

Who's Who in the FOCUS

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The PLC FOCUS

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Message From Angie *The Spiritual Tool of Affirmation* **By Rev. Dr. Angelo Pizelo**

During September we focus on the empowering spiritual tool of affirmation. New thought philosophy emphasizes the fact that we bring into our experience "that on which we place our attention." Jesus told us that, if we desire something, know that you have it and you will. **This energy of thought,** emotion and the spoken word activates the dynamic, universal, creative forces of the cosmic mind. Plotinus once theorized that when we think a thought, or speak the word with great emotion, a spiritual prototype is created that mysteriously brings forth the circumstances and events that lead to manifestation in the physical world. **Each of us** has the awesome authority and responsibility



to be the architect of our life experiences. We are blessed with the spiritual tool of affirmation, which is our decision and agreement with the creative power of the universe as to what we wish to experience. It actually is our intention as to what we wish in our lives.

It behooves us to know that we are always using affirmations without being fully aware. **How many times** have we been upset with ourselves over something we have done and then put in mind "I am so stupid to have done that"? The words that complete the sentence starting with the words **I am** are an affirmation, which, when spoken often enough with emotion, will manifest in our experience. **So, during this month,** we take the opportunity to be aware of the words and thoughts that we use each day, ensuring that we are not affirming experiences that do not serve our greater good. And So It Is.

ANGEL OF THE MONTH by Dr. Janna Lewis

Each month The Focus features someone who works for the good of PLC without being in the spotlight. They are our *Angel of the Month*.



You may not recognize this month's angel, Lynn Terry; first, because she's a low profile kind of gal, and second, *because we don't have her picture*. As of this writing Lynn has Poison Oak all over her face – not exactly how she would like to be remembered. She will, however, be remembered for other things such as the huge impact she's made on our building project. Lynn has worked for Madera County's building department for 23 years. Due to her position, and her knowledge of the laws and her fellow workers, she has been walking us through what we need to know and do to get our new land and buildings in the works. She has been a tremendous help, saving us both time and money. For example, just this month at a Tuesday night meeting, she told me we recovered \$1000. It seems we paid that amount to annex into the road maintenance district. But Lynn found out we were already in the district, and the county is cutting us a check. Lynn is also working with Patrice Jensen, our architect and found us an engineer to lay out the septic system. **Although fairly new** to our belief system, Lynn is an avid learner and a great addition to our Tuesday Night discussion group. Lynn can be found every Sunday sitting in the back part of the church, so don't let her sneak out after service without introducing yourself and giving her a big "Thank You."

WHO'S WHO at PLC

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Angelo Pizelo

CO-PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Marie Lane

RITUALS AND SUNDAY SERVICES MINISTRY

Rev. Sandy West

CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRY

Kanya Ellington

YOUTH CHURCH MINISTRY

Drs. Tom & Mary Brownell

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA & WEBSITE MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Joyce Sterling

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Rev JoAnn Burgess

Rev. Dr. Maggi Butterfield-Brown
Dr. Janna Lewis

PASTORAL COUNSELING MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley

BOOKSTORE & LIBRARY

DIRECTOR

Sheyla Cook

MUSIC DIRECTOR & SERVICES SCHEDULER

Rev. Jeff Hartwig

NEW CHURCH & FUND RAISING MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Marie Lane

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Mark Henning

THE FOCUS

The PLC Newsletter

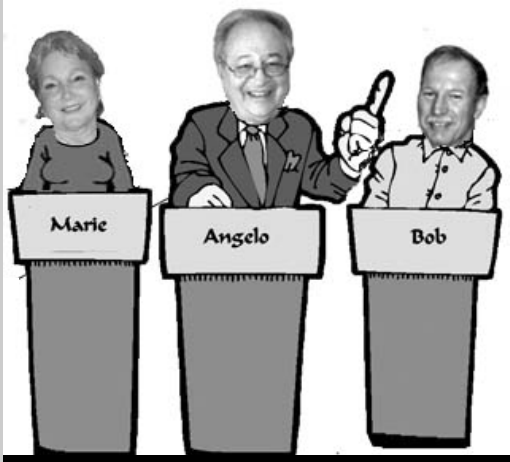
You are invited to participate in this on-going dialogue with others of like mind by sharing personal stories, poems, inspirational pieces, humor, etc. The **PLC FOCUS is published monthly**. Please have your submissions in the office by the **15th of the month**. If you prefer, you may e-mail your article to either:

