The Sierra Story
June 2018
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday–Thursday
9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

PHONE: 530.265.3291

Sierra Staff
Rev. Dr. Mike Griffin Senior Pastor 11
Jonathan Steel Traditional Worship Leader 19
Pete Welty Pastoral Assistant/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
Annie Berreman Custodian
Peter Criss Facilities Assistant
Jennifer Sowell, MFT Counseling Ministry 24
Jessica LaFerriere SONshine Preschool Director 15

Sierra Elders & Deacons
Parish Elder Ministry Deacon
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/ Sharron Koslosky
 Small Groups
6 Renee Adams Youth Beverly Wilson
7 Celia Ullis Nominating JoAn Dybdahl
8a Jonathan Harvey Finance Nancy Moyer
8b
9 Dave Kimmich Properties VACANT
10 Sabrina Speroni Children’s Ministries Barbara Wood
11 Tim Grebe Worship Julie Tupper-Bradford*

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

SUBMIT A SIERRA STORY ARTICLE:
Please submit your article in Arial font size 12 to:
design@sierrapres.com
For the subject please put-
SIERRA STORY: month and (ministry, group, event)
ARTICLES ARE DUE ON THE 25TH
On Sunday, May 27, we wrapped-up our series of messages on Christ’s letter to the seven churches of Revelation. As part of the series I, along with the leadership of Sierra Pres., including Session, Staff, and Go Vision Team, have been seeking to discern what Christ would say to us in addressing our church. Below is what I shared with the congregation in a spirit of love and in the desire for our church to continue to grow and mature into all that God intends for us. I invite you to read the letter slowly and prayerfully and would invite you to process it with me personally or with one of the other leaders in the life of SPC.

To the angel of the church in Nevada City known as Sierra Presbyterian that is nestled in the 7 Hills write:

The Faithful One who has seen you through 50 years of existence. The one who put gold in those hills and created the natural beauty you see all around you. Who calls you to see your community as a base camp for the adventure of sharing me and who has suffered with you when you have faced suffering and grieved when you have grieved says this…

I know your love for my word and for one another. I know your deeds. I know that you are a church that is for the community, who cares for it well and has made many connections that serve me. I know your heart for service. I know your desire to be a multi-generational church, a greenhouse for growth, and the investment you have made to reach younger generations that pleases me.

Yet I have this against you. You do not always prioritize relationship with me and you do not always seek reconciliation quickly with one another but can get stuck in resentment. You have not always served in order to build relationships, to share the gospel. You strive and strive, working hard but in your pride you have put yourself and your own preferences first instead of me. You fail to accept my invitation to rest and be renewed. This includes your pastor. Pray for him that he would remain in me and be renewed by me. Pray that he and others repent of their overwork. They need to rest. While some have overworked, others have been apathetic and indifferent about my mission. You live in a community that has settled for mediocrity, and this has infiltrated my church. Wake up! While you have little strength, you have the gift of my Spirit and the gifts my Spirit has given. Make use of them in loving my community. I have called you Sidekicks and invited you to come alongside those in need to point them to me. You have great gifts and great life experience to share. So, I invite you out of your Angle of Repose and have placed before you an open door of opportunity to share me. You responded to me first when I first called you, but I invite you to respond to me again and again. I want Nevada County to know me; to direct its spiritual hunger toward me; to worship me as the creator of the natural beauty you enjoy; not to mistake the greenery and the hills as objects of worship; to live by faith in me rather than reliance on yourselves. Your years are golden but there is still more spiritual gold to be mined in the hills & sunset of your lives. The next generation needs you. Don’t give up!

To you who overcome I will give a legacy of lives that have been transformed by the gospel. I am with you always. So move forward with boldness like never before.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
Well, as a continuation of last month’s exciting news, we have since filled the second summer Youth Intern position, so are fully staffed for an unforgettable summer. Let me share a bit about him: Cade is from Rocklin and currently studying business at Colorado Christian University. He is passionate about drumming, snowboarding, playing sports and his friends. He says he is looking forward to a summer of personal growth and helping to facilitate growth in the youth he works with.

The month of June will be a busy one. Once school wraps up for the year a majority of our youth, youth staff and both interns will be headed off to a week at Hume Lake Camp. We covet your prayers for this week to be one of encountering Christ in new ways and growing in relationship with Christ as well as a youth group. This experience would not be possible were it not for you, the congregation’s support of all of our fundraisers leading up to this. We are SO thankful for your generosity and belief in our young people! We will be excited to share our experiences when we return!

