



First Presbyterian Church of Hemet

FIRST WORD

April 1, 2009

Sundays, come join us for...

- 9:00 am
The Heritage Service in the Chapel — Old time hymns and verse by verse Bible Study
- 10:00—10:30 am
Fellowship on the Patio
- 10:30 am
The Sanctuary Service

Pastor's Column

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago on a Sunday morning I introduced our new college intern from California Baptist University, Virginia Weems. Virginia, or Annie as she likes to be called, is a junior from Redlands who was raised in the faith by her minister grandfather and her grandmother. Annie will be helping to organize and lead our Sunday morning "Kids in Worship" service at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall, leading the



Pastor Larry Thorson

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Sack Lunch Program News

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...."

(Matthew 25:35 NRSV)

Thank you to all who generously furnished food or supplied money for the Church's sack lunch program for the homeless and needy. We are now feeding approximately 20 people a day. We are serving lunches Monday through Friday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Each lunch costs about \$1.50, so you can see we are always in need of food. We use Vienna sausage or individual cans of pork and beans, individual fruit or pudding cups, juice, crackers and cheese and a nutrition bar. We also supply a spoon, napkin and a couple of mints.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who give their time each week to hand out

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Sack Lunch Program (continued from page 1)

the lunches. They are truly God's hands here on earth. Two people each day serve, and there are now ten substitutes. We now have folks from the Berean Baptist Church, Bible Fellowship Church, First Baptist Church and the Community Christian church. We are so blessed.

For further information please contact Shirley Jouglard, 652-7212

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!



Library News

"Will the displayed material from our 100th Anniversary be available to us?" was a question asked at the annual meeting. The answer is YES. I know there wasn't time at the celebration to see all the gathered material and have time to enjoy remembering.

The photo albums and scrap books are on the bottom of the reference shelves on the west wall and also in cupboards marked Historical Records. You are most welcome to enjoy them at your leisure in the library.

Thank you to all who contributed.

Easter, April 12th. Holy Week and Resurrection books are available on the Book Cart.

God's Plan

A crocus smiled up at the sky, "I wasn't dead at all, not !!
 God has kept me safe and sound, warmly cradled in the ground;
 I've been asleep all winter long. Then when I heard the robin's song,
 I wakened and began to grow. It is God's plan for Spring, you know."

Announcements

FELLOWSHIP TIME — Join us for "sweet treats" and coffee on the patio. Sunday mornings between church services.

Inclement weather . . . We will be in the Fellowship Hall.

HERITAGE SERVICE — The Heritage service is looking for someone who could play either the violin, viola or cello during the Communion part of the service. If you can help, please call, Sequoyah Dawes at 658-0719 or the church office.



Pastor's Column (Continued from page 1)

Middle School and High School Sunday school classes and helping to plan the Wednesday night youth clubs with myself, Yvonne Rains, and Jan Bantis. She'll be with us on Sundays and Wednesdays, while attending classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our youth ministry has doubled in attendance since last spring and our Session felt I needed some help. I finally agreed. I want to thank Coach Carter for filling in so ably in the Sunday morning children's area, as well as the student clubs on Wednesday nights and Debbie Borrott who assisted me with Middle School Club on Wednesday nights. She has now joined the Chancel Choir, but continues to provide refreshments for Middle School. God has amassed a wonderful team here in Hemet.

Pastor Larry

Youth Retreat at Forest Home

BIG THANKS — Thanks to the congregation for sponsoring us at our weekend retreat at Forest Home. You bought our candy, tipped us at the Christmas dinner when we served you, allowed us to wash your windows and clean your gutters. Because of your generosity, eight high school youth played, prayed and were inspired by messages that brought us closer to God. Our favorite parts of the weekend included eating, singing, playing in the snow, learning groups, praying, worshiping with the band "Urban Rescue", and meeting new friends. But most memorable was when we all took a piece of paper and wrote about our relationship with God. The lights in the chapel were dimmed, and we all quietly walked and laid our papers at the base of the cross. It was the emotional "high" of the retreat. Thank you for giving us memories to last a lifetime.

Aubriana, Britney, Grace, Josh, Justin, Michael and Shelani

Church Art Gallery

Stop and enjoy the display of paintings in the entrance to the Chapel. Most of the artwork has just recently been replaced; however, there are some old favorites still hanging.

The theme over the next three months is work that includes a winter scene.

We welcome all to show their works of art. I really encourage all artists to join in. Please call and let me know if you have a painting or paintings to show.