Dr. Janna Lewis:

jannalewis@sti.net or

Mary Elliot:

leclair@hotmail.com.



WHO & WHEN

September 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

September 3

Speaker: Rev. Angelo Pizelo

Music: Barney Berrier
and Charley Berrier

September 10

Speaker: Rev. Marie Lane

Music: Cubbie Slayton
and Jeff Hartwig

September 17

Speaker: Rev. Bob Hand

Music: Stephen DeRuby

September 24

Speaker: Sheyla Cook

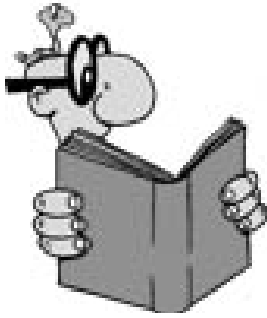
Music: Debra Martsolf
and Jeff Hartwig

To receive I-Focus
e-newsletters of timely
events and information,
e-mail: plcstaff@sti.net

THE MAIN CONCEPTS OF NEW THOUGHT

Formulated by
The Seminary of the Sierra
Graduating class of 2007

1. God is everything; everything is part of God.
2. Ideas are realities and all primary causes are internal forces.
3. When we change our thinking, we change our lives.
4. Mind is primary and causative, while matter is secondary and resultant.
5. The remedy for all defect and disorder is metaphysical, beyond the physical, in the realm of causes which are mental and spiritual – we do not deny sickness or pain – but we hold that they are not realities – but rather lack of ease, harmony and health.
6. Sin and moral evil are ignorance of Infinite Love; a separation from the Divine.
7. New Thought is profoundly spiritual in consciousness.
8. New Thought is the present and progressive revelation of Truth.
9. New Thought has no formal creed.
10. New Thought is a philosophy of life.



ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN

Ask and It Will be Given by Esther and Jerry Hicks is about learning to manifest your desires. It's easy to read and follow the directions for the exercises to become more proficient. The authors have written several books and give seminars around the country where students have not only learned the Hicks' techniques and practiced them, but had lots of fun doing so.

ing so.

Ask and It Will be Given is an excellent book for your shelves when you get stuck in negativity and need a boost in a positive direction. I especially liked the line, "the stream of well-being" they used throughout this book.

MIND SHOP NEWS

The Mind Shop Bookstore's books will appeal to every reader: fiction and non-fiction, including mythology, self-help, spiritual healing, diet and health related books, and many other categories. Come in and treat yourself to a new, or one of our very reasonably priced used, books. If you don't find what you want, we can order it for you. We can also order any book you could get at the major bookstores or on-line.

There is generally a volunteer at the bookstore Tuesday through Thursday, but call ahead to be sure we're open. Because we are staffed by volunteers, previously scheduled appointments or family emergencies can prohibit our volunteer from coming in. Our number is **559/642-4614**.

Usual Hours are:

Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

And, of course, there is always someone there on Sundays after service who can assist you with a book purchase. Don't forget all PLC members get a 10% discount.

Our *new* MINDSHOP BOOKSTORE *online* is in the works. It will be ready for viewing and purchases by Fall of 2006. Look for the dates and web address right here.

Focus On Youth

By Alexia Montagnoli

(17 years old on December 8, 2005)

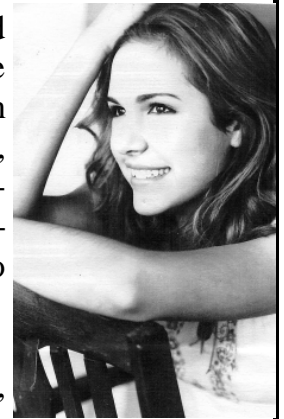
Use affirmations to control your life. Is this true? The power of intention is what I truly believe in, but do read on!