Following camp week our summer schedule will begin, which means that our Wednesday evenings will expand to 5 – 8 p.m. We will still have dinner together and will frequently be traveling in the community for a variety of activities to be announced soon! If you have a pool at home that you would love to share with our youth, we would love to hear from you if you are willing to host one of our Wednesday evenings. In addition, we will continue to meet on Sunday mornings during second service, except the 3rd Sunday of the month where we remain with the larger congregation.

Karen Partch, Volunteer Youth Staff

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Sonshine Preschool

“The chicks have hatched!” This was the first thing my daughter said as she came running up to me one day after preschool last month. The students were very excited for this much anticipated event to finally arrive. Over the course of a few days the chicks began hatching one by one, adding to the symphony of sweet peeps and tweets in the classroom.

Another big event in May was Open House. The students were proud to give their families tours of the classrooms and show off their alphabet books that they have each been working on all school year. After the classroom tours, the students graced everyone with a musical performance which ended in a mealtime blessing. Sonshine staff, students and their families enjoyed a potluck meal and spent time getting to know each other. Open House was a great success with many families attending and even bringing grandparents to join in the fun.

Sonshine’s next event is the End of Year Ceremony on June 6 at 10:30am. Each student will be honored in a short ceremony to celebrate the success of this past year. Some students will be returning to Sonshine next year and others will be moving on up to Kindergarten. This ceremony is open to our entire church family! Come watch the ceremony, bring your own picnic lunch and hang out with us afterwards!

We love Sonshine!
There has been a group of us meeting, for quite some time, crafting a mission and vision statement for our Children’s Ministry. We chose to start our document with what we believe to be true about children and their relationship with God. Here are the seven statements that we wrote down:

- Children are loved and valued by God
- Children are created to worship God
- Children are able to receive and be transformed by the Holy Spirit
- Children are able to be used by God
- Children are a vital part of the Kingdom and the church
- Children are able to flourish in their faith through intentional discipling relationships
- Children are most open and sensitive to God’s invitation

What powerful truths, backed up by Scripture! As we prayed, discovered, talked about and wrote down these statements, our team began to experience a sense of urgency about reaching and teaching children. The Holy Spirit was convicting us of the fact that there is a short window in which we get to share these truths, invite into relationship and walk along side children to love and disciple them into the Kingdom. Based on this, we crafted a response plan and continue to shape a strategy to help children discover, follow, love and share Jesus through our church. In the meantime, I am excited that, by God-coincidence, this year’s summer church camp—Adventure Week—curriculum is titled “I Am,” and will be covering these statements about children and their relationship with God:

- I am created for a reason
- I am in need of a Savior
- I am loved by God
- I am gifted with a purpose
- I am on mission

Our heart’s desire is (and should be) to help children discover, know and deepen these beliefs so that they develop a faith foundation that will carry with them throughout their life.

There are so many ways that you can come and participate in what God has called us to—reaching and teaching children these truths about themselves and their relationship with God—and help solidify them in the hearts and minds of kids….lead the Bible study time, hang out with kids in their small group, assist in a activity track, help the Preschool leaders, pray, come and be a presence…..Will you?

Because Jesus loves kids, Stacey Kay
Enjoy the beauty of our surroundings. They are a part of God’s creation, just as you are. Join the prayer warriors in thanking God for the privilege of living in Nevada County. They are available to pray with you with any of your prayer needs after each church service. Teams from the Prayer Ministry are available in front of the sanctuary after both services on the 3rd Sunday of the month and in the Prayer Room on the other Sundays of the month. Other prayer times are available upon request. Contact Dave and Linda Anderson, Prayer Team Leaders.

Your prayer requests are always confidential. When you have received answered prayer, the prayer team you prayed with would love to hear about your blessings.

Deacon Ministry

“Light”

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine…” That was a chorus I think I mindlessly yet enthusiastically sang every Sunday as a child. “Hide it under a bushel – NO! – I’m gonna let it shine”. Not sure I knew what hiding “it” under a bushel meant or exactly what this light that was supposedly mine was. I recall my Sunday school teachers explaining that I was the light, that God expressed His love for the world through me and that the world would see God through me. In my childlike intellectualism, I decided this meant I had to be good at all times and obey all the rules, which for me was a tough road to walk. I knew I liked being mischievous and wasn’t always the most obedient child, so I knew I fell short in carrying around this mysterious light.

