



# “Living Word”

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February 2012

## Basking in the Light *by Pastor John*

I did a lot of flying in January, which means I recited the Lord’s Prayer a lot—every time my plane took off. Usually I can time it so that “and the glory forever, Amen” comes just as the wheels lift off the ground. We

**LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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have liturgy in church, and we have liturgy in life. It reminds us of who we are, and who is in control when things don’t go as planned.

“Cancelled? Ice on the wings? Really?” I asked the woman at the counter. “Yes, they have de-icing equipment at SFO, but not here in Oakland.” We were put on a different flight, which was delayed. A voice came over the speakers with an announcement, “Uh, folks we’ve got some ice on the

plane, so we’re just going to wait until the sun comes up.”

An hour later, we finally made it out onto the tarmac. And there we sat...for another hour. Occasionally the plane would move a little bit, then stop. Pivot to the right or left, then stop. The pilot was positioning the wings to capture the sunlight as it poured in from the east.

The pilot apologized for the wait and explained the science of flight—how the ice would prevent the right kind of airflow and lift that the plane needed to take off safely. We were completely at the mercy of the sun, and there was absolutely nothing we could do to speed up the process.

Our cultural temptation is to get things done on our own, in our own way and our own time. This time, we were not in control.

It’s incredible what can happen when we are forced to slow down and pay attention to what’s happening around us. That early morning I sat trapped in the window seat. I saw the ice and the frost on the wing. I watched as the sun hit the ice crystals and the wing danced with all the colors of the rainbow. It was beautiful, but still we waited.

There are also things that keep us grounded in life and in our faith—things that cause us to ice over and not function as we were created to. Often what clings to us, what drags us down, is sin. And we can’t get rid of it on our own. What we need is full exposure to the Light. We need to position our lives to receive as much of God’s Light, as much of God’s Son, as we possibly can. Without it we’re stuck.

I want this year to be a year where we take Jesus seriously, where we learn to rely more and more on him for the big and the small things, where we go out of our way to talk to him, to talk about him, to share what he has done, to consider what his humanity and divinity and resurrection really means for us and for the world. A church alive is a church that can’t get enough of Jesus.

Taking Jesus seriously means you might need to move a little bit, to pivot to the left or to the right. Maybe for you that means less time in TV land and more time in your Bible, or it means being intentional about praying while you are exercising, or picking up those daily devotions that you’ve been meaning to get back to.

Maybe in worship it means paying extra attention to the Scriptures as they are read, opening your heart and mind to the Lord during silent listening, giving God glory and praise as you sing, even if it’s not your favorite song. Make Jesus the center of worship, and nothing else.

Take Jesus seriously. Bask in his light. Let your heart be thawed by his warmth and renewed by his love. Only by the power of Jesus can we get off the ground safely.

The passengers sat there quietly and eventually, drip, drip, the ice melted away. We sped down the runway, I said the Lord’s Prayer, and we lifted off.



- Sundays 8:30 a.m. Prayer Time, Powerhouse  
Adult class taught by Myrlee Potosnak, studying the book of John  
10 a.m. Worship, FLC  
11:45 a.m. Church Cafe (February 12th)
- Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study is meeting in the Fellowship Hall  
Contact Myrlee Potosnak for information.
- Wednesdays 10 a.m. Lectio Divina Group at the Chases'. Call Pastor John for information.
- Thursdays 7 p.m. Fairfield Bible Study is studying "E-100", the 100 Bible passages essential for every Christian to know. Contact the Sullens for more information.
- Saturdays 3:30 p.m. hosted by Lorraine Bartleson at her home. A new study will begin on February 25th. Beth Jones' What to Do When You Feel Blue: God's Word for Dealing With Times of Discouragement. See Lorraine if you would like to join so she can order your book..

*Newcomers are always welcome at any of the Bible studies listed above. Please call any of the hosts to ask questions and join a group that will encourage and help you in your Christian walk.*

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The next **Men's Breakfast** will be held February 11th. We'll meet at the Hometown Buffet at 8 a.m. (no meeting afterward). Contact Dick Ross for more information.

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**Saturday Game Night** will begin at 6:30 on February 4th. Come join in the fun!