When referring to the spiritual definition, an affirmation is the statement of a desire, in which one deliberately repeats aloud or meditates on so that the desire can be implanted into the mind. For example, "I am making more space in my life for success every day" is considered to be a stronger affirmation than "I will win the lottery today!" One of the well-known affirmations is the word "Amen." It also is translated to "so it is" which can be translated simply to, "so be it."

A lot of the youth, and adults as well I am sure, often think of what they wish **not** to have happen, rather than what they would like. By putting forth the negative, even if your overall desire is productive, it is a mindless and negative affirmation. It might serve all of us teenagers and adults to look at the glass half full

and once our first-hand thoughts seem to resemble the thoughts of an optimist, then we can sincerely believe in, and therefore use, our affirmations and let their power create. It must be our intention to do so.

I've learned, as we all have, that we are more susceptible to illnesses when our emotions are "out of whack" for any reason. And this, my friends, is how I've come to realize that affirmations can truly help us in every aspect of our lives; they can even improve our health. When one changes the unhealthy thought patterns they might be allowing, and replaces them with a positive affirmation, it helps the etheric body, thus causing healing to start. We can make wise heart-felt choices and simply decide to act upon them as if they have already manifested. This is a true affirmation.



"I am what I am and that is my evolution. What others perceive of me is part of their evolution."

From *Affirmations* by Stuart Wilde.

Focus On Sunday School

By Kanya Ellington



Greetings from the Children's Church! As you know, we have spent the summer reviewing all the wonderful Science of Mind topics we studied the previous year. These topics included The Law of Attraction, Prayer Treatment, Love, Gratitude, The Christ Consciousness and much more. We have talked about great visionaries like Jesus, Mahatma Ghandi, Mother Teresa, and Martin Luther King Jr. We've read lots of stories, had puppet shows, and played games. Like many of you, we are gearing up for a new school year here too.

Starting in September we will be getting back to an in-depth study of the Science of Mind Core Concepts. The Concept for September is the allness and oneness of God. So we will be talking about God as creator, God as everything there is, and we will also discuss those qualities that we attribute to God. To accomplish this we will be telling stories, playing games, using science demonstrations, and making some fun crafts. This month we will be making a new set of puppets that we will be using all year to demonstrate the Core Concepts. It's going to be lots of fun; we look forward to seeing you all there!

JANNA & MARY talk about . . . Affirmations



Janna: I've been thinking about affirmations all morning, not because I'm much into affirmations, but mainly because it's our theme of the month. As a matter of fact, when I hear the word *affirmation*, I'm immediately transported back in time to when I was, perhaps, about ten years old. I receive an instant flashback of me writing on a chalkboard in a school room. The words on the board are very clear and have been repeated line after line: *I will never punch Teddy on the nose again. I will never punch Teddy on the nose again.* That particular affirmation didn't work; I **did** punch Teddy on the nose again –



every time he kicked my dog or hit my best friend. I've never felt a close kinship with affirmations since that time. Do they really work?

Mary: This may be *The Focus's* shortest dialogue because I feel much like you do. At the risk of sounding like a New Thought heretic (so many of our colleagues swear by affirmations) I have always felt an affirmation is a lie. It's like repeating you have perfect health when you have your head in the john losing your breakfast. That said, I will quote, in part, Ernest Holmes' definition. "Human thought can only affirm, for even at the moment of denial, it is affirming the presence of that which it denies." How do you like them apples?

