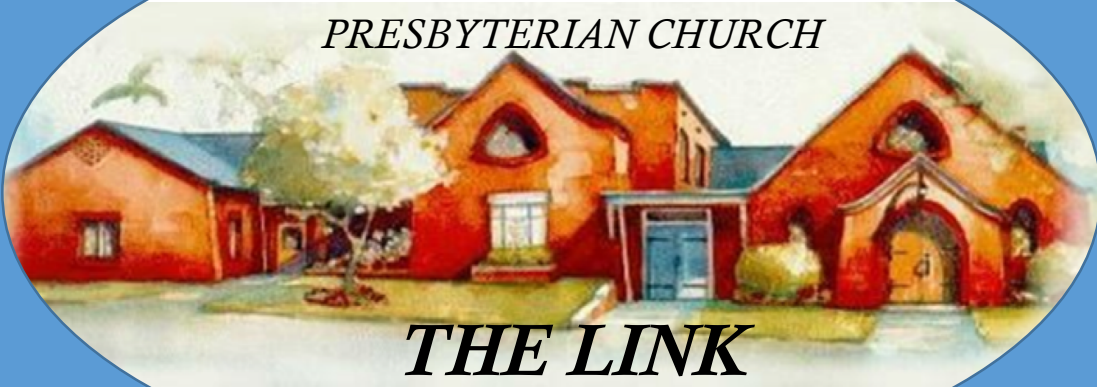


*ALTAVISTA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



THE LINK

August 1, 2019

OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN



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FROM OUR PASTOR....

Release anger appropriately. I believe we have every right to be upset when people hurt us, anger is an evidence of love; but we do not have the right to be disparaging or hurtful. James reminds us that the “tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!” The Spirit of God gives us the ability to release anger appropriately. Without the Spirit, we release anger in harmful ways. We all must take to heart not to let anger lead us into sin. The Proverbs are a treasury of advice—15:1 says, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” When we use harsh words to express our anger we spark a fire. Expressing anger builds off itself. If you’re constantly exploding and yelling, the more likely it’ll happen again and the more likely it’ll spark retaliation. Instead, we should turn to the gentler words, to understanding the root cause of anger, and in turn working to correct or support.

Paul provides for us the key to all of this. In Ephesians 5:1-2 he says, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...” We have for us an example of

From the Worship Committee.....

* The Worship Committee would like to thank Caroline Peerman for so successfully arranging pulpit coverage during Ed's Baby Break. It is an essential task, so important to our worship services. Caroline contacted our guests, inviting them to worship with us, in her usual outstanding manner. Job well done, Caroline.

* The choir has been on summer vacation for June

and July. Our hearty appreciation goes out to those who volunteered their musical talents during their absence:

Barbie Andrews, Dana Taylor, Linda Giles, Megan Ingram, Carolyn Lees, Stephanie Moehlenkamp, and Dot Hogan who always plays so beautifully and enhances our Sunday worship services.

* We will be back on schedule beginning in August. If you would like to participate in our Sunday services, please check the bulletin board and sign up for the dates that interests you. We always need ushers, lay readers, communion servers, and singers for the choir.

* If you are not serving on a committee, please consider serving on the worship committee.

kindness and tenderheartedness. In John 6:35ff, Jesus tells his listeners that he is the bread of life and he says, "Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." Jesus' example for us is that of love. In love he gave himself for us on the cross. Through love he redeems our souls. With love he cared for his neighbors. Belief in this bread, in Christ Jesus, also comes with the *imitation* of Christ. Jesus' examples of compassion for the hemorrhaging woman, healing for the leper, forgiveness for the prostitute, and renewal of the demoniac should be cornerstones of our reactions to anger. Just as many others probably did, Jesus could have yelled at the unclean woman for touching his cloak. He could have shunned the untouchable leper. He could have dismissed the prostitute as a sinner. He could have called the demoniac a madman. Instead, Jesus chose to show love to these people. Even though they were different, social outcasts, or legally unclean, Jesus exhibited the kind of love that should be in all of our hearts,

Pastor Ed Soto

Worship Services Online!

Have you missed a worship service and thought, "Darn, I don't feel as if my spirit has been fed. I wish there was a way for me to experience Sunday's service." Or maybe you're the type of person who can't get enough of church and you want to experience Sunday over and over again. Well, the both of you are in luck!



Every week we post the video of our Sunday worship service to the world wide web. Everything is there, not just the sermon. The prayers, the music, the tears and the laughter are accessible to you 24/7. To watch the videos, simply navigate your web browser to <https://www.altapres.org/worship-services> and watch all the past services you want! You can even download a copy of the bulletin and Pastor Ed's sermons. This is a wonderful, but sometimes overlooked ministry of the church. The web is a vibrant and growing mission field, just as important as any physical place on earth! So don't forget to share that link with your friends and family, so they, too, can experience God's Word!

