

# 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 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  
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



## Mission News

by Wei-ling Louie, Chairperson

December was a busy month for Missions. Our Church "adopted" a family of 8 from the Friendly Center in Orange. We provided them with several gifts for each member of the family as well as a large food basket filled with non-perishable food items. The family also received a food gift certificate from Stater Brothers. Nell Mitchell, Bing Wong and Bock Louie helped to deliver the two car loads of gifts to the Friendly Center. The family was extremely appreciative and sent a nice thank you letter along with a photograph of the children receiving their gifts.

We were also happy to use some of our Mission funds to help Jeanene Chau on her Medical/Dental Mission trip to China during the Christmas holidays.



Miao Bao Yuan

In December we heard from Miao, Bao Yuan and Lui, Yang, two children our church sponsors through Threshold Ministries in Linjiang China. They are doing well and sent photographs and nice letters telling us about their schooling and life in the

Orphanage. Bao Yuan is a pretty 13 year old and is in grade 2 in the Junior Middle school. She is studying biology and English and finds them both challenging. Yang is 7 years old and in



Liu Yang

grade 2, primary class and sounds like a typical little boy who loves to play with his school mates during recess. He also loves to eat grapes!

Our January Mission Donation was directed to the Orange County Rescue Mission, House of Hope Program. The House of Hope facility ministers to homeless or poverty-stricken women with children, who find themselves in compromising situations, and to provide assistance in the areas of guidance, counseling, shelter, food clothing and health care.

Five acres of the former Tustin Marine Corps Air Station is being converted into The Village of Hope – a haven designed to heal hurting families. It will provide housing for a total of 192 homeless men, women and children, with facilities for 36 families and 88 single adults.

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – FEB. 1ST.

Everyone brought cans of Soup and boxes of Ramen Noodles to support "Souper" Bowl Sunday on Feb. 1st to help our local food pantry, Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services (F.I.E.S.) restock their shelves. A.M.P.M. along with Karl Freeman

*Continued on page 2 – Missions*



## Strange Comfort

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

"Jobless Rate 7.6%; 598K Job Cuts Most Since '74," screams a headline on my home page. "Fear Expressed on Stimulus Plan," shouts another. That suggestion comes a little late. Watching Wall Street and Main Street tumble and the financial crisis deepen over the past few weeks have made it hard not to fear. Maybe Chicken Little was right: the sky, at least the economic sky, is falling and nobody really knows how to stop it.

And yet, despite moments of very real worry, there is a strange comfort from what's happening. A Bible passage I came upon in Hebrews captures the reason: "He has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful" (12:26-28).

These verses describe a universal shaking—one unimaginably greater than the current economic turmoil. If I were writing about such an event, you can be sure there would be a healthy dose of panic in my words! Yet the writer of Hebrews doesn't see a reason for fear. Rather, he implies that the massive upheaval is deeply "good"—what's with that? God is removing all the worthless stuff that's cluttering up the world so that only the things of lasting value will remain. He's shaking the dirt out of an expensive oriental rug, so to speak.

As I think about the losses and difficulties that result from the financial crisis that affects us all, these verses remind me that there are two categories of things: the temporary and the eternal. They show me again the folly of resting the weight of my hope and security on shaky constructions of this world—and they invite me to lean harder into the things I've

received that cannot be shaken: my relationship with God and the promises He has given me. I admit that grabbing on to those isn't easy but after going through the evacuation exercises from the recent wildfires, they're the best refuge I've found in the midst of these uncertain times.

I pray that you, too, would experience the strange comfort of allowing temporal losses to strengthen your grip on that which will remain. For as the writer of Hebrews reminds us, "Since God assured us, 'I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you,' we can boldly quote, 'God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?' (13:5-6, The Message Bible). Oh, and one more thing: since God is not a stranger to us, we will find comfort in our faith.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jerry †

## Soup, Football, and FOOD!!

CUMC has done it again! When Super Bowl and Chinese New Year's collide, there's bound to be a celebration of all celebrations! People in beautiful Chinese jackets, vests, and dresses were seen wandering the church campus. Lanterns hanging from the ceiling, table decorations, and Lunar place mats gussied up the fellowship hall. And the buffet of food was scrumptious. You just cannot beat a Methodist potluck!

Super Bowl at CUMC has a special meaning. It has been a tradition for the past few years for each person to bring a can of soup to replenish the FIES' Food Pantry. Another tradition is a rousing football game between the young and old.