Janna: Oh dear, back to the drawing board. Dr. Holmes is right, of course; everything we think, say, feel and do is an affirmation - of something. The problem (if there really is one) is that we usually think of affirmations as a means of validating something in our lives that either exists now or that we'd like to have manifest soon. What we forget is that our negative habits are affirmations also. And these can be habits of a physical nature, as well as thought and speech habits. Let's say that you believe that you need to put in eight full hours a day for the next month in order to complete your manuscript in time for a certain publication date. Instead of getting up at 6:30 each morning, however, you get up at 9 and sit around over coffee for a couple of hours. This is an **affirmation**, and one that will definitely help you defeat your publication desire. There are dozens of examples like that, but you get the idea. I agree with you, however, that to attempt to affirm something that is blatantly untrue is defeating, also. What's your suggestion?

Mary: I think we start with Truth. Truth never changes; and the truth is that in consciousness there is no limitation. So if I feel limited in any area of my life - be it abundance, relationships, knowledge, health, or whatever - I always remember this: If there is an exception to my personal experience, then it's not the truth. Take the example of the writer you talked about. If he examined his own consciousness, he would find his limiting beliefs and exceptions for all of them. They may range from "I'm not smart enough," to "Hey Skippy, who do you think you are?", to "Nobody's going to want to know about what I say anyway." By recalling times when he acted intelligently, or had plenty of self esteem, or had an impact on someone, he could affirm the Truth and start writing. Don't you think?

Janna: I like your idea of 'starting in Truth'. There are dozens, (millions probably) of statements about ourselves that are Truths which won't feel like lies when we think them in the quiet of the night. Instead of saying something like "I feel successful" when I definitely don't, I say, "I believe that Success is continual presenting itself to me and I am becoming increasingly more aware of its gifts at all times". This is a universal Truth that I can personally partake in. There are also things we can say that are the Truth, even if we aren't sure of how this should feel. I like to say things like "The God-Force flows through me!" Since I believe this to be true even if I don't always **feel** the connection, I find that after a while I begin to recognize my every move is God-Force. I think this is how a good affirmation works. What do you think?

Mary: I think you've hit on it. A "good" affirmation combines a feeling of connection with the God-Force as well as the words in the affirmation. Going back to your never again punching out Teddy, you knew you weren't going to live up to that. There was no feeling behind it. But now, by cultivating Truth, and getting to a point of being able to experience that God-Force on a feeling level, your affirmation has the Power of the Universe behind it. I like to think of this like the law of gravity - what goes up must come down, only in this case it is **What goes in, must come out.** See you next month. Same time, same place

DISCUSSION GROUPS

TUESDAY NIGHT - LIVE! 7 p.m. AN ON-GOING SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION

Tuesday night's at the Positive Living Center ROCK!!! In a highly spiritual sense of course. (Yeah. Right.) This on-going discussion group seems to get more fun and informative every week. This month our theme is Affirmation, but we have a very special guest September 5th. You can read the details on the "What's Happening Around PLC" page. We welcome folks from all belief systems to add spice to our mental stew. The only criteria for attending is having a pulse. Stop by Tuesday nights at 7:00 and check it out.

Facilitators are Rev. Dr. Angelo Pizelo and staff.

TUESDAY MORNING - 11 a.m. BIBLE STUDY

Working at incredible speed since last October, the Tuesday Morning Metaphysical Bible class has studied the entire book of Genesis and clear past the Ten Commandments in Exodus. I know, I know. That doesn't sound like much. Rather than thinking of ourselves as being mentally slow, we prefer to suggest we are highly intelligent and want to understand every single nuance of the material. What that means to you is you can join anytime and still get our drift. It's challenging as well as lots of fun. Or just drop in on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM.

For more info call Mary Elliott at 642-6655.

TUESDAY NIGHT 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.. THE COURSE IN MIRACLES

Students world-wide study *The Course in Miracles* to learn about love, forgiveness, non-judgment, change in perception and much more. It teaches that miracles are an everyday event and how to achieve them. The teaching is based on self responsibility, and that thoughts and actions produce reactions in our lives. There are no fees. Group meets Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:45.

