

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers



Sun. Nov. 19, 2006

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
pastorjko@sbcglobal.net

Karl Freeman, Youth Director

Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



Missions

by Stacey Wong, Jr.

Purple Ark

In October, our mission offering of \$982 supported the ministry of Purple Ark, which provides aid to the homeless and working poor in our community. We were honored to have Danny Smith, who is the director for this program, give a slide show presentation about Purple Ark's outreach efforts. It was exciting to hear how the Lord and other churches in our community are working together to help less fortunate people. May God continue to bless Purple Ark's ministry as well as those in need.

UPCOMING MISSIONS EVENTS

Operation Christmas Child: November 5-19

Would you like to surprise a child overseas with a special Christmas gift? Wouldn't it be great to share the love of God with this child? Starting on October 29th, Missions will begin distributing information and shoebox supplies for Operation Christmas Child. This program, operated by Samaritan's Purse, collects goody-filled shoeboxes and distributes them to needy children in countries all over the world. In addition to the special gifts that you enclose in your shoebox, Samaritan's Purse also includes literature, which shares the good news of Jesus Christ in the language of the child. It is easy to fill a shoebox and a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with a child.

See Stacey Wong or Selina Yee for information. Completed shoeboxes may be placed in the narthex between Nov. 5-19th.

Field Trip to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center

On December 2nd, two Cornerstone groups will be volunteering at the Operation Christmas Child processing center. Our AMPM and the SALT Connections groups will be helping to process some of the thousands of shoeboxes that are routed through the Western Region processing center before being sent abroad. This will be the first year that Cornerstone has sent a group of volunteers to the processing center. It should be a fun experience and we look forward to hearing about their adventures!

ELI Home

December's mission offering will support the ELI Home, a shelter for neglected and abused women and children. If you are interested in contributing a wish-list gift (new toys only), please see Stacey Wong. †



GREEN GREEN GREEN!!!

Green is not just for St. Paddy's Day! On Saturday, December 2, we will be hanging the greens in the sanctuary. Come on out and help with the hanging and decorating it. It'll be a perfect way to lift your spirits to prepare for everyone's favorite holiday of the year. †



A Long Obedience In the Same Direction

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

Somewhere in my boxes of books I have a

Christian classic entitled *A Long Obedience In the Same Direction*, by Eugene Peterson. Peterson, the translator of *The Message Bible*, discovers in Psalms 120-134 an old Hebrew songbook used by pilgrims on their way up to Jerusalem. These psalms were known collectively as the *Song of Ascents* as pilgrims literally went uphill to Jerusalem. These psalms were apparently familiar enough that anyone who joined the journey could also join in on the songs.

Peterson seizes on these verses as lessons on discipleship and encouragement so that we modern-day pilgrims may grow in joy, service, humility, and community. One familiar song (Psalm 126) goes:

It seemed like a dream, too good to be true, when GOD returned Zion's exiles. We laughed, we sang, we couldn't believe our good fortune. We were the talk of the nations- GOD was wonderful to them! GOD was wonderful to us; we are one happy people.

And now, GOD, do it again-bring rains to our drought-stricken lives. So those who planted their crops in despair will shout hurrahs at the harvest, So those who went off with heavy hearts will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.

As a society, we are no less obsessed with the immediate than when Peterson wrote this book in the 1980s. If anything, email and the Internet may have intensified our quest for the quick fix. But Peterson's time-tested prescription for discipleship remains the same-a long obedience in the same direction. And that direction is toward God.

Every January, health club memberships dramatically increase and exercise rooms become crowded with what some people call the New Year's resolution crowd -been there,

done that, still there! Fitness regulars know that by March many of these people will be gone because these hard-body wannabes don't see results as quickly as they thought--they don't realize it takes a lot of work and perseverance to get in shape.

It's a reality we experience in the spiritual realm as well. Peterson notes that in a culture that loves speed and efficiency, "It is not difficult to get a person interested in the message of the gospel; it is terrifically difficult to sustain the interest. To follow Christ faithfully, Peterson says, requires a long obedience in the same direction.

In Philippians 2:2, Paul urges us to adopt the same mindset as Christ, whose obedience to the Father was wholehearted and complete. He encourages us to keep on obeying the Lord and to work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling (2:12). As new believers, we may have good intentions when we take our first steps of faith. Then, as we grow in Christ, God's power enables us to keep walking joyfully with Him along the long road of obedience. May God grant us as individuals and as a church the energy to stay on track for the long run-being obedient! See you in church.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jerry †

Breakfast With Gary



by Lydia Chu

Gary Low treated the PUMC Men's Breakfast group on September 30 to the fascinating world of advertising. As art director of his company, Gary's clients have included Knotts Berry Farm, other amusement parks, Ole's Hardware Stores, and Ralphs.

