

# **The Sierra Story**



**February  
2018**

**DISCOVER FOLLOW LOVE SHARE**

# Contents & Staff

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday– Thursday  
9:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

**PHONE: 530.265.3291**

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### Sierra Staff

Rev. Dr. Mike Griffin	Senior Pastor	<u>EXT.</u> 11
Jonathan Steel	Traditional Worship Leader	19
Pete Welty	Contemporary Worship Leader	33
Stacey Kay	Children’s Ministry Director/ Director of Print Communications	17
Clarissa Schnitzius	Congregational Care/Connection	18
Jeff McClelland	Youth Director/Audio	27
Christian Goodwin	Director of Digital Communications	
Jeanne Kraft	Administrator	10
Melanie Coursey	Bookkeeper	13
Volunteers	Secretary/Receptionist	
	16	
Randy Partch	Facilities	20
Peter and Rena Criss	Custodian	
Jenene Sowell, MFT	Counseling Ministry	24
Jessica LaFerriere	SONshine Preschool Director	15

### SUBMIT A SIERRA STORY ARTICLE:

Please submit your article in Arial font size 12 to:  
[design@sierrapres.com](mailto:design@sierrapres.com)

For the subject please put-  
**SIERRA STORY: month and (ministry, group, event)**

**ARTICLES ARE DUE ON THE 25TH**

## SIERRA ELDERS & DEACONS

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
1	Forrest Schomberg	Personnel	Jane Patterson
2	Emily Dyer	Missions	MaryAnn MacDonald
3a	Tom Dax	Adult Spiritual Dev.	Dona Paulus
3b	Katie Gammelgard	Young Families	Patti Painter
4	Jeff Patton	Outreach/ GO Center/	Deni Dax
5	Carolyn Wertz	Care & Connection/ Small Groups	Sharron Koslosky
6	Renee Adams	Youth	Beverly Wilson
7	Celia Ullis	Nominating	JoAn Dybdahl
8a	Jonathan Harvey	Finance	Nancy Moyer
8b			VACANT
9	Dave Kimmich	Properties	Barbara Wood
10	Sabrina Speroni	Children’s Ministries	Julie Tupper-Bradford*
11	Tim Grebe	Worship	Marty Dinwiddie

Clerk of Session: Darlene Moberg  
Deacon Moderator: Julie Tupper-Bradford



*"35Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" 38Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." 39So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. ~Mark 1:35-39.*

Personally, I am loving getting to share messages in our current series on what *We Believe*... which is looking at our Essentials of Faith in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. These foundational beliefs about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, Christ's return, and our mission really form the heart of who we are. Without these basic beliefs the church falls apart and easily loses sight of its' mission.

What *We Believe* is not simply a matter of the head or solely about intellectual assent, it is a matter of the heart. And as a matter of the heart, it takes practice or discipline to make what We Believe truly shape and form our convictions so what we believe about God, salvation, the church, and our mission to make disciples makes a difference in the way we live. That is where the Disciplines of Jesus come in. Jesus knew that he was the one and only Son of God, and the Messiah. Still he needed to practice certain spiritual disciplines in order to not get distracted or derailed from his mission.

As is exemplified in Mark 1:35-39, Jesus got away and spent time in prayerful solitude with the Father. Instead of allowing the agendas of others to bend his will; *"Everyone is looking for you!"* or cause him to play to the popularity that the crowds who were following him would bring, he was able to step back and get a renewed vision for his mission by getting away with the Father. Notice how clear he is when he comes away from this getaway, *"Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."*

Similarly, if we are going on stay on mission we will find the need and benefit to practice many of the same disciplines that Jesus did. One way to look at it, is that if Jesus needed this kind of time, who are we to think that we don't? That we can do without such spiritual disciplines and still stay true to what God is calling us to. So, this Lent, which will kick-off with our Ash Wednesday worship service at 6 pm on Wednesday, February 14, we will be looking at *The Disciplines of Jesus* during our Sunday morning messages. We will seek to be formed more deeply in our relationship with God through such spiritual disciplines that Jesus practiced as disciple making, solitude, missional meals, Sabbath, celebration, and sacrifice.

