

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

Serve
the LORD
with
Gladness

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)



Reaching out to the
Asian-American community
2050 Valencia Ave
Placentia, CA 92870-2040
phone: 714.528.3068
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Jerry Owyang, Pastor
Office Hours: Mon. thru Thurs.
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
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Karl Freeman, Youth Director
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Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



Dear Church Family,

One of the goals of the Missions Committee, according to UMC guidelines is to implement, encourage, educate and inspire the congregation to support and serve the local and global mission endeavors of the church. We are to lift up to the congregation, mission opportunities in our community as well as the world. It is hoped that individuals or focus groups (connections groups, etc.) are encouraged to offer more support for those missions which touches their hearts in a special way.

As Pastor Jerry says, "the Missions committee should help CUMC select varied projects for our Missions Offering to emphasize that the world's needs are great and many, that we cannot meet them all, but we can meet some of them each month. At some point, we all need to make a choice."



Special thanks to Lydia Chu who coordinated the knitting and crocheting of hats and scarves for the children in Threshold Ministries. Thank you to all who spent many loving hours on the project. Helen Rogers graciously donated shipping cost to Santa Maria where the hats and scarves need to be re-packed and shipped to China in time for the cold weather. Funds for shipping to China will be coming out of the United

Methodist Women's Funds from previous years. Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall noting drawings from many of our sponsored children.

Our August Mission offering went to help the Women's Transitional Living Center especially for the Children's Residential Program. Many families also donated women's and children's gently used clothing for the families that often leave their homes with very few possessions.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson came for our Church's 30 anniversary and our mission offering was sent to Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund on behalf of Bishop Swenson.

In October we will be having a canned food drive and a mission offering to help Danny Smith and his Purple Ark Ministries get started for the upcoming holidays.

Dr. Elma T. Jocson also requested help to support the Tansen Hospital in Nepal where she worked for 8 years as our Covenant Relationship Missionary. They just dedicated a new Emergency Department which can now service 10 patients at a time rather than just 2, which was the case when Dr. Jocson was in Nepal. Her heart is still very much in Nepal even though she is on medical study leave in the Philippines.

The new three story building not only houses the ER, but will have rooms for outpatient clinics, a Dental Clinic, Occupational Therapy Clinic, Social Services, and specialty clinics such as ENT, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and HIV clinics. The estimated cost is \$250,000 and there are still needs for furnishing the building with the needed medical equipment. Our Nov. offering will go to the Tansen Hospital Emergency Department project.

Continued on page 2 – Missions



Business as Usual

*The Spirit in me greets
the Spirit in you.*

A few weeks ago we celebrated our 30th Anniversary as a chartered United Methodist Church, and what a grand celebration it was! With so many special guests and friends, we remembered our foundational past on which we must continually build our faith. My deepest thanks go to all of you for the ongoing process of creating Cornerstone to be God's church for all of our current and emerging generations.

Now what—business as usual? Hopefully, we've caught our breath as we take pleasure on how God has blessed us, giving thanks all along. And now, after 30 years as a congregation, we need to take a deep look within ourselves to make sure that we are not "going through the motions" of being a church. Our faith practices may have once felt joyful and energizing—how can we recapture that sense of joy instead of a sense of monotony?

Serving on the Santa Ana District Committee on Ordained Ministry, I ask candidates about their significant Christian life experiences, strengths and weaknesses, gifts and graces, and their call and response to ministry. I reflect on those same questions to check that I am not doing "business as usual" as your pastor. I also recall the many lessons I've learned along the way.

I love the prayers of the early believers found in the Psalms because they often prayed with such raw honesty and desperation. Listen anew to their conversations with God: "Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us" (Ps. 90:15). "Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you?" (Ps. 85:6). And, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit" (Ps. 51:12).

Maybe these early followers of God could've taken a vacation, and

that would've helped restore their joy. We each need to make sure that we're getting enough time away from the rigors of life for some genuine rest and relaxation. However, I've often found that the long awaited vacation alone doesn't restore joy—only God can restore true joy. The Psalmists point that out as they seem to "fight" for joy in their prayers.

In a fallen world where there are so many potential "joy suckers" (as H B London of Focus on the Family calls them) we too need to fight for real joy. Have you arrived at a point where you are crying out in raw honesty and desperation to God? Beyond asking God to restore your joy, look into His Word with passion and a renewed sense of anticipation. Jeremiah reminds us of how this experience can truly revive us: "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts" (Jer. 15:16).

