

## Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

I share, with many of you, a truly joyous appreciation of traveling. I purchased a shirt for Ms. Wong that reads “*I Have No Cruise Control – It’s Like They Just Book Themselves!*” Fancy or plain, lavish or local, Christina and I like to be out and about in all sorts of places and eateries and communities, and the different feel from coast to coast is blazingly apparent. Not just architecture, topography, or accents – *Christianity itself* feels quite different.

It strikes me that, were we an entirely United Methodist country, that between the coasts we would live up to the Wesleyan ideal quite well. We have talked more than once about the twin pegs of **personal holiness** and **social action** that our Methodist tent hangs upon. And I gotta say, in our visits to the easternmost Midwest, and in the beat-

ing heart of the Confederacy, and even in The Big Easy, the personal piety aspect is *much* more dominant than it is here in Californ-eye-ay.

I was jarred and more than a little surprised at the churchy tone of so *much* of that part of the world. I guess I have grown used to our West Coast blessing of all things, and not singling any one group out, but that is not the way of the world over there. People talk openly about their churches; perfect strangers want to engage you in religious (and by religious, I mean Christian) discussion; nearly everybody prays in restaurants, and the background music in stores (I am not making this up) is mostly hymns, which the shoppers mostly hum and sing along with as they fill their carts. I was not uncomfortable, exactly, but it felt

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**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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pretty one-sided, because even though it was ‘my side’ that was dominant, I wondered about the comfort level of the other folks who might not be as involved as we are in the life of the Spirit.

By contrast, I think of our own neck of the woods, where personal piety is way more... well, personal. I can’t imagine going into Costco and hearing “How Great Thou Art” coming over the loudspeakers! But what we do more overtly, something that must be so personal on the other coast as to be nearly invisible, is the social action part of our faith. I am sure that they care for other people over there, but wow, it was emphasized so much less than here. Part of our care, too, is something they don’t really make space for; meeting people where they *actually are*, and not just assuming that everybody is Christian or even wants to be.

I know I am verbally painting in great broad strokes and do not render a fully accurate picture of either coast. But I did want to report that Christianity, done differently and more publicly than we do it, is alive and well in other parts of our nation. And also to report that, even having been immersed in that way of being on several jaunts now, I do not feel that our way was substandard or lacking, really, just focused differently. I always learn some

stuff on vacation, you see, and did more than just buy local maple syrup, eat wonderful barbecue, and enjoy a whole lotta biscuits and grits! And while getting away is a real joy, it is likewise always good to be back among you, and to shepherd our thoughtfully crafted version of sharing Jesus with the world.

## Vacation Bible School

Our one-day Vacation Bible School will be held on Saturday, June 14. If you have friends or relatives with children aged 4-11, let them know about this event. We will have a number of activities and lunch will be included. Best of all, there is no cost. It is always a great deal of fun for both the participants and the team.

Submitted by Rich Wolff

## “Love the Church” Follow-up

A follow-up to our “Love the Church” event is planned for after the late service on May 4<sup>th</sup>. As it is likely the Trinity Times will not be available until after this event, please be aware that any ideas or visions concerning the future of Trinity UMC are welcome at any time! Simply contact the church office or a member of the Membership Committee with your thoughts. Membership Committee Contacts: Candy Murphy, Mary Wahl, Leatha King, Katya Yarosevich, Selma Lippincott, Pastor Dave, Suellen Rowison

If you would like a copy of the summary of the original “Love the Church” event, you can pick it up in Hadley Hall, or request a copy by email from the church office.

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

## BBQ Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>

A non-profit organization, Paths Straight to Recovery (PSTR) will be holding a **BBQ on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm** in Hadley Hall. Katya Yarosevich is on the Board of Paths Straight to Recovery (PSTR), a Christian transitional living home in Chico. For men recently out of a recovery program, PSTR uses the materials of Celebrate Recovery to transition participants to living independently. This support leads clients to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and successful recovery. The evening will include not only delicious BBQ, but also amazing testimonials from some of the participants of the program. If you'd like to hear stories of modern miracles, of how God is bringing these men into new lives, come join us! A \$15 donation is requested. You can see Katya for tickets, or register online through [chicopstr.org](http://chicopstr.org); click on the “Events” tab.

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

## United Women in Faith (UWF)

The ladies of UWF had a wonderful time arranging flower bouquets for our shut-ins! A lot of great fellowship and beautiful creating was done! It was also a blessing to deliver these lovely spots of spring to those who may not otherwise get to enjoy seeing blooms this time of year. We think it might be a good annual event!

We will have a "regular" meeting on Wednesday, May 21st at 10 am in Hadley Hall. We will be finalizing plans for our June outing – please join us!

--Katya Yarosevich, President



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**ENGAGE**

**GROW**

**SHARE**



## **WORSHIP IN MAY**

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**MAY DAY, NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS SUNDAY,  
EARTH DAY, HOLY COMMUNION**

Our time together today will be focused ‘outdoors’, celebrating Creation and reverence for God’s world in many interwoven ways. Our text is from John 21:1-14, one of the more endearing post-resurrection appearances of our Lord. The message will be called “Breakfast On The Beach” and we will have a special guest pianist joining us as well.

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> MOTHER’S DAY**

This week we celebrate the gifts of mothers with beautiful music, elegant prose, and uplifting preaching. The message will be drawn from John 10:22-30, and the sermon is entitled “Moms and Musketeers”. Caroline Fairchild will be assisting musically this morning.

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Dave and Christina will be traveling today so we will not have our usual fare, but we have a lovely Sunday planned with Max Feiler as your speaker and Barbara Janzen providing beautiful musical leadership. It will be a fine day indeed!

**SUNDAY, MAY 25 MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY**

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 is an unusual text for this weekend, but a very apt one as we anticipate the completion of God’s purposes on earth and in heaven. Patriotic music will be included, as well as the reassuring message “Light of Glory, Water of Life, Leaves of Healing.”