Facilitator Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley (559) 683-4212

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 6:30 p.m. REIKI

The wonderful tool of Reiki is available to the public every Wednesday night in the sanctuary. Practitioners help re-charge you with spiritual energy that flows to each part of your life, causing healing at all levels - spiritual, mental, emotional or physical. Please take advantage of this service when any part of your life is out of alignment. A donation to the building fund would be appreciated.

Facilitators: Bill and Betty Fleming

For information call (559) 683-2274

Friday: 9:30 a.m. to Noon LIFE STORY WRITING

Join us if you enjoy writing stories about your life. We write and share stories each week and have been for nine years. Join us any time.

Facilitators: Dr. Ed Hibler & Jackie Hibler, e-mail: edhib@sti.net

ON-GOING CLASSES & STUDY GROUPS

Monday: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY 101 (PS 101)

You KNOW positive thinking, prayer, and affirmations work. Do you know why? Would you like to use these things more effectively? We will explore the philosophy behind ,and the Universal Mental Laws used, by each individual. In fact, we all use this whether we know it or not. But, once understood, this Creative Mind can be directed by you to manifest unlimited positive circumstances in your life. You will learn the 5 step process of affirmative prayer, and the logic that makes it work to help you create this.

PS 101 is a required course for any Emerson degree. Course fee \$75.00

Starts September 11th for 6 weeks.

Please contact us ASAP so textbooks can be ordered.

Facilitator: Mary Elliott

To sign up call **(559) 642-6655**

Or church office **(559) 642-4616**

Monday: 2:00—3:30 p.m. WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT A _____?

If you'd like to run ahead in your spiritual growth or become a practitioner who does prayer/treatment for yourself and others, or just enjoy uplifting discussions with some stimulating people, this class is for you. You will study a book about perception by master essayist, Marcus Bach.

Begins **Monday, September 11**, upstairs, for 6 weeks. Fee \$75.00

Facilitator: Rev. JoAnn Burgess (559) 222-8307

Wednesday: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. SEMINARY CLASS

A seminary class is held every Wednesday in the church office. This class is required for minister interns, and is open to completed Practitioners and practicing ministers. Guests are welcome to partake in these study groups and join in the thought-provoking, often spirited discussions.

Facilitator: Reverend Angelo Pizelo

For information call **(559) 642-4616**

POSSIBILITARIAN STUDIES is a new web-based learning environment recently created by Dr. Janna Lewis. She'd like to invite those of you who don't like to leave home, but do enjoy learning to visit the site. *Possibilitarian Studies* will host many different types of classes taught by many different instructors. Besides the *Practical Spirituality Courses*, it will be the home of courses in *Personal Growth, Religion Studies, Business Advancement, Cultural Studies, and Child & Youth Development*. Classes will begin this fall.

Check out the website at **www.possibilitarian-studies.org**

PLC Members are encouraged to submit original works and/or interesting pieces written by others.

AFTER THE FIRE
By Mary Lee Gowland

After the fire and after the smoke
and after the ash has settled
we return to our home breathless and glad
to be able to put on the kettle

and look out the window on the sad charred
ruins
that used to be our vista,
grateful the wind decided to shift
and the flames just barely missed us.

Out on my trail that was once so quaint
lies a road-wide swath of destruction
dust and dirt and heaps of trees
from the "fire load reduction".

It pains my heart to see the earth
so bare and so exposed.
It may take years for life to return
for the grass to need to be mowed.

All winter long the rain and the wind
carve gullies and into the slope.
Surely the seeds that escaped the fire
will be washed away with my hope.

Then suddenly spring and what do I see
new shoots and tender young grass.
By the middle of May the weeds are so high
they're reaching up to my ass!

Who would have thought that the earth could
heal
so quickly without much fuss?
The hand of God takes care of the land
the same way it takes care of us.

SUBMITTED BY
Pearl Schmidt

Hate is sand in the machinery of life. . . .
Love is oil.

Hatred is like an acid. It can do more damage
to the vessel in which it is stored than to the
object on which it is poured.

