

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)
(*AM/PM* A Methodist People Machine)
Ext. 777 (College)



Cornerstone
CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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
cell: 714-287-8221
pastorjko@sbcglobal.net

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

Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



Missions

by Wei-ling Louie

Romans 12:13—We are told to share with God's people who are in need, Practice Hospitality...Our Church certainly obeys that command.

November and December were such busy times for all of us and you responded so generously with Holiday Help for Needy Families, Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, as well as cutting and tying blankets (FYI: we made 94 blankets and they were distributed to Purple Ark and Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services). Special thanks go to Nell Mitchell and Selina Yee for all their time and work with the blankets and shoeboxes.

This Christmas the Missions Committee initiated the Holiday Help for Needy families through the Friendly Center in the City of Orange.



Your donations of non-perishable food items and toys were much appreciated. Marissa Dinsdale, the event Coordinator wrote "Thank you for holding a toy and canned food drive on behalf of the Friendly

Center. Your donations helped us serve over 600 families at our Annual Holiday Outreach Party making the holidays brighter for those less fortunate in our community."

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Our Congregation responded generously to two families we adopted and helped with Christmas gifts, household items, food certificates and holiday food baskets.

We received thank you notes and Christmas cards from the Rangel and Yamamoto families along with photos taken when they received their gifts. Again Marissa Dinsdale wrote: "It moved me to tears, when they were moved to instant tears by the generosity of people like you."

Nell Mitchell, Pam & Richard Fitch, Julie Owyang, Dianna Wong, Bock and Wei-ling Louie delivered the gifts in December. Director Cathy Selig gave us a personal tour of the Friendly



Center. It is a Community and Family Resource Center which has programs and services for children, families and senior citizens. It is non-profit (501c3) Center which began in 1924 as an outreach to the migrant farm workers in Orange's thriving citrus industry. All programs and services are provided to the community free of charge and is supported by government grants, private foundations, businesses, churches, individual donors and by the assistance of hundreds of volunteers. Check out their web site: www.FriendlyCenter.org

Continued on page 2 – Missions



Lone Ranger Ministry

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

The New Year is here and my resolution is to uhhh, ummm, do things differently! So, I begin by asking myself, "What tasks do I have on my agenda that could be done much faster and easier and with more fun, if I asked others to help?" And then a God Moment came to me: "A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty 'Hi-yo Silver!' It's the Lone Ranger!"

You may remember this show because its title often reflects how we tend to do things-alone. It's easy for me to operate out of the Lone Ranger Ministry Mode but thanks be to God that so many of our Cornerstone ministers (that's all of you!) come to me before I even have to ask for help. I don't believe that God intends our church to exist or function as a collective of solo acts. Jesus reminds us that, "when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there" (Matthew 18:20). Yet, there are two things that keep many of us from asking for help: inconvenience and fear.

Doing ministry by myself is certainly more work, so it would be a no-brainer to get help—but doing that isn't convenient. If I do a task alone, I don't have to go out of my way to find people. One church I worked at often had the same staff members doing everything—it was convenient because we were always at church. But equipping others for ministry is not about convenience; it's about long-term effectiveness. I may need to make a few calls, send a few e-mails, or schedule the task for another time, but inconvenience is a mere speed bump, not a roadblock.

The other main reason for Lone Ranger ministry is fear. We're afraid that the people we invite will say no. The reasons may be known or unknown, but our fearful thoughts may go like this: They'll reject me for asking. They'll think it's a waste of

their time. It'll drain on our friendship. They're so busy already. What if they roll their eyes? What if they expect me to do something for them in return? What will it cost me in favors?

Who knows all the emotional nuances that we process as we approach people? The bottom line is that it's good for you and me to ask for help and it's good for others to consider an invitation to ministry and many times it's a means of building rapport, having fun, and lightening everyone's load. I like this paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 4:9, "It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough!"