The joy of the LORD is your strength! (Neh. 8:10). I am praying that you lean into the One who can restore your joy — your strength!

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jerry †

Missions *Continued from page 1*

Mission plans for the rest of this year include sponsorships of a couple of families from the Friendly Center in Orange for Christmas. They will not be the same families as last year. We will have the Christmas trees set up in December so you may pick out an ornament with individual needs of each member of the family. We'll also be coordinating a food basket for each family.

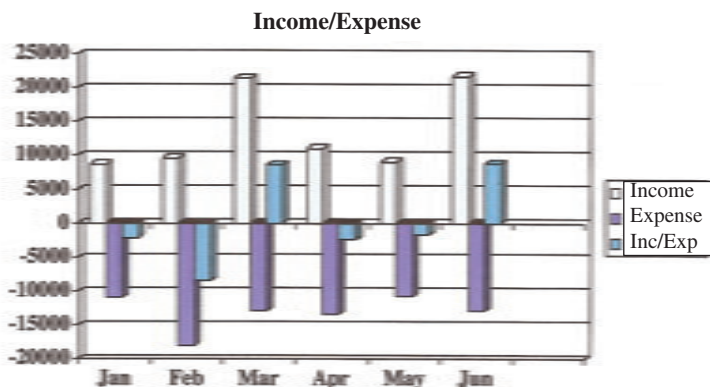
We have decided not to order shoe boxes from the Samaritan's Purse Ministry (Operation Christmas Child) this year as it was difficult getting all the boxes returned in time to be sent overseas. Connection groups or others may want to participate on their own which is what we are trying to encourage. It's wonderful to see others take the initiative to lead the project.

Thank you for always being in Mission. Blessings to all,

Wei-ling Louie,
Mission Chairperson †

State of Our Church 2008 Finance

CUMC Financial Summary – Jan through Jun 2008



With the commendable spiritual and congregational growth of our church, we must focus also on its financial health. This is a gentle reminder that we need all your help, as our church has established a pattern of falling behind and below our budget and growth needs. Our Finance Committee pray that each of you will faithfully and cheerfully do your part with your tithes to enable our church to continue to grow and meet our mission and goal outreaches. Thank you all for your cooperation. †



From the Editor

You've seen the Simpsons commercial on tv that didn't last very long. The Simpson kids keep asking, "Are we there yet?" "Are we there yet?" "Are we there yet?" Daddy Simpson becomes so frustrated he wants to strangle them. Just as he is about to do that, their destination looms before their eyes.

Actually, it is a very legitimate question. "Are we there yet?" It all depends. It depends on where you're going and what you're doing to get there. Are you at the point of seeing your kids through the 6th grade? High school? College? Or are you at the point of getting yourself established in family, community, and career? Are you preparing for retirement?

Everyone is different. Everyone has different goals and ways to reach them. But we ALL have one destination in common. Our common destination is to reach for Jesus Christ. Some of us are taking baby steps to get there. Some are taking giant strides. We go to church, study the Bible, and involve ourselves in missions and outreach. And PRAY. Prayer is the silk thread that connects us to our God and Savior. Through prayer, compassion towards our fellow man, and total commitment to Christ, our destination will loom before our eyes and we WILL be THERE. †

5th Sunday Praises



Music at CUMC on the 5th Sunday of every month will be heaven-sent, as witnessed and heard on August 31st. With joy, enthusiasm, and praise our young AMPMers sang their hearts out with clear voices and timely accompaniment. We look forward to your November 30th praise music! †



Extension 777



777 members find it difficult to contain themselves while being locked in at church! They look sleepy, goofy, happy, tired. Reports are that they had a wonderful time anyway!

By Cheryl Wong

It was a stunning defeat against the HUGS men and women in the basketball challenge last October, but Extension 777 was not stunned for long! Now we even more ready to take on a NEW challenger!

Extension 777 will be challenging the AMPMers to a tough game of dodge ball! The video presenting the challenge was shown early October in church and now can be viewed on youtube.com if you search "extension 777 cumc dodge ball". Watch the video and show it to others!

