

The Friendly Visitor

Culver City Presbyterian Church - February 2012

www.culvercitypres.org

(310)398-3071



Mardi Gras Sunday! and Potluck February 19



Dig out your Mardi Gras beads and mask and join us for another fabulous Mardi Gras Sunday this **February 19**. Our annual celebration of the Transfiguration of the Lord, promises to be fat and fun. Mardi Gras Sunday is the Sunday on which we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord and is the last Sunday before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We will be blessed with special, festive music and recess from the sanctuary with the annual umbrella dance.

Please bring a Cajun or international dish to share and a fun filled spirit as we feast and *laissez les bon temps rouler* following the service. Get this fun Sunday on your calendar now and bring a friend!



Vacation Bible School Needs You!

After a long break, Vacation Bible School is back at Culver City Presbyterian Church! Tell

your friends and neighbors that between **July 23-27** children will experience Pandamania-- where God is wild about you! Kids will worship God through songs and prayer, play games, make crafts, and discover life-changing Bible truths in fun and memorable ways.

To have the best adventure possible, we need volunteers who can give some time, energy, and love to the kids who will attend. So let me share a few ideas about ways you might be able to make this program a success. Please check out the following list, and then pray about where God might use you.

Station Leaders: Use easy-to-follow station leader manuals and prepare one 20-minute session each day. We need leaders for the following stations:

- Bamboo Blast Games (high-energy games)
- Treetop Treats (helping kids make snacks)

Crew Leaders: Shepherd a mixed-age group of five elementary children through each day's activities...and there's no preparation!

Still don't see something that interests you? We'd also love to have a...

- Registration team
- Decorating team
- Photographer
- Audiovisual Assistant
- Aftercare Volunteers

Guess what? There are also a few spots for anyone who's dramatically inclined! Whatever

your gifts, abilities, and time commitment, we've got a place for you!

We believe that God will use this incredible program to reach many children with the message of his love, so please prayerfully consider your role in Pandamania VBS. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or attend the next planning meeting on **Sunday, February 26**, following the worship service.

Contact Dianne Tyau for more information...

And speaking of bears...

Is God Calling You to Big Bear?



Did you know that on the beautiful shores of Big Bear Lake, CA just a few hours from Los Angeles, sits a beautiful Presbyterian camp and retreat center waiting for you? **Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center** has been operated by the Presbyterian Church and has served Presbyterians for decades. Many CCPC members have fond memories of being youngsters at camp there. Check out these spring and summer offerings for you or your kids and plan ahead for summer fun! God might be calling you to Big Bear.

March Madness Winter Retreat

March 23-25

Junior Camp

July 8-14 for students enter 4th-6th grades

Jr. High Camp

July 15-21 for students entering 7th-8th grades

LEAD High School Age Camp

Session 1: July 8-14

Session 2: July 15-21

Visit [Big Bear's website](#) for more info:

Toll Free (877) 285-0119

Telephone: (909) 866-2360

FAX: (909) 866-2857

registration@pccci.org

P.O. Box 1512

575 Prairie Lane

Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

www.pccci.org

Council Highlights

Council Highlights is a brief summary of actions and discussions of the CCPC Session of Ruling Elders for the benefit of the broader church family. Council meetings are always open and the full Council records are available for review by church members.

At its last meeting your church Council:

- Welcomed new Council members;
- Elected Kathy Dean to a 1 year term as Clerk of Council;
- Approved Finn Sperber Baptism, **March 4, 2012**;
- Set annual congregational meeting for **January 29, 2012** for the purpose of receiving the annual report and approving the Pastor's Terms of Call;
- Elected Blair Seibert President of the Corporation;
- Scheduled Annual Manse Walk-Through for **Feb. 5**;
- Received an update on work with the manse kitchen remodel architect;
- Discussed the youth mission opportunities and the in-process Youth Minister and Youth Ministry evaluation being led by Administration;
- Received a financial report from the Treasurer; and,
- Received written and in-person reports from the Pastor and Church Administrator.

Administration – Maribah Thoms (Chair) and Blair Seibert

Building and Grounds – Blair Seibert (Chair), Patience Abiedu, Tracy Cluss, Stephen Harwin, Tom Juma, Maribah Thoms and Judith Wong

Christian Education - Kathy Dean and Maribah Thoms

Evangelism, Membership, and Outreach (EMO) – Judith Wong (Chair), Tracy Cluss, and Kathy Dean (ex-officio)

Meetings, Minutes, And Training (MMAT) – Kathy Dean (Chair) and Stephen Harwin

Nominating – Patience Abiedu (Chair) and Tracy Cluss

Stewardship – Tracy Cluss (Chair) and Maribah Thoms

Worship – Patience Abiedu, Stephen Harwin, and Tom Juma

Please keep your church Council in your prayers for fruitful ministry and service.

Your new church Council will have its next stated meeting on **February 12, 2012**.

Rev. Jason E. Gamble, Moderator of Session



DEACONS' CORNER:)

The Board of Deacons would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your generous support and contributions. When we need coffee hosts, you sign up. When we ask for toiletries, canned goods or cookies, you donate. When we ask for participants for CCPC's convalescent home ministry, you come. With your strong backing, our congregation has reached out to many in our community, and by continuing to work as a team, we shall continue to do so and to show the community the love of Christ.