Shirley Jougard



Senior News

Seniors meet for breakfast the fourth Tuesday of the month, 9:00 am, at J&M's (near Henry's). For information call Emma Lou at 766-0634.

The Senior Sunday afternoon games take place at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room the first Sunday of every month. If you enjoy playing board or card games, come and join us for a good time. Light refreshments will be served. Call Joan Nehez at 929-5160 for further information.

BIRTHDAYS

April 3	Janet Bantis Jack Hansen
April 4	Katherine Warren
April 5	Gloria Kwast
April 6	Eric Thorson
April 7	Darlene Clark Barbara Reed
April 11	Clarita Eisiminger
April 14	Frank Greco Julie Hoemke
April 15	Ken Groff Robert Latta Jack Wood
April 16	Bob Browning Joanna Hermann Richard Tetteh
April 18	Chuck Glenn Judy Strahan
April 23	Frances Renau
April 24	Juanita Mattson
April 25	Donna Kephart
April 27	Alan Stewart
April 29	Doyle Eisiminger

ANNIVERSARIES

Leland and Marjorie Shepard
54 years—April 15, 1955
Leo and Barbara Reed
61 years—April 18, 1948



CELEBRATE



PW Project

P.W. Projects will continue collecting pull tabs along with used postage stamps, box tops for education labels, Campbell's labels, and eye glasses.

Please place these items in the small basket provided in the Narthex.

Thank You

Thank you to all those who help each month getting this newsletter to you: Jack and Bonnie Hansen, Dorothy Hull, Bernice Irwin, and Buzz Sprague.

Remember in Your Prayers

Please be in prayer for Kay Beggins, Alec Boatman, Del Brunson, Bill and Joan Bush, Homer Erickson, Verna Hahn, Ruby Johnson, Bob Latta, Joann Marshall, Marian Shellaberger, Dorothy Weaver, Dorothy Wiley and Bill Wilson who are recovering from surgery, illness, or accident.

Music Notes

In my morning devotions, I am studying the book of John Paper, called "Desiring God." As a result, my mind travels a lot to thoughts of ways to praise God. Here are a few that might get us started:

*"At a conference at a Presbyterian church in Omaha, people were given helium filled balloons and told to release them at some point in the service when they felt like expressing the joy in their hearts. Since they were Presbyterians, they weren't free to say "Hallelujah, Praise the Lord." All through the service balloons ascended, but when it was over 1/3 of the balloons were unreleased. Let your balloon go."

The Duke of Wellington, the British military leader who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, was not an easy man to serve under. He was brilliant, demanding and not one to shower his subordinates with compliments...In his old age a young lady asked him what, if anything, he would do differently if he had his life to live over again. Wellington thought for a moment, then replied. "I'd give more praise."

***"...There was an elderly Christian man, a fine singer, who learned that he had cancer of the tongue and that surgery was required... the man said to the doctor, "Are you sure I will never sing again?" The surgeon...simply shook his head no. The patient...said... "I have one song that will be my last. It will be of gratitude and praise to God." There in the doctor's presence the man sang softly the words of Isaac Watts' hymn, "I'll praise my Maker..."

What better way to praise our Creator than with music!! Thank you to all the ladies who sang in the choir for the Celebration of Women service on March 8th. Thank you to the men and women who faithfully serve every week to lead the congregation in praise and worship. We have turned our focus to the event of Holy Week. You will not want to miss any of the services, beginning with the celebration of Christ's Triumphant entry on Palm Sunday, April 5th. The choir will also be singing for the Maundy Thursday service on April 9th and the Tennebrae Service on Darkness on April 10th. Both of these services will be at 7:00 pm.

Mary Ellen VanOstenbridge

*Taken from a book on Luke by Rev. Bruce Larson (1925-2008), who served as pastor of the University Presbyterian Church and later ministered in the Crystal Cathedral.

** Excerpt from "Our Daily Bread"



What better way to praise our Creator than with music.

Welcome New Members

William & Alta Brandow



William (Bill) and Alta live at the Village where they moved in 2007 after living in San Jose, CA and being active at the Christ Community (First Presbyterian) Church of Milpitas for many years. Bill spent 22 yrs in the US Navy and 23+ years as an aviation mechanic at Moffett Field. Alta worked for the Milpitas School District in the cafeteria.

Chris & Susan Carter



The Carter family includes Chris and Susan along with their daughter Catherine — 15, Christina — 12, Amanda — 9, and John — 7. Susan was born in Guatemala and now volunteers in our Home Away From Home program. Chris works in construction and is an Orange County native.