Sermons This Month

PASTOR ED IS PREACHING AN
EXPOSITORY SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK
OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS

August 4th • Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOSEA 11:1-7

MARK 1

EXPOSITORY SERIES ON MARK

August 11th • Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ISAIAH 1:10-20

MARK 1

EXPOSITORY SERIES ON MARK

August 18th • Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ISAIAH 5:3-7

MARK 1

EXPOSITIRY SERIES ON MARK

August 25th • Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JEREMIAH 1:4-10

MARK 1

EXPOSITORY SERIES ON MARK

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Bible Study — August 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

Bible Study meets every **Tuesday morning** in the Adult Sunday School room at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to join as Rev. Soto leads us through various studies and discussions of Scripture, theology, and church history.

Starting April 6th, Pastor Ed will guide a video series on the Attributes of God. This series is published by Ligonier Ministries and is taught by Dr. Steven Lawson of OnePassion Ministries.

- 8/6 Introduction
- 8/13 The Aseity of God
- 8/20 The Spirituality of God
- 8/27 The Sovereignty of God

Prayer Fellowship — August 14th and 28th

Prayer Fellowship meets on the **Second, Fourth, and Fifth Wednesdays** in the Pastor's Study at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to join us in prayers for our church, community, nation, and the world. If you have any prayer requests for the Fellowship, please contact the main office.

Youth Group — August 11th and 25th

Youth Group meets on the **Second and Third Sundays** in the Youth Room at 5:00 PM. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome. The Youth will be treated to a meal and will fellowship throughout the evening.

Pastor Ed will lead the high schoolers through a series of discussions on the basic Reformed theology and spiritual practices. Barbie Andrews will lead the middle schoolers through a series on the Bible.

Altavista Presbyterian Church
Session highlights
July 21, 2019 meeting

Approved a request from the Claire Parker Foundation for a contribution of \$250 from ACT for Mission funds to support the foundation's December 5K night run & for APC to provide an Encouragement Station during the run.

Approved a request to allow the Choir to hold a fund-raiser this fall for the November, 2019 New York trip.

Reviewed the May, 2019 & June, 2019 Treasurer's Reports.

Approved minutes of the May 11, 2019 Session Retreat & Stated meeting & the May 15, 2019 Called meeting as presented.

Elected Chip Roark as Commissioner & Kevin deBernard as Alternate Commissioner to the August 17, 2019 Presbytery meeting to be held at the Presbytery office.

Decided to collect a special offering on September 8, 2019 for the Presbytery of the Peaks' water filter challenge & to match the offering (rounded up to the nearest \$100) from ACT for Mission funds.

Approved AOT's request to use APC's tables & chairs for its August 16, 2019 block party on Broad Street.

Paul Young, author of The Shack, will be speaking at the Presbytery office on November 2, 2019. Approved a request to host Mr. Young for a dinner in our Fellowship Hall on the evening of November 1, 2019.

Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

	June-2019	YTD
Pledges	7,589.50	52,900.50
Non-Pledges	1,025	7,389
Plate Offering	119	649.50
Total Expenses	13,594.73	74,001.24

My Kairos Prison Ministry
4th Day

Early morning Prayers are in order this morning at 5:00 am. A time of special prayers for the Table of James as our team will be completing our time with the six residents at our table. We have come to know a little something about each of them, two have given their life to Christ and will be baptized at a later date after they have gone through some Biblical training. There are very competent biblical Leaders at GreenRock. They have regular Bible studies daily and Church services every Saturday and Sunday night with outside clergy preaching and that's when Baptism's are done by outside Clergy, most of the Clergy are Kairos team members. One member of our table will be getting out in two weeks; he is in his late 50's, a tobacco farmer who owns a large family farm, seems like a hard working country fellow, spent time for drug distribution, and comes from a well-connected family that have stood by him. He has mixed emotions on how the community will received him back. One of our table members on day 3 requested to speak with a specific Clergy for spiritual counseling today praying for him and his time with the clergy.

Day 4 is a day of witness. It is a day of hope, If team members haven't shared their personal witness with the table today is the day to do it. The theme for the 4th day is "Growing in Christian faith and Community with others". There will be three talks today. "Obstacles to Accepting God's Grace". This talk helps the participants realize that the environment they live in has not changed. The spotlight is on the challenges they will face after these 4 days are over. Helps them to realize God is not only with them now, but has been and will be for all their lives, even in troubled times. The 2nd talk is "Walking in God's Grace" They can't stay on the mountaintop of the last four days they must go back into the valley of life however they will take a new hope with them. The last talk is by the weekend Leader, "Hang in There" he is encouraging the participants to become involved in chapel worship, study programs and the various elements of the Kairos Continuing Ministry program.

