

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers



Worship the Lord with Us

Sunday Mornings

- 10:00 Sunday School for All Ages
 11:30 Worship Service
 (Nursery care is available)
 12:30 Lunch & Fellowship

Church Ministries

- Cornerstone Connections
 Chinese Language Class
 Church Choir
 Sports Ministry
 HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit)
 Fellowship for Families & Young Adults
 Men's & Women's Bible Studies
 MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
 New Life Bible Study for Seniors
 Praise Band
 Youth Group (Jr High & High School)
 ("AM/PM" A Methodist People Machine)



Reaching out to the
Asian American community

2050 Valencia Ave
 Placentia, CA 92870-2040
 phone: 714.528.3068
 website: c-umc.org

Jerry Owyang, Pastor
 Office Hours: Mon. thru Thurs.
 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
 cell: 714 287-8221
 pastordjko@sbcglobal.net

Karl Freeman, Youth Director

Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
 Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



Missions

In December, Cornerstone collected \$500 for the Eli Home, a domestic violence shelter for women and children. In addition to our mission offering, the MOPS mothers made 17 fleece blankets to be given to children when they enter the shelter. The Missions committee would like to thank everyone for their generous support for the various outreach projects this year. Your time and efforts have made a difference! Next year, Wei-ling Louie will be leading the Missions team. May God continue lead us and bless our church as we serve those in our community. †



CUMC Newsletter Goes Hi-Tech

Your newsletter staff has finally caught up with the rest of the world! With the help of Leland Yee, our magnificent web-master, the CUMC Newsletter will be available for you on the usual bi-monthly schedule. No more reams and reams of paper to print nor stamps to lick! We encourage you to access http://members.tripod.com/c_umc/cumcnews.htm for exciting news and important announcements. However, if you would still like a hardcopy in your hot little hands, it will be made available for you. Please notify Audrey Yee at wbyee@inreach.com or (562)431-8698 if you would like a hardcopy. †

New Life at Play



Thirty-five New Life Seniors and their guests attended a rousing, hilarious, touching performance of "Fiddler on the Roof". Some were so inspired by the music that they could hardly keep from getting up to sing and dance! Others were too stuffed with a delicious dinner before the performance so they just sat, watched, and hummed along to their favorite Fiddler tunes. †



1-2-1 In 2007

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

"So, what ministries are happening in your church these days?"

That's the question that many church leaders hear—and dread—at conferences, seminars, or anywhere a bunch of Type A personalities have gathered to talk about their churches. Unfortunately, in our American church culture, the measurement of success seems to rely on the answer to the above question. So, for many of us, we are typecast as "the small church."

But *the good news*, according to the Barna Research Group, is that the average church in America—and that includes Cornerstone UMC—has only 89 attendees. That doesn't sound like much if you're looking at the "mega churches" but I've seen how a church this size can change the spiritual landscape around them. More importantly, I've seen how *our church* can love one another in the church and community, and in return, the church and community love them.

And *the good news* is that all small churches are unique, so developing a one-size-fits-all attitude to thriving is nearly impossible. I believe that the effectiveness of our church does not lie in numbers—although yes, they are important—but rather in the human relationships of those who attend. The real number that counts is "1"—the one-on-one relationship you have with God *and* the one-to-one relationship you share with another.

And here's *more good news*: I believe that we are committed to thriving—we are trying to be in the center of God's will by making a difference in people's lives. We may not be receiving a flood of visitors each week, but for us, it's not about attendance—it's making good use with what God has blessed us. We become more blessed when we:

- **Pray, Pray, and Pray Again**
Prayer is the most crucial—and easiest step to be God's church—it's biblical, affordable and do-able. The size of a prayer group doesn't matter—two or more gathered in Jesus' name is a winner!
- **Find a Niche**
As we define and refine our identity, we are finding things that we can do *well* (notice I did not say "perfectly!") We have the ability to reach a segment of the community that can easily go untouched. As one niche ministry takes off, we must stay focused and not be afraid to start another!
- **Plug People In**
We have talented people in our midst! Identifying their gifts and challenging them to use their abilities for God's Kingdom takes time and work, but the results are worth the effort. I believe that the lay people are more important than the pastor, so help me spread that message!
- **Celebrate Our Victories**
Anything done for God is a big thing—and it should be celebrated. Celebrations generate enthusiasm, excitement, and sense of purpose as we acknowledge our accomplishments. It's been said that people love to go to church where people love to go to church! Jesus told the Parables of the Mustard Seed (kingdom growth from little to big, Luke 13) and Talents (being good and faithful stewards, Matthew 25). Make no mistake: we are those living parables—and that's *good news*!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jerry †



