



View from the Cove

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City
September & October 2015



Important Dates:

SEPTEMBER

Office Hours 9:00-12:00

Tuesday – Thursday

- 6 - Potluck Lunch
- 8 - Worship Team Meeting
- 9 - Bible Study Begins
- 13 - Youth Sunday
- 15 - Session
- 19 - Garden & Moonbots
- 20 - Story Time

OCTOBER

Office Hours 9:00-12:00

Tuesday – Thursday

- 4 - Potluck Lunch
- 17 - Garden & Moonbots
- 18 - Story Time
- 21 - Belong Program
Starting a Home Business
through Amazon
- 24 - Garden Faith Talk
- 28 - Belong Program
Starting a Home Business
through Amazon
- 31 - Trunk or Treat

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- Sunday Service 10 am
- Wednesday Bible Study 3:30
- Wednesday Choir 5:00pm
- Thurs Eng/Sp Class 6:00pm
- Thurs Music Class 6:00pm

School Supply Outreach 2015

On August 9th we gave out 33 bags of school supplies sent 5 to Margretti's and we have 6 left. They were distributed to the children in the trailer park plus Aidan, Andrew, Isabel and the three Thompson children. The children were aged from pre-kindergarten to Senior. Moneys came from the Women's Circle, Deacons and donations. Thanks to all the helpers; Rebeka, Patty and Nancy. And a special thank you to Alicia for getting the names of new children and helping us know the children as they came. Thank you to all those that donated money and supplies. We couldn't do it without you all.



Pastor Lee's Corner



Belong!

Do you Belong to our church? Would you like others to join us, to also Belong to this church? I would hope so! When more people Belong to this church we could do more as we strive to be Jesus' hands and feet in Cathedral City and beyond. More people would come to know the love of Jesus!

This Fall, our Church starts a program, entitled Belong, to reach out to those living in Cathedral City through direct mail, community meetings and programs at the church that will be attractive to various segments of the community. This schedule, coupled with the children's Fall schedule, will mean we'll be quite busy here at church!

Our intent in planning and carrying out this program is to make people aware of the church and its service to the community and to attract people who would like to join us as we minister to each other and to those in our community. And as we worship and praise our great God!

Beginning in September, the first item to go out is a postcard talking about our church and noting the adult and children's Fall program. In October, pumpkins will be delivered to doorsteps with a note about the Trunk or Treat program at the church and a reminder of the programs offered in November and December. In November, gatherings are planned to talk to interested folks about the church and its programs. At these meetings, invitations to the various December activities will be distributed.

Our Children's Programs are all scheduled for the Fall with monthly story times and monthly gardening Saturdays. We will continue to have youth Sunday each month and in November we'll have Family Sunday. The children's Christmas program will be held December 20th.

This Fall we will host two Wednesday workshops in October on how to develop a home-based business to sell products on Amazon. Also in October, quite a few people are excited that we are scheduling a blessing of the animals service for October 18th. Tell your friends who have pets about the service. In November, the local organ guild will put on a concert/program. In December, we'll host a Christmas Carol sing along. We hope to see most of you at these events.

Belong! Yes, you do Belong. Invite your friends and neighbors. Invite people you encounter around town in your weekly activities to come and visit the church this Fall or attend one of these special programs.

Blessings,
Pastor Lee

Vacation Bible School

VBS at our Church was a great success this year. 26 children participated in Camp Discovery, which started each day with a sit down dinner, followed by introduction and singing, followed by Story Time, Craft Time, Bible Challenge around the Campfire, and Game Time with a final closing in the Sanctuary with song and a Puppet Show reviewing what they learned for the evening.

Pastor Esther did a beautiful job of overseeing and coordinating the smooth transition from station to station throughout the evening. Volunteers were much appreciated: Peggy Bakke, Brenda Blackburn, and Jeffrey Kramer were the story tellers. Crafts were handled by youth helper, Alicia Gastelum and Pastor Esther. Camp Bible Challenge was handled by Laurie Holk and games were coordinated and controlled by parents, Manny & Tanya Thompson. And last but certainly not least, the Puppet show was maneuvered by Laurie Holk, Jeffrey Kramer and Pastor Esther. Several parents joined in to help and sing along.

Lessons learned: Day 1- *Be courageous and strong, God is with you wherever you go.* Joshua 1:9 Goliath was 9 feet tall, but our God is Bigger! Day 2- *The God we serve is able to deliver us.* Daniel 3:17 God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the burning furnace. Day 3- *Your Faith has healed you.* Mark 10: 52 Jesus gives Bartimaeus sight.

