



First Presbyterian Church of Hemet

FIRST WORD

March 1, 2010

Pastor's Column

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

Dear Friends,

What are your plans for Easter? I'm not talking about your Easter lunch plans or your travel plans, although I'm sure those are interesting. I'm talking about what you're doing to get ready to celebrate the greatest event in human history; the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

On Sunday mornings we'll be studying the Jesus Creed right through Palm Sunday. The Jesus Creed is what shaped and formed how Jesus lived. *'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* The second is this: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no commandment greater than these."

My hope is that we as a church can be shaped by the words that shaped our Lord's spiritual life. To do that we have small groups meeting weekly throughout Lent to help us flesh out how to apply the Jesus Creed in our own lives. Call the church office for times and locations. It's not too late. The groups will be completed before Easter and there will be no obligation to continue in a group. Try out a group.

On Holy Week (the week before Easter) we'll have a Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm with communion around the family table in Fellowship Hall as we remember Christ's last supper with his disciples. The next night our choir will lead us in a moving new service of darkness at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary called "The Lenten Sketches". Then on Easter Sunday morning we pull out all the stops to celebrate Christ's resurrection at 9:00 and 10:30. Start inviting your friends. It's time to get ready!



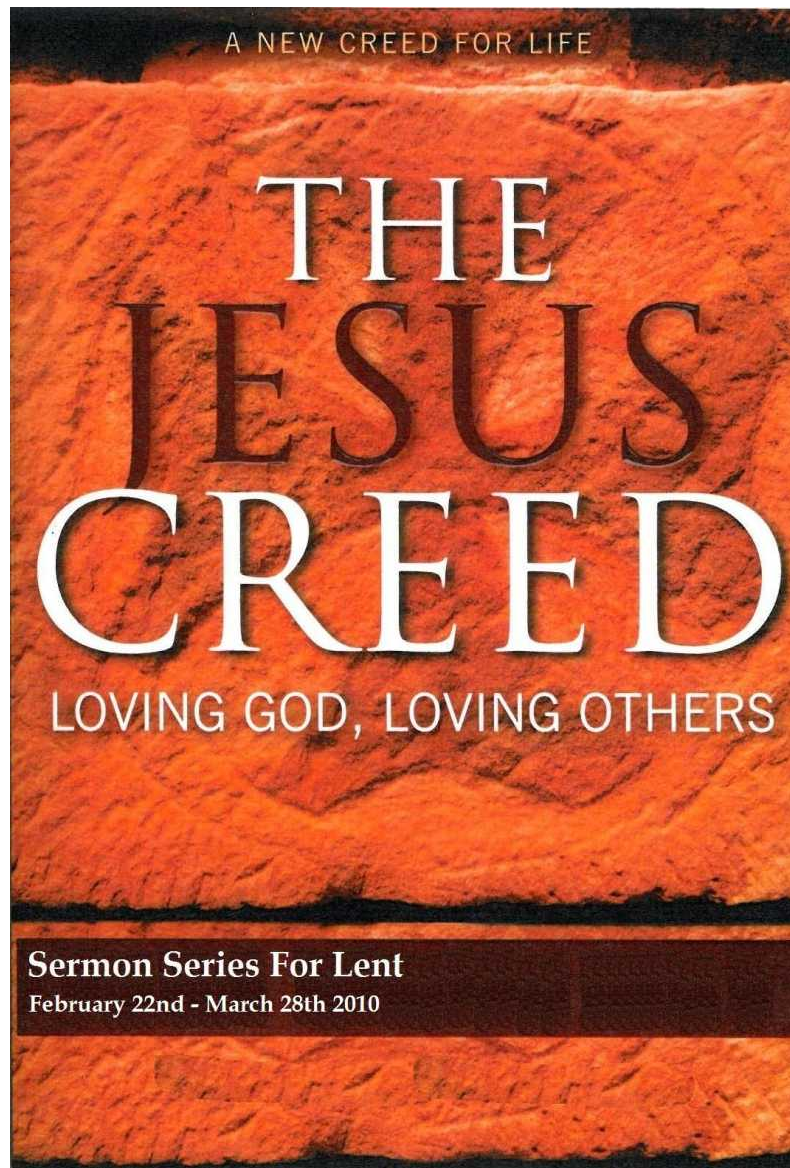
Pastor Larry Thorson

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Yours in Christ,
Pastor Larry Thorson

BIBLE STUDY



The Wednesday morning Bible Study class, led by James Nuoffer, will be participating in the Lenten Small Group study of *"The Jesus Creed"*. The class meets each Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Fireside Room, and all are welcome to join us! Other *"Jesus Creed"* groups are still forming. Turn in your form or call the church office.

Please be in prayer for Barbara Arr, Dick Babbitt, Mary Brannon, Del Brunson, Earl Enger, Homer Erickson, Elaine Greco, Renate Heberling, Sue Howard, John Irwin, Ruby Johnson, Bill Kauffmann, Vera Murphy, Fran Renau, Jerry Stewart and Claude and Mary Thomas who are recovering from illness or surgery. Also pray for the family of the late Edith Clark who has gone home to the Lord.

