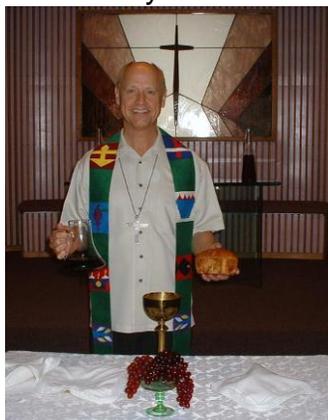


The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California



February 2013



Are you wondering if your grandchildren or great grandchildren will keep their faith once they leave home and go out into the world on their own? Would you like to know what to do to help your grandchildren and great grandchildren hang onto their faith once they leave home? Esther and I just completed an interesting and informative three session class on this very topic – how to help kids keep their faith once they leave their high school faith community. The sessions were titled Sticky Faith. I'd like to share a few ideas from the sessions with you grandparents and parents reading this newsletter.

What does it mean for a young adult to keep their faith? Those presenting the workshop explained that it means to let faith guide choices and actions, both internal and external. It means valuing others as well as self as one of God's children. It means a desire to continue to grow in the knowledge of God. Now some of you may not only be concerned about your grandchildren but also be concerned that your children don't practice their faith. Perhaps some of the ideas here will help you talk to them, though the ideas are about reaching their children while they are still forming their faith. It's never too late to start! May God bless your efforts!

The research presented revealed that a majority of students sideline their faith during college/young adulthood. Those who have faith don't intend to lose it or test it, but once separated from their faith support system, they lose their way. Helping kids develop and keep a strong faith means keeping communication paths open with them.

Teach them what God's grace is. Remind them that God is bigger than any mistake they can make. Admit your mistakes to them. They can learn from you and such sharing opens the communication path between the two of you.

Welcome their questions and doubts. Let them express their doubts. Unexpressed doubts are toxic for the kids and for your relationship. Don't shut the discussion down with pat answers or because of your fear that you don't have the answer. You don't need to have all the answers or to minimize their questions. Listening to their concerns and questions often is all they need. If you need help ask the pastor or some other well-grounded in the faith adult to talk with the child to address the concern. It's OK that you don't have all the answers.

Talk about your faith. How do you live your faith daily? Tell them if God helped you find your lost glasses or keys! Let them know how God is at work in your life every day. I know this is difficult for some of you who were trained to have a private faith. So start with just some small thing you are thankful for and then look for ways to share other events in your day. This opens the communication path with the child and provides an example. As in so many relationships, listening and communication skills are key.

These ideas for helping kids to keep their faith aren't just limited to your family members. Next month I'll share some ways this church can help kids to keep their faith - kids in your neighborhood or kids of friends – any kid you meet needs a Christian friend.

Pastor Lee

February 2013: SPECIAL DATES



Wednesday, February 13
Wednesday, February 13
Thursday, February 14
Saturday, February 15
Sunday, February 24

9:00am Deacons Meeting
10:00am Women's Circle
9:00am Session
11:10 am Story Time
Bake Sale

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S CHURCH PLAN

- Feb 3 Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents
- Feb 10 Bible Lesson about Jesus by MJ Bradley
- Feb 17 Bible Lesson about Paul by Doug Bridges
Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents
- Feb 24 Bible Lesson by Ed Harbur



Mealtimes as a family

Amid busy and varied schedules, many families find a way to sit down together for dinner regularly. Family health advocates describe the benefits: an increased sense of unity, children sharing news and feeling listened to, and the physical perks of a planned, seated meal.

In Scripture, many great encounters between people and God happen around meals. Abraham and Sarah prepare a meal for three guests who turn out to be angels (Genesis 18). God instructs the Hebrew slaves to eat a special meal together before their delivery from Egypt (Exodus 12); every year since, Jews have celebrated the Passover feast. Elijah is strengthened with food served by an angel (1 Kings 19). Jesus shares meals not only with religious leaders but with "sinners" (e.g., Matthew 9). Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples before his death has become one of the church's sacraments and a "foretaste" of the heavenly banquet to come.

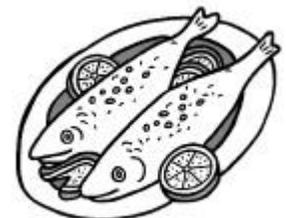
When Christian families eat together, it's a holy time in God's presence, just as when the church shares Holy Communion – a true fellowship dinner!

FISH DINNER

March 22nd

4:30-6pm

\$10



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Halibut or Salmon

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

Death of a Loved One

Comfort and peace for the families of:
Lorenzo's father

Recovery

Carol – knee replacement
Kim – Peggy's daughter & family
Stella – Spinal procedure
Matt & Ann
Clint
Dorothy – healing
Donna – heart surgery - Bob's daughter
Ed's friend Dave
David's cousin Joy Bennett – Serious back problems
Margaret – hip replacement
Kelly – pain
Betty's great granddaughter, Teegan and her parents
Rolando – shoulder surgery
Julee – eye surgery
John Sidow - stroke
LaVida & Debbie – patience & healing
Ed's friend Jay – kidney transplant
Ed's friend Les – spinal cord problems

