



NEW BEGINNINGS AT MAGNOLIA PRESBYTERIAN

May 1 marks the beginning of Co-Pastors Rev. Claire Schlegel and Rev. Paul Knopf

Grace and Peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In the Church year, the season of Lent, a time of discipline, preparation, and anticipation, came to a resounding conclusion on Easter Sunday with the truth: Christ is Risen, Indeed! Many of us have experienced an extended time of preparation and anticipation for the next phase of ministry at MagPres, and on May 1st came the resounding conclusion: **Welcome to our new Co-Pastors Claire Schlegel and Paul Knopf!**

I am very excited to begin partnering with Pastor Claire and with you all in ministry here in Riverside. I am excited to see and participate in God's continuing work in, around, and through this community. Some of my excitement is tempered by the work ahead.

About Pastors, the Book of Order says,

"...they are to be responsible for a quality of life and relationships that commends the gospel to all persons and that communicates its joy and justice. They are responsible for studying, teaching, and preaching the Word, for celebrating Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and for praying with and for the congregation. With the ruling elders, they are to encourage people in the worship and service of God; to equip and enable them for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world; to exercise pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, and the dying; to participate in governing responsibilities, including leadership of the congregation in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness in the decision-making life of the congregation, and its task of reaching out in concern and service to the life of the human community as a whole. With the deacons they are to share in the ministries of compassion, witness, and service. In addition to these pastoral duties, they are responsible for sharing in the ministry of the church in councils higher than the session and in ecumenical relationships." (G-2.0504)

While I believe Pastor Claire and I are up to the task of meeting our responsibilities as Co-Pastors, my first few weeks might be different from what you may be expecting. My goals for the first few weeks include getting acquainted with the history of MagPres and the way we do things here, getting acquainted with the area, and most importantly, getting to know many of you. Please do not be alarmed by a request to visit you in your home or an invitation for you to meet me on campus. I plan on doing a lot of listening, but also asking a lot of questions.

I wonder if each of us would be willing to commit to the following things over the next month:

1. Pray regularly for MagPres, including the Session, Deacons, Staff, and Pastors
2. Make MagPres a priority by participating in worship and for my benefit, wearing a nametag.
3. Ask God for strength to share God's love with all, and to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and with others.

May God fill us with peace, energy, and wisdom as we journey together.

Pastor Paul

Minister's Moment

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." — ESV, Hebrews 11:8

Woohoo! Whew! We did it! As I write this we are just 5 days away from Paul's Ordination and our Installation as Co-Pastors. It has been quite the journey the past almost 3 years to get to this point. I am excited to start a new phase in my ministry as well as a new chapter in the life of MagPres. As with anything new, there is excitement, nervousness and, yes, maybe some fear. There will be change; which can always be nerve-wracking whether sought after or forced upon us.

The thing that can be scary about change is the uncertainty, work, and often the pain that comes with it. Sounds like a lot of fun doesn't it? One thing that I think that is undisputed at this point is that the church universal has to change or it will die. And Magnolia is no different. We live in a post-Christian era where people no longer think of church as a priority or even understand its value. This does not mean people are not interested in spirituality or even in Jesus, it just means they go about it differently than we did in the past. Focusing on how we have done church in the past can lead us to being stuck. As Tod Bolsinger states in *Canoing the Mountains*, this means the church must "adapt or die". Ed Friedman says, "conceptually stuck systems cannot become unstuck by trying harder...for a fundamental reorientation to occur, a 'spirit of adventure' must happen first." When we start a new adventure... we have an opportunity to explore, become open to new ways of looking at things and finding new, unexpected discoveries. These new discoveries lead to transformation.

Paul and I don't know yet know what this adventure will look like. Like Abraham, we don't yet know where we are going but we are excited about the journey ahead. Just as God called Abraham to go out, God is calling Magnolia to something new and exciting. If you notice there are two other components to that scripture; "Abraham obeyed" and "he was to receive an inheritance". That is God's promise to us as well. As we obey God's call we are promised that there is something amazing at the other end. \ Praise God! —***Pastor Claire***

Farewell from a Grateful Pastor

Pastor Tim Avazian

I wanted to say thank you for a wonderful 2 ½ years of serving as your Interim Pastor at Magnolia Presbyterian Church. I have loved being here and I am grateful that you accepted me as your pastor with loving arms and for the friendships that I have made.

