

The Vision



A Community of Comfort and Care

Where:

- ~ Christ Reigns Supreme
- ~ Worship Lifts the Spirit
- ~ The Bible Touches Hearts & Minds
- ~ Serving Brings Meaning
- ~ Relationships Change Lives

AUGUST 2018



Mon. - Thurs. 7 am-4 pm
Friday 8 am-12 pm



THREADS OF FAITH CRAFTERS GROUP

Welcome All Crafters!

Threads of **August 4 from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in Fox Hall. Come work on a project or learn a craft, pick up yarn or fabric, or stop by to drop off what you have made. All crafters are welcome, if you can make items we can donate locally or globally. Enjoy fellowship while you give to others. For more information, contact Caroline Cohen (860-268-6837.

cscohen45@gmail.com).

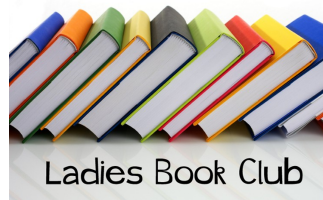
TEAM LEADERS
AUGUST 7 @ 6:30 PM
FOX HALL

HYMN SING

Summer 2018

Each Sunday morning from 10:15am-10:30am.

Arrive a few minutes early and enjoy singing some hymn and praise songs led by our Minister of Music, Cyndi Culp.



Ladies Book Club

August 9th at 11:30 am

Fox Hall

August 9: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See (Novel)

Interested in this book but can't come? It will be available in the church library to anyone AFTER August 9.

A thrilling new novel from author Lisa See explores the

Weekly Reminders

Wednesdays

★ Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM

Thursdays

★ Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Sundays

★ Worship Service 10:30 AM



Monthly Reminders

★ Ladies Bookclub
2nd Thursday @ 11:30 AM

★ Genealogy Club
2nd Monday @ 10:30 PM

★ Presbyterian Women's Luncheon
4th Thursday @ 12:00 PM

****Go to page 5****



PASTORS CORNER

Here at NCPC, it seems that this year we have said an inordinate amount of good-byes to loved ones who have gone on ahead of us to be with the Lord. Too many. In the last few weeks as I have prepared memorial service after memorial service, I have also been reminded that it is 10 years since my own dear Father died. Just today I ran across a copy of the reflections that I shared at his funeral and share them with you in the hope that you may find hope and comfort in them. I preached this sermon in my home church in Alabama and some of the people I mention are friends of a lifetime. Still I think that there is enough that is universal in the experience of mourning and healing that you will understand, even if you don't know all the people. I pray for you all without ceasing.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Eugenia

Reflections on My Father's Life...July 21, 2008

"I am grateful to Fred (my mother's priest) for inviting me to say a few words today about my father. In order to ground

my reflections, I have chosen to read a passage from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. It is a passage that I have never used at a funeral before, but one that many of you have heard many times at weddings.

To understand this well-loved text, it is important to understand a little about the situation in the church in Corinth at the time. Corinth is my favorite of the New Testament churches because it was such a mess. They fought about everything, what worship forms were acceptable, for example. They fought about issues of gender, about sex and about money. Sound familiar? They were even known to drag one another out of worship, by the hair, into open-air court and file charges against one another for one small infraction or another. I wouldn't have wanted to argue those cases on the merits in front of my father, I can tell you that.

When Paul was trying to deal with these folks he recognized that the only hope for them, as is the only hope for us, is love.

Listen for the Word of God: I Corinthians 13.

In these last few months as my mother and I, and so many of you standing with us, have faced

the brutally slow and painful death of my father, I have found my mind swamped with memories...moving images, shaky snapshots, like an old silent movie on a rickety reel, just skipping across my mind's eye one after another in no temporal sequence.

They are not memories of my father's legal life. I never saw him argue a case, never saw him bang a gavel, never met 'the cold eyed DA' as the New York Times (or one of those big and far away papers) once called him during the Viola Liuzzo trial.

I never saw him in his Navy uniform, never knew him as a member of the University of Alabama golf team, didn't know him as a colleague or a friend.

