

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

For God so loved
the world that he gave
his only Son.

John 3:16, NRSV



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 High & 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



Chinese Caucus
Good Friday Service
was held on March 21, 2008

7:30pm

Temple City UMC
5957 Golden West Ave.
Temple City, CA 91780

Mission Giving



Missions

Souper Bowl Sunday – February 3rd, The congregation played an interactive game of Meal or No Meal with Art Yee as our own version of Howie Mandel and our KFC'ers as the beautiful and handsome models. Check out Art's beautiful Bald head! We became more aware of the problems of Hunger in the U. S. as well as the world when members of the congregation played the Meal or No Meal



game. Our big winner was Roger Davidson who won 4 free meals at our Cornerstone UMC Lunch Bistro. Our mission offering of \$1,013 as well as the cans of soup everyone brought was donated to Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service and Purple Ark Ministries.



In March we used part of our mission offering to make 60 beautiful Easter Baskets for the children at the Friendly Center and the Women's Transitional Living Center in Fullerton. Members of the congregation donated hygiene products such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, combs, brushes, soap, lotions as well as Easter games, toys, books, workbooks



and lots of Easter Candies. The Missions Committee supplied the Easter Baskets, cellophane and ribbons. Children as well as adults had a great time filling the baskets. The remainder of the mission offering was designated for the Pastor's emergency funds.

On April 13, we have invited Cindy Reynolds from Threshold Ministries, Inc. to be the speaker during our service. She will be giving us more information on her ministry in Linjiang, China and the orphanage and school she and her husband founded. Linjiang is in the northern part of China and borders Korea. Be sure to mark your calendars and bring a friend to hear her inspiring story. †

Wei-ling Louie, Missions Chair



Customer Satisfaction

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

Every so often I find at the bottom of a store receipt a number to call to take a "Customer Satisfaction Survey." I often get the same invitation when I call a retail store, insurance company or stay at a hotel. I read about a fast food restaurant manager that tabulated its customer comments cards and posted the results for the employees to see:

Store cleanliness—85%.
Employee friendliness—82%.
Speed of service—83%
Yeah! We passed!

My first thought was "We passed?" What a way to set the bar high! Do they not realize that nearly two out of every ten people thought the store was not clean, the employees were not friendly; and the service was slow? Does this manager not understand that if the meal I ordered is cold, next time I'll go someplace else?

Then a God Moment came to me and I wondered (as I often do) how this relates to churches. Do we within the church set the standard high enough? Or do we pat ourselves on the back when 80% of our people don't complain? Here's a little test. Do you catch yourself saying any of the following on a regular basis?

"It's good enough." "It's only a church—no one will ever notice." "It's just a small thing." "Whew! We're done with that." "Someone should really clean that nursery someday." "Practice? Who needs practice?" "I'll just write my sermon Saturday night" (oops—that one's for me!).

These types of comments reveal what I call the "McManager Syndrome"—setting the bar just high enough to say, "We passed" or just doing the bare minimum to get by. I remember taking the grueling California State Bar Exam when all that was needed was a "70%" score (a passing grade or mediocrity?) to be admitted to practice law—there was no guarantee on competency or ethics! But what if instead

we followed what Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33) as the standard for the church's "customer service?"

OK, time for a Reality Check. What are the things that we are neglecting at our church? Who are the people we are forgetting in our church? In what areas do we need to raise the bar? Where have we become apathetic in our service for God? The next time you take a customer service survey, try filling it out as it were for your church—your answers may surprise you! †

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jerry

Cornerstone Planning Retreat



A Taste of CUMC

The annual Cornerstone Planning Retreat was held on Sat., Feb. 22, and was it ever delicious!! CUMC is famous for yummy lunches every Sunday and awesome buffets and potlucks. But there is more to CUMC than delicious food. Pastor Jerry led the group in a "Come, Taste and See" session based on Psalm 34:8. "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him." Our senses of seeing, hearing, and touching are external; but what we taste is internal. Taste becomes part of us, such as our personal taste for colors, music, or literature. Tasting and seeing make our faith personal. As congregants of CUMC we ask ourselves: What is God putting in my heart to do? Where do we feel we need to be in the church? Prayerfully we seek to serve, using God's gifts to further His kingdom.

