



## First Presbyterian Church of Richmond

3415 Barrett Avenue Drive-In Worship Center

Richmond, CA 94805 Appian 80 Shopping Center

(510) 234-0954

E-mail: [firstpresrichmond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstpresrichmond@sbcglobal.net)

Web page: [www.pcrichmond.org](http://www.pcrichmond.org) or [www.Facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchrichmondca](http://www.Facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchrichmondca)

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

**Copy deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's publication.**

Jim Wheeler, *Pastor*

Alcenir Oliveira, *Pastor to Portuguese-language Ministry*

Khamside Keola, *CLP to Khmu Ministry*

Phoebe Chen, *Pastor to Mandarin-language Ministry*

Steven R. Niccolls, *Lay Preacher Drive-In Ministry*

Cindy Towle Kephart, *Pastoral Intern*

Barbara Lockie-Brown, *Director of Music Ministries*

Emily Niccolls, *Administrative Assistant*

Cathy Nance, *CLP to Youth and Their Families*

Mike Jefferson, *Custodian*

Chanthong Vilaysak, *Gardener*

# The Connection



The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond September 2014 Vol. 113 No 9



**BRAZILIAN GOSPEL FESTIVAL**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN RICHMOND  
**Bay Area Brazilian Day**  
September 6, 6:30 pm  
**COME TO PRAISE THE LORD!**



3415 Barret Ave Richmond, CA 94805 · 510.375.5326



*Third  
Sunday  
Potluck*

*Sunday, September 21  
Following the 10:30 services*



*Saturday, September 27  
9:00AM – 12:00 noon  
Pizza lunch following*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Ministers,

**God always answers our prayers.** Here are five responses we can expect:

- ❖ **No, I love you too much...**
- ❖ **No, but here's something better...**
- ❖ **Yes, of course...**
- ❖ **Yes, but not right now...**
- ❖ **Yes, and so much more!**

We tell God what we want. We even believe God hears our prayers. However, when we don't get what we want right away, we tend to give up looking for answers.

**Our church family has had some recent answers to prayer:**

- ❖ Last February, we started praying for miracles, especially that God would provide \$75,000 to help us with repairs. **God provided almost \$45,000!** Some of the things on our repair/renovation list were donated or didn't cost as much as expected. Some of our members also found a grant possibility that may take care of some of our repairs. God is answering!
- ❖ We have been praying for more youth leaders, especially dedicated men. Our church leadership struggled and prayed about our budget last year and reluctantly took off the line item for an assistant youth director. However, **God has provided two men who have volunteered to help lead our youth!** We continue to pray for additional qualified leaders.
- ❖ We prayed for a successful Vacation Bible School. More than **100 children attended, and about 50 youth and adults** volunteers helped in leadership. Some new families have started attending worship with us. God is working!

If we pay attention, we will discover that God hears us and responds. What answers to prayer have you seen? I'd love to hear about how God is working in your life!

Blessings,

*Pastor Jim*

### **U-NIGHT is coming!**

- ❖ Delicious family-style dinner – only \$2.00 per meal
- ❖ Childcare for preschool age
- ❖ Program for elementary age
- ❖ Middle/High School activities
- ❖ Class for parents of teens
- ❖ Romans 8 adult Bible study

**6:30 – 8:45 PM Tuesdays**  
**September 23 – October 21**



### **10:30 AM Sermons**

**September 7, 2014**

2 Corinthians 13:11-14; 1:3-11  
Be Comforted

**September 14, 2014**

2 Corinthians 13:11-14; Phil 2:1-11  
Be Like-Minded

**September 21, 2014**

2 Corinthians 13:11-14; Matt. 18:15-20  
Live in Peace

### **SERIES ON ROMANS 8**

September 28 – October 26

**September 28, 2014**

Romans 8:1-4  
No Condemnation

# People's Page

Dear Pastors, Elders, Deacons,  
Brothers, and Sisters in the family of Christ  
Khamside and Saeng would like to thank all of you for all your prayers.  
I am feeling much better, but still not strong yet. I am healing day by  
day but it will take time. God is blessing me every  
day and I feel the difference. Hope all of you will  
continue to pray for me.