This year's challenge is also a fundraiser. The event will be held on Sunday, November 16th after church lunch (around 2 pm). There will be a raffle in which you pay for tickets and choose which team you think will win and put your tickets in the corresponding box. The grand prize will be drawn from the winning team's box, and the second prize will be drawn from the losing team's box! Tickets are sold up until the game is over. All proceeds will go to a local charity. So, come, watch, and cheer!

Extension 777 has finished off the summer with a bang. In August, we had a lock-in at church where we stayed up (almost) all night and enjoyed each other's fellowship, laughter, and our own home-made spaghetti. In September, the group baked cookies for H.I.S. House (Homeless Intervention Shelter in Placentia) and brought the cookies to the home the following Sunday.

The group has been enjoying hearing Bible studies presented from different people in our group. Taking turns leading was a great experience for everyone. Also, we recently watched Louie Giglio's video called "Indescribable" and learned of the magnificence of God through His creations in the heavens.

The group, as always, continues to meet weekly on Fridays in the Blue room at 8:00pm unless otherwise stated on our message board (www.ext777.proboards85.com). Feel free to invite friends to our group! We are always looking for some new faces. †

Rally 'Round CUMC!

by Cheryl Wong

to RALLY [ral-ee]

- ♦ concentrate or revive, as one's strength, spirits, etc.
- ♦ to draw or call (persons) together for a common action or effort
- ♦ to bring into order again; gather and organize or inspire anew
- ♦ to find renewed strength or vigor

Here's the call Cornerstone! Come rally together on Rally Sunday! We will celebrate, strengthen, inspire, and revive each other and our ministries at this church in a gathering for God. On Sunday, October 12, we will have our second annual Rally Sunday. The festivities will begin at lunchtime.

Signups and/or information sheets from each group in the church will be present on the tables in the middle of the Fellowship Hall. The more things you sign up for, the more tickets you get! All tickets go into a raffle, and prizes will be drawn that afternoon. There will be free lunches, food coupons, and coupons for Pastor Jerry's Parking Space! So, make sure you get your chance to win!

Overall, we are celebrating what we are doing together as a church. Cornerstone has so many different ministries and groups. You'll be surprised at how many organizations there are! On Rally Sunday, we gather together for a common effort of finding renewed vigor and excitement in our activities! Come and support each other and the work that God has called us for! †

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

Happy Birthday, Cornerstone!!

CUMC knows how to throw a party!! On Sunday, September 14, 2008, CUMC celebrated its 30th birthday, and what a party it was! Indoor and outdoor dining rooms elegantly decorated, great food (especially the dessert!), special guests, a gaggle of children, and lots and lots of "happy talk" were the order of the day. It was wonderful to have many former pastors and members celebrate with us. The worship service featured special music, dance, and a wonderful slide show depicting Cornerstone's history of 30 years. We were honored to have Bishop Mary Ann Swenson offer us a message of JOY. It was a blessed day filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. May we celebrate many more birthdays! †



Fr: Rev. Leo Hsu
2nd Row: Rev. Keith Hwang-Director of
Connectional Ministries Cal-Pac, Bishop Mary Ann
Swenson, Rev. Jerry Owyang, Winston Chan
3rd Row: Rev. Timothy Ting,
Rev. Mark Ulrickson-D.S., Rev. Judy Chung-PUMC



HUGS (Home Under God's Spirit)

by Brad Chinn

Our Cornerstone family fellowship group, HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit), has been recuperating from our annual August camping trip, and easing into the new school year. So, we limited our September activities to one night out on the town with over 30 adults! And, no kids... Our special thanks to Calvin Lowe for putting it all together!

We had a pleasant dinner at China Buffet in Fullerton. One nice, long table with food, fun, and fellowship.

Then, we shuttled ourselves over to the nearby Maverick Theater for the "Skipper's Stand-Up" comedy show. What's that? The stars of the show were former narrating, joke-telling, skippers of the Jungle Cruise ride at Disneyland. That's right. Former Jungle Cruise skippers turned stand-up comedians. Calvin, our resident doctor, has the ambitious desire to be a skipper when he grows up. Shhhh... don't tell anyone.

Now, when we voted for this night out on the town, we envisioned

something unique and special - something other than bowling (been there, done that); a night that would be filled with friends and laughter. We envisioned some family-friendly Disney comedy, similar to those silly jokes they crack on the boat. Perhaps, a humorous inside look, behind the scenes at Disneyland...