8:00 AM, They are lined up outside the door waiting for the correctional officer to come open the door and go through the patting down and checking IDs which is done every morning. They all have smiles on their faces and glad to see us as the team clap and cheer for each one as they come through the door all 42 that started will finish. The look on their faces are very different than the first day. We are all hugging and shaking hands then we go to our tables for coffee and cookies at this point their taste for cookies has changed they have eaten so many. We talk about the Forgiveness ceremony the night before and they talk about the heavy weight have been lifted off them after listing the people they needed to forgive.

Today is a short day and Thank God I only have to eat lunch, We head to the chapel and the theme in the chapel is the healing of past memories. We return to the our tables and discuss ways to heal old memories and move on from them.. The talks are done, we sing songs together, we teach them how to pray for each other. We spend time talking about what these days together has meant to them. Lunch is served , after lunch each table makes a poster for other prison's that they can use on their Kairos walks. Then we start packing up everything we brought with us, we remove all the tables and start setting up for the cross ceremony, each graduate will receive a silver cross that is engraved with 'God is counting on you', during the ceremony each table leader presents the cross. At this point we are setting up for the closing ceremony, they aren't aware the people from the outside will be attending, I was blessed with Pastor Ed and Gary

Andrews attending from my church. As the outsiders come in we march the graduates through the line singing “when the saints go marching in”. The graduates are presented to those attending probably 40 outsiders. Doing the closing they are allowed two minutes to talk about what the last four days have meant to them, 8-10 get up and speak. Then a former graduate of the program speaks about what Kairos means to him. We circle up and sing Surely the Presence and dismiss. The graduates are introduced by team members to the outsiders.

We have monthly reunions with all the graduates every second Monday from 1-3 and they are in charge of the program. Usually about 100 graduates attend the reunions. I hope this has given you some insight on the Kairos prison ministry and what it is about. I want to thank APC for your support for a ministry that is so meaningful for me to be a part of. God Bless You.

Ron

AUGUST

	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	Janet Sodders	
6	Garry Taylor	
	Jack Beazley	
10	Diann Martin	
13	Joshua Larkin	
16		John & Patty Eller
18		Terry & Betty Walton
19	Louise Phillips	
20		Gary & Barbie Andrews
26		Sang-il & June Lee

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God is doing some amazing things in and through APC. Just this past summer we had a team of 16 on a week-long missions trip in Puerto Rico. Transformative just begins to describe that trip! A trip like that doesn't just fall out of thin air. It takes a lot of hard work and preparation. To better serve you, and ultimately to serve God, I am asking that you please fill out the attached *membership information form*. This will help me in organizing volunteers, ministries, and communication.

Here's what you can do: **Option 1**, fill out this form and return it to the church office before August 31. **Option 2**, fill it out from our website: <http://www.altapres.org/events--postings/membership-information-form>. **Option 3**, pick up a copy at the church office and return it by August 31.

If you have any questions, regarding this survey in particular or APC's ministry in general, please do not hesitate to call, email, or get coffee with me.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Ed Soto

Membership Information Form

Please have every member of your household fill out a sheet.

Surname	Legal Name ¹	Preferred Name
Mailing Address		
Physical Address ²		
Phone Number	Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are you okay to receive text messages?
Birthday	Anniversary	Other date (describe)

Interests *If you would like to be notified about events and meetings specific to these groups or if you are already involved, please check all that apply.*

☐ **Christian Education** Children's church, nursery, youth group, Sunday school, Bible study, and small groups (women's fellowship, men's fellowship, etc.).

☐ **Ministry Beyond** Missions, outreach, and evangelism.

☐ **Ministry Within** Prayer fellowship, meal preparation, home visits, and hospitality.

☐ **Worship** Lay reading, music, ushering, and special services.

☐ **Property** Building maintenance, groundskeeping, and manse.

☐ **Ministry Support** Personnel, administration, and finances.

☐ **Choir** SATB chancel choir, Christmas and Easter cantatas

☐ **Eldership** Past ordained lay leadership or active Session member.

¹ Legal name is used for pastoral care in the event of hospitalization.

² To be completed by the member's parent or guardian.

CAMP PEAKS 2019

Many thanks to everyone who helped make Camp Peaks a success! The campers had a wonderful time! This opportunity would not be possible without the gracious hospitality of Janiak's, those who provided snacks & water, and the staff dinner hosts! The campers days included hearing Bible stories, singing songs, enjoying snacks & waters, hiking, swimming and more! Sixteen children participated in this year's camp! They are already looking forward to next summer!



Introducing....

