

TEMPLETONES

***Templeton Presbyterian Church
monthly newsletter***

MAY 2021



PASTOR'S PAGE

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come.
And I hope by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.*

Those are the first two lines of the second verse of one of my all-time favorite hymns, *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. Some newer hymnals try to make the hymn more immediately “accessible” by editing out the Biblical term *Ebenezer* (considered archaic and obscure) and replacing it with a word that gives the sense of it in modern English phrase. Hence, we end up singing in *The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration* (1986),

Hitherto Thy love has blest me; Thou has bro't me to this place,

which gives a sense of the meaning behind the word, but at the expense of what the word *actually is*, not to mention better poetry and biblical literacy. *Hymns for the Family of God* (1976) get closer to the meaning with,

This my glad commemoration That 'til now I've safely come,

but it fails to specify the “*This*,” unless it is referring the hymn itself.

The word *Ebenezer* appears in 1 Samuel 7:12, following a battle in which the Israelites were victorious over the Philistines, whom they feared greatly:

*“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer;
for he said, ‘Till now the LORD has helped us.’”*

In the text, the word *Ebenezer* has an asterisk (*), which when referenced at the bottom of the page, gives its meaning: “*Ebenezer* means *stone of help*.” Thus, an *Ebenezer* is a physical memorial to an event (a battle) in which God’s help was the reason they were victorious. Modernizing this word in the way of the above re-phrasing completely loses the sense of memorializing God’s faithfulness in visible reminders, which is what an *Ebenezer* actually is. The hymnal, *Worship & Rejoice* (2001) with its rendering,

Here I raise to thee an altar, hither by thy help I've come,

makes a well-intentioned effort to get closer to the physical aspect of an *Ebenezer*, but they completely misconstrue the mean of the word by calling it an *altar*, which it is not, since no sacrifice was ever made on it.

CAN'T WE JUST TRUST THE AUTHOR'S ORIGINAL POETIC, THEOLOGICALLY INFORMED INSTINCTS?!?

Personally, I prefer holding to original wording of texts, whether in the Bible or the Hymnbook, which then leads me to pursue meanings that are not obvious, but enriches my understanding and appreciating of Scripture. But, I understand that many people will just sing that line without understanding the word, content to let the second half of the line provide some sense of what is meant. *The Worshipping Church* (1990), among others, seeks to give a little boost to whatever curiosity might be tweaked by singing an unfamiliar word by retaining the original wording, but putting an asterisk to it (**Ebenezer*) and then the scripture reference below the hymn (*1 Samuel 7:12). Maybe the best solution would be to go one step further and simply add to the scripture reference the footnoted meaning of the word found in most Bibles,, thus saving someone the ‘trouble’ of actually looking it up in their Bible.

At this point you may be wondering why all this commentary about *Ebenezer*? Because I love *Ebenezers*. Actually, we all do. The fact that we take pictures of people and places and events is testimony to that. Pictures are reminders of special times and special relationships – moments we want to remember and celebrate. My office is basically a museum of *Ebenezers*. So much so that one might suspect that I border on being a hoarder.

As I sit here looking around my office, I see items that were **used, acquired, or point to** something special or meaningful in my life or ministry. They remind me of God’s presence – how he helped me, blessed me, used me, or revealed something to me. They memorialize moments of his grace and power. They commemorate moments with people and events that help retell my own story to me. Such as...

