

Pat's Pondering from the Pew  
**Roots go Deep**

We Christians have our roots in Judaism with our worship style going deep into the New Testament times and even deeper into the Old Testament when the Hebrew's 'escaped' from slavery. They loved to dance in overcoming times and usually in a joy filled manner with song and instruments, as their way of directing praise and honor toward a loving, forgiving and grace filled God.



One of those expressions of praise has evolved into what we now name in the USA as liturgical dance in many American churches of various denominations. We must ask of a liturgical dance team if the dance is Worshipful, God -focused, and Praise worthy.

For those not accustomed to this type of dance, a short explanation is in order—the ladies usually wear white long flowing dresses or skirts while the men wear white long sleeves shirts and white pants. They have lots of hand and arm movements while moving around the dance area and a hymn or praise song is played or sung in background. They are interpreting the words of the music in dance form. It is quite beautiful when done well and draws the congregation into a deeper level of worship.

Miriam first introduced dance as a way to glorify God and praise Him for their deliverance from Egypt's bondage, ( Ex 15:20) as she and all the women danced. The women of the town greeted King Saul with dance and song after David had killed the Philistine. (I Sam 18: 67) The daughter of Jephthah greeted her father with dancing to the sound of tambourines, when he returned from a victory over his enemies. King David danced in an ephod. ( II Sam 6: 14-16) in praise of God. And in the midst of a prophetic word from the Lord,

found in (Jer 31:13) the Israelites will dance and sing in joy when they are gathered together as one again. And that they did-- in 1949-- when Israel was given back their country that God had ordained for them many years before, We find that a father hosted a feast with singing and dancing when his wayward son returned home ( Luke 15:25)

There are some fellowships of Christians that forbid any dance or music at their worship times and even some who get rather carried away and dance in a not so good fashion that dishonors God. We even find examples of that in Ex 32:19 in the misguided dance before the golden calf as well as the seductive dance that Herod's daughter performed to entice. (Mark 6:22) Neither of these examples are God focused nor praise worthy.

In Psalms 149 and 150 we discover that God is praised and glorified when the people sing, dance and play music instruments. I, for one would love to see gifted people dance in worship occasionally and carry me into a closer and deeper relationship with God. Wouldn't you?



Let us sing before the Lord a new song and let our hearts rejoice in God our Savior for all the gifts and talents we all share and all that he has done and is doing in our midst!

**Praise Him alone!**

## Mixed Signals

Many genres' of music in worship bring Glory to God as well as dance. And sometimes, bells After all, it is the lyrics that count that help us to focus on God.

- \* Gospel music has a soulful tempo
- \* Rap is lyrical, expressive, and usually rhymes and uses synthesized sounds and bass.
- \* Pop is most recognized as we hear it on the radio and on CD's
- \* Blues is a music sound that does not change a lot
- \* Metal – contains intense drums and guitar solos'

I think what is important is that different people enjoy different styles of music genres' and should be celebrated for the joy it gives the worshipers.



## Faithgirlz -

Faithgirlz met for the season finale on Friday, May 15th. Eleven girls enjoyed dinner provided by Holly Conormon and dessert baked by Lynn Edwards. Kim Ross assisted Sheila Prax for the evening.

The theme for the gathering was teamwork and the girls started the activities with a puzzle scavenger hunt - teams had to find the puzzle pieces and assemble their puzzle for 1st choice of the crafts. The puzzle pieces were spread throughout the back yard and teams worked together to locate their 24 pieces and reassemble their puzzles. Each girl then got to choose a craft for the evening and the teams worked together to assemble and decorate the items. At the end of the night each girl got to choose a lawn pinwheel to take home and enjoy over the summer months. Faithgirlz will re-assemble in September.

## This and That Only

For those who might make use of the office copier---please do NOT turn it off after you use it as it takes several hours to get it up and ready to use again. Thank you in advance!

Ants again in the kitchen area. Please wipe up any spills to avoid feeding them dinner. Makes life easier for our maintenance and kitchen crew.

On volunteering: "He who sees a need but waits to be asked is already set on refusal" --- *Dante*

For hearing aid users only, You can't clean out your ears when the device is still in your ear.

Over heard one member telling another that she was going to be the first bionic woman.  
(Boy that's what I call a positive outlook)

"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."  
*Alan Watts*

Apologies go to the Dabbs' family on misinformation ----Pat's father passed away , not Bills.'

