

## Newsletter for May 2020

### Dear Church Family,

We are still here—yes different, but we are still here. Tess does her women's study on Zoom Monday evenings. Katie and I are doing the Divorce Recovery Workshop on Wednesdays by Zoom. Every weekday, Monday through Friday, Katie and I visit with all who join us via Zoom at 1pm to 2pm<sup>1</sup>. Friday night at 7pm to 8pm we have our Greek class with Harry Briley, and as we have only just started, the first class, you may still join. There is no cost. And nothing, or hardly anything, stimulates the brain as does learning a new language. Sundays, the service is streamed. Vern and Andrea are doing a great job on this.

For my part, I have never been so busy, taking advantage of no baseball at both the high school and the prison, which frees up about 20 hours a week. Despite this, I am busier than ever—the phone calls, emails, and much more, are incessant, and I love it. The pastoral ministry is better now than ever. Carl and Shirley are engaged steadily in the pastoral work as well.

Now an update on our dear Christina Rose. She has reported that her last chemo treatments did not wipe her out. She is plugging along, and we want to remember to pray for her and John.

Kim Ross has been playing the piano for us and doing wonderfully well. For the choruses, Katie on the drum and me on the guitar. I have ordered a new-fangled gadget (hey, when you are my age you can talk like this) called a Spark amp, which gives a drum and bass guitar background, adjustable any way you like. It was supposed to be here already, but due to the vast number of orders, it will not be here until mid-June. You are going to love it, or not. I am personally spending more time playing my music.

During May my projects are getting the Bible Study programs ready. To do this we have created a little studio at home here, and as we are way behind, I am doing a program per day, then Katie adds the verses, intros, and outros, and a little bit more editing, and she uploads it to Marin TV. This is afternoon work, and in the mornings, after work on the sermons, I am writing at least one chapter for the new book on transgenering. Finished now with the research (boy, glad that is over) and hope to have the project completed by the end of May.

We have a list of people to interview for Why We Are Christians, some incredible folk, and also the Rabbi and the Pastor program is hanging fire. Tsvi, the rabbi, loves the idea of finishing the remaining 5 one-hour programs by Zoom with him. To give us even more options, we are creating a studio in the middle portion of the balcony of the chapel. Katie got us more lighting equipment and green, white, and black screens. Also

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<sup>1</sup> Kent and Katie Chat Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/467902501> Meeting ID: 467 902 501

coming are several black velvet curtains for sound deadening and visual backdrop. The folks out there, like Desmond Wetterburn, (We have already done two half hour programs on him but we want to do at least two more. What a story!) Andrew MacDonald of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and Nate Hoover, just moved to the Bay Area to San Jose, with the goal of beginning a church in the Haight-Ashbury, finally Harold Sweet, now out of prison and in a state residence house in Los Angeles, (we published a book of his). We must get more programming to the tv studio, we so are moving ahead. Most interviews will be via Zoom, but a couple may be in person.

We know many would like to be present Sunday mornings. This month the totals have been 12, 8, and 8 with the rest viewing from home via Zoom or FaceBook. We sit far apart, no breakfast or lunch, some wear masks and gloves, and we are careful. I personally would be devastated if anyone picked up the virus at a worship service.

One last thing: Our income from the Pre-school is now only \$2,000 a month and will be so for two more months at least. The school is hoping to open in July, but I would be surprised if it opened that soon. Plus, the janitor, gardener, and trash pickup—all gone now, so we are working to get this all done as best we can. The food pickup continues, and did we ever get some good stuff in. People come from all over. The “Tiny Library” in the front lawn is shut with a sign saying, “Closed until safe to reopen.” It was so fun to watch people come by and pull a book out. I’ve seen folks taking pictures of it, too.

Please go to [milleravenuechurch.org/giving](http://milleravenuechurch.org/giving) to give your tithes and offerings—very important right now.

Kent

May 1, 2020