May God bless you and family all.  
Love, Khamside and Saeng Keola



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

To the Deacons, Staff and Member of First Pres. Richmond,  
Beloved fellow believers,

I am so grateful for the many prayers, cards and calls for the past 3  
months. You have made a time of illness easier. God has truly blessed  
us through you – even delicious food. Mike and I both have surgeries  
sometime in the future and ask for continued prayer. We pray God will  
richly bless each of you even more than you've blessed us. You truly  
are God's loving, awesome people.

Thank You! In His Love, Linda Fernandes (and Mike too!)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



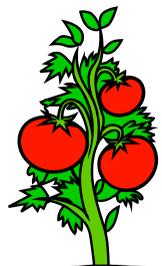
·newborns·

Congratulations to Eric and Rachel Ruhe (Croda) on  
the birth of Elliott William on July 27. Ask grandma  
Katrina to see a picture. Congratulations also to  
Steven & Poupouy Kham on the birth of their first  
child; a girl, Kameron Phai, born July 29.  
Grandparents Boon and Phai are very proud.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Is your zucchini taking over? Are you tired of tomatoes? Are  
your apples and pears coming ripe all at the same time?  
Bring your surplus down to the church and share with  
others. There are many who would love fresh fruit and  
vegetables, but didn't get their gardens planted this spring.  
Place them on the small table just inside Sanford Hall.  
Plastic bags will be available if needed.



# REMINDER BOARD



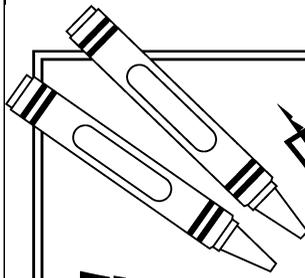
Start off the school year right by making this wipe-off board, which can help you remember important things.

## What you need:

- Adult help
- 5" x 7" picture frame with glass (available at a dollar store)
- Lined notebook paper
- Scissors
- Low-heat glue gun
- Buttons, ribbon, stickers or foam shapes
- 1" piece of Velcro
- Erasable marker

## What you do:

1. Using the cardboard insert or picture from the frame as a pattern, cut the notebook paper to fit the frame. Then insert it behind the glass.
2. Decorate the outside of the frame by gluing on buttons, ribbon, stickers or foam shapes.
3. Glue one side of the Velcro to the erasable pen and one side to the frame. Then attach the pen to the frame.
4. Place the board on your desk, dresser or kitchen counter. On the glass, write daily reminders about assignments and activities.



# PUZZLE

## Think about these things...

With so many things to remember each day, the apostle Paul provides guidelines in Philippians 4:8 (NIV) for what should fill our minds.

**Directions:** Match each word in column 1 to the word in column 2 that means the same thing. Then use the words from column 2 to fill in the boxes below.

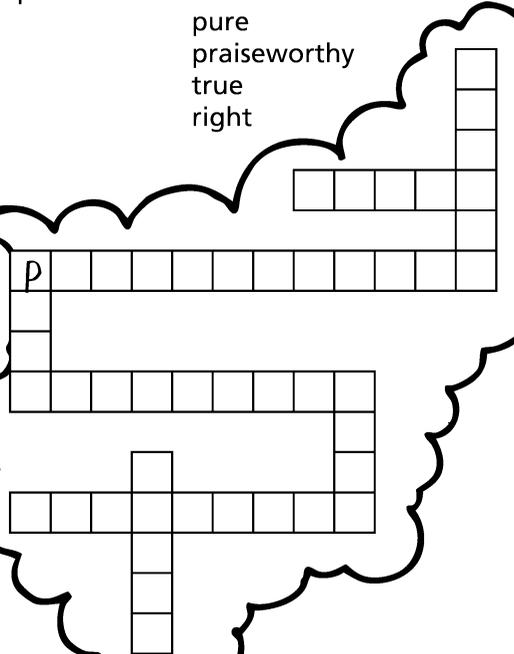
### COLUMN 1

correct  
 commendable  
 extremely good  
 having high moral principles  
 deserving respect  
 pleasant  
 real  
 wholesome

### COLUMN 2

excellent  
 lovely  
 noble  
 admirable  
 pure  
 praiseworthy  
 true  
 right

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** — if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** — think about such things."  
 Philippians 4:8, NIV



*The answer is available from the office*

# ***DRIVE-IN MINISTRY***

*Dear Friends*

Almost two years ago, Emily and I had our bathroom remodeled. We knew the bathroom had suffered from deferred maintenance and it had gotten to the point where we needed to bite the bullet and find the finances to have the bathroom done. Two related events occurred during and after the remodel. First, during the remodeling we found the bathroom needed more work than we thought. The second recognition came upon the completion of the remodel. The rest of the house was (is) in need of reworking as well.