Charlene Y reports that she had 2 doctor appointments that show she is clear of cancer. Please continue your prayers for continued positive results.

Did ya all know that Diane Pauli as 9 grandkids, 4 g-grands with 2 more coming in 2015 ----now who can beat those numbers?

Expecting her 4<sup>th</sup> child this year is former member, Joni Cahall and her hubby. They live in Ukiah.

Her brother, James, is working hard at his two radio stations that he started and runs, One on Netflix and the other on radio they play lots of tunes for the younger generation, and travels the world in conjunction with his business ventures, according to proud dad, Scott. He has 3 full length solo piano CD credits to his name and is his own composer.



Notes and ideas from our 2015  
Sierra Pacific Synod Convention

### **Re-forming**

Embody—the love of God

Share--- the Good News

Equip---one another

Engage--- in God's call

Challenge---honor past and accept future

Build---communities

Live in Community---in worship & in prayer

Honor---the spectrum of experiences

Proclaim--- in word & deed

Strive for peace & justice by recognizing  
needs, advocating, and serving, and be  
served

Assembly passed several resolutions  
including compensation pay package base  
rate increase by approximately \$1000,  
gender ID inclusivity, new synod budget,  
synod asking for a 1% increase giving by the  
individual churches, among others.

### **Your Council at Work**

Property--- studying the possibility of  
re-surfacing the parking areas, One bid in so  
far at \$9800

Fellowship hall doors will be locked during  
both worship services only

Christian Ed--- VBS dates set! July 20-24<sup>th</sup> ,  
9am to 12 noon ·publicity began with local  
paper.

Voted to decline to enter into contract with  
B&G Club regarding fellowship hall rental.

Fellowship---Ham it up on Calendar as is  
movie night (see Gracelines for further info)

Worship & Music -discussion on replacement  
lamp for overhead projector. Voted to wait.

Outreach----Discussed possibility to host a  
'widows group' for community outreach.  
Voted to pursue details.

Petty cash for office to be re-funded—

Discussion on unauthorized use of office  
computer.

Increasing synod tithe by 1% tabled for now.

### **VBS July 20 thru 24**

9am to 12 noon

Climbing **EVEREST**



Pre-Register to reserve the child in your life  
a space on the mountain. By calling the  
church office at 462.7795 and filling out a  
mountain climbing trek request.



**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is our country's 239<sup>th</sup> birthday, Let us pray for our country's health and vigor.**

An Original Prayer by: Diane Pauli

Gracious God, you have brought us far from the times of our nation's birth and infancy. You have fed us and enabled us to expand over a continent, blessing us with bounty and beauty beyond our imagination. You have sustained us through wars, disasters and conflicts. You have made our fair land a magnet for the oppressed and the downtrodden and refugees.

We give you thanks Lord God for the variety of peoples, races and cultures that make up our great country. We pray for a unity of mind and spirit, that we may all treasure our liberty and that we may act responsibly and kindly toward one another.

Forgive us, Lord for our prejudices, our callousness, our timidity in the face of evil. Forgive us our greed and materialism, trivializing our hard-won freedoms and caring more about things and power than about people and You. Forgive us for our arrogance and foolishness when we treat our natural environment with disrespect. Make us good stewards of our beautiful land.

Gracious God, renew us, in your righteousness, that we may recapture the vision of our Founders—that justice and opportunity may be available to each of us, no matter how humble our start. Renew our dedication to the principles of freedom, responsibility and opportunity, upon which our country was founded and for which so many have given their lives.

Gracious God, we pray for our beloved country in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

**PRAYER IS THE ONE THING WE CAN DO  
THAT CAN BRING US CLOSER TO THE  
HEART AND MIND OF GOD**

**COMING SOON to GLC**



**The HOLY SPIRIT**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**

9:30 am to 10:30 am

This adult study will be taught by Diane Pauli and be approximately 4 to 6 weeks in length. We will explore in more depth the third person of the Trinity.