Let's hope there'll be another year when Super Bowl and Chinese New Year's occur on the same Sunday! †

## Missions *Continued from page 1*

helped to re-enact the Story of Stone Soup to remind us all that by working together, a community, with everyone sharing what they can, there is enough for everyone, and a greater good is achieved.

On Sat., Feb. 28th, Anita and Crystal Lee, Bock and Wei-ling Louie, Roger Davidson and Henry Wong helped at Orangethorpe UMC when they housed the Homeless through the Interfaith Shelter Network Program. Pam and Richard Fitch, Dick and Lydia Chu and Nell Mitchell will be helping on Monday, March 2nd. They will be preparing and serving dinner on these two nights. If any of you would like to help, please contact someone in the group and lend a hand!

## MARCH MISSION

In March we will use part of our mission offering to prepare Easter Baskets for the children at the Friendly Center in Orange and the Women's Transitional Living Center in Fullerton. We will be asking the congregation to supply 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 will supply the Easter Baskets, cellophane and ribbons. We will have an Easter Basket wrapping party at church to get the baskets ready to deliver the week before Easter which is April 12th. So please watch your church bulletin for the Date of the wrapping party!!

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

## WHAT IF??

What if you had only one month to live? What would you do? Would you live that final month any differently? During this Lenten Season, Pastor Jerry and Pastor Judy will challenge us to begin living a no-regrets life. The daily readings, Challenge groups, and a sermon series will embark us on a life-changing journey as we embrace our own mortality and live our lives more fully—with no regrets.

Sign up TODAY and take the challenge!! Sign up sheets are in the Sunday bulletin or see Pastor Jerry. †



## Words from the Editor

I was watching a "Hallmark Hall of Fame" movie and sat through all their wonderful tear jerking commercials. All of a sudden, it struck me that Hallmark's motto, "when you care enough to send the very best," is not for the quality of their greeting cards. It was telling me that God cared enough to send us His very best. And he's done it twice! He gave us baby Jesus at Christmas; then at Easter, He gave us a resurrected Jesus Christ. And guess what? There'll be a third time when God will once again send Jesus to be with us. How blessed can we be? What a gracious and loving Father that He should give us His very best.

However, this precious gift that God gave us comes with responsibility. We have the responsibility to care enough to share our lives with others—our talents (He gave that to us too), time, and resources. We need to care enough to "look out" for the person next to you in the pew, for the family next door, and for the nation at large. We need to give our very best to our families, our church, and our communities. Most importantly, we need to give Him our very best, who gave us His very best.

I think I'll send a Hallmark 'thank you' card to God—"Thank you, Lord, for caring enough to send the very best!" †



**Don't Forget!**  
**March 8th**  
**Spring**  
**Forward**  
**Set clocks**  
**ahead**  
**one hour.**



## Extension 777

By Cheryl Wong

Isaiah 40:28-31 says:

*Do you not know? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God, the  
Creator of the ends of the earth. He  
will not grow tired or weary, and his  
understanding no one can fathom.  
He gives strength to the weary and  
increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary, and  
young men stumble and fall; but  
those who hope in the LORD will  
renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

It is this verse that is leading the college group this coming year. With a theme of hope guiding our way, we started off the year with a Bible Study Series called "An Invitation to Hope." In this series, we learned about the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How of hope, delving into the importance of hope in our lives as Christians, young adults, and participants in today's society.

Currently we are planning for our free babysitting night on Friday, March 27th starting at 6:30pm in the Blue Room where we offer free babysitting for anyone who wants to drop their kids off for a night out! See Cheryl Wong for details.

We're anticipating leading the worship service in May and are getting excited with ideas and planning. We hope to use our talents, gifts, and unique perspectives to shed light on how God wants us to live our lives as Christians. Mark your calendars to stay in town so you can come to church on Sunday, May 24th. We'd love to have you join us!

Meanwhile, we're up to our usual antics of leading AMPM worship, finding excuses to eat good food, and spending time laughing together. We meet every Friday night at 8:00pm in the Blue Room ([www.ext777.proboards85.com](http://www.ext777.proboards85.com)) †

## Administrative Board Newsletter

by Al Wong

If you've ever picked up your child's or grandchild's biology textbook, you'd be surprised with what they are being asked to read. My daughter's own textbook said that it is possible life began on this planet by coming to Earth on the backs of crystals. Our younger generations are being bombarded from all sides with twisted theories that are made to sound true and asked to be "tolerant" toward controversial topics. Today's society is even trying to force our own generations' mindsets into a mold, claiming they have found the truth. Black and white is being turned every day into a more and more muddled shade of gray.

