



## First Presbyterian Church of Richmond

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**The Connection** is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, 3415 Barrett Ave., Richmond, California, 94805, and (510)234-0954. Editor: Emily Niccolls; Mailing Team: Emily Niccolls. Joe Green and Lynda Wheeler.

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# The Connection



The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond April 2014 Vol. 113 No 4

## *HOLY WEEK EVENTS*



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Ministers,

MIRACLE SUNDAY is coming! For the last two months, we have been praying for miracles. We are asking God to provide \$75,000 for renovation, repair, and mission work. We are praying for emotional, physical, relational, financial, and spiritual miracles.

**Miracles are already happening?** Here are some examples...

- Part of our vision was to get new chairs for Verkuyl Chapel. We checked prices and found that well-built, good chairs would cost about \$50 apiece. We wanted to get 60, which would cost us \$3000. At the end of February, one of our members found out that a church in Hercules was trying to get rid of some new chairs for \$20 apiece. We were able to get 60 new chairs for \$1200, saving \$1800! Sometimes God doesn't provide exactly what we ask for, but God always provides what we need.
- One of our families was praying for a new car. They did not expect to qualify for the car, and if they did, they expected a high interest rate. Not only did they qualify for the car, but they got a good interest rate, too!
- We prayed for a person who was diagnosed with serious health issues. She sent me a note recently saying that the latest tests showed she was clear of the disease!
- Our youth ministry put on a yard sale on March 15. Generous people donated items. People from the community shopped. More than \$1600 came in. At the end of the day, ALL the left over items were taken by a Rescue Mission truck to be used for more mission. In addition, we were able to set up a household for a needy family in the community with some of the donated items. We made lots of other contacts with our neighbors!

Do you have a miracle story? I'd love to hear it!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Jim*

**Pray  
Stand Firm  
Be Still  
Watch for God to Act.**  
*Exodus 14:13-14*

**EXPECT  
MIRACLES!**

**MIRACLE SUNDAY  
April 20, 2014**

Please bring your miracle money to worship on Easter Sunday when we will celebrate with a special offering



**10:30 AM Sermon Series  
Miracles of Jesus**

**April 6, 2014**

Mark 6:30-44  
Feeding 5000

**April 13, 2014**

Mark 10:46-52; 5:1-11  
Miracles On the Road

**April 20, 2014 – Easter**

Mark 16:1-8  
The Rest of the Story

**April 27, 2014**

John 20:19-31  
Opening Closed Doors

# People's Page

*You've probably already seen the new pages in this month's Connection. They include a page with information on future events, one with information on meetings held in the church and what goes on at them, and a spotlight page where we will look at a group or event in the church each month. The idea of the new pages is to keep you informed on what's happening in the church now, and what's planned for the future so everyone can be part of the ongoing life of our church.*

*This page is for you, so -*

- Do you have a comment or compliment for someone?
- Have a favorite Bible verse? Tell us why
- Have a short poem to share? Tell us what it means to you
- Have a question about the church or something that's going on?
- Something good happening in your life.

*Send an email to the church office with your item – put "People's Page" in the subject line - and be sure to include your name and phone number in case we need to contact you. All items should be sent no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's issue.*

*This page will also introduce you to some people around the church and may include some pictures. We can also list any items you have that are in new or very good condition that you don't need any more and would like to donate to another church member. Just send an email to the office describing the item and we'll post it here with your name.*

*What other things would you like to see on this page?*

**Now Available: PEEPERS  
THE TALL PROUD DUCK  
BY RUTH W HALEY  
AND LINDA HALEY**

**INCLUDED ARE A FEW PAGES  
ABOUT OUR OWN  
DRIVE IN CHURCH  
\$20.00 and they can be  
purchased from Ruth**



# Easter Cake

Celebrate our risen Lord with this uniquely decorated cake.

## What you need:

- Adult help
- Box of cake mix (any flavor)
- Tub of brown frosting
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Chocolate Hostess Ding Dong cupcake
- Donut hole
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's candies

## What you do:

1. Bake cake in rectangular pan. When cool, frost it.
2. Pour coconut into bowl. Add drops of green food coloring. Mix until coconut resembles grass.
3. In one corner of cake, set Ding Dong upright to resemble a tomb. Place donut hole in front of it, to one side.
4. Make three crosses with six pretzel sticks and some frosting. Arrange on opposite corner from tomb.
5. Use brown M&M's to make a path from the crosses to the tomb.
6. Use other colors of M&M's to spell out "Jesus lives!"