My memories are different....my little snapshot of his life is a small one, but a precious one.

Last week in my prayer group at my new church, one of the members asked me, "What is Judge Gamble's first name?"

Before I could even think, I said, "Daddy."

So it is the Daddy memories that I can share with you today.

In one Daddy memory, I am 5, or so, and on his shoulders watching the Billy Bowlegs festival in Fort

Walton Beach Florida, complete with pirate ships and peg legs. (I think maybe Jean and Bruce were there as well.)

In another memory, at age 7 or so, I see him teaching me to fox trot with my little feet on his shoes as he waited for Mama to finish getting ready for a dinner out.

In another, maybe 6 months ago, I see me crawling up next to him in bed, putting my head on his skin and bones shoulder...he was so diminished, erased really, like a tiny cotton top marmoset in a too large cage, his spirit somehow swinging from rib to rib and back again...I remember putting my head on that shoulder and telling him that he never let me down once.

I remember Daddy coming into my room each night when I was growing up to say my bedtime prayers and cupping his large hands over my small ones in that wonderful universal prayer tent and teaching me, "Our father, who art in heaven..."

I remember the tears in his eyes the first time he heard me preach.

Perhaps my earliest clear memory of him was on a crisp autumn afternoon as I sat in his lap on the back porch listening

on the old radio to Alabama play somebody, cream somebody, back in the day when all was right with God's world. I remember him wrapping my fingers around a red and white shaker and moving it rhythmically back and forth. "Roll Tide," he taught me, over and over, like teaching a puppy to sit up. I was a big child before I knew that Roll Tide were not the last two words of the national anthem!

The memories just come up, unbidden, swirl like dry leaves in a cool wind. Wading through them is like walking in a riptide. Any of you, which I know is most of you, who have ever felt grief, will understand that feeling.

All of that, those memories and more, along side the house he was born in, the red clay hills and rolling greenness of the south, the crepe myrtle's and mimosa's, all of that is a part of my birthright, in this place, in this family. All of it is precious and somehow durable and fills me with surpassing gratitude.

I am especially grateful to Daddy for so many things, his love and support of me obviously, unwavering and undiluted.

I am grateful especially for the spiritual legacy he left me, particularly for one moment that had a profound effect on me.

About 6 years ago, I had surgery to repair some disc damage in my neck that I sustained in an automobile accident. The surgery was routine. Many of you have had it as well.

But a complication developed after surgery. I developed a bleed that cut off my respiration and I had to have additional emergency surgery to repair the problem. When I first started struggling to breathe, I called the nurses' station for help. They came, casually, with asthma treatments, but I knew my lungs well enough to know that was not the problem. As things got worse I felt that drowning panic that is so common with those who struggle to breathe. Just before I lost consciousness, I heard one of the nurses say, "We are losing her. Call the code."

Later, I came home to recuperate for several weeks. It was a difficult recuperation, not just physically, but emotionally. That code calling moment was truly awful. I felt no peace, no presence of God. No good-looking angel in a pink jacket came to hold my hand. It was just a void, a huge blackness filled

with terror. And that was not at all what I expected. It was not at all what many who have had similar experiences had described to me. And I had a downright crisis of faith. I was furious with God and could not understand why I had been left alone in that moment. I even wondered if I would ever be able to preach with conviction again.

Well, as I recovered, I stewed and ruminated on this something awful. I was more afraid of living with the memory of hope's absence than I was of death itself. Well, finally, one evening Daddy came into my room and sat at the foot of my bed.

"What's the matter, Klunk?" he asked.

And in a stumbling, childlike, angry, insulted way, I told him the whole thing. He listened without interrupting until I fell silent in my indignation.

Then he said, "Well, Klunk, what makes you think you are better than Jesus?"

Well, I don't know what I was expecting, but that was not it! I was truly ticked off then. "What do you mean?" I huffed.

"Well," he said. "In my Bible (bless his little Baptist self) I seem to recall when Jesus was

dying on the cross he felt abandoned too. He did not feel God's presence and cried out, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?'"