— THE PAST —

A "Recap of Cornerstone, 2007" was one of the sessions at the Cornerstone Planning Retreat. John Lee and Bill Yee recounted some of "flavors" that took place in 2007. Highlights included:

- ♦ Phase II Restroom Remodelling and Kitchen Expansion
- ♦ Painted tile project by CUMC and PUMC, establishing God's house as everyone's home
- ♦ Painting and remodelling the Education Room
- ♦ MOPS 11th anniversary in serving the community of mothers with preschoolers
- ♦ CUMC Mission Outreach, Purple Ark Ministries, Connections Groups
- ♦ First Basic Basketball Twilight Camp, an all-church community outreach
- ♦ Sports Court Volleyball Practices, a new entry point for visitors
- ♦ First "Raising Great Teenagers" seminar for the community
- ♦ First Liturgical Dance by CUMC Junior High School Girls
- ♦ AMPM Youth Group's growth by word of mouth--CUMC is a safe haven for fellowship
- ♦ Establishment of 777 College fellowship
- ♦ Completion and startup of new Sunday School Bible Studies Series
- ♦ New Life Bible Study is stable and strong, eating well, and travelling world wide
- ♦ Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study in its 3rd year
- ♦ Formation of the Youth Praise Band and New Worship format with blended music
- ♦ HUGS growth to 75 people strong and continuing relationships with families who have moved
- ♦ Several new families with children are active at CUMC because of these relationships
- ♦ Celebrated Death, Birth, Weddings, and the Healing Power of Prayer

— AND THE FUTURE —

There is much work to be done as we look forward to 2008. It will be an exciting year!

- ♦ September 14, 2008—we celebrate CUMC's 30th anniversary!
- ♦ June 17-21, 2008---Second Annual Basic Basketball Twilight Camp
- ♦ Plans for a CUMC Family Retreat in 2009
- ♦ Plan for joint Worship and/or joint events to enhance relationships with PUMC
- ♦ Plan for creative ways to nurture and develop a support system for 777
- ♦ Continue Build to Bless pledge program of shared costs of Phase II †



From the Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! No, not a January 1st New year, nor a Gong Hay Fat Choy New Year, but a Happy Cornerstone New Year!! Traditionally, Cornerstone embarks on a new year with a planning retreat. This year's planning retreat revealed a church that is growing. Not only are we growing in numbers; but most importantly, we are growing spiritually. We are seeking ways to build God's Kingdom through devotion to His word, through worship and celebration, and by giving thanks and praise individually and as a church community. We strive to build relationships and to demonstrate the love of Christ with others. These are the core values of CUMC. These values make CUMC what it is—a church community blessed, a body of Christ desiring to serve.

Each and every one of us is an important and necessary part of this body of Christ. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. (1 Cor:12:12) You may be a hand and I could be the ear, but you and I cannot do any good without the rest of the body parts. So you and I, and every other person at CUMC must diligently work together in order to function as a unit. The wonderful part of all this is that I see it happening at Cornerstone! I see young and old working together and having fun. At the planning retreat, young Scott Lee ran around as a go-fer. On Sunday mornings, I see the teens and young fathers working at the sound board. Every Tuesday at MOPS, seniors care for infants and toddlers. On Sunday mornings, our tech savvy young adults solve un-solvable technical problems for the senior Sunday School class. It makes me smile. God blesses CUMC with so many body parts that work together to form one healthy, giving, cohesive body.

We begin this new year at CUMC looking forward to fulfilling our Mission Statement: To reach and serve the Asian American community by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. We strive to fulfill our Vision Statement: CUMC—A place to disciple Seekers and Sojourners to Be, to Belong, and Believe in Jesus Christ.

May each of you—as an arm, a leg, an eye or an ear—have an awesome Happy 2008 at CUMC! †



Home Under God's Spirit

The young families fellowship group, also known as HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit), met in February to plan out goals and activities for 2008. We have lots of fun and exciting family activities lined up for the year! Thanks to people like Al & Celeste Wong, Julie Owyang, and others—the HUGS group has outlets for spiritual growth and development in the form of Bible studies and informative series/discussions on raising adolescents and teenagers. The rest of the calendar focuses on HUGS fellowship activities to strengthen current relationships and welcome new ones as, together, we create a community of support and ultimately strive for a deeper relationship with God our Heavenly Father. We welcomed several new families to HUGS and Cornerstone in 2007, who have quickly become vital, appreciated, participating members of our church family. We look forward to more in 2008. By the time you read this, we will have held our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the kids, and Family Fishing Fellowship, on Sunday March 29.

For more information about HUGS and HUGS activities, please contact Brad at 714-505-4650. †



Extension777

By Cheryl Wong

Extension 777 is excited for the rest of 2008. After the all-church planning meeting, we anticipate becoming more active within the church. It feels like the start of a new year!

Although we are a small group, we are mighty! Our focus is not really growth in numbers but growth in faith. We leave the growth in numbers up to God. This year, as we focus on service, we hope to participate as much as we can in church work days, service projects, and maintaining a servant's heart at school and work.

We have a lot of new changes. After meeting in the sanctuary for over a year, we moved to the Blue Room for a more homey and comfortable location. We anticipate in the upcoming months making the space a little more of our own and clearing out the extra clutter, as the room has turned into somewhat of a storage space.

Also, we have started a new series on debunking the theories of evolution. In a video series, we watch the seminars by Kent Hovind, a leader in the fight against evolution. So far we've learned evidence to why the Earth is not billions of years old like they teach us in schools and about what the Earth was like from the time of the creation up until Noah, and how that affected things such as possibly strength and life span. The series is extremely interesting! If you are interested, check out: <http://drdino.com/> for the videos.