The principal business of life is to enjoy it.

All people smile in the same language.

A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things
straight.

The secret of contentment is knowing how to
enjoy what you have.

THINKING AFFIRMATIVELY
By Dr. Janna Lewis

As we have been taught, and Know on some level, there
is a Power for Good in the Universe greater than we are,
and we can use it. To do so, Ernest Holmes gives us
three steps for thinking affirmatively.

1. *Let us begin with the thought that we are all united
with an Invisible Force which is creative, and that
we are already One with a Universal Mind which
can do anything.*
2. *Let us consider that we are centers within this
Mind, and that the sum total of all our thoughts is
either silently attracting Good to us or repelling It
from us.*
3. *Let us know that we can change our thinking and in
so doing, cause the Law of Good to act affirma-
tively for us instead of negatively.*

What Dr. Holmes means is that immersed in the crea-
tive Force of Mind as we are, our thoughts are going to
either attract or repel - they are never neutral. We only
need to change them to reflect our total good.

Members' Page

PLC Members are encouraged to submit original works and/or interesting pieces written by others.

EXPLANATION OF GOD

By an 8 year old boy.

This was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to "explain God." I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

EXPLANATION OF GOD: "One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church."

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God.? Like a secretary, only more important."

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time."

"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!"

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

"But . . . you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases."

And...that's why I believe in God."

(Thank Dr. Izabel Ganz for this submission.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PLC ?

STUFF YOURSELF - OR - GET STUFFED!

We would like your help. Join us on Wednesday, September 13th, from 4 p.m. **until done.**

We're kicking off our major Fund-raising effort, through the inspired efforts of Rev. Marie Lane, and need people to "stuff" 5,000 envelopes for a mailing.

This is an extremely grand and exciting movement toward raising the necessary funds to begin the new PLC building.

Come on Wednesday, bring a refreshment if you'd like (nothing except water is provided), and join in for laughter, fellowship and **STUFFING ENVELOPES.**

NEW SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

There is a now a group prayer/meditation session in the bookstore Sunday mornings between 9:15 and 9:45. This is your chance to join others of like-mind who enjoy a few gentler moments before beginning our regular service. Come in and experience your inner joy as we exult in the unified, lifted consciousness of our spiritual family. We encourage you to attend.

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL TUESDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION

September 5th, 7:00 p.m. We are in for a treat when Kate Guske, a representative of the Energetic Balancing Program (or AIM) will do a short presentation and answer questions. You may have read about this program in the August issue of Science of Mind Magazine. AIM is a technique used to harmonize an individual's energy fields for wholeness and health. Her book *Sanctuary*, co-written with Steven Lewis explains the beginnings of the AIM program. Energetic Balancing is based on physics - but not to worry. The book is written as fiction and is interesting, holding your attention without getting all technical or scientific.

7th ANNUAL FALL ART SHOW

Saturday Sept 16th. 10 AM - 4 PM, JoAnn Burgess, Julie Mitchell and Vivian Helena Aumond~Capone are participating in this show being held at the Northwest Church, 5415 N. West Ave, in Fresno (corner of Barstow & West) There will be artwork by 50 local artists, which include paintings, sculpture, jewelry, photography just to name a few of the mediums. They are looking forward to seeing some of our PLC members there.

Special upcoming retreat: FINDING INNER PEACE AFTER LOSS

Saturday, October 28, 2006. Mark your calendars. This retreat will be held at Riversong Ranch. In this one-day retreat, you will learn principles and practices for self-renewal and healing based on spiritual wisdom and positive psychology. Facilitated by Sandee Scott Archer, Religious Science Practitioner and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Special discount for PLCers. Brochures & registration forms will be available in the near future. **Emerson Institute - 5 units of credit.**

For more information, call Sandee at 559-658-8373 or email riversongretreats@gmail.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PLC ?

