childcare Provider: Lindsey Hardy

Office Manager: Melody McCloskey

OFFICE HOURS

Tues – Fri: 9am – 2pm
Phone: (707) 863-0581

www.rockvillepresbyterian.org
Email: rockpres@aol.com

Rockville Presbyterian Fellowship Mission Statement

Rockville Presbyterian Fellowship seeks
To honor God and walk in the footsteps of Jesus,
To participate in the building of His kingdom here on earth,
To act with justice and to help those in need,
To be a forgiving and merciful people,
To resist evil and flee from the temptations of life, and
To seek His power and glory forever.

Inspired by "The Lord's Prayer" and Adopted by Session on December 9, 2015