



REGATTA AND END-OF-SUMMER BARBEQUE

Yes, it's the beginning of August, but summer will soon be coming to a halt. That means it will be time for the all-church **Regatta** and End-of-Summer **BBQ**. So use those lazy days of summer to start on your boats now.

Here are the rules for boat building:

1. All boats must be homemade (no kits).
2. Boats must be no larger than 3' x' 3' x' 3'.
3. Your boat must be able to run 2 heats, if needed.



Prizes are given for sailboats, power boats, rocket boats, and the most unique boat (whether it floats or not).

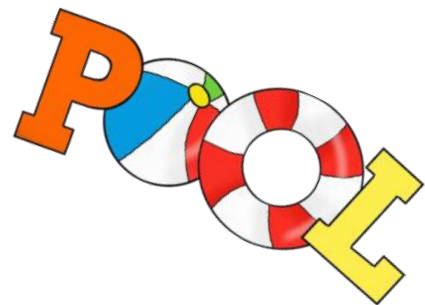
No boat needed to attend. You're welcome to come and cheer on your favorites. Bring swimsuits and towels as the **pool** will be open until the races begin.



JOIN US for an afternoon or **fun, food, and fellowship** at the home of Wayne and Kristi Andrew

Saturday, September 9, beginning at 3 p.m.

Watch for sign-up sheets.



A MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you. 2 Corinthians 8:7

What does the apostle Paul mean by “this work of grace”? First I think it helps to remember what grace actually means. Grace comes from the Greek word *charis* and as is often in Greek has multiple meanings: *graciousness of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude, acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, grace(-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks, or worthy)*. *Charis* is the root of our word charity or charitable. We speak of “God’s gift of grace” to us through faith in Jesus Christ. We can be charitable or gracious in our thoughts or actions toward others, giving them the benefit of the doubt, and we can be gracious with our time, talent, or treasure.

In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul expands the meaning of grace to include not only God’s gift of redemption to us but also the good works that God’s *charis* inspires, the thanks to God for his *grace* and the abundance that it inevitably brings with it. Paul urges the Corinth church to follow the way of the Macedonians in the collection for the saints in Jerusalem as a *grace* that represents and produces all of these responses.

One of the things that impresses me about Magnolia is what a giving congregation we are. We are quick to jump in and volunteer when there is a need, whether it’s serving the homeless at Path of Life, making sandwiches, painting for Habitat for Humanity, selling pumpkins for Lutheran Social Services, walking in the CROP walk, or supporting Teen Challenge and Young Life. Your

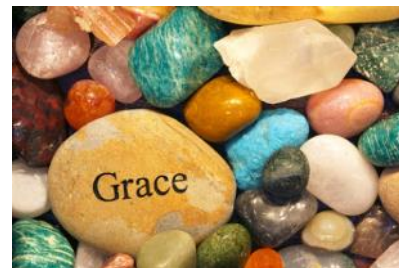
generosity extends in maintaining our General Budget in which we are not only able to reach out but also provide for the maintenance and programs of our church. No matter if we get a bit behind at times during the summer months, we always manage to catch up by year end.

As a Session and a church we are exploring a different way to reach out to those in need using principles from the Chalmer’s Institute and based on the book “Helping Without Hurting.” To that end the Mission Committee has committed our church to be a part of a brand new ministry to California called “Care Portal”. This organization is committed to helping families and children at risk before they end up in the system in providing for any need big or small. Being a part of the Care Portal is as easy as getting on an email chain. Contact Brian Nelson or Chris Nettles for more info.

Pastor Paul and I feel blessed to be a part of this generous, grace-filled community. Keep up the good work!

In Christ,

Pastor Claire



DEACON'S CORNER

The Board of Deacons helps with many activities here at Magnolia. One of them is called PSALM or “People Serving A Loving Meal.” This program is intended to help our congregation members in times of bereavement or illness by preparing and delivering home cooked meals to those families who are in need of assistance.

Since the program was started approximately 10 years ago, the members of Magnolia have shown the love that they have for their church family by volunteering to provide those meals needed during stressful times. These meals are usually provided for the evening meal for the number of persons residing in the home. Depending on the situation, meals may be provided for a few days or a week or two. A different member of the congregation prepares and delivers the meal each day. If someone is not able to deliver the meal, we do have some members who will deliver the meal.

There is a list of church members who are willing to provide these meals and I call people on the list and ask if they can provide a meal. This list is getting shorter as some members have moved out of the area or do not feel that they can physically handle a job like this anymore.

