

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

Hello, friends! I write to you this morning from a place of personal disappointment, but one which has unexpectedly provided a forum to discuss one of my favorite virtues. And this disappointment is the cancelling of the Fourth of July celebrations in Orland, CA.

Why would I care, you wonder? Well, the answer with me nearly always has to do with music, and that is totally true here. I was going to be part of the Orland Town Band, and additionally do my one-man-band accordion stuff throughout the day. I have been practicing, arranging music, making costumes, attending rehearsals, quite a commitment. And now it is canceled, because of the ex-

treme weather that is forecast for that day.

Despite my disappointment, I am glad that it has been cancelled, because it was cancelled **pro bono** – for the public good. And the health needs of the general public certainly outweigh my musical needs by quite a margin. Yet now, I get to briefly discuss this **pro bono** notion, not for the first time, and certainly not for the last, because my beloved **pro bono** seems to be an endangered virtue in our modern America, and indeed all over the globe.

I have a theory about how this has come to pass, and it has to do with the precipitous drop in church attendance early in my lifetime, in the late 1960's. You will likely

Our Purpose
To ENGAGE people in joyful relationships with God and with each other, so we will GROW in Christ-like compassion, and SHARE the blessings of the Holy Spirit.



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recall a great social shifting during that era, and sadly and shortsightedly, the Church in general mostly said to folks: “Hey, we are the Church... either love it or leave it.” And, for the first time in Christian history, *they left*, in droves, to embrace Eastern religions and crystals and being ‘spiritual but not religious’ and all other manner of paths, including having no spiritual basis in their lives at all.

And here’s the problem – there was only *one* place in the country where civil behavior was being actively taught, and *we were that place*. The notion of putting others before self, of putting social need before personal gratification, these were not covered in our school civics classes, which gradually have trickled away, too. And they have been replaced, in the main, by a self-serving, self-gratifying, self-indulgent population both here and abroad, for whom prioritizing social need above personal need is incomprehensible.

I know I am painting in broad strokes here, and that many, Christian or not, have the needs of our society fully in view, but not enough of us, I fear. There is no other truly comprehensive answer to our current political discord that the one I have been going on about, that the needs of the individ-

ual are predominant over facts and centuries of public service. This kind of division could never have happened in the 1950’s, am I right?

Enough for now... and again, I am glad that the Orland folks had enough **pro bono** spirit to cancel a very popular event just days before its launch. Despite our communal disappointment, it was the right thing to do. And doing the right thing, even when it is sure to be the unpopular thing, is a mark of prudence and character. However you celebrate it, Happy Independence Day, everyone!

JAM JARS Wanted

If you have half pint. jam jars you don't want or need, please donate them to the UWF for jam and jelly.

Individual members will be making jam for the holiday Bazaar, as well as the group pomegranate jelly making from juice Jody has promised.

The jars should be standard Mason labeled KERR or BALL that are reusable so new lids can be attached.

Please put them on the counters of the church kitchen.
Thanking you in advance,
UWF(formerly UMW)

Submitted by Lily Loughlin

2024 VBS Wrapup

Although the number of participants was small, those who did participate did not want to leave. That definitely indicates a successful event. That could only happen when the team performs at a high level. My thanks to Pastor Dave, Chris Hull, Ben Townsend, Scott Giannini, Meghan Callahan, Chane Binderup, Nancy Mayr and Nancy Acheson for a job well done. Also, thank you to Leslie Johnson for the temporary use of her solar cooker. And my annual thank you to my wife, Linda, for keeping me on the track.

Submitted by Rich Wolff

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN JULY

Sunday, July 7th Holy Communion

The infamous passage from Mark 6:1-6 frames our worship today as we tap into a very common human experience, so common that even Jesus fell victim to it!

“Nobody Likes Being Taken for Granted” is the homily today, and the fully inclusive Communion time will balance the scales a bit.

Sunday, July 14

Today Pastor Dave has been invited to participate in a festival service down in Aptos with many of the former pastors there, so our worship time here at Trinity will be ably led by our good friend Rev. Brian Peterson, with music provided by Minda Fernish. I will say hello to the cool ocean atmosphere for you all...

Sunday, July 21st

“Too Popular for His Own Good” is the message today, and it really frames the experience of Jesus and his followers as word of his healing skills got spread around the region. There was no rest to be had, despite his best efforts, and so we will explore the balance between good works and good self-care today.

Sunday, July 28th

Paul’s brilliance as recorded in Ephesians 3:14-21 will guide us today, and we will hear the message “The Best Pastoral Prayer Ever”. Read through this passage if you can, and see if you agree with me that If he got his wish, the world would be healed overnight!