

Fall Growth Groups Are Here!

Why join a Growth Group?



Connecting - a great place to make friends

Growing - experience spiritual growth

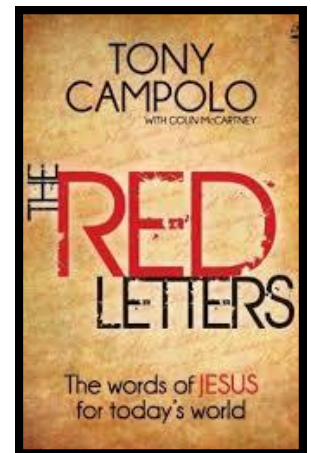
Serving - make a difference in our community

Sharing - telling stories and hanging out together

Belonging - strengthen our church family

Growth Group FAQs

- ◆ **When will the groups begin and end?**
Groups will begin the week of October 7 and end the week of November 11.
- ◆ **How long do the meetings last?**
Groups generally meet for 90 minutes.
- ◆ **How often do groups meet?**
They will meet weekly unless there is a reason to skip. There are groups that meet at night and some that will meet during the day.
- ◆ **Is there childcare?**
Each group will arrange childcare for those who need it.
- ◆ **What are we studying and do I need to purchase something?**
We will be doing a DVD study on the **red letters** of the Bible; Jesus' teachings. There is no cost. Sign-ups have begun—but are still open!



*Encounter God Sundays — 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
and 11 a.m. (Sanctuary)*

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

The last two months have been filled with students going back to school, many in August, and some based on the more traditional post-Labor Day start. For me, I go back to school this month, beginning a Doctor of Ministry program through the New Theological Seminary of the West.

As I began to communicate this information a number of people, a few questions have come up:

What is a Doctor of Ministry?

A Doctor of Ministry Degree is a professional degree that prepares pastors for deeper, more effective ministry. It is a professional and/or practical doctorate degree (not unlike the MD degree for medicine) as opposed to a research/teaching degree (the Ph.D in most fields). It is intended for people employed as pastors of congregations (one of the requirements is that an applicant must be 3 years removed from a Master of Divinity Degree and been in ministry leadership during that time) who desire an advanced education without committing to the residential and time requirements that a research/teaching degree requires (usually 5 years of full time study/research/classes). It allows pastors to continue pastoring in their churches, while completing the requirements for the degree

How will my pursuit of this degree affect MagPres?

Initially, there won't be any noticeable difference. I will attend classes and complete assignments during off-hours and utilizing study leave and/or vacation, so the work that I do as a Co-Pastor of this congregation won't look any different. Later in the program, it will hopefully have a significant impact.

Continued on Page Three

A MINISTER'S MUSING

...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary. Is. 40:31

Several weeks back now, I and several other women from MagPres took a week-long trip up to the Eastern Sierras, June Lake area to be specific. I had told the other experienced backpackers that I would go with them as long as we camped in one spot and just took day hikes. I had no desire to sleep on the ground or carry a 50-pound pack. Yes, I can hear some of you now, "Wimp!" As we made our plans for the following day's hike of 3.4 miles roundtrip to Fern Lake, I was confident that it would not be too difficult for me. I had water, my lunch, and experienced hikers with me-what could go wrong? As we began our ascent that kept going up-up-up, I kept hoping for the trail (?) to level off to give me some kind of respite from the pain I was now experiencing. It was hot, there were boulders, fallen logs, waah!waah!waah! An hour into the hike and my legs were like jello and I was beginning to doubt the wisdom of my decision. Added to that was the realization that I was slowing everyone else down. I am a pretty independent person but as I continued to walk I realized that I was going to need the help of my fellow hikers and I also needed Jesus! Yep, so there went my pride as well. It also didn't help that there were people running up the trail for their morning jog. Show-offs! Yep, there went my charity toward my fellow man. In my defense it was a 1500-ft. elevation rise in 1.7 miles, which is pretty steep. Yep, now in the rationalization stage.

