

The Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Presbytery

Late Summer 2019

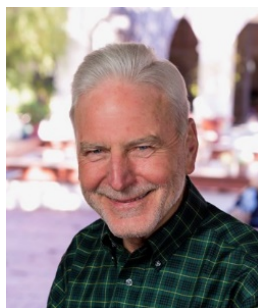
We, the PC (USA) churches and ministries of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, join together to foster vibrant worshipping communities who proclaim and live out the love of Jesus Christ for one another and our neighbors.

Joining Together. Worshipping God. Loving People.

First Pres. Santa Barbara Celebrating our Interim Pastor

Meet the Rev. Dr. Charles Svendsen.

Dr. Svendsen has a Master of Divinity from Westminster Seminary, Master of Theology from Princeton Seminary, and a doctorate from Union Presbyterian Seminary.



This is Dr. Svendsen's 24th interim position bringing with him a great amount of experience. He will help First Pres. get ready for a new pastor and to work with the congregation to make sure it is flourishing spiritually and in practice

We are full of gratitude for God's bringing Charles Svendsen to our church. He is a warm, inviting, and deeply prayerful pastor who will skillfully shepherd our congregation through this season of transition. We are excited for the possibilities and opportunities in the months ahead.

General Assembly 2020 Baltimore

The 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be held from 20 June - 27 June, 2020 at Baltimore Maryland.

The Presbytery of Santa Barbara will elect our 2020 Teaching and Ruling Elder Commissioners at the Saturday 21 September 2019 Presbytery Meeting.

At the same meeting we will elect our 2020 Young Adult Advisory Delegate.

Nomination forms for these opportunities are available from Sandy Thoits, Stated Clerk of Presbytery. You can reach Sandy at: stated-clerk@sbpres.org.

From your Stated Clerk, Sandy Thoits

Next Presbytery Meeting

Saturday 21 September at
Summerland Pres.

I think this unique small church is the only one in our presbytery that can be seen from the 101 freeway. Plan to be there.



From Your Presbytery Planning Team

From our church visits we learned a many of us are interested in family ministry.

Come to Presbytery in Sept. & each church will receive a free copy of the book *Sticky Faith* by Dr. Kara Powell who is Executive Director of the Fuller Youth Institute and is scheduled to speak at next year's



Mission Conference at First Pres.

Santa Barbara. Plan to be there! *Sticky Faith* gives parents and leaders both a theological & philosophical framework and a host of practical relationship and programming ideas that develop long-term faith in teenagers.



Also speaking next year at the conference will be Fr. Gregory Boyle author of *Tattoos on the Heart* and his new book *Barking to the Choir*. Fr. Boyle is the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles.

Have an item for the newsletter? Send it to the editor, Lee Kirkpatrick at lkksbca@gmail.com

A Bright Idea from the Way Station

On a recent afternoon in July, eight pastors met at The Loft in Camarillo, which is where The Way Station (TWS) meets for worship every Sunday afternoon. This day, however, something very different was going on...amidst fresh peach pie and iced tea, this group of pastors were meeting to plan a sermon

series that would span three months and be a cooperative effort. Lest you think I am a Spirit-driven genius, this idea came from a conversation with Tom Stephen. I had expressed to Tom that it had been a tough, stressful season for TWS; we decided an uplifting sermon series on Philippians was needed. An invitation to other pastors was issued and to my joy, I received overwhelming responses of yes!

The meeting began and ended with prayer for this adventure and for The Way Station. Being the least of these at the table, I was overwhelmed with gratitude that the people gathered would care for TWS and its people so deeply and by extension, they would care for me. We discussed the Scripture as each pastor at the table picked a Sunday and a passage to preach with the suggestion that perhaps they could all be there on the first and last Sunday to begin and end this remarkable undertaking. Ted Brandt starts us off; along the way we will have messages from Tom Stephen, Matt Elam, David Anderson, Craig Williams, Ron Urzua, Dan Stevens, Sean Chow and myself. All of us working together, inspired by the Holy Spirit and led by Jesus. And I quote Tom here, "I am super excited to be working together with these pastors in a way that has never been done before, when do we have a chance to do something like this together?"

Together is the operative word here. The body of Christ working together for the body of Christ. This could be a microcosm of our Presbytery and something I think leadership has been moving us towards...all of us working together for all of us. I love that God has called The Way Station to be a community of people who love God and each other and that love extends out beyond our community and into other communities of worship and those other communities of worship come into our community and share their love. We are all in this life together, adopted into the family of God, and we love and support one another because that is what the children of God do. Totally blessed to be in this act of togetherness and very grateful for my brothers who are willing to be together with me! God is so very good! Join us any Sunday you are able...all are welcome!

Submitted by Mickey Fenn, CLP at The Way Station



Good News!

From Rev. Tom Stephen:

Monte Vista Church teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to build play houses for families who serve in the military at Port

Hueneme. Monte Vista provided the people power and the monies – Habitat

provided the experience and direction. It was a great day all around.

