

# The Friendly Visitor

Culver City Presbyterian Church – May 2010  
www.culvercitypres.org



OUR BIG SUNDAY PROJECT THIS YEAR IS CLEAN THE BEACH WITH HEAL THE BAY!

**SATURDAY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 10AM-12PM**

CCPC is heading to the beach! The Mission and Peacemaking Team chose “**Clean the Beach with Heal the Bay**” for our service project this year, which will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 10:00am – Noon at the Venice Pier--the very end of Washington Blvd. People of all ages can join us. All you need is a hat, tennis shoes and sunblock!

Sign-ups are in the fellowship hall. Again, this service opportunity is for all ages and is absolutely free of cost. No prior experience necessary. Please contact Heidi Worthen Gamble for more details or if you have any questions.



## Blog, Blog, Blog



*Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Eggebeen  
Pastor*

**Rev. Tom Eggebeen, Interim Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church is a blogger. The following is a very insightful installment Tom wrote on Christian Life...**

**Friday, April 16, 2010**

### Basic Decisions

Life is possible only because of **basic decisions**.

Like setting the alarm clock and getting up and going to work ... or checking our email to stay in touch ... washing our hands often ... looking both ways before we cross the street ... paying our bills ... getting our car oiled and lubed ... saying “please” and “thank you.”

Basic decisions keep life headed in the right direction and on track.

Basic decisions are hardly remarkable or exciting, but essential to our well-being.

The **Christian Life** consists of basic decisions – none of which are exciting or dramatic, but all of them are essential.

**Basic decisions** productively move the Christian Life along the track of time.

### What are some of the basic decisions of the Christian Life?

The first is so simple and basic it hardly needs mention: like drinking water when you’re thirsty, or taking a shower after a day of gardening in the hot sun.

**The First Basic Decision:** worship in your community of faith. Worship is like the first step on a Saturday morning walk, or the first leg of a trip. Here is where the Christian Life begins – in community, singing God’s praises and hearing the Word of God read and proclaimed. Sitting next to friends and strangers, and drinking coffee afterward, handling a bulletin and saying corporate prayer. Pretty basic stuff!

**The Second Basic Decision:** read God’s Word regularly and pray often. Scripture and Prayer are the means by which God feeds the soul. And we all know how crummy we feel if we’re really hungry. There are lots of folks who feel spiritually crummy because their soul is hungry. Sadly, if the soul isn’t fed on God’s good stuff, we’re likely to eat junk food, and there’s plenty of that around. But junk food doesn’t satisfy; it only bloats. We need good food, and the best food for the soul: Bible reading and prayer, done regularly. If you need guidance, check with a pastor. And if your church offers Bible study or courses on prayer, sign up for them. Just do it!

**The Third Basic Decision:** read solid books written by solid Christian writers. If you have questions about this, check with your pastor.

**The Fourth Basic Decision:** have fellowship with other Christians. Hang around with people who are moving along the same way you are. Talk with them and pray with them., break bread with them and have some fun. Engage in projects with them. Go to a soup kitchen. Clean up the beach. Go on a hike. Visit a nursing home. Grow vegetables for a community food pantry.

**The Fifth Basic Decision:** know what’s going on in your world. Pay attention to your politicians and read the news (print edition in a good paper or on-line). But pay attention and ask yourself, “What does God’s Word have to say about this? What are other Christians saying about these things? Are my thoughts shaped by Christ?” This requires some real thinking and learning, but it’s vital to our Christian Life. We don’t live in a vacuum, and it’s God’s world after all.

**Sixth Basic Decision:** invite others to worship with you. Pick them up; have lunch afterward. Stay with it. Do it again. Help them grow. Who knows, you may be the one God uses to bring them into the love of Jesus Christ. This usually takes a lot of time. Months, even years. But persevere in your purpose. It’s your mission. And it’s vital!