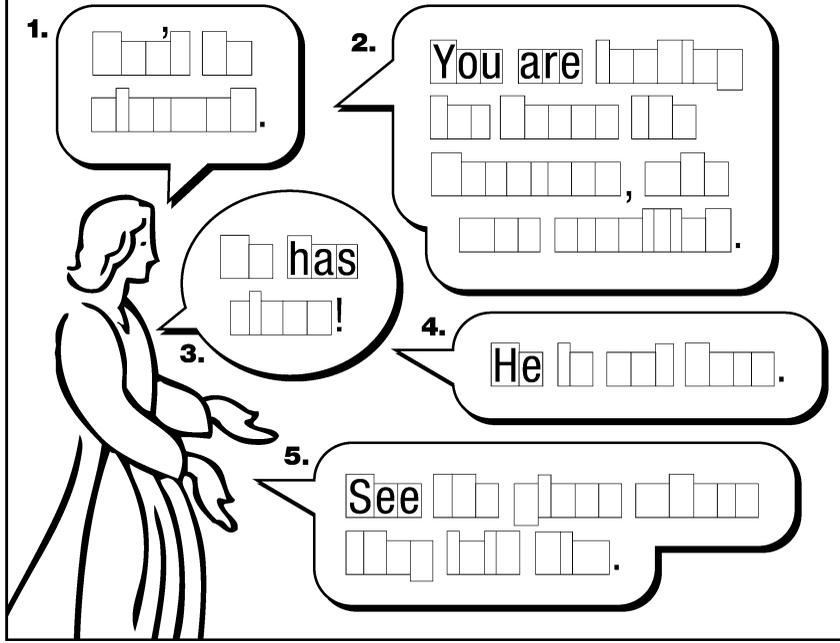


# HE HAS RISEN!

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were surprised to meet an angel at Jesus' empty tomb.

Directions: Use the word shapes to complete the angel's message, in Mark 16:6 (NIV).

for be crucified risen Don't is Jesus He  
looking where not the place who here  
the laid alarmed Nazarene they was him



Answer: 1. Don't be alarmed. 2. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, where they laid him. 3. He has risen! 4. He is not here. 5. See the place

# ***DRIVE-IN MINISTRY***

*Dear Friends*

*Former Pope John Paul II once challenged us believers to, "not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song." Too many people, Christians as well as non Christians, tend to abandon themselves to despair. While life can be rough and tumble from time to time, we know that regardless of how it looks right now, we need not despair; we serve a risen Savior! "We know that in all things that God works for the good for those who love him." (Romans 8:28)*

*With Easter Sunday coming, it is easy to be excited about the good news that occurred that first Easter Sunday. We sing Christ the Lord is Risen Today and for one day forget about the challenges we face. However, as Pope John Paul II reminded us, we need not turn away from the joy and hope we have because of Christ's victory over the grave. Let us not allow the world to make us forget that we are Easter people 365 ¼ days of the year. We need not despair but can live with joy regardless of what life tries to throw at us.*

*See you in the parking lot,*

*Steve*

## ***Quote of the Month***

*A man who was completely innocent offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

## ***April Scripture***

*April 6 Mark 6: 30-44*

*Pastor Jim guest preaching*

*April 13 Mark 11:1-10*

*Palm Sunday*

*April 20 John 20:1-18*

*He is Risen!*

*April 27 1 Peter 1:3-9*

# DEACONS

## Deacon's Ministry....Easter Lilies

Once again, the Board of Deacons will be ordering Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and to provide Easter lilies for each of our Friends at Home. On behalf of the Board of Deacons, Miría Oliveira will be taking sign-ups in Sanford Hall on the first two Sundays in April. The cost of a lily will be \$10.00. If you'd like to provide a lily, please sign up with Miría on one of the designated Sundays.

A list of donors will appear in the church bulletin along with noted remembrances of loved ones or in celebration of Resurrection Sunday. The Deacons are always grateful for the support of the congregation as we reach out to our Friends at Home.



Every Friday of the month six bags of food are distributed to needy families in the Richmond community. The following are some of items that make up a bag of groceries for the needy: **canned fruit**, breakfast cereal, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti, pasta sauce, canned soup and cups of soup, tuna, packages of pasta or macaroni and cheese, canned meat, rice, and beans. We do accept perishable items but ask they be delivered to the church either on Thursday before 1:00 PM or Friday before 10:00 AM. Items can be brought to the church office during office hours. Tom Welton is our Deacon in charge of the pantry. He does all the preparation of the bags each week and distributes them on Friday morning. If you have any questions regarding this loving ministry ask a Deacon.

## Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for 2014 is available on the bulletin board just outside the church office. Please consider donating flowers to celebrate important events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. Flowers are now \$60.00 (tax included). Miría Oliveira is the Deacon to contact regarding flower orders. She will be sending reminders to each person donating flowers.

