Our Time of Transition

On Sunday, February 9, Church President Michael Osborn and members of the Board of Trustees met with congregants after worship in Guild Hall to discuss our upcoming Senior Minister Transition. Information regarding the process, as outlined in church bylaws, was discussed. A Transition timeline, along with key definitions, was distributed. That information follows:

March 2020
Board of Trustees Initiate Transitional Minister Search
In March, our Board of Trustees will recruit and establish a small committee of church members to plan and recruit a Transitional Minister for our Church. We anticipate the Transitional Minister to be installed early January 2021.

September 30, 2020
Dr. William McNabb Retires
Our Senior Minister will retire on September 30, after 19 years of outstanding service to Piedmont Community Church. We will be organizing a proper retirement party and celebration of Bill’s service in late summer.

October 1 - January 2021
Church Staff Provides Continuity and Interim Leadership
From October 1, to the time we can recruit a Transitional Minister, our current staff, led by Associate Minister Dr. Don Ashburn with the support of Rev. Scott Kail, Dr. Stephen Main, Rev. Dottie Hutch and lay leadership, will lead us through 2020.

See ‘TRANSITION’, Page 2

Our trustees are a diverse group of 15 members who are passionate about supporting the church through this important transition. We would like to assure you that we plan to faithfully follow the bylaws laid out by the church and make decisions with only the best interests of the future of this institution and its members. We remain committed to gather information from the congregants as we move forward, and we hope the church community will lend us their support and trust.
**Key Definitions**

**Transitional Minister**
A Transitional Minister, often called an intentional interim pastor, is called when a church determines there are sufficient grounds for a trained specialist. It is appropriate where there is recent light or moderate conflict, a pastorate of 10-15 years, or shifts in congregational demographics and/or shifts in the context of ministry.

The transitional pastor will have specialized training appropriate to the needs of the congregation. The minister will be considered full time and will be committed to addressing issues as agreed in the contractual terms as a significant part of intentionality. This minister is most likely recruited from the region and the term of service is usually 1 to 3 years.

**Mission Study**
Our interest is the health and vitality of your congregation. Often times there are many different points of reflection to consider in order to move forward in as healthy a way as possible. For this reason, the mission study process may take some time—usually 6 to 8 months. Please do not be daunted by this time frame. While we recognize that being in transition is never easy, many congregations have found the time of reflection and discernment during the mission study period to be invaluable for the success and health of their future ministry.

We believe God is with us in this process.

The Mission Study will undergo a comprehensive reflection upon the history, review the current status and set direction for the future of the congregation in the areas of:

- Spiritual Health
- Pastoral Leadership
- Membership and Church Growth
- Finances and Stewardship
- Mission and Social Justice
- Its Role and Relationship to the Community.
Campaign Needs $86k To Close

Piedmont Community Church is facing a transition.

While this might be viewed by some as an awkward or even scary time, we believe this place on our church’s timeline offers exciting challenges and renewed hope.

This year, we will work together to celebrate Dr. William McNabb’s service to the church and welcome new leadership. We will continue our many service projects, missions and ministries, serving our communities near and far. We will worship together in sermon and song, embracing our unique message of God’s love and grace for all.

Our ministry thrives Because of You.

At the end of our 2020 Pledge Campaign, we found our commitments trailing the previous year. After raising more than 90% of our budget, we are in need of $86,000 to close the gap.

We are writing to ask you to help champion this effort of balancing the operating budget for the coming year. No gift is insignificant. Every gift will be used wisely by your Clergy, Staff and Lay Leaders - all good stewards of the church.

As you prayerfully consider your donation, please be assured of this inspiring time to experience Piedmont Church. Your extra financial effort will help to secure our church’s strength in the community this year and for years to come.

With great appreciation,

Your Piedmont Community Church Stewardship Team
Steven Thorne, Dani Montague, Lani Taylor, Paul Schroeder, Susan Butenhoff and Dr. William McNabb

Donate at PiedmontChurch.org, or contact Toni Fischer at (510) 547-5700 ext. 102

Children’s Bible Sunday

■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ

Bible Sunday will be held March 8 during the 10:30 am service. We will be presenting Bibles to our third-grade students and any older students who are new to our church. Please contact Leslie Quantz if you would like your child to participate at Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org

Family Fellowship Potluck

■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ

We will be having a potluck at 5 pm on Sunday, March 8, at the home of Michael and Gwendolyn Osborn. For more information please contact Leslie Quantz at Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org
BUILDING 18 HOMES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

BENEFITS
YOUTH
HOUSE-BUILDING
TRIP TO MEXICO

HUGE ANNUAL TREAURES Sale

VINTAGE, FURNITURE, BOOKS, LINENS, HOUSEWARES,
TOYS, JEWELRY, CHINA, SILVER, CRAFTS, HOLIDAY,
SPORTS, PURSES, BIKES, ART, GARDEN

AND MUCH MORE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 9AM-3PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 9AM-2PM

BUILDING 18 HOMES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

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Finding The Right Words

In one of his letters to the early Christians, Paul encourages folks who have difficulty praying...”In the same way the spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express.”