UP-DATE ON PLEDGE DRIVE

You probably received a letter in the mail last month from Rev. Bob Hand about our pledge drive for manifesting our wonderful new church building. I have great news. Working together we now have pledges totaling right around \$65,000. The philosophy behind the drive is that we not only put the idea of our new church building into Mind, but we "Treat and move our feet." Now is the time to take action.

Rev. Bob said, "The action I am suggesting we take is to make a one to five year pledge for the amount of money each of us will be able to donate annually toward our building fund." Look what has happened. From zero to \$65,000 in one short month. By everyone in our spiritual family giving what they can, we are sure to reach our goals. No amount is too small, so consider what you can give today.

Please use the tear-off form below for your pledge. If you have not already done so, please fill it out and return it with your first donation to the PLC office or during Sunday service.

Positive Living Center of Central California Contribution/pledge Card

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

YES, I want to help the PLC build a new spiritual center.

I am making a pledge of \$_____ per year for _____ years (1 to 5)

For a total donation of \$_____ (amount of money times number of years)

OR

I desire to make an annual donation. This year's donation of \$_____ is enclosed.

The PLC is a 501(c)3 church and most donations are tax deductible. We recommend checking with your own tax advisor.

A pledge drive enables us to better stabilize the financial requirements that will ensure the construction of our new spiritual center in a timely fashion.

Positive Living Center of Central California

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PLC ?

Have an announcement? Let us broadcast it for you - right here in our Newsletter.

Jack Gyer donated a beautiful **Jane Gyer** painting, "El Capitan", for a raffle. The picture is on display at Yosemite Bank Lobby. Tickets are being sold there as well as at the PLC on Sundays, and the Children's Museum during the week. All proceeds go to the PLC Building Fund. Diane Gonzalez has volunteered to be in charge of the raffle. Her phone number is **559/ 658-8696, ext. 112**. Tickets are \$10 each or 6 tickets for \$50. The drawing will be held at PLC on September 17th. You do not have to be present to win.



Empty Bowl Project

Create Ceramic Bowls For Our Local Community.



Learn about these handcrafted bowls and create one yourself. Using simple technique's of pinch pot, slab, and coil you can create one of a kind bowls for this fundraising project. Bowls



are fired, glazed with food safe glaze, and then fired again for a final finish. A minimum \$10 donation for materials is suggested. The bowls may be purchased at many of our local participating galleries. **On October 29, 2006** we will share a simple meal of soup and bread. The local *Community Meals Program*, sponsored by the Community Methodist Church will be presented with the funds raised by the Empty Bowl Project. Bowl-making takes place every Wednesday from 1-5 at:



Inanna's Gift Gallery, 35463 Hwy 41 Coarsegold.

For further information, contact **Rev. Judy DeRosa - 559/ 641-6389**.

Volunteers Please! There is a lot going on this summer – the raffles, potlucks, envelope stuffing ... and more. So we need your help! **Rozella Dudley** is the volunteer coordinator, and I know she'd love to hear from you with your enthusiastic support as a volunteer.

Practitioners Corner
By Mary Elliott

Why face life's challenges alone, whether they are physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual? Spiritual Mind Treatment is the most powerful tool for change in the Universe. Let one of our Practitioners help you find and dissolve the mental root of your problem so your desires are manifested.

Practitioners are trained to know the Truth of a perfect Universe, and therefore everything and everybody in it is also perfect. They apply this knowledge, using spiritual law, to individual situations so solutions and healings will unfold in your life. No challenge is too big or too small.

Try it for yourself. Phone or personal treatment is available for a fee from a licensed practitioner. Or take advantage of the licensed practitioner available after church services each Sunday morning - for no charge. **PLC practitioners are listed below.**

What is Pastoral Counseling?
By Rev. Rozella Dudley



Looking for that bridge over troubled waters?

Pastoral counseling is a listening ministry. It creates a safe, confidential space to vent, discuss, and just be yourself without expectations or judgments. It does not give answers but allows space and time along with gentle questions or feedback to help the seeker find answers within themselves. It can be a time of self-exploration into personal problems or to assist in a chosen spiritual path. It is strengthened by prayer treatment.