...my framed Peter, Paul, and Mary T-shirt from a special concert I attended shortly after moving to Templeton,
personally signed by each of them because of a back-door pass given to Laura and me by Ken Watson,
a member of the church who knew them personally

...the 10-year Living Nativity Anniversary painted by Ron Robinson

...the signed Harlem Ambassadors basketball won by Susan Needleman and given to me after I got to play against them in the Atascadero High School gym as a Rotary fundraiser

...the Sack Race Championship Trophy I won at an after-worship Church Picnic

PASTOR'S cont'd / MEETING

- ...the gold-painted "Order of the Old Shoe" trophy given to me by the PNC that called me here, on my 10-year anniversary at the church
- ...the beautiful Celtic-themed painting by Pat Cairns that I loved instantly after seeing and purchasing it at her and Jim's open-house, which she subsequently framed at no cost to me
- ...the second of two copies of a signed watercolor by Ron Robinson of the original chapel
- ...a plate-painting of an icon of the Last Supper from the "Dark Church" in the caves of Eastern Turkey, purchased on my first trip to Turkey with IMPACT to the Antalya Evangelical Church
- ...a vintage hand water pump used in the prop I built to track contributions that raised over \$50,000 toward a deep-well drilling projected for a girls school in Kenya
- ... a child's metal Sesame Street "bus bank" used as a prop to encourage what amounted to over \$40,000 raised during a Christmas Joy Offering to build the first Zozu Project school building in Arua, Uganda
- ...the hand-carved olive-wood sculpture of Jesus pulling Peter out of the water he tried to walk on that I purchased in the West Bank of Bethlehem while on my first trip to the Holy Land
- ...a pair of singing rocks given to me by Ray & Pam Derby (illustrating Jesus' reply to the Pharisees on his entrance to Jerusalem when they told him to tell his disciples, and I'm paraphrasing here, to "shut up," and his reply was, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.")
- ...a Toy Story salt and pepper set (Woody & Bullseye) from the "Preaching in a Visual Age" conference I attended
- ...a framed photograph of "The Dream Infield" of the Los Angeles Dodgers (can you name them?)

And I could go on with my John Calvin bobble-head doll, water from the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee, a wood sculpture of the "Big 5" animals from Africa, my communion chalice collection, my framed diploma and graduating class from Fuller Seminary '83, other framed pics from mission trips to a Colonia de Guerrero, Tijuana, and Gulfport, MS, as well as those of my children, my favorite sports heroes, and of our congregation on our 125th anniversary. And that's not all of it!

The sad thing is – I don't have enough room for this stuff at home. There is not space enough on the wall, shelves, or furniture for all of it to be displayed. And what fits for the décor for my office (according to my taste) simply won't fit for the décor of our home. Choosing what to keep and what not to keep, that is a D-Day I dread. One suggestion that came up at our staff meeting this morning was to put many of them out on a table on my last Sunday for giving out to any whom might have some interest in something that didn't pass the "home test." So – don't be surprised if you see a sign...

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

Charlie



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

May 2021

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

TPC Kids

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully made; your words are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14

Teen Helpers

Calling all Teens! Children's Ministry would love some teen helpers on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping, please email Diane.

Family BBQ

On May 22 we will have a Family BBQ at Bethel Park from 3-5 pm. Please email children@fpctempleton.org to get on the sign-up list to attend. We would love to have you!

Mount Hermon Christian Camp

Last chance...if you would like to attend Mount Hermon Christian Camp August 8-11, please reach out to Diane at children@fpctempleton.org

This is a great half-week camp in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains worshipping God, making lasting memories, and fellowshiping. Don't miss out!



Wednesday Worship

We had our Easter Wednesday Worship on March 31. We had 28 children attend the event which included an Easter Egg Hunt, a Bible Story, and a game of kickball.

Our next Wednesday Worship will be April 28. We will play some games and work on a craft for Mother's Day. If you are interested in attending Wednesday Worship, please email Diane at children@fpctempleton.org



ROCKY RAILWAY VBS



VBS IS HAPPENING!
JULY 6 - 9

Be sure to **register** your 1st-5th graders on **May 1st** for one of our two sessions:

8:30-10:30am OR 11:00am-1:00pm
at ***templetonpres.org***

Jesus' power pulls us through.

ALL ABOARD!

Volunteers, donations, and prayers are very welcome and appreciated as we prepare for a fun time on the Rocky Railway!

Volunteers can register online at templetonpres.org.

