

The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California



October 2012



There's so much to share about my recent trip to El Salvador with a group of seven other folks from the Riverside Presbytery. On September 12th at 1:30 am our group of eight departed for El Salvador from LAX. The flight was non-stop overnight. Once we got to El Salvador our schedule was also non-stop. We were picked up at the airport by PC(USA) missionary, Kristi Van Nostran, and immediately taken to hear a panel discussion on land distribution at a local university. That afternoon we travelled to a farm where we walked through a demonstration garden that could annually produce enough food for a family of five. The plot was smaller than the garden I grew

up with. Of course, El Salvador is tropical so crops can be grown and harvested year round. After dinner, we all headed to bed early at the hostel we stayed at in San Salvador, the capitol.

Our days consisted of breakfast at the hostel, a van ride to the countryside to visit various farms, co-ops and organizations and then a van ride back to San Salvador for dinner and discussion. All our visits were aimed at painting a picture for us of life in El Salvador for the common person. We saw first-hand the poverty and discussed the issues that contributed to the poverty. For example, fourteen families own the majority of the land in the country which is rented to farmers for a season. The renters barely produce enough food for their family on the land they rent and cannot save up enough money to purchase their own property.

Several of my friends asked me what type of missionary project we did while we were in El Salvador. Usually, they then relate that they had traveled to Mexico to build a church or to paint a clinic. When I tell them that we traveled to El Salvador to listen to the people and get to know them, they are a bit skeptical. "Aren't you supposed to do something on a mission trip?" seems to always be their question. Well, yes, you are supposed to "do" something on a mission trip. What we were supposed to "do" on this trip was to listen and get to know the people. It was our job to build a relationship with the people.

As Kristi explains, it is her mission to help us understand the paradigm shift in the way to think about mission and community development. The PC(USA) and other denominations are moving away from the historical project-based method of "doing" mission to a more holistic and relationship-based means of "being" in mission. Our hope is that when asked, "What did you build on your mission trip?" one can answer enthusiastically, "God's Kingdom"!

For us Americans who like to "do," this can be hard to understand. But it is necessary to get to know the people - eat with them, talk with them - before being able to understand what the people need. The new missionary efforts build relationships. After the relationship is built, the people may share with you what they need or several ways that the people can be helped may become evident. The aim is to enable the people, not disable them. We saw vacant buildings built by well-meaning church groups that were empty because the community could not provide staffing for the clinic or the school. Yes, we saw less than helpful mission projects and we came away with ideas for projects that would be helpful. On our

trip, we came away with an understanding of the issues and how we can help people to become independent, not dependent.

We returned to the United States at midnight, Tuesday, September 18th exhausted, yet full of excitement about the people we had met and the possibilities to work with them. Our group has drafted a proposal for Presbytery to consider at their November meeting. We're excited about developing a relationship with the people of El Salvador. We are even planning a trip for October 2013. Would you like to go and meet these wonderful people in El Salvador?

Pastor Lee

October 2012: SPECIAL DATES



Wednesday, Oct 10th

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Thursday, Oct 11th

Saturday, October 20th

Sunday, October 28th

9:00am Deacons

10:00am Women's Circle

1:00pm Story Time Lunch Meeting

9:00am Session

11:10am Story Time

Bake Sale

OCTOBER CHILDREN'S CHURCH PLAN

Oct 7th

Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents

Oct 14th

Children's sermon by Pastor Esther Shin

Oct 21st

Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents

Oct 28th

Children's Bible lesson by Doug Bridges

FISH DINNER – NOV 9th

November 9th will be our next fish dinner. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Nancy Pryor. The dinner will be from 5-7pm. We will have grilled fish this time.

Don't Fall Out!

When a mother asked her child how he'd fallen out of bed, he replied, "I guess I stayed too close to where I got in."

