

## *President's Note for May 2019*

"Mfurahini, Haleluya", Rev. Bernard Kyamanywa

Or, as we sing in English on Easter Sunday "Christ is arisen hallelujah!" I've had this joyful tune and message stuck in my head all week as I write this message late in April. Rev. Kyamanywa wrote the text to this hymn in Swahili while attending seminary in Tanzania. It is a truly joyous and fitting piece of music for our celebration of Easter, yes, "let us sing praise to him with endless joy." I believe one of our pastors has told us the story behind this hymn, but I only retained a vague memory and rediscovered the history with an internet search. So, even with the tragedies of Paris, Sri Lanka, Louisiana and San Diego we know our Lord and our God watches over us, loves us, and will have the last say and that despite the evils and terrors that plague the earth goodness and mercy will ultimately prevail. He is arisen, thanks be to God!

In the interim let's pray for and look out for one another, be vigilant. Dede and Don McKinnon recently attended a workshop that provides insight and guidance as to how churches can be more watchful, interactive and better prepared to face some of the known and unknown evils of our world. We may invite a representative to our campus to help guide us in what steps we can take to better secure our campus. We've also received news of another class sponsored by our insurance company, Church Mutual, that will take place this fall. Of course, we'll be coordinating with and taking security steps with our friends from Grace Presbyterian as well. If you're in the neighborhood or on campus during the week please be observant and take note if anything or anyone seems out of place or suspicious. Call the Sac PD non-emergency number if you are particularly concerned, (916) 264-5471. While we are blessed to be able to worship freely here in America it is a challenging time for Christians where we simultaneously need to be welcoming and open yet careful and watchful. As Christ himself tells

his disciples: "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Matthew 10:16 NRSV

Our Easter service was indeed joyous and uplifting. It was a real pleasure to continue the celebration with fellow believers from our friends and neighbors of Grace Presbyterian. The food and fellowship were great and our gathering on the corner acted as a witness to the neighborhood that Christ is risen, come join us in worship and fellowship. Many thanks to the members of Grace as they spearheaded and did the bulk of the work for this event.

We will continue to work on and try to spruce up our campus as we are able. We are blessed to have all that we have and strive to be good stewards of our blessings. Grace Presbyterian had a fundraiser and will be making some improvements to the southwest wing where the classrooms, bathrooms and Reformation Room are housed. Check it out over the course of summer as the results should be quite nice. Oh, and if you hadn't heard part of their fundraising includes building a home for a needy family in Mexico. Kudos to them.

For the month of May we continue to celebrate the miracle of Easter where after forty days Christ ascends to the Father, followed by the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, Sunday June ninth this year. As always continue to pray for those on our prayer list, those in need known and unknown to us, for our nation and for fellow believers throughout the world, particularly those who live in fear and suffer for their faith. Despite fear and persecution we know from scripture that the Lord of resurrection watches over us all. I opened with words from a Tanzanian spiritual, so perhaps it is fitting to close with words from a well known and loved American spiritual:

"A constant friend is He.

His eye is on the sparrow.

And I know He watches over me." Lyrics by Civilla D. Martin

Music composed by Charles H. Gabriel

In the peace of Christ our Lord,

Chuck Prewett