Beth Dale



Beth is a native of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and was raised a Methodist but she and her late husband joined the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar, CA when they lived in Chino. She has lived in Hemet since 1997 and is a retired bookkeeper. Beth feels like she's home at FPCH.

John & Rachel Kolasz



John is a San Diego native while Rachel grew up in Coraopolis, PA. They moved to Hemet in 2005 from Rocklin, CA. John is a "semi-retired" plumber who oversees FPCH's plumbing projects. Rachel loves to cook and together they like to go on cruises where they are when they're not at FPCH.

Jane Belcher, Kathleen Harmon and Robert Verdugo



Long time FPCH member Maxine Brodkorb (center, sitting) invited her neighbors to church and now they're a big family. Kathleen (top left) is a retired butcher. Jane (front right) was born in Milwaukee and raised in Santa Ana & Garden Grove.

Greg & Carol Menck



Greg and Carol moved to Hemet in 2006 from Baldwin Park with their son Joshua who is already a member (Joshua runs our sound board). They have two young grandchildren from Oceanside who sometimes come to church with them. Greg works for Boeing while Carol volunteers in our Home Away from Home program.

Bob & Shirley Ross



Bob and Shirley come to us from Grace PC in Temecula. Bob is a former pitcher for the Washington Senators, retired Anaheim High School District administrator and an avid golfer while Shirley is a retired Garden Grove teacher.

Terry & Felicia Smith



Terry and Felicia moved here recently from Jacksonville, Florida, along with their four children : Brandon Davis — 12, Mason Luttrell — 8, Gabriella — 6, Trinity — 3. Terry's parents attend FPCH and invited them to our church where they have become involved in the Upward Sports program and our children's ministry.

Line Dancing

Line dancing continues on Wednesday afternoons at 1:45 pm in the Family Center.

Instructor: Connie Frey

Any questions please call Flora Johnson at 652-2024

Bible Study

What does it mean to repent? The Prophet Nathan confronted King David when David committed adultery with Bath-Sheba and caused David to look at his dreadful errors and repent.

To repent means to turn away from doing what is wrong and to turn towards God. David did that and expressed his repentant attitude so eloquently in Psalm 51. He confessed his sins, though God was already fully aware of those sins. He asked for mercy, though he didn't deserve it. And he prayed to God with these words:

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
(Ps 51:10-12 KJV)

God forgave David and likewise will forgive you of your sins. Do you have to repent and confess your sins? It isn't a question of whether you have to do anything, it's what you want to do knowing the gift God has for you is so precious.

Is there anything of which you need to repent? Pray that God will help you do so and accept His gracious love through Jesus Christ.

James Nuoffer

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Fireside Room as we study God's Word.



Presbyterian Women News

The Spring Sale on March 6-7 was truly a time of fellowship among members of our church and folks who came to make purchases. Time and again, we heard comments like: "I always enjoy coming to your sales. Everyone is so nice." and "Thank you so much for having your sale. This is where I am getting Easter clothes for my children." These comments make our hard work feel so worthwhile! The large group of members who joined hands to open the sale in prayer with Pastor Larry was awesome. The leadership of Darlene and Bob Clark allowed us to pull off another great sale. Although the total amount received was less than some of our other Spring Sales, we were happy, given the present economy. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. We appreciate all that you do.

Our "Spring Fling" March luncheon on Friday, March 13, was hosted by Esther Circle. It was highlighted with a program "Yesterdays Fashions", starring our very own beautiful/handsome models who showed us their fantastic buys from the Spring Sale. There was a film edited by Don Silva, showing photos from past year's fashion shows. Pat Summers was our Master of Ceremonies and Joe Smayda, our accompanist on the piano. You missed a fun time if you weren't there! Special awards of appreciation for exceptional, on going contributions in aiding the Presbyterian Women with support and help, were given to Paul & Alice Bennier, Bob & Darlene Clark, Zona Crowl, Susan Gray, Jack & Bonnie Hansen, Don & Doris Silva and Joe & Pat Summers. In addition to this award a gift of \$50.00 was given to Javier Gamon for the added things he does for us, above and beyond his "call to duty" as Custodian.

On Saturday, March 14, several of our members attended the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Riverside Spring Gathering in Beaumont. It was a lovely day in which we got to observe our very own Lola Pinder being installed as an officer. Congratulations Lola!!

Please come to our April 10th Luncheon, which will present an interesting travel program by Pam Roeth. We will also have our annual Birthday Offering Dedication Service to help support the projects chosen by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women. The cost of the lunch is \$7.00 and reservations need to be made by Tuesday, April 7th to the church office at 658-7153. We always welcome men to our luncheons.