Over the years it was my privilege to co-labor with Pastor Claire and the Session in seeking to be the light of Christ in Riverside. The collaborative effort was evident in all that we did. We struggled through many issues in arriving at the new leadership configuration for Magnolia's next chapter of ministry but God was faithful through it all and I know that He will be a trustworthy guide for you in the future.

I am very appreciative of Pastor Claire and the partnership that we had. We shared the pulpit in the preaching of God's Word each week and we grew to appreciate each other's gifts and talents in serving God at Magnolia. It was good to serve with Andrew Buchanan most of my 2 ½ years at Magnolia. He used his many gifts and talents to enable me to quickly jump in with both feet in ministry at Magnolia. I also appreciated the talent and dedication of the worship leadership of Tavo Vega and the band, James Walters, John Wright, Cynthia Wright and the choir.

Through my time here at Magnolia, I have once again been reminded that our God is good, that He is trustworthy, that He is generous, that He is loving and that He is kind. He is going about His Kingdom building, reclaiming what is His, and Magnolia Presbyterian Church is doing its part to expand this Kingdom. Keep at it, don't lose faith, be a part of His work that is doing great things in this community, this city and around the world. I will look forward to hearing how God is working in your midst. Peace be with you.

A Rich Tradition...

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*“The sun comes up
it’s a new day dawning
it’s time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and
whatever lies before me
let me be singing when
the evening comes”*



MATT REDMAN “Ten Thousand Reasons”

Magnolia’s new day is dawning, as Paul and Claire begin their Co-Pastor ministry. We hold them up in prayer as their partnership in spiritual leadership commences at Magnolia.

We say good-bye to Tim, thanking him for his Interim Pastor work. He successfully and gracefully led Session through this transition period, using the guide “Strategic Leadership for a Change: Facing Our Losses, Finding Our Future” by Kenneth McFayden. He also challenged Session to look at Magnolia’s core values and visions for the future. We send him off with our prayers as he begins his new ministry.

Session would also like to thank their Magnolia family, who remained loyal with support and encouragement to members of both Session and the Co-Pastor Nominating Committee

Session Meetings and Minutes

As a reminder, session meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the church library. These meetings are open, so if you would like to attend to listen to the conversation, you are most welcome. Copies of all session minutes are also available in the office, the narthex, or by email request.

Come help out at Kid’s Produce Market on **Friday, May 12, from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m.** It’s at Madison Elementary. Meet the children at Madison and interact with other community volunteers. Park on the street.



It is past time for our directory to be updated. If you haven’t already updated your contact information, please see Heather D. after services or call the church office!

Deacons' Corner

God's inbox is never too full

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16 NIV

We have all had those inevitable days when we are exhausted or discouraged and it seems too hard to carry on. We might feel as dry as the desert sand, with nothing left to give. This is a time when we could use nourishment for our souls.

The prophet Zechariah said, "Ask the Lord for rain in the Springtime, and he will answer with lightning and showers." Matthew Henry explained this scripture: "Spiritual Blessings had been promised...We must in our prayers ask for mercies in their proper time. The Lord would make bright clouds and give showers of rain...when we seek the influences of the Holy Spirit in faith and by prayer, through which their blessing held forth in the promises are obtained."

When these times hit, use "Knee mail." Don't just "tweet" a short sigh to the Lord, but carve out some time to pray, to praise, and petition our heavenly Father for strength to carry on.

He is faithful to answer our pleas and send refreshment to our hearts. It could be in the form of a restful night's sleep, a friend or relative to exhort and encourage, or a stranger's greeting. We never know how the Lord will answer our petitions, but answer He will. God's inbox is never too full.

*Dear Lord, how we long for Your presence.
Father, hear our prayers this day;
extend Your hand of mercy to me. Amen*

From Deacon Bev Williams



134 Cans Collected in April

Let's beat that in MAY so make sure you bring your two cans of food on **May 14.**

All items go to support the work of Lutheran Social Services.

Buildings and Grounds

Building And Grounds Improvements

Safety has been a topic of discussion for the BAG team for some time. It became a major concern last year when there was an accident coming out of the large parking lot with a member of the church and somebody using the parking lot as a shortcut from Potomac Street. The accident, we believe was a direct result of using the parking lot as a cut through. Not only did it cause extensive damage to both cars, but caused the city to make the road in front of the church a one way street with a stop sign at the end. This was done in the interest of safety. BAG received approval from session to close the Potomac street entrance to eliminate the constant traffic through our parking lot for the same reason; improve safety.