As I think back on that experience I realize that sometimes our lives go like that. We make plans, prepare, have expectations of how it's going to go, and set out only to realize that things are going very differently than we anticipated. And we are brought up short. We cry "foul" at the universe, we get discouraged, we get angry, we start comparing our lives to others', we become resentful or critical, and on and on and on...BUT it doesn't have to be like that.

A devotional I read this morning said, "It is comforting to think of trouble, in whatever form it may come to us, as a heavenly messenger, bringing us something from God. In its earthly aspect it may seem hurtful...but in its spiritual out-working it yields blessing. Many of the richest blessings...from the past are the fruit of sorrow or pain." I have found this to be true in my own life and hope it will be that for you as well. What was the blessing that came out of that hike? I became closer to Debbie, Margy, and Brenda. I realized that 10 years ago I could barely walk on flat ground before my joint replacements and it was a different kind of pain than I had before. I experienced God's beauty in a way that most people don't ever see. And I came away from that week proud of myself for even attempting something I hadn't done in 30 years.

God is good! — Pastor Claire

Continued Pastor's Pondering

Part of the requirements for the degree is to create, test, evaluate, analyze, and report on a project. As of this writing, I plan to focus on transparency and authenticity in a church environment and hope to explore how this happens at MagPres. The goal at the end of the project would be a noticeable difference in how we who call MagPres home relate to each other and become a beacon to the community around us for Christ. If successful, learnings from this project would not only benefit MagPres, but also the Church at large.

What can we, as congregants, do to help?

Pray - Please continue to pray for your pastors, especially as I begin this program. While there may not be a noticeable change initially, I would be naive to assume it won't change things, especially in the office, with the Session and with the Deacons.

Consider - As the project is created, evaluated and analyzed, a group of MagPres members will form a Site Team to participate in the process. Please prayerfully consider your participation in this team (which may not be convened for another year or two).

Be - Continue to be you. You are a joy to shepherd and a supportive community that any pastor would be proud of. Many have already asked questions about the program and I invite whatever additional questions you may have.

As I begin this journey, I recognize that we are already on a journey of "sharing God's love with all and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another." I pray my journey will help us in our journey.

Your back-to-school Co-Pastor,
Paul

Youth Group meets every* Sunday evening.
Middle School (grades 5 to 8) meets from 5 to 6:30 pm.
High School (grades 9 to 12) meets from 7 to 8:30 pm.
First Sunday of each month there is a meal for the combined groups.

COME TO YOUTH GROUP—BRING A FRIEND

*Schedule may change due to holidays, church events or offsite activities.

TWO-CAN SUNDAY REPORT

114 Cans Collected in September

Bring your two cans of food on Sunday, October 14, for distribution to Lutheran Social Services. What we give is MATCHED by a grant! So give generously.

The Women's Study group meets Mondays 9:30-11:00 am in the Christian Education Building. We will explore the Old and New Testament Scriptures as listed in the 2018-2019 Presbyterian Planning Calendar.

Come join us for fellowship, food, prayer and spiritual renewal.

TRUNK OR TREAT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28
WHETHER YOU HAVE KIDS OR DON'T --YOU WILL ENJOY THIS ALL-CHURCH ACTIVITY.

5 PM: DECORATE YOUR VEHICLE FOR KIDS TO VISIT.

6 PM: COSTUME PARADE

FOLLOWED BY HAUNTED HOUSE AND

"GREAT PUMPKIN" MOVIE. GAMES TOO!



Sunday, November 4: Thanksgiving Dinner and Concert

A yearly favorite—more details coming throughout October.



2018

“Our Year of Commitment”

August Financial Report

The Treasurer’s Report contains great news!

It appears that many of you have taken our Stewardship theme for 2018 to heart, “Our Year of Commitment.”

