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February 1, 2017

Dear People of Resurrection,

It's difficult to express in words the deep appreciation I feel about the outpouring of love and affirmation during my final Sunday with you on January 29th. I realize that etiquette calls for thank you notes to each of you, but I'm hoping you'll forgive me for expressing my gratitude in this singular response. Thank you for your cards and kind words. Thank you for the very generous monetary gifts. Thank you for an incredible Retirement Party and for the touching expressions shared in such creative and humorous ways!

It has been such an honor and privilege to have served as your Lead Pastor these past 9 years. Cindy and I will be forever grateful for the love and support you shared with us. As we move into a new chapter of our lives, we will hold you in our prayers as you continue to keep Resurrection's *Mission in Motion*.

We are Always Being Made New. Thanks be to God!

In God's Grace, Love and Peace,
Pastor Don

Pastor Don's Retirement Party

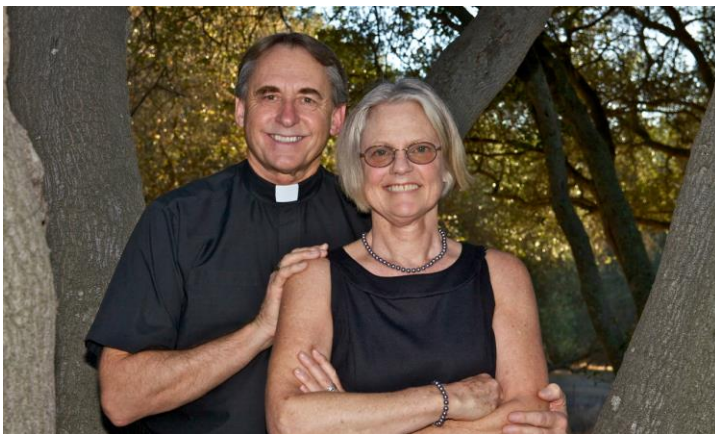
thank
you!

What a wonderful celebration we had for Pastor Don! Hopefully he felt our love and appreciation as he begins his retirement. It was truly an amazing testament to the special person he is to see the Faith Center so full.

Thanks to all who were able to attend. This event was a team effort! A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in making the party a success from the planning team, the MC's, the LAFF group for the decorations, to the hospitality greeters, the dessert crew, the speakers, and the musical groups. A special thanks to Diane McCauley for her organization and time in ensuring that everything ran smoothly, to Pastor Cindy for her ideas and help in getting the photos and videos, and to Chris Cotter for all of his work on the technological side of things including putting all of the videos together!

I am proud to be part of such an amazing team and church family. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Lori Schnell



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Send out a message of love,
sharing God's love
as well as your own!

Christ is shining through us

What's Prayer?



For something so widely used, there sure are a lot of different ways and various misconceptions about prayer. It's also rarely taught or discussed yet according to Pew Reports, 55% of Christians pray daily. How do we know we're

doing it correct? Especially when we don't always get what we ask for?

This month we will go deeper into prayer and share some healthy perspectives. We'll also take time to practice praying in ways that have been profound and meaningful for many, but aren't always common. Ways like praying one-on-one, or through repetitive tasks and mantra. Many of us simply pray the only way we know how when really there are countless methods. All of which seek to refocus us on our relationship with God.

I hope you'll use your group's devotions this month to discuss prayer, join us for sermons, and practice praying along with us.

Lookin' up, Ralph

Come one; come all for Prayer Discussion in February!

We'll discuss Pastor Ralph's sermons during February as he centers them on prayer. This is an opportunity for anyone to come to the Fellowship Hall beginning February 5 at 9:30 a.m. OR 12:00 and enjoy a light lunch, talk about the sermon, see a video, and read sample prayers. It's a great opportunity to meet old and new friends. Discussions continue on the 19 & 26.



Hope to see you!!

Legacy Team Valentine's Lunch – February 12th - Save the Date!

On February 12th at noon (following second service), the Legacy Team is hosting a "hearty" Valentine's lunch in the Faith Center. Join us for an hour of good food & heart- warming stories.

Help the Legacy Team find new lives to bless in 2017! Don't miss this incredible opportunity to celebrate the joy and love of giving together. Please RSVP to: kathrynstarbuck@yahoo.com or Kathryn Starbuck at 916-508-2221. *There will be a special raffle prize for all that RSVP.

Purpose Mapping Process Results

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power."
Ephesians 1:17-19.