(AM/PM)
A Methodist
People Machine

AMPM: Youth News

by Karl Freeman



L-R: Katie Low, Karl Freeman, Amy Wong, Crystal Lee, Josh Yu

The AMPM youth, as part of their recent focus on outreach and ministry, visited Sunrise Assisted living in La Palma on Friday to sing Christmas Carols with the residents there. They carolled with both assisted living and the "reminiscent" or Alzheimer's residents and were very well received. It was deeply charming to see the appreciation on the faces of the people there as we belted out a lot of the old favorites, including "Away in a Manger" and "Deck the Halls." The residents even put Karl on the spot, inducing him to sing a solo of the first verse of "Joy to the World." It is this reporter's opinion that looks of regret fast crossed their faces as soon as the first awkward note was struck. (Struck right in the face if you ask me) The youth sang as beautifully as we have come to expect from them and with a terrific spirit in an unfamiliar setting. They showed a great deal of heart and concern for others that I'm certain made a huge difference in the Christmas experience for folks who have fewer visitors than I'm sure they would like. Also joining the youth, but not pictured, were some of the AMPM parents, to whom we owe our thanks. Anita Lee, Wendy Yu, Sheree Low and Celeste Wong joined us and helped make our presence an impactful one. All in all, it was a great time across the board, and one that I hope will find dividends in both the lives of the residents whom we visited and in the hearts of the AMPM youth. †



From the Editor

We're on the road again! This time, let's take to the highways. The highway that comes to mind is "The Highway to Heaven", an old TV show back in the late 80's starring Michael Landon. Today we have our own "highway to heaven" to ponder. Have you found that highway? Jesus tells us in John 14:6 that He is the way, the straight and narrow path to be traveled by trusting in Him alone.

Along the highways, byways, avenues, and freeways are many deterrents. We take an off-ramp and run into those traffic signals that come up every block or so. That pesky red light takes up precious minutes when we're in a hurry. The same with those red octagonal stop signs. Often there is no cross traffic but we must still stop and look both ways. That's the way it is with Jesus. He makes us stop and think and look and listen. He opens our eyes, ears, and hearts so we may see what's around us.

How about speed limits? They are reminders to slow down. It's good to slow down and smell the roses. Slow down to play a board game or read a book to the kids even when we're dog-tired. Slow down to send a note to a long lost cousin. Slow down to say a prayer of thanks.

Then there's that traffic-stopping irritant--"Road Work Ahead" with orange cones dotting the highway that slows traffic to a crawl for miles. Stalled and driving at 5 miles an hour could be a perfect thinking time. We may be late to wherever we're going but we would have made good use of this quiet time.

There are so many deterrents along the highway and in life: "detour", "accident ahead", and a jillion "exits". But finally, we come to the sign that says: "You Are Here". What a journey! All of those signs and detours were specifically planned for us. They helped us grow in love, compassion, and endurance. We discover that YES!! Jesus IS the Way, the Truth, and the Life. †



CUMC Officers for 2007

The CUMC Administrative Council will be installed on a Sunday in January.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Pastor Jerry Owyang
 Youth Director Karl Freeman
 Ad Council Co-Chairs Gary Low & Calvin Lowe
 Lay Leader Al Wong
 Secretary to Ad Bd TBD
 Finance Chair Dick Chu
 SPRC Co-Chairs Robert Quon & Stacey Wong, Jr.
 Trustee Chair TBD
 Education Rebecca Louie
 Worship Co-Chair Celeste Wong & Cheryl Wong
 Bulletin Bob Yee
 Missions Chair Wei-ling Louie
 Evangelism Chair TBD
 Caring Cheryl Hasegawa
 HUGS Brad Chinn
 MOPS Dianna Wong
 Annual Conference Representative ... Al Wong
 Alternative Representative TBD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Dick Chu
 Treasurer Joyce Wong
 Finance Secretary Eddie Wong
 Bookkeeper Ken Wong
 Ad Council Co-Chairs ..G. Low & C. Lowe
 Lay Leader Al Wong
 Trustee Chair TBD