Although, it will be an inconvenience to some, I am convinced this is the right thing to do. On Palm Sunday as Laurie & I were entering the parking lot for church, we saw a large group of members at the sidewalk entrance greeting each other with hugs. During the few minutes we were out there, we witnessed three different vehicles cutting through the parking lot at unsafe speeds, including one delivery truck. On top of that, the excessive wear and tear on just the main parking lot, will eventually cost us over \$212,000 to remove & replace.

Effective May 13th, the Potomac street entrance will be closed. Please direct any questions you have concerning this project to Laurie Ludwig.

In Christ,
BAG team member,

Jeff Ludwig

WORK PARTY REPORT

The BAG team would like to thank all of those who participated in the April 8th work party sprucing up the grounds before Palm Sunday.

This work party included 25 people who signed in or worked before that day, because they couldn't make the date. This is always an option for those who have a scheduling conflict. Maybe you have seen signs of the some of the work that was completed when entering the main parking lot off of Magnolia, or as you walked up to the sanctuary? (spreading of mulch around fruit trees). Cherylyn Thornton was the center of a very exciting time, as she found some very old church documents in an unusual place. If you would like to learn more about these documents ask Cherylyn.

John & Jane Peden	Tom Safford
Edward Miner	Gary & Linda Welman
Adam Martinez	Dick Kirby
Cherylyn & Tom Thornton	Lisa MacDougall
John & Cynthia Wright	John Reinhardt
Marshall & Mary Lee	Laura Medrano
Chris Nettles	Danielle Good
Heather Dickenson	Jeff & Laurie Ludwig
Wayne Andrew	Tim Lewis
Pastor Claire Schlegel	

In his name,

Jeff Ludwig - BAG team member.

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**The Women's Luncheon Retreat  
scheduled for May 6 has been  
postponed and will be  
rescheduled.**

From The Stewardship Committee

Summer time is around the corner and the giving is easy...

Summertime is a great opportunity for family vacations, travel and spending valued family time together. We may miss a Sunday service or two, because we have out of town visitors or we are traveling. Because of this, the summer months can often be "lean" for church income. There is a simple way to be assured that your offerings make it to church while you enjoy an extended time out of town. If you currently bank on-line, you can have your bank send your weekly or monthly offering to the church on pre-determined dates when you are out of town. This would be the same as paying your bills on-line while you are on vacation.

Tips for on-line giving...

Did you know that most banks and credit unions offer free on-line banking service for their account holders? This service is a fast and an easy way to pay your bills on time. The processing time for payment



to your mortgage company, utility company or church is just a few days. When setting up a payment to your church or any charity, you are able to select a one-time payment or establish weekly/monthly recurring payments. You select the date(s) you want the bank to process the payment and choose when the payments end. Just remember to use the offering envelope number as your account number when setting up a contribution to Magnolia.

From your Stewardship Team: Marshall Lee, Team Chairperson; Phil Smith, Ken Eberwein, Sheryel Eberwein, Dick Kirby, Chris Nettles, Jane Peden and Phil Smith

## Annual Volleyball Picnic

**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**



Memorial Day weekend is coming, and so is one of our biggest social events: the **Annual Magnolia Volleyball Picnic!** Wear your casual clothes to worship and then all ages are invited to join us right after the Unity Service on Sunday, **May 21<sup>st</sup>**. We'll provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks and ask you to sign up to bring a large side dish or dessert. There will be nets set up and a piñata for kids, along with plenty of chairs and tables for those who prefer to relax and enjoy good food and fellowship!

This is a great event for old and new members! Invite your friends! Don't miss out on the fun. More information and sign-ups will be coming soon.

PS: Grillers/Bar-B-Quers needed - Contact Heather Dickenson at 688-6582.



### High Five Corner

- \* Amanda Schlegel for folding 400 silverware packets.
- \* Robin Smith for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt, and to the youth group for assisting her.
- \* Margy Crowley for taking UCR fruit to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Bank.
- \* Those (the pastors and Mission Team) who prepared snack bags for the homeless.
- \* Wayne Andrew for the palms for Holy Week.
- \* Everyone who worked to organize Pastor Tim's going-away potluck and roast.
- \* The MEW team for taking care of Easter lilies.