When we Christians fail to grow in prayer and discernment, knowledge, and understanding of Scripture, generosity and other fruits of the Spirit, it's as if we're balancing precariously at the edge of the bed. It's quite easy to fall out – out of faith, out of church, out of active relationship with God.

A good practice, for sleeping and for our Christian faith, is to be careful not to stay too close to where we got in!

~Taken from The Newsletter

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lord, make us mindful of your power and your glory as we pray for those in need.
Our Service Men & Women, Our Country & Our President
Pray for our Church at 12:00 noon daily

Recovery

Karr's great nephew Edison – 19 month old – heart surgery Oct 11th
Bertha's brother in law Ray - cancer
Bertha's niece Lynn –cancer
Bertha's niece Stacy – struggling with cancer treatment
Evelyn's daughter Nancy – hip replacement surgery
Jack – Lou Gehrig's disease
Rolando – shoulder surgery
Rhonda - back
Julee – eye surgery
Ed's friend Janice
Shelly – hospitalized
Mary Larson Haste
John Sidow - stroke
Kayla – operation
Bertha's cousin Bob – knee surgery
LaVida – patience & healing
Pastor Dennis Howard – home and recovering well heart surgery
Betty's great granddaughter, Teegan- liver transplant
Ed's friend Jay – kidney transplant
Ed's friend Les – spinal cord problems
Peggy's sister Trudy – mersa
MJ's nephew Phillip – healing and comfort after a serious car accident
Joe, Patty's son – correct diagnosis

Continuing Health Concerns

Phyllis - cancer
Kay Sachs
Father Isaac – cancer
Maryann McGilvery – suffering with bone cancer
Perry, Aaron, Tom, Sherry – cancer
Patty's friend Shemko – Trying to save his feet.
Noel's friend Ben – cancer – and his wife Angie
Patty Valdez

Community and World Concerns

Marge's granddaughter Courtney in Iraq
Steve & Janet Miller strength
Cathedral City Police and Fire Departments
Health and safety of all our members and families

Prayer concerns in addition to those expressed during Sunday's worship service may be submitted on the prayer request cards in the pews or by contacting the church office. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Please Pray for the Mission Activities of the church as well

Neonatal unit blankets and baby items
Twenty-nine 29 Palms Marine Base Wounded Warrior
Well in the Desert
Scholarship for graduates of Cathedral City HS
VA & Stroke Centers
Clothes That Work
One Great Hour of Sharing
Alternative Christmas
School supplies for Sky Ridge Mobile Home Park Kids

Desert Summer Kids Feeding Program
Life Line subsidies
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Migrant Farm Workers – bedrolls and food
Shelter from the Storm
Ronald McDonald House
Veterans hospital Loma Linda
Baby kits for Haiti
2 Cents-a-Meal

