

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND



A LITTLE HOME SURGERY

True story: Two brothers I know became surgeons and bought homes next door to each other; they were two brothers who liked each other, which is nice. One day Curtis located some kind of growth on the back of his neck and asked his brother John to look at it. John decided he could take care of it and nip it off. So they set up the kitchen and got out their home surgery “kit” (something surgeons have, apparently), and Curtis leaned over the sink. John removed the growth, and in his own words, he “hit a grouping of capillaries,” which caused his brother to bleed profusely—yes, all over the kitchen floor.

Then their wives—previously told to wait outside—could wait no longer; their curiosity got the best of them. Once they entered the kitchen, the danger of bloodshed only increased, if you know what I mean. The brothers were read the riot act, the law came down, and every ounce of marital/family happiness now dangled precariously over the churning garbage disposal. Never again were they to pull a stunt like this. Both brothers were banished from the kitchen by both wives. With tails tucked, they went out to the backyard to reflect more deeply upon the nature of their sins.

(continued on page 2)

PASTOR NOEL ANDERSON



There are reasons families are not supposed to operate on family, and the least of them have to do with the emotions of the acting surgeons. The better reasons have something to do with the communities with which they are connected. Although they believed they could pull it off without any hassle, the brothers didn't fully calculate the real value of professional distance, trust, and confidence, nor had they adequately considered their deeper connections with their wives and children—all of which would be necessarily affected by their home surgery. They acted as though they knew what they were doing: in a sense, they did; in another, they did not. The latter got them into trouble.

Most churches, First Pres among them, need some work done—not a nip or a tuck, but certainly some diagnosis and perhaps a few attitude-ectomies. The likelihood of successful surgery by the most professional, best-intentioned sibling presbyters may look good at the outset, but blood will stain the kitchen once the cutting starts.

Home surgery is a bad idea. The alternative is to find an outside practitioner, hiring a consultant—someone like you and me from the next county over who can suggest the necessary incisions and move us toward healing and wholeness.

SESSION ACTIONS

At its meeting of February 28, Your Session passed two motions intended to preserve the peace, unity, and purity of First Pres.

1. Session has reestablished a Personnel Committee:

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE — COMPOSITION & TERMS

- Total 3-5 members plus the Pastor/HOS
 - One installed Elder to chair
 - One installed Trustee

- Two or three “at large” members (appointed by Session)

Terms: Elder & Trustee serve according to installed office terms.

“At large” members serve at the pleasure of Session but shall not exceed six years without a year off.

The Elder chair will be Georgia Decker. The Trustee rep will be Roy Ames. “At large” members TBA.

2. Session has moved to receive bids from four consultants to do a comprehensive organizational analysis of First Pres. This will involve a comprehensive analysis of our staff, information systems, feedback loops, and appropriate lines of authority. We will expect congregational input in the process as well. We will likely choose our firm within the next few weeks after hearing their proposals.

Please, as always, prayerfully remember the officers of the church—Pastor, Elders, and Deacons—as we continue our unbroken commitment to grow in Christ and make Him known.





TEENS AND CULTURE

Matt Shool, youth pastor

SOURCE: How parents can have better conversations with teenagers

Kara Powell, Brad M Griffin July 7, 2021

Check out the full article at <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/how-parents-can-have-better-conversations-with-teenagers>

This is part 2 of a two-part series on understanding teenagers:

3. Start saying, “Tell me more”

I (Brad) don’t know about you, but I often find myself in conversations with young people that bump along awkwardly and end abruptly. In the face of one-word answers to



my questions, I get stumped. Can you relate?

But then I started

using a key phrase FYI teammate Steve Argue has championed for years. In conversations and connections with young people, try using this simple three-word invitation: Tell me more. Memorize those words right now.

Of course, “Tell me more about that” might still yield a short answer. But sometimes it opens enough of a crack for an adult to peer inside the elusive experience of the reserved teenager. There are all kinds of variations on this approach. We could ask for more specificity, like “What was good about the game?” or “What made it good?”

Steve will often say, “The first question isn’t as important as the second or third question.”