## Deacons on Call for April – contact office for phone numbers

March 30 – April 5

*Claudine Hughes & Lidia Andueza*

April 6 – 12

*Tom Welton & Norm Waldron*

April 13 – 19

*All Deacons on Call*

April 20-26

*Peggy Williams & Sarah Obasi*

April 27 – May 3

*TBA*





## ***IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SESSION***

### ***What is it and what does it do?***

*If you think about our church functioning like a human body, Session is the head. It is the part of the church that makes the final decisions.*

*Session is made up of Elders, all ordained pastors in the church, and a clerk of Session. In this church we have nine Elders who are elected by the Congregation, and serve three-year terms. Check Sanford Hall for their pictures. New Elders must be sworn in and this is done early each year in the walk-in worship service. Elders are expected to assist in the Sunday services, to serve Communion, to provide prayer and spiritual assistance to members of the congregation, and to lead one or more of the committees. The clerk of Session is a volunteer position who takes the notes and keeps the meeting within the rules of the Presbyterian Church. Jim, as our senior pastor, is the moderator.*

*Most of the work of Session is done in our church in eight standing committees. Each committee is chaired by an Elder. Some of the committees meet regularly and others, such as Nominating, only when necessary. The committees each have a budget and they are responsible for planning events and activities, such as VBS and the Women's Retreat, and for the ongoing life of the church, such as the worship services and building maintenance.*

*Session has the overall responsibility for the church including the facilities, the personnel, and the spiritual health of the members. This includes developing and approving a yearly budget, handling any emergency situations, approving ideas and projects developed in the committees, and providing input as needed by the pastor.*

*Session meets the fourth Monday of each month. Committee chairs and the pastor report on the activities of the past month, and any new business is discussed. Although there are some issues that are confidential, the meeting is open to any member who would like to attend. Just contact the office first if you would like to sit in.*

*Check out future Connection issues for more information on the individual committees, and for meeting dates if you're interested in attending a committee meeting.*

## **MEETINGS:**

**Session** *At the March 24th Session meeting we discussed the following:*

- How God has been working among us (successful yard sale, new chairs, good U-Night involvement, preparation for women's retreat, new Spanish-language Bible study, insurance issues resolved, young adult ministry, and more.)
- Miracle Sunday plans
- A sabbatical possibility for Pastor Jim in 2015. We approved a process to write a grant proposal to the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program. The sabbatical would be for up to four months and would include time for study, reflection, rest, etc. for Pastor Jim as well as for our congregation.
- We prayed for each other and the congregation.
- Next meeting will be April 28 at 7pm.

**Worship Committee** *meeting March 10, 2014 Contact Weldon Miles*

*The committee went over recent services and did some planning for the future. We also discussed the sound and projection issues with in the Sanctuary. It was decided to try and videotape the service, we already audio record the sermon portion. We also discussed getting the new Drive-in truck in use, by using the existing sound system and having a stage built.*

*Next meeting: May 12*

**Christian Education** *meeting March 17, 2014 Contact Katrina Croda*

*Discussion included the excellent attendance for the first night of U-night, and updates on the youth mission trip and women's retreat. Also discussed were ways to have the children involved in Miracle Sunday, and a possible outreach effort to boys without fathers in the home by involving them in activities with some of the men in the church.*

*Next meeting: April 14 - work on details for VBS and the outreach to boys*

**Property and Grounds** *meeting March 17, 2014 Contact Steve Nelson*

*The committee discussed the Spring clean-up coming up March 29, and the need for every group to take charge of their storage to reduce clutter. The possibility of installing bike racks was also discussed. The treasurer's report and the continuing deficit were reviewed and the need expressed to get the Drive-in truck up and running to avoid extra payments for insurance and registration. Recruiting a back up for George was also discussed.*

*Next meeting: April 21 to check fundraising results*

**Other upcoming meetings:**

*Late May: VBS preparation*



## Join Our 24 Hour

### **PRAYER VIGIL**

**Good Friday Evening – April 18, 9:00PM to**

**Saturday Evening – April 19, 9:00PM**

*Our Pastor and Session know that God answers prayers and have asked that a Prayer Vigil be a key part of our Easter Week – Resurrection Day – Miracle Day celebration this spring. The vigil will be a wonderful time for us to pray for our church, it's mission and ministry. The vigil will provide opportunity for forty-eight people to pray in our Fireside Room, each for half an hour, making twenty-four hours of continuing prayers at FPCR. During each half hour prayer shift, another is watching, so the person praying won't be interrupted.*