If you are interested in being part of an active church program, I would encourage you to call me and ask any questions you may have and hopefully, put your name on the PSALM list. This is a very rewarding ministry and one that is sorely needed.

Please consider joining PSALM and give me a call at 951-687-2603 (home) or 909-374-9654 (cell).

If, for some reason, you need the help of the PSALM team, please call Claire, Paul or Diana in the church office. They will send the request to the PSALM team.

In His service,

Jody Macdonald



80 Cans Collected in July

Let's beat that in
August
bring your two
cans of food on
August 13.



All items go to support the work
of Lutheran Social Services.

***Summer Feeds—Riverside Unified School
District is serving FREE BBQ lunches
through August 18. Various locations—
check in the church office or go to
www.rusdlink.org/FEEDS***

A PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

home - *noun* \ 'hōm \

- 1) one's place of residence: domicile
- 2) the social unit formed by a family living together
- 3) a familiar or usual setting: congenial environment; the focus of one's domestic attention
- 4) a place of residence or refuge
- 5) a place of origin

By the time you read this newsletter, my family and I will finally be moved into our new (to us) home in Riverside. We are in the process of making spaces previously occupied by others into our own. Some things are familiar: our beds, our shelves, our toys; but they are in what is currently an unfamiliar environment. We are grateful to be in this new space and are beginning to make memories here.



Although we didn't have a home to call our own since June 6th (when we moved out of our previous home and have been staying with gracious friends since then) we have found ourselves at home at MagPres. Some things are familiar: Sunday School, hymns, Sunday Worship, refreshments after worship; but they are in what was to us, an unfamiliar environment. We are grateful to call MagPres home and are beginning to make memories here too.

There are some things that feel to me like we are in uncharted territory. For instance, we have begun having our 9am Worship in the Fellowship Hall, which has been a holy and uplifting experience. It is different from other worship experiences that I have been a part of and am grateful to partner with Pastor Claire and the planning team in making this happen. The planning team includes

Robin, Shawn, and Sydney Smith, Hannah Dickenson, Tavo Vega, Jim and Joy Bower, and Bev Williams. If you or your friends want to experience worship in a different way, consider 9am Worship.

Another example of uncharted territory is the sermon series that we are currently in the midst of: Peculiar Questions from a Peculiar People. We asked for your questions about the Bible, faith, theology, and the world and you responded with great questions. Pastor Claire and I, with the help of Elder Adam Martinez, have whittled down 22 questions asked into this 7 part sermon series. On July 9th, we explored Scripture, its origins, and possible ways of approaching it. On July 16th, we explored the Essentials of the faith (you can listen to this sermon online at <http://magpres.com/sermons/peculiar-question-essentials-of-the-faith/>). On July 23rd, we explored what seemed like contradictory commands: Don't judge and hold others accountable. Pastor Claire, Elder Adam Martinez, and I then made available a Q&A time after worship that a number of you have taken advantage of. In August we'll explore: What happens after you die? What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and in Truth? What are the attributes of the Godhead? Why do bad things happen? And how is MagPres going to avoid being a declining statistic like many other PCUSA congregations. If you or anyone you know are interested in exploring answers to those questions, consider attending Sunday Worship (at 9am or 11am) in August.

As we explore uncharted territory together, it is comforting to know that MagPres is a refuge, a congenial environment, a social unit, and for many, a religious place of origin. In other words, MagPres is home.

In Christ,
Paul

People Helping People Mag Pres Reaches Out to Homeless



We all are aware of the challenging issue of helping those that are homeless in our community. It's a complicated issue that may never be solved. Some dedicated folks here at Magnolia for many years have helped in a way that has benefited many. This month the Belangeri team (usually three or four folks) purchased, prepared and then served a warm meal to **67** hungry folks at the Hulen Place location here in Riverside. This is done every month on the second Saturday by rotating teams.

In addition, on that same Saturday Laura Medrano and her crew fed about **22** at the Sack Lunch program at Calvary Presbyterian. A delicious sandwich with fruit and a drink does more than nourish. It shows many that our faith community cares. Thanks to all who participate!

-- Your Mission Interpretation Team

2017 "Our Year of Trust" June Financial Report

The June 2017 Treasurer's report indicates an income of \$183,328.52 and \$198,766.80 in expenses.

