

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 Groups: (Jr & Sr High School)
(^cAM/PM^a A Methodist People Machine)
Ext. 777 (College)



Reaching out to the
Asian-American community

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

Jerry Owyang, Pastor
Office Hours: Mon. thru Thurs.
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
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pastorjko@sbcglobal.net

Karl Freeman, Youth Director
cell: 714-482-7590

Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor

Aloha Means Hello and Goodbye!



We bid a fond farewell to Pastor Glenn Miller as he retires after 10 years of serving Placentia UMC—may he and his wife Pat enjoy their new life together! And we give a

warm "Aloha" to Pastor Daniel Lewis as the new pastor—fresh from Kona, Hawaii! We look forward to living out loud our Covenant Relationship in Jesus Christ together! †

CUMC-PUMC Celebrates Pentecost Sunday

CUMC-PUMC celebrated Pentecost Sunday in a big way with a very special service and an authentic Methodist potluck. †



On May 27, Kathryn Low, Joshua Yu, and Stephanie Low were our confirmands. Congratulations, as you reaffirm and strengthen your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Stephanie Low not in picture)



In celebration of the Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles, six of our young girls rendered a beautiful ribbon dance.

L to R: top row, Karen Wong, Jamie Yu and Kimberly Low. frt row: Vickie Zhang, Lizzie Lowe and Baylee Rogers.

Mom's Day at CUMC



KFC challenged us all on Mother's Day with their hilarious version of "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" The questions were great and the answers even better! So did we ever discover who was the smarter set?! †

Dad's Day at CUMC



What's a Dad's Day at Cornerstone without raucous foot stomping, hand clapping, and yahoo'ing?! Once again, Cornerstone dads were treated to a fine luncheon and an even finer dessert served by their children. Dads were seen imitating the famous and not-so-famous with hilarious gesturing and posturing, hoping someone would guess who they were trying to be. It was fun to see our dads hanging loose and enjoying their special day. What made it even more special was the performance of a Father's Day song written by Pastor Jerry's brother, Norman, and his wife. Sung to the tune of "Do Re Mi", the Children's Choir offered their rendition honoring their dads. Good job, kids, and many thanks to director May Lou and accompanist Suzanne Wong for bringing out the best in our children! †



Reality Check

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

Last week I tried to get into prison...to lead another spiritual retreat! But my security badge was nowhere to be found (at least it was a badge and not an inmate that was missing)! I prayed with the "outside team" as they went in to the penitentiary and I went home. I was surprised to find myself feeling depressed from being "left out"—and then a "God Moment" came to me.

I've always considered it a privilege to be called to serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31-40). However, it is easy to be on an auto-pilot mode and lose sight of the true heart for serving—to establish God's Kingdom, not my own! So, to be denied access to serve God in prison caused me to conduct a reality check of my motive for serving. I'm pretty sure that I came up "clean" and will look forward to another time to "go to jail" in the near future—and with a clarified heart.

We all need to take a "reality check" of why we serve God in the ways that we do: worship, Sunday School, committees, leadership, and so on. John Wesley, the founder of our Methodist Movement, said "attend to the ordinances of God"—we dare not just be "pretending" to attend to the ordinances of God! It's best, then, to take your own "God Moment" reality check often before things catch up with you in an unexpected way.

Earlier this month I got a sneak peek of our new pictorial directory. I couldn't get over the "magic" of digital photography—the ability to make corrections on any image. Wouldn't it be nice if we could PhotoShop our church—you know, fix any blemishes, increase the number of people in the sanctuary, thicken the budget, add that new building phase, or change the world with a click of a computer mouse?

Unfortunately, this kind of change only happens in a pastor's dream world: point-click-edit doesn't exist in church life. For the most part, we will change our churches and world the same way we see God helping people grow—slowly. I am learning that the

church is at its best when it gives itself away—and this is because blessing others is always instrumental. In Genesis 12, God tells Abraham that He is going to bless him, and through him, God is going to bless the whole world. So, God wants to use this one man, to flow through him, to have him be a conduit through whom God can bless everybody else. The point?

Abraham is just a vessel. God doesn't choose people just so they'll feel good about themselves or secure in their standing with God. God chooses people to be used to bless other people—and this "call" is for everybody because God has no boundaries. Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:27) to teach us that the greatest in the Kingdom of God are those who serve. So, what is a group of people living this way called? The church! The church doesn't exist for itself; it exists to serve the world. It is not ultimately about the church—it's about the people whom God wants to bless through the church. The church includes you and me, so, take your reality check and be that blessing to someone else because you have been blessed!