**CONFIRMATION RESUMES**

**Sunday, September 13**

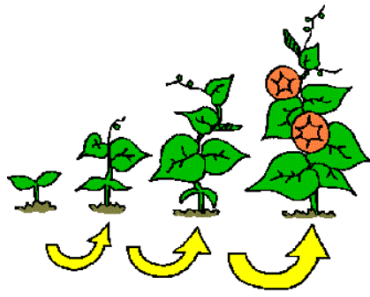
For all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth.  
A light dinner will be provided. Leaders are Roger & Debbie Coate and Jeanne Yttreness

**Faith Girlz**

Girls ages kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade resumes on **Sept, 11, 2015** at 5:30 pm to 7 pm with dinner provided. Spearheaded by Shelia Prax and able assistants, Kim Ross, Lynn Edwards, and Holly Conormon.

**Call Team-----met with Bishop Mark in mid June and are continuing the process of discernment for our next pastor that the Lord has chosen for Grace--- We ask your continued prayer cover during this process!**





### Growing in Faith through prayer by: Dorothy Bettencourt

God the Father, you are the Almighty, the Creator of the Universe, You are the beginning and the end, You are Love. The Love that never ends. You are powerful and mighty. Your forgiveness never runs out, nor your patience. Your Word is everlasting and soothing to the soul and promises wisdom and understanding and peace. Because of you, we may have everlasting life. You chose us to be your children. Thank you Father.

God, the Son, you are the gift of the Father to save us from ourselves. You are the gift we don't deserve. But, our Father, because of His Grace and forgiveness, chose to allow You, His precious Son, to suffer and die for us, to be the expiation for our sins. When on earth, you became our example of Love, forgiveness, joy, peace, righteousness, self-sacrifice, long suffering, perseverance, patience, generosity, justice and so much more. Without you, life is all in vain. Thank you Lord Jesus.

God, the Holy Spirit, You are our lifelines to the Father. Our Lord, Jesus, sent you to be our advocate, our helper, our guide, our comforter, our leader. You are the wind that blows wherever You are needed You are the breath of God. You come to us quickly, quietly, and speaking softly. There is no place that you cannot enter. You pleasantly surprise us with your presence. You await our invitation to enter our lives and to joyfully restore us to righteousness, to guide us, comfort and reassure, us of your presence, Thank you Holy Spirit.



### Growing in My Faith By: Cheryl Johnson

How can I grow in faith? I already believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. How much more can I grow than that? Thinking about my own question, I came to the conclusion that faith has many components.

There is the faith in God's promises. In Jer. 29:11, I am assured that God has a plan to prosper me, bring me no harm, give me hope and provide me a future. However, I am informed in Jer. 25:14, that God repays according to deeds, and the work of his people's hands.

This tells me I will be more blessed if I do what is righteous in the sight of my Lord, and punishments usually come by my own hand, for my own stupidity, as a logical consequence of my sinful behavior. God really doesn't want to punish his own. After the Israelites disobeyed God time and time again, He was still willing to build them back up and give them a heart to know Him. He wants us to be His people. He wants to be our God. How awesome to have a just and righteous Lord, who loves His people that much!

In Jer. 24:6 I am told like good figs, He will set His eye upon His people for good. In verse 8, the Lord sends sword, famine and pestilence to the "bad figs", which are the people who do not follow His way. He makes them a disgrace. Clearly what I do affects how God treats me. That is one area I can grow in faith. I can do things like proclaim the Word, or help a poor person. I can also be more mindful of what is in my heart.

The heart is a place that can always grow some more. Another component of faith would include, the many details that are in theological dispute throughout Christian churches. Things like the virgin birth and was Jesus really dead when they buried Him. Is Christ really present in the Sacraments? People argue about that stuff.

Does faith dictate that I take the whole ball of wax, or none of it at all? Can I pick and choose which things I believe? Is that true faith? I suppose answering those questions for myself would probably help grow my faith a little bigger. What if I quit worrying, and had faith that the Lord would provide for me, no matter what. He always has...I see no reason for Him to suddenly stop.

I can grow my faith by trusting in the Lord more fully. Like the fig tree, I am covered in little sprouts just waiting to produce delicious treats for my Lord. My church is a garden that nurtures each other so that we all can grow strong and healthy. We fertilize each other and provide the cool Water of Life. Together, we sprout and grow. When one falters, a support structure is put in place. Some of us are heavy with fruit. Some have small, hard-to-reach fruit, or need a good pruning. I understand that not everyone will produce Blue-Ribbon fruit, but I can try to grow as much as I can. I see many ways to grow my faith- now that I have given it some real thought. For some reason, I'm hungry for figs.