

## *President's Note for April*

### **"Maxima enim, patienta virtus"**

Patience is the greatest virtue, an old Latin expression later echoed in Piers Plowman, a Middle English work I perused more than studied in college and haven't examined since. Regrettably, as I grow older I've become less patient with others, situations and myself. Part of that impatience I suppose is a sign of the times, the social media, sound bite, instant gratification world in which we now live. Part of my impatience relates to being pulled in many directions, wanting to get tasks accomplished and then still have some quiet time, frustrated when things don't come together. I need to do a better job of telling myself another more modern saying, "Let go and let God." This past Sunday our gospel reading, that Pr. Unmacht spoke to knowingly, was from Luke 13 where in versus six thru nine Jesus relates the parable of the fig tree in which the gardener implores the master to be patient with the barren tree, "Sir, let it alone one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." NRSV As with the fig tree our Lord and our God is patient with us and both desires and expects us to bear fruit. Prayer, worship, confession, absolution and communion all work towards increasing our faith and helping us to bear good fruit.

Speaking of patience, Punky and Rickey Dias recently celebrated sixty years of marriage and while I know they've enjoyed many good times I'm sure they've had their struggles too that have tested their patience. Congratulations to this faithful and patient couple. As St. Paul writes in 1Corinthians13:4, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude." (NRSV)

I'm asking all of our friends and members to help keep an eye on our campus, look out for things that seem out of place and make sure our buildings are locked and secured when we are away. Sometime over this past week it appears someone broke into the Grace Kids classroom from the back side, made a mess and left a space heater on a table turned on with a towel over it which could have easily caught fire and done major damage. A big thank you to a member who saw a light on that shouldn't have been on and then discovered a door unlocked that should

have been secured. We have a beautiful campus and an important ministry that we want to protect so we can be here to serve our Lord, our members and our community for a long time to come. Let's be vigilant in our faith and watchfulness.

You've likely noticed we are now brewing coffee in the kitchen once again. Thanks to Eddie Wolpert and his friend, coworker and electrician Joe of Platinum Electric we have some long overdue electrical upgrades that allow us to do a few more things without the fear of tripping circuit breakers. One of our next projects will be working on upgrades to the breezeway bathrooms, particularly the men's room so those with limited mobility have easier access. We also have some painting and signing projects on the horizon.

We've been enjoying our Lenten soup suppers and learning a bit about Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his final years. Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. Palm Sunday will be on April 14th with worship at ten am as customary. Maundy Thursday worship will take place on the 18th at seven pm. Good Friday services will start at 12:15 pm. And, of course, Easter Sunday, April 21st, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with a call to worship at ten am. We will have a very light breakfast (rolls and coffee) in the Fireside Room on Easter morning starting around 8:30 am. We do miss you Tom Keim, AKA "little sprout". Tom would tell us the name Keim was of German derivation and could be translated as sprout. For those able to remain after service, we will gather on the lawn area with our friends from Grace Sacramento in a joint celebration that should be both enjoyable for all of us and act as a witness to the surrounding community that Christ is indeed Risen and that our churches are also alive and active. If you plan to attend please bring a blanket or beach chair. Names A-L, bring a salad of some kind. Names M-Z, bring a dessert. You may bring your prepared food to the back kitchen door of the hall before Easter service. Come celebrate with us, then come join us in worship, praise and fellowship every week!

**"And He departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here." St. Augustine**

*Chuck Prewett*

Council President