That’s because the first question we ask comes from our agenda; what follows emerges from the unfolding conversation.

4. Start asking, “What’s your plan?”

We frequently feel like we have advice to give our kids. That’s normal. We’ve lived longer and gained wisdom from the road.

But in the face of a dilemma, if we jump in too quickly with a “what you need to do” suggestion, we risk communicating that a teenager isn’t capable of handling problems on their own. We rob them of the value of sorting things out, making decisions, and learning from failure.

The opposite response can also be crippling. “This is totally under your control” sounds empowering on the surface (and when they’re ready for it, can actually be empowering). But



putting the entire responsibility on a teenager to solve a problem can sound like the young person is to blame. If they had only tried

harder or not made a mistake or avoided a situation, they would not have ended up here. And now they—on their own—have to dig their way out.

If you're like me (Kara), you don't want to nag your kids. You just want to know when they'll reply to their grandma's text or follow up with their teacher about a missed math test. But in their ears, it sounds like badgering. That's why I'm so grateful for this three-word question: What's your plan?

In the last twenty-four hours, I've asked my teenagers the following:

What's your plan for cleaning your room?
What's your plan for today?
What's your plan for your meeting with your college counselor?

Our kids feel like they have agency (which they do!), and I get (at least some) assurance that they are on top of things.

And finally: Don't overdo it

As parents, we're unaware of how our attempts to provide support annoy teenagers—unless we ask them. So occasionally I (Kara) ask my kids,

“What could I do that would make it easier for you to talk with me about big stuff?”

Their most common responses? “Please stop asking so many questions.”

As well as “Don't make a ‘big thing’ out of what we talk about.”



Do I still ask questions and sometimes bring up past experiences? You bet, but probably about half as much as I would if these weren't my kids' two pet peeves.

As you work on your own conversation skills with your kids, you might be tempted to overdo it. To ask more questions and prod with follow-ups like “Tell me more” until you're satisfied.

But when we do this, we not only frustrate our kids—we also miss our own goal of better conversations and stronger relationships. Pick one or two of these tips to try this week, then circle back and pick up another tip for the next week.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Contact us at children@fpc-upland.com or at 909-917-2726



"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Timothy 4:12

It was a great time hosting our annual Mother-Son Night of Fun! This year's event was definitely one to remember! After a delicious dinner and trip to the desert bar, everyone sat back and enjoyed learning about some of God's more creepy-crawly creations. The boys were in heaven with 20 different varieties of snakes, lizards, toads, tarantulas, and turtles to touch and play with!

These events are always a valuable way for us to connect with members of the community and our preschool families. New friendships were garnered, mother-son relationships were nurtured, and most importantly, we could all come together and show these new friends what a special place FPCU is.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the night possible. It takes so many moving parts, and you are each so valuable to this ministry; I appreciate you so much!



COMING UP

Parents' Night Out - March 11

NO Young Disciples - March 29

GATHER WITH SUE FRAZEE

On February 19th, forty of us joined together to celebrate Mardi Gras with a potluck supper. What a wonderful evening of Food, Fellowship, and Fun. We will celebrate St. Patrick's day on March 19th. Look for details!



The Party of 8 groups for February all report having a great time and are looking forward to meeting new people in March. Every month we mix it up, so this never gets old. It is never too late to Register and join us next month. You can register via the Church Center app or send a message to partyof8.fpcu@gmail.com.



Preschool Fundraiser

Raffle Baskets

Starting this week, we will have our popular Raffle Baskets once more! We will have the baskets available outside of the Preschool Office and we need your amazing help to fill them. You can make donations **Wed., March 1 - Tues., March 14**

Raffle Tickets on sale: March 15 - March 23

Drawing done on Friday, March 24 (you don't have to be present to win). **Good Luck Everybody!!**

Below are the themes we will have:

Beach Baking Family Fun Night Girl Basket
Boy Basket Gift Card Basket Ice-cream Social
#1 Mom Basket Dad Likes to Barbecue
Tea & Coffee Lovers Delight



The baskets will have a list of suggestions for items to be included in each one. Please feel free to add your own ideas or gift cards.