October 2012 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

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| <p>1) Philippians 3:4b-14
Nothing surpasses knowing Christ
Beth Alfred</p> | <p>12) John 6:25-35
God will feed the believer
David & Opal Eason</p> | <p>22) 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
The apostle's concern
Winnie Hockenbery</p> |
| <p>2) Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23
God's favor for the people
Martha Anderson</p> | <p>13) Exodus 33:12-23
God's glory revealed to Moses
Carol Frances</p> | <p>23) Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37
Thanks for a beautiful land
Kirk & Nancy Horton</p> |
| <p>3) 1 Peter 2:4-10
Christ the cornerstone
Neal & Jean Angus</p> | <p>14) Matthew 22:1-14
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Rebeca Franz</p> | <p>24) Numbers 33:38-39
Death of Aaron
Carol Hoskins</p> |
| <p>4) 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
God reconciles us through Christ
Peggy Bakke</p> | <p>15) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica
Dick Gampert</p> | <p>25) Joshua 2:14-26
Faith without works is dead
Helen Hyde</p> |
| <p>5) Deuteronomy 6:10-25
Keeping the commandments
Bob & Barbara Barrett</p> | <p>16) Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17
Show your servants your works
Kay Graham</p> | <p>26) Deut 26:16-27:7
The covenant ratified
Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton</p> |
| <p>6) Exodus 32:1-14
The golden calf
Alma Boney</p> | <p>17) Rev 18:1-10, 19-20
Standing firm in the gospel
Art & Karin Grice</p> | <p>27) Joshua 3:7-17
Crossing into the promised land
Hazel Jacobsen</p> |
| <p>7) Matthew 21:33-46
19th Sunday after Pentecost
MJ Bradley</p> | <p>18) Rev 18:21-24
Babylon will be found no more
Clint & Marti Haas</p> | <p>28) Matthew 22:34-46
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Reed & Mary Karr</p> |
| <p>8) Philippians 4:1-9
Rejoice in the Lord always
Doug Bridges</p> | <p>19) Matthew 17:22-27
Jesus pays the temple tax
Butch & Eloise Haltman</p> | <p>29) 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
The apostle's teaching
Betty Leehan</p> |
| <p>9) Psalms 99
Proclaim God's greatness
JW & LaDell Brown</p> | <p>20) Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Death of Moses
Ed Harbur</p> | <p>30) Matthew 23:1-12
Proper 26 (31)
Mel & Arno Liechti</p> |
| <p>10) Jude 17-25
Prepare for the Lord's coming
Brown Family</p> | <p>21) Matthew 22:15-22
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Kelly Heldenbrand</p> | <p>31) Joshua 4:1-24
Another story of the crossing
Matt & Ann Matheson</p> |
| <p>11) Exodus 33:1-6
The people in mourning
Julee Collins</p> | | |

Create a New Story with Strangers!

In the Gospel of Luke, two disciples on the road to the village of Emmaus were walking with no hope, sharing their sad stories. I would say that this story is one of the gem stories of Christian education. On one hand, a stranger comes to them; walks with them; asks them to tell their “lived stories”; and listens to them giving a new perspective on the stories. On the other hand, the disciples welcome the stranger to their journey; share their stories with him; open to his new perspective on their stories; and invite him to their home sharing share food together. Their shared experience with the stranger leads them to a “leap of faith.” Their eyes are opened and see something extraordinary beyond ordinary. And, a new story with hope, joy, longing, a dream begins.

We, Christians are the people who are invited to take a journey on the road to the village of Emmaus where our eyes are opened to see the risen Lord, and our new stories begin with Him. Our journey may begin with a story of sadness, hopelessness, desperation, misery, lament or gloom, but we do have hope because we, Christians do not go on our journey by ourselves. Jesus is walking with us talking to us. Sometimes, as a stranger He comes to us, listens to us and gives a new perspective on our “lived stories.”

Through the session retreat on Sep. 22 our church leaders began a journey to Emmaus with Jesus just like these two disciples. They began to walk together, talk together, and dream together for the future of our church. As our leaders are going on the journey, let’s join them and walk with them to create a new story. Let’s become strangers who bring new ideas, new dreams, and new stories. Let’s welcome strangers who are different than us, have different ideas and dreams than ours. When we are willing to welcome the strangers and walk with them, then our eyes might be opened to recognize the risen Lord in our midst who creates a new story which we can live by, and something unfamiliar, something new, something foreign, something unknown, and even something peculiar might be the place of God’s revelation.

Whoever wants to walk with us to create new stories for our church
WE WELCOME YOU!

You can be part of one of these coming stories:
October & November Story Time
Fall Festival
Christmas Pageant
Children’s Bible Lesson
Worship with Children

Pastor Esther

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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We're on the Web:
www.churchinthecove.org

Who We Are



We are a church family who care for each other and all of God's people. We celebrate worship each Sunday, thanking and praising God for the wonderful gifts generously given to us. We then go out into the world to share God's love with all we meet. We are strengthened for service and outreach through small group outreach activities and weekly Bible study. All are welcome to join us as we seek to glorify and serve our risen Lord.