It was interesting to see how an idea starts with sketches on a storyboard and advances to a TV commercial as the end product. Gary's responsibilities involve overseeing many

people and jobs involved in the process from start to finish: drawing and writing, auditioning and selecting actors, hiring the director, cameraman, and soundman, wardrobe considerations, takes and retakes, editing, including sound, music, background shots, etc.

The next time you see a sign on the supermarket shelves that draw attention to the specials the store is featuring, you can thank Gary for his innovative ideas!

Thanks, Gary, for giving us insight into the complex world of advertising! †

Clergy Staff Appreciation



The month of October has been designated traditionally as Clergy Staff Appreciation Month. CUMC celebrated this occasion for

its talented, loving, caring and hard-working clergy staff on October 22 with beautiful flowers for Julie, Starbucks certificates for Pastor Jerry & Karl and a lovely plant for Anita. Calvin, Randy and Bill made the presentations honoring and thanking each of our church staff for their tremendous contributions to CUMC's spiritual and functional well-being. Two large cakes were shared with the congregation during lunch to top off this exciting event. †



KFC Corner



by Vickie Zhang

Hi! I'm Victoria Zhang. I am 10 years old. I started coming to Cornerstone United Methodist Church about two years ago, when I was in the 3rd grade. My best friend Lizzi Lowe and her family have been coming to Cornerstone for years. I am so lucky that Mr. and Mrs. Lowe took me to Cornerstone and introduced me to GOD.

Even though I moved to Irvine a year ago, my mom and I are still coming to Cornerstone because I feel that Cornerstone is my home. My mom is very busy with her work and school, but I am so lucky that Auntie Byung and Uncle Brad always give me a ride and take me to church whenever my mom can't make the worship.

During my weekdays, after I come home from school, I spend about two hours on my homework and one hour on reading. On Saturdays, my mom takes me to different places, like museums, movies, etc.

I enjoy coming to church because I like being close to GOD. What I like about this church is that all the people here are really nice. I like KFC a lot. I love listening to Auntie Sheree and Auntie Cheryl. They are very sweet and I have learned so much from them. I have enjoyed all of the KFC activities and all the Cornerstone holiday celebrations. My favorite activities are the camping trip in July, the Gleaning in August, the Harvest Festival, and our never-ending-fun Christmas party. I am looking forward to the coming Harvest Festival and Christmas Party this year.



(AM/PM) A Methodist People Machine

AMPM:Youth News

by Karl Freeman

Something New from Something Old!! Ext. 777 is Cornerstone's new fellowship group, a reincarnation of the old YAF. They have already begun meeting and will soon have a real presence in the church. The following is an open letter from our Youth Director, Karl Freeman.

Dear Cornerstone,

I want to let you know about a recent change in the structure of AMPM. As the youths continue to get older and the group continues to grow, the different age groups have begun to have very different needs that cannot be fulfilled in just one amalgamated group setting. These needs are reflected, I believe, in the participation and spiritual growth of those involved. The younger youths need simpler, shorter lessons on the whole than the college students, who for example would enjoy more challenging or rewarding discussions. They also need a place and a time set aside for just them. A time that they understand is devoted to their needs and interests.

To that end the move has been made to separate the groups into sets that are more individualized to the needs of the participants. AMPM will continue unabated as before. (with a new sense of purpose, I might add,

brought by a good number of recent visitors, and a regular, progressive curriculum during the Sunday school hour. We have been reading through the synoptic gospels together, have recently finished Mark, and will be continuing into Luke this Sunday morning) But the college students now have a focus of their own, the recently christened Ext. 777 (formerly YAF, as I understand.) My hope and prayer is that separating the different maturity and developmental levels will help the individual groups gel, allow both groups to grow more comfortably at their own pace, and give the admittedly incredible young adults in our congregation a distinct and visible presence (rather than just the Old AMPM'ers)

I want you to know that this change was the result of a great deal of counsel and prayer and that I am particularly excited by the prospects that it opens up for our church. I'm hoping that you'll join with me in prayer and support for the two groups as well, as they carve out their unique niches in the body. I want to thank you too, for your trust in me, and leave you with the assurance that I am right now struggling to show myself worthy of it.