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jerry †

Celebrating Music with Family Concerts

As we shift gears in the summer time, come and enjoy two special musical Sundays designed with you and your family in mind:

✦ Aug. 5th—Best described as an eclectic combo of blues, doo-wop, 60s-70s-80s standards, and Gospel, "Those Guys Plus Friends" will be our guests for this Sunday's service and will perform on the patio after lunch for an afternoon of spiritual renewals! Bring your friends and your dancing shoes and stay awhile!

✦ Aug. 26th—Lee Domann, a singer-songwriter-storyteller and a United Methodist minister, will lead us in this Sunday's service. A modern-day troubadour with Celtic, country folk, and gospel traditions, Lee believes his mission is "to share the light and love of God—one doesn't have to be a flawless vessel for the grace of God to come through." Come and be touched by his music! †

YOU on the Wall



See your creation on the walls of our educational building!! These tiles will be transformed into a community wall, making it a very personal and meaningful contribution. Many have used their imagination and tried their hand in this fun project. No talent needed—just enthusiasm! †



Missions

by Wei-Ling Louie

Your mission dollars have made a huge difference in people's lives. CUMC has recently supported three projects. In May, we collected \$614 for the Heifer International Project in Nanbu, China. In Nanbu, Pingqiao Township is one of the poorest. Here we will support the Nanbu Livestock Development Project by providing 3,000 yuan (U.S. \$366) to each of 70 poor families. With these monies, they will be able to purchase 100 laying chickens and 10 piglets. The farmers will be trained to raise layer chickens for eggs and the pigs for food, using its' manure as crop fertilizer.

In June, we collected \$740 to purchase malaria nets for Africa, a project we supported on behalf of Bishop Swenson's 60th birthday, which was presented to her at the Annual Conference.

Our third mission collection for July will go to support "Strength for Service", a daily devotional book written for those in the service. As we celebrate the July 4th holiday with our many freedoms, let's make a difference in the lives of our military personnel. †



From the Editor Kay Lee

"Worry Wart"

Does that moniker strike a bell? There are those who never worry, and then there are those who worry constantly. Has worrying ever helped you pass an exam? Or host a perfect dinner? Why worry? I worry all the time!! I call it "wondering" or "thinking". I think about my students. Did I teach them the fundamentals so they'll pass their levels tests? I wonder about the graduation family dinner. Will I have enough food for twenty people? These are simple worries. What about the BIG worries? What about the future of our world? I wonder if the drastic effects of global warming will occur in the lifetimes of my grandchildren. I think about the moral free-fall of our culture that my grandies will face.

Jesus tells us not to worry. He says, in Matthew 6:34, "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." OK, Jesus, I'm taking all my worries to you and I'm laying them at your feet. Please take care of my worries. When we do this, guess what? He DOES take care of our worries! It's happened to you and to me. Life is so much more than mundane things like food, levels tests, and family dinners. "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you." (Matthew 6:33) Jesus calls us to lift our concerns to a higher plane, to the things above. Stop worrying about little earthly things! We know God is in control, right? I need to try and not be such a worry wart. I should pray more and worry less. †



Extension 777

By Cheryl Wong

Think back to the days of no kids, having energy, and the ability to eat whatever you wanted at midnight. Those are the days that the college group, Extension 777 (pronounced triple seven), is living these days, the lives of "typical" college students. With summer on the brink, you would think that all five of us would have a ton of extra time on our hands. Not! With three of us taking summer school and four of us now having jobs, we all have a busy summer ahead of us. But we aren't so busy that we can't use all of that extra energy—from having no kids and eating at midnight—to do things with the church and our group!

As you may have noticed, the college group has been actively enjoying our opportunity to lead worship on the fourth Sunday of every month. Our fearless leader Jonathan Chen has been taking our bi-monthly practices to new levels, as Joe and Richard learn their new instruments (can you believe they've only been playing drums and piano, respectively, for about six months?) and Kat, Jon, and I refine our skills.

We are still currently going through the Nooma series together and enjoying learning what new idea that Rob Bell has to tell us.

We continue to have a couple outings/activities each month. Some of them include going to Cheryl's (my) UCI orchestra concerts in support, playing lots of video games, or going out to eat somewhere together. We have anticipated plans of perhaps fundraising for the Building to Bless project or for our own group's needs, going to the beach, or making a video this summer.