WRONG!

We quickly learned that skippers graduating from Disneyland are like inmates getting out of prison after good behavior. It was, er, well, raunchy. Offensive. Vulgar. To say the least. Dorothy, we're not in Kansas anymore.

The sad thing is that they had some (emphasis on "some") pretty funny material. They just felt it was funnier with adult language and material strewn in. They were mistaken.

Among the more memorable stories, along the lines of what we expected the entire night to be like, described how cast members can have their own fun at Disneyland: They can

form a line anywhere in Disneyland, and sure enough, people will line-up behind you. A line that goes nowhere! How fun!

Oh, and, this particular skipper continued to describe how much fun it can be to follow a tourist around and oh so very subtly get in the background of EVERY photo they take with their digital camera. The fun comes in imagining the look on their face when they return home to find Waldo in every one of their photos!

And, the best part of the entire night? As they took their first jab of the night at Knott's Berry Farm (their rival theme park), they asked, "Anybody here work with Knott's?" Our very own, Gary Low, raised his hand (timidly). He was the star of the night. As each of the comedians came out, they would ask, "Which one of you is Gary?" before they proceeded to roast him alive.

After the fact, Gary told me that he should've told them he was "Al Wong". Yeah. That would've been funny. †



HALF A CENTURY OLD!!

We celebrated a special 50th birthday milestone at Ten Ten Chinese Seafood restaurant with delicious food, treats, fun gift cards, and played very funny games. (Some worked and some did not!) We laughed so hard, we cried. It was truly the company at hand that made this a night to remember. When HUGS gets together, watch out! We not only laugh at ourselves, with each other, but also at each other (all in good fun...) Who were the 50th birthday celebrants? It's a youthful looking group—Cheryl and Kevin Hasegawa, Anita and John Lee, Helen Rogers, Celeste Wong, and Ken Wong.



HUGS vs. 777 or, MATURE vs. YOUTH

The mature members of HUGS challenged the energetic, youthful 777 to a game of Laser Tag at Central Park in Huntington Beach. For 3 hours the teams hid between trees and bushes as well as behind each other trying their best not to get tagged; but at the same time, accumulate points. Vests were worn that calculated who was the best shot, who got tagged the most, who was your worst enemy, and who lasted until the end without being disqualified. It was a great evening of fun, fellowship, and pizza.

Reach out, Reach out and.....

by Brad Chinn

...bring in some young kids to our church family!

A MOPS invitation arrived with perfect timing! God works in mysterious ways...

I was just thinking...

Every Sunday, I sit enthralled and I chuckle (sometimes to myself, sometimes out loud) as I watch little Brookie Hasegawa dancing the aisles of our church, high-fiving everyone, and chomping down cheetos.

Every Friday, I watch happily as our youth group explodes in number, so that we now require an assistant for Karl.

And, then...I come back to little Brookie. She has billions of loving big brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles here at church; but...she has no friends her age to hang and grow with.

What does this have to do with MOPS?

OUTREACH. Yes, outreach. It's good.

How 'bout a special focus on reaching these young parents with young children?

Yes, the true goal is to welcome all into God's kingdom.

But...a little side piece of motivation named Brookie wouldn't hurt. Would it?

Let's find Brookie some Sunday School friends to take her into KFC, AMPM, and beyond... †

MOPS News



MOPS began on September 16 and will continue through October 14th, Tuesday mornings from 9:30am – 12:00pm. Our inspiring topics are: "Stressed Out or NOT" presented by Pastor Jerry, "Desperate Moms and the Strong Willed Child"– Pastor Louise Fairweathre-Baxter, "It Takes Two to Tango" by Celeste Wong, "Learning Styles" by Karin Parry, and



"Birthday Parties and Celebrations with Kids"– Celeste Wong. The MOP-PETS (children's class) are learning about Noah, Moses, God's Care for Little children, God's gift to the World, Ten Commandments, and Creation: Night and Day, Clouds and Water, Plants and the Blessings from God. Pastor Jerry conducts a Children's Story Time and Byung-Mee Chinn teaches music on alternative weeks. Please invite your friends or someone you know who has a preschooler to join us! Contact our church at 714.528.3068 or email: pastorjko@sbcglobal.net †



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Coming Sat. – October 25, 2008