With pastoral counseling people are able to confront their fears and indecisions and discover inner strengths. By having someone to listen, getting feed back, and answering a few gentle questions counselees find their own answers within, and gain the courage to act.

We can help you bridge difficulties and anxiety over finances, career, health, relationships, major life passages or other concerns.

For more information contact:

Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley 559-683-4212 or rozell@sti.net

All counseling is confidential. Pastoral counseling is NOT, however, psychological counseling. It has a definite spiritual basis to it, to help you change your thinking and thus change your life.

**RELIGIOUS SCIENCE
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As the educational arm of ANTN (Affiliated New Thought Network) of which the Positive Living Center is a member, Emerson Theological Institute's vision is to awaken people to empowering Universal Principles and provide the instructional resources that will facilitate the development of healthy relationships, spiritual communities and the realization of potential.

To accomplish its vision, Emerson's core curriculum embraces the spiritual philosophy of the presence of God in humankind and the power of right thinking. It emphasizes the existence of One Life, One Mind, One Power, One Presence, in, as, and through all creations.

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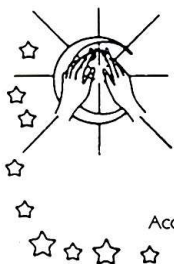


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AFFIRMATION

What I like when I write this page is that I learn while contemplating and researching the subject. This month I learned a whole new way to look and experience affirmation. Let me preface this by saying my life has been very, very good lately, but I had one teeny tiny little problem. Every time some wonderful event came into my life, the more I felt split. It was like I was a pretend-person. I didn't know who was looking through my eyes.

It was obvious something had changed (or was trying too) and I really tried to accept it. I'd do my morning prayer-work, straining and grunting acceptance. But it wasn't working. The more I tried, the more split I became. I had no clue what to do. Then I got my nose into *The Nature of Personal Reality*, a book channeled by Jane Roberts and dictated by an entity named Seth. This is partly what he has to say about affirmation.

"Affirmation means saying "yes" to yourself and to the life you lead, and accepting your unique personhood. That affirmation means that you declare your individuality. Affirmation means that you embrace the life that is yours and flows through you. Your affirmation of yourself is one of your greatest strengths."

After reading that quote I realized I needed to not only accept the new stuff, but embrace it by participating in it. Up until now I had been saying, "Yeah, sure." as I crossed my mental arms. "I'll just wait and see how this turns out." That's why it was all pretend. I was accepting it with my head, but not my heart. What if it all went away tomorrow? What if it really wasn't a change for the better? But I decided taking a chance was better than what I was going through, so I plunged into this new stuff, not allowing any expectations, just NOW.

How fun!

A feeling of empowerment came to me. I not only embraced the events of daily life, but my prayer-work became clearer and more effective.

As Seth says, "Affirmation is based upon the realization that no other consciousness is the same as your own, that your abilities are uniquely yours and like no other's. It is the acceptance of your individuality in flesh."

It's what can be called "affirmative living." It's choosing to live from your authentic Self - that self that has no choice but to provide you with all the good you desire in the whole of your experience. All the peace, love, knowledge, guidance and joy. All the worldly success you can envision and the power to reach that success. Which is not to say you take a Pollyanna-everybody-and-everything-is-wonderful attitude. The key here is choice.

As Seth states, "You can at times quite properly deny certain portions of experience, while confirming your own vitality. You do not have to say "yes" to people, issues, or to events with which you are deeply disturbed. Affirmation does not mean a bland wishy-washy acceptance of anything that comes your way, regardless of your feelings about it. Biologically, affirmation means health. You go along with your life, understanding you form your experience, emphasizing your ability to do so."

To me the power of affirmation is synonymous with free choice, a full-bodied choice you throw yourself into heart, head and soul. All you gotta do is dance. If your feet are sore tomorrow, oh well. Forget it now and say "Yes" to the rhythm rocking through you.