



Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church

The Rev. David Aja-Sigmon
Pastor

Telephone: (718) 836-0681

Dear Church family,

November and December are upon us. Despite the fact that we have been hit by a tornado and an almost equally overwhelming ambush of contractors, our two busiest months have again come directly following October (Apparently, it has been happening that way for many years). I am still holding out hope that we might someday have a relaxed June or July nicely fitted between October and November. Alas, it has not happened, so ready or not, we have an exciting two months upon us.

Of course, we are no stranger to excitement. The last two months saw our little church building nearly resurrected from tornado ruins, thanks to the skilled hands of countless workers and the steady eyes of George Banat. We have had walls repainted, floors re-carpeted, pews re-finished, windows replaced, bricks reset and pointed, fences straightened, a tree removed and a tree planted, our roof patched, fences mended, a sidewalk replaced, and an organ fixed. For more details ask George.

Amidst it all, we have continued to be church. We have held worship every Sunday, and we have been upstairs since September 23rd. Sunday School, Youth Group, and the Children's Community Chorus have resumed. We welcomed an International Peacemaker from Lebanon. Doug Jabara and Elizabeth Inghram gave us a memorable and successful benefit, singing Broadway favorites. We started a fitness class. We held a Halloween event for the children. We continued serving at the Soup Kitchen. Our Food Pantry is still open and serving the community. And, Bible Study and the Seniors Gathering have also continued to meet.

November and December will be more of the same. All you have to do is turn over the page of this newsletter to see the many upcoming events.

What will also occur in November and December are the first steps towards the restoration of our stained glass windows. Presently, we are settling upon a firm that we feel can best restore the stained glass of the church. Our conversations and investigations lead us to believe that we will be able to begin work on the restoration in some form this month.

Finally on a different note, I must say that one of the prevailing sentiments one hears today in our society is that 'people are not what they used to be.' While I can't speak for how it used to be, I can say without reservation that this tornado has taught us through countless incidents, conversations, and gestures that people do care: young or old; black, white, or brown; Christian, Muslim, or Jew; New Yorker or Californian. People have been compassionate and generous beyond any common sense estimation.

Holding that in our hearts, let us pray that we continue to be a house of prayer for all nations.

Peace be with you,

Rev. David Aja-Sigmon