Birthdays

MARCH

March 3	Sally De Brask
March 8	Gene Russell
March 9	Timothy Johnson
March 14	John Adams
March 19	Raymond Prickett
March 22	Eileen Karcher
March 23	Joyce Jordan
March 25	Carl Rousell
March 27	James Warren
March 28	Georganna Cetinske
March 30	David Weakley



Anniversaries

Charles & Bernice Chapman

March 1 — 67 years

Art & Barbara Poole

March 12 — 59 years

John & Ione Lautenbach

March 20 — 68 years

William & Alta Brandow

March 31 — 59 years

Session News

Monthly Finance Report for January 2010

This month our offerings were quite good, totaling \$36,404. Of course, it helped that January had five Sundays. Averaged over the twelve month period, our monthly expenses are \$31,000. As you can see, our offerings were greater than that. We will continue to monitor this to see if we will be able to finance the Family Center activities beyond the end of May.

In January, we had a net operating loss of \$1,335.99. This was mostly due to the once yearly payment of our per capita contribution of \$12,705 to the Presbytery, as is our obligation. We reported 385 members on our rolls as of December, 2008. Without this once yearly expense, we would have been ahead of expenses.

We are pleased to report we received \$2,975 in per capita income. This represents 90 members or about 24% of our congregation. Last year we received a total of about 41% of our per capita. Our goal for this year is 60%, and we have based the balancing of our budget on receiving that percentage. We thank all those members who have paid this obligatory expense.

As you may have noticed, the property ministry installed a new ceiling mount and wiring for the projector, and there was some carpet cleaning in the Fellowship Hall. There are also new blinds in the Fireside Room. Those costs are being reimbursed through the generosity of the Presbyterian Women. We thank them for their gift and their faithful support of our church.

To date, we have received 110 pledge cards for a total of \$214,780. This is compared to a total projected budget of \$328,800. If you haven't submitted your pledge card yet, we ask that you do, so that we may better anticipate our finances as the year progresses. This will allow us to adjust our operations to maintain a balanced budget.

As a reminder, Session meetings are generally held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and are open to the membership. Please join us and get involved in what our church is doing.

*Steve Bertling,
Elder, Finance & Missions*

Presbyterian Women

We hope that you were able to attend the February PWP Luncheon Gathering on February 6th at our church. There was plenty of interesting information, spiritual time, and good fellowship, with friendly conversations and great food. Thank you to all the Circles for your part in helping to make this an outstanding day! Thank you to Pastor Larry for being there to welcome ladies from other churches.

Please circle the date on your calendar to attend the March 12th PW Luncheon. This is always one of our most popular lunch gatherings. It follows the Spring Clothing Sale from the prior weekend. We will entertain you. So grab your husband, best friend *or anyone* and be there! Reservations are required by Tuesday, March 9th. We promise that you will get your \$7.00 worth. Esther Circle will be our host. There will be only 2 more PW Lunch Gatherings this year, one on April 9th and the other May 7th. Our Search Committee will be looking for the leaders to serve for the term that begins in the Fall. Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to serve in some way.

Our church will be hosting the Church Women United World Day of Prayer on Thursday, March 11th at 10:00am. Please make this a day to pray along with others throughout the world.

Last month the Presbyterian Women paid to have the Fellowship Hall carpet professionally cleaned at the amount of over \$500.00. PLEASE clean up any spills as they occur. We also had the blinds repaired in the Fireside Room and replaced in the area by the Chapel. The refrigerator and freezer were recently gone through, as there were complaints of a horrible odor, which turned out to be chocolate milk that had soured and was starting to grow. If food is not labeled, then it is assumed that anyone can use it. Please mark your food with a name/group and the date. Anything with old expiration dates will need to be discarded. We will appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Sale and later at the luncheon.

Thank you.

Patty Werley & Joyce Emery, Co-Moderators

Music Notes

From Mary Ellen



The message of our music is in the words that we sing. The choir will tell you that we stress articulation and pronunciation when we prepare anthems for the worship services. Otherwise, we might get some of the following distortions. Kids sing back what they think they hear:

Children's Attempts at Singing Well Known Hymns

Give us this day our deli bread!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Whole East Coast.

We shall come to Joyce's, bringing in the cheese.

Gladly, the consecrated, cross-eyed bear.

He carrots for you.

Bringing in the Sheets.

Yield Not to Penn Station.

Dust Around the Throne.

Praise God From whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures, HERE WE GO

While shepherds washed their socks by night

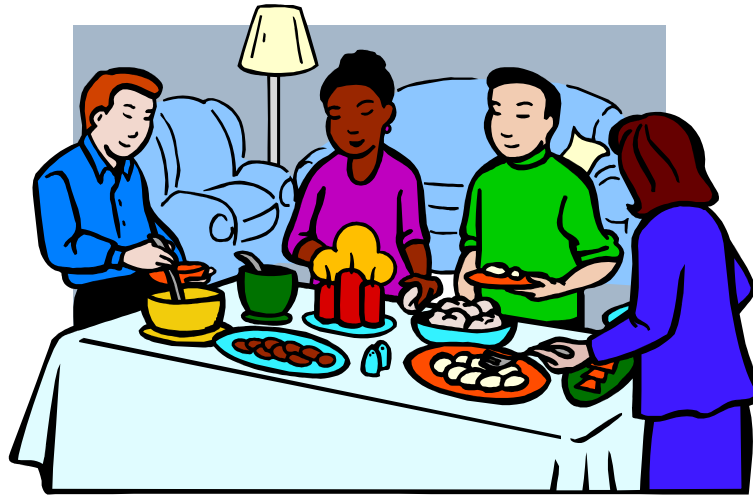
He socked me and boxed me with His redeeming glove.