In that moment it was like heaven opened up inside me again. There was that flooding sense of sweet presence and a huge gratitude that somehow I had experienced in a small way something of what Jesus had experienced.

"Maybe," Daddy said. "Maybe that is just part of it. Maybe the hard is just part of it."

It surely was a part of it for him these last weeks...a grinding and grueling thing his death was. And yet for people of faith, sharing that experience of death also means that we share Jesus' other experience, the experience of resurrection to new life. Such is my faith, a legacy I owe in no small part to my father, for such was his faith, too.

You know, when a great love dies, it both changes everything and changes nothing. I feel my father's love and support as tangibly today as ever, and at the same time, I feel in some way cut off from a source. But if we learn nothing else from our faith, it is that death cannot contain, corral or in any way

harness love. A cross could not do it. A tomb could not do it...not that one 2000 years ago, and not this one we contemplate today.

There is so much we do not know...so much about life and death that we do not understand. We see, as Paul says, through a mirror dimly but one day we will see face to face. I am grateful that for my father, today is that one day.

My last conversation with Daddy was much like they all became in the last year or so. Mama and I had talked and then Daddy got on the phone and asked, "When you coming?"

"As soon as I can, Daddy."

"I'll be waiting for you," he said. "I love you, Pet" he finished.

And with that all was said.

I can just hear that conversation today as well, from some great green golf course in heaven...I can just hear Daddy say, "When you comin'? Not too soon. But I'll be waiting. I love you, Pet, sooo much."

"And these three things abide, faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love.

.....

lives of a Chinese mother and her daughter who has been adopted by an American couple.

Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. There is ritual and routine, and it has been ever thus for generations. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate—the first automobile any of them have seen—and a stranger arrives.

In this remote Yunnan village, the stranger finds the rare tea he has been seeking and a reticent Akha people. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, translates for the stranger and is among the first to reject the rules that have shaped her existence. When she has a baby outside of wedlock, rather than stand by tradition, she wraps her daughter in a blanket, with a tea cake hidden in her swaddling, and abandons her in the nearest city.

After mother and daughter have gone their separate ways, Li-yan slowly emerges from the security and insularity of her village to encounter modern life while Haley grows up a privileged and well-loved California girl.

Despite Haley's happy home life, she wonders about her origins; and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They both search for and find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations.

A powerful story about a family, separated by circumstances, culture, and distance, *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond that connects mothers and daughters.

September 13: *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult (Novel)

ALL WOMEN are invited to join our Ladies Book Club. We meet in Fox Hall, at church at 11:30 am, the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Bring your lunch! **YOU ARE FREE TO JOIN US FOR ONE OR MORE OF OUR MEETINGS.** Copies of our entire reading list are available on the church library cart. If you haven't come before, please give your email address to Cathy Brady (cathy.brady@gmail.com) so we can update you on any changes to the schedule.



Wednesday, August 15th
Tanner Jacks, AG Mesa
8:00 AM



NIPOMO COMMUNITY
25th
Jubilee
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Save the Dates! Jubilee!
October 26-28, 2018

Don't miss a wonderful weekend of thanking God and celebrating the past, present and future of our church. We will invite members that have moved away, former pastors and lots of others to join the celebration which will include a BBQ for out of town guests, a celebration banquet and concert, and special Sunday worship. More info coming soon!

Some thoughts on Grief & Loss

By: Kristy Clark, CRE, Pastoral Assistant

Grief and loss are partners that I have come to know very well in recent times. Sometimes they roll over me like a wave in the ocean. Other times they just lurk in the background, waiting. They never just go away. They are a part of me that I carry as I go about daily life. Do you know someone who is hurting? Perhaps you are that someone. If so, know that you are not alone. Even Jesus suffered grief and loss. Jesus warned his disciples that in this life they would have trouble and grief but to be of good cheer for He had overcome the world. All of us suffer loss of some kind or another at some time in our life. Sometimes the grief is short lived but other times it lasts a lifetime. How can we be of good cheer in the face of such pain?