These thoughts came to mind recently as I was reading *The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor: Seeing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus*. In that book Mark Labberton writes, "What I want to say, is that in a world filled with suffering and injustice, the transformation needed has to reach all the way into our hearts, behind and underneath systems and structures, laws and habits: 'your' whole [personal and social] structure must change." (p.24) What I hear Dr. Labberton saying is that we might ask God to change our hearts. However, once we look at changing our hearts, we see we need to do a total home makeover. Starting in the month of September, I will be doing a series of sermons based on how we can go about doing a whole body makeover so that we become more like Christ and less like the society we are living in. See you in the parking lot,

*Steve*

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

*"To step in and serve in any true act of love will involve us in problems, ... Our lives are meant to carry and share in the problems of others." (p.52)*

*Dr. Mark Labberton*

*The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor:  
Seeing others Through the Eyes of Jesus  
InterVarsity Press 2010*

*The Niccolls' own two copies of the book*

## ***September Scripture***

*(Total Body Make Over)*

<i>September 7</i>	<i>Isaiah 58:1-12</i>
<i>September 14</i>	<i>John 3:1-15</i>
<i>September 21</i>	<i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>
<i>September 28</i>	<i>Luke 10:25-37</i>

*Note:*

*I am always searching for future sermon topics. I would love to hear your ideas.*

# DEACONS

## Deacon's Ministry

We continue to be grateful for all the donations received to support our ministry. One way to assist the Board of Deacons in serving members of the church and the greater Richmond community is to donate cash or make a check donation of any amount. Be sure to write "DEACONS" on your check and either use an envelope provided in the sanctuary pew racks or an envelope from your regular church "box." If you use your regular giving envelopes, be sure to indicate your regular giving box number on your check as this is helpful information in recording your donation. In November, we will again provide Thanksgiving Food Boxes (filled with all the ingredients of a Thanksgiving dinner) to those in need. Last year, we distributed 25 overflowing boxes to families from our church and nearby community. The cost to assemble one box is approximately \$40. This is a wonderful ministry of reaching out to others and your support is greatly appreciated by all the families who receive the holiday boxes.



Every Friday of the month, six bags of food are distributed to needy families in the Richmond community. The following are some of the items that make up a bag of groceries: canned fruit (always needed), 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. Flowers are now \$65.00 (tax included). Míria Oliveira is the deacon to contact regarding flower orders. She will be sending reminders to each person donating flowers.

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

**August 31 – September 6**

**Norm Waldron & Rob Henderson**

**September 7 – 13**

**Míria Oliveira & Claudine Hughes**

**September 14 – 20**

**Tom Welton & Gregory Harris**

**September 21 – 27**

**Sarah Obasi & Rob Henderson**

**Septemebr 28 – October 4**

**Cida Cassman & Ebube Nwosibe**



**Coffee Hour September**

7: OPEN

14: OPEN

21: All Church Picnic

28: OPEN

**Drive-In September**

*Elder: Joe Green*

*Sound: Don Landis*

*Driver: Bennie Wilson*

*Greeters: Bennie Wilson & Alice Strain*

*Communion: Pat Overshiner*

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

**Louvorzão – September 6 – at First Pres. Richmond**

Join our Portuguese brothers and sister as they celebrate through music the anniversary of Brazilian independence. All are invited as bands from around the Bay Area perform; including our own Praise team.

**Back to Bethlehem**

First meeting for the planning committee for Back to Bethlehem 2014 is Sunday, September 14 following the 10:30 services. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring ideas.

**Congregational Potluck – September 21, following worship**

To celebrate all September birthdays. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share as we celebrate members of our congregation.

**All Church Fall Clean-up**

Everyone's help is needed to clean the church and grounds to get ready for the holiday season. So come out early (9:00AM) Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> for work and a pizza lunch.