We will have an Amazon wish list for supply donations in the coming weeks. Monetary donations can also be made online to the "VBS 2021" fund at templetonpres.org/giving.

THANK YOU!!!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

You can still contribute to the EASTER SEASON OFFERING!

“New Pastor Welcome Fund”

By now you may have heard about the “Welcome Fund” for our new Pastor who will take over when Pastor Charlie retires at the end of June. This fund is designed to help the Pastor and his family get settled in the church and community.

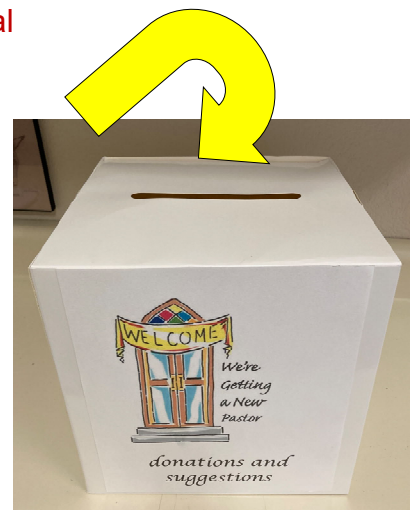
The funds raised will be used for:

- Outfitting the Pastor's Office: Each person has his or her own way of making that space personal and functional in terms of the type of desk, storage, filing, seating, computer, décor, etc. It's a positive statement to the new person to give them the freedom and resources at the outset to make that space their own.
- Hotel accommodations for the first few nights.
- Gift cards to various places: Food (Restaurants/Eateries/Coffee Shops/Wineries/etc.); Retailers that reflect the ethos of the Central Coast (Boot Barn, Farm Supply, etc.); Entertainment activities; Hardware stores (Home Depot, Lowe's, Hewitt – moving into a new house always involves multiple trips to them), Grocery stores (Trader Joe's for sure!), etc.

We will also be putting together a “Welcome Book” with recommendations for ‘things to do’ such as sites to see, hikes to take, events not to miss, auto repair shops, doctors, dentists, etc.

If you would like to make a gift of your suggestions to the welcome book, please email your contributions to Kathy Westphal at westphalslo@charter.net Or you can drop them in the box on Sunday morning!

Financial contributions for the Easter Offering can be made online at: templetonpres.org/giving or by check to TPC (please indicate “Easter Offering” on the memo line).



FELLOWSHIP UPDATE



Coffee Fellowship

As Fellowship Elder I find myself in the position of pleading for volunteers to help each Sunday. At present keeping Fellowship outside and serving only coffee and doughnuts seems to be the best choice. To accomplish this requires only minimal effort and only a couple of people on a Sunday. The work is simple: cutting doughnuts in half, placing on a serving tray, making a pot of coffee, and delivering to the serving tables are the basic tasks each Sunday. A bit of clean up after the service and you're done. If we could build a team of several people we can rotate Sundays so that the same people are not always needed.

As head of the committee I would remain responsible for maintaining our inventory of supplies and organizing you into teams of two – couples certainly welcome!

Soon a sign-up sheet will be available so that members of the congregation can choose a Sunday they wish to donate doughnuts. When those doughnuts arrive the “committee teams” then take over the preparation for serving.

If you are interested, please email me as soon as possible. Many thanks in advance for helping to keep our church continue its wonderful traditions.



Nancy Jo Doughty
Fellowship Elder
805.286.4461

happycats.njd@gmail.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

The pandemic has changed many of our lives. We had no control over it and dealing with it has been physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausting for many. We were left with little time to attend to the spiritual aspects of our lives. As we ease back into our “normal” lives we want you to know our Stephen

Ministry team is here to walk with you. It is after the crisis—when the pandemic eased, when all the family leaves after the funeral, when someone is sent home from the hospital with a chronic or terminal illness, when the divorce is final, when a new job isn’t available—that people need someone to talk to.