Our income for August was \$230,300.99 and expenses were \$214,319.52.

This results in a current positive balance of \$15,981.47 as of July 31st. Praise God!!

Also, if we consider the \$8,146.25 of endowment interest and \$5,885.57 of deficit reduction funds that were budgeted to meet potential shortfalls, our adjusted balance for August is \$30,013.29.

Thank you for supporting your Church’s 2018 budget by staying current with your pledge. The Stewardship Committee is confident that our church family will stay committed to the use of their Time, Talent and Treasures for our church.



Fearless Generosity

Ephesians 3:20-21 (CEB)

“Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.”

We have set aside October 26 as a “Day of Prayer for Magnolia Presbyterian Church” As we did last year, this will be a 24-hour vigil. We hope you will be faithful in prayer and meditation as we explore together how we can practice fearless living, fearless service, fearless sowing, and fearless giving.



On Sunday, October 28, we will join together to present our commitments of giving in support of the ministry and mission to which we are called as the Magnolia Presbyterian Church congregation.

Watch for more information as our journey into faithful discipleship continues.

**What is the EASIEST way to contribute to MagPres?
Buy some Stater Bros. gift cards.**

Stater Bros. script cards are available in increments of \$25, \$50, and \$100 **on the first Sunday of every month** in Café Magnolia from 10:00 to 11:00. You can pay by cash or check. When you shop for your groceries – at any Stater Bros. store - you get full value for the card you purchase. MPC gets **6%** of every card purchased!

Session Highlights

CLASS REUNION

In September, I attended my “__th” High School reunion in Wisconsin (oh, did the number not print?). It was great fun seeing the friends that are truly dear to me, and reconnecting with other classmates, sharing stories and laughter of our high school days and catching up on their lives.

The August Session meeting also reconnects our Elders after a two month hiatus, reuniting separate committee members as one to report on work that was done throughout the summer, upcoming activities being planned, announcing the beginning of fall schedules and presenting visions for the future of Magnolia.

Is it time for you to reunite or reconnect with a MagPres committee, mission project, Christian education class, work party or building maintenance project or a social activity?

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm” Proverbs 13:20

Melanie Nelson

Clerk of Session



Session Meetings and Minutes
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 and listen to the conversation, you are most welcome.
Copies of all session minutes are available in the office, or by email request.

The Pumpkins are coming! The Pumpkin Patch is BACK!

- * The Pumpkins arrive on Saturday, October 13th.
- * We need MANY volunteers to help unload the truck.
- * We will open the patch on Sunday, October 14.
- * The patch will be open every day, October 14th through October 31st.
- * We need MANY volunteers to assist with the sales in the Pumpkin Patch.
- * We need MANY volunteers to close and clean up the patch on Saturday, November 3rd.
- * All Profits will benefit Operation Safe House.
- * Come join the FUN!
- * Sign up to help after each service on Sunday!



Men’s Group meets the second Monday of every month. Our next meeting will be October 8 at 7 pm at the home of Jason Nicholson. Call the church office or see Jason for more info.

PRIME TIME FELLOWSHIP
Saturday, October 13, 11 am—2 pm

- ◇ Location: Clubhouse near Ken and Sheryel’s home. Maps are available.
- ◇ Sign up for salad or dessert (main dish provided) during fellowship time.
- ◇ If you need child care, please call the church office.
- ◇ After Prime Time, there's still time to help with the unloading of pumpkins at the church.

Time and Talent Recognitions

Thanks to...

- † **Jeannie Belangeri** for preparing the September Youth Dinner.
- † **The Andrews** for hosting the BBQ and Regatta.
- † **Aaron Cohen** for researching and troubleshooting a new phone system.
- † **Laura Medrano** for homemade snacks for New Members during the September Session meeting.
- † **New church members** for attending class and learning about MagPres.
- † **Laurie McCormick** (and the Social Programming Committee) for organizing the church campout.
- † **Hosts and facilitators** preparing for Growth Groups.
- † **The Care Portal Team** for keeping up with requests that bring families together.
- † **Chris Stanley** for planning the Youth Overnight and Game Night.
- † **Tim Lewis** for liaison work with banks and more to support Troop 16.