**Save the Dates:**

September 1: OFFICE CLOSED for Labor Day

September 23 – October 21: U-Night

December 12-13: Back to Bethlehem

**SAAC, The Senior Adult Activity Center** that meets in our church, will close when the current director retires at the end of September, unless a new director is found. This is a voluntary position that requires both organizational skills and the ability to work with people. If you are interested contact Pastor Jim



# MINUTES

## **Christian Education Committee: August 11, 2014**

Nursery – Many thanks to Marilucia Resende for supervising the nursery for the last year. We discussed moving PLM children who are over 2 years into the Meadow. Prayer request for more nursery help and Sunday School teachers.  
Child Safety Training – Workshop in Portuguese on Sunday, Sept 14, led by Jim.  
VBS – Positive evaluation; need for more supervision when children are picked up.  
Child Supervision – Discussion of unsupervised children during coffee hour. Our child safety policy states that children cannot be in any area of the church without adult supervision. New ways of supervising children were discussed, no action taken.  
Miracle Sunday donations – Plans are being formulated to repaint and carpet the Meadow & Ark. Discussion of changing names of the two rooms.

## **Property & Finance Committee, August 18, 2014**

*The committee discussed the following:*

- Miracle Sunday projects for Verkuyl, Kitchen, Ark & Meadow rooms
- Drive-In Truck
- New storage container possibility
- Plumbing blockage on 8/17/14
- Treasurer's Report – At the end of July, we had spent \$22,980 more than we received. This is a smaller deficit than in June, so we are partly encouraged.
- That we need to recommend to Session that the 2015 budget be adjusted to reflect income of \$300,000
- Philippians 4:6-7 was an encouragement to all of us!

## **SESSION NOTES**

Session met on August 25, from 7 – 9:40pm. We did the following:

- **Listened to God's Word** – Acts 2:42-47 and reflected on the first church.
  - **Remembered how God is working among us** – came up with 20 ways in 5 minutes!
  - **We discussed...**
    - Steps toward presenting a reasonable ministry plan for 2015 that fits our income
    - Assignments for elders to care and pray for every household of FPCR
  - **We decided...**
    - To carry out a financial commitment campaign this fall, targeting November 23 as Commitment Sunday. Session will personally communicate this to every household so that we will have a clear idea of what ministries we can afford in 2015.
    - To meet as elders for a prayer retreat on November 1
    - To approve the idea for Pastor Jim to lead a series of six classes in 2015 to equip newly elected officers and others who want to grow in leadership.
  - **We Prayed** for each other and for our church family.
  - **Looked ahead** to the Louvorzão on 9/6; all-church picnic on 9/21; all-church cleanup day on 9/27; World Communion Sunday/joint service on 10/5
- Next stated meeting:** Monday, September 22, at 7pm

# \* U-Night \* \* \*

**5 Tuesday Evenings**  
**September 23- October 21**  
**6:30 pm - 8:45 pm**  
*Family Style Dinner*

*After dinner, exciting programs for preschoolers, elementary age and middle school/high schoolers.*



*Plus two studies for adults:*

## \* ParentingTeens

*A special program for parents of middle school and high school children.*

Our own youth director, Cathy Nance, will share techniques to help parents teach teens how to make decisions responsibly without damaging the relationship.

## \* RomansChapterEight

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Romans 8:35*

If you've ever felt like, "I'm not good enough", "I can't change", "life is too hard", Romans eight is the chapter for you! These 5 sessions will help move us from doubt to faith and discouragement to hope.

Please join us as we learn that we can live with...

**NoCondemnation!**

**NoDesperation!**

**NoFrustration!**

**NoSeparation!**

\$10.00 per person for all 5 nights or \$30.00 per family

Register after church or at [pcrichmond.com](http://pcrichmond.com)

**The Nominating Committee is looking for people called to serve the church. All positions are for 3 years and are elected by the Congregation. All officers must be church members of good character with a commitment to Christ. If you are interested, contact Steve Nelson or Pastor Jim.**

#### **WHAT THEY DO:**

**ELDERS** assist in the worship services, serve communion, lead prayers, provide prayer and spiritual assistance to members of the congregation, sometimes by visitation, and lead one or more of the church committees. Elders attend the session meetings the fourth Monday of each month and conduct monthly committee meetings. Elders are responsible for their committee's budget and activities. Session has overall responsibility for the church including the facilities, the personnel, and the spiritual health of the members. Elders are expected to be good role models for the congregation. Organization and planning skills are helpful.