No matter how close we are to our family and friends, they may not be the right people to help us regain our balance after a traumatic event in our lives. They may be too emotionally involved to be effective caregivers and miss the clues that tell them of our needs. Some families just drift apart over the years for a variety of reasons.

The purpose of meeting with a Stephen Minister on a weekly basis for an hour, is to allow someone to talk about what is going on in his or her life. We set things up so that each care receiver meets with one caregiver so we can spend the one-on-one time that is needed.

Stephen Ministers don’t actively solve problems like Deacons who we describe as the During People. Deacons, when they make their periodic calls, check on you and let you know they are available whenever you have a problem. Our ministries complement each other well.

Here are just a few care receiver notes of how Stephen Ministry made a difference to them:

*My Stephen Minister’s weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. **She was a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me know I was never alone.***

*When someone you love is terminally ill, people often pull back because they’re scared and don’t know what to say. But **my Stephen Minister stood with me through it all**—listening, talking, and helping me on the journey. It was so reassuring to know he was by my side.*

My Stephen Minister listens—really listens.

***He doesn’t judge me or tell me what to do** but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I’m making it through.*

*My Stephen Minister was a constant presence walking with me throughout my divorce. He would always show up, and **most importantly, he refused to give up on me.** I’ll forever be grateful for the way he changed my life.*

*When I was with my Stephen Minister, **I felt Jesus was with me.** I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through.*

Stephen Ministry at TPC:

We continue to provide quality care (by phone, on Zoom, and in person) to our care receivers from our church and local community. Now more than ever, we are ready and eager to serve others in this most challenging time we are experiencing. Contact Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613 (cell) or (805)461-1470 (home) to find a Stephen Minister for yourself or a friend.

PRAYER SHAWL / CONFERENCE



Brave and Beautiful
LADIES' CONFERENCE

MAY 15, 2021
SATURDAY, 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

OUTDOOR VENUE AT
ATASCADERO BIBLE CHURCH

Speaker & Author, Pam Farrel
Music By Lisa Reiff

\$40/person

REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE AT
LADIESCONFERENCE.COM

WE HAVE THIS HOPE AS AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL.
HEBREWS 6:19

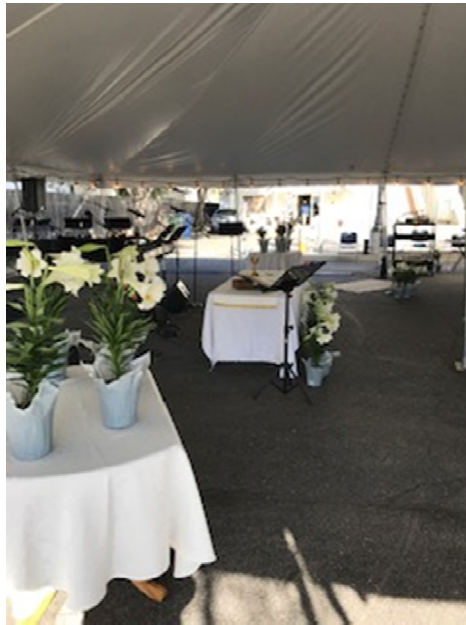
questions, please call
Jan 805 466 0992 or
Denise 805 459 9384

\$40 REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES
THREE SESSIONS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUR SPEAKER, UPLIFTING WORSHIP MUSIC,
BREAK SNACK, COFFEE, BOXED LUNCH,
SHOPPING IN THE MARKETPLACE, AND AMAZING FELLOWSHIP

