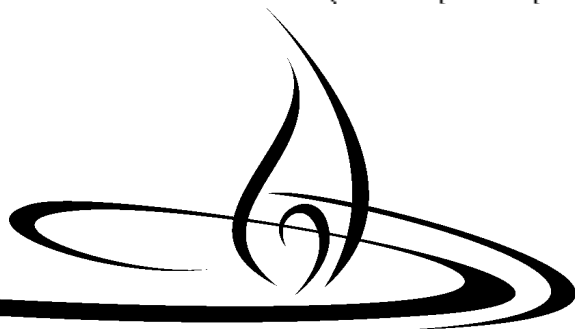


# Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

November, 2008

## From the Pastor

A couple of days ago I went into a local business establishment. The person behind the counter began to speak to me as if I knew what she were talking about. At first I thought that maybe she was continuing a conversation with a co-worker but then I realized she was actually responding to my recent column in *The Modesto Bee*.

Apparently I hadn't made my point clearly enough and she had been pondering what I had written for a couple of days. So I asked her what she had understood. "I got that you are grateful," she said.

"That's good enough," I said. Then we talked a little about the column and why I wrote it the way I did and what she thought about using a proposition to define marriage and how she really wasn't supposed to talk politics with customers.

On my walk back to church I thought about our conversation and reaffirmed my original statement. If all that this person got out of my column was that I am grateful, then that really is enough. Gratitude can speak volumes in the face of attack ads and fear campaigns and attempts to divide people into "us" and "them." Our world can use a little thankfulness right now.

But do we have reason to be thankful?

It is more than a little ironic that "the worst financial crisis since the great depression" should come at this time of year when we enter the season of Thanksgiving. Even as farmers are harvesting the silage and beans and almonds and cotton, many people