MINISTRIES

Church Secretary Anita Lee
 Head Usher Virginia Quon
 Flowers Minnie Lou
 Communion ..Stacey & Steve Wong
 Lunch Coordinators Henry & Sherrie Fong
 Sound System Steve Louie & Kevin Hasegawa
 Newsletter ... Kay Lee & Audrey Yee
 Computer Website Leland Yee
 Marketing Chair Gary Low
 Marketing Gary & Sheree Low
 Praise Band Brad Chinn & Alex Yu
 Choir May Lou

Power Point Byung-Mee Chinn & Joshua Yu
 Sports John Lee
 New Life Bill Chan
 Chinese Language Class JC Dear
 Chinese Caucus Jennie Low

TRUSTEES

2007—Charlie Lou, Dick Chu, Henry Wong, Bill Chan, Steve Wong
 2008—Dick Chow, Steve Louie
 2009—TBD

STAFF-PARISH RELATION

2007—Cheryl Hasegawa, Art Yee, Kay Lee
 2008—Alex Yu, Robert Quon, Suzanne Abe
 2009—Stacey Wong, Jr.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Pastor Jerry Owyang
 2007—Charlene Wong, Ruth Wong, Roger Davidson
 2008—John Lee, Jeff Hasegawa, Richard Fitch
 2009—Jennie Low, Dianna Wong

PARISH (CUMC & PUMC) AD COUNCIL FOR CUMC (5 VOTES)

Pastor (non-voting) .. Jerry Owyang
 Administrative Council Co-Chairs Gary Low, Calvin Lowe
 Lay Leader Al Wong
 Finance Committee Chair .. Dick Chu
 Bd of Trustees Chair TBD
 Ad Council Appointee Rotating CUMC Member
 Treasurer (non-voting) Dick Chu

JOINT PARISH (CUMC & PUMC) BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CUMC (5 VOTES)

Pastor Jerry Owyang
 Board of Trustees 5 Members

JOINT PARISH (CUMC & PUMC) BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR CUMC

Pastor Jerry Owyang, Bill Chan, Al Wong, Dick Chow

JOINT PARISH (CUMC & PUMC) FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE FOR CUMC

Pastor Jerry Owyang, Bill Yee, Pam Fitch, Myrna Chow †

HUGS – Home Under God's Spirit

by Brad Chinn

The HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit) "families with kids" group continues to grow with meaningful, spiritual, and fantabulous family gatherings!

On Sun Nov 12, we covered SESSION 5 in our "Sharing Your Life Mission Every Day" series, where we are supporting each other in small groups and learning how to reach others to help spread the Good News! These HUGS Gatherings are typically the 2nd Sunday of each month. We will resume in 2007!

As we approached the end of a great year, we celebrated the birth of our Savior with a JOYFUL Christmas party and fellowship at the beautifully renovated home of Calvin & Peggy Lowe. Their home was festively decorated, warm and inviting—as they welcomed over 60 people! A great time was had by all! We began with a scrumptious potluck dinner, then moved to the family room to sing Christmas carols - Joy To The World, O Come All Ye Faithful, and Silent Night to celebrate the arrival of baby Jesus. And...Katherine Louie was sooooo cute leading the singing of "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" with an adorable toothless whistle (Thhhhh...).

The group kicked into gear with a rousing rendition of "The 12 Days Of Christmas" where people with January birthdays stood up and sang "a partridge in a pear tree", February sang "two turtle doves", etc. Vickie Zhang and Kimberly Low were absolutely adorable as the lone partridges in a pear tree. Then, our host and resident Elvis, Calvin Lowe, was coaxed into a surprise unbeknownst-to-him appearance to sing "Santa Bring My Baby Back To Me" Elvis-style. It was jingle-bell time, a swell time, to rock the night away...