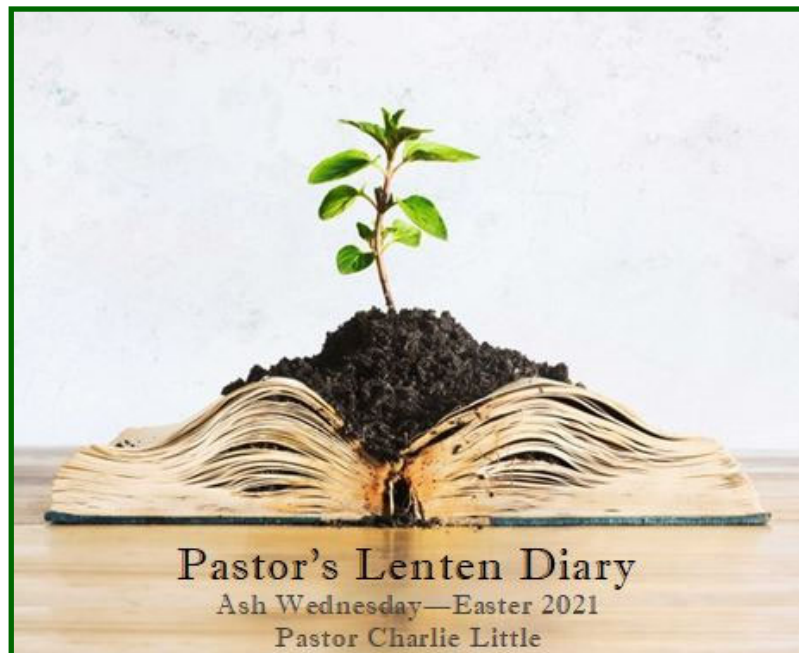
* RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 2020. 2021 CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD OUTDOORS.
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WEAR LAYERS AND BRING SUN HAT, VISOR, SUNGLASSES,

The poster is for a 'Brave and Beautiful Ladies' Conference' on May 15, 2021, at the Atascadero Bible Church. It features a background image of a glass jar with a rope bow and a metal anchor inside. The text is in various fonts, including script and bold sans-serif. A yellow oval highlights the date and time. Another yellow oval highlights the registration website. A small white stone with contact information is at the bottom left. The bottom right contains details about the registration fee and what it includes, as well as a note about the conference being rescheduled from March 2020.

CELEBRATING EASTER / DIARIES



Thank you to the Worship Committee and Sunday morning helpers for all of their efforts to create a beautiful setting for our Easter Sunday service.



There are still a few **Pastor's Lenten Diary** booklets available. Stop by the church office Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm to pick one up, or call the church office (805/434-1921) to have one mailed.

YOUTH MINISTRY



GIVE
WE'RE IN NEED
OF SNACKS!

GET INVOLVED:

TPC Youth is committed to serving the needs of the students in our community! Our mid-week gatherings serve as our launching point to engage not only the students in our church but also the students outside of TPC. Each week our desire is to provide a comfortable space for students to come and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and be challenged to grow in their walk with God. Part of this space includes things like snacks & drinks. This might seem insignificant to many, but if you've ever had a high school or middle school student, you know, food is their primary love-language. Would you consider supporting our ministry by providing a monetary donation or a pre-packaged snack for our youth nights? If so, contact Dave Johnson or Kerry Estes!

Mid-Week Meeting Times:

Tuesday @ 7:00PM-8:30PM | MS Students

Wednesday @ 7:00PM-8:45PM | HS Students

*Times change in Summer.



Quarterly Parent Breakfast:

Come to our FIRST Quarterly Parents Breakfast for the 2021-2022 Ministry Year! Dave will share important information for our Summer Ministry season, we'll eat yummy food and you'll have the chance to hear from our very own Brent Estes!



Thank you for all you do to support the Students of Templeton Presbyterian Church! If you have any questions or need more info, email me at students@fpctempleton.org!

In Christ,

Dave Johnson, Director of Student Ministries

Templeton Presbyterian Church
610 South Main Street
Templeton, CA 93465
805.434.1921
templetonpres.org

Pastor Charlie Little, ext. 2
pastor@fpctempleton.org
Youth Ministries Director, Dave Johnson
students@fpctempleton.org
Children's Ministries Director, Diane Terrell
children@fpctempleton.org
Administrative Assistant, Julie Bower, ext. 0
admin@fpctempleton.org
Worship Director, Kellie Wenzel
kellie@fpctempleton.org