Submitted by Peggy Bakke, Elder

Prayer Calendar for September 2015

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Jerry & Joy Moss | 16. Dorothy Susdorf |
| 2. Deone Munn | 17. Manny & Tanya Thompson & Kids |
| 3. Pat & Annette Patterson | 18. Marilee Uhls |
| 4. Russell, Astrid & Aiden Peris | 19. Patty Valdez |
| 5. Steve & Louise Pesce | 20. Ray & Greta Venter |
| 6. Jerry Pettis | 21. LaVida Warren |
| 7. Wayne & Mary Price | 22. Noel White |
| 8. Nancy Joy Pryor | 23. Beth Alfred |
| 9. Charlton Quinn & Kevin Bowers | 24. Martha Anderson |
| 10. Sandy Rayner | 25. Jean Angus |
| 11. Rena Rodman | 26. Peggy Bakke |
| 12. Bill & Kay Sachs | 27. Bob & Barbara Barrett |
| 13. Esther Shin, Noah & Andrew | 28. Brenda Blackburn |
| 14. Larry & Cecile Shoot | 29. Alma Boney |
| 15. Marge Stahl | 30. Doug Bridges |
| | 31. JW & LaDell Brown |



A Note from Debbie Brown



Birthdays:

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Opal Eason
- 1 - Hazel Jacobsen
- 2 - Jean Angus
- 2 - Kevin Bowers
- 10 - Leslie Franz
- 19 - Diana Gastelum

OCTOBER

- 5 - Michael Morrison
- 6 - Jeff Hoang
- 12 - Alondra Franco
- 21 - Manny Thompson

April 2011 I walked in to the office of Community Presbyterian Church for the first time and met with Pastor Lee and Karin. I remember Pastor Lee asking me why the bulletin was purple, I had no clue, but of course understand now that it represented the season of Lent. That is just one of the many things I learned while working here for 4 years. I returned the following week to meet with the members of session.

Having come from a place that didn't always accept our choice to become a trans-racial family through adoption, I was nervous about how our family would be accepted within the church. I talked with Pastor Lee about this before I started and he assured me that my entire family would be welcomed. We weren't just welcomed, we were loved and embraced. And my children who grew in number, shrank and then grew again as we fostered more children were spoiled by so many, especially Butch. He became a stand-in grandpa for Isabel who was missing her Grandpa back in TX. She would seek him out anytime we were at church and was always sad when he wasn't there.

The children's ministry grew around my girls but I will never forget how it started with two amazing women who sat with Isabel on Sundays and poured, not just God's love, but theirs into her. And then into our two foster loves when they arrived. Maxine and Patty were a dynamic pair of Godly women who will always be extremely special to me and my family. I recently came across a bookmark from Maxine's memorial service with a seed cross. I have it tucked away in a safe place to be able to plant it once we are settled. I'll be talking with Peggy about taking a piece of the Children's Garden with me as well. The love and warmth that has been shown to my girls by so many is something that will be very hard to replace.

Occasionally I would find special packages on my desk meant for me or my girls. Someone special made sure each of my girls had a good Christmas each year. My girls would run around the church like they belonged there. Well done church, you are reaching people and sharing God's love and your own with them.

You stood by us as we lost our little Gia and rejoiced with us when we welcomed her back home and were finally able to adopt her. Bertha would always tell me to just let her run during the service, but my own upbringing of being seen and not heard kept me from letting her run. Maybe one last Sunday for Bertha I should let her run, but hopefully not catch anything on fire as almost happened during the Christmas pageant last year. I will never forget that.

And then there's me and how you have blessed me, other than loving my girls. So many of you have stepped up and blessed me: like Kevin loaning me his truck to pick up Isabel when I was without a car and Nancy always offering extra help and love in countless ways. You were welcoming me and supporting me through the ups and downs of the past 4 years even when you didn't know you were. Like the continual prayers for each member of my family, the cards that were always sure to arrive from Mary and the women. The special treats Mary would bring down to save Reid from eating it all were always a great treat and sometimes they even made it home for my family to enjoy. So many tiny ways that each of you blesses so many around you. They didn't go unnoticed and I'm sorry my heartfelt thanks is too late for some of our departed members. But today on my last Sunday here I want to say THANK YOU Community Presbyterian Church for making the Brown family feel like we belong here. Well done!

Thank you,

Debbie Brown

Pastor Esther's Corner

My Reflection on Mission Trip in Nigeria: Filling the Hole in Our Heart



During this Summer my family had the great privilege to know African brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, to listen to their stories, and to learn about their life struggles. In Jos ECWA Theological Seminary (JETS), my husband Rev. Noah Park taught New Testament Survey Course to 30 African students from different countries and I taught Learning Theories Course to 49 Nigerian students. By sharing my reflection on my mission trip, I hope our church can hold Africa, especially Nigeria in our prayers together.

Among African countries, Nigeria is called big brother country. Nigeria has 170 million people with about 250 tribes. Each tribe has a different language, different culture and different African religions. According to 2010 research, 49.3 percent of the Nigerian population is Christian and 48.8 percent of the population is Muslim. Even though 250 tribes have different tribal languages, they have three different Nigerian common languages. One Nigerian common language is the Hausa language which Northern Nigerian Muslims had developed. In Northern Nigeria, they communicate with Hausa language in public. When kids go to school, they are educated in English. That means most of educated people can speak three languages.