Any time we lose something of value we lose a part of ourselves. That loss can be something as visible as the loss of a loved one or a close friend. It feels as though we died along with them only we keep on living. Losing a dearly beloved pet can hurt almost as bad. Losing a job which is such a big

part of who we are can cause a lot of worry and pain. How will we meet the bills? Deeper still is the question of what do I do now? Sometimes we are shocked at how much it hurts to have to give up our possessions to natural disaster or downsizing. These things become a part of who we are and so in effect we are losing a part of ourselves. It is amazing how much it can hurt! Loss can come from less tangible things. The loss of innocence from so many things can last a lifetime. The loss of our health or youth can cause us tremendous grief. In fact, any time we lose something which is deeply a part of us it causes grief and sorrow. This is normal.

When we suffer loss and grief we need to reach out for comfort and support. As Christians we know that Jesus walks along side of us but sometimes we need someone tangible. It is then that we as Christ's children are called to come along side of those who are hurting. Sometimes it can be as simple as a card that says I am thinking of you and am here for you. Other times it can be a hug that says I want to ease your pain. More times than not it means just listening as the hurt one pours out their grief. It is okay to need these things. They are God's way of reaching out and touching us to ease our way. People were meant for

communion with God and each other.

If you are one of those who are hurting, please reach out to someone for comfort. Pastor Eugenia and I are available to listen to you if you need to just talk. As someone who is intimately familiar with grief I can listen without judgement and with empathy. Just know that you are not alone, that someone cares.

Family Album

In preparation for Jubilee we are creating a church family album to share. Karen Graves, our church photographer, will be contacting each of you to arrange a time to take some snapshots for the album. Get ready for your close ups!

Meet John and Joy Haspels

Our Mission Partners in Kenya with Africa Inland Mission (AIM)



John and Joy live in Nairobi where they function as the Logistics Officer for AIM's Eastern Region, specifically Kenya and Tanzania. John and Joy are also the current team leaders for the South Asia

Ministry Team. This team seeks to share Christ with the South Asian community in Kenya. The South Asians are considered an unreached people group and were recently recognized as Kenya's 44th tribe.

They ask for prayer for the Kang family, a Korean couple who are coming to start the Northern Bible Training Center but are first spending a couple of weeks with the Rendille people to see first-hand how local pastors lead their churches. The Rendille are an unreached people group but there is a church that is growing rapidly and reaching its own people. They need more solid biblical training for its young leaders and is one of the churches behind the development of the Northern Bible Training Center.

John and Joy have 4 children, three of whom are currently attending Rift Valley Academy boarding school, while the youngest is schooled at home.

Report on Annual Giving

Thank you for your faithful financial support for the mission of our church. Here is a summary of giving for our Operating Budget for the first half of 2018 (ending June 30):

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Budgeted giving | \$ 152,610.00 |
| Actual giving | \$ 135,860.00 |
| Difference | -(\$ 16,750) |

The budgeted giving amount is based on monthly projections to meet the annual church expenses. Our giving, however, does not follow that even distribution. Much of the giving comes in at the end of the year, making it imprecise to compare the income on a monthly basis.

With this giving pattern in mind, the church operates on a Fiscal Year budget running from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. You can see that with a calendar year budget, we would not have funding for the middle months of the year. Here is the giving summary for the *fiscal year* through June 30 (9 months):

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Budgeted giving | \$228,915.00 |
| Actual giving | \$240,185.00 |
| Difference | + \$11,270.00 |

The final three months of the fiscal year, however, are the summer months, typically the lowest giving period of the year. If we maintain only the average giving for the summer, the positive difference will become a shortfall of about \$9,000.

These data give you an opportunity to review your own giving plan to ensure you are on track to achieve your goals for the year. And if possible, please consider a small step up in your summer giving.

Remember that our church does NOT send reports of your giving on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. If at any time you would like to find out the amount you have given to date for 2018, please call Caroline in the church office. She is the only one who has that information.

**Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church
Summer Events Schedule**

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>“Schools out!” Ice Cream Social</u> Make your own sundae Jigsaw puzzles & board games Sunday, June 10 @ 12 PM</p> <p><u>Movie Night – Frozen</u> Pizza & special Frozen desserts! Sunday, July 15 @ 7 PM</p> <p><u>All church Luau/picnic</u> Lawn games right after church. Pulled pork sandwiches will be served Bring a side dish. Sunday, August 5 @ 12 PM</p> | <p><u>Welcome Back to School Breakfast</u> Sunday school Kick-off! New Sunday school Room Tours! Sunday, August 19 @ 12 PM</p> <p><u>Beach Party BBQ/Potluck</u> To celebrate Grandparents Day! Bring a side dish and your own meat to BBQ Avila Beach picnic area Sunday, September 9 @ 2 PM</p> |
|---|---|

The Jane Plunkett Back to School Drive Begins July 1/Ends August 12



It's time for our annual Jane Plunkett Back to School Drive which is so named to honor Jane who had the heart and initiative to start this PW mission in 2011. School supplies will be collected to be given to the Children's Resource Network for disadvantaged children and at-risk youth in SLO and North Santa Barbara Counties.

For more information, please contact Joan Rice, Barb Deelor or any member of PW's Coordinating Team.

School Supply Wish List There is a big demand for backpacks!

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Backpacks | Whiteboard Markers | Spiral Notebooks |
| Glue Sticks | Crayons | Binder Paper |
| Sharp Point Scissors | Rulers | School Glue |
| Round Point Scissors | Protractors | Math Compass |
| Classic Pencils/Pens | 2-inch Binders | Pencil Box |
| Colored Pencils/Pens | 1-inch Binders | 5-Subject Dividers |
| Classic Markers | Erasers | Pocket Folders |
| Washable Markers | Pencil Sharpeners | Lined Index Cards |

Receptacles will be available in our sanctuary's narthex to receive your supplies beginning July 1. Should you prefer to donate monetarily, checks should be made payable to "The Children's Resource Network" and placed in the offering plate or left with Caroline in the office.

On behalf of a local child in need, we thank you!

Childrens Resource Network
of the Central Coast



ALL DONATIONS ARE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE - TAX ID# 27-1473791



All Church Picnic

Sunday, August 5th

right after church

Please bring a salad

or side dish to

accompany the

fried chicken,

biscuits, watermelon

and ice cream that

will be served.

Enjoy lawn games,

fun, food and

fellowship!



Presbyterian Women
Summer Potluck/Bingo

Thursday, August 23rd * Noon – Eugenia's Home
1131 Fair Oaks Drive, Arroyo Grande



"Angels Among Us"

**Please bring a photo or memento
of a woman that helped shape your life.**

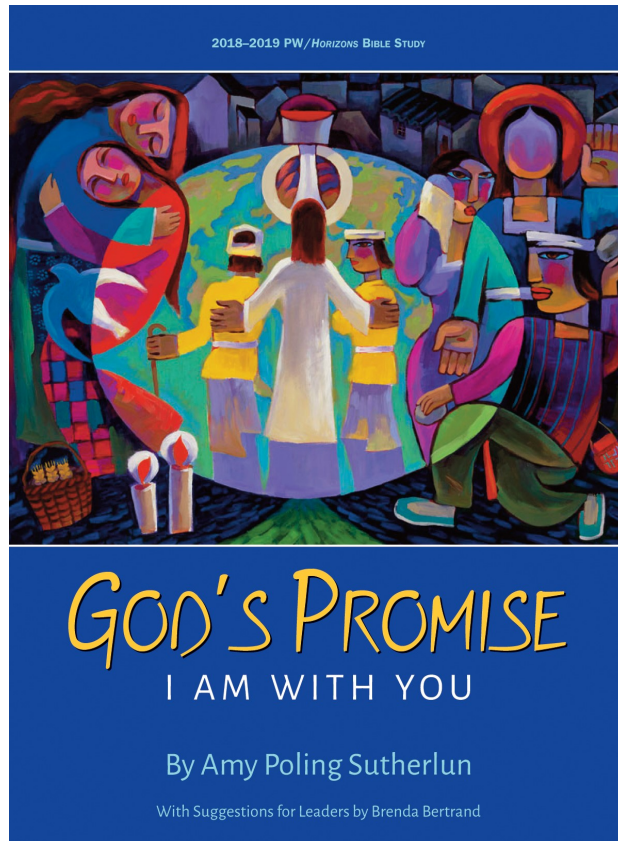
**Eugenia will be talking about where in the world the
various PW ministry projects have been.**

