

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

Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
 Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



Plan to attend our
**Chinese Caucus
 Good Friday Service**
 April 6, 2007
 First United Methodist Church
 of San Gabriel
 201 N. San Gabriel Blvd.
 San Gabriel
 7:30 pm



The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, the six Sundays before Easter. This season is like a roller coaster ride with the emotions that are down and up again and again as the story of our salvation prepares us for Jesus's resurrection. Lent makes plain our sinful ways and the cost of our redemption. Here we know that sin and death are real, not just for someone else, but for each of us. Beginning February 23rd, you are invited to get a glimpse of God's glory each Sunday as we spend "40 Days with Jesus" in a sermon series on these themes:

- Discovering Greatness in Humility
- Overcoming Temptations
- Making Friends: Discipleship
- Prayer that Does What Prayer is Supposed To Do
- Experiencing Miracles: Supernatural Power
- Going Through Suffering
- Easter: Seeing Is Believing



Extension 777

It is easy to get lost in the jillions of younglings running around at church these days. Little do you realize that there are some other younglings running around too! The problem with these younglings is that they can drive, have access to credit cards, and have recently banded together to be even stronger than before. Beware, the college kids are here! Cue the dramatic music!

Previously known as YAF, the current college kids have created and revamped the college group, renaming it Extension 777 (pronounced triple seven). The name, chosen democratically through an online poll of AMPM, is based on the meaning that Extension 777 is our extension to God.

Though the five college kids that make up Ext. 777 were once part of AMPM, which branched from junior high up through college, the groups split up late 2006 in order to attain more appropriate places for each age group. After meeting, they decided to focus their studies on strengthening their own spiritual growth and chose James 1:2-4 as their theme verse for the year 2007. Currently, they are active in preparing to lead worship on Sundays and are just finishing up reading the book of Acts together.

Ext. 777 meets on Friday nights at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary for band practice, unless otherwise stated on their schedule on their website: www.ext777.proboards85.com †



Storytelling Again

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

When I was little, I helped my mom in the garden. Often I would find worms in the dirt and my mom would say that they were good for the garden. I didn't understand it then and certainly don't think so today—especially since a viral worm recently invaded my computer! After a mechanical "lobotomy" on my hard drive, I've lost a lot of my files and have to re-create a history for my computer—and with it, a God Moment arrived!

Imagine at a worship gathering in my excitement I say to you, "I have some really good news: No longer do you need to fear the evil Shelob. Her hypnotizing presence is weakened significantly by the Phial of Galadriel. Although the wickedness of Sauron still builds in the east, your mission to carry the Ring to Mount Doom is secure, and as long as you cling to Sting and wisely use the glittering Phial, you will be safe. Keep following Smeagol, for now, and make your way past Cirth Ungol. Isn't this great news?"

If you've read J. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings or seen the films, you would have understood what I've said—even felt recognition, wonder, danger, and excitement within you as some of the names and places were mentioned. If you know the story, you know what a relief it was for Frodo the Hobbit to hold that gift of Galadriel to ward off the huge spider Shelob to complete his mission to Mount Doom. But if you haven't read the 1,085-page trilogy, you don't have a clue—or even care—about what's going on.

Still with me? This Lord of the Ring diversion is similar to the experience of many who haven't heard the full story of the Gospel of Jesus. We start in the middle of a story that they don't know or know very little about. We offer them escape (salvation) from a peril they don't know they face (sin), and we use words that either aren't part of their vocabulary

(eternal life) or that they don't correctly understand (spiritual). Because people in today's culture don't know the story, we all must become storytellers again.

But before we can "tell the story" of Jesus, we must first listen and make the story of God our own—the traditional Bible God-With-Us and the God-In-You stories. Much of our world's noise and activities seem designed to silence the hungers and longings of our heart. Maybe we are unaware of these deep, inner hungers—they are there, and I encourage you to listen to them as part of God's story in you. Jesus speaks to the hungers of our heart, to our inner longings. When we listen to Jesus, we will discover that these longings are the doorways through which we come to God and through which God comes to us—and then we will have a story to tell that connects us to each other.

A recent newspaper article predicted the end of books and asked, "Who will read bedtime stories to our grandchildren?" So long as we have God's story of Jesus in us, we will be able to recite Good News to every generation. In 1868, Katherine Hankey, an English Sunday School teacher, wrote the words to a hymn still sung today: "I Love to Tell the Story." Let us tell the story of God in wonderfully colorful ways to generations that have never fully heard it before. And when we do it with heart and in a way that communicates to them, eager ears will be ready to listen. Be a storyteller again! †

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jerry



**MARCH
11,
2007**



Home Under God's Spirit

by Brad Chinn

The HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit) "families with kids" group continues to grow with meaningful, spiritual, and fabulous family gatherings!