*There will be a comfortable chair and a kneeler, a Bible, and a prayer guide offering suggestions to help focus your prayers. Most people find the prayer guide gives enough suggestions so they can pray for half an hour straight; the time passes quickly for most. Please note that we need as many “watchers” as we need people praying – 48! Consider signing up for one prayer shift and one watch shift – it makes an even hour if you participate that way.*

*Open yourself to the rich blessings God may have for you in this special, memorable Christian experience. Telephone Larry Hughes at 222-5404 or speak to him at church if you have a question or are interested in participating in the all-church vigil. A **floor easel** holding the sign-up chart for the 24-hour vigil is located in the rear of the sanctuary Narthex **before worship** and in Sanford Hall **after each worship service**.*

#### **Coffee Hour April**

**6: Marilucia & Angela**

**13: OPEN**

**20: U-night Luncheon**

**27: OPEN**

#### **Drive-In April**

*Elder: Joe Green*

*Sound: Don Landis*

*Driver: Bennie Wilson*

*Greeters: Peggy Williams & Lori Varner*

*Communion: Jim Wheeler*

## ***COMING ATTRACTIONS: a chance to get involved, invite friends***

### ***WOMEN'S RETREAT ON APRIL 4-5***

***The church is sponsoring a retreat time for all the ladies in the church, and any friends and family you would like to invite. It will begin Friday night with a dessert social and fellowship, and continue on Saturday with a special speaker, music, Bible study, and more. This year we are pleased to have Carol Johnston as speaker as she is someone known to many in our church. Registration is still open and the cost is \$10, which includes dessert Friday and lunch Saturday.***

### ***GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY APRIL 18***

***Follow Jesus to the cross, a moving experience leading to the joy of the resurrection. Fellowship at 6:45, tours begin at 7:00, followed by a short service.***

### ***PRAYER VIGIL APRIL 18-19***

***A 24-hour prayer vigil will be held at the church from 9 pm Friday April 18 (Good Friday) to 9 pm Saturday. See a page elsewhere in the Connection for more information.***

### ***ORGAN CONCERT JUNE 22***

***Save the date for Barbara's concert on our refurbished organ.***

### ***YOUTH MISSION TRIP JUNE 21-30***

***Our high school youth are doing a mission trip to Okanogan Washington in June to do painting, carpentry, home repairs, build wheelchair ramps, and spread the love of Jesus. They can use both your prayer and your monetary support.***

### ***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 28 – AUGUST 1***

***The theme for VBS this year will be "Weird Animals". The first meeting will be in late May to prepare some of the materials. Check out a future issue of the Connection for more about VBS – what it is and how you can be involved.***



# ***April Prayer List***

1. Leona Armstrong  
& Harding Carlson
2. Brian & Alison Arnold
3. Katherine Bacher & Zakaria
4. Tim & Angela Barbosa
5. Denis & Diana Barkley
6. Peggy Barkoff
7. Paul & Jennifer Basye,  
Austin, Madison & Savannah
8. Wayne & Joyce Basye
9. John Barrett
10. Angela Borges
11. Diane Brandt
12. Gaither & Maxie Brooks
13. Bob & Lu Burmester
14. Alfred Butler
15. Jeanette Butler-Rivers
16. Marsha Butler
17. Francisco & Luzia Carvalho,  
Larissa Jennifer & Jessica
18. Matteus Carvalho
19. Peter & Cida Cassman,  
Nicholas & Kevin
20. The Catalli Family
21. Larry Chapman
22. Mike & Cleo Chavez
23. Faith Chege
24. Kathy Cichanowski
25. Dorothy Claiborne
26. Tim Condon
27. Ian Croy
28. Annette Croda
29. Devin Croda
30. Lauren Croda

*Our church will pay \$35 per member to our Presbytery in 2014. Total amount is \$7200. We have received \$1385. From members so far. Please consider giving \$35 as part of your extra giving this year (mark checks/envelopes "per capita")*



*If you would like to activate the prayer chain or put a request or praise in the bulletin please contact Emily at the church office 234-0954 or [firstpresrichmond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstpresrichmond@sbcglobal.net). Prayer requests can also be left on the church website, [www.pcrichmond.org](http://www.pcrichmond.org)*

## ***FPCR Financial Statement***

*As of March 24, 2014*

### ***CURRENT OPERATING RECEIPTS***

<i>Offering total for 2014 as of 3/24/14</i>	<i>\$ 63,155</i>
<i>Average weekly offering</i>	<i>\$ 5,262</i>
<i>Average weekly offering needed to meet budget:</i>	<i>\$ 6,592</i>
<i>Increase needed each week to meet budget:</i>	<i>\$ 1,330</i>
<i>Average weekly increase per adult needed:</i>	<i>\$ 7.50</i>