- ❖ Bring a dish to share**
- ❖ Bring a White Elephant gift (\$5) for Bingo.**
- ❖ RSVP's are required, so watch for the sign-up sheets on the PW table after church starting June 4th.**
- ❖ Carpooling is advised as parking is limited.**



Summer Youth Group Activities
Beach Bonfire, Ravine Waterpark and a fun trip to the lake !!!!

Women's Bible Study Resumes in the Fall



Each year, a new Bible study is created especially for Presbyterian Women and used throughout the country. This year's study, **God's Promise**, will take readers on a journey through scripture to consider how God will be present in our lives.

This is a great opportunity to gather with other women of this church to study scripture, pray, and share community together. We have the following groups:

Trinity—meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm—Santa Maria

Priscilla—meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am—various homes

Ruth—meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am—Nipomo

Koinonia—meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 pm—various homes

Contact Kathy Nienhouse if you're interested in joining a group by calling (805-931-0755) or by email (knienhouse@yahoo.com). You may also sign up at the table along with the Summer Potluck sign up beginning July 29.

nipompres@att.net, Holidays in United States

Aug 2018 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 29 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & | 30 6:30pm - Finance Team Meeting | 31 7pm - Adult Bible Study @ | 1 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox 10am - People's Kitchen Food | 2 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - People's Kitchen Food | 3 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - People's Kitchen Food | 4 10am - Threads of Faith Crafters |
| 5 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12pm - All Church Picnic w/ Lawn 12pm - Healing & Wholeness 5:30pm - SLO Jam | 6 6:30pm - Team Leader Meeting | 7 11:30am - Ladies Book Club @ 1:15pm - PWCT Meeting @ Fox 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox | 8 7pm - Adult Bible Study @ | 9 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - Liturgical Arts | 10 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - Liturgical Arts | 11 10am - Liturgical Arts |
| 12 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & | 13 10:30am - Genealogy Group @ | 14 2pm - Jubilee Meeting @ Fox Hall 6:45pm - Session @ Fox Hall | 15 8am - Men's Breakfast @ Tanner 7pm - Adult Bible Study @ | 16 10am - Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox | 17 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ VISION DEADLINE 10am - Liturgical Arts | 18 10am - Liturgical Arts |
| 19 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12pm - Breakfast & Sunday | 20 9am - Watercolor Society | 21 4:30pm - Deacon's Meeting @ 7:30pm - Finance Team Meeting | 22 7pm - Adult Bible Study @ | 23 12pm - PW Luncheon @ Fox Hall 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox | 24 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - Liturgical Arts | 25 10am - Liturgical Arts |
| 26 10:15am - Hymn & Praise Sing 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12:15pm - Local Missions Team | 27 | 28 7pm - Adult Bible Study @ | 29 7pm - Adult Bible Study @ | 30 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox | 31 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ | 1 |

Please visit www.nipompresbyterian.org for a full description

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Phone (805) 473-8059. Email: nipomopres@att.net

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| August 4th, 2018 from 10:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Location: Fox Hall | Threads of Faith Crafters |
| August 5th, 2018 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Location: Patio & Grounds | All Church Picnic |
| August 7th, 2018 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM | Location: Fox Hall | Team Leaders Round Table |
| August 9th, 2018 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM | Location: Fox Hall | Ladies Book Club |
| August 15th, 2018 from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM | Location: Tanner Jacks, AG Mesa | Men's Breakfast |
| August 19th, 2018 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Location: Grounds | Breakfast & Sunday school Room Tours |
| August 23rd, 2018 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM | Location: Eugenia's Home | PW Luncheon |

For a full color version of "the Vision" visit nipomopresbyterian.org