NOTE: You can also make monetary donations and we will purchase items for the baskets. Thank you as always for helping us make this "fun"draiser a huge success!!





Get a lift from LIFT

(Ladies in Fellowship Together)

Storyteller Adrien Lowery Returns

Friday, March 10, 11am -1 pm, Hart Hall

Doors open 10:45 – Program starts promptly at 11:00

Adrien Lowery, who last spring uplifted us with stories of reconciliation, love, and hope, is joining us again for our March meeting. Time to sit back, relax, and let Adrien engage our imaginations to take us to different times and places.

Adrien has been a storyteller for 13 years. She has shared her tales with churches and community groups around the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire. She tells stories from various genres, including classic folk tales, especially Celtic, as well as those she has written herself (so we may hear a leprechaun tale or two). She is a college professor and a long-time member and regular performer with the Inland Valley Storytellers group. She is sure to delight us all.

Following a short time of worship and a devotion, Adrien will encourage us with stories that are perfect for the coming spring. Afterward we will fellowship over our brown bag lunches.

**For more information,
contact Carol Diess,
626-482-8862
or sbbmom@aol.com**

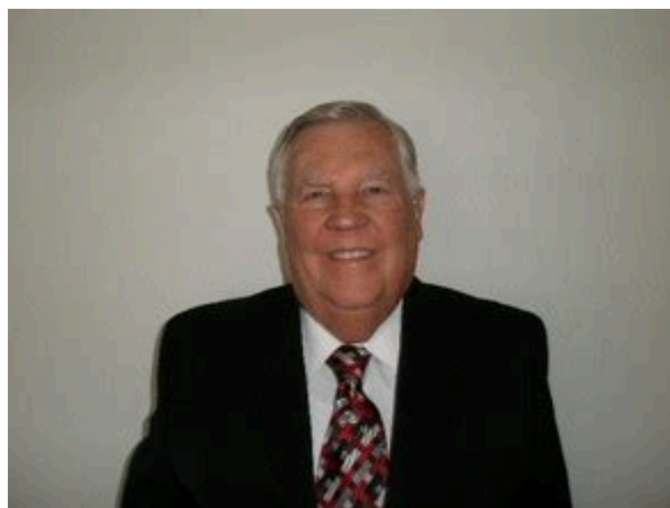
***Come to LIFT! Bring a Friend
and Get a Treat!***



TRUSTEES WITH ROY AMES

Mr. Harold Miller flew a helicopter for the US military in Vietnam. Upon his return to the States in 1972 he took a job with the Sheriff's department, flying a helicopter on patrol in the beach area around Santa Monica. But he wanted to do more with his life, and as you will see, he had a mind for business, smart negotiation, and connecting people. He entered the field of real estate, becoming a broker specializing in commercial real estate.

One day a pastor called him, and asked Harold if he would help him sell his church. The church was behind on its mortgage and the bank would soon foreclose. They met and Harold asked the pastor if he had considered renting to other groups at times when the church was not being used for its own worship services. This was a fresh idea and the pastor agreed it was worth a try. Soon they rented to a group that met on Saturday. They held a raffle. They approached the bank and showed them their additional income and asked them to reconsider foreclosing. The bank agreed. No one wants to foreclose on a church. The church not only paid off the mortgage, but paid it off early.



Harold Miller

So began a fruitful line of business and ministry, where Mr. Miller has helped many churches over the past 40 years, including our own. The income from the rental of our church to other groups funds ministries that would not be possible otherwise. As Pastor Noel is quick to point out, this also serves to further the gospel, by reaching groups that we ourselves might not reach.

The Trustees of First Presbyterian Church thanks Mr. Harold Miller for his service.