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 4, we held our annual HUGS Bowl - Adults vs. Kids football. Boy, our kids are growing up! They actually made the parents work for it. The kids have great throwing arms, quick feet, and superb receiving skills. The parents have sore muscles, turtle reflexes, and degenerating coordination. We rested our weary bones, and recovered at the cozy home of Calvin & Peggy Lowe watching the Super Bowl, eating, hanging out, and eating some more. Thanks Cal/Peg! It was another excellent time of fellowship, friendship and FUN!

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated our first Family Nite of 2007. On Saturday, February 24, we held a hot pot potluck in honor of Chinese New Year's, followed by children leading worship, pastoral greetings/message, and game night - mah jong for adults, and board games for children. Please join us for our next Family Nite on Saturday, March 31.

COMING SOON:

Sun Mar 11 - HUGS Study. Come learn how to love and respect your loved ones as we study the "Love & Respect" series, based on the conference we attended on Feb 2-3. Appropriate for singles, couples, and small hamsters J.

Sat Mar 17 - HUGS Nite on the Town! Keep this evening free for a night on the town without kids!

Sat Mar 31 - Family Nite! Tell your family and friends...

Please contact Brad Chinn to learn more about all upcoming HUGS activities (bmwpapa@cox.net, 714-505-4650).
†



It's already March 2007. How are you doing in keeping your New Year's resolutions? The #1 resolution made by most people is----- You've guessed it! Losing pounds. Dieting. Losing inches. We cook healthy foods, eat healthy foods, eat smaller portions, and stay away from fat and sugars. We walk and lift weights. We go hiking, biking, and to the gym. We take great pains to care for our physical bodies. We want to be fit and look decent.

But what about our spiritual bodies? Shouldn't we take as much care and pain to maintain our spiritual selves? Let's assume you exercise 30 to 60 minutes a day. Can we also assume that you spend 30 to 60 minutes a day in quiet repose in prayer and studying God's words? Aside from the clergy, there are precious few common folk who diligently put aside an hour a day for spiritual growth.

Why not take as much time to be spiritually mature as we do to be physically fit? We know what we should do, but how many of us really follow through? It's tough to take the time to sit and read God's words just for the heck of it. If we have the time to sit, we'd much rather sit and read the latest spy thriller or People magazine.

There is a common thread between being physically and spiritually fit. Both are mandatory.

New Year's resolutions are iffy. Dieting is even more iffy. Exercising is mandatory---as is good health. But being spiritually fit is the greatest blessing. Knowing that God's grace is ours for the asking is as much of a high as running a marathon. †

ATTENTION!

Our Cornerstone website address has been changed to: www.c-umc.info. Please mark the change in your address book. †



Missions

We have a great Missions Committee consisting of Helene Chan, Bock Louie, Nell Mitchell, Stacey Wong Jr., Selina Yee, Art and Betty Yee.

Our first Missions Offering in January, 2007 was designated to help the Philippines Typhoon Victims through UMCOR Advance # 240235. The Philippines were hit by 4 typhoons in 4 months with the most devastating one on December 1, 2006. Volcanic mudslides and flash floods killed over 1000 people. 250,000 houses were destroyed and 83,000 people were transported to evacuation centers. \$360 in mission offerings was collected and sent to the UMCOR office to aid the victims.



Guest Chef Emeril (Art Yee) interviewed by Rachel Ray (Wei-ling Louie)

Mission Sunday on February 4, 2007 was SOUPER BOWL Sunday. A Missions Skit featuring guest chef, Emeril and his student chefs being interviewed by Rachel Ray was featured during the Children's Moment. The previous Sunday, our committee distributed grocery bags with two lists of food items for a family of four and for homeless individuals to be brought back to church on Souper Bowl Sunday. It was truly a SUPER SUNDAY. We collected 26 bags of food items for families of four and 15 bags of food items for homeless individuals. What a generous congregation we have as our Student chefs collected \$861.27 in Mission offerings



KFC'ers were the student chefs

which was divided equally to Purple Ark and Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services. We concluded the day's activities with a Chinese Noodle and Dumpling Soup Luncheon. It was a fun day and a great day for Missions. Thank you everyone for your generous spirit and outpouring of love. If any of you are interested in helping in the Missions area please join us as we plan for the rest of the year. †

Wei-ling Louie,
Missions Chairperson



You Are Invited!!