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Marge Ludwig, May 1        | Olive Watson, May 17     |
| • Jo Alford, May 2           | Konrad Reidman, May 18   |
| • Andrew Buchanan, May 2     | Donna Crossen, May 19    |
| • Melissa Holden, May 2      | Judy O'Bier, May 21      |
| • Loretta Ward, May 2        | Sharon Reinhardt, May 22 |
| • Janet Field, May 13        | Anderson Duncan, May 25  |
| • Mark Brooks, May 15        | Marshall Lee, May 29     |
| • Caitlin Hutchinson, May 17 | Liam Vega, May 30        |
| • Nancy Poor, May 17         | Brenda Wynsma, May 30    |
| • Sarah Ward, May 17         | Neil Cohen,, May 31      |

### **MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- Vasquez, Cesar and Tami, May 4, 21 years  
Enoch, Rev. Chris and Susan, May 22, 35 years  
Welman, Gary and Linda, May 28, 6 years  
Crowley, David and Margy, May 30, 35 years

### **NEW GROUP!**

### **PRIME TIME (Seniors Group)**

Meeting Saturday, May 20, 12 noon  
At Evelyn Shea's

## 2017 Treasurer's Report

On a monthly basis, a summary of MPC's finances is submitted to Session for review and approval. This includes income and expense, designated fund activity and a listing of Endowment Fund resources.

Typically a church's normal operating expenses would be funded from recurring income generated through a variety of activities, (primarily charitable giving). Below we see that when comparing the income to expense for the 1st quarter, we have a deficit (\$5,355.05). However, the stewardship team anticipated this was going to happen and budgeted to help offset the expenses using two different funds; Endowment interest \$3,906.75 and Deficit reduction \$2,254.50, (a savings account for a rainy day). These amounts are below and are equal to what we anticipated we would need for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

If we are to measure our performance against budget we are right on target through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, with a surplus of \$806.20 – A big THANK YOU for that. However, MPC could not survive if it had to continually balance the budget using reserves year after year as those resources are finite. We do consider 2017 a transition year, and anticipate finances to improve in 2018 and beyond. Many additional sources of income or reduction in expense that will help fund God's work include:

1. Reduction in costs associated with new pastor search, (moving expense, severance) in 2018 budget.
2. Cell tower installation rent – starting 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. 2017
3. Milestones nursery care income – starting 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. 2017
4. Anticipated final mortgage payment of Potomac house, reduction in expense - 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. 2018

|                                                                              |           |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Balance                                                                      | 1-Jan-17  | \$0.00              |
| 2017 Income                                                                  |           | \$90,097.73         |
| 2017 Expense                                                                 |           | \$95,452.78         |
| Balance                                                                      | 31-Mar-17 | <b>(\$5,355.05)</b> |
| Budgeted to meet expected shortfall - to compare how we are doing to budget. |           |                     |
| Endowment interest                                                           |           | \$3,906.75          |
| Deficit reduction                                                            |           | \$2,254.50          |
| Adjusted balance                                                             |           | <b>\$806.20</b>     |

In closing I would like to note that Stewardship has a 4 year plan with the theme for 2017 being "Our Year of Trust". We don't know what is in store for us but we can trust that God has a plan for us and our church.

Jeff Ludwig - Treasurer

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

Magnolia strives to share God's love with all and grow spiritually in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

7200 Magnolia Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92504-3829

Phone: 951-684-7200  
Email: church@magpres.com

www.magpres.com



**Staff**

Rev. Paul Knopf,  
Co-Pastor

Rev. Claire Schlegel,  
Co-Pastor

James Walters,  
Music Director/Organist

John Wright, Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Tavo Vega,  
Contemporary Service Music  
Leader

Allison Robinson  
Nursery Attendant

Andrew Buchanan,  
Middle & Sr. High Youth Director

Media/Audio Coordinator  
Hannah Dickenson

Diana Lewis  
Administrative Assistant

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08-07-2015

CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?