Kristin Wiersma, from The Joshua Group, shared the Purpose Mapping Process results and a *Travel Plan* with over 40 Resurrection leaders on January 21 and with the congregation the following morning at all three worship services. **The Travel**



Plan will center around three Way Points that will identify opportunities for moving ministry forward and fulfilling our purpose. The first Way Point is **Shared Vision**. This is viewing

our transformative journey of mission renewal in terms of 'why' we do what we do, what that looks like and how we make it happen. Foundational to this is a deep understanding of the core values that drive the decisions and the actions taken. Being focused on purpose will help maximize our assets and allow for greater impact and effectiveness. The second Way Point is **Leadership**. This way point will help align clergy, staff, council, and laity. Having the capacity to instill trust, cast a bold vision, mobilize the needed resources and encourage a shared partnership in the journey are all critical factors for navigating a ministry forward. The third Way Point is **Story**. Sharing your story is not about just inviting people to participate but instead it includes telling of the powerful impact our mission is having and having people own that story as their own.

The Missional Assessment Team would like to thank you for your involvement and sharing your thoughts and ideas in the Missional Assessment Profile (survey in November 2015), the personal and group interviews and personal surveys (October 2016), and listening to the Community Panels (November, December 2016).

Resurrection's congregational leaders look forward to engaging in conversations with the congregation and community in the near future to make faithful decisions around future planning.



On **Tuesday, February 21**, we welcome **The Gathering Inn**. The Gathering Inn is a “nomadic” community-based shelter for homeless families and individuals. More than 40 local churches take turns each month serving a hot meal and providing a warm, dry place to sleep.

In recent months, we’ve seen an increasing number of young children in the group, some of the highest counts in Gathering Inn history. Homelessness is especially hard on kids, and the hospitality we offer these families makes a big difference.

If you’d like to be a part of this important ministry, we need volunteers in the following areas:

***Please note, some arrival times have changed.**

- 2 Set-Up Helpers (able to move tables and chairs) – arriving at 3:30 p.m.
- 4 Cooks/Kitchen Helpers - arriving at 3:30 p.m.
- 8 Food Servers - arriving at 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Greeters - arriving at 6:00 p.m.
- 4 Clean-Up Helpers – arriving at 6:00 p.m.

To sign up, please email murbach5@outlook.com and let us know which team you’d like to join.

Thank you for being a part of this life-changing ministry.

Fellowship Breakfast

Don’t miss the FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST, Saturday February 11th at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. After a great breakfast by Team Moore, our own Jim Arbaugh will present stories and slides about some of the biggest forest fires of the past several years. He used to fly into them, but now with the U.S. Forest Service he tells others how to do it. Come for the food, stay for the Fellowship.



Daylighters Invitation!

Are you a Senior 55+ or ? Then you are invited to attend the Daylighter’s luncheon on Tuesday, **February 28th at 12:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is **MARDI GRAS!** So let’s have some fun wearing our masks and hats, etc. Won’t you come and join us?

If you are new to the group and would like to make a reservation, please call Elizabeth Bieniek at 916-780-0472 or e-mail bethniek@gmail.com

Priceless Purls: Knit & Crochet

A dedicated group of members and friends of Resurrection continue to make hats, prayer shawls and scarfs for Chemo patients, the homeless, those with serious illness and others going through tough times. We also provide the cutest little hats for newborns. The first Monday of the month this group, known as Priceless Purls, meets. Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, **February 6**, to learn more. Patterns and yarn are provided. Completed hats are packaged and sorted to be delivered to local hospitals. For more info contact Joanne Auerbach at 916-624-3651 or bauerbac@sbcglobal.net



LAFF (Lutheran Adult Fun & Fellowship)

SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 18th – LAFF's next big event. It's a mystery! Watch for more details to follow.

ALOA Snowshoe Day – Sat. Feb. 18

(Adult Lutheran Outdoor Adventures) - ALOA is planning a fun day in the snow – weather permitting – in the Soda Springs area. Plan to meet at church about 8:30 am to car pool. Dress in layers; bring your own snowshoes, poles, water, snacks, sunscreen, etc. Final details and plans for potluck lunch will follow later. Snow forecast or messy roads will cancel or postpone this event. If interested, call or email Roberta Pearson pearson2@surewest.net or 791-3027.



Children’s Ministry News

“Bible Blast-Out” - During the 9:30 service on February 5, children will be invited to go into the Library with Adriana Findlay, Director of Children’s Ministry, during the Gospel and sermon time, for a children’s message and activity designed for preschool to young elementary aged children. Interested older children are welcome to come and be “helpers.”