Sunday morning prayer meetings are being held in Pastor Jerry's office at 9:30 a.m. YOU are invited as we invite God to be in the very process of our plans each week. As we seek God's presence and draw Him close, may our dreams and visions for our church gain strength. We hope we find it necessary to move to a larger area to accommodate all who gather to pray! †

Check Out Our Website

Your CUMC Newsletter is now available for you on the web. We encourage you to access http://members.tripod.com/c_umc/cumcnews.htm for exciting news and important announcements.

If you are not getting pictures when you open the newsletter, you may need to update your Acrobat Reader to 7.0. A free download can be found at <http://www.adobe.com/acrobat--reader.com/usove.htm> †



KFC Corner



HELLO! THIS IS MATTHEW CHINN

Listed below are a few things that you should know about me and my church life.

I have been going to CUMC as far as I can remember. Church is great because I get to see all of my friends and learn more about serving God. Everyday, I try to be a better Christian and KFC and HUGS have helped me do that by giving me extra learning time. I would like to thank my dad, Pastor Jerry, Auntie Sheree, Auntie Cheryl, and anybody else who has helped me.

My favorite verse is found in Galatians 5:22. It says "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" I love this verse because it lists things that everyone in this world, needs to work on. God helps me plenty of times. Though you might not feel or know it, God has helped you a ton of times already. If you have a special talent, then that is a blessing from God. The best thing to me about being a Christian is going to heaven. The thought of going to heaven and meeting God and all your former loved ones is a great feeling. Another great thing about being a Christian is how I could feel God's love. He has blessed me so many ways that I can't

even think of the number of good times I've had. Remember, even if you do something bad, God still loves you, so love God even if you get something bad that happens to you. God tries so hard to make everyone happy so try to be show how great our God is and spread the word! If you have any questions about how to be a more loyal Christian, then ask our wonderful pastor.

Thank you for your time and I hope you have a fantastic day. †

KFC Super Chefs serving the church congregation a delicious lunch on February 11th under the guidance of Sheree Low and Cheryl Hasegawa.



Bells Are Ringing!

Whether you can lift a 2 ounce or 2 pound bell in each hand, May Lou needs you! She has great plans to revive the Bell Choir! Bell ringers have had great fun making beautiful music together. Practices will be held on Sunday afternoons at 1 p.m. Please let her know that you are a future bell ringer! †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups

Connections

by Lydia Chu

The Connections Sunday lunch on February 11 kicked off this year's small group activities. Everyone sat with their own Connections group to begin or continue plans for this year. Future plans include providing dinner to the homeless at Fullerton's First Christian Church, assembling and distributing food and hygiene kits for Purple Ark, preparing and serving at our Sunday lunch, and various outings and pot luck dinners.

Connection leaders for 2007 are: Pam Fitch and Randy Wong—Group I, Jeanee Chau, et al,—Group II, Mabel Joe and Dianna Wong—Group III, Al Wong—Group IV, Peggy Lowe and May Quon—Group V, and Rebecca Louie and Lydia Chu—Group VI.

The Connections groups remain the same as last year, with the addition of several new members. If you are not in a particular group, feel free to join any one, or see Lydia Chu for suggestions.

It's been gratifying to see each group plan their own unique activities and in so many cases it includes outreach to others. May God bless you richly for your efforts on His behalf. †

Our Dreams and Visions

CUMC's Annual Planning Retreat held on January 20 was successful and inspiring; and in Pastor Jerry's words, akin to catching that "perfect wave" on a pipeline. With the Christ candle lit during the entire session, we dedicated ourselves and our church to serve God to our utmost. Further illumining the Christ candle in which we felt His presence were four additional candles: The candle of Purpose signifying our core values, the Process candle inviting God into our hearts and dreams, the Practice candle where we can begin to do things knowing we have God's blessings, and the Passion candle which gives us the momentum to do what we love.

With this philosophy as a foundation, dreams were revealed and shared. CUMC has big dreams! And we're going to work to turn these dreams into visions and ultimately, into reality. It'll take many hands, hearts, and minds to make CUMC's dreams come true.

The top dream is to create a "comeback" of a wildly successful WINGS OF FAITH musical group. Long ago (20+ years ago) this group performed at local churches and even travelled the state for concerts. CUMC is blessed with so much talent that it's time to use them to spread the Good News. In addition to vocals, plans are to include choreography and instrumentals, How exciting can this be??!!