Extension 777 has a huge heart for musical worship. Keep an ear out for us on Sundays! We also are still leading worship for AMPM the second Friday of every month. Come join us for that at 8:30pm!

As always, we have tons of time for fun and food. Check out our schedule on <http://ext777.proboards85.com/>.

†



KFC Corner



By Garrett Wong

Hello everyone, my name is GARRETT WONG! I am 11 years old and in 5th grade. I live in Huntington Beach and go to Village View Elementary. I will be going to Marine View Middle School in about 2 months. I've been going to Cornerstone for 11 years. I learned about Cornerstone from my parents. They were already going to this Church so I started to come with them. What I like about coming to this church is that I get to see my friends and play with them.

What I have learned in KFC (Kids For Christ) is the Old Testament and the first part of the New Testament. I learned: The books of Law, The books of History, The books of Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets, and the Gospels. I have also learned some new bible verses. One of my favorite bible verses is Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." I like this verse because it would be good if everyone could do these things everyday. Auntie Sheree, Auntie Cheryl, and the KFC'ers make it fun to remember the books and verses. †



(AM/PM)
A Methodist
People Machine

AMPM: Youth News

by Karl Freeman

The youth group is exploding! You've seen them. They grow like wildfire, bringing friends, laughing, making noise and a big mess. I can't quite explain to you how that enthuses me. I look at how we started, and at where we're at now. I look at the VERY cool things that we have coming up, and all of the possibilities ahead of us, and I can tell that the past two years have only been just the beginning of the way that God will build the youth into men and women of God. I get pumped on stuff like that!

On the practical level, the growth of the youth group is necessitating new and exciting programs, as well as bigger and better ideas for Friday nights. Since you are EXACTLY the kind of folks I can use in helping with some of the bigger things I have in mind, I'd like to put in a bit of a commercial here: You may know that the second Friday night of each month is now a joint worship night with EXT 777. Well, I'm thinking that the first Friday is a great time for some of the bigger and better ideas out there that we can take advantage of, but I'm going to need help. Lots of help. If there are drivers and adults who would like to spend a Friday night in Ministry in a chaotic environment, I'm looking for volunteers. I'm beginning this in April, so that is NOW!

Hey, so that you know: I LOVE YOU GUYS! Really, I do. I love my time with you and I am enchanted by the relationship that God has given me--the opportunity to build with you. Thank you so very much for having been part of my life these past two years. †



Cornerstone Connections *Building Bridges in Small Groups*

Connections Groups

by Lydia Chu

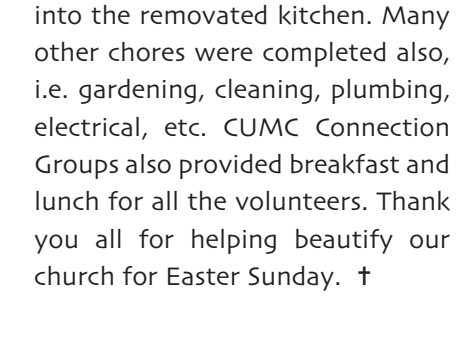
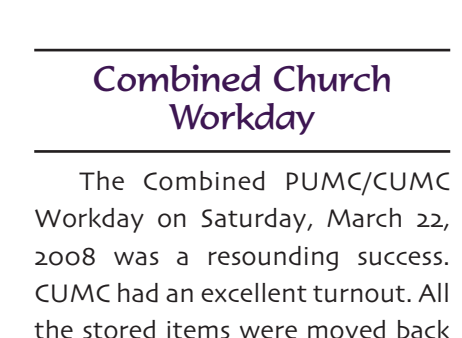
Many interesting and exciting activities have been planned by CUMC's Connections small groups.

Groups 2 and 3 have been combined to form the Salt & Pepper Group. Their plans include the Missions Easter baskets, Huntington Library, beach outing, Christmas shoeboxes and others. Leaders for this group are Mabel Joe, Anita Lee and Dianna Wong.

Joyful Hearts (Group 5) is headed by Peggy Lowe and May Quon. This group's plans include the March Parish workday, CROP Walk, Suzanne Wong performances, Nixon Library patriotic program, summer picnic, Heifer Project, and Operation Christmas Child.

Not to be outdone, the FBI Group 6 has plans for the March parish workday, flower fields in April, summer barbecue and games at Nell Mitchell's, preparing Sunday church lunch in August, the September Nixon Library patriotic program and a service project.

The other Connections groups will be meeting soon. We're anxious to hear about all their get togethers as well. †



Combined Church Workday

The Combined PUMC/CUMC Workday on Saturday, March 22, 2008 was a resounding success. CUMC had an excellent turnout. All the stored items were moved back into the remodeled kitchen. Many other chores were completed also, i.e. gardening, cleaning, plumbing, electrical, etc. CUMC Connection Groups also provided breakfast and lunch for all the volunteers. Thank you all for helping beautify our church for Easter Sunday. †