

# Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Road,  
Pebble Beach • P. O. Box 1027, Pebble Beach, CA 93953  
831.624.1374 • email: citf@mbay.net • www.churchintheforest.org

Monday morning, June 12, 2017

Dear Friends,

“Laughter is the best medicine.” —*Norman Cousins*

Sunday we look at “laughter in the forest” in the account of Abraham and Sarah, learning they would be parents at age 99 and 89. We should never overlook the improbable of life!

Here’s a “humorous” true story. It’s about a Baptist preacher, Charles McCoy. McCoy was pastoring a Baptist church and, in his spare time, he had earned seven university degrees, including two Ph.D.’s—one from Dartmouth, the other from Columbia. But now, at age 72, he was mandated by his denomination to retire.

He was depressed. “I just lay on my bed thinking that my life’s over. I’ve been pastor of this church for so many years and nobody really wants me much—what have I done? I’ve spent an awful lot of time working for degrees, but what does that count for?”

A week later he met a pastor from India and, on impulse, asked him to preach in his church. After the service the Indian brother asked him to return the favor. McCoy prayed about it and decided he would. He sold most of his belongings, put what was left in a trunk, and booked a one-way passage to India—his first trip ever out of the US!

When he arrived in Bombay, he discovered to his horror that his trunk was lost. All he had were his wallet, his passport, and the address of the mission in Bombay. He asked for directions and headed for the mission. When he got there, he discovered that, while on the streetcar, his wallet and passport had been stolen.

The missionaries welcomed him, but told him the man who had invited him was still in the U.S. and would probably remain there indefinitely. What was he going to do now?

Unperturbed, McCoy told them he had come to preach, and that he would try to make an appointment with the mayor of Bombay. McCoy set out for the mayor’s office the next day. When the mayor saw McCoy’s business card, listing all his degrees, he reasoned that McCoy must be someone important. So the mayor held a tea in his honor, attended by all of the officials of Bombay!

Thus was launched a brand new, 16-year ministry. Until he died at age 88, this dauntless old man circled the globe, preaching the gospel. It was incongruous—an old man, feeling worthless at age 72, leaving everything he

had ever known and preaching around the world. That’s funny! But funnier still was the surprise of God’s grace, fulfilling this “old” man’s unfinished calling!

May we all know this surprising humor of God in our lives, whenever we wait with worries!

See you in church!

  
The Rev. Ken Feske

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** *Small Groups* are gatherings where CitF members and new friends can explore questions of faith and deepen fellowship. These groups are open to visitors who wish to find out more and experience a meeting.

The next *Hands-on Service Small Group* meeting will be **Thursday, June 15, 9:30–11:00 am, 4076 Sunset Lane, PB**. You are all welcome as our group discerns its future service focus, through reading, research, sharing and prayer. Contact **Lettie Bennett (Lettie@lettiebennett.com)** for more information.

We also have a *Small Group Bible Study* gathering that meets every **Sunday at 8:30 AM** in the Multi-purpose Room where the topic is the day’s sermon scripture lesson. The mid-week *Small Group Bible Study* meets on the third Tuesday of the month at a rotating venue. The next one is **June 20, 10:15–11:30 AM**, at the home of **Ruth Gleisner, 3004 Sloat Road, PB**. Topic: “The Good Ol’e Summertime” —*Psalm 42*

The next *BIG/Small Group* meeting will be **Tuesday, June 20, 5–6:30 pm**, at the home of **Vicky Nelson, 1143 Mestres Drive, Pebble Beach (655-9502)**. We share our BIG questions about religion, combining learning with personal experiences, empathy, tears and laughter.

## Calendar

**Sunday June 18, 2017 — Second Sunday after Pentecost  
Celebrating Father’s Day**

**8:30 AM** Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Rev. Ken Feske  
Topic: Genesis 18:1–15

**9:15 AM** Chapel Concertino

**9:30 AM** Morning Prayer

**Passages** Romans 5: 1–8; Psalm 116: 1–2, 12–19; Genesis 18:1–15

**Lector** Lettie Bennett

**Crucifer** Judy Fletcher

**Flowers** Bill & Virginia Stevens

**Cookies** Arlen & Cindy Lackey

**Ushers** Linda Banner & Jack Davis

**Altar Care** Martha Jordan & Pamela Jordan

**Sermon** The Rev. Ken Feske

**Title** “Fresh Starts from Old Stories ~ A Sermon Series on Genesis”

This Sunday: “New Beginnings through Laughter in the Forest”

**Music Box**

JUNE 18, 2017

**Solmaaz Adeli, mezzo-soprano  
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ**

*CHAPEL CONCERTINO FOR FATHER'S DAY*

- My Funny Valentine.....Richard Rogers (1902-1979)
- Someone to Watch Over Me....George and Ira Gershwin (1898-1937  
1896-1983)
- The Man I Love ..... George and Ira Gershwin
- Oh! My Papa..... Paul Burkhard (1911-1977)
  
- Qui sedes from Gloria.....Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
  
- Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.  
You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.*
  
- Psalm 19 "The Heavens Declare" ..... Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

**Dad**

The day for our mother had just come to rest,  
 When merchants smelled gold: "Your father is best!"  
 So my brother and I chipped in what we had,  
 Said, "Get something that pleases you most," to our dad.  
 He took all our coins with his manly aplomb,  
 And went out and bought flowers and gave them to Mom.

—RLA

*Melinda Coffey Armstead*



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