**Seventh Basic Decision:** give faithfully and given proportionately of your income to God! This means sitting down with pencil and paper and figuring out what your income is (Uncle Sam helps us do this part of it) and then determine what **percentage** you can give. The standard is **10 percent**. It’s not a law, but it’s a guideline. I recommend the half-tithe, or five percent. It’s a good place to begin and it’s real. And then say to God, “I promise to give this much to you and to my community of faith.” Giving to other charities is another matter. Don’t substitute charity for faithful giving to your community of faith. And, please, don’t try to substitute time for money. Time-giving is good, but it’s no substitute for money – try going to your favorite restaurant and tell them, “I won’t pay for this meal, but if you’ll let me wash dishes, I’ll eat here.”

There’s more to the Christian Life than the above, but these basic decisions keep us on track with Christ and enable us to live a productive and satisfying Christian life.

Just like looking both ways before we cross the street.

## **Deacon’s Corner :-)**

### **It is easy being green!**



As we have recently heard during our Earth Week service, we are all capable of helping to preserve our world by our actions. As a church community, we can preserve our world’s resources by bringing and using a non-disposable coffee cup. **Bring in a cup or mug from home** and use it for your Social Hour coffee. We have organized a space where you can store your

clean mug at the church, if you wish. Don't forget to wash it before you store it. If you are not sure where to store it, ask a Deacon. The Deacons are continuing to move ahead with transitioning our Coffee Hour materials to use more environmentally friendly materials. ...and if you are not going to keep your church bulletin, please remember to place it in the **blue** recycle basket marked with the symbol above.

### **Lenten Food Drive Update**

Our Lenten Food Drive has been a phenomenal success! As of Easter Sunday, we have accumulated and delivered 82 bags worth of food to the St. Joseph Center Food Pantry! Our goal to deliver 60 bags of grocery items to the Food Pantry has been met and surpassed. With your help, we got there! Such contributions make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors less fortunate than ourselves. Thanks for your support for this worthy ministry!

For everything Deacon, ask one of the following:

#### Class of 2010

Elizabeth Clay  
Stephen Harwin  
Jean Pekary  
Ann Wright

#### Class of 2011

Melissa Erwin  
Tom Juma  
Jane Kim  
Judith Wong, Moderator

#### Class of 2012

Ken Franke  
Valerie Harwin  
Hanne Overbeck  
Rodrique Yonga



## **Youth Group Happenings**

"Be kind one to another; tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as Christ has forgiven you" Ephesians 4:32

We're going to have a lot of fun this spring and summer in Youth Group! Be sure to mark your calendars with these events:

**Sunday, May 2- DISNEYLAND!** We'll meet at church at **9 am** and head down to the park. It's free for those who did the Arlington West service project. Otherwise it's \$72 at the door. Bring money for food as well.

**Sunday, May 16- Sex and Dating: What's God Got to Do With It?** We'll meet in the Upper room from 6-8 pm for games, worship and our discussion. Do you ever wonder how to find true love? Do you wonder how to make relationships last? Come to youth group to find out!

**Thursday, May 27- INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING!** We'll meet at church at **6:30 pm** and head over to Rockreation in Santa Monica. The cost is \$25 which covers climbing and dinner. It's a lot of fun and no experience is required!

### **Coming Up**

June meeting dates: 6th & 20th

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

### **Session Highlights**



Session Highlights is a brief summary of actions and discussions of the Session for the benefit of the broader church family. Session meetings are always open and the full Session

records are available for review by church members.

At its stated meeting on April 11, 2010, your church Session...