In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus instructs us that “You are the light that gives light to the world…you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.”

Over the years I have served as a Deacon. I have come to realize the importance of “being the light that gives light to the world.” The world, our local community, is full of darkness: despair, grief, loss, homelessness, broken families are pervasive. It’s not about living a perfect life, it’s about sharing God’s love so that others can come out of the darkness into the light of hope.

We share His love in our community through reaching out and caring. The role of a Deacon according to our Book of Order is to provide sympathy and service. As believers we are challenged to produce through the guidance of the Holy Spirit “fruit” (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) that defines us and points towards our loving Father.

I have enjoyed my service as a Deacon for the past six years and the opportunity to provide sympathy and service to our congregation and community. I have been awed by the generosity of our congregation, not only financially but also in service; willing to share God’s abundant love with those living in darkness. As I “retire” from my service as a Deacon, I will continue my service as one of the multitude of “lights” shining into the darkness, bringing praise to our Lord. I challenge all of us to strive to be bright lights shining for God into all the dark corners of our community and world, caring and connecting, illuminating God’s great love for our world. He sent His Son to be our Savior.

Julie Tupper-Bradford, Deacon Moderator
“For out of the overflow of his heart, the mouth speaks.”

In last month’s newsletter, I brought up the subject of congregational singing - how it is rarely discussed when evaluating worship services, and yet is of primary importance. We are all “in the choir” and listened to by God’s ears.

But perhaps you are thinking, “I can’t sing. I don’t have a good voice.” Billy Graham partnered with his good friend and great gospel singer George Beverly Shea for all of his crusades. Graham, who was not known for his singing voice, once said that one of the things he looked forward to in heaven was to be able to sing like George Beverly Shea. Upon hearing that, Shea responded, “It will take heaven to do that!”

That certainly didn’t stop Billy Graham from lifting his voice in praise to God and it need not stop us. It doesn’t mean that we should sing loudly off key to make a point and annoy our neighbors, but what is it that God hears? Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah when He said, “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” (Isaiah 29:13). It is what is in our hearts - and in the Hebrew that did not mean the physical organ, but our wills, our motives, what moves us - that God sees and hears. Jesus says in Luke 6, “The good man brings good things out of the good stored in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”

Jesus was telling His listeners that what comes out of our mouths is indicative of what is going on inside. So if our hearts, minds, wills, motives are thankfulness, humility and praise, that is what is going to be heard and seen from us. God is not listening for good, accurate singing. He is listening for what is coming from within. Learning more about Him through prayer and the studying of His Word can greatly increase our appreciation and adoration of who He is. Then the overflow of our hearts will be beautiful in His ears! So as we come to worship on Sundays, let’s prepare our hearts and minds through prayer and adoration of God and then lend our voices to the joyful sounds of His Church. “My servants will sing out of the joy of their hearts....” (Isaiah 65:14).

Jonathan Steel
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, June 3  
Ryosa Hall

Nominations Committee presents, to church membership, names of new 2018 Elders, Deacons and Nominating Committee recommendations:

Elders:  
Paul Legge—Three Year Term—Outreach, GO Team  
Mary Reeve—Three Year Term—Adult Spiritual Development  
Karen Hayden—Three Year Term—Missions  
Julie Tupper-Bradford—Three Year Term—Finances  
Jeff Samco—Two Year Term—Nominations

Deacons:  
Mary Ann MacDonald—Second Term  
Jane Patterson—Second Term  
Lindsay Betz—First Term

Nominating Team 2018-2019:  
Pastor Mike Griffin, ex-officio  
Jeff Samco, Elder—Chair Second Term  
Celia Ulis, Elder—Recorder Third Term  
Deni Dax, Deacon Moderator Second Term  
Charles Black, Congregational Member Third Term  
Charles Erion, Congregational Member First Term  
Jessica LaFerriere, Congregational Member First Term  
Betty Beason, Congregational Member First Term

Beginning Sunday, June 17  
"Searching For God Knows What"  
~A Summer Sermon Series on the Book of Ecclesiastes

Please make these corrections to your church directory:  
Gordon & Phyllis Linden  
2325 Rebecca Court, Rocklin CA 95765 Phone: 916-251-7674

Bill & Helen Dempsey  
158 B Sutton Way, Grass Valley CA 95945

George & Donna Tilley  
3348 N. Captain Colton Ln, Flagstaff AX 86001 928-266-0927
Church Picnic

