

Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

June, 2010

From the Pastor

It rained today. And it rained yesterday. And there's a chance of it raining tomorrow (May 26, 27 and 28). This is not the normal weather pattern for this time of year.

I can't say that I'm not pleased. I am. But I am a little surprised that the rain has lasted this late into the year. Last August I wrote in this newsletter:

So may I suggest that we pray for rain and begin those prayers now.

I know it is not the rainy season. And I don't expect it to begin raining this month. But it is not too early to begin praying that we are blessed with rain in September and October and November and December and January and February and March and maybe even April. That sounds like a lot of rain. But, O God, we'll even be happy with a flood.

God has been good and we have received a lot of rain without any serious flooding. But I hadn't expected it to keep raining into May.

As a church we did a good job praying for rain each Sunday until the rains started coming. As the season picked up we did a good job thanking God for the rains and praying for more. When we were pretty much assured of having a wet year we started to slack off. At least I didn't remember each Sunday to ask God for more rain, soon and abundantly.

And then I started hearing some questioning: Do we have to keep praying for rain even when rain will interfere with some of my plans? Should we pray for rain now when that would hurt the almond crop and actually be bad for the farmers (at least in the short run)? I held firm in my answers, we should keep praying although the rain might cause some temporary and localized problems.

But I never got back into the habit of praying each Sunday for rain, soon and abundant, even if it means a flood.

Then we came to April: Can we quit praying now? God has answered our prayers already and we're getting tired of this. OK. We can quit praying for rain as a church and simply thank God for the gift of this wet year. (But privately I kept praying because we're still behind if you take the average of the past three years.)

And now May: We quit praying and still the rains keep coming. This isn't good for the farmers with hay cut, or for the cherry growers. Maybe we should start praying that it doesn't rain any more this year?

Here I felt that I had to draw the line (in the mud). My understanding of God and of prayer simply won't let me pray for rain one day and against rain the next. When we pray for something that is going to affect a large number of people over an extended period of time we need to give God some leeway with regards to timing, even if that causes us some problems.

Last Saturday I did a garden wedding. The wind was shifting to come from the south and the clouds were getting darker. One of the guests said, "Don't worry, Mark has an inside line. He can control the weather." No. I can't and I wouldn't if I could. And no, God doesn't deal up weather according to whose prayer God likes the best. Didn't Jesus say something about God giving rain to the just and the unjust?

So I thank God for the rain yesterday and today. And I pray that it will rain again tomorrow.

If you can't go that far, then start praying for next year. We do still need another wet year. It's never too soon to start praying.

Pastor Mark



Omelet Breakfast

sponsored by the Deacons

Saturday, June 12

7 to 11 AM

Eat-in or Take-out

Create your own omelet!

Served with hash browns, sausage,
biscuits and drinks.

\$8

For tickets to buy or sell, contact the church office or Pastor Mark.

Birthdays

- 14 Bridgette Brady
- 16 Madeline Wallace
- 16 Eva Goman
- 17 Jessica Wallace
- 20 Braxton Hoover
- 24 Phil Steckling
- 28 Alfonso Hollingsworth
- 30 Corey Pfitzer

Anniversaries

- 5 Sharon & Ray Acord
- 17 Kristen & Tommy Duarte
- 23 John & Lori Burges



On Sunday, **June 27**, the Rev. Sandy Brown will be our guest preacher. Sandy has recently retired as pastor of the Presbyterian church in Lemoore and is currently serving on staff for Calvin Crest camp and conference center.

Come to hear God's word and to hear how God is working at our Presbyterian camp. We will take our **special offering** for June that Sunday with all proceeds going to support Calvin Crest.



Community Presbyterian Church, Gustine
100th Anniversary Celebration
October 10, 2010 (Mark your calendar)

We are looking for the story of your experiences with Community Presbyterian Church. Maybe you came to church here as a child, maybe you had friends or family members who were involved with the church or a project in the church. Maybe you have a story to tell, pictures to share, a laugh or general information about our church. We are going to try to gather as many stories as we can to share with those who will be celebrating with us.

We need the information as soon as possible, as it will take time to put this all together for celebration on October 10, 2010.

Please fill out the following form and return to the address below:

Your Name _____ Ad-

dress _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ email address _____

Year(s) you were an active part of the church _____

What I remember about the Gustine Community Presbyterian Church.....

Included with this form Pictures _____ Number of pages (including this form) _____

How would you like to contacted? email phone mail

Anyone who would like to help with this project or have ideas for the 100th celebration, please contact us at the following: Gustine Community Presbyterian Church at 399 6th Street, Gustine, CA 95322. 209-854-6772

Our email address is cpc-gustine@earthlink.net. Our website is

www.wefollowjeasusingustine.org.

Come join us in this wonderful celebration of 100 years. It will be a fun time. We will continue to update you in our newsletter as to further plans.

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

399 Sixth Street
Gustine, CA 95322
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 12
Gustine, CA 95322

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

Pastor — Mark Hollingsworth

Treasurer — Dorothy Gray; Choir Director — Jim Conrad

Secretary — Med Hoover; Parish Nurse — Nancy Hollingsworth

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

Telephone: (209) 854-6772; email: cpc-gustine@earthlink.net

Web Site: www.wefollowjesusingustine.org