So back to you—what one thing do you have on the horizon that would be more convenient for you to do alone or that you might fear asking others for help with? Use it as an opportunity to get out of the Lone Ranger Ministry Mode. Remember—even the Lone Ranger had Tonto, his sidekick. And more importantly, we have Jesus, our Lord!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jerry †

An Invitation to John 3:16

One of my favorite authors, Max Lucado, has written a new book entitled 3:16, The Numbers of Hope. It's about the verse from John 3:16 that many of us have memorized from Sunday School—Lucado says, "The verse is an alphabet of grace, a table of contents to the Christian hope, each word a safe-deposit box of jewels. Read it again, slowly and aloud, and note the word that snatches your attention."

With his invitation, I offer one of my own to you: read "John 3:16" and write to me a 1-, 2-, or 3-sentence reflection of what this verse means to you. Send me your thoughts (e-mail, snail mail, or on the back of a bulletin) by the end of February and I will put our collective thoughts into a mini-devotional to be shared on Easter Sunday! I will not attach any names to the reflections so write something personal—because our God is a personal God!

Pastor Jerry †

Missions – Continued from page 1

As we move into the new year, our January Mission support went to Threshold Ministries Inc. a non-profit organization started by Cindy Reynolds and her husband after being sent by her husband's large corporation to build a factory in Linjiang China. They both were moved by the poverty and conditions in this area of China and dedicated themselves to help the families and orphaned children.

Today, February 3, is our "Souper Bowl" Sunday. The can of soup you brought today plus our mission offering will support the Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services' food pantry and Purple Ark Ministries.

Also this month, there is an opportunity to help Orangethorpe UMC with the Interfaith Shelter Program. Orangethorpe will be housing the Employable Homeless for two weeks. If any of you are interested in providing lunch fixings, preparing dinner or staying overnight, please let me know.

Thank you all for being a church in Mission. Blessings to all. †



Clergy and Staff Appreciation Week

Cornerstone recognized Pastor Jerry and Julie, Anita and Karl for all their hard work and dedication to our church. They play vital roles in the leadership of our church. We are so blessed by their love, service, and fellowship. †



Being a Christian is a tough journey. No one said it would be easy. In fact, He warned us that we would be ridiculed, spat upon, and jailed. Is there a "perfect" Christian among us? At the end of the day, can you say that you have not had one un-Christian thought about that nasty driver? Have you ever gone through a whole day and not uttered an un-Christian word or thought, even if it's a whisper under your breath? Have you ever had selfish desires that prevented you from doing something that you know you should do?

Gospel singer Kirk Franklin is a real human being. He said, "I have a sincere desire to really be that Jesus dude...to be a very honest, sincere, and for-real person about my faith." He admits to his drug use and pornography addiction. He reveals his struggles and gives encouragement with lyrics that boost the spirit. He knows he is not a perfect Christian. No one is. He is a growing Christian, as we all are.

We continue in our lives to grow as Christians. The beauty in all this is that God is the rain, the sun, and the soil to help us grow. He provides all we need to continue our journey until we meet Him face to face. We work through our journey, we pray through it, and we worship through it. Being a Christian is a tough journey, but at the end of that journey, there awaits an indescribable reward. †



CUMC Officers for 2008

The CUMC Administrative Council was installed on Sunday, January 20.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Pastor Jerry Owyang
 Youth Director Karl Freeman
 Ad Council Co-Chairs John Lee, Bill Yee
 Lay Leader Al Wong
 Secretary to Ad Bd May Quon
 Finance Chair Dick Chu
 SPRC Chair TBD
 Selected by committee members
 Trustee Chair TBD
 Selected by committee members
 Education Rebecca Louie
 Worship Co-Chair Celeste Wong & Cheryl Wong
 Missions Chair Wei-ling Louie
 Evangelism Chair TBD
 Caring Cheryl Hasegawa
 HUGS Brad Chinn
 Connection Small Groups Lydia Chu, Peggy Lowe
 MOPS Dianna Wong
 Annual Conference Representative ... Al Wong
 Alternative AC Representative .TBD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Dick Chu
 Treasurer Joyce Wong
 Secretary Ruth Wong
 Bookkeeper Randy Wong
 Ad Council Co-Chairs .John Lee, Bill Yee
 Lay Leader Al Wong
 Trustee Chair TBD
 Selected by committee