We also want to create space to practice such spiritual disciplines through hosting a **Discover Spiritual Growth-Half Day Retreat: Saturday February 10, 2018. 8:30am-12 pm.** This half day retreat will focus on some of the basic spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith and give you an opportunity to practice them through times of solitude, prayer, Biblical meditation, and spiritual reflection. If you need to be renewed in your relationship with God, this half-day Spiritual Growth Retreat is for you! The retreat will be held at 12851 Highway 174 which is just across from Cedar Ridge Dr. You can sign-up in the sanctuary lobby or by calling the church office to RSVP. I believe the statement is true, *"Come apart or you will come apart."* Getting away on retreat with Jesus is what can hold you together and keep you on mission.



Things are ramping up in Ankor these days. We are in the middle of our nine week Biblical and Spiritual Essentials, BASE, curriculum on Wednesday nights, which parallels the Sunday morning sermon series "We Believe." In conjunction with this, many of our Ankor students have been linked up with an adult member of the SPC congregation for the purpose of developing a mentoring relationship. This involves students being asked about how what they are learning applies to their everyday life in Christ. Spending time getting to know each other will foster a climate that is comfortable for such discussions and absolutely

praying for one another is a key element of this as well. In addition to this, our inaugural Student Leadership program kicked off in January.

During the month of February we are going to be hosting an outreach event on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> and the first deposit for summer camp at Hume Lake, of \$75 is due by the 21<sup>st</sup>. We are also planning for our winter retreat in early March.

It is not unusual to be asked about how youth group is going and a quick follow up question is about how many kids are attending. While the latter question is of value, what we as a staff team find more important is the evidence of spiritual growth amongst our students. We are excited and encouraged by where each student is in their relationship with Christ and ways that we can encourage them to deepen their faith.

Submitted by: Karen Partch, Volunteer Youth Staff

# Sierra Kids Children's Ministry 5

We jumped into the new year with a Bible class for our older elementary students. Not only are they learning the importance of and how they can get the most out of reading God's Word, but they received their own Bible, with a personalized bookmark made by Rena Criss. As part of this experience, we were able to match each child with a mentor-buddy who has come alongside them during the classes and, most beautiful to see, getting together during the week building a relationship that will go beyond this class. Our last class, being held at the beginning of February, will be focused on helping the students understand the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. Their parents will be joining us for that discussion.

At Sierra Kids Club, we began a series about the Fruit of the Spirit. In the Fall, we had talked about John 15, focusing especially on verse 5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Zeroing in on Galatians 5:22-23 will help the kids understand the characteristics that can and will grow in them as they stay connected to Jesus. A wonderful bonus is that the adults are also studying the Fruit of the Spirit during The Gathering's study time.

I am looking forward to another opportunity to reach out to our community through a Kids Night Out on Friday, February 16. If you have any interest in helping with this event, please let me know. You can come and play board games, lead more active games, play with little ones, create art and crafts, or just hang out.

Because Jesus Loves Kids, Stacey

# 6

# Deacon's Corner

## New Beginnings

Each New Year can bring with it hope, peace and wisdom. It can bring an end to problems not solved in the previous year. It gives us a new opportunity to think of answers and solve problems not previously solved. It gives us hope for life's betterment. If we place our trust in God and give our life seeking His answers, we will be happy and He will bring us peace.

Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."

Jeremiah 7:7: "But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confluence is in Him.

- JoAn Dybdahl

As the New Year is upon us, we seem naturally to think about what lies before us in the year ahead. Some of us make New Year's resolutions and plans. Some of us wait in expectancy to see what plans God has for us.

In either case, we look to what might be new, what new beginnings await us. What a joy to know that whatever awaits us, Our God Reigns! He is in control, and He is unchanging. (Heb.13:8)

As a new Deacon this year, I am aware of Gods calling to a NEW phase of service to Him, to be His hands and feet and His heart in a world that is desperate for Him.

As He directs me in this new calling, I pray that He will guide me in using the gifts He has given me, the gifts of mercy and compassion, of encouragement and listening. And I pray that I may be open to new gifts that He will reveal to me.

*Dear Jesus, in You the love of the Father is revealed. May that love fill our hearts and overflow into the lives of others now and always. Amen.*

- Marty Dinwiddie, Deacon Parish 11

## Prayer And Healing

### The Love Month

Who loves you most? God, of course! Let Him wrap you in his arms as he offers His unconditional love, healing and forgiveness. Let Him hear the desires of your heart. Prayer Warriors are available after each service on Sundays. They are stationed in front of the sanctuary on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and in the Prayer Room on the other Sundays. Other prayer times are available upon request. Contact Dave and Linda Anderson, Prayer Team Leaders.