The church is an important Cornerstone in establishing what truth in today's society is. The week after Easter, we will begin equipping our congregation to discover God's truth with a series called the Truth Project. It is a study that I hope everyone in our church will eventually be a part of. I would like to have 10-15 people, including at least one person from each connections group, to participate in this 13-week study. We will meet one night a week, taking a break in June, and will finish by mid-July. Once we conclude the series, a handful from the group will then go on to lead the series with another group of people and so forth until everyone in our church has been a part of it. People among our church may even want to lead this series with groups outside our church.

If you would like more information about this program, you can go to the web site [thetruthproject.org](http://thetruthproject.org). I ask that you spend much time in prayer over this project. I am very excited about this project and the potential it has for our church's spiritual growth as well as its importance in today's changing world. Keep an ear out for more information to come in the following weeks. I pray that you will join in Cornerstone's pursuit of the Truth. †

## CUMC Planning Retreat



You've heard the sayings: "Too many cooks spoil the soup". "Too many chiefs, not enough Indians". That is NOT the way at CUMC! The Planning Retreat held on February 28 showed just the opposite! All the cooks and chiefs came together and worked in such a cooperative spirit that it truly glorified God's grace on us.

"We aren't the same church as we were" was Gary Low's opening statement. He visualized the changes that have taken place in the last seven years in terms of demographics, Youth, MOPS, and Fellowship Groups. While change is continually taking place, we must ever be aware and cognizant of ways we can best serve our church family.

Discussion and planning from Worship, Education, and Outreach promises another great 2009 year for CUMC.

Cheryl Wong started the day off with high energy music! It got us into the spirit of working together for God!

Here are excerpts from 3 of our testimony givers:

Jon Chen, "The Bible is God's love letter to us". "I am NOT lucky. There is no such thing as luck".

Peggy Lowe, "Keep focused on God for guidance and strength". "God is in control".

Al Wong, "The times I've felt closest to God is when I am reading God's word". "The Bible is like a spiritual mirror—it reveals how to live. Sometimes it's difficult to see yourself in that spiritual mirror." "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but



## CUMC Officers for 2009

The CUMC Administrative Council was installed on Sunday, January 25.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Pastor ..... Jerry Owyang  
Youth Director ..... Karl Freeman  
Administrative Council Chair ... Al Wong  
Lay Leader ..... Calvin Lowe  
Secretary to Ad Bd ..... May Quon  
Finance Chair ..... Dick Chu  
SPRC Chair ..... TBD

Selected by committee members

Trustee Chair ..... Bock Louie  
Education ..... TBD  
Worship Co-Chair .....

Peggy Lowe & Dan Nishikawa

Missions Chair ..... Wei-ling Louie  
Evangelism Chair ..... TBD

Caring ..... Wendy Yu  
HUGS ..... Brad Chinn

Young Adults (Ext. 777) .. Cheryl Wong  
Connection Small Groups ... Lydia Chu

MOPS ..... Dianna Wong  
Annual Conference Representative .. TBD

Alternative AC Representative .. TBD

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman ..... Dick Chu  
Treasurer ..... Joyce Wong

Secretary ..... Ruth Wong  
Bookkeeper ..... Randy Wong

Administrative Council ..... Al Wong  
Lay Leader ..... Calvin Lowe

Trustee Chair ..... Bock Louie

### MINISTRIES

Administrative Assistant .. Anita Lee  
Bulletin ..... Bob Yee

Communion ..... Selina Yee  
Flowers ..... Minnie Lou

Praise Band Coordinator ..... Alex Yu

*does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:22-25) †*

Choir Director (Voice, Handbells) ....

May Lou

Power Point ..... Byung-Mee Chinn

Sound System ..... Steve Louie,

Kevin Hasegawa, Jeff Hasegawa

Lunch Coordinators ..... TBD

Newsletter Co-Editors ..... Kay Lee

Audrey Yee

Website Master ..... Jon Chen

Marketing Coordinators .....