MINISTRIES

Church Secretary Anita Lee
 Bulletin Bob Yee
 Communion Stacey Wong, Sr., Selina Yee
 Flowers Minnie Lou
 Praise Band Alex Yu
 Choir May Lou
 Power Point Byung-Mee Chinn
 Sound System Steve Louie, Kevin Hasegawa
 Lunch Coordinators Henry & Sherrie Fong
 Newsletter Kay Lee, Audrey Yee

Computer Website Leland Yee
 Marketing Gary & Sheree Low
 Sports John Lee, Kevin Okada
 New Life Bill Chan
 Chinese Language Class JC Dear
 Chinese Caucus Jennie Low

LAY LEADERSHIP FOR 2008

TRUSTEES

2008-Dick Chow, Steve Louie, Henry Wong
 2009-Richard Fitch, Bock Louie, May Quon
 2010-Mike Moy, Davis Tang, (TBD)

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2008-Alex Yu, Robert Quon, Suzanne Wong
 2009-Stacey Wong, Jr., Amy Wong, Gary Low
 2010-Bill Chan, Calvin Lowe, Jon Chen

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (NOMINATIONS)

Chair Pastor Jerry Owyang
 2008-John Lee, Jeff Hasegawa, Rich Fitch
 2009-Jennie Low, Dianna Wong
 2010-Roger Davidson, Charlene Wong, Ruth Wong

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

Pastor (non-voting) .. Jerry Owyang
 Administrative Council Co-Chairs John Lee, Bill Yee
 Lay Leader Al Wong
 Finance Committee Chair .. Dick Chu
 Bd of Trustees Chair TBD
 Selected by committee members
 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 †



by Brad Chinn

The HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit) "families with kids" group was truly blessed in 2007 with the addition of several new families. Some had been with us before, but we were fortunate to see even more of them this year. Check it out! God has brought us: The Hayakawas, Lohaus's, Lums, Nishikawas, Satos, Smiths, Yokoyamas; Betty & Marilyn McGill, Christina Herrera and more of Kevin Okada. Oh, and, thanks to Yin, we now have Min. Thanks to Angela, we now have Erick. Wow! Did I miss anyone?

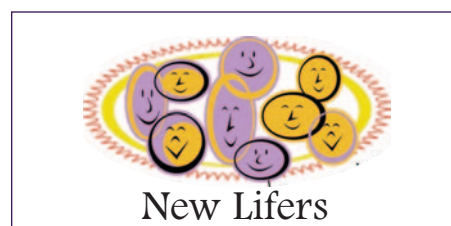
So, where did we possibly hold our annual HUGS Christmas Party to accommodate so many people? Why...Steve & Rebecca Louie's house, of course! The Louies were extremely gracious and hospitable. They opened up their beautiful home to all of us on Saturday, December 8th. Steve single-handedly moved a handful of tables and dozens of chairs from church—yes, all by himself! He converted his garage into our very own Youth Room. Rebecca made TWO mouth-watering hams, among other things, and displayed an impeccable home for all to enjoy. The HUGS group is eternally grateful to The Louies for sharing their home with God's family.

After a scrumptious meal, we answered a True/False quiz regarding The Christmas Story - e.g. "The wise men were three kings from the orient." (FALSE. The number of wise men is not mentioned in the Bible, and they were not kings). Then... we sang Christmas Carols - with a twist. Instead of singing along with a piano or guitar, we emulated the new karaoke T.V. shows, "The Singing Bee" and "Don't Forget The Lyrics" with our very own: Christmas Carol Singing Bee. Everyone faced the T.V.

where karaoke words displayed, except for the contestant whose back was to the T.V. We sang a rousing version of "Joy to the World" in unison, then on cue, everyone stopped—EXCEPT the contestant—who kept on singing. If he/she sang the next words correctly, his/her team got a point. Of course, the kids beat the adults (but, only by one point)!

