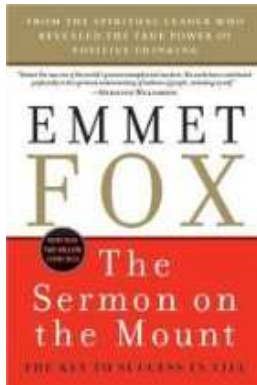


The Friendly Visitor

Culver City Presbyterian Church – March 2010

www.culvercitypres.org

JOIN US WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN LENT FOR BIBLE STUDY



The Wednesday night Bible study will examine the cornerstone of Christ's teaching, The Sermon on the Mount, March 3 – 31 in the church library. The 5-part study will refer to Emmet Fox's classic book, *The Sermon on the Mount: The Key to Success in Life*. You may purchase your own copy on Amazon or pick one up from the pastor for just \$10.

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SPEAK AT UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETING



The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the General Assembly, will speak at our next Presbytery of the Pacific Meeting, March 9 at Calvary Wilmington PC.

Bruce is the founding pastor of [Mission Bay Community Church](#), in San Francisco Presbytery.

Bruce's formative years were spent in Sacramento and Stockton where he was truly raised by a family and church village. The grandson of Filipino and Chinese immigrants, Bruce's home church is Trinity Presbyterian Church in Stockton where he was taught the importance of tradition and heritage, service and social justice and the imperative to live one life with a deep sense of gratitude for the reconciling nature of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For more information, please see his website www.mod.reyes-chow.com.

Lenten Food Drive



**On your mark... Get Set...
GO!!!**

The Lenten Food Drive challenge has begun. Last year we surpassed our goal of 35 bags by filling a total of 49 bags of groceries. This year we are hoping to fill even more because the need to provide more for those who are hungry is greater than ever. Bring your donations to Church now through Easter Sunday. In addition to Sundays, you are welcome to drop off donations during the week Tuesday through Friday between the hours of 12-5p.m.

All donations provided during the Lenten Food Drive go to the St Joseph Center Food Pantry. The food pantry provides individuals and families with supplemental groceries consisting of staples and an

assortment of other foods that help low income families stretch their food budgets.

Food Pantry Donation Wish List:

- Pasta, crackers, cereal, beans and rice
- Canned meats and fish
- Canned sauce, soup and broth
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- 100% fruit juice
- Peanut Butter
- Individually packaged snacks for Homeless Outreach (Granola bars, trail mix, etc)
- Ensure for Senior Services
- Snacks for children for Family Services (crackers, teething biscuits, cookies, raisins and fruit snacks)
- Jar foods – all flavors and stages for Family Services, Infant Toddler and Early Learning Centers
- Infant Formula
- Sturdy Paper Grocery Bags with handles (Trader Joe's Style), Plastic Grocery Bags, and egg cartons year-round

St. Joseph Center continues to achieve significant success by providing programs helping to solve problems of needy families and individuals in Los Angeles. Please visit www.stjosephctr.org to learn more about its family, homeless, and money management programs.

Deacon's Corner :-)

The Board of Deacons' Officers

The Deacons have elected their officers for the year. Judith Wong will lead us as Moderator with Ann Wright serving as Vice Moderator. Jane Kim will serve as Secretary and Ann Wright will be the Treasurer.

We have a number of Committees working on various activities. Melissa Erwin and Rodrigue Yonga will be leading our Lenten Food Drive. Judith Wong, Tom Juma, and Elizabeth Clay

will organize the Angel Interfaith Network Donation activity. Our Christmas Cookie Bags for Culver West will be coordinated by Ann Wright.

Deacon Activity Focus: Communion

Have you considered the effort required to prepare the elements necessary to serve Communion? The communion bread and juice must be bought just prior to Sunday. The bread is often cut into individual pieces to make it easier to receive, whether it is for intinction or trays for that Service. It takes quite a bit of time to cut a sufficient number of pieces for the congregation. When trays are used to serve Communion, each cup must be filled appropriately and loaded into the trays. The church officers who help serve Communion also must be selected. This year, the activity of Communion Preparation will be handled by Hanne Overbeck and Ann Wright.

