

Princeville Presbyterian Church

Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

Reuters (fake) News Service **December 2017**

Geologists doing research north of the coast near Colwyn Bay (UK) have made an unprecedented discovery. While attempting to affirm the Cuiverian theory of geologic development they have discovered an island made entirely of Fruit Cake. The discovery was made while drilling core samples for purposes of comparing the geologic column. Project director Dr. Philip Edmundson was asked about his reaction. "We were taken aback at first. We chose the island because nothing grows on it. Now that we learn its composition, we are not truly surprised." After the initial results were understood, he admits to some puzzlement. "What does surprise us," said Edmundson, "is the fact that the island is not a single fruitcake. Careful inspection of the core samples reveals that the island is actually composed of millions of individual fruit cakes. In the upper layers of one core sample we discovered a label that said 'Happy Christmas, Uncle Redworth. December 1627.'"

This discovery has given rise to new directions of research in other areas of Science. While the geologists discuss and puzzle through the data, sociologists are scurrying to find explanations. Apparently, while hundreds of thousands of fruitcakes are given annually for the Yule season, no one in England has actually ever eaten a fruitcake. One sociologist has forwarded the theory that clandestine nighttime pilgrimages have taken place through Colwyn Bay to dispose of the traditional but unwanted treat. And now British and American archaeologists are making plans to re-examine the construction and composition of Hadrian's Wall and the lower levels of Dover castle.

Important Dates

- Jan 4th – Food Pantry
- Jan 9th – Deacon/Session Meeting
- Jan 15th – Budget Meeting
- Jan 18th – Food Pantry
- Jan 20th – WOW Brunch
- Jan. 28th – Rockin' Seniors
- Feb 1st – Food Pantry
- Feb. 5th/6th – WOW Starts
- Feb. 13th – Deacon/Session Meeting
- Feb 15th – Food Pantry
- Feb 17th – WOW Brunch
- Feb 25th – Rockin' Seniors

Session Highlights

The Session meeting was opened with a devotion from 1 Timothy, Ephesians 1, and Revelation 2 on the church in Ephesus and how the church is always in need of faithful leadership to keep it from declining into unfaithfulness. The session then attended to the regular business of the church (minutes, treasurer's report, and correspondence). We reviewed the work of the Interim Pastor. Much of our other work was routine – approving vouchers for the loan payment, granting permission for use of the church building and grounds, and reviewing the calendar activities for the next two months. It was noted that a gift was received in honor of Loren Dallinger to be used for the basement. It was reported with joy that ten students are part of the Communicant's class which should last until mid-February, after which they will be ready to meet with the elders for approval to receive the Lord's supper. Holly Litwiller reported on the attendance of 17 teens to the lock-in, and an orderly evening of fellowship and fun. We discussed members who have transferred membership or lapsed in fellowship. An action was approved to send letters to two members who have lapsed in attendance and will soon be put on the inactive list. Session reinstated Clela Riggins' membership after learning of her removal 41 years ago. An action was taken to approve staff reviews by mid-January. An action was taken to assess our fire alarm system by mid-January. The date of January 16 was confirmed for working on the 2018 Church budget. Action was taken to spend a focused block of time to talk about church security. Session discussed the possibility of supporting the EPC's ITEN training. No action yet. The meeting was closed with prayer for the congregation and the ministries of the church.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom
and knowledge of God! How
unsearchable are his judgments and how
inscrutable his ways!*

*“For who has known the mind of the
Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”*

*“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”*

*For from him and through him and to him
are all things. To him be glory forever.
Amen.*

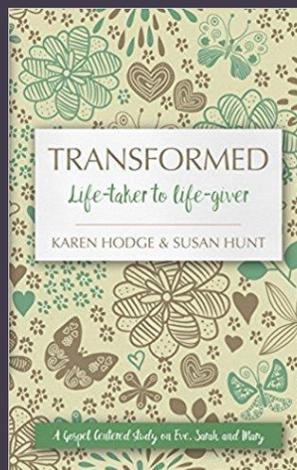
*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by
the mercies of God, to present your
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
acceptable to God, which is your spiritual
worship. Do not be conformed to this
world, but be transformed by the renewal
of your mind, that by testing you
may discern what is the will of God, what
is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 11:33-12:2

Women Of the Word

Deep in our heart, we know our influence within each situation and relationship. Sometimes we are life-givers and sometimes life-takers. We also know that self-effort fails us in our desire to give life to those around us.

This Bible study takes us on a transformational journey. Key biblical passages, gospel-centered devotions, Scripture-based prayers, and heart-penetrating questions celebrate the power of the gospel to transform God's daughters into women who give life to their relationships.



Join us for brunch on January 20th at 9am at Michaele Webber's home. We will be handing out new materials for our study that will begin February 5th at 10:30am and February 6th at 6pm. Please contact Amanda, Teresa, or Michaele for more information about the ministry or for any questions you may have.

