Ten years ago on a Sunday afternoon, Tyrell Martin was a nervous, fidgety second-grader sitting with his mother on a couch. They waited together for a stranger to arrive at their East Oakland apartment. This informal meeting would determine whether or not the stranger would become Tyrell’s mentor for the next year.

The hearty knock on the front door came from Dr. Bill McNabb, Senior Minister of Piedmont Community Church. After two days of mentorship training, he was confident and comfortable knowing his commitment as a potential mentor was short term.

“In my mind I thought, ‘I could do a year,’” Bill said. “I still remember walking in, sitting there, meeting Tyrell and his mom.”

“When I first met Bill, I thought he was a cooking fanatic,” Tyrell said. “I wasn’t sure I wanted to do that. Our first meal together was spaghetti and I helped him cook it. I actually enjoyed it. I loved it. I knew we would have a long friendship.”

Looking back, Tyrell’s initial conversation with Bill, and the home-cooked meal that followed, is one of his first, and fondest, memories.

The youngest of four, Tyrell had no significant male role model in his life. His father was incarcerated before Tyrell was born. His mother approached Family Support Services of East Bay in hopes of connecting her son with an adult male counterpart through their Oremi mentoring program.

Bill was inspired to consider mentoring by Bob Cheatham, a Piedmont...
parishioner who has mentored well over 40 years.

“He is the grandfather of mentors,” Bill said.

Bill’s goal was to try out the program himself, then bring it to other men and women of the church as a potential ministry. Eventually, a dozen people signed up.

After agreeing to accept one another as mentor and mentee, the two began planning time together. One day included a trip to the Oakland zoo. Another, fishing and visiting a steam train. However, one constant was good conversation and cooking.

“I can talk to him about anything,” Tyrell said. “I can also bring up the craziest recipe and we’ll do it. We love food.”

Understanding the commitment would take time away from his own family, Bill called a meeting of his wife, Maureen, and their two teenage daughters, Mackenzie and Shelby. They agreed the experience was worthwhile.

“Tyrell became part of our family,” Bill said. “We had no idea how much we would fall in love with him. He became the little brother my daughters never had. We woke up one day and Tyrell was a part of our lives.”

Over the years, Bill and Tyrell continued to receive check ins from the people running the mentoring program to confirm another year was in order. Eventually, they stopped asking. Recently, the local government closed the program due to lack of funding.

Undeterred, the two continued their relationship.

During the past four years, Tyrell has participated in Piedmont Church’s Mexico house building mission, joining 300 youth and parents to provide homes for the poorest of Baja California. During his last trip to Mexico this April, Tyrell was determined to make the most of the experience, leaving a good impression on those he served.

“I was the only African American on the trip,” Tyrell said. “I wanted the people there to know that African Americans can be friendly and kind and really funny. I have a lot of jokes.”

In Mexico, Tyrell befriended a young boy named Jorge. For days, Tyrell and Jorge were inseparable, working on the house building project together, taking frequent breaks to play games in the middle of an abandoned dirt road.

“When I get older, I want to be a mentor,” Tyrell said. “I want to have a little mentee and cook with him just like Bill and I do.”

This June, Tyrell graduated from Mount Eden High School. He plans to attend classes at Chabot Community College in Hayward with a focus on police work. Not surprisingly, Tyrell already has a job lined up - as a cook at Charlie’s Philly Steak in Hayward.

“I love Bill,” Tyrell said. “If he never came to see me, if he never was my mentor, I wouldn’t be on the same path I am on today.”

“I wouldn’t like to cook and don’t think I would have as much help and support in my life,” Tyrell said.

“I have been able to give a little,” Bill said. “But I have received so much more. My life is more rich, my family is more rich, by the presence of Tyrell in our lives.”

“He’s the closest I’ll ever have to a son.”

Editor’s Note: Dr. Bill McNabb is researching current mentoring programs, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area. If interested, please contact Bill at (510) 547-5700 or Bill@PiedmontChurch.org
Church Seeks Participants In Piedmont July Fourth Parade

Don’t let the Piedmont parade pass you by! Our church will be an entrant this year, celebrating over 100 years of service in the heart of Piedmont.

Members of all ages are encouraged to walk with banners and signs representing some of our supported ministries. If you wish to participate, email Christian Education Board member Beth Covin at bethcovin@gmail.com. Marchers will meet at the church at 9:45 am Wednesday, July 4.

Tiny Time Commitments

Many of our volunteer activities take minimal time and effort.