Gary & Sheree Low

Sports ..... TBD

New Life ..... Bill Chan

Chinese Language Class ..... JC Dear

Chinese Caucus ..... TBD

### TRUSTEES

2009—Richard Fitch, Bock Louie, May Quon

2010—Mike Moy, Davis Tang, Julie Owyang

2011—Nell Mitchell, Jon Chen, Jeff Hasegawa

### STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2009—Stacey Wong, Jr., Amy Wong, Gary Low

2010—Bill Chan, Calvin Lowe, Jon Chen

2011—Jeff Haswgawa, Helen Rogers, TBD

### LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (NOMINATIONS)

Chair Pastor Jerry Owyang

2009—Jennie Low, Dianna Wong

2010—Roger Davidson, Charlene Wong,

Judy Hayakawa

2011—Angela Canche, Pam Fitch,

Celeste Wong

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

Pastor (non-voting) .. Jerry Owyang

Administrative Council Chair ... Al Wong

Lay Leader ..... Calvin Lowe

Chair of Parish Council ..... Ken Wong

Finance Committee Chair .. Dick Chu

Bd of Trustees Chair .... Bock Louie

Ad Council Appointee .....

Rotating CUMC Member

Treasurer (non-voting) .....

Bob McKinnell (PUMC)

### JOINT PARISH (CUMC & PUMC) BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CUMC (5 VOTES)

Pastor ..... Jerry Owyang

Board of Trustees ..... Bock Louie,

Mike Moy, Richard Fitch,

Nell Mitchell, Julie Owyang (Alternate)



## Cornerstone Connections

*Building Bridges in Small Groups*

by Lydia Chu

Our new Connections Committee (Arleen Hasegawa, Lisa Sato, Betty Yee, and Lydia Chu) met last month. Since the Connections groups have been together for three years, we decided to form new, smaller groups. The groupings will be formalized after the February 21 church planning meeting. We're excited about the small groups working, caring, and socializing together under God's spirit! If you have any suggestions, you can email me at [chu.lydia@yahoo.com](mailto:chu.lydia@yahoo.com). †



Have you ever seen or heard grown adults (60-ish adults) whine when told to put their games away because dinner is ready?

Have you ever seen so many seniors eat with such gusto and relish that you'd have thought it was their last meal?



*Winners of the many game that were played*

## New Lifer

Have You EVER??????

Have you ever seen a cooked pig's head with eyes staring out at you, all nice and brown and crispy?

Have you ever seen or smelled a 70+ pound pig stuffed into a box that looked like a coffin; but from it wafted a most delicious aroma?

Have



Well, all that and much more were evident at the New Life Pig Feast held on Friday the 13th. We played bridge, jig-saw puzzles, mah-jong, and Mexican Train all afternoon. Cheers of "Whoo Hoo", high-fiving, and back slapping went on and on until the dinner bell rang. And rang. And rang. It seemed as though these adults did not want to "clean up" and get to the dinner table. But when they did, they were all smiles, for such a feast awaited them! And when it was time to go home, they didn't want to do that, either! Do you believe there is a "second childhood" within the ranks of senior-hood?! Hmmmmmm. †





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Placentia, CA 92870-2040

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

Jan/Feb/Mar 2009

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## HUGS (Home Under God's Spirit)

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*by Brad Chinn*

The HUGS ("Homes Under God's Spirit") young family fellowship group has kicked-off 2009! We met and mapped out our calendar of family-friendly activities for the year. Among the newly introduced events, we will attend the Harvest Crusade at Anaheim Stadium in August. We'll see what it's all about, and get inspired by excellent speakers plus the latest in live, contemporary Christian music. Our annual camping trip this year will be at Refugio State Beach, near Santa Barbara, in July.

On Fri Jan 30, nearly 20 of us joined Pastor Jerry and his beautiful wife, Julie, for clean Christian Comedy at a church in Whittier. The feature comedian was Thor Ramsey

(<http://www.thorramsey.com/>), and two acts opened up for him. Hilarious! Check out his website for video clips, DVDs, etc. Pastor Jerry has the first "Thou Shalt Laugh" DVD if you're interested in borrowing it.

On Sun Feb 1, we held our annual HUGS Super Bowl. We probably had 15-20 growing boys and girls, plus 4 brave adults - including, our MVP of the day, James (Stephanie Low's main man), who played high school quarterback for four years. We had a blast watching him throw perfect spirals for about 80 yards! Kids would try to catch his nerf throws circling beneath the ball like ants trying to avoid a magnifying glass. It doesn't get any better than that. We returned to

Room 2 to watch the real Super Bowl. We tried to get a glimpse of our very own, Alex Yu, on the 20-yard line at the game, but he was just another speck in the crowd. We ventured home when his Steelers were up 10-0 - saddened that we'd have to hear about it all year from Alex when he returns home...

Celeste Wong fired up her new evening series for parents, starting Fri Feb 6. This time, we're embarking on a "Love & Respect" study for couples, as a change from our previous, and well-received, parenting series.

If you'd like to learn more about HUGS activities, please contact Brad at 714-505-4650. †