Until Sunday then,

My favorite Bible verse so far is John 3:16. I like being close to GOD because it makes me feel good that GOD is always with me and I can talk to GOD anytime and GOD is always there for me when I need someone to talk to.

I haven't exactly planned my future yet, but I would like to be a teacher when I grow up. If I could meet anyone in the world, I would want to meet two of my best friends in China. I used to play with them

everyday in school. I was in Preschool and Kindergarten in China. I had been in China for four years before I started Kindergarten here. I would really like to go back to China and meet them again someday.

I have some very nice friends at school and at church now. I love to come to Cornerstone very much. It is so wonderful to be here with all of my friends and church families.

Have a great Day! †

HUGS – Home Under God's Spirit

by Brad Chinn

On Sat Sept 30, our HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit) group held our monthly Family Nite. As always, we started out with fantastic fellowship with our yummy potluck dinner. Then, we proceeded to our stupendous sports court for rousing group games. We stood in a HUGE circle and tried to make the sound of rain in the cloudless night. One at a time, we proceeded around the circle rubbing hands, snapping fingers, clapping hands, slapping thighs and stomping feet until we had the thunderous sound of rain in our ears. More fun followed next with a staring contest competition. We paired up and stared at our partner - no smiling or laughing. Whoever wins remains. Whoever loses sits down. Youth Director Karl was hilarious with his protruding derriere swooshing from side-to-side. But, poker-faced Jamie Yu could not be broken. Honorable mention to Amy Wong and Sheree Low also. We finished with a tremendously tangly-mess of Wiggle Worm relay. I'll leave that one for your imagination.

Next in the Family Nite program, we moved on to superior spiritual worship with Karen, Jamie, Katie, Amy, Crystal and the huggable Hasegawa sisters (Paige and Brooke)! Paige and Brooke led everyone with an enthusiastic rendition of a favorite Jana Alayra song. The older girls followed with angelic voices, praiseful hearts and inspirational readings. Sing a joyful song! Pastor Jerry headlined the evening with his heartfelt message to the masses.

Our Family Nites will resume in 2007, as we make way for our annual holiday events at the end of this year! By the time you read this, we will have held our Harvest Festival on Sat Oct 28. We celebrated the coming of Fall with twister slides, jumphouses, costume parades, stories with Pastor Jerry, carnival booths and prizes, karaoke, face painting, etc. Always a family fun time for kids of all ages!

Coming sooner than we think is the HUGS Christmas Party on Sat Dec 9. Mark your calendars now! Come celebrate

the birth of Jesus with us! We really have a good time, and look forward to meeting you! Spread the word! †

Harvest Festival, Sat. Oct. 28, 2006



Kids and adults young and old--welcomed the fall season with the Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 28. Squealing tots in the bounce house, giggling kids on the twister slide, and lots of odd and funny painted faces were all part of Cornerstone's biggest event of the year.

There were fun carnival games and wonderful karaoke singing, too. A costume parade highlighted the main event. Of course no event is complete without the famous "Methodist Potluck"! Everyone enjoyed great fellowship breaking bread together. We're looking forward to next year's Harvest Festival! †



The KFC Playhouse Presents...



Lights! Camera! Action! Once again, Cornerstone kids have hit the stage. The Kids Club, under the direction of Lydia Chu, offered "Interview With Moses" during Children's Moments. The congregation enjoyed and appreciated their efforts to show what they have learned and are learning still. Thank you, Kids Club! †



Adult Sunday School

by Ed Joe

Can we answer any of the following questions?

Why do we go to church?

How significant is it that we attend church?

Is it sufficient for us only to attend service? Why or why not?

E-mail me your answer to these questions if you are so moved (emjoe2002@yahoo.com); or you may join us this Sunday morning at 10:00am in room #1 and perhaps get some directions to the answer to these questions. We are currently discussing and addressing these questions. †



From the Editor

Remember the Bob Hope-Bing Crosby Road comedies? Two of the better known ones were Road to Bali and Road to Zanzibar. There were others: Road to Morocco, Road to Rio, and Road to Utopia. Then there are sayings like the road less travelled and the road to nowhere.

Where am I going with this road jibber jabber? Well, I've been thinking about the roads we all travel. We seem to go through our days driving the freeways, highways, and roads. We just go on and on and on, driving on constant cruise control. Life is often like that. We tend to our children and families, we take the dog to the vet, take the garbage out, study for exams, all the while earning a living.