We’ve all had times when we were at a loss for words. The good news, Paul says, is that in those times when we can’t find the words we need, the spirit intercedes for us and communicates to God the thoughts that are too deep to express.

The Christian community also acts in much the same manner. When one of us falters we can rely on the strength of those around us in the church – our brothers and sisters in Christ – to carry us along and get us through tough times.

I heard a humorous illustration of this dynamic on a radio broadcast of A Prairie Home Companion by Garrison Keillor. He told a story about the annual Memorial Day celebration in Lake Wobegon. Every year Mrs. Tollefson’s seventh-grade class assembled on the platform in the town square and showed that they had memorized Lincoln’s Gettysburg address. Everyone was supposed to memorize the address but no one ever knew who was going to be chosen to recite it until just before the time came and they received a tap on the shoulder from Mrs. Tollefson.

Garrison remembered the year he got the tap on the shoulder and he stepped to the microphone with the class assembled behind him looking out at the huge crowd. He starts reciting, “Fourscore and 7 years ago our forefathers...” and then he freezes. His mind goes blank. He can’t think of the words. He starts to panic but then he hears something behind him. The class is silently mouthing the words to the address. They “jump start” him and he goes for about two sentences before he falters again.

Once again, he hears the right words coming from behind him – the class gently urging him on. He finishes to the roar of applause, most of the audience never knowing of the help he received from behind.

As I heard that story I reflected on how like the Christian life that is. Sometimes we don’t have the words to pray and the Spirit intercedes for us. Sometimes it is the community of Christ – the church – that gets us through the tough times in life.

Often when we reach our limit we are carried by the words and thoughts and prayers of others on our behalf. That is part of the blessing of belonging to the family of faith.

Prayer Boxes

Prayer boxes are located at the main entrance and in the breezeway and in the Sanctuary next to the lectern. You are invited to write joy and concerns for our church to pray over in confidence.

Online Media

Our selection of media, both in audio recordings and video production, has grown significantly in the past year. See and hear for yourself. Visit PiedmontChurch.org and click MEDIA.

Treasures Sale Is March 14, 15

The Piedmont Community Church Treasures Sale raises funds for the Youth Mexico Service trip. Students and adults will build 18 houses this April for the poorest of the poor in Tijuana.

Donate March 7-11, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am - 2 pm, Monday - Wednesday, 9 am - 7 pm. The sale is Saturday, March 14, 9 am - 3 pm and Sunday, March 15, 9 am - 2 pm.

Visit PiedmontChurch.org to learn more. Click SERVE.
Women’s Bible Study

■ BY REV. DOTTIE HUTCH

How do you see the world? From the windows at one side of my condo I see rooftops, from windows on the other side I see people – walking, biking, driving. This is the real world where I live, where my life happens. My next question is, how do you see the Bible? Do you see it as history? Literature? Cultural? Religious? Legal?

The Bible is all of those things, but it is much more. Reading the Bible is a way to see the real world of real people.

If I didn’t look past the rain spots and fingerprints on my windows, I wouldn’t see the real world outside. Likewise, it’s only when we look past the rain spots and fingerprints (words) of the Bible that we find our story, and everyone’s story. The stories of Abraham and Sarah, James and John, Mary of Magdala are our stories, and everyone’s stories of love, joy, ego and sorrow.

The Women’s Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10 am in Guild Parlor. We are currently reading the New Testament and will continue through to Revelation, which should take us to mid-May. After that, we will select another book that will help us see past the rain spots and fingerprints of our lives.

Everyone is welcome to come at any time, whenever possible, to join in the conversation about our lives and the God who gave us our lives. Call Dottie at (203) 500-9097 or email Dottie@PiedmontChurch.org

Popular Sermon Series Online

Dr. William McNabb has completed his recent sermon series, however, you can still watch or listen to the series online. Visit PiedmontChurch.org and click on MEDIA.

Easter Events Need Volunteers

■ BY KATHY HURD

Volunteers are needed to set up palms Saturday, April 4 at 9 am and to take them down Sunday, April 5 after the 10:30 am service.

Volunteers also needed to set up Easter lilies Saturday, April 11 at 9 am and deliver lilies Sunday April 12 after the 10:30 am service to congregation members who lost a family member this past year or are unable to regularly attend church services.

Hope Cafe

Share God’s Love at Hope Cafe CityTeam Oakland. The next Hope Cafe is Saturday, March 14, 5 - 8 pm. Ages 8+

On the second Saturday of each month, CityTeam offers a restaurant style gourmet meal with the help of volunteers. Please join us in serving hope and sharing love. Sign-ups will be in the courtyard Sunday after worship services. Contact Selma Chin at selmachin@yahoo.com or (510) 290-5732

Project Peace

Project Peace Community Service Day is Saturday, March 21, 9 am - 12 noon. All ages welcome.

Join us in supporting Harbor House for our next Project Peace Community Service Day. Harbor House supplies a safe place for opportunities, resources and relationships to be shared so that all families in Oakland can flourish. Harbor House warmly welcomes immigrants, refugees and those who have been historically disenfranchised by society. Day of Service projects include gardening and sorting clothing for the Children’s Thrift Store. Sign-up in the courtyard after worship or contact Selma Chin at selmachin@yahoo.com

Instagram

@PiedmontCommunityChurch
Turn, Turn, Turn

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” I’m sure you’ve come across those words before, from Ecclesiastes 3. Or, you’ve sung them to Pete Seeger’s tune Turn, Turn, Turn, or along with harmonies provided by The Byrds.

And it’s true – there is a time for every purpose under heaven. In my own life, it is time for some rest and recharging. So, with the Board of Trustees’ agreement and encouragement, I’ll be taking a sabbatical from my duties here at Piedmont Church from April 13 to June 13. It is the policy of the church to offer clergy a sabbatical every 6 years. I delayed mine from last year, since things were a bit busy around here! They’re going to get really busy again come summer and fall, with Dr. McNabb’s impending retirement. So, the timing is right for me to catch my breath and recharge my batteries.

The last time I took a sabbatical was in 2013. It allowed me to finish writing my doctoral dissertation on the topic of short-term overseas mission trips. It wasn’t really a time for relaxation – though it was rewarding. Indeed, I’m glad that some of my work informs an upcoming cross-denominational initiative on mission trips.

For this upcoming sabbatical, however, I won’t be doing a ‘project.’ Part of my time will be spent in solitude at a retreat center. Then, I’ll spend some time at the US-Mexico border in Arizona, learning about the complex situation there. I will also visit various churches to learn how they are engaging in new forms of ministry and mission within a rapidly changing cultural context. And, I’ll spend some quality time with my family (including our 2 cats).

During my absence, I will pass my pastoral duties to Reverends McNabb, Hutch and Kail. In June, I will return to the church to prepare for our time of transition in the fall.

I’m looking forward to what God has in store for us as a community, and I can’t wait to be right in the middle of it with you all too.

‘Come And See’ New Member Gatherings

BY DR. DON ASHBURN

If you are new to Piedmont Community Church and would like to know more about how to connect to the community here, you are invited to attend a gathering we call ‘Come and See.’ We’ll meet at the church to get acquainted, share a bit about what’s brought us to this place in our lives and learn more about our mission and ministries.

Plan on attending only one gathering, which will happen at the following times: Tuesday, March 24 from 7 - 8:30 pm; Saturday, March 28 from 9:30 - 11 am; or Sunday, March 29 from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Refreshments served. Child Care is available for children 7 and under. RSVP to Dr. Don Ashburn at (510) 547-5700 ext. 105, or Don@PiedmontChurch.org. Let him know which gathering you’ll attend, and if you’ll need childcare.

If you can’t make one of these times, Don will arrange an alternative time and date to meet with you individually. New members of Piedmont Community Church will be received at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, April 5.
MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1
Communion Sunday

Monday, March 2
Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2 - 4 pm, Guild Parlor
- Board of Deacons, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

Wednesday, March 4
Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 am – 11 am, Guild Parlor

Saturday, March 7
Treasures Sale donation time begins. See Page 5

Sunday, March 8
Children’s Bible Sunday
- Family Fellowship Potluck, 5 pm, Osborn home
- Joint Concert, Piedmont at Imani Church, 4 pm

Monday, March 9
Board of Trustees, 7 pm, Staff Workroom

Wednesday, March 11
Treasures Sale donation time ends

Friday, March 13
KIDZ Club, 3:30 pm, Youth Room

Saturday, March 14
Treasures Sale, 9 am - 3 pm
- Volunteer with Hope Café, 5 - 8 pm, CityTeam Oakland

Sunday, March 15
Treasures Sale, 9 am - 2 pm

Monday, March 16
Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2 - 4 pm, Guild Parlor
- MAT, 7 pm, Staff Workroom
- Board of Christian Education, 6:45 pm, Guild Parlor

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

Saturday, March 21
Project Peace Community Service Day, 9 am

Sunday, March 22
Senior Minister Transition Coffee Talk, 11:30 am, Guild Hall

Tuesday, March 24
‘Come and See’ New Member Gathering, 7 pm

Saturday, March 28
‘Come and See’ New Member Gathering, 9:30 am

Sunday, March 29
‘Come and See’ New Member Gathering, 11:30 am

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays
Children’s Sunday School, 10:30 am, Christian Education Building
Journey, 10:30 am, Youth Room
Rock, 5 pm, Youth Room

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

Tuesdays
Rock Pizza Lunch, Youth Room
Just Breathe, 5:30 pm, Chapel
Handbells, 6:30 pm, Clara Barton Room
Small Group Bible Study, 7 pm, home of Bob and Judy Wright

Wednesdays
Piedmont Gardens Bible Study, 10:15 am, Piedmont Gardens
LiveWire, 2:15 - 3:30 pm, Youth Room
Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm, Lindamood Choir Room

Thursdays
Women’s Bible Study, 10 am Guild Parlor
Walking Together, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

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