Upcoming Food Drive

Our Lenten Food Drive begins February 21. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our resources with those who have far less than ourselves. Last year, CCPC donated a record number grocery bags for the St. Joseph Center Food Pantry! We hope to surpass that goal this year, with your help. Your continuing support of this ministry is much appreciated and provides support to the growing number of local families in need. Please see the accompanying article for more details.

Invite some friends for coffee

Enjoy the delight of sharing a cup of coffee or juice with your church friends by hosting a Coffee Hour. It's easy to do, and a lot more fun than you might imagine! The Deacons can help by organizing the coffee and juice. You just need to decide what you would like to bring to share with everybody. It can be as fancy or as simple as you wish! Reserve your date on the Coffee Hour sign-up board behind the serving tables.



Presbytery Meeting in Review... January 30, 2010

(excerpts taken directly from The Day After – a summary of presbytery meetings)

Installations

The Reverend Dr. Mark Brewer, Pastor of Bel Air P.C., was installed as the Moderator of the Presbytery for the year 2010. The stole and cross was passed to Rev. Brewer by the 2009 Moderator, Dr. Harold E. Kidd. In appreciation for his service as moderator, Rev. Kidd received a standing ovation, a plaque expressing the Presbytery's appreciation, and a replica of the Moderator's cross. The Reverend Shin-Hwa Park was installed as Vice-Moderator.

A Proposal Presented and Reactions Collected

The Reverend Dan Chun, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu, presented a power point presentation outlining a proposal developed by three churches in the Presbytery. The proposal was not presented for vote at this meeting, but was shared in order to begin conversations and collecting feedback. The proposal asks the Presbytery of the Pacific to conduct an experiment on how it might work to have a group of churches aligned on a theological basis rather than a geographic basis as is the current situation. The proposal suggests that an administrative commission be established and given the powers to manage the Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and Judicial Commission business for certain specified churches. The churches that choose to be aligned with this experimental "mission unit" would still be a part of the Presbytery of the Pacific, but would function, in some ways, as if they were in a separate presbytery.

Overture Declined

Several churches of the Presbytery put forth an overture to the General Assembly to change the Book of Order to allow the creation of non-

geographic presbyteries on wider grounds than are currently possible. After lively debate on the pros and cons of such a change to our Constitution, the Presbytery declined to send the overture to the 2010 General Assembly.

Stated Clerk Retiring

Stated Clerk and Associate General Presbyter, Steve Smith, informed the General Mission Council that when his term ends May 31, 2010, he plans to retire. Steve served as interim clerk in 2005 and then was elected to the combined positions in 2006. The GMC elected a search committee to find a replacement.

Blessings to Donna Lee Merz

A report was received during the meeting that the Stated Supply Pastor relationship between the First P.C. of Gardena and the Reverend Donna Lee Merz was renewed.

Youth Group Happenings

Here's what's happening this month in the youth ministry:

Sunday, March 7- Meet in the Upper room from 6-8 for games, worship and our study through the book of John.

Sunday, March 21-Our Bake sale/ cake walk fundraiser will be right after the morning service. Bake sale items can be taken with a donation and it will be \$1 each to join in the cake walk.

Sunday, March 21-We are participating in the Disney "Give a day get a day" program. If you volunteer then you get a free day at Disneyland. Tickets are not transferable so you must volunteer to get the ticket. Meet at church at 4pm. We'll head down to Santa Monica to help Arlington West take down their memorial. We'll be back by 8:30pm.

...and in April...

Coming Up:

Thurs, April 1- movie night at my house
Sun, April 4- YG is off for Easter.
Sun, April 18- YG meeting in Upper room
Summer Camp info coming soon!

Peace-
Melanie Bomar
Youth Director
310-621-8738
oldm1@aol.com

(Editor's Note: A big Thanks! to Melanie for driving a car load of kids up to Big Bear for a Youth Group ski retreat weekend. They left on a very stormy day but braved the harsh weather and made it through.)

