

Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

August 2008

From the Pastor

So far it has been fun to preach sermons in response to your questions, comments and suggestions. Not quite as exciting as the cartoon on the next page might suggest, but good, nonetheless.

I'm looking forward to this Sunday's sermon about my understanding of heaven and who might join us there. Also in the queue is a sermon on the theme: the comfort of God. But the date for that sermon depends on the schedule of the questioner, a consideration I don't usually take into account.

When I thought about doing a series of summer sermons on topics or bible passages of your choice I imagined it would be a little more formal. It began with a request to preach a sermon with a specific title, "People Use Duct Tape to Fix Everything; God Used Nails." So I imagined that simply asking for suggestions for other sermons would elicit a similar response, that people would call me or email me or grab me at coffee hour and give me something specific to preach on. But nothing more came.

So I asked individuals who I thought must certainly have some suggestions. They offered a little, but not enough. So I listened and waited and went about my business, trusting that the sermons would present themselves in due time. They have. But due time seems to be only a week or two in advance.

You see, if a group of suggestions had come in shortly after I put out the request for sermon ideas, then I could have arranged them in the order that I wanted to preach them. I would have been able to look for themes and other connections between the suggestions. Then the sermons would have begun to fit into my concept of how the whole series should flow.

And if there had been more suggestions than Sundays in the summer, then I could have chosen which ones I wanted to preach and which ones I had an excuse to ignore. There might have been a few suggestions I didn't have to deal with.

As it is, the suggestions have come one or two at a time. I haven't been able to pick and choose. And I haven't had the opportunity to fit them into some larger scheme of my own devising. I have needed to focus very clearly on each specific question, for what it is worth, in and of itself.

This has been good for me, and I think it has been good for the sermons. But it has been more work than I imagined.

I've found that this process is more work for two simple reasons:

- ◆ After I choose a bible passage to go with the question, I have to continually move back and forth between this text and the question. "How does this text answer this question?" and "Does this answer really address this question?"
- ◆ I can't just throw a sermon out there and hope that you all get it. I know I am accountable to at least the questioner; he or she must get it. The truth must be personal for him or her, and so it must also be personal for me.

So far this sermon series has been fun, and a lot of work. It has also taught me, once again, to rely on God. I'm taking it step by step, by faith. I'm relying on God for the questions and I'm relying on God for the answers. And I'm feeling God's leading in my work each week. That feels good.

Keep your questions, comments and suggestions coming—but only one or two at a time.

Chicken Dinner



Chicken Barbecue Tuesday, September 2

4:30-7:00 PM

Take-Out

\$10

Half chicken, beans,
bread, salad, and a dessert.

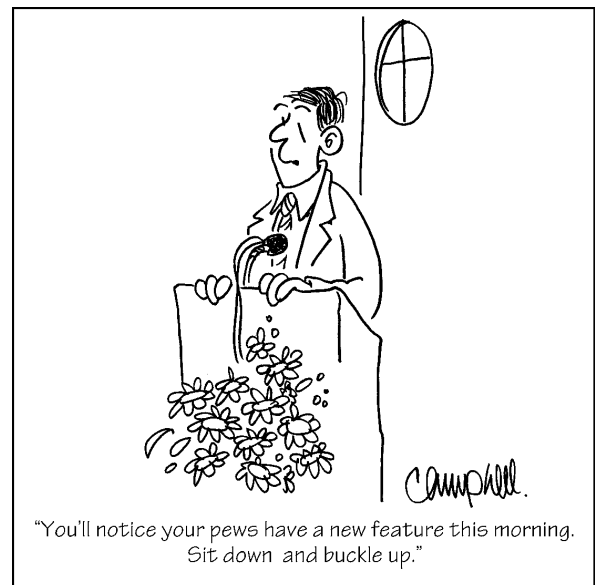
For tickets or to volunteer to help
out, please call Med Hoover (854-6781)
or Dottie Gray (854-6000).

Birthdays

- 2 Alex Escatel
- 8 Mary Peters
- 11 Bobby Wrobbel
- 16 Vern Fisher
- 28 Ray Acord
- 30 Frances McGuire

Anniversaries

- 2 Jane and Jerel Steckling
- 11 Barbara and Robert Wrobbel





“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.”
Matthew 6:22

August is cataract awareness month.

Did you know that approximately 20.5 million Americans age 40 or over have cataracts, and over half of us will by the time we are 80?

Cataracts cloud our vision in a way similar to a window fogged with steam. Blurred vision results from less light passing through the clouded lens. Cataracts are not a growth or film over the eye.

Symptoms are mild at first, then progress with greater impact on our vision. At the present time, we have no medications or exercises that will help cataracts disappear.

When they begin to interfere with daily activities, cataracts can be treated with surgery. This surgery has come light years since my time as a student nurse!! Now it is usually done as an out-patient procedure under local anesthesia. The cloudy lens is removed and replaced with a clear artificial lens. One of the most successful surgeries, 1.6 million Americans have this procedure every year and most report improved vision as a result. World-wide, however, untreated cataracts still remain a major cause of blindness.

In addition to aging, cataracts may also be caused by eye injuries, certain diseases such as

diabetes, genetic inheritance, certain medications, frequent unprotected exposure to the sun's rays (UV-A & UV-B), and smoking.

It's time to see our eye M.D. when we experience:

1. Painless blurring of vision
2. Sensitivity to light and glare
3. Double vision in one eye
4. Poor night vision
5. Fading or yellowing of colors
6. Frequent changes of glasses or contact lens prescriptions

Talking over options is always a good idea, and if cataracts aren't interfering with your life, you may choose not to do anything about them.

If you'd like more information, the American Academy of Ophthalmology can be reached at eyemed@aao.org or e-mail to www.aao.org

Can you picture love pouring from the shining eyes of someone in your memory bank? I can. Let's pray that our eyes can be good, so that the whole body of our congregation will be filled with God's light of love.

Pass it on.....

Nancy

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

399 Sixth Street
Gustine, CA 95322
Address Service Requested

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Gustine, CA 95322

Sunday School, 9:00 AM — Worship, 10:30 AM

Pastor — Mark Hollingsworth

Treasurer — Patricia Brown; Choir Director — Jim Conrad

Secretary — Med Hoover; Parish Nurse — Nancy Hollingsworth

Office Hours — 9:00-Noon, Wednesday, Thursday and by appointment

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