

Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

March, 2010

From the Pastor

Sometimes, when it is time to write a newsletter article like this one, I have an idea in my head just waiting to get down on paper. I have something I want to say or something that needs said and so I sit down and get started writing.

But some other months aren't like this at all. I struggle with what to say. I always have a few ideas but often nothing jumps out at me. I might write down the ideas I have and a few sentences that could be the beginning of the article. Then I'll choose one and then, sometimes, something I like ends up on the page.

I'd say that about half of the months I have something ready to go when it's time, and about half of the months I struggle. This is one of the struggling months.

This month I've decided to make that struggle itself the subject of this article. That could be a cheap trick but I don't think it is because this article isn't about this article but about listening for God to speak.

A few times each year I say to myself, "I wish I didn't have to write a newsletter article this month." But I can't remember one time in the past 17 years when I've said to myself, "I wish I didn't have to preach a sermon this Sunday."

I have said, "I wish I had more time (or more energy) to prepare for this sermon." I have said, "I don't know where I'm going to go with this sermon. I'll quit now and sleep on it, pray for it tonight and tomorrow morning and see what comes." I have said, "I've got so much I want to say. How am I going to cut it down to an amount the listeners can take in at one sitting?" I have said, "This sermon could make some people mad, and I don't want to make anyone mad, but ... I'd better preach it." Generally, there is some sort of

struggle in each sermon but that is all part of a spirit filled process which I thoroughly enjoy. I look forward each week both to the preaching and to the preparation.

So what is the difference? Some of it is the regularity of preaching; the newsletter seems like an extra added on. Some of it is that the audience of the sermon is more clear in my mind and the feedback is more direct. But the most important difference is that the newsletter article begins with an idea in my head and a sermon begins with a word from God in the Bible.

What a joy it is to be able to listen intensely each week to God's word, to hear God's word! What a privilege it is to be provided the opportunity to do that and to have a group of Christians who will listen along each Sunday morning.

And how amazing that each week something happens in the process. When I listen carefully on behalf of the congregation God always seems to speak. It happens in different ways. Sometimes it comes quickly and sometimes it comes at the last possible moment (while I am in the process of preaching). Sometimes it is filled with passion and sometimes it is more subdued. Of course, something always gets lost in translation; from what I hear to what I am able to communicate. But something often gets added in translation; the congregation hears more than what I say because God is speaking to the listeners both through me and around me.

So now we come to the point: You too have the great joy and great privilege of listening carefully to God's word on behalf of our congregation. If you don't do so already, read your Bible regularly. Pray that you may hear God speak. And listen carefully to the sermon. Once you really try it, I doubt you'll ever tire of it.

Maundy Thursday

April 1

6:30 — Simple Supper

8:00 — Service of Darkness
(Tenebrae)



Service of Darkness



Friends of Jesus

There are still copies available of our lenten devotional guide which explores relationships in the Gospel of Mark. Ask for one at church.

You can also follow this online at:

cpc-lent.blogspot.com

March Birthdays

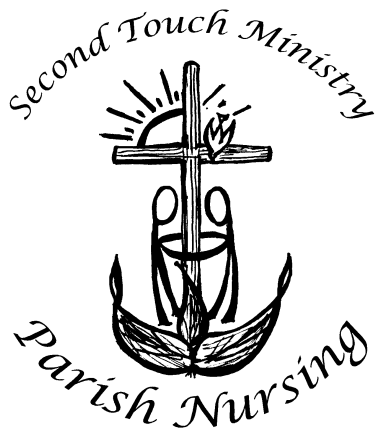
- 4 Evelyn Pascoe
- 11 Dottie Gray
- 14 Bob Williams
- 14 Jo Fisher
- 14 Tyler Conrad
- 16 Maudie Todd
- 20 Anna Wrobel

March Anniversaries

- 26 Larry and Kathy Mendonça



David Galatro and Dottie Gray are leading the task force to plan our 100th Anniversary celebration in October of this year. If you would like to help out with the planning (or if you have some suggestions) please contact either David or Dottie.



**“Do not forsake wisdom and she will protect you;
love her and she will watch over you.”
Proverbs 4:6**

Thirty seven years ago when I was a young woman in her first years of motherhood and living in Japan, my baby boy ingested a poisonous substance and was rushed to the Navy Hospital. I thought I had all my bases covered. Chemicals and cleaning substances were locked away. The air freshener for the toilet room was hung on a high nail, way far up and out of reach. But when the freshener was replaced, small remains of the old one had been placed in the trash can within reach of a curious almost two year old. And so it was that Blair was given Ipecac syrup which induced vomiting, and he threw up the still fragrant bits of the solid air freshener. Lesson of humility learned. None of us can be 100% vigilant 100% of the time. Lesson of gratitude: no real harm done, thank you Lord.

March 14-20, 2010 is National Poison Prevention Week with the themes: "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!" and "Poisoning Spans a Lifetime."

**USA toll-free poison hotline is: 1-800-222-1222-
available- 24 hours a day/7 days a week**

(If for any reason you can't get through, call 9-1-1)

Parents must always be watchful when household chemicals or drugs are being used. Many incidents happen when adults are using a product but are distracted (for example, by the telephone or the doorbell) for a few moments. Children act fast, and adults must make sure that household chemicals and medicines are stored away from children at all times. Advice is to keep medicines and chemicals locked up & take the child (or product) with you to answer the phone or doorbell. Never put chemicals into another container; don't mix & don't use another's pills. And always use

child-proof tops. If you don't have a child, one might visit.

If I find my youngster playing with a bottle of medicine or some household product, how can I tell if he or she has swallowed some and what should I do? Reactions vary. Sometimes the child may vomit; or he or she may appear to be drowsy or sluggish. Some of the substance may remain around the child's mouth and teeth. There may be burns around the lips or mouth from corrosive items; or you may be able to smell the product on the child's breath. Some products cause no immediate symptoms. If a household chemical or medicine has been ingested, call the Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222. Even if you suspect, but don't know for sure, that your child has ingested a potentially hazardous product, call your Poison Control Center right away. **Keep the telephone number on your phone.** When you contact the Poison Control Center or other emergency personnel, be prepared to give the facts. Have the label ready when you call the expert. The label provides useful information concerning the product's contents and advice on what immediate first aid to perform. Remain calm and tell the expert: the victim's age and weight; any existing health conditions or problems; the substance involved and how it contacted the person. For example, was it swallowed, inhaled, absorbed through skin contact, or splashed into the eyes? How long ago did they swallow or inhale the substance? Tell any first aid which may have been given and if the person has vomited. Last, share your location, and how long it will take you to get to the hospital. Do not give anything by mouth until advised by the Poison Control Center. There has been a reduction in deaths with all medicines and household chemicals since 1972 when child-resistant packaging was first required—from 216 in 1972 to 28 in 2000. However, the number of ingestions or exposures to household medicines and chemicals continues to be high.

Poisonings happen to adults, too especially if they cannot read labels or fail to follow instructions. Some people may confuse one medicine for another, especially if the light is not on when they reach for a medicine at night. Make sure your Pharmacist knows all the meds you are taking.

See www.poisonprevention.org for more information.

Be wise & safe-

Nancy

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



Sunday, March 14

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead.