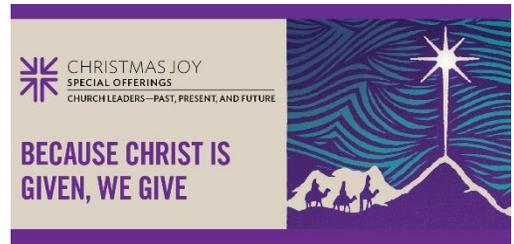


CLARION



Bridging the Centuries through Faith 1913 – 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Volume LXXIV, Number II

OUR CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

*Dedication of Christmas Joy Offering
In Person Worship Service*

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

SESSION APPROVES MISSION STATEMENT

We begin with a big “THANKS” to the congregation for your thoughtful input and participation in the process of developing a Mission Statement that conveys God’s purpose and direction for FPCA in future years. The Mission Study Team and later the Session had active discussions on the congregation’s collective viewpoints on where God is leading us as a church. While many of you offered different phrases and words and sentences to construct a Mission Statement, overall there was a clear consensus on the purpose and direction for our future together.

As such, the Mission Study Team recommended several Mission Statements for Session to consider. Session approved the following Mission Statement:

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, January 9, 2022, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Paul Kikuchi; Scripture, Sam Gin (Luke 3:15-17 and 21-22); music, Kenny Elliott, Ann Kiriya, Greg Middleton, Veronica Ota, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Bob Hayashi, Ron Ota, and the Rev. Ann Ogelsby Edwards for leading us in Communion and for her sermon “**The Gift of Identity**”.

We are live streaming our 10:30 worship service via YouTube. The link is sent out by email the day before service, or search “First Presbyterian Church Altadena” on YouTube. Service is simultaneously recorded, and can be viewed at a later time.

God’s People Serving the World with Love and Faith in Action

This Statement, in part, conveys that we are **God’s people**, chosen by Him, and that our cornerstone is Jesus Christ. It calls us to reach beyond our own church walls and beyond our local community, to **serve the world**. We do this **with love**, because God loved us first, and we return that gift of love to others. And when we put our **faith into action**, our lives as the body of Christ will reflect the life of Jesus.

The last formal step in the Mission Study process is to send this report to the San Gabriel Presbytery Commission on Ministry (COM) who will review and consider this report for approval on January 10, 2022. Once approved by the COM we will make the report available to the congregation.

So then, will we be finished? No. The next steps are just as critical as that of the Mission Study Report. What comes next is for the Session to recommend approximately 6 to 8 members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), who will be elected by the congregation. The PNC then will begin the search for a new pastor, a process which may take 6 to 12 months. The congregation will have the final vote of approval on who will be the new pastor of our church.

We want to thank the Mission Study Team for their diligent work and leading us in a thorough and thoughtful process for gathering information from the congregation for our Mission Study.

As we move to our next phase, we ask for your continued prayers.

Grace and Peace to all,
Session

WHO’S MAILING

January 17	Volunteers
January 24	Volunteers
January 31	Volunteers
February 7	Volunteers

STAFF JANUARY 4

Editor	Donna Kiriya
Printer and Mailing Crew:	
	Gini Ishida, Dorothy Kirkland, Eva Ramirez, Bob and Mae Uchida, and Wade Utsunomiya
Mailer	Bob Uchida
Email	Bob Hayashi

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from January 5, 2022 thru January 11, 2022

Building Fund

Diana Nishimoto, in memory of her parents, Kay and Kenneth Nishimoto

Christmas

Barbara Ito
Mark Matsui
Rick and Michi Matsumoto

Christmas Joy Offering

Joel and Nancy Castillo

In Memory of his son Kyle

Walter Naydo

Special for Use of Church Facility

Thomas, Behrens, Paul Kikuchi, Ron and Veronica Ota

Special for Wherever Needed Most

Nathan and Christine Sugimoto



Cereal, the January Flavor of the Month



Minute for Missions

When Home is a World Away

At first, nothing about Stillman College reminded Johnykqua [Jon-e-kwa] Bevans and Rayondre [Ray-on-dray] (Ray) Roberts of their home on the tropical island of Grand Bahama: not Alabama, not the food, not their classmates and not the as-yet unfamiliar Presbyterian tradition in which the college is steeped.

But then there was the choir.

Stillman’s nationally-renowned concert choir — and the college’s president, Dr. Cynthia Warrick — were powerful draws, inviting Johnykqua and Ray to transcend the many differences between their contrasting cultures to claim the joy and promise of the music of their shared Christian heritage.

Stillman College, situated in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was founded in 1876 by Presbyterians led by the Rev. Dr. Charles Allen Stillman, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, to become a training school for African American ministers. Today, with its expanded mandate and mission, the college is “committed to fostering academic excellence, to providing opportunities for diverse populations, and to maintaining a strong tradition of preparing students for leadership and service by fostering experiential learning and community engagement designed to equip and empower Stillman’s students and its constituents.”

Our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help Stillman provide scholarships to its gifted and promising students.

Johnykqua said that she became even more grateful to the PC(USA) after Hurricane Dorian hit Grand Bahama late in the summer of 2019, devastating their island home. Both students lost family members in the disaster while they were away at school. They were embraced and supported by their classmates, faculty, staff and administration until they could return home to be with family, which the college made possible for them to do over Christmas.

When the college president became aware of the devastation affecting these students’ families, she contacted the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The agency responded with additional financial assistance to help cover costs not included in the students’ scholarships. This assistance from PC(USA) has enabled Johnykqua and Ray to mature as young adults in the safety of the college as their families in Grand Bahama work to recover their stability after a first hit by the hurricane, then hit again by the pandemic.

“Thank you to the Presbyterian Church for coming to our aid,” said Johnykqua. Now both students are looking forward to the future. Their dreams are now more than possible thanks to the gifts of generous Presbyterians.

“I think a lot of people may not realize how many lives they can affect just by their support,” Ray said. “It’s a simple fact when they give students a scholarship, especially those students who are really in need, it’s the best thing that could happen to them. It changes their lives.”

Yes, indeed — our gifts can help change lives. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously. When we all do a little, it can add up to a lot. Our congregation will dedicate the Christmas Joy Offering on January 16. You may make checks payable to: FPCA with Christmas Joy in the memo line.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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