Submitted by Selma Wright

# LINC (Love In Nevada County) 7

## **KICK-RALLY FOR LINC (Love in Nevada County)**

LINC is a combined effort of Christian churches in Western Nevada County to reach into our community in the name of Jesus Christ by doing various service projects. The service days for this year are April 28 and 29. There will be more information regarding this in the coming months. This is a time to put our beliefs into action.

The big opportunity for us, as one of those congregations, is to be a part of the “KICK-OFF RALLY” that will take place on SATURDAY, MARCH 17, FROM 9:00 – 11:00 AT 1<sup>ST</sup> BAPTIST CHURCH, RIDGE ROAD, GRASS VALLEY. This a time of combined worship and fellowship as we get to know one another as fellow Christ followers. There will be delicious snack food & drink and an opportunity to hear about the various Community Service Projects that have been selected for 2018.

With the atmosphere of “Pot City” that is invading our community it is vital that we, as Christ followers, come together and stand united, reaching out in Christ’s love by serving our community together. We can best do that if we begin to know each other from different congregations. Plan on attending the “KICK-OFF RALLY” and get to meet other fellow believers.

# 8 Miscellaneous Ministry News

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### Spiritual Growth Half Day Retreat Cedar Ridge

**Sat. Feb 10, 2018, 8:30am-12 pm.**

Learn basic spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith & have an opportunity to practice them through times of solitude, prayer, Biblical meditation, and spiritual reflection.

**sign-up in lobby or by call the church @ 265-3291 to rsvp.**



**Sunday Feb. 11 @ 10am**

In the Sanctuary

Update on church finances

Review the Pastor's terms of call

**Please JOIN US**

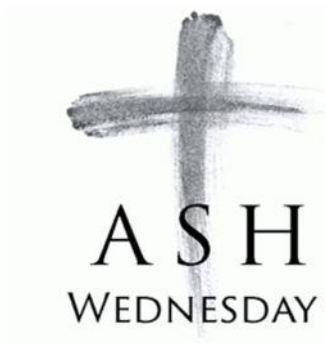


**Sun. Feb. 11 @ 6pm ~ Calvary Bible Church**

Mid-Winter Community-Wide  
Prayer Gathering

Come and prayerfully connect with the wider church of  
Nevada County

Hosted by Pastor's United in Prayer



**JOIN US**

**Wed. Feb. 14 @ 6pm**

Tim Grebe, our Ruling Elder,  
will lead this service as we  
begin the season of Lent.

Special music  
Imposition of ashes  
Responsive stations  
Nailing of sins to the cross



**KIDS NIGHT OUT**

Friday, February 16, 2018

5:30-8pm

2-years-old through 5th Grade

Dinner, Games, Crafts,  
Movie, Snacks,  
Surprise Activities

**NO PARENTS ALLOWED!**

Register online by Feb. 14

[www.sierrapres.com/connect/children-sierra-kids](http://www.sierrapres.com/connect/children-sierra-kids)

## I.F. Intergenerational Fellowship

### Potluck & Program

**Saturday, February 17**

**5 PM**

Program will be "Down Memory Lane"