# 2017

7200 Magnolia Avenue  
 Riverside, Ca 92504  
 (951) 684-7200  
 www.magpres.com  
 Email: church@magpres.com

A Rich Tradition...A Bright Future

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Monday                                                                                                                                                                           | Tuesday                                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                    | Thursday                                                                                    | Friday                                                                    | Saturday                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>1</b><br><br><i>Jim and Julie King</i>                                                                                                                                        | <b>2</b><br><b>Committee Meetings</b><br>7 pm (various locations)<br><br><i>Dick and Bonnie Kirby</i> | <b>3</b><br><br><i>Bill Kortsch</i>                                          | <b>4</b><br><b>Choir Practice</b><br>7:00 pm (Music Room)<br><br><i>Lowell and Dee Lacy</i> | <b>5</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><br><i>Mike Lambert</i>               | <b>6</b><br><br><i>James and Ann Laudermilk</i>                                                      |
| <b>7</b> <u>Life Touch Photo Sessions</u><br>Contemporary Service 9 am<br>Sunday School 9 & 11 am<br>Preschool-5th (CE#7)<br>Traditional Service 11 am<br>Middle School Youth: 5–6pm<br>All Youth Dinner 6–6:30 pm<br>High School Youth 6-8 pm<br><i>Young Life</i> | <b>8</b><br><b>Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study</b><br>9:30 am (CE#3)<br><br>Tai Chi 1-2:30pm (FH)<br><br><i>Marshall and Mary Lee</i>                                         | <b>9</b><br><b>Stewardship Committee Meeting</b><br>7 pm<br><br><i>Bob Lewis</i>                      | <b>10</b><br>Tai Chi 1-2:30pm (FH)<br><br><i>Tim and Diana Lewis</i>         | <b>11</b><br><b>Choir Practice</b><br>7:00 pm (Music Room)<br><br><i>Flora Livingstone</i>  | <b>12</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><br><i>Margaret Long</i>             | <b>13</b><br><br><i>Ann Lowry</i>                                                                    |
| <b>14</b> <b>Two-Can Sunday</b><br>Contemporary Service 9 am<br>Sunday School 9 and 11 am<br>Preschool-5th (CE#7)<br>Traditional Service 11 am<br>Middle School Youth 5-6:30pm<br>High School Youth 7–8 pm<br><i>Handbell Choir</i>                                 | <b>15</b><br><b>Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study</b><br>9:30 am (CE#3)<br>Tai Chi 1-2:30pm (FH)<br><br>Men’s Group 7 pm<br><i>Jeff and Laurie Ludwig</i>                       | <b>16</b><br><b>Deacons Meeting</b><br>7 pm (L)<br><br><i>Marge Ludwig</i>                            | <b>17</b><br><br>Tai Chi 1-2:30pm (FH)<br><br><i>Liberty and Andi Mabena</i> | <b>18</b><br><b>Choir Practice</b><br>7:00 pm (Music Room)<br><br><i>Jody Macdonald</i>     | <b>19</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><br><i>Lisa and Craig MacDougall</i> | <b>20</b><br><b>Prime Time (seniors group)</b><br>12:00 at Evelyn Shea’s<br><br><i>Dennis Mackey</i> |
| <b>21</b><br><b>UNITY SERVICE 10 am</b><br>Sunday School 10am Preschool to 5th (CE#7)<br><b>All Church Picnic</b><br>Middle School Youth 5-6:30pm<br>High School Youth 7–8 pm<br><i>Treasurer</i>                                                                   | <b>22</b><br><b>Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study</b><br>9:30 am (CE#3)<br><br>Tai Chi 1-2:30pm (FH)<br><i>Peter and Michelle Manley</i>                                        | <b>23</b><br><b>Session Meeting</b><br>7 pm (L)<br><br><i>Julia Marken</i>                            | <b>24</b><br>Tai Chi 1-2:30pm (FH)<br><br><i>Adam Martinez</i>               | <b>25</b><br><b>Choir Practice</b><br>7:00 pm (Music Room)<br><br><i>Catherine McGraw</i>   | <b>26</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><br><i>Steve and Jan McKee</i>       | <b>27</b><br><br><i>Laura Medrano</i>                                                                |
| <b>28</b><br>Contemporary Service 9 am<br>Sunday School 9 and 11 am<br>Preschool-5th (CE#7)<br>Traditional Service 11 am<br>Middle School Youth 5-6:30pm<br>High School Youth 7–8 pm<br><i>Men’s Group</i>                                                          | <b>29</b><br><b>Memorial Day</b><br><b>Office Closed</b> <br><br><i>Bill and Ruth Megenny</i> | <b>30</b><br><br><i>Eleanor Miller</i>                                                                | <b>31</b><br><br>Tai Chi 1-2:30pm (FH)<br><br><i>Clara Mohler</i>            | <b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</b><br>Monday–Thursday<br>8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.                     |                                                                           |                                                                                                      |
| Pray for the <i>group</i> or <i>individuals</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Location Legend: CE = Christian Education Building; FH = Fellowship Hall; L = Library; S = Sanctuary                                                                             |                                                                                                       |                                                                              |                                                                                             |                                                                           |                                                                                                      |