

Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

May, 2009

From the Pastor

I guess I must have been tired on Sunday, after the yard sale and all. I guess I was speaking slower than I thought I was. There must have been too long a pause after I began the sentence, "I woke up this morning ..." because someone said something like, "Well that's a good thing," before I could say "... feeling happy."

Yes it was a good thing. And it is as true today as when I mentioned it on Sunday, "There never has been a time when I haven't woken up." That, too, is a good thing.

But what if there comes a time when I don't wake up?

I believe, of course, that when I die it will be like falling asleep and waking up to be with my lord, Jesus. I believe that there never will be a time when I don't wake up, and that there will be a time when I never sleep again. I believe in the resurrection of the dead and trust that I will share in that resurrection.

But hypothetically speaking, and imaginatively thinking and feeling, what if there comes a time when I don't wake up?

That thought used to scare me. I can remember the darkness of my spirit the first time I imagined not being anymore (sometime around the age of thirteen). That darkness, and heaviness, and hopelessness, was a companion of mine for the next ten years or so. I said goodbye to it joyfully when Christ found me and I gave my life to him.

Every once in a while, though, over the years the question has returned. It met me a few months ago, and now is back as a result of this silly little interchange during the beginning of the sermon.

What if there comes a time when I don't wake

up any more?

At this point in my life I can seriously consider that question. I don't need to ignore it or reject it or postpone dealing with it. And I find that when I can explore this question in depth without fear and without a sense of hopelessness. Where before there was darkness and heaviness there is now light and lightness. I feel a sense of freedom in a way I have never quite experienced it before.

If, perchance, contrary to all that I believe, my death would be the last of me, if I were never to wake up again, that would be ok. When I imagine death without resurrection I don't feel cheated. If somehow it were possible to grieve my own death after I had died, I wouldn't. If, when I take my last breath, the universe were to whisper to me, "Mark, this is the very end," I would reply, "So?"

As I follow these thoughts in my imagination I feel a sense of peace and freedom. I am more certain now than ever that I have not followed Jesus in order to escape death, I did not run to Jesus because of my fear of death, I have not committed myself to Jesus in exchange for a promise of eternal life.

I trust that I have stayed with Jesus, and will stay with him to my life's end because of one reason and one only, because I love him.

That is, of course, all that matters. And, oh, how good it is!

"Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 3:8)



Pentecost

Sunday, May 30

Remember to wear *red* for our morning worship service.

Then stay for our *Pentecost Picnic* (following worship). Barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish to share. We might even play a few games.

Birthdays

- 1 Barbara Wrobbel
- 2 Sharold Adams
- 3 Patricia Brown
- 6 Mark Hollingsworth
- 12 Harrison Wallace
- 14 Marion Butts
- 14 Tristen Costa
- 16 Savannah Inaudi
- 16 Joann Lupton
- 21 Ron Arnold



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AT THE YARD SALE

Our yard sale was a success because of all the help we had during the week and on the day of the sale. It takes a lot of work and people to put on a yard sale to make it a success. We were lucky that the people who could not work on the day of the sale, came and helped sort and price during the week. Some of our Church Family were here during the week as well as on the day of the Sale. We felt it was a time to give back to the Community by making it affordable to the people coming to the sale, we cleaned our closets, and made money for the Church. The remaining items were donated to charity. Yes I would say we had a very successful sale and a lot of fun. **THANK YOU!!!**



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4: 6-7)

This article will focus on our current health concern: Swine Influenza with information from the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/swineflu—or 1-800-232-4636 Since knowledge conquers fear, here is some information. If you want more, please go online or call the toll-free number listed above. (I’ll post printouts in the Social Hall)

Swine flu is a contagious respiratory disease, caused by the influenza A (H1N1) virus. It is not known how easily it spreads between people.

Symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue; sometimes vomiting and diarrhea.

Spread of disease: thought to be by coughing or sneezing; droplets land on an object, then a **person touches that object with the virus, then touches his or her own mouth or nose or eyes.** (Swine influenza is not spread by eating pork).

Duration of contagious period: from one day prior to symptoms through seven or more days after becoming ill.

Prevention: first and most importantly-**wash your hands-** using soap and warm water, scrub for the time it takes to sing the “ABC” song—al-

cohol hand sanitizer is OK too; take good care of yourself, get enough sleep; be active; manage stress; drink plenty of fluids; eat nutritious foods; **DO NOT TOUCH** contaminated surfaces; avoid close contact with anybody who is sick. **Keep your hands away from your face.** Those who are sick: **STAY HOME.**

Treatments: antiviral medications obtained with a physician’s prescription: pills, inhalers, liquid, best if started within two days of onset of symptoms. There is no current vaccine to prevent swine flu.

Emergency warning signs for children—Call 911: fast breathing or heavy breathing; bluish skin color; not drinking enough fluids; not waking up or not interacting; being so irritable so as not to want to be held; flu symptoms improve but return with fever and worse cough; fever with a rash.

Emergency warning signs for adults—Call 911: difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; pain or pressure in chest or abdomen; sudden dizziness; confusion; severe or persistent vomiting.

As I write this, there are 14 known cases in California; 91 cases in USA, with so far only one fatality (in Texas). I just called and was reassured to learn that our daughter-in-law’s family in Mexico City are all healthy. We pray for a quick resolution to this potential pandemic. In the meantime, please do take very good care of yourself---

Blessings- *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

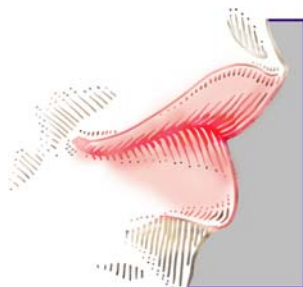
Treasurer — Patricia Brown; Choir Director — Jim Conrad

Secretary — Med Hoover; Parish Nurse — Nancy Hollingsworth

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

Telephone: (209) 854-6772; email: pastormark@wefollowjesusingustine.org

Web Site: www.wefollowjesusingustine.org



**O LORD, OPEN MY LIPS,
AND MY MOUTH WILL
DECLARE YOUR PRAISE.**

PSALM 51:15, NRSV

stepsofpraise.wordpress.com