Old slides of our church activities from the 1980s, 1990s & 2000s will be shown

See if you recognize the people

**A to M bring a dessert**

**N to Z bring a salad/main dish**

# Birthdays & Anniversaries 9



EVERY Sunday:	EVERY Monday:	EVERY Tuesday:	EVERY Wednesday:	EVERY Thursday:	EVERY Friday:	EVERY Saturday:
<u>Worship Services:</u> 9:00 Traditional 10:30 Contemporary	<u>PRAISERCISE for Women:</u> 7:30am to 9am - Activity Room	<u>Men's Bible Breakfast:</u> 6:30am Library	<u>PRAISERCISE for Women:</u> 7:30am to 9am - Activity Room	<u>SIERRA WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY</u> 9am in Ryosa	<u>PRAISERCISE for Women:</u> 7:30am to 9am - Activity Room	
<u>HEALING PRAYER</u> after Services <u>ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> 9AM & 10:30AM	Stephen Minister Supervision—2nd & 4th Mondays, 5-7 pm, Library	SPC Staff Meeting 10-11:30—Library	<u>Christian Women in Stitches Quilting Group</u> Meets on the 3rd Wed. 10-2:30 in Room C	<u>Men's Small Grp 1</u> 6:30-8/Prayer Rm  <u>Men's Small Grp 2</u> 8:00-9:30am (Room C)		
<u>CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:</u> 9:00am Childcare & 10:30am Programs	<b>BULLETIN ARTICLES FOR THE UPCOMING SUNDAY ARE DUE ON TUESDAYS</b>	Worship Planning Meeting 1:30pm Pete's Office	<u>ankor Youth:</u> 5:30-7:30pm Hatcher 1	<u>Grief &amp; Loss Support Group</u> 10:30am-Noon 1st & 3rd Thursdays		
<u>ankor Youth:</u> 10:30-11:30 "ankored" Meet in Hatcher	Third Sunday Worship Practice 5-6:30pm in the Sanctuary	PRAY NEVADA COUNTY: 12-1pm	<u>*Praise Band Practice: 7:30-9pm</u> <u>*AV Rehearsal 7:15pm-8:30pm</u>	<u>Choir Rehearsal</u> Thursday 3:30pm & 7:00pm		
2nd & 4th Sunday of each month: <u>The GATHERING</u> For Families-4:30pm				<i>Primary Purpose AA Group-Hatcher 1 6:30-8:30pm</i>	<i>AA Group-Hatcher 3 11am-12pm</i>	
<u>Sierra Kid's Club</u> 5:30-7:00pm on the same night as the GATHERING (2nd & 4th Sunday)	50th Celebration Planning Team 2nd Monday 9:15-10:45am Room B		<i>AA Group Hatcher 3—12-1pm</i>  <i>Sierra Services for the Blind—1st &amp; 3rd WEDNESDAYS 1:30-3pm—Room B</i>			

**Sundays—9am Traditional / 10:30am Contemporary**

**Coming Up:**

Saturday, Feb 3 —First Aid /CPR/AED Class, 9:30-1:30pm

Saturday, Feb 10—Discover Spiritual Growth 1/2 day

Retreat @ O'Kays', 8:30-Noon

Sunday, Feb 11 — Congregational Mtg to Review Pastor's 10:00am Terms of Call and review 2018 Financial Report

Wednesday, Feb 14 — Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:00pm

Friday, Feb 16 — Kids' Night Out, 5:30-8pm

Saturday, Feb 17 — IF" Fellowship Potluck, 5:00pm

Saturday, Mar 10- —Discover Your Place in Ministry, 8:30-12

Saturday, Mar17— LiNC Mtg @ 1st Baptist Church

“ “ — “IF” Fellowship Potluck, 5:00pm

Sunday, Mar 13 — RADIO SHOW, 3:00pm

Sunday, Mar 25 — PALM SUNDAY

Thursday, Mar 29 — Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm

Friday, Mar 30 — GOOD FRIDAY Service, Noon, Twin Cities Church

Sunday, Apr 1 — EASTER SUNDAY

Saturday, Apr 28 —LiNC Community Volunteer Service Day

Sunday, Apr 29 — Single Service, 10:00am

Contact Jeanne Kraft with any Calendar Updates.

# February 2018

**SUN    MON    TUE    WED    THU    FRI    SAT**

					1	2	3
					EPC Presbytery of Southwest @ Centerpointe, Roseville		
						<b>The Marriage Course</b> 5:30pm Ryosa Hall	First Aid/CPR Training 9:30-1:30
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
			Baptism and Communion Class for Kids 5:30-6:30pm			ankorYouth Outreach Event	
						<i>Discover Spiritual Growth half-day Retreat O'Kays' home</i>	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Congregational Meeting between services			"Abraham: A Journey of Faith" Class 1-2:30pm—Rm B		<b>Kids' Night Out</b> 5:30-8pm	<b>"IF" Fellowship Potluck</b> 5:00 pm Ryosa Hall	
The Gathering & Sierra Kids Club			Deacon Meeting 5:30Ash		<b>The Marriage Course</b> 5:30pm Ryosa Hall		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY						
		Session Meeting 6pm				QUEST Youth Overnight Snow Retreat into Sunday Hatcher Hall (outside group)	
25	26	27	28				
			"Abraham: A Journey of Faith" Class 1-2:30pm—Rm B				
The Gathering & Sierra Kids Club							

**Sierra Presbyterian Church**  
**175 Ridge Road - P.O. Box 268**  
**Nevada City, CA 95959**  
**[www.sierrapres.com](http://www.sierrapres.com)**  
**530-265-3291**

## **Join us for Worship**

**Traditional 9:00 a.m.**  
**Contemporary 10:30 a.m.**

We invite people to  
Discover, Follow, Love and Share Jesus