DEVOTIONFORMARCH

Submitted by Kathy Dean

"Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you." Psalm 116:7

The Lord has dealt so bountifully with us that we don't even realize it. It's like not appreciating strong healthy teeth until you have a toothache or not realizing the blessing of being able to breathe deeply until you have a cold and can't do so. In these situations we only become aware of the bounty of God's blessings when a blessing is taken away, even temporarily. How much better to be thankful and offer God our praise and thanks when we are not in pain?

Just think about our country, the United States of America – and the many and great blessings we enjoy! No, it's not perfect but we do have freedoms, material blessings, and opportunities that many other people don't have. Why then do so many people who have so much, spend so much time complaining, fault-finding, and blaming? Of course there is room for improvement in our nation, schools, communities, personal lives, and places of work – but first let's appreciate the great bountiful generosity of God in all these areas!

Our many blessings include being able to travel, to work or go to school, and to be

challenged, motivated, and rewarded. We have loving family members and friends. Our homes are comfortable and we can sleep at night knowing we are secure. God has blessed us and continues to bless and gift us. We can worship as we please with no repercussions. We can vote as we please.

Praise God, we are all so blessed with God's bountifulness! The psalmist says to return one's soul to rest. This is the basis for all God calls us to do. When our soul is at rest, knowing, feeling, tasting, and accepting the unending bounty of God's love – then we will not be crabby, picky, fault-finding people.

We will be able in joy to address injustice, and situations where help and love is needed, because we truly know and accept God's bounty. We will be instruments to share that bounty with others - but first we have to know and accept and rejoice in it ourselves.

Praise you, Lord, for your bountiful generosity to us! Help our souls to rest in it so we can then spread your love and peace in the world. Amen.

Mardi Gras Recap



Didn't we have a grand time on Mardi Gras Sunday??!! Such fun singin' and dancin' during the service and eating all the wonderful dishes provided by the congregation. A special thanks to Ruth Machnov and the Worship Committee and to Judith Wong and the Deacons for organizing the event. Great job!



Let's Get Crafty!!

We hope to have a collection of lap robes to give to wheelchair patients at county hospital this year. You are encouraged to get out your knitting needles or crochet hooks, follow your favorite pattern, and enjoy the feeling of giving warmth and love to an adult/child in need. Yarn for your use is in the Social Hall. Mix and match at will!! There are crafters at church to answer any questions.

♥Our deepest gratitude...

to the members, friends, and families of CCPC who generously donated \$1,130.66 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance relief efforts in Haiti.



Housewarming blessings to Melanie and Scott Bomar on the purchase of their new home. Their new address is:

235 W. Hillsdale St.
Inglewood, CA. 90302



Blessings on a new arrival

Helena Zoia-Dickson

Born February 12, 2010 in Los Angeles

7 lbs. 7 ozs.

New mom, Carol, and Helena are doing fine.



March Birthday Wishes to...

- 8 - Marianne Civello
- Alex Kim
- 11 - Philip Harwin
- Derek Walker
- 13 - Ann Wright
- 18 - Lloyd Knight
- Ryan Hoekstra
- 27 - Grace Juma
- 31 - Donna Lee Merz

LAUGHLINES!

Nobait

The Sundayschool teacher asked, "Jane, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?"

"No," the young girl replied.

"How could he, with just two worms?"



provided by *Presbyterians Today* magazine

Culver City Presbyterian Church

www.culvercitypres.org

310.398.3071

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 12:00–5:00pm

Ministers - Every member of this congregation

Melanie Bomar - Director of Youth Ministry

Clare Burr and George Burr – Organists

Ann Cohen - Administrator –
ccpc3@verizon.net

Rev. Jason Gamble – Pastor -

RevJasonEGamble@yahoo.com

Sarah Mitchell - Wedding Coordinator

Jon Moryl – Choir Director

Editor of *The Friendly Visitor*:

Ann Cohen

Please submit items for publication in the newsletter to the CCPC office by the 20th of the month.