October Birthdays

Mary Josselyn, October 2
Ronald Phifer, October 3
Heather Dickenson, October 4
Bonnie Kirby, October 4
Margy Crowley, October 7
Jody Macdonald, October 7
Karn Griffen, October 9
Chris Duncan, October 12
Jeff Ludwig, October 14
Brian Nelson, October 15
Carla Carrasco, October 16
Ken Anderson, October 17



Robert Walker, October 17
Kayla Crossen, October 19
Catherine McGraw, October 19
Michelle Knopf, October 22
King Williams, October 22
Lisa MacDougall, October 23
Ruth Baker, October 24
Merle Clark, October 24
Linda Bingham, October 28
Liberty Mabena, October 29
Laurie McCormick, October 29
David Crowley, October 30
Lila Odell, October 30

October Anniversaries



Perez, Giovanni & Monica	October 5	11 years
Manley, Peter & Michelle	October 17	19 years
Jackson, John & Connie	October 21	46 years
Phifer, Ron & Cornelia	October 22	51 years

SCOUT CORNER

- Troop 16 held its first Court of Honor at Magnolia Presbyterian Church on Wednesday September 26, with recognition of rank advancements and achievement of earned Merit Badges. We welcome new member Patrick to the Troop!
- Upcoming events: Campouts at Firestone on the weekend of Sept 28-30 and Rocktoberfest on Oct 12-14.
- A big thanks for the church support of popcorn sales and "Scout Minute" on Sept 23.
- See you Wednesdays at 7 pm! — *Tim Lewis, Charter Organization Representative*



A Rich Tradition...



Friday night at 7 PM, Jay Nicholson was just arriving home from a busy work day. He tried to eat for all of 5 minutes before we began to load Brad Copeland's donated truck. We were loading a bedroom set that Katie used as a child, then passed onto her girls. Now it was headed to a family in need. I had already loaded a couch in my van. We set our destination to Corona to West 8th Street. When we arrived we were introduced to the whole family and an empty one-bedroom home. They are hoping to adopt Matthew, their 12 year old grandson, who was eager to have his own room and bed. It didn't take long for experienced hands to assembly the bed, take in the dresser and couch. Then Matthew's grandpa asked if he could share a prayer of thanksgiving. We formed a circle and bowed our heads as he shared a prayer in his native language. A second trip took a full size bed (for the living room) and sheets donated by Jody Macdonald. Brenda Flowers has a bedside table for a lamp. I wish you could have all been there to experience the appreciation of Rosa's family and grandson. What they know is that someone cared enough to share what they had and for that they are grateful to God. Thank you all for your prayers for this family and for caring enough to share. Chris Nettles
—Chris Nettles, Care Portal Pointperson

Deacons Corner

Recently I visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium. I was fascinated watching a scuba diver feed the fish in the huge undersea kelp bed exhibit. I thought, "That's got to be the greatest job ever!" Later in their spiel, I learned that both the diver and the docent on the outside of the tank were volunteers. Yes, that is such a cool job that they don't need to pay someone to do it. This experience got me reflecting on the importance of volunteer work both to ourselves and community. Perhaps volunteer experiences can be some of the most meaningful in our lives. The communities in which we live are enriched by those willing to step up and contribute.

A few months ago, I attended a Session meeting to give a report on the deacons. One of the elders commented that the deacons work harder than any other church committee. I doubt this is true, but the deacons do have many

responsibilities. That's why there are fifteen on the Board. Each member volunteers to take on responsibilities that utilize his or her interests, talents, and strengths. Everyone makes important contributions. It all just fits together with the final product being a dynamic ministry.