Amanda (309) 657-6359
Teresa (309) 264-1994
Michaele (309) 369-6206

Dear Friends and Family of Princeville
Presbyterian Church –

Everywhere we have gone, we have experienced the fulfillment of Jesus' words from Mark 10:29-30 "whoever has left brothers or sisters or mothers or fathers for my sake, will receive a hundredfold brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers." The church has become our family. We have only been among you for two months yet you have received us with love and now also with such open generosity as family gives to family at Christmas. Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas gift! We were humbled and warmed in our own affection for you. You have blessed the hearts of these old saints by your kindness.

**In the Love of Christ,
Chris and Marilyn Baker**

Discipleship

Discipleship. It's such a common concept and such a pervasive notion that we easily overlook how much it shapes life. History's pages are filled with the record of discipleship's workings. For example, Alexander the Great was a disciple of Aristotle the philosopher. Aristotle was Alexander's tutor and later, after he became Macedonian king, Alexander carried Aristotle's book "Ethics" everywhere as he conquered the world. Both Joseph Stalin and Adolph Hitler were "disciples" of Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche, seeking to implement their ideas of personal power, governmental structure and economics into their respective country. A last example may be seen in the life of Johann Sebastian Bach who was a careful disciple of the organist Dietrich Buxtehude, traveling for miles in unfavorable weather to watch him perform and to learn of his methods. As you might guess, discipleship can be applied to good or ill purposes.

Often, students will pick up the mannerisms of their teachers simply by spending time with them. When I was in my Forestry program, I learned certain mannerisms from being in the woods with my major professor, which I then carried into the classroom when I taught undergraduate students. Interestingly enough, some of my students began to develop the same mannerisms as they spent time in the woods with me.

But discipleship is more deliberate than just spending time with a teacher. To be a disciple means to be an *intentional* learner, a studied follower. It means learning more than mannerisms, but requires learning practices, principles, commitments and the substance of what the teacher knows. Being a disciple is the commitment to be like the teacher in knowledge and practice.

Our Lord Jesus understood the power of discipleship and passed its importance on to his followers. This was why he spent much time with them, teaching them, guiding them, exhorting them, and sending them out. They had to become like him in the work of the kingdom. Their discipleship did not end with his death and resurrection, but continued on until they each came to the end of life.

The *entirety* of the Christian life is discipleship, meaning that we don't ever stop being disciplined learners of the Lord and his ways. Even though we may become familiar and confident in our knowledge of the "Christian life", more and more of our minds, affections and practices **must** come under the tutelage of our Lord; and it must go on all through our lives to the end of our days.

In fact, without discipleship the Christian church would die. The true practice of discipleship does not end with our *being* a disciple. The Lord Jesus told us to *make disciples*. It is required of us to take what we have learned from the Lord – through our study of the word, through our experiences examined in the light of the word, through our failings and victories – and pass it all on to someone who is younger in the Lord so that they may become a wiser and better disciple than what we have been. Without such discipleship, the flame of the gospel will flicker and weaken in its ongoing effectiveness in the earth.

Are you faithfully continuing in discipleship? No matter how diligently you have applied yourself, you have not learned all you can or should of the Lord and his ways. Never give up. Never stop. Who is your disciple? To whom are you intentionally passing on the knowledge of the Lord and his ways? There are many who shrug off the importance of Christ because they have not been discipled. One does not need to be old in the gospel like John the apostle in order to disciple others. All that is required is a commitment to faithful obedience, faithful learning and faithful teaching of others. "Go . . . make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ,



January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Food Pantry @ 5-6pm	5	6
7 Communicant's Class @ 9am Communion	8 Prayer Group @9:30am	9 Deacons @6:30pm Session @ 7pm	10 AWANA @ 6:15pm	11	12	13
14 Communicant's Class @ 9am	15 Prayer Group @9:30am Budget Meeting @ 9:30am	16	17 AWANA @ 6:15pm	18 Food Pantry @ 5-6pm	19	20 W.O.W. Brunch @ 9-11am @ Michael's
21 Communicant's Class @ 9am	22 Prayer Group @9:30am	23	24 AWANA @ 6:15pm	25	26	27
28 Communicant's Class @ 9am Rockin' Seniors @Noon	29 Prayer Group @9:30am	30	31 AWANA @ 6:15pm			

Prayer Ministry

Please continue to lift up the following people in prayer:

Maxine Hendricks, Sharon Kiefer, Lorrain Turner and Florence Turner, Connor Webber, Hunter Kitterman, Mary Scott, Phyllis Carroll and family, and the Don Wilson family.

Our missionaries:
Jeff & Marilyn German
New EPC Missionaries

**If you would like a loved one added or taken off, please contact the office.*