Save these dates!!

- **Children sing in worship**, February 5 at 9:30.
- **Vacation Bible School**, June 19-23, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

“Friday Flash” Weekly Children’s Ministry E-news - For the most up to date and detailed information on Children’s Ministry, ask to be included on the “Friday Flash” by contacting Adriana Findlay, Director of Children’s Ministry at Adriana@lcrchurch.org

Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team

Save the Date: February 7, 2017

The Reverend, Dr. Ted Peters will be coming to Ascension Lutheran Church on **February 7** (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.) to talk with the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Class on the topic of **“Our Cosmos, God’s Creation.”** Has God brought life to fellow creatures on other planets who also belong to the cosmic story? Talking about religion and science (or faith alongside scientific facts) is new for people in the church. (Dr. Peters was one of my professors at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. I hope you’ll find a way to come and join us! -- Pastor Cindy) Contact the office if you'd like to attend: [916-723-5223](tel:916-723-5223)



TIE THE OLD AND NEW TOGETHER

Explore how the New Testament writers quoted the Old Testament. Discover the way Moses and the prophets foretold the coming of Jesus. This 8-week Thursday class is taught by Rev. Peter Rogers, Director of the Center of Bible Study. It begins **April 6** at 10:30 in Room 10. Cost is \$75. Call the Center; 916-332-1476. (Rev. Rodgers is an enthusiastic, humorous and delightful teacher. I highly recommend this class! Adriana Findlay, Director of Resurrection’s Children’s Ministry)

Social Ministry Committee Update, Helping Hands Giving

December the congregation surpassed our expectations on Christmas giving. The church office and our committee members have received many thank you’s from Home Start and Lutheran Social Services.

January - Pajamas, pajamas, pajamas in all colors and sizes were given to foster children through the Sleep Train. At the Gathering Inn stay over at the church two children were in attendance. Linda Corr made their day by letting them choose a new pair of pajamas!

Thank you for your continued giving; our church was also able to contribute to BabyFirst to assist them with baby’s needs.

Those of us on the Social Ministry Committee would like to take this opportunity to **thank Pastor Don** for all his time, energy and commitment to this committee. We especially enjoyed his attendance and contributions at our breakfast meetings at Susie’s!

FEBRUARY HELPING HANDS is the collection of dry goods to be divided amongst Placer, Orangevale and Sunrise Food Closets. You can help by picking up a grocery bag in the Narthex or Faith Center lobby during February and return it filled with non-perishable items. Priority needs are **soups, canned fruit, canned beans, mac & cheese, canned meals and tuna.** All donations are greatly appreciated.

Needing Transportation?



Placer County Transit provides DIAL-A-RIDE Service Bus rides (**Monday through Friday**) to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Granite Bay, in a designated area of Placer County. To schedule a ride, phone (916)745-7560 a day (or two!) before your trip time. Should you live outside their area of service, Placer County residents are encouraged to ask for referrals to other providers, such as the Placer County **MyRides** program. Transportation through **MyRides** is provided by volunteer drivers who are approved and scheduled by Seniors First. For more information about **MyRides**, phone Cheryl (916)782-4202 from 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

For All the Saints

FOR ALL THE SAINTS features stories of the lives of Resurrection members some of whom, for a variety of reasons, are no longer able to worship with us. We continue to hold these saints in our thoughts and corporate prayers and reading about them is one way our entire community can get to know them also! Thanks to our interviewers, John Frith and Karen Murbach, who contact and set up interviews and write the newsletter articles.

If you have a person you would like to have interviewed FOR ALL THE SAINTS, please email Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler, at karen@lcrchurch.org or phone the church office at 916.791.4661 ext. 225.



Linda Fitzgerald
Knowing Grace is Always There

By Karen Murbach

In life, our experience, expectations, hopes and dreams can change in an instant. Thankfully, God’s love and grace never do. For Linda Fitzgerald, the lightning bolt hit one day last spring. She

was at Raley's buying bananas and tomatoes when the moderate pain she'd been feeling suddenly spiked and she heard a sharp snap from her leg as she fell to the floor.

For a happily energetic woman, active in church life and service to ministries, who's flexible enough for yoga and long RV trips with her husband, a badly broken leg was a painful and frustrating setback. But the next word she heard knocked the wind out of her. As they treated her injury, doctors discovered metastatic breast cancer. The disease had spread to her bones and weakened her leg to the point that it simply couldn't hold her up.