Pastor Jerry stepped in with a story to remind kids, and adults alike, of the reason for the season. He distributed mini Christmas Story books to each of the children. We then continued into our white elephant gift



A JOYFUL Christmas party at the home of Calvin and Peggy Lowe. Over 60 people attended.

exchange, where everyone brings wrapped gently used items from home to exchange (without buying anything). Always a blast!

HUGS wishes you all the peace and blessings of the season, and the love of Christ in your heart. Hope to see lots of you in 2007!

Questions? Contact Brad Chinn at bmwpapa@cox.net or (714)505-4650. †



Byung and Brad leading Christmas carols.

"Jesus Makes Happiness Attainable"

He discharges the debtors
He delivers the captives.
He defends the feeble.
He blesses the young.
He serves the unfortunate.
He regards the aged.
He rewards the diligent.
He beautifies the meek.

He is the key to knowledge.
He is the wellspring of wisdom.
He is the foundation of faith.
He is the doorway of deliverance.
He is the pathway to peace.
He is the roadway of righteousness.
He is the gateway to glory.
He is the highway to happiness.
Just give me Jesus!
He makes happiness attainable!

By Anne Graham Lotz



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups

Connections Group 1

At our last gathering at Bock and Wei-ling Louie's home, Connections Group 1 chose the name "Ohana Connections." Ohana signifies "family" in Hawaiian, and we are definitely one big happy family under God's wing. At every gathering, we enjoy a gourmet smorgasbord and activities that bonds us closer together. Please let us know if you have friends in central/southern Orange County who would be interested in joining us. Our next gathering will be at Randy and Charlene Wong's home on March 10. †

Christmas Sunday

Christmas Sunday at Cornerstone was so filled with joy, love, and worship that the presence of Baby Jesus was definitely felt by all. The Music of Christmas by The Worship Team put us into the spirit and the Children's Choir, under the direction of May Lou and accompanied by Suzanne Abe, retold the familiar story of why we celebrate Christmas.



During the Christmas service, our congregation displayed an overwhelming outpouring of love and appreciation for our Pastor Jerry & Julie and for their tremendous service to our church with a Christmas love offering. The church officers later presented the very substantial love offering contributions to Pastor Jerry & Julie in the Fellowship Hall. A gift certificate was also presented to Karl Freeman in appreciation for his fine work as our Youth Director this past year.



It is not often that the words of a song can be understood in the very last row of the sanctuary. Somehow, the Children's Choir sang distinctly and with projection that the music held our attention. The narrators spoke with such clarity that every "r", "s", and "t" could be heard. And how did they learn the words to so many songs?! Good job, Children's Choir!



Bill Yee, SPRC Chair, Karl Freeman, Youth Director, Julie Owyang, wife & Jerry Owyang, Pastor, Randy Wong & Calvin Lowe, Administrative Council Co-Chairs



What Christmas would not be complete without wandering sheep and fluttering angels? Cornerstone had all these! Our little lambs and pre-school classes added to the charm of the presentation, "Away In The Manger".

Fellowship time at Cornerstone is always a feast! With everyone contributing delicious finger food; extra tables had to be set up to accommodate all the dishes. Laughter, sharing, and a plain ole good time permeated the room filled with parents, children, and guests. This was a great celebration of Jesus' birthday. Happy Birthday, Jesus! †

01 Bessie Dear
04 Angela Zhang
08 Lindsay Bracken
08 Liz Mew
09 May Lou
11 Eddie Wong (Suky!)
17 Benny Wong
18 Mabel Joe
19 Dennis Fong
19 Kyle Wong
19 Sheldon Fung
19 Bill Yee
20 Allan Wong
21 John Lee
24 Carl Abe
26 Jason Wong
31 Margery Don
31 Davis Tang
31 Joshua Wong

March

01 Byung-Mee Chinn
03 Kevin Okada
05 Henry Wong
07 Patti Ruckert
10 Darrell Fitch
15 Arleen Hasegawa
17 Minnie Lou
20 Sukyi Wong
24 Jillian Yee

February

14 Kimberly Low
15 Ruth Wong
22 Victoria Zhang
25 Pam Fitch
25 Macy Zeng

January



2050 Valencia Ave
Placentia, CA 92870-2040

...and the
cornerstone
of the building
is Jesus Christ
himself!
Ephesians 2:20