We then read aloud "Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus?" (<http://www.new-life.net/jcbetter.htm>) to remind everyone of the reason for the season. This segued nicely into our white elephant gift exchange fun. We also collected gifts to send to our World Vision Child in Ghana. A hearty THANKS to Helen and Rebecca Rogers for taking care of that.

Now...on to 2008. On January 13, we held our HUGS Planning Meeting for the year. We have a great year ahead, and we pray for continued blessings on our families, our church, our community, and our world. HUGS! †



A great time was held by the New Lifers as they celebrate Christmas at Brodard Chateau in Garden Grove on December 1, 2007. †

Baptism



Sunday, January 13, 2008, will always be a cherished day. In a moving ceremony, three beautiful girls and Roger Davidson were baptized. Roger presented himself to the Lord as an affirmation of his faith. Eddie and Christina Herrera presented their daughters, Victoria Marie, Priscilla Marie, and Trinity Marie. They were enveloped in love as Pastor Jerry walked the girls through the congregation. A special welcome cake to Roger and the Herrera family was served at lunch. †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups

Connections, 2008

by Lydia Chu

Members representing each of the six Connections groups met for a very productive meeting on January 6. We decided to combine Groups 2 and 3 into one group. New members have been added to all the groups. Outreach projects will be coordinated with the Missions Committee. A compiled list will be available to the groups. Our goal is to try to have an event each quarter. And our purpose will continue to be getting to know church members better by working on projects and having fun together. Wait til you find out the unique names for each group! †



KFC Corner



by
Baylee
Rogers

Hello everyone! My name is Baylee Rogers. I am in 5th grade and in KFC. (Kids for Christ) I have been coming to Cornerstone for 4 years. What I like about Cornerstone is I get to learn about God and Jesus, and I get to see my church family. One of the many things that I have learned in KFC is how to be a better person. One of my favorite verses is John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. I like that verse because it is I think the first one I memorized and it shows that God loves us enough to send down his son to forgive us from our sins. What I like best about church is that I get to see friends and learn about God. Some of my hobbies are reading the Harry Potter series, trying to remember how to knit, cleaning, doing things on the computer, and playing outside. My favorite food is almost all food, my favorite activity or movie, is, well, I have a lot, and my favorite subject in school is math. Also, if I could change anything in the world, it would be to have less pollution, actually have an ozone layer, and to have more wildlife, trees, and other plants. My faith in God has helped me in many ways. For example, when I lose something and I pray to God, then I find it a lot easier to find. My faith also helps me at school. For instance, if I have a test or something that counts for a lot of my grade, then I can pray to God and it is a lot easier than I expected. It also helps me a lot when I am at school when I have a situation that I can't get out of, I pray and it gets better. †

Christmas Sunday



What is Christmas without children telling the story of the birth of Baby Jesus? From the Baby in the manger to the singing angels, shepherds and wise-men, Cornerstone children sang and told the Christmas story with sweetness, honesty, and a beautiful innocence. Under the direction of May Lou and accompaniment by Suzanne Wong, the Children's Choir once again honored Jesus with their presentation, "We Love you, Baby Jesus." †



"Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp". (Ps.149:3) The Cornerstone young girls performed a beautiful, graceful, liturgical dance to the Lord on Nov. 25. The ribbon dance, choreographed by Karen Wong, was a lovely honor to the Lord. The team of eight girls included: Katie Low, Lizzi Lowe, Samantha Nguyen, Baylee Rogers, Rebecca Rogers, Karen Wong, Jamie Yu, and Vickie Zhang. †



YUMMY!!!! What a treat to have In 'N' Out Burger come to church! The lines weren't as long as when we go to the corner stand. This was personal service and a welcome one! The In 'N' Out Burger chef, above, cooks and assembles Robert Quon's order with just the right doneness and trimmings. All proceeds of this lunch went to the Building to Bless fund. †



Extension 777 (College Group)

by Katerina Hu

Ah, another semester is upon us. For us college students, winter break passed by in a blink. All of us in Extension 777 (triple seven) are back in school again with more homework and busier schedules than ever. The holidays were certainly nice, though. Some of us in the group (Cheryl Wong) were prepared and started shopping early before the holiday rush. Others resorted to fighting with the crowds and/or browsing for gifts online. In any event, the Christmas holiday was a great chance to spend time with family and see old friends who came home from all parts of the country.