- Shared moments of gratitude celebrating God's Goodness
- Updated Active Member Roster
- Shared a thank you letter from Westside Children's Center for backpack, clothing, and diaper donations
- Reviewed Holy Week services
- Request to Administration to conduct personnel evaluations
- Received a report from MAPT regarding Earth Sunday worship service and Big Sunday event
- Received staff and committee reports as per agenda

Administration - David Kim and Maribah Thoms

Building and Grounds - Ann Cohen

Christian Education - Kathy Dean, Randy Overbeck and Maribah Thoms

MAPT - Dianne Tyau

Meetings and Minutes - Randy Overbeck and Dianne Tyau

Nominating - Ruth Machnov

Stewardship - Ann Cohen and David Kim

Worship - Coni Amlie, Kathy Dean and Ruth Machnov

Rev. Jason E. Gamble, Moderator of Session

The next stated meeting of Session is scheduled for Sunday, May 11, 2010.

/Elder Ann Cohen

## DEVOTION FOR MAY

Submitted by Kathy Dean

*"But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever." Psalm 52:8*

What does the psalmist mean by saying he is like an olive tree? There are three ways that I can think of, that we believers can be like

olive trees: to be fruitful, to be healthy and long-lived, and to be safe in God's care. The olive tree that flourishes is bearing lots of olives, and olive trees can live for hundreds of years. And the olive tree is in the house of God – what more safe place is that?

To have this long-lived and fruitful life like the olive tree, all we need to do is trust in God's love. The psalmist says that the love never fails and it lasts forever. With complete confidence we can trust in God's love. Like the olive tree we can sink our roots deep into the life that God has provided for us. There is nothing to fear, for this tree in the psalm is not out somewhere in the wilds unprotected, but in the house of God.

In the actual house of God, surrounded by the amazing never failing eternal love of God! See yourself as that olive tree sheltered and strengthened by God's love, safe and fruitful, providing blessings to others through your fruitful long life.

Don't imagine yourself fearful or alone. Like the olive tree in the house of God, we are none of us alone; all are in God's love. Bear fruit joyfully for the world!

*Dear Lord, thank you for the psalmist's image of the olive tree and help us to use this image to grow in trust and fruitfulness. Amen.*



## One Great Hour of Sharing — Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

PDA is thankful for the continued generosity of Presbyterians that enables us — together — to witness the healing love of Christ to disaster survivors around the world.

As needs increase across the world, it is more important than ever to show love for our neighbors. We pray that you will continue to share your blessings as a tangible sign of God's love.

In 2009, your gifts to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) and special designated accounts enabled PDA to provide approximately \$6 million for disaster response. PDA responded to disasters affecting 35 middle governing bodies in 23 states nationally, and in 17 countries internationally.

### The 2010 One Great Hour of Sharing Theme is "Feed My Sheep"

Your gifts are helping disaster survivors find hope out of the chaos of disasters that have impacted their lives. In 2010, One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds have provided:

**National Response \$682,109**

**International Response \$1,073,046**

As of this date, Culver City Presbyterian Church has received **\$1,518.74** in donations towards One Great Hour Sharing. Thank you for your generous support.

*With Sympathy*

*Lois Clare Bradshaw, mother of Clare Burr, passed away on April 9, 2010 in La Harpe, Illinois.*

*Condolences may be sent to:  
Clare Burr and Family  
4256 Sunnyside Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90066*

*Also in our prayers:*

*Loraine Norvell  
Hugh MacDevitt  
Carine Ndamfeu  
Barbara Sennett*

Happy Birthday in May to...



- 1 – Sherri Hodge
- 2 - Rebecca Sheppard
- 4 - Stephanie Hoekstra
- 5 - Tom Robb
- 6 - Dorothy Schneidmiller
- 7 - Don Mac Devitt  
Donna Rae Frisbie  
Kevin Harmeyer
- 8 - Michaela Wong
- 10 - Elizabeth MacDonald
- 15 - Juliajane Yonga
- 19 - Kathleen Dean
- 20 - Harry Machnov
- 21 - Doris Mac Donald
- 22 - Temme Hoekstra
- 23 - Don Smith
- 26 - Ryan Moryl
- 31 - Pat Savage



The Friendly Visitor edited by: Ann Cohen  
ccpc3@verizon.net