**USHER OR GREET** at the 10:30 am service (simple training sessions available). Check your calendar and sign up after church.

**PROVIDE A MEAL** through our Food Angels for a member going through a difficult time. Contact Linda Rice at ljrice@sbcglobal.net

**HELP IN THE KITCHEN** with our volunteer cooking crew, Loaves and Fishes. Contact Steve Wuebbens at sawuebbens@gmail.com

Sunday School

Children are welcome to stay with their parents in the sanctuary during the month of July. The nursery is available. Contact Leslie Quanz with questions at Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org or (510) 547-5700 ext. 109

Widows, Widowers Support Group

Have you (or has someone you know) experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this ten-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process.

Find hope, support, and successful ways to process this significant life event. This course is open to all widows and widowers.

Sundays, September 16 - November 18
Cost is $15 for materials. For more information, contact Merrilee Mitchell at (510) 482-5296 or merrileehm@sbcglobal.net
Women’s Bible Study Digs Deep

As we enter into a more relaxed time of the church year the Women’s Bible Study will continue to meet each Thursday morning at 10 am in the Guild Parlor at the church.

We have been studying C.S. Lewis’ *Screwtape Letters* and will complete that book at the July 5 meeting.

On July 12, we will start a new study, which holds true to our group’s name. We will begin reading the Bible. Not just books of the Bible, but the entire Bible!

Do you wonder why we have an open Bible on the table at our church? Have you often gotten confused about what happened when and where? Many of us know snippets of the Bible, but by reading this compendium of many books cover-to-cover we will gain familiarity with the characters and timelines of the larger story.

We will read the Bible in chronological order, that is, as the story timeline moves forward, perhaps reading the same story in different books to gain deeper insight.

There will be homework for this study, reading the assigned text each week. But a year from now, just think: you will have read the *entire* Bible.

That realization will bring not only a sense of physical accomplishment, but a deeper understanding and appreciation of our faith.

Please plan to attend on July 12 as the Women’s Bible Study embarks on this project.

If you are unable to join us, please let me know and I will send you a brief treatise (from F. Buechner’s book *Beyond Words* in support of why everyone should read the Bible) and the daily reading schedule.

See you in July!

Summer Office Hours

The office and switchboard of Piedmont Community Church has summer hours through Labor Day. Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm. Please make a note.

Norwegian Choir To Perform July 1

Norwegian choir SKRUK will provide the music for our Sunday, July 1 service at 10:30 am.

Featuring exquisite harmonies and stirring gospel repertoire alongside groundbreaking Scandinavian choral music, Stephen Main calls this group “incredible.”

The name SKRUK is an acronym for Sunnmøre kristelege ungdomskor (Sunnmøre Christian youth choir). It was founded in 1973. The choir has released more than 20 records and has performed on several continents.
Immigration Policy Prompts Call To Action From Pulpit

During his June 17 sermon titled A Call to Justice, Dr. William McNabb invited the congregation to write a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions opposing the mistreatment of migrant workers at the border whose children have been taken from their parents.

Mr. Jeff Sessions
Attorney General,
United States of America
950 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington D.C, NW, 20530-0001

or visit justice.gov/contact-us

To listen to this sermon, visit PiedmontChurch.org and click Worship Recordings under Media.

You may also wish to support the following groups working to protect children, women and families:

**Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project**
Prevents wrongful deportations by connecting refugee families to community support and emergency legal aid.

asylumadvocacy.org

**Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)**
Protecting unaccompanied children who enter the US immigration system alone to ensure that no child appears in court without an attorney.

supportkind.org

**La Union del Pueblo Entero**
Founded by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, a community union that works in the Rio Grande Valley from the grassroots up

lupenet.org

**United We Dream**
The largest immigrant youth-led network in the country

unitedwedream.org

**We Belong Together**
Mobilizes women in support of common sense immigration policies that will keep families together and empower women.

webelongtogether.org

**Women’s Refugee Commission**
Advocating for the rights and protection of women, children, and youth fleeing violence and persecution

womensrefugeecommission.org

**Texas Civil Rights Project**
Lawyers and advocates on the front lines of the family separation crisis

texascivilrightsproject.org
Seniors Invite All To Conversations

Anne Lenkert, church choir member from Rossmoor, joined us last Wednesday for a spirited conversation on what our Coffee and Conversation group was all about.

Ann Chandler provided the catalyst for conversation when she arrived with copies of a newspaper article discussing England’s new Ministry of Loneliness, established in January of this year.