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**Session** will meet on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m.

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The next **Deacon's** meeting will be February 19th following the church service. All Deacons, both those going off the Board of Deacons and those coming on, please plan to attend.

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**Ash Wednesday service** will be held on February 22nd at 7 p.m. (includes imposition of ashes and communion).

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**LWF Quilters** will meet on the 1st and 3rd *Thursday* in February between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you'd like to join us, please let Marita or Layna know. We look forward to seeing some new quilters in 2012.

Dear Ladies of Living Word Fellowship,

Thank you for hosting our annual meeting and luncheon. You were gracious hostesses and made everyone feel so welcome. The music provided by Andrea Glenn was beautiful. The presentation by Tara Chase on unreached people groups was interesting and enlightening. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and a great beginning to a New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Tri City Unit  
Church Women United



## MISSIONS

A question that has been asked in our various Special Session meetings dealing with our debt has been "What could we do if we didn't have The Debt?" It is a question that challenges the imagination, but the following excerpt from the 2012 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study (January 22, 2012) demonstrates some outreach possibilities:

"This last January, I stood for over an hour in the cold with 10 seminarians around a fire pit next to the Red River in Des Moines. We were visiting the homeless people who lived in tents and shacks along the river in spite of snow and freezing wind. We wore boots and heavy coats; next to us stood a woman in bedroom slippers. Our guide, Dean, was formerly a homeless drug addict who had been won to Christ by the outreach ministry of a Des Moines congregation. Dean now led his fellow congregation members into an ongoing ministry of aid and relationship to the homeless along the river.



It was clear to us that the homeless folks only allowed us to ask questions because of their friendship and trust in Dean. Dean understood the context in which he was called to do ministry. He had no seminary training or degrees, but as he led us away from the river, Dean looked a lot like Jesus. We felt like we were leaving our boats behind us.

Later that week we worshiped and shared a meal with a congregation that serves breakfast for schoolchildren and an evening meal every night of the week in a neighborhood that speaks over one hundred immigrant languages. The smiles and joy around the tables were a foretaste of the kingdom.

Leicester R. Longden , associate professor of evangelism and discipleship, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Let us pray: O Lord, who calls us from our securities and leads us to trust in you alone, we thank you for humble ministers of love and service like Dean, those who feed the hungry and sit at table with the exiles and refugees. Bless and strengthen the work of our seminaries as they prepare ministers who will follow you in announcing good news to the poor. Amen."



### FEBRUARY 12TH:

Fresh fruit salad

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Mushroom pilaf

Buttered asparagus

Green beans with almonds

Hawaiian rolls and butter

Special Valentine's dessert

Donations to support our Church Cafe are \$7 per person. This covers our costs.

Thank you to Pastor John, Jim Woolums, Ann Mitchell, Nell Howard and the entire congregation for all of the accolades, poem, apron and crown, card and movie passes. It was very nice of you to honor me for the work I have done at our church. However, I am just using the gifts the Lord has given me. God is always with me, helping me and encouraging me to do my best. The Lord has given all of you special gifts, be sure to use them for our church.

Thank you again for all of the wonderful, meaningful gifts.

Love in Christ, Betty Byrne



**NEW ELDER:**

Robert Sullens - 2014

**ONGOING:**

Lorraine Bartleson - 2012  
Betty Byrne - 2012  
Layna Kinsman - 2012  
Jack Kennedy - 2013  
Chuck Smith - 2013



**NEW DEACONS:**

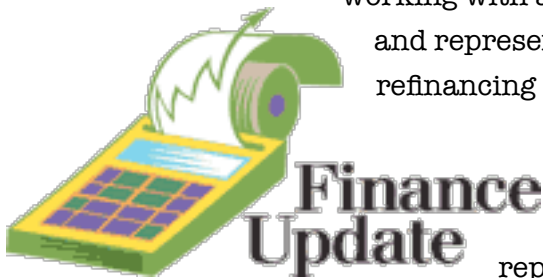
Joanne Blizzard - 2014  
Ann Mitchell - 2014  
Tanya Bartleson - 2014  
Chris Causby - 2012 (1 year term)

**ONGOING:**

Alison Helms - 2012  
Ken Kinsman - 2012  
Jeanne Luppess - 2012  
Ken Luppess - 2012  
Wanda Kennedy - 2013  
Gaetano Alterio - 2013

## CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

In response to concern over the mortgage owed on the Family Life Center, our Pastor and elders have engaged the assistance of Mike Erwin of Solutions for Non-Profits. Mike will be working with an administrative committee made up of session members and representatives of the Presbytery of the Redwoods toward refinancing the mortgage. The current balance is \$792,000.