We are looking forward to an exciting, busy year of ministry and outreach.

Sherri Hodge and David Kim are our new Co-Moderators this year. Valerie Harwin will serve as Secretary and Ken Franke as Treasurer.

Put these upcoming events on your calendar:

February 19th – Mardi Gras Sunday celebration and luncheon

February 22nd - April 8th -- Lenten canned food drive. Below are suggestions as we begin to collect items this year.

St. Joseph Center Wish List and Donation Guide

Food Pantry Items

Please do not include items that have expired or come in glass containers.

Peanut butter

Canned meats and fish

Canned vegetables and fruits

Pasta, crackers, cereal, beans and rice

Canned sauce, soup and broth

100% fruit juice

Sturdy paper grocery bags with handles (Trader Joe's style) and empty egg cartons are needed to help distribute the food.

The Heart

(Honoring God, Evangelism, Assisting others, Reaching Out, Teaching)

Culver City Presbyterian Youth Group



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20. God is love and created love so let's tell others about it!

Sunday, February 5th- Saying no to drugs

and alcohol - We'll meet in the Upper room from 6-8pm for games, worship and a lesson on drugs and alcohol. Why are so many students involved with these? Should they be avoided? Why? What does God have to say about any of it? Come to youth group for the discussion.

Sunday, February 19th- Values series: How should I live?

– We'll meet in the Upper room from 6-8pm for games, worship and our first lesson in our "Values series: How should I live?" We'll discuss honesty. What does it mean to be honest? Don't we have to be a little dishonest to get ahead in the world? What about little insignificant lies? How does honesty affect my life? Come to youth group to find out!

Friday, February 24th-Saturday, Feb 25th- 5th annual 30 Hour Famine!

We will be fasting to raise awareness and money for starving children around the world through World Vision. When you don't eat, you learn what's it's like for those who don't have anything to eat and God calls us to take care of the poor and hungry. We'll start the fasting at 7am on Friday morning on our own. Eat a big breakfast beforehand! We'll meet up at church at 7pm on Friday and will end the fast together on Saturday at 1pm. Ask your parents if they will bring a food item to help us break the fast. You can drink water and juice during the 30 hour fast but you can't eat anything. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries and a great attitude! There will be games, movies, service activities, etc. Check out www.30hourfamine.org for more information. If you have a medical reason not to fast let me know. You can still participate with a media fast or by fasting from one particular type of food that you enjoy. Join us, learn about fasting, feel what it's like to be hungry, learn to care for others and have a lot of fun while you're doing it!

Coming Up:

Sunday, March 4 and Sunday, March 18 – Youth Group

Prayer Requests:

Let's keep our church, Culver City Pres, in our prayers for spiritual, financial and physical growth. You and your families are welcome to attend worship service any Sunday morning at 10:30am!

Call with any questions, comments or just to talk!

Melanie Bomar

Youth Director / 310-621-8738

oldm1@aol.com

NOTHING NEW?

Devotion for February
Submitted by Kathy Dean

"Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account." Ecclesiastes 3:15

We could see this verse as a real downer. Nothing new! Is there really nothing new now and nothing new in the future either? In our culture we put a lot of value in having the newest objects – a smartphone, a car, fashionable clothes, or a remodeled kitchen. We consider that the newest is the most advanced (and shiniest and prettiest), and is therefore the best. As soon as a newer version comes out, the item that was "new" up until then is now passé.

But if we step back from our cultural ideas of what's new, and think a little more deeply, we see that the most important and lasting realities are not new at all. God's love for us is not new. Creation is not new. Dig down below the fools' gold and tinsel glitter of our culture to the real gold and silver of God's reality. God's love has been there since the beginning of creation.

The second phrase of the verse says that God will call the past to account. Just as nothing is new, nothing is forgotten. Our loved ones from the past are not gone, but in another

plane of existence. Deeds from the past are never forgotten by God. The past, present, and future are all interrelated. Everything in the present has its beginnings in the past, and has an influence on the future.

Just because an event happened in the past does not make it less important than events of today or of the future. God's love and concern encompass all of time; and unlike us, his knowledge of the past is just as clear as the present moment.

I believe that this verse is reminding us to be alert and aware of the deeper realities of life. Don't get caught up in the glitter of surface attractions! Nothing that is of God is ever lost or forgotten. Be alert to God working in creation, remember and honor the past, and base your life on the unchanging reality of God's love.

Lord, help us to see your reality instead of the glittery sparkle that surrounds us and is so deceptive. Amen.

CCPC Financial Report

As of Dec. 31, 2011:

Identified giving - actual	\$ 89,462
Identified giving - pledged	<u>95,000</u>
Shortfall	\$ (5,538)

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Cluss, Treasurer



**Congratulations to
Paule and Alain Siaka Foising
on their marriage
Saturday, January 7, 2012**

In Loving Remembrance --



Rollamae Crawford Crawford
July 12, 1925 - October 30, 2011



Happy Birthday in February to...

- 1 - Wil Vashaw
- 3 - Mary Darr
- 8 - Ani Abiedu
- 9 - Jon Tyau Jr.
- 10 - Calvin Knecht
- Colleen Moryl
- 13 - Don Ahearn
- 18 - Eva Yum
- 20 - BJ Sperber
- 22 - Kristen Pinta
- 27 - Roselyn Juma