For many people facing a devastating diagnosis, it's hard to look past the darkness and see God's purpose, but Linda is a pragmatic optimist. "I try to be open to where God is leading. But sometimes I wish he would just yell. I don't always see what I'm supposed to get from this. But I think one of the biggest things is humility."

As a person who is accustomed to serving rather than being served, Linda struggled a bit with accepting love and support. But it's hard to be stoic in the face of an overwhelming outpouring of love. "The people at Resurrection have just been amazing. I got about 140 cards. So many people stepped up and brought meals and things."

It's not always easy to embrace the Grace in our lives. We're often trained to see ourselves as unworthy. Linda credits her experience with Walk to Emmaus for opening her eyes to the extent of God's love in her life. "It takes me back to the scripture that we are fearfully and wonderfully made and God knew us even before we were born. That view of grace hooked me from the very beginning. We carry all these things around with us, but Grace says it's okay to be you; to be who you've been and who you're going to be."

So, filled with grace and faith like a mustard seed, Linda Fitzgerald has put herself in God's hands. "I have no idea what's in my future. Whether I'll die of cancer or something else, that's to be determined. But I'm a big believer in God's Work Our Hands, and there's a lot of God's work to do. As long as I have two hands and two feet, and a leg that works, I want to do it."

Good Neighbor Team Update

The Ahmad family continues to assimilate into its new lifestyle. The two oldest children are quickly acquiring English language skills through their preschool experience, as is their mother through the English as Second Language training by LCR Good Neighbor Team training. Javed will get his driver's license soon. He continues to make strides toward gaining employment.

In March or April the Good Neighbor Team will take on another family.

There are still opportunities to join this highly rewarding ministry. We are in need of anyone with a passion for helping refugees and for learning about other cultures. Please consider this challenge and contact the Schwegel's if you think you might be interested.

Resurrection Readers



On the 3rd Thursday each month our book club meets in the library at 2:00 p.m. Contact Beryl Bakken at 916-791-1582. **Please join us!**

What we'll be reading:

Feb. 16 – *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. A memoir-in-verse. Readers will feel they are experiencing the author's childhood growing up African American in the 1960's and 1970's. The author is the recipient of the Coretta Scott King award and the book was a New York Times bestseller.

Mar. 16 – *When Breath Becomes Air*, Paul Kalanithi

Apr. 20 – *Leaving Time*, Jodi Picoult

May 18 – *Dead Wake*, Erik Larson

Jun. 15 – *America's First Daughter*, Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie

Jul. 20 – *Look Again*, Lisa Scottoline

Aug. 17 – *Whistling Season*, Ivan Doig

Sept. 21 – *The Nightingale*, Kristin Hannah

Property Ministry Team News for January 2017

1. We're pleased to report that after spending hundreds of dollars in redesigning our flood control system on campus, we have had no flooding after receiving over 20 inches of rain. HOORAY
2. Even though we have not seen our sun much this month, our solar system has produced enough power to reduce our power expenses for the month to near zero.
3. As you may have noticed, nearly all of our parking island planters have been re-landscaped thanks to the Eagle Scouts and the great leadership of Dave Axthelm. Many thanks, Dave.
4. Our Music Room roof had a water leak caused by the installation of our solar system. With the help of SEL Co., installers of the system, the source of the leak was found and repaired at no cost to Resurrection. The ceiling tiles stained by the leak have been replaced. Not such good news, our flat roof over the RFC Kitchen continues to leak. ROI Roofing has been working to find the source of the leak, no luck yet.
5. John Moorman just completed a study and analyses of the Churches replacement reserves. This was a monumental task and John is to be congratulated. This study is the first of its kind for Resurrection. This study will allow the Finance Committee to periodically set aside funds into a separate account for cost of replacements.

6. Lastly, Ed Holbrook redesigned and installed an entirely new Sanctuary lighting board in the Sound Room. For those of us having to work with our old lighting control panel, thanks be to God. ALLELUIA!