**DEACONS** perform many of the caring functions in the name of the congregation, working under a Board of Deacons headed by a moderator, and meeting the first Monday of each month. Two deacons are on call each week if help is needed, so each deacon would serve every six weeks. Deacons have individual assignments such as the sanctuary flowers, the food bags assembly and distribution, or the set-up/clean-up of communion each month. Deacons also do the planning and arranging of the receptions after funerals and memorials, visit those who are hospitalized, and visit our home-bound family members. Deacons must be willing to work with others. Having a car is very helpful and a caring nature.

**TRUSTEES** are responsible for counting the money received by the church. Although trustees generally meet only once a year, each trustee is scheduled to count the offerings Sunday morning approximately once every three weeks. Four trustees meet immediately after the worship service each Sunday to count and properly record all monies received during the week, to provide documentation to the appropriate leaders, and to make the bank deposit. This takes approximately one hour to complete. All Trustees must be honest, responsible, and have a commitment to privacy of information. Attention to detail is useful and basic math is very helpful.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: U-NIGHT

## - What is it and what happens?

A new U-night five-week session begins on Tuesday, September 23.

U-night is a celebration of family values where we come together for food, conversation, and study. Although other churches have similar meetings, our gathering is called “U-night” to emphasize the “you” part of “us” coming together. We are united as a

church body across cultural lines to eat together as a family, to enjoy getting to know each other better over a good meal, and to learn more about God and His love for us.



Everyone is invited to come. Although this is called a family night, it refers to the church family so both families and individuals are welcome, as well as your neighbors and friends if you would like to invite them. The hall is set up with the round tables and each table has a host. There are children at each table so they can experience the family style meal with food and conversation. The evening begins at 6:30 PM with a simple meal prepared by volunteers – baked chicken, mashed potatoes, salad, or spaghetti with meat sauce, bread, salad, for example. The meals are \$10 for all five weeks, or \$2 each, with a special deal of \$30 max for larger families.

After dinner, a few volunteers help clean the kitchen and everyone else goes on to a study session. The adults use a Bible-based theme for their study, and the same theme is adapted for the preschooler, elementary, and middle/high school groups of children and youth. The younger children also have some recreation time and singing.

The evening is usually over by 8:45 PM, and drop-ins are welcome if you can't make all five sessions. Registration helps us know how many to expect for dinner, so look for sign-up sheets in Sanford Hall after the morning worship services. Come and bring your family and friends for a time to enjoy conversation, and to learn together about our awesome God.

# September Prayer List

1. Mason & Jackie Motomura,  
Dominic & Aliana
2. Raksha Motomura, Maya,  
Makoto & Jordon
3. Willard Motomura
4. Moeketsi & Carol Mphenyeke,  
Ofentze & Kabisane
5. Rev. Don & Sherrie Mulford
6. João Nascimento
7. Ed & JoAnn Nance
8. Jeremy Nance
9. Mark & Cathy Nance, Hayley
10. David & Gigi Nathan, Gianna
11. Carl & Susan Nelson, Tioga,  
Magnolia & Rowan
12. Rev. Paul & Sally Nelson
13. Steve & Mary Anne Nelson
14. Bob & LaVonne Niccolls
15. Sarah Niccolls
16. Steve & Emily Niccolls
17. Susan Niccolls
18. Carl & Ruth Nolte
19. Boun Nomprasertth,  
Pheng, Nancy & children
20. Marcelino Nuño & Lourdes  
Rodriguez, Citlaly Salazar
21. Ebube & Vivian Nwosibe,  
Myra, Joseph & Gregory
22. Hannah Nwosibe
23. Hannah Obasi
24. Jonah Obasi
25. Mary Obasi
26. Obasi & Sarah Obasi,  
Sarah & Joy
27. Rebecca Obasi
28. Fred & Bonner Odell,  
Jessie Parker & baby
29. Bernard Ojeh
30. Jennifer Ojeh

*Our church will pay \$35 per member to our Presbytery in 2014. Total amount is \$7200. We have received \$1700 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)*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT As of July 31, 2014

Receipts	\$ 177,670.00
Disbursements	<u>200,652.00</u>
Over/Under Expenses	<22,982.00>
Budget for first seven months	\$ 200,074.00