When life gets too hectic and we think that we can't go to one more class, or handle one more sick child, or attend another unnecessary meeting, think of all those roads of life. There are roads that go uphill and downhill. There are bumpy pot-holed roads and smoothly-paved ones. And then there are those wonderful rest stops along the stretches of highways.

It is when we are at a rest stop that we can think and reflect. We can even be thankful for the potholes of life for they are the bits of asphalt that build our character and give us strength. While we're on cruise control along super-highways, Jesus walked the dirt roads of Capernaum. Jesus knew our lives would be stressful and hectic. It was here at his northshore headquarters that He said:

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28) So let's linger awhile at the rest stop, savor a chocolate chip cookie, have a little conversation with Jesus, and get back on the road again with renewed strength and spirit, knowing that He will shoulder our burdens if we let Him. †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups

Connections Group 2 & 3



Connections Groups 2 & 3 received Certificates of Appreciation from Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom for their contribution of donated items for military care packages. Their caring service has helped build-up the morale to our Troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thank you groups 2 & 3.

Connections Group 3



Connections Group 3 enjoyed a relaxing evening at the home of Dianna and Ken Wong on October 7. See how happy and content everyone looks! They must have had a delicious dinner and of course, fun fellowship-ping time! †

New Life

ALL seniors are invited to a Christmas celebration immediately following the regular New Life meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 6. Please see Lydia Chu or Bill Chan for details. †

Connections Group 1

Connections Group 1 met at Brad and Byung-Mee Chinn's home on September 16. We were blessed to have 100% participation for the second straight time. After a delicious potluck dinner, the children watched a movie while the adults got to know each other better by playing a fun and enlightening game. Our group also spent time discussing various mission projects that we could do in the near future. Group 1 will meet again on November 11 at the home of Bock and Wei-ling Louie.



L-R Frt: Wei-ling Louie, Bock Louie, Lydia Chu, Peggy Lowe, Charlene Wong, Sheree Low, Dianna Wong, Stacey Wong, Jr.
Back: Nell Mitchell, John Lee, Celeste Wong, Jeaneen Chau, May Lou, Karl Freeman, Ed Joe, Pastor Jerry Owyang, Wendy Yu, Rebecca Louie

Did you know there are 22 teachers leading our Christian Education program? As they all stood to be honored on Teacher Recognition Sunday, we realized how blessed Cornerstone is to have dedicated, energetic, creative teachers. We thank the following for their devotion to their students: **Little Lambs:** Wendy Yu, Charlene Wong, Dianna Wong, Peggy Lowe, Rebecca Louie. **Children's Church:** Al and Celeste Wong. **Kids Club:** Dick and Lydia Chu, Nell Mitchell, Bock and Wei-Ling Louie, Stacey Wong, Jr. **1st and 2nd Grades:** May Lou and John Lee. **3rd and 4th Grades:** Jeaneen Chau and Mabel Joe. **KFC:** Sheree Low and Cheryl Hasegawa. **Youth:** Karl Freeman. **Adult:** Ed Joe and Pastor Jerry Owyang. †



Come join us!

Christmas Day
Worship Service

December 24, 2006

11:30am

Our children will
be performing
a Christmas Musical



New Life Seniors Christmas Event

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2006 – 5:00 p.m.

Fiddler on the Roof!

Dinner & Show at Curtain Call Dinner Theater
690 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92870-(714) 838-1540
\$36.95 per person

Includes dinner, show, tax, beverage, dessert and tip
Checks may be made out to Curtain Call Theatre and given or mailed
to Sherrie Fong. Payment must be received by Nov. 10th.



November

03 Jerry Owyang
03 Joyce Wong
04 Cheryl Hasegawa
06 Brandon Wong
07 Cassie Lohaus
11 Garrett Wong
17 Alan Rogers
23 Katherine Louie
24 Richard Lam
26 Naomi Claire Lee
28 Alex Yu
30 William Chinn

December

03 Marilyn Fong
03 Austin Lowe
05 Walter Fitch
06 Stacey Wong (Jr)
07 Yin Boyd
09 Sydney Lowe
10 Audrey Yee
12 Jessica Abe
14 Clarice Lew
14 Suzette Davidson
15 Virginia Quon

18 Angela Don
19 Sheree Low
19 Scott Lee
28 Patty Fung
28 Ryan Low
28 Brooke Hasegawa
30 Jordan Wong
31 Kevin Tang
31 Tiffany Chen

January (2007)

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