WHEN: Saturday, June 30
   4 PM to 7 PM

WHERE: Condon Park, Grass Valley

WHAT: Bring a side dish to share, and bring your own BBQ meat/chicken/veggie to cook on supplied hot coals

TIMES: 4 to 5 PM  Games and Fellowship
        5 to 6 PM  BBQ grills ready to cook
## SPC Calendar

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<th>EVERY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Worshıp Services:</td>
<td>9:00 Traditional</td>
<td>10:30 Contemporary</td>
<td>PRAISERCISE for Women:</td>
<td>7:30am to 9am - Activity Room</td>
<td>Men's Bible Breakfast:</td>
<td>6:30am Library</td>
<td>PRAISERCISE for Women:</td>
<td>7:30am to 9am - Activity Room</td>
<td>SIERRA WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY</td>
<td>9am in Ryosa (off for summer)</td>
<td>PRAISERCISE for Women:</td>
<td>7:30am to 9am - Activity Room</td>
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<td>HEALING PRAYER</td>
<td>after Services</td>
<td>ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL</td>
<td>9AM &amp; 10:30AM</td>
<td>Stephen Minister Supervision—2nd &amp; 4th Mondays, 5-7 pm, Library</td>
<td>SPC Staff Meeting</td>
<td>10-11:30—Library</td>
<td>Christian Women in Stitches Quilting Group</td>
<td>Meets on the 3rd Wed. 10-2:30 in Room C</td>
<td>Men's Small Grp 1</td>
<td>6:30-8/Prayer Rm</td>
<td>Men's Small Grp 2</td>
<td>8:00-9:30am (Room C)</td>
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<td>CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:</td>
<td>9:00am Childcare &amp; 10:30am Programs</td>
<td>BULLETIN ARTICLES FOR THE UPCOMING SUNDAY ARE DUE ON TUESDAYS</td>
<td>Worship Planning Meeting</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Pete’s Office</td>
<td>ankor Youth:</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm Hatcher 1</td>
<td>Grief &amp; Loss Support Group</td>
<td>10:30am-Noon 1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays</td>
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<td>ankor Youth:</td>
<td>10:30-11:30 “ankored” Meet in Hatcher</td>
<td>PRAY NEVADA COUNTY 12-1pm (various locations)</td>
<td>*Praise Band Practice: 7:30-9pm *AV Rehearsal 7:15pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Thursday 3:30pm &amp; 7:00pm</td>
<td>Bells of Sierra Rehearsal 5:15pm</td>
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<td>2nd &amp; 4th Sunday of each month:</td>
<td>The GATHERING</td>
<td>For Families-4:30pm (off for summer after June 24)</td>
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<td>Primary Purpose AA Group-Hatcher 1</td>
<td>6:30-8:30pm</td>
<td>AA Group-Hatcher 3</td>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
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<td>Sierra Kid’s Club</td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm on the same night as the GATHERING (2nd &amp; 4th Sunday) (off for summer after June 24)</td>
<td>AAGroup Hatcher 3—12-1pm</td>
<td>Sierra Services for the Blind—1st &amp; 3rd WEDNESDAYS 1:30-3pm—Room B</td>
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### WORSHIP on Sundays—9am Traditional 10:30am Contemporary

#### Coming Up:

**JUNE**
- Sunday June 3 — Congregational Meeting, 4:30pm
- Sun-Sat, June 10-16 — Youth Camp @ Hume Lake
- Sunday, June 17 — FATHERS DAY
- Tues-Sat, June 19-23 — EPC General Assembly in Tennessee
- Sunday, June 24 — Adventure Week Volunteer Training, Noon
- Saturday, June 30 — All Church Picnic, 4:00pm, Condon Park

**JULY**
- July 9-13 — ADVENTURE WEEK
- July 27-29 — ALL CHURCH CAMPING weekend
- July 29 — Single Blended Worship, 10:00am

Contact Jeanne Kraft with any Calendar Updates.
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<td><strong>SONshine Preschool Graduation</strong> 10:30am Sanctuary</td>
<td><strong>Grief Group</strong> 10:00am</td>
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<td><strong>HUME LAKE CAMP for Youth</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FATHER’S DAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SUMMER KICK-OFF! The Gathering</strong> 5-7pm Ryosa Hall</td>
<td><strong>Adventure Week Volunteer Training Noon—Ryosa Hall</strong></td>
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<td><strong>“ALL-CHURCH PICNIC” 4:00pm Condon Park</strong></td>
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Join us for Worship

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

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