Extension 777 is a casual, five-member-strong group of college students with a strong heart for worship

and our fellowship together. We anticipate becoming more involved with the church and building our lives together in Christ through close-knit bonds. We continue to keep a practically-up-to-date schedule on our message board:

www.ext777.proboards85.com †

Ladies Day Out



What can be more fun for ladies than food and shopping? CUMC's ladies went on their annual outing on Wednesday, May 19, for a relaxing excursion. First on the list was breakfast at LA's Farmer's Market for wonderful strawberry crepes. Then came shopping along the avenue where we stopped at the many Melrose boutiques. We ogled at a Chanel bubble dress priced at only \$800!! Leisurely shopping makes one hungry, and there before us was Kanter's Deli and Bakery! We lunched on delicious corned beef sandwiches and could not resist the treats in the bakery cases. Mmm-mmm-mmm!! †

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

COLLEGE

- ✦ Rick Doo—Masters in History – UC Irvine
- ✦ Cari Abe – BS in Kinesiology—Arizona State University
- ✦ Kevin Quon—BS in Economics and Minor—Sociology—UCLA

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION

8th Grade into High School

- ✦ Kathryn Low
- ✦ Joshua Yu

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROMOTION

6th Grade into Junior High School

- ✦ Brandon Chinn
- ✦ Alec Hasegawa
- ✦ Scott Lee
- ✦ Karen Wong
- ✦ Kevin Wong (5th Grade)

Twilight Basketball & Family Fun Week – June 18-22, 2007

Thank you, Lord, for Your guidance and presence at our Twilight Basketball & Family Fun Week! In answer to prayer, CUMC's Family Fun Week turned out to be an awesome event! Every night for a whole week, more than 60 kids and their parents participated in a gamut of activities. There was something for everyone of all ages! †

Kid's Club



Kids Club participants made backpack tags, treasure boxes, and picture frames. They decorated flower pots and did some miniature gardening. Most fun of all was cooking something and eating their yummys! One of their favorites was "Dirt", complete with worms mixed with the dirt. †



Twilight Basketball Clinic



The Basketball Clinic was the most energetic and active group. From learning basic techniques to practicing with team mates to playing rousing games on the final night, they exhibited everything they learned and then some. Team work and good sportsmanship were lessons well learned. The big thrill was the presentation of a trophy with an inscription of his/her name to each participant. Each player also received a t-shirt and a Spalding basketball. †



Twilight Basketball Clinic



An excellent outreach, Family Fun Week was able to touch families in the neighborhood as they were invited to become acquainted with CUMC's facilities and programs. Our children's friends and friends of friends enjoyed being a part of the church family, too. Many asked if the Basketball Clinic would be held again! The answer to that question would have to be given by directors John Lee and Al Wong! They and their crew of coaches, coordinators and foodies worked hard to bring this part of the Lord's work to fruition. Wouldn't it be great if this Family Fun Week were the first "annual" event? †

Parents' Time-Out

Even parents had their own sessions. Resource people presented seminars with lots of good information and advice. Parents listened, learned, and asked many questions on Child Safety, the Teen Years, Financial Planning, and Places to Go With Kids in So. California. †



OHANA CONNECTIONS 1



FUN DAY AT TANAKA FARMS

By Pam Fitch

On Sunday, May 20th the Ohana Connections Group had a fun day at Tanaka Farms! We toured the 30 acre farm in Irvine and sampled fresh sweet green beans, parsley, sweet carrots and luscious strawberries! The kids filled their baskets with sweet ripened strawberries and what a delight it was for them to experience and learn about the various vegetables grown in Southern California. Then we had a wonderful dinner at B.J.'s restaurant in Irvine. Pizza, soup, salad and spaghetti—what a treat and great fellowship! †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups



CONNECTIONS
GROUP 3

ADOPTING
A
BATHROOM

Cornerstone Connection Group 3 "adopted" a bathroom at the Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Shelter (FIES). We put up towel racks, mirror, medicine cabinet, decorations, towels and bath mats. FIES provides free room and board and counseling to qualifying families so they can save their money and become self sufficient in 4 to 6 months. They were very much appreciative of our efforts.

A DAY AT THE PARK

Connections Group 3 has great plans in the working! We are planning a day at the park to spend quality time with our families. A picnic lunch

and plain old fun for the kids will be wonderful after we've had such a busy time at our Family Fun Week. We all need time to relax and wind down before summer is over! Keep watching the Sunday bulletin for this special date. †

CONNECTIONS GROUP 4 AT THE HASEGAWA'S



With picks, shovels, brawn, and spirit, Connections Group 4 and friends descended upon the Hasegawa front lawn for a sprinkler installation party. Alan Rogers and his working horse, the "automatic" rototiller, dug and turned the entire front lawn. Ask Cal Lowe about the natural geyser that sent a cooling fountain into the air! †



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



Jun/Jul 2007