

## Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

I am Scottish, Irish, and Dutch on my mom's side; see, you never thought I really looked Italian anyway, did you? And so it is not surprising to me at all that I am drawn to Celtic sensibilities in music and literature and spirituality (and tattoos, apparently, as well). So as we enter the summer here is a lovely bit from the theological tradition of the Celtic bards:

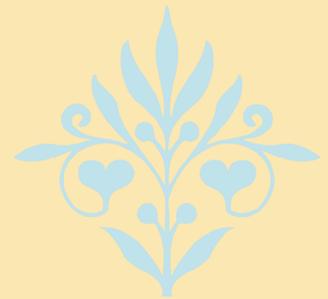
**“The three reasons for worship: to teach wisdom; to cultivate the energies of the mind; and to gladden hope.”**

These are not ‘Methodist’ principles, but they sure as well may be, for we have lived into them quite fully. Interestingly, these three reasons for worship deploy themselves quite handily into

Father/Son/Holy Spirit, or Past/Present/Future, and lots of other descriptive trinities. Let's explore a bit, with a better worship experience as our goal.

Our God, the one who was, and is, and is to come, embraces the full-time spectrum of Life, from before the beginning to beyond the end. As such, we find that the three virtues valued by the Celtic bards of wisdom, mental stimulation, and joyful hope are all aspects of God that we want to embrace and experience as often as possible, but especially when we gather to worship. I must go so far as to say that anytime we worship and any one of these is missing, the experience is diminished enough to be disappointing, and we should never settle for that.

**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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We need wisdom, that's for sure. But wisdom, as they say, comes from experience, and thus is always in the past tense. Wisdom is what we (or our forebears) have learned about what works and what doesn't work in this life. It is the accumulated positive knowledge of the human race, and we need to seek it and teach it, every Sunday.

We also need to cultivate the energies of the mind, especially in the hazy, lazy days of summer. Food for thought is *essential nourishment*, and although it usually comes primarily in the morning message, the worship experience is peppered with it if we have our eyes and ears open. We may come to worship and allow our bodies a certain calm repose, but encouraging the mind to stretch and get some exercise is always a good thing; Jesus was a master at challenging people to actually *think*. It grounds us in the Right Now; not content to simply think what we have always thought, not content to just sit on the mental couch. We need food for thought every Sunday.

Finally, the worship experience needs to gladden hope, to lift the heart, to give a compelling reason to keep on keeping on. Hope is the specialty of the Spirit; we don't refer to this aspect of God as the

Comforter for nothing! We cannot survive long without hope, friends, and it is both reasonable and essential that the Church be a dispensary of hope, one with dependable, regular hours of operation. We dispense hope every Sunday... that is both our mandate and our aspiration.

So, here's the challenge: are wisdom, food for thought, and joyful hope present and available every single time we gather for worship? Are they accessible, or do you have to dig for them? Are they in forms that are musically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally digestible? I really want you all to pay attention to this stuff, and sing out loud and clear if you are not getting all of these, every week. They really are that important; like water and air and food, we need them every single time, not just randomly. The warmth of summer is upon us, and it is easy to just loll around and not expect much. I beg of you, let's not take that approach to our worship life! We need the full array of nourishment, every time we come. So listen, see, touch, taste, and assess... and let us know if items in our buffet need to be replenished, okay?

## **Vacation Bible School**

**Registration for Vacation Bible School continues in Hadley Hall following the 10:30 service. Registration may also be accomplished by coming to the church office. If you have friends or relatives who are aged 4-11, sign them up to have a great time on Saturday, June 14. Lunch is included and there is no cost.**

Submitted by Rich Wolff

Offering periodic Saturday child-care for parents who need just a couple of hours of break, using volunteers from the church. This requires the volunteers to be fingerprinted and background-checked. We will have opportunities to take that step in September.

Finding ways to involve college students, especially the first 2 weeks of each semester. We will have another meeting soon to discuss ideas for this outreach.

Many other ideas were discussed, such as starting up a choir again, but such actions will require leaders! If you are interested in starting a new "thing" at Trinity, such as monthly game nights or progressive dinners or starting a song group – let the church leadership know of your interest. Then perhaps help to kick off your idea can be found!

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

## **Love the Church Update**

A few weeks ago, we had a terrific follow-up Love the Church meeting. Many wonderful ideas were tossed around and considered. Several seemed particularly do-able:

- Having regular potlucks (the first will be the "Christmas in July" potluck in July)

- Organizing transport for those who need it – already in progress!! But more opportunities are coming to connect people who can provide rides to those who need them.

## **UWF (United Women in Faith) – Field Trip!!**

Join the UWF ladies for an outing filled with history and perspective! On June 18<sup>th</sup> we will meet in the church parking lot at 9:45 am to carpool to Little Chapman Mansion for a brunch and wonderful Chico history insights provided by our hostess, Michelle Shover. Michelle is very knowledgeable about Chico history, having written *"Exploring Chico's Past and Other Essays."* She will be able to give interesting insights into the role of Methodist women in Chico! The mansion and its gardens are quite lovely and worth the visit! The brunch will be provided by the ladies of UWF – you just need to show up and enjoy! We will, however, need a head count so that we know how many to prepare for – so look for the sign-up sheets after church or call Katya at 530-228-0215 to let us know you are coming. This will be our last UWF get-together until September. Please join us!

**Submitted by Katya Yarosevich**



# Christmas in July!

Get in the mood to celebrate a special "holiday" together with...

- a holiday potluck
- water slide for the kids
- ice cream for all!

July 27th  
12:15 pm



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**ENGAGE**

**GROW**

**SHARE**



## **WORSHIP IN JUNE**

**Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Today we stress unity and Christian cooperation as we respond to Jesus' great prayer as found in John 17:20-26. Wonderful music for guitar and winds, Holy Communion, and the homily "Merengue or Chiffon? Will make for a lovely morning.

**Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>                      PENTECOST**

We are excited about our annual foray into the Pentecost story, found in Acts 2:1-21. "Call Upon the Lord" will be the message this morning. Please wear RED as we celebrate together today!

**Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>                      BIBLE SUNDAY, FATHER'S DAY**

"Kairos and Chronos" will explore this wonderful text from John 16:12-15. Wisdom from many sources will help us understand the importance of the right timing of our life choices. We also have many young people receiving their imprinted Bibles today at the 10:30 service.

**Sunday, JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>**

We begin a little time immersed in the letter to the Galatians this morning, with a truly great preaching text found in Galatians 3:23-29. This is the kind of message with which Trinity really resonates! Excellent music today (including our favorite fiddler) and also the message "A Grown-Up Kind of Faith" will be enjoyed.

**Sunday, JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>                      CONFERENCE SUNDAY**

A text about spiritual freedom and making the best choices: Galatians 5:1,13-25 is uplifting and aspirational too. The famous 'fruits of the spirit' will be explored in the sermon "Bitter Melon or Mango?" And if you feel like a drive to Sacramento, our dear friend Molly Knappen will be ordained this afternoon at the Annual Conference. All are welcome!