The same is true for the entire church body. I have heard the church referred to as God's volunteer army. The September sermon series was from the book of James. Part of James's message is that commitment to love and serve is evidence of true faith. James 2:17 says, "In the same way, faith by itself, if not accompanied by action is dead." I know we are saved by grace, but a Christian walk motivates kindness and service. Stewardship season is coming up. Part of the message is giving of time and talent. It's a time for reflection as to how we want to help feed the fish.

From Deacon Barbara Johnson

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

7200 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92504-3829

Phone: 951-684-7200
Email: church@magpres.com
Church Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:30 am—3 pm
Closed Friday

www.magpres.com



October
2018

Staff

Rev. Claire Schlegel
Co-Pastor

Rev. Paul Knopf
Co-Pastor

James Walters
Music Director/Organist

Saw Shein
Contemporary Music Leader

John Wright
Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Chris Stanley
Youth Leader

Interim Media/Audio Coordinator
AJ Belangeri

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant

A merry heart does good ...



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Paul Study Leave	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,		7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	Office Closed	
	Pastor Claire Vacation					
	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	5:45pm - CE Committee 6pm - MEW Committee 7pm - BaG Committee 7pm - MIT Committee	1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	10am - Riverside Presbytery 7pm - Choir Practice	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Peace and Global Witness	Growth Groups, Oct 8. - Nov. 15					
Worldwide Communion Sunday	Pastor Paul DMin Cohort					
9am - Worship w/ Communion @ 10am - Growth Groups, October 11am - Worship w/Communion + 5pm - Combined Youth 5-6:,6-7, 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	Pastor Claire, Clergy Retreat			7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 7pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	10am - Sack Lunch Prep @ 11am - Prime Time 12pm - Sack Lunch Serve @ 2pm - Pumpkin Order Arrives 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep and
	Office Closed	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 7pm - Stewardship Committee	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4		7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	
	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Men's Group @ Jason					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Growth Groups, Oct 8. - Nov. 15						
Pumpkin Patch						
TWO-CAN Sunday	UpLook Articles Due	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 7pm - Deacon Meeting	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 7pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	
9am - Worship + SS 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall				7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Growth Groups, Oct 8. - Nov. 15						
Pumpkin Patch						
9am - Worship + SS @ FH 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 7pm - Session Meeting-L	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 7pm - Choir Practice	Day of Prayer Office Closed 7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Growth Groups, Oct 8. - Nov. 15						
Pumpkin Patch						
Stewardship Dedication Sunday	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building,	7:30am - MPBSP @ CE Building, 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4			
9am - Worship + SS 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 6pm - Trunk or Treat and 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30						

All dates, times, and locations are subject to change. See www.magpres/calendar for the most current calendar.

MagPres Prayer Calendar

Oct 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Betty Hillebrand	1 Melissa Holden	2 Richard and Jeanne Hood	3 Tom and Julie Hutchinson	4 John and Connie Jackson	5 Barbara Johnson	
						
7 Greeters and Ushers	8 Dave and Mary Josselyn	9 David and Claudia King	10 Jim and Julie King	11 Dick and Bonnie Kirby	12 Paul and Michelle Knopf	13 Lowell and Dee Lacy
14 Chancel Choir and Handbell	15 James and Ann Laudermilk	16 Marshall and Mary Lee	17 Tim and Diana Lewis	18 Flora Livingstone	19 Mrs. Ann Lowry	20 Jeff and Laurie Ludwig
21 Sunday School Teachers	22 Marge Ludwig	23 Liberty and Andi Mabena	24 Cathy McGraw	25 Jody MacDonald	26 Lisa and Craig MacDougall	27 Steven and Jan McKee
28 Custodian and Groundskeeper	29 Peter and Michelle Manley	30 Julia Marken	31 Adam Martinez	1	2	3
				<p>Please pray for the individuals and groups listed. Use extra space for your own prayer concerns.</p>		