Continuing Health Concerns

Lona - hospice
Patty Valdez, Matt & Ann Matheson, Clint Haas, Charleton, Alexis, Mary Larson Haste
Patty's friend Shemko – Trying to save his feet.
- Friends and Family suffering with cancer:
Phyllis, Father Isaac, Maryann, Dr Carney, Perry, Aaron, Tom, Ben, Ray, Jon, Lynn, Stacy, Reggie,
Barnie, Nancy, Kathy, Dale, Maggie, Sammy

Community and World Concerns

Marge's granddaughter Courtney in Iraq
Noel's cousin Linda – Family problems
Cathedral City police and fire departments

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	Desert Summer Kids Feeding Program
Twenty-nine 29 Palms Marine Base Wounded Warrior	Life Line subsidies
Well in the Desert	Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Scholarship for graduates of Cathedral City HS	Migrant Farm Workers – bedrolls and food
VA & Stroke Centers	Shelter from the Storm
Clothes That Work	Ronald McDonald House
One Great Hour of Sharing	Veterans hospital Loma Linda
Alternative Christmas	Baby kits for Haiti
School supplies for Sky Ridge Mobile Home Park Kids	2 Cents-a-Meal

February 2013 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

1) Ruth 2:1-16
Ruth, one of the hungry
Florence Maybee

2) Ruth 43:1-13; :13-22
Ruth, on of the blessed
Fern Miller

3) Matthew 5:13-20
4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Steve & Janet Miller

4) Psalms 112:1-9
Light shines in the darkness
Gerald & Joy Moss

5) Isaiah 58:1-9a
The fast that God chooses
Pat & Annette Patterson

6) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12
God's wisdom revealed
Jay Peck

7) Romans 11:2-10
A remnant remains faithful
Marlys Peck

8) 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Christ, the light
Peris Family

9) Proverbs 6:6-23
The law is a lamp
Steve & Louise Pesce

10) Matthew 5:38-48
Transfiguration of the Lord
Wayne & Mary Price

11) Psalms 119:1-8
Happy are those who walk in the law
Nancy Pryor

12) Deut 30:15-20
Choose Life
Bertha Rawlings

13) 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
God gives the growth
Rawlings Family

14) Exodus 20:1-21
The Ten Commandments
Sandy Rayner

15) James 2:1-13
The law, judgement, and mercy
Rena Rodman

16) Proverbs 2:1-15
The way of wisdom
Bill & Kay Sachs

17) Matthew 6:34-24
1st Sunday in Lent
Esther Shin

18) Psalms 119:33-40
Walking in the path of the law
Larry & Cecile Shoot

19) Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Acts of mercy and justice
Marge Stahl

20) 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Allegiance to Christ, not human
leaders
Dorothy Susdorf

21) Proverbs 25:11-22
Caring for the enemy
Ervin Syfert

22) Hebrews 12:14-16
Pursue peace with everyone
Patty Valdez

23) Proverbs 3:27-35
Regard for neighbors
Ray & Greta Venter

24) Matthew 17:1-9
2 Sunday in Lent
LaVida Warren

25) Psalms 131
A child upon its mother's breast
Noel White

26) Isaiah 49:8-16a
God's motherly compassion
Eric Williams

27) 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Servants accountable to God
Lauren Williams

28) Deut 32:1-14
God's care for the chosen people
Evelyn Woods

29) 1 Kings 17:1-16
God feeds the widow
Beth Alfred

Wondering together with Elephant and Mouse

Elephant and Mouse say we were best friends. One day Elephant said, "Mouse, let's have a party!" Animals gathered from far and near. They ate. They drank. They sang. And they danced. And nobody celebrated more and danced harder than Elephant. After the party was over, Elephant exclaimed, "Mouse, did you ever go to a better party? What a blast!" But mouse did not answer. "Mouse, where are you?' Elephant called. He looked around for his friend, and then shrank back in horror. There at Elephant's feet lay Mouse. His little body was ground into the dirt. He had been smashed by the big feet of his exuberant fiend, Elephant."

From Steve Cobett & Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*, pp. 151-2

In this story, we meet an interesting figure, Elephant. He initiates the party inviting other animals, and having so much fun with them. He is innocent. He did not mean to do harm to anybody. But, he did not understand and did not know how to care for his friend, Mouse. Another character, Mouse is described as a passive victim at the Elephant's stomping feet. Mouse does not have any voice. He just waits for the end of the party. Many animals, which come from far and near, had a good time with Elephant not noticing Mouse and his feelings.

While reading this story, I raise some wondering questions to reflect on our ministries at Community Presbyterian Church. When we think of doing God's ministry as having a party for God's people, I wonder with whom we can identify ourselves in the story. With Elephant? With Mouse? Or, one of other animals gathered far and near? If we were Elephant I wonder who could be Mouse in our party. If you were Mouse I wonder who could be Elephant. I also wonder who could be other friends who accepted our invitation, came and danced with us. I wonder if we were Elephant in the party what we should have done to dance with Mouse. I wonder if we were Mouse what kind of action we could have taken to make a difference in the party. I also wonder if all of us have danced with the Spirit following its rhythm. Expecting God's wonderful party which will be held in our church during this year, I wonder if we can put ourselves in others' shoes no matter who we were, who we are, and who want to be.

Pastor Esther K. Shin



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Sandy Rayner
Ed Harbur
Arno Liechti
Russell, Adian, Astrid Peris.

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
38088 Chuperosa Lane
Cathedral City CA, 92234

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.