If you are interested in joining one of our Circles or have any questions regarding PW, please contact me at: 925-7544 or pattywerley@roadrunner.com

Patty Werley, PW Moderator

The large group of members who joined hands to open the sale in prayer with Pastor Larry was awesome.

We always welcome men to our luncheons.

Presbyterian Humor

Page references are from The Presbyterian Hymnal (Westminster/
John Knox Press, 1990)

Obstetricians Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (p. 2)

Birthing Hymn

Come, Labor on (p. 415)

Innkeepers Hymn

Comfort, Comfort You My People (p.3)

Dentists Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns (p. 151)

Meteorologists Hymn

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending (p.6)

Child Protective Services Hymn

What Child is this? (p.53)

UPS Hymn

When God Delivered Israel (p. 237)

LensCrafters Hymn

Be Thou My Vision (p.339)

Fathers Day Hymn

Blest be the Tie that Binds (p. 438)

Contractors' Hymn

How Firm a Foundation (p. 361)

Environmentalist Hymn

Let the Whole Creation Cry (p. 256)

Tailors' Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy (p. 140)

Global Positioning System (GPS) Hymn

Here I am, Lord (p. 525)

Preachers

So many preachers have been preaching over the allotted time that a new preachers' 12-step support group has been created to deal with the problem. It is called:

On-And-On Anon

Adult's Morning Prayer:

O God, I thank you that I have come so far this day without giving offense or hurting another. I thank you that my addictions have not taken over my life this day. I thank you that I have not yet lost my temper, nor shown disrespect to any creature. I have not lost myself in worry, self-doubt or lack of courage. Be with me and sustain me with your love. And from this point onward it is going to be much more difficult. Because God, I need to get up and get dressed now. Amen.

We acknowledge, with gratitude, Windsor Presbyterian Church of Windsor, California for the use of the material on these two pages. Yes, God does have a sense of humor. . .

Presbyterian Humor

Anagram

Presbyterian = Britney Spears
(Someone has too much time on his hands.)

God doesn't call the qualified, He
qualifies the called.

A Mighty Wind....

The new preacher, at his first service, had a pitcher of water and a glass on the pulpit. As he preached, he drank until the water was gone. After the service someone asked an older woman of the church, "How did you like the new pastor?"
"Fine," she said, "but he's the first windmill I ever saw that was run by water."

Two's Company

A woman wrote to a daily newspaper from a very lonely spot up in Alaska: "My sister and I aren't exactly lonely up here because we have each other to talk to, but we need another woman to talk about."

Property Ministry

The church building committee bought some paint at a discount to paint the church. To save money the Property Ministry decided to paint the church themselves. One Saturday they managed to paint one side of the church, but the problem was that they had already used one-half of the paint! So, they called an emergency meeting and decided to thin the remaining paint to finish the job. So, the next Saturday they started in again and used two-thirds of the remaining paint on the second side. So, then again thinned the paint down for the final two sides. As soon as the job was done there was a mighty rain storm that washed all of the very paint off of the church building. When the building committee returned to the site to inspect the bare walls where the paint had been washed away, they heard a voice rolling down like thunder from the heavens.

"Repaint! And thin no more!"

Staff		On the World Wide Web		Partners In Mission	
Pastor/Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson	www.hemetpresbyterian.org		Dr. John & Dianne Fowler — Turkey	
Director of Music	M. E. VanOstenbridge	larry@hemetpresbyterian.org		Rev. John & Gwen Haspels — Ethiopia	
Accompanist	Joe Smayda	officemgr@hemetpresbyterian.org (Kitty Vollmer)		Habitat for Humanity — San Jacinto Valley	
Activities Director	“Coach” Mel Carter	secretary@hemetpresbyterian.org (Lynn Browning and volunteers)		Valley Restart — San Jacinto Valley	
Office Manager	Kitty Vollmer				
Bookkeeper	Sharon Desgro				
Custodian	Javier Gamon				
Associate Pastors		Pastoral Counseling/ Spiritual Direction		Office Hours/Contact Information	
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Martha Thorson	The office is open		First Word is	
Rev. Dr. Gerald Lyman	(951) 259-8573	Monday through Thurs- day 9:00 am to 1:00 pm		published monthly	
Parish Associate	Wednesday — Friday	Phone: (951) 658-7153		First Presbyterian Church	
Rev. Jim Karcher	9:00 am — 4:00 pm	Fax: (951) 766-4574		515 E. Kimball Ave. Hemet, CA 92543	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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