MARCH

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | | 1-VanBeek | 2-VanDam | 3-VanVieldt | 4-Vosburg |
| 5 | 6-Webner | 7-White | 8-Whitmore | 9-Williams | 10-Williamson | 11-Wilson,G |
| 12 | 13- Wilson, J | 14-Yafeh-Deigh | 15-Yeo | 16-Ajeakwa-Andong | 17-Alford | 18-Amason |
| 19 | 20-Ames | 21-Anderson | 22-Anguka, J | 23-Anguka,W | 24-Argent | 25-Barker |
| 26 | 27-Basile | 28-Bimber | 29-Borger | 30-Bragg | 31-Bridge | |
| | | | | | | |

Please pray for healing and restoration for:

Jean VanVieldt, Felicia & Drexel Foreman, Stan & Tedde Butler, Bill Howie, Lynn McClelland, Joni Stallings, Louis Kimes, David Brinkley, Kay Hester.

Pray for those who are homebound or in convalescent care
Delores Karros, John Dooley.

March Birthdays

01 Gaby Nunez
02 Doug Hunt
02 Laura McMullen
05 John Dooley
06 Scott Hansen
06 Ava Shool
09 Nancy Lyons
09 Baraka Ogot
09 Zawadi Ogot
09 Lia Riccio
12 Bob Carpenter
13 Gary Custer
13 Barbara Hester
14 Tedde Butler
15 Linda Ecklund

17 Erine Ames
17 Harley Jones
19 Megan Deiss
19 Humphrey Ogot
23 Carol Powl
23 Marie Swenson
25 Paul Sindelar
27 John Argent
30 Matt Borger



We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other **March** babies not on our list. If you know of a member's birthday that needs to be added, please call Gael in the church office @ 982-8811. Thank you, and **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!**

MARCH

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | 1 9am-3pm Blood Drive 9am Bible Study at Cocos 3pm B&G 5pm-7pm Young Disciples 7:10-8:30pm Choir | 2 6:30pm Deacons | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10am Worship w/Communion | 6 5:30pm Bells | 7 9:30am Quilting and Knitting 5pm Worship 7pm Gather | 8 9am Bible Study at Coco 5pm-7pm Young Disciples 7:10-8:30pm Choir | 9 2pm Preschool Board | 10 11am-1pm LIFT | 11 |
| 12 10am Worship Pastors Forum after service in the Garden Room | 13 4:15pm Grow 5:30pm Bells | 14 9:30am Quilting and Knitting 6pm Trustees 6:30pm Serve | 15 9am Bible Study at Cocos 5pm-7pm Young Disciples 7:10-8:30pm Choir | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10am Worship 11am St Patrick's Day Meal HH | 20 5:30pm Bells | 21 9:30am Quilting and Knitting | 22 9am Bible Study at Cocos 5pm-7pm Young Disciples 7:10-8:30pm Choir | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10am Worship | 27 5:30pm Bells | 28 9:30am Quilting and Knitting 6:30pm Session | 29 9am Bible Study at Cocos 7:10-8:30pm Choir | 30 | 31 | |



**GROWING IN CHRIST,
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

Deacons

Carol Diess
Charlene Finley
Sandra Forney
Sue Fredendall
Gloria Geiger
Janet Hunt
Florence Lutz
Gerri Mowrey
Margaret Pilcher
Pat Pilcher
Mark Polchow
Sue Sindelar
Dean Smith
Kim Williamson

Trustees

Roy Ames, Assistant Treasurer
Gary Custer, President
Herb Joiner, Vice President
Musa Mba, Treasurer
Robert Whitmore, Secretary

Staff

Noel Anderson, Pastor
Matt Shool, Youth Ministries
Erika Schlegel, Children's Ministries
Gael Lecce, Receptionist
Mark Read, Custodian
Gustavo Gonzalez, Custodian

Elders

Moderator:
Noel Anderson
Roy Ames
Susan Anguka
William Anguka
Gary Custer
Georgia Decker
Sue Frazee
Nina Jelinek
Herb Joiner
Musa Mba
Mike Nunez
Jim Smirl
Bob Whitmore

First Presbyterian Church of Upland
869 North Euclid Avenue
Upland, CA 91786

OFFICE: 909.982.8811
PRESCHOOL: 909.982.8616

email: office@fpc-upland.com
website: FPC-UPLAND.COM