"FAMILY FUN WEEK", an expanded form of our Sports Ministry Outreach Campaign, is another dream that will become a reality in June. Many have already eagerly volunteered for five evenings of sports, arts and crafts, and tutoring for every age, including informational seminars for parents. A major effort will be made to bring the community into active participation.

The annual HARVEST FESTIVAL in October will be bigger and better this year! Expanding from a HUGS to an all-church event, CUMC will be

reaching out to the community in an effort to spread Christian fellowship.

There were so many dreams dreamt at the Retreat! From an intense missions experience for all, to a new College Fellowship mysteriously dubbed Extension 777, to expanded Easter and Christmas programs, CUMC is going to need all the help you can muster to give! YOU are invited to help make these dreams come true. We can take these dreams, invite God into all of our dreams, and we're off to another exciting year at Cornerstone! †

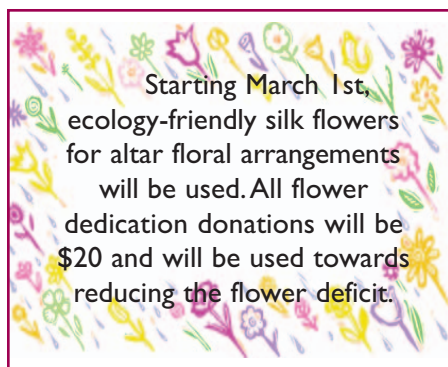


Brad Chinn and Cheryl Wong lead singing in opening of the CUMC Annual Planning Retreat.



L-R: Calvin Lowe, Brad Chinn, Joyce Wong & Gary Low.

Prizes were given out by Gary Low. Winners picked from game: Paper, Scissors and Hammer. Joyce Wong: Free lunch at church; Kay Lee: One day of parking in Pastor Jerry's car space; Bill Yee: Two AMC movie tickets and a McDonald's MacFlurry.



CUMC Trustee/ PBOT Doings

by Henry Wong

There are big plans for the yard behind the education building. The big tree stump has been removed and the spot filled in, thanks to Alan Rogers with his tractor and Gary Low with his outside workers. The leftover pile of wood chips near the sports court have temporarily been moved to make way for a future handball court. The concrete square foundation behind the palm tree will be greatly improved by one of the local Boy Scouts who is working on his Eagle project. Alan Rogers is hopeful to tractor the remaining rear acreage so it may be put to good usage. Dick Chu has drawn up a tentative plan on the playground layout.

The next phase of the building plan is now in the drawing and planning stages which includes improvements to the kitchen and restrooms. A coming workday project would be to bring lighting near the driving entry to the church. For a better crop of oranges, a watering system is in the works. Nearing completion is the new TV antenna for room 4, courtesy of Bill Chan. Recently completed is the wall heater pilot-less conversion in room 6.

Have you ever wondered who trims the uneven empty south acreage? It is not the paid weekly gardener doing it. That would cost the two churches a bundle! It is Kay Ressler and his dedicated hard core group from PUMC who come in several times a week to work at church and we ours. Many thanks to Kay, Dick, Bill, Bock and Alan. It is also great to have a seemingly tireless worker, May Quon. Not only is she with us on workdays prepping the work list but is also the secretary to both CUMC trustee and PBOT. Like a GOOD penny, Steve and Stacey Wong always seem to be around on workday. Other names with equal superlatives also should be included but a limited space dictates otherwise. Thank you, everyone! †



2050 Valencia Ave
Placentia, CA 92870-2040

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



Feb/Mar 2007

Bible Study Opportunities

There is a place for each and every one of us to study the Word of God. Sometimes Bible Studies are serious studies and sometimes there are inspiring life changing studies. Attend any of your choice as you grow in your spiritual development and discover the beauty and exhilaration of living in God's word.

Women's Bible Study--
"To Live Is Christ". Wednesday
mornings, 9:30 am, at church.

New Alpha Course--Sunday
evenings at 5 pm, at church

Adult Sunday School--10 am

HUGS Men--10 am, Sunday

HUGS Women--10 am, Sunday

Youth Studies--10 am Sunday

New Life Bible Study--first

Wednesday of each month,
10 am, location TBA. †



We're always trying to make room for "things", and you may be the one to help! There's a lovely upright piano in the purple room. It plays, it's "tune-able", and it's very heavy. Would you like it in your home? It's yours for the asking. The only price you pay is through the huffing and puffing of hauling it to a truck. See Rachel Sweet from PUMC if you would like a great practice piano. †