We're heading into our biggest event of the year! We will be celebrating the coming of Fall with huge slides, jumphouses, costume parades, stories with Pastor Jerry, carnival booths and prizes, karaoke, face painting, and more! Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to our Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 25. Always a family fun time for kids of all ages! You won't want to miss it! †

Summer Fun to School Fun

Pastor Jerry reminded us that "summer is over and we're back into gear". Yes, those lazy hazy days of summer are over. School has begun. Time to buckle down to the basics. And with the beginning of Fall comes Sunday School promotion and teacher recognition. We have a wonderful group of children with teachers who are so dedicated to them. They teach them through Jesus' words. They tell the stories of Jesus. They smile and their eyes show the children that all is well.

CUMC teachers are especially awesome. They go to their classes well prepared with fun as well as serious lessons. Activities keep the children busy and happy. Some Sunday, just go to class with the children and pretend to be a fly on the wall. You'll be amazed.

CUMC thanks our wonderful teachers: Kid's Club: Lydia and Dick Chu KFC: Sheree Low, Cheryl Hasegawa, and Peggy Lowe. 3rd/4th Grades: Mabel Joe. 1st/2nd Grades: May Lou and John Lee. Children's Church: Celeste and Al Wong. Substitute Teachers: Dianna Wong, Charlene Wong, and Wendy Yu. Special Helpers: Amy Wong, Karen Wong, Crystal Lee, Jamie Yu, Brandon Wong, Alec Hasegawa, and Scottie Lee.

You are the backbone to Christian education. Your dedication is so appreciated! †



**The
Purple
Ark
Ministries**

It's not too soon to be thinking of the holidays!! And Danny Smith has just reminded us of the need to feed the hungry. Purple Ark's big purple bus has been restored and is in working condition. We can now begin to take essential contributions of canned goods, toiletries, and any nonperishable goods to the big purple bus. It is ready to roll for Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions to the working poor. Let's make someone else's holiday a happier one! †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups

CONNECTIONS GROUP 4

What could be more relaxing on a Sunday afternoon than sitting with a bunch of the nicest people at CUMC sipping lattes, mango manias or a plain ole cokes? Twenty members of Connections Group 4 connected with each other through revealing games. For instance, Jasmine was named after a street sign in Laguna Beach. Several were named after famous people and one person even got to choose her own name! We discovered that Jon's favorite place to be in the whole world is at the Wong home because it's such a warm, welcoming place. Lauren's favorite place to be

was at school. Tom and Helen described themselves as being a smidge on the "slob" side of the scale. And Sheree's most memorable moment was when Gary proposed to her at the airport parking lot because he couldn't say the "will you" words at the romantic spots that preceded the flight back home! Lots of laughs, giggles, and hee haws indicated that we all had a good time. Connections 4 is on the way to its best year ever in '09 with activities, service, and fun. And oh yes—a new name will be announced soon! †

AMPM Youth

On August 18th, 2008, the Cornerstone youth welcomed their newest members from the ranks of KFC in true AM/PM style, with a visit to SPLASH Water Park in La Mirada. AM/PM also celebrated their 3rd Anniversary together this fun filled day, ending with a "devo"tional in the park. Yes, it was three years ago that Big Karl arrived on the scene! Three years of building relationships, friendships, and close bonds! Thanks be to God! †



We have our own Bob the Builders at CUMC!! With tools in hand, paint, brushes, and lots of energy, Bock Louie and Dick Chu spiffed up the



Fellowship Hall with a beautiful storage cabinet. Gone are the not-so-attractive room dividers that were used to hide the junque! Thank you, Bock and Dick, for creating a Fellowship Hall that looks so much neater and more attractive.

Hard at work in the purple room during the week and after church were Ed the Builder and his cheerful assistant,



Mabel. They built a component cabinet to house all the equipment for the Adult Sunday School class. Builders Ed and Mabel also worked on the shelving unit in the 777/Band Room. All this work took place during the hot summer months but WOW—the results are awesome! Thank you for sharing your God-given talents! †

Bible, Blessings and Beyond!



Four KFC'ers "graduated" and received blessings and Bibles as they commenced beyond to their next grade level. Graduating KFC'ers this fall include: Austin Lowe, Lauren Sato, Kyle Wong and Sophie Smith. Congratulations to all of you! †