The result is a current negative balance of **\$-15,438.28** for the month of June. This is not good news. However, if we consider the \$7,813.50 of endowment interest and \$4,509.00 of deficit reduction funds that were budgeted to meet expected shortfalls, our adjusted balance for June is **\$-3,115.78**.

Reminder:

Per Capita (method of funding some of the essential functions of the Church both locally and nationally) for 2017 is \$35.00 per church member.

Thank you for supporting your Church's 2017 budget with your Per Capita giving and staying current with your pledges.

From your Stewardship Team: Marshall Lee, Team Chairperson; Phil Smith, Ken Eberwein, Sheryel Eberwein, Dick Kirby, Chris Nettles, Jane Peden and Phil Smith

High Five Corner

Thank You

- * Liam Vega, for serenading the office on the piano.
- * Caitlin Hutchinson for QCing and uploading sermons (and other office tasks).
- * VBS workers and especially the leaders, Lisa MacDougall and Laurie McCormick.
- * Tom Safford for behind-the-scenes work with the Verizon cell tower, handicapped ramp, and rekeying locks.
- * THE YOUTH, Laura Medrano, and Heather Dickenson for putting on the spaghetti dinner and talent show.
- * Jeff and Laurie Ludwig for extra hours in implementing security measures.
- * Members who kept up their pledges during the summer.
- * 9 am Planning Team: Hannah D., Jim and Joy B., Robin S., and Bev. W.
- * Bob Lewis and Heather Dickenson for getting new outside banners.

August Birthdays

Betty Wood, August 6
Margie Cox, August 9
James Doshier, August 9
Bruce Ferrel, August 10
Nita Fages, August 12
Evie Reidman, August 12
Gary Grant, August 14
Mikael Doshier, August 15
Taylor Stiffler, August 17
Mona Vanderpool, August 17
Beverly Williams, August 19
Kathy Safford, August 20
Andrew Brandenberger, August 21

John Coolidge, August 22
Frank Escobedo, August 22
Linda Welman, August 22
Ken Eberwein, August 27
Beverly Guidero, August 24
Sheryel Eberwein, August 25
Barbara Johnson, August 28
Marti Hendrix, August 29
Robin Smith, August 29
Shelia Roche, August 31



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



Cohen, Kathy and Neil—August 14
Dickenson, Richard and Heather—August 14
Escobedo, Frank and Rosaura—August 15
Copeland, Rev. Brad and Lori — August 20
DeLeal, Gene and Sharon — August 20

Presbytery Job Opening:

Presbytery of Riverside is seeking an individual to fill the position of Presbytery Minute Clerk.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Familiar with Presbytery Meetings, including the organization of Presbytery meeting packets.
2. Good organizational skills.
3. Computer skills that include word processing (Microsoft Word program).
4. Ability to edit written materials.

COMPENSATION \$200.00 per meeting and mileage paid. Please send resume to the Presbytery Office at riversidepresbytery.info@riversidepresbytery.com

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Session was dark in July.
Session Highlights will return in September,
shining a light on the ministry of your leaders.

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session



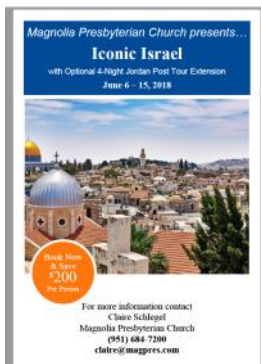
Session Meetings and Minutes

As a reminder, session meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the church library. These meetings are open, so if you would like to attend to listen to the conversation, you are most welcome. Copies of all session minutes are also available in the office, the narthex, or by email request.



Kids' Produce Market at Madison Elementary is on hiatus until September.

**Unity Sunday,
August 20
10:00 a.m.
YOUTH-LED
WORSHIP
Followed by Ice Cream Social**



Jericho-Bethlehem-Jerusalem-and more!

Matt from Collette Tours will be here Monday Sept 18th at 7:00pm to talk about the Israel trip. Please join us for a fun meeting to hear about this trip.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Magnolia strives to share God's love with all and grow spiritually in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Riverside, CA 92504-3829

Phone: 951-684-7200
Email: church@magpres.com

www.magpres.com



August 2017

Staff

Rev. Claire Schlegel,
Co-Pastor

Rev. Paul Knopf,
Co-Pastor

James Walters,
Music Director/Organist

John Wright, Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Tavo Vega,
Contemporary Service Music
Leader

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Andrew Buchanan,
Middle & Sr. High Youth Director

Media/Audio Coordinator
Hannah Dickenson

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