Now that a new year has come upon us, 777's goal for 2008 is to focus on service within the church. To open up such opportunities, Jon Chen is now representing the college group on SPRC! Our first chance to serve this year came on 1/19 when the Extension 777 band played for Purple Ark's Martin Luther King Jr. event.

Speaking of the band, the 777 band looks forward to leading worship every fourth Sunday of the month. We're excited to have Emily Luckett join the band with her violin. Usually, band members will gather and practice before the rest of the group meets on Friday nights. On 1/11, AMPM joined 777 for a combined worship session that rocked the sanctuary! We plan to hold more joint worship nights every second Friday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend.

777's January outing was a night at the bowling alley. February's outing has been modified to reflect the Valentine's Day holiday, so the guys will compete with the girls to be the

sappiest in our first annual Valentine's Day Mush-Off! Details of the Mush-Off are still a bit hazy, but both teams are looking to create and perform their own dramatic (and extra mushy) skits.

Extension 777 welcomes Alise Hunter, who works with Jon Chen at the LifeWay Christian Store in Brea. She makes another great addition to our group and we're very happy she can join us! It's certainly a blessing to have our circle of brothers and sisters expanding.

To check out what else is happening with 777, visit our regularly updated message board at www.ext777.proboards85.com. †



Sunday School Teacher Appreciation to Ed Joe

Without fail, each and every Sunday at 10 a.m., Ed Joe is ready with a new and exciting lesson for 20 eager students. What is amazing is that Ed hardly uses any notes! We know he spends hours and hours doing research and learning all he can so that we, his students, can also learn and practice the Word. To that end, the class decided to send him to Hawaii! Bedecked in leis, we hope he enjoyed his imaginary vacation. †



Byung-Mee leading the children in MOPS closing exercises



The MOPS committee, the mothers, moppets, and toddlers appreciate your time, energy, and compassion that you lovingly bestow every Tuesday.



After playing, crafting, singing, and teaching, it was time for quiet fellowship among the caregivers. The Fall 2007 session of MOPS ended with a great treat for the caregivers—a lunch at Buca di Beppo! The Winter 2008 session begins on January 29. Are you ready, caregivers? †

February, which should coincide nicely with the Parenting class, and if the pattern holds, it will bring a boost to attendance.

On the 25th, I myself went off to a ski trip that I was unable to entice the rest of the youth into. This provided an excellent opportunity to network with area Youth Pastors for the sake of joint activities and other goodness. Here's hoping that the contacts and relationships I developed will enable us to engage in even bigger and better activities in the future, as well as helping us to see and immerse ourselves in Christian culture outside of Cornerstone, as well as at home.

Things are on the move. I get more and more excited as I see God working in the group and in the youth individually. I can't wait to see what's ahead!

volunteer to help with AMPM. I am confident that God will provide, as He always does. Additionally, Pastor Jerry has graciously moved his schedule around to accommodate the AMPM schedule, so another new, yet very familiar, face, will be joining our Friday night meetings.

In light of Pastor Jerry being around, we have the opportunity to try a few things, including separate devo time for Junior and Senior High. This won't be a massive rift or sudden split, as was the case with the Extenders. As it stands, only supplemental devo will take place apart, with the beginning devotion starting together as a group, as well as all activities continuing to be a cohesive group thing. We're going to start trying this out the first week of

IN OTHER NEWS: Prayers continue for added help in the form of an appropriate female

The next three months are already on the board for AMPM. March 30th is the next YOUTH SUN-DAY!!! So March will be spent in practice and preparation. Please pray for the youth as they enter a period of preparation for the nerve wracking and weighty responsibility of putting together an entire service and ser-monetite.

Hey folks, here's a

(AM/PM)
A Methodist
People Machine



2050 Valencia Ave
Placentia, CA 92870-2040

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

