

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

Hard to believe... but the autumn is nearly here! And that time of year always brings some changes, as things that got hammered out at Annual Conference in June begin to flourish and sprout. Which brings me to an introduction, both of a person and of a new way of doing things in our Great Northern District.

Our bishop has implemented a very interesting structure for the Cabinet... instead of a single District Superintendent for each district, there will now be three or four, depending on the volume of churches represented. Here in Great Northern (with over a hundred churches to care for) our Superintendency team is FOUR wonderful leaders! Each

of these are appointed to a local church part-time, and to their district responsibilities part-time. This is certainly innovative and should make for better flow and responsiveness between the local churches and the Annual Conference.

Our new District Superintendent is Rev. April Sousa. Here are some of her own introductory words that were sent out to the churches. Rev. April writes: *I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and to give some logistics of how our work together will continue in the new year. I found my call in the Great Northern District, and I'm thrilled to be coming back to serve this incredibly cool area. I was ordained in 2025, and*

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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even though I have only been ordained for one year, I have over 10 years of experience within the local church. I began by serving 7+ years on the North Coast in McKinleyville at UMC Joyful Healer. For the past 3 years, I have served at Elk Grove UMC. I now find myself coming back to not only serving as your Superintendent, but also within the local church at Redding First UMC.

Logistically, the Great Northern District Office will continue to be located at the Conference Center in West Sacramento. Your team of District Superintendents will have a full-time District Administrative Assistant, Rebecca McGuire. I will be your primary contact within the district; but whenever possible, I encourage you to always include Rebecca in your communications. In general, for most items, you will find email the best way to get in contact with me. For emergencies, please text or call. If you need to reach Rev. April, the conference website has all of her communication info, or Rich or I can provide it as well.

It is too early for all the bugs to have been worked out, but I am excited and encouraged by the increased level

of care that can be provided to the local churches by sharing the superintendency duties. I will be meeting with April early next week as she makes the rounds to greet her new parishes. I will share more in church...

Rally Day

The annual Rally Day potluck and celebration is scheduled for September 13. This is always a fun event that everyone can be part of. We will have a water feature for the kids on the front lawn as well as the always popular cake/plant walk. Please bring a dish to share and a plant or cake item as a prize for the cake/plant event. Also encourage your friends and relatives to attend and have a fun experience.

Submitted by Rich Wolff

United Women in Faith (UWF)

We're Back!!!!

We will be having our regular meetings again, beginning with our together time on September 16th at 10 am. We hope have a guest speaker, Heather Sarin of the Butte Environmental Council, to speak to us about the importance of recycling, and details of what to recycle, etc. We will also have our regular business meeting, and get updated reports concerning the recent Rumage Sale!

Tea Towels – Thanks to the many of you who have been sewing away, decorating tea towels with colorful designs! If you have not done so yet, please be sure all towels are completed and turned in by the end of September. They will still need borders sewn, then laundering and ironing. God bless you all for your efforts!!

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

Healthbridge Global Report

Healthbridge Global is a nonprofit dedicated to bringing people to Christ through medical services. This organization is somewhat unique in that for every project on which they embark, they partner with local providers and also lay out plans for the progressing to a future that will enable those local services to function without outside support. The goal is to support these services long enough for them to function on their own. One of the projects Healthbridge Global has embarked upon is in Burundi.

No region in the world has received more international aid than Sub-Saharan Africa, yet Burundi has remained one of the smallest recipients. Even the aid it has received has done little to stem the pervasive suffering of the people. Widely regarded as the most economically distressed nation on earth, Burundi faces poverty

at foundational levels. This, in turn, has had profound consequences for its healthcare infrastructure. Kibuye Hope Hospital is one of the only full-service healthcare facilities in rural Burundi. Patients travel long distances, and even from neighboring nations, for both routine services and critical care. The hospital receives nearly 1,000 patients each week, and the dilapidated intake, triage, and outpatient spaces are

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overflowing. We are building a new "Front Door" to the hospital that will create new structures for intake, triage, and outpatient services allowing more patients to be seen in a more orderly and dignified manner, while also allowing the team to care better for their spiritual needs. We invest in people first, then projects. The hospital is led by Burundian Christian physicians and nurses who view medicine as both a profession and a calling. They are caring for the sick, training the next generation of African medical leaders, and both demonstrating and sharing the love of Christ to patients and family members. Investing in this project will strengthen a proven local institution, expand access to essential

care, and extend a credible gospel witness throughout one of the world's most vulnerable nations.

Total Project Investment Needed:
\$250,667

Already raised by End of 02:
\$77,693 31% funded)

More about Healthbridge Global may be found at healthbridgeglobal.org

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

Recovery Happens

If you are interested in free food, music and games, the Chico Coalition of Recovery Residences is hosting an event this month. In addition to all the fun, there will be booths representing the recovery residence programs that are available in our area! If you have a friend or family member working on recovery, this is a good place to get information about residential recovery programs in our area! These programs have helped many turn their lives around! Come celebrate!

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich



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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 6 LABOR DAY SUNDAY

We continue our exploration of St. Matthew, chapter 18:15-20, where an effective but seldom-employed conflict resolution strategy is presented by Jesus. Holy Communion will be served today, and the homily will be called “Sympathetic Sidebar”.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13 RALLY DAY

Our annual Rally Day has finally arrived, a day of reunion and re-invigooration for the months to come. We focus today on the wisdom found in Romans 14:1-12, explored in the message “We Rally Around Accountability”.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 20

In Matthew 20:1-16 we find everyone’s least favorite parable of all time, where the radical aspect of Grace is on full display. The message will be fittingly “Against the Grain!”, and the music today will balance things with its tenderness and soothing qualities.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 27

Matthew 21:23-32 leads us into a healthy but challenging framework for exploring the nature of authority and confidently taking up our own authority in our spiritual lives. “Questioning Authority” will be the homily today.