Remember these the next time you sing some of the old familiar hymns!!

This has been a tough choir year, starting back in November with Joe's fall. I feel like I'm coaching a football team with injuries. However, I'm thankful for the dedication of the men and women of the Chancel Choir who have responded with love, prayer and concern for those who have been sick or injured. I'm also thankful for the hard work they put in each week, even when the numbers have been small. I always tell them they are "small in number, but mighty!!" The basses and tenors would sure like to have some of you join the choir to relieve the pressure on them!

Mary Ellen Van Ostenbridge
Director of Music

Congregational Meeting



As promised at our first Annual Congressional Meeting, we will have a second meeting immediately following the 10:30 service on April 18 to present our financial status and its effect on our ability to continue the Family Center programs. This is a very important decision for our church, and you are all encouraged to attend, if possible. In addition, we will have a revision of our By-Laws (to make some minor corrections) for your review and approval. Once again, there will be a potluck lunch. Please prepare a dish for 8 to 10 people, according to the first letter of your last name:

A – F	Dessert
G – M	Main Dish
N – R	Rolls & Butter
S – Z	Salad

Come to hear what plans are being made and to enjoy some great food and good fellowship!



SPRING SALE!

It's that Time Again! The annual spring sale will be held on March 5th and 6th from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm in the Family Center.

There will be lots of clothing, jewelry, and purses for sale, along with a baked goods table and a delicious lunch!

Come and bring your friends!

You may all be surprised at what you can find!

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

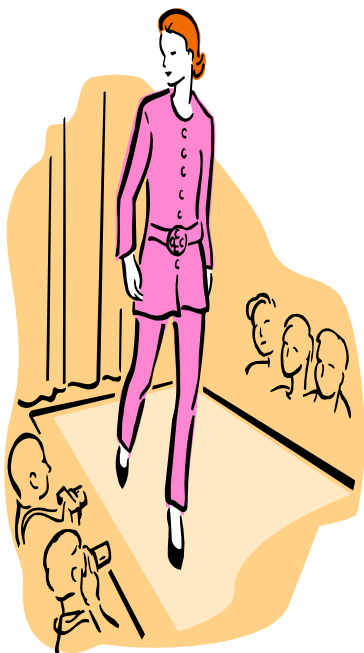
March 12th at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall!

This is always one of our most popular lunch gatherings.

It follows the Spring Clothing Sale from the prior week-end. We will be modeling the fabulous fashions our ladies have purchased at the Spring Sale..So grab your husband, best friend or anyone and be there!

Reservations are required by Tuesday, March 9th.

We promise that you will get your \$7.00 worth.



International Food Festival



Come and experience Food and Culture from around the
Globe.

Get to know the people in your Neighborhood.

Date: March 28th 2010

Time: 12pm

Where: First Presbyterian Church
(Fellowship Hall)

Cost: \$ 7

Food from various countries will be available for all to sample.

(All Proceeds benefit the Family Center)

Family Center News



The Valentine's Day Luncheon was a grand success! The food was great and the entertainment was enjoyed by all. Folks got up and danced and had a wonderful time.



We raised over \$400 from ticket sales. Our other fundraisers are proving to be successful as well. The concession stand has raised over \$200 and has helped pay for some minor painting in the gym. Our "Operation: Coin Slam Dunk" raised \$150 in the first week. We also received word that we will



receive grant money from Community Development Block Grants. We are truly blessed and are grateful for the generosity of all our supporters.



I would like to thank all our Advisory Board members for helping make our luncheon such a success. I would also like to say an extra special



thank you to our parents' group, the Praise Dance Team and all our helpers.



Melvin "Coach" Carter
Activities Director



COMING UP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



March 5 & 6 - Spring Sale

March 12 - PW Luncheon



March 28 - Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins!
- International Food Festival



April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY
- Easter Egg Hunt



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. Van Ostenbridge	larry@hemetpresbyterian.org		Rev. John & Gwen Haspels — Ethiopia	
Accompanist	Joe Smayda	officemgr@hemetpresbyterian.org		Habitat for Humanity — San Jacinto Valley	
Activities Director	“Coach” Mel Carter	(Jeannette Simmons)		Valley Restart — San Jacinto Valley	
Office Manager	Jeannette Simmons	secretary@hemetpresbyterian.org			
Bookkeeper	Sharon Desgro	(Volunteers)			
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 - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 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

515 E. Kimball Avenue
Hemet, CA 92543

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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