Ed Babcock, Property Team Leader

Church Council – January Highlights

- Thanks to our new solar technology, Resurrection's most recent electric bill was \$19.06! And that's in rainy weather! Treasurer Jane Stevens has split out past electric and gas bill data so we can do proper comparisons of historical data.
- Applications for the Teen Ministry position are coming in.
- Linda Babcock, new chair of Faith Formation, updated council about new adult education opportunities – in particular an online class on Martin Luther.
- Dale Munson and Ed Babcock will be representing Resurrection in local community discussions of development. Especially of interest is the increasing flow of traffic on Douglas Boulevard and ways to increase safety.
- Jan. 21 was the Leadership Summit featuring a report by consultant Kristin Wiersma. Kristin updated the congregation with a summary of her work during each service Jan. 22.
- The Social Ministry team is still looking for a new leader. There is a new job description for this position, and Warren Schwegel is available to be interim chair for the next few months.
- Resurrection's new Policies & Procedures manual is about to be published.
- Pr Ralph is preparing for our transition to an interim pastor. Some Sundays we will have supply preachers while we are short-handed.
- What kinds of decisions should council be handling as we transition from larger to smaller numbers? Council will return to this discussion.
- Pastor Don wholeheartedly thanks the congregation, leadership, and staff as he comes to the end of his time with us.
- Meeting ended in closed session for Pastor Don's exit interview.

In His Service, Lynne Larock

Shared Ministry Matters

From the Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler

Resurrection church groups are encouraged to begin our meetings and other gatherings with a brief devotion. Groups may choose a devotion for themselves or use the devotion provided in the monthly



newsletters. This month's group devotion is written by David Scherer, Contextual Learning Coordinator, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. It is a reflection based on hymn #841, "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*" from our ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) hymnal. Congregational life is always about moving forward in the light of Christ, strengthened by God whose steadfast love brings hope in all circumstances. Groups are invited to sing the hymn prior to sharing the reflection and prayer.

#841 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven
ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past
has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has
brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning
rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has
been watered; we have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at
last where the white gleam of our bright star is
cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,
where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the
world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever
stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Growing up in the late 1800's James Weldon Johnson undoubtedly grew up hearing abhorrent stories of slavery. He endured the brutal legacy of Jim Crow and the post-reconstruction era. He would seemingly have little evidence for faith or hope in his life. So how is he able to write such a hopeful hymn? While many songs look to the bright future of the end times ("the Eschaton") for comfort, Johnson actually looks to the dark past for hope. For him the strength to endure hardship and injustice could only be attributed to God. The ability to "stand at last" is given by the one who has "by Thy might led us into the light."

What has God brought you out of? Can you look back at the past from which you emerged and draw strength and hope? Are you ready to thank God for how far you have come? I dare you. God isn't through with us yet. We are all a work in progress. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

PRAYER: God of strength, you have lifted us out of our history and brought us to an abundant place. In the midst of our struggles you still showed your faithfulness. Allow each of the struggles in our pasts to be a reminder of your light that has carried us through. Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

AUDIO VISUAL SUPPORT TECHNICIAN -The A/V Support Technician, under the direction and supervision of the A/V Systems Administrator, provides the congregation with technical audio and video oversight during worship services, weddings, funerals and other special events. The A/V Technician, when assigned by the A/V Systems Administrator, is responsible for operating, maintaining and repairing microphones, speakers, sound systems, recording devices, mixing boards and projectors. Contact Chris Cotter at chris@lcrchurch.org

ALTAR GUILD - A brand new year! New blessings, new challenges and ways to serve our Lord and the people of Resurrection. Communion is served at all three services and the **Altar Guild is in need of additional help to prepare the communion table.** Come; join our dedicated team that serves on a rotating schedule. Please call Lorraine Wells (916-723-7926) for the 8:00 & 11:00 service or Noreene Shaffer (916-663-5527) for the 9:30 contemporary service.

The Relationship between Congregation and Departing Pastor

Because we want everyone to be aware of some important issues related to the transition between pastors, we ask you to read this carefully.

The Church Council and former Pastor Don Haven have agreed to the following, and seek your cooperation, regarding the positive future relationships among us:

- We will do everything possible to uphold the mission of the Church and the positive quality of life in this congregation.
- We will recognize the need for time to adjust to the new relationships, and will reach out in care and compassion to one another.

- We will honor the departure of our former pastor so duties may be relinquished; and we will honor the arrival of a new Lead Pastor by seeking their counsel and ministry. We are aware that conducting pastoral acts (such as baptism, weddings, funerals, confirmations, communions) and defining ministry programs and leadership styles are no longer the prerogative of the departing pastor, but belong to the arriving pastor with the Council and congregation.
- While we recognize that we will continue to care about the departing pastor and family, we will not expect nor invite the pastor to participate in congregational life, with the possible exception of special congregational anniversaries or observations.
- The nature of the relationship between pastor and people often gets translated as the pastor being a friend. The reality is that while the pastor may indeed have been very friendly, the relationship is not one of friendship.
- Experience across the Church has shown that continuing relationships with former pastors is very positive when the above things are kept in mind.

January Average Attendance - 303