Mike has over 25 years of experience in processing funds and administering programs for the YMCA and other non-profits. He will develop the necessary paperwork and represent Living Word in negotiations with prospective lenders and others. Mike will only receive payment by Living Word when a loan has been procured.

We are looking at a target window of mid April for completion of this project and ask that you keep Mike and the committee in your prayers.

Very soon, we will also pursue other ways to tackle our mortgage debt. Begin thinking of how God might lead you to help our church score a worthwhile goal and set a record that we can rejoice about!



**Birthdays:**

2/9 Jewel Schoffstall  
2/10 Tanya Bartleson  
2/17 Betty Baker

**Anniversaries:**

2/14 Ken & Layna Kinsman (14 years)  
2/16 Pete & Gail Flores (26 years)

Blessings to all who are celebrating special occasions!

# Lenten Retreat for Adults coming March 16 & 17

“Deepening Your Walk With Christ” is the theme of this new event in our church life. Many in our congregation are finding it increasingly difficult to attend the annual retreat which will be held in August at Zephyr Point. This is your chance to experience a spiritual retreat without the difficulty of a long drive, the high altitude, and the expense of a 3 day event at that wonderful location.

- The nearby location: the Kennedy’s home in Fairfield
- The affordable registration cost: \$25, which includes lunch on Saturday
- An outstanding leader: Rev. Debbie Whaley, who grew up in this church and is Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries at First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley.

We begin the Retreat on Friday evening, go home overnight, and return for activities from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday.

It is time to begin your preparation for attending the Lenten Retreat. Mark your calendar and hold the date, giving it priority in your plans. Registration will begin on February 19.

Meanwhile, Debbie has suggested two Scripture passages to memorize which will help you prepare yourself for this spiritual experience.

They are Psalm 8 and Psalm 67.

The Bedwell Scripture

Memorization

Committee challenges you to learn one or both of these passages. The \$2.00 per verse paid by the Bedwell Fund will help keep the cost of the retreat at the low \$25.00 per person.



## COMMUNION

FEBRUARY 5TH

Frank and Doris Harvey  
Ken and Layna Kinsman

## PRAYER PARTNERS

FEBRUARY 5TH

Bob and Leslie Sullens

FEBRUARY 12TH

Thos. and Connie Vanides

FEBRUARY 19TH

Pam Starks and Kim McBride

FEBRUARY 26TH

Lorraine Bartleson and Betty Byrne

## COFFEE HOUR TREAT LIST

FEBRUARY 5TH

Wanda Kennedy and Joanne Blizzard

FEBRUARY 12TH

Lucille Woolums and Myrna Alterio

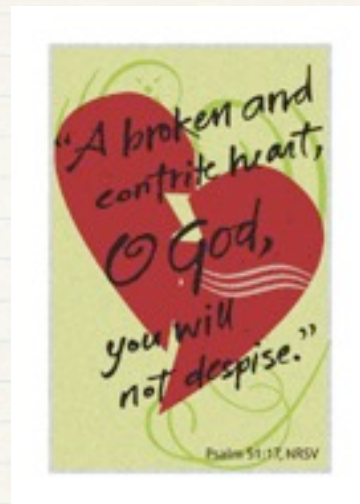
FEBRUARY 19TH

Betty Byrne and Doris Harvey

FEBRUARY 26TH

Barbara Palmer and Gloria Terry

“The church is my home and home is where my heart is. I feel that is where God wants me to be.” - Bill Nesbitt



## LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

### Presbyterian Church

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**To:**

Office Hours 8:30 AM—3 PM  
Monday-Thursday