The city of Jos where we stayed is located in the middle belt. Christians and Muslims live together there. Most churches in Jos have worship services in two different languages, Hausa language service and English Service. Religious conflicts between Muslims and Christians are everywhere. It is part of their everyday life. Fortunately, while we stayed in Jos there was no physical bombing, terrors or conflicts between the two religions, but we often could hear about BOKO HARAM, the Islamic terrorists in their everyday conversations.

I learned a term "black Christian persecution." "Black" implies how the church buildings and pastors' houses will always be in "black smoke" in the times of crises. Ahmed Bashayi who was a student in my class is ministering in Kaduna state which is located in Northern Nigeria. According to him, his church and pastor's house had been burned 4 times. The church members continually rebuilt their church for their worship, but they finally moved their church to another place where there is less persecution. In Northern Nigeria where Muslims are predominant, being a Christian means living with fear of BOKO HARAM because many families have tragic experiences losing their loved ones in front of them.





Ironically, because of their everyday persecution or everyday danger of their lives, they have to have strong faith in the Lord and they have to practice Christian love in daily lives. “Loving your enemies” is mandatory in Christian living. Also, because of crisis in the city of Jos, there are many widows and orphans. If you go to church there is a Widows’ meeting. Also, their preaching involves how to help and support widows. One day Andrew was invited to a church meeting and he came back from church he said, “Mom, do you know what kind of meeting I was invited to this afternoon?” It was a Widows’ Meeting where everybody spoke in Hausa Nigerian language. I believe it was quite an experience for him.

“How to love my enemies” “how to help widows and orphans in our church” “how to deal with corruptions and social justice” “how to love enemies who killed my loved ones” “how to protect our families and churches without retaliation” . . . These are the real issues of their lives, and everyday reality that they have to deal with. Confronting their reality, listening to their everyday struggles and persecutions I had to humble myself and reexamine my Christian life. More interestingly, one of speakers in the chapel services mentioned that the United States in America is confronted with more public persecutions than Nigeria because school teachers in America are not allowed to teach or talk publicly about Christianity.

Even though they do not have as many materials as we have, even though they do not have decent homes like we live in, even though they do not have plentiful and varieties of food that we can buy, even though there are many widows and orphans, even though they are suffering with many social issues, I found that they have something very special. They have joy in their lives. They have smiles on their faces. Because of their harsh situation, they find their refuges in God. One lady told me that “We Nigerian Christians are always happy and love to sing and dance when we get together. Do you know why? Because of the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always, pray continually, and in everything give thanks to God; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” She continued to say that “when you go to any Widows’ Meeting you will see them singing, dancing, praying, and witnessing together. They lost their husbands, they are poor, they are dealing with harsh or intolerable situation, but they are joyful because of God, because of their faith in God.” Their happiness comes from God.



Even though there are many social, economic, political and religious problems, there was something very special that we might have lost. If God created you and me with a heart that only God's love can satisfy and God only can fill, the women seem to know how to fill the hole in their hearts. They know how to fill the hole that God created in our hearts, how to fill the hole that only God can fill. They know how to put simple and difficult truth into their practices. Because of their persecution, because of their harsh situation, they might know how to feel God's presence more closely. I was really honored and humbled to listen to their stories and learn their ways of Christian living.

"Apart from the love of God in our lives, we are people lost at sea, without anchors. We stand alone without supporting walls, without a floor to stand on, without a ceiling to protect us, without a hand to guide us, without eyes that look at us with love, without a companion to show the way."
(Henni Nauwen, Discernment)

Pastor Esther Kyoung-Hee Shin



Prayer Calendar for October 2015

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| 16. Debbie Brown & Family | 16. Carol Hoskins |
| 17. Stan Bryde & Jeff Hoang | 17. Helen Hyde |
| 18. Lorenzo Casas | 18. Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton |
| 19. Julee Collins | 19. Hazel Jacobsen |
| 20. David & Opal Eason | 20. Reed & Mary Karr |
| 21. Carol Francis | 21. Jeffrey Kramer |
| 22. Victor Franco, Norma Garcie & Kids | 22. Betty Leehan |
| 23. Rebeka Franz | 23. Arno Liechti & Mel Webster |
| 24. Dick Gampert | 24. Sandy Manoukian |
| 25. Marti Haas | 25. Janet Miller |
| 26. Eloise Haltman | 26. Dell Morgan |
| 27. Ed Harbur | 27. Jerry & Joy Moss |
| 28. Winny Hockenbery | 28. Deone Munn |
| 29. Laurie Holk | 29. Pat & Annette Patterson |
| 30. Kirk & Nancy Horton | 30. Russell, Astric & Aidan Peris |
| | 31. Steve & Louise Pesce |

Pastor Lee Ireland
Pastor Esther Shin
Director of Music, Noel E. White
Church Musician, Charlton Quinn
Clerk of Session, Helen Hyde
Treasurer, Bob Barrett
Admin Assistant, Debbie Brown

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.

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