

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, September 25, 2017

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we mark St. Francis of Assisi Sunday with our annual Blessing of the Animals.

Throughout the Bible there are verses that command us to treat animals with care.

In Deuteronomy we are instructed to care for lost animals, in Leviticus we are admonished to provide Sabbath rest, not just for workers but for working animals. In Luke, Jesus teaches that we should rescue animals that are in distress, even if it's on the Sabbath. In the book of Jonah, God shames Jonah for having so little care for the cattle of Ninevah.

Our faith has a special regard for all creatures innocent, vulnerable, powerless. And here's the surprising thing: the Bible regards these seemingly powerless creatures as powerful. Across the Bible there is a common theme of the power of innocent creatures.

We'll reflect on—and observe—that power this Sunday, as we study Psalm 8 and bless our pets!

See you Sunday!



Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

Consider making your relationship with Church in the Forest “official”! You don't have to give up membership in another church—just contact the office at citf@mbay.net (831-624-1374) and then come to church on **Sunday, October 8**, for a simple ritual of fellowship during the worship service. Plan on joining our leaders for a fun brunch following at the Pastor's Manse, 2912 Ransford Avenue, Pacific Grove.

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 *Small Group Bible Study* meets every Sunday at **8:30 AM** in the Multi-purpose Room. This study will link with our new sermon series, using Eugene Peterson's *Psalms: Prayer of the Heart*. Purchase your book from **Ken** (KenFeske@comcast.net), or at your bookseller.
- The *Small Group Study* led by the **Rev. Ken Feske** meets on the **third Tuesday of the month, 10:15-11:30 am**. Location and topic to be announced at a later date.
- The *Men's Small Group*, led by **Bob Axley** and **John Thorbeck**, will meet **Thursday, September 28, 10–11:30 AM**, in the Multipurpose Room. Please contact **Bob Axley** for more information: rjaxley@aol.com or 214-384-1023
- A *Small Group* for those who are grieving, led by the **Rev. Dr. William Rolland**, our minister emeritus and an expert in grief counseling, will meet on **Thursday, October 5, 1:30–3:00 pm**. Please contact **Dr. Rolland** if you have any questions at wnbr727@gmail.com or call 831-229-2099.
- While our *Soul Sisters Small Group* is full, would you like to join *Soul Sisters II*? Please contact **Pastor Joanne** (Joanne@churchintheforest.org).

Calendar

Sunday	October 1, 2017 — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
	Celebrating St. Francis Sunday/Blessing of the Animals
8:30 AM	Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Rev. Ken Feske Topic: Psalm 8
9:15 AM	Chapel Concertino
9:30 AM	Holy Communion
Passages	1 Corinthians 1:27–29, Psalm 8; Matthew 21: 12–15
	Lector Bob Janzen
	Crucifer Skip Lord
	Ushers Jan & Niels Riemers
	Cookies Marilyn Webb
	Flowers Ruth Gleisner & Phil Sanders
	Prayers of the People Mia Jarick
	Oblation Bearer Liz Lord
	Altar Care Martha Jordan & Sandy Rice
	Coffee Hour Hosts CitF Hospitality Team
Sermon	The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.
Title	“Real Spirituality ~ A Sermon Series on Psalms” This Sunday: “Real Spiritual Power”
Sunday	October 8, 2017 — Reception of New Members

Music Box

OCTOBER 1, 2017

**Katherine Edison, soprano Robert Armstead, bass-baritone
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ**

CHAPEL CONCERTINO FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

- Prayer of St. Francis.....St Francis (1182-1226)
/Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)
- Old Mother Hubbard..... Victor Hely-Hutchinson (1901-1947)
- Prayers from the Ark.....Theron Kirk (1919-1999)
- The Prayer of the Cat
- The Prayer of the Elephant
- The Prayer of the Butterfly
- Duetto Buffo di Due Gatti..... Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)
- For the Beauty of the Earth..... F. S. Pierpoint/John Rutter (b. 1945)
- Agnus Dei Léo Delibes (1836-1891)
- Le Cygne (The Swan)..... Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
- Les Canaries..... François Couperin (1668-1733)
- La Poule (The Hen)..... Jean Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)

Decades ago a cultural advance known as the elephant joke helped us all retain our balance in the face of congressional disequilibrium. When we began to require stiffer remedies, it fell out of favor, but here is one for illustration: Why is an elephant like an apricot? Because they're both gray. Well, except for the apricot.

About dogs: For twenty dollars you can buy a video that teaches you how to determine your dog's IQ. If you buy the video, that means your dog is smarter than you.

As to cats: They are not as smart as dogs, because you can't teach a team of eight of them to pull a sled through ice and snow in windy, subzero weather, with bleeding paws.

I'm not saying where this questionable material came from, but if you have complaints, direct them to my husband.

Melinda Coffey Armstead



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This past Sunday, Church in the Forest held its 30th Annual Fall Anniversary Party at the home of Nancy and Joe Verska. Here are some shots from that event. —Photos: Mary Wiltse