The Ministry will address a growing concern that seniors, sometimes isolated in their residences, need more opportunities to communicate and interact with others.

Michael Barber, editor of The Messenger, added to our talk – the new Messenger has truly opened communication throughout the church.

So, come to the meetings for Coffee and Conversation, the first and third Wednesday of every month from 9:30 to 11 am in the Guild Parlor.

See you there!

Thou Shalt Laugh

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then, something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it closely.

It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between the pages.

“Mama, look what I found,” the boy called out.

“What have you got there?” his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy’s voice he answered, “It’s Adam’s suit!”

Future Glimpse

Piedmont Community Church Endowment Development Committee Chair Bob Leslie unveils a set of engraved bricks in memory and honor of church members and their families Sunday, May 20, after worship.

Donations for the bricks go to the Endowment Fund, designed to enhance the long term fiscal management of the church.
Like many of us, I have been shocked by the recent suicide of the writer and TV star Anthony Bourdain.

My wife Maureen and I just loved him. I have watched all of his shows for years and more than once said, “I want his life.”

It is obvious now that what I wanted was his job, not his life. How can someone who seemed so alive and joyous want his life to end?

We will probably never know and we must never condemn others who are carrying invisible burdens. The only antidote to suicide and despair seems to be a strong sense of meaning and purpose in life that somehow sustains our souls.

But finding meaning and purpose in life is not easy.

John Gardner author of the book *Self Renewal* told of a man who wrote from Colorado saying his daughter had been killed in a car accident some weeks before and that she was carrying in her billfold a paragraph from a speech Gardner had given.

He said he was grateful because the paragraph - and the fact that she kept it close to her – told him something about her values and concerns. Here is the paragraph of the speech she kept in her pocket:

“Meaning is not something you stumble across, like the answer to a riddle or the prize in a treasure hunt. Meaning is something you build into your life. You build it out of your own past, out of your affections and loyalties, out of the experience of humankind as it is passed on to you, out of your own talent and understanding, out of the things you believe in, out of the things and people you love, out of the values for which you are willing to sacrifice something. The ingredients are there.

You are the only one who can put them together into that unique pattern that will be your life. Let it be a life that has dignity and meaning for you. If it does, then the particular balance of success or failure is of less account.”

I believe that one of the greatest opportunities that God has given us to build meaning and purpose into our lives is the call to service that is at the heart of the gospel. God is offering us the job of being his partners in the work of building his kingdom here on earth.

We can work alongside him to provide healing to the sick, food to the impoverished, education to those without it, care and love to the lonely. I believe by joining God in this work of service to others we can find the meaning and purpose we need to flourish in our own lives.

**Family Camp**

We will be going to beautiful Westminster Woods in Occidental, California over Labor Day weekend.

We will be starting after lunch on Saturday September 1 and ending with breakfast on Monday September 3.

Enjoy fun crafts, swim time, games and campfires. Dorm-style bunk cabins are available. Contact Leslie Quantz at Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org for more information and to sign up.

**Compassionate Call**

The Livewire Middle School group of Piedmont Community Church, led by Rev. Scott Kail, delivered over 100 hygiene and care bags to the homeless encampment in Emeryville Tuesday, May 22.
**JUNE CALENDAR**

**Sunday, July 1** – Communion Sunday

**Saturday, July 7** – Volunteer to Serve Lunch with CityTeam (ages 12 and over), 11 am – 2 pm, 722 Washington St., Oakland

**Saturday, July 7** – Volunteer to Serve Dinner with CityTeam (ages 14 and over), 5 pm – 7 pm, 722 Washington St., Oakland

**Monday, July 9** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2-4 pm, Guild Parlor

**Monday, July 16** – MAT, 7 pm, Staff Workroom

**Monday, July 16** – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 7 pm, Murdock Room

**Wednesday, July 18** – Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Guild Parlor

**Saturday, July 28** – Berkeley Men’s Shelter, 6:30-8 pm, call (510) 547-5700 to volunteer

**RECURRING EVENTS**

**Mondays**
Spiritual Formation Group, 4:30 pm, Guild Parlor

**Tuesdays**
Small Group Bible Study, 7 pm, home of Bob and Judy Wright, call Judy Wright (510) 325-3083

**Thursdays**
Women’s Bible Study, 10 am, Guild Parlor, call Judy Wright (510) 325-3083 or Dottie Hutch (203) 500-9097

**Saturdays**
Men’s Bible Study, 7:30 am, Founder’s Room