“Jesus & Friends”

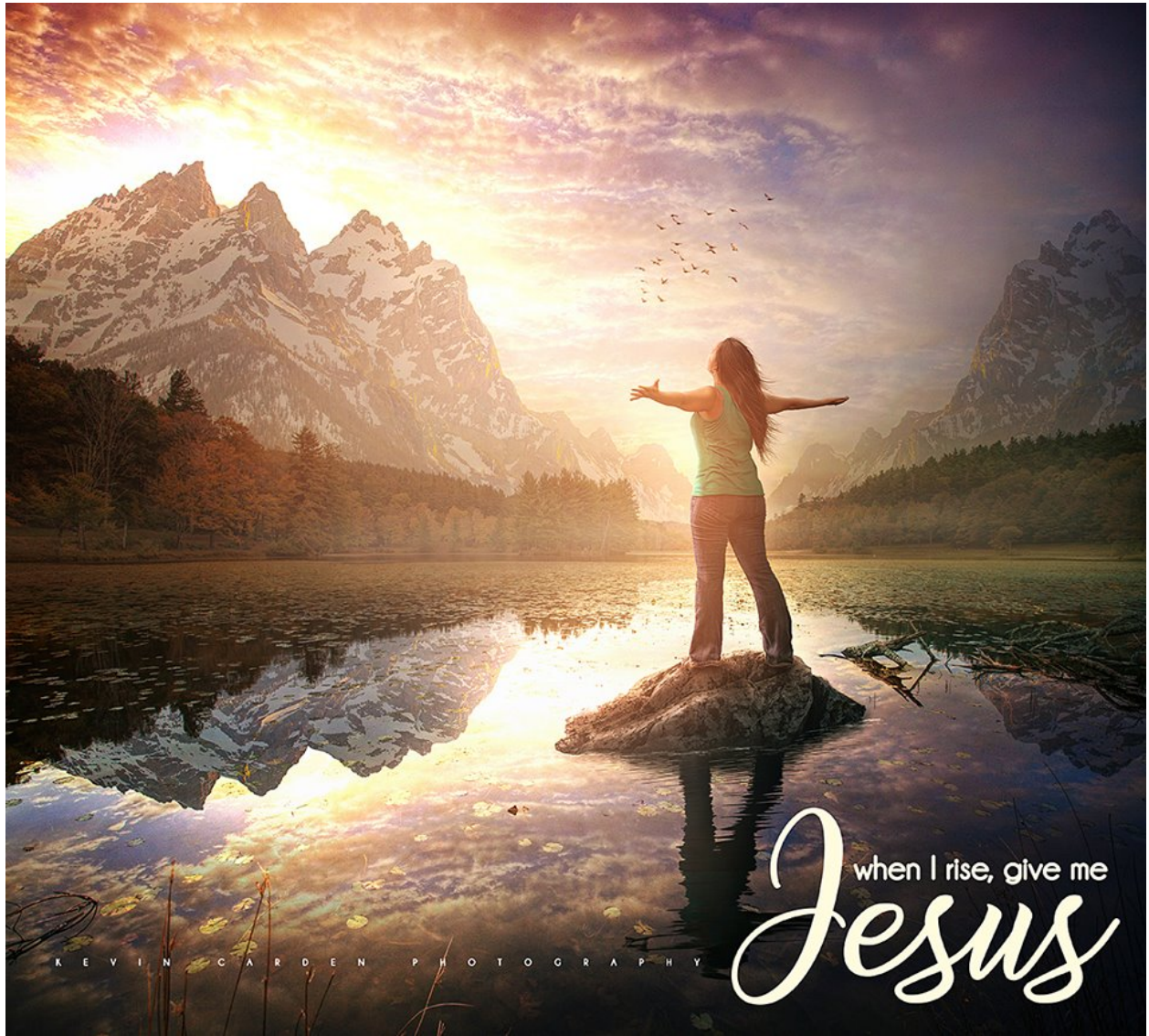
Thank you to all of you who took these home to sand!

This project was truly a family effort. Pastor Ed plans to use them as storytelling figures for our youngest members. He may even find an opportunity to use them when talking with all of us!



MONTH of AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10 AM Worship Communion Children's Church	5 6 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg. 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	6 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room 12 Noon -Men's Lunch – China Wok	7 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	8	9	10
11 10 AM Worship Children's Church 5 PM Youth Group Mtg.	12 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	13 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room	14 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch 5:30 PM Property Mtg. in Adult SS Room	15	16	17 9 AM – Noon Presbytery Mtg. at the Presbytery Office
18 10 AM –Worship Children's Church	19 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	20 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room 12 Noon -Men's Lunch – Mama Rosa's 5:30 PM C.E Mtg.	21 9:30 AM APC Serves Lunch @ Daily Bread 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch 1 PM DAWN Board Mtg.	22	23	24
25 10 AM Worship Children's Church Session Meeting after Worship 5 PM Youth Group Mtg.	26 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH September Link Deadline	27 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room	28 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	29	30	31



Altavista Presbyterian Church
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