

2023 PASTOR'S REPORT

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing!

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing is one of my most favorite hymns. I love the imagery of God as a fountain of his love and blessing that pours out to us. As we say “yes” to God’s calling and “yes” to God being in our lives, we allow the blessings to flow from the God who DELIGHTS in caring for his children. At our leadership retreat attended by every single one of our elders and deacons (14) we celebrated how we took a risk last year to say “Yes” to God’s call of allowing Monterey County to build Recurso de Fuerza (Resource of Strength), a village for the unhoused staffed with 24/7 counselors to help them get back on their feet again.

Our Westview leaders pointed out that since that decision God has blessed us in many ways! CAB (Community Action Board) has begun to rent offices on our second floor providing services to the unhoused, especially youth and young adults aging out of foster care programs. Homeless Persons Helping Project (HPPH) also began providing health services to the unhoused with drop in services to see doctors and psychiatrists every Monday. In addition, we have a basketball team practicing in our gym from New School alternative school. We also continue to house 2 Spanish-speaking churches, Iglesia de Cristo and Temple Betania. (We graciously offered space to the second Spanish-speaking church as they repair their church after the flooding of Pajaro.)

The church has come alive and is very busy with ministry and care for the community through the combined work of SonRise Kitchen serving breakfast at the levee, CAB, HPPH and the basketball team. What a blessing! Or should we sing *Come though Fount of Every Blessing!* The leaders at our leadership retreat were rejoicing, and also wanted to help all these ministries work more together including the two Spanish speaking churches. “Cooperation and promoting connections” will be a major theme for Westview this year. In addition, as a result of these ministries we have had several new people attending our church and joining as members. Furthermore, a presbytery commission saw the good happening at Westview and even gave us a grant so that Pastor Dan could move from $\frac{3}{4}$ to full time...and so the blessings continued!

At our leadership retreat we decided our “guiding star” words for the year would be “Cooperation & Patience.” –Helping all these good ministries to better work together while drawing in the greater community of other churches and neighbors. In addition, practicing patience as we allow the work of the Holy Spirit to unfold before us.

Here are some Vision/Goals the leaders began to work on for 2024:

- Care for Youth
 - How to connect with youth practicing Basketball?
 - Bags of power bars
 - Pray for them—Margo, Polly, Dan
 - Talk with Mr. Love, the coach, about a youth group

- Community service hours at WPC—Margo already has been doing, so connect with her
- How to connect with those using WPC
- Fun event for youth and how to reach out to Maria Gonzales's children
- Work with Pastor Julie in youth ministry possibly pursuing a Presbytery Grant \$5000
- Kid activity bags for worship
- Youth leader?
- How to Organize all we are doing and interconnect/regulations? Chimes to communicate updates and show faces/names of organizations leaders. WPC leaders meet CAB, HPHP leaders in person or Zoom. Needs to be 9am-5pm?
- Training by Social Service provider on how to care for Tiny Homes residents—especially in Sunday Worship
- Maintenance and TP, Paper Towels
- Volunteer's passions nurtured to start ministries. Help them with organizing
- Patience—let go, try the different. Taking a risk and knowing our place in the risk, get help and support, scary and Spirit filled
- Sponsor a Tiny House room—invite families, classrooms, etc. to sponsor decorating a room.
- Invite Iglesia de Cristo and others using WPC and Buddhist Temple into the service we are doing. Also invite clubs in town, (Polly (Lions) and Nancy will go)
- Growth-Spirit, family, events
- 1/year large meeting or several small meetings of all the groups meeting at WPC: learn needs, know people, know priorities, etc

Here is our leader's Thanks for 2023:

- Stove/Kitchen-Beautiful and done—Thanks Margo and Marlon!
- WPC a spiritual anchor for us
- In-person worship again and option for Zoom now for those who need
- Pastor Rich, Mick, Julie preaching when needed
- Taking a chance and doing Tiny Homes (Recurso de Fuerza)
- Grant for the Homes coming through
- Volunteers like Victor and Jeremiah
- Grant for Pastor Dan to be Full Time
- Wonderful leaders in our Deacons/Elders/Other
- Other churches and their Spirit
- Social Hour again!
- Generosity—Stockings for Women's shelter, SonRise supplies, cereal, etc
- Partnership with CAB, HPHP, counties
- Iglesia de Cristo doing maintenance! Paint, holes in walls, etc. Thank You!
- Heat on Sunday mornings
- Marlon and all he does—Audio Visual, maintenance, and more. He is The Man!
- New Members—Michael, Basillia, Emily, Turner & Nancy Askew
- Can see what a truly giving person is!
- Community

- Music—Jolly, Joanne, Evelyn—We belt it out!
- Jolly-Advent decorations
- Polly-Flowers, Dining Room decorations
- Diane-Our Parish Nurse
- Margo-Leads us into Compassion
- Behind the scenes vital workers: Judith, Shizue, Michael, Gabby, Mary Lou, Sheri, Polly, Margo, All of you!
- Not afraid to live “All are welcome!”
- Helping those in need and helping them set up a home
- For all who say “Yes!”
- New Vitality!
- We have grown
- Making sure we have TP!--Mary Lou, Jolly, Sheri, Michael
- Emergency shelter we did during flood
- People who give rides for Michael and Felix!—Margo, Polly, Sheri
- WE ARE FAMILY!
- LOOK AT ALL GOD DID IN ONE YEAR!

God, help us to BE your church, your hands and voice of love to those who are in need. Please give us creativity, wisdom, desire, courage, and compassion--that we might be swept up by the joy of your Spirit as you work through us and even transform us in the process.

In 2023 you continued to care well for our members who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Thank you for all you did to care for grieving families! This year we celebrated the life of Dorothy Lennon as she went on to be with loved ones and our Savior.

It is a joy and an honor to be your pastor. “The building is not the church; YOU are the church, as you are Christ’s hands of love to all you encounter.” You show me much about the love of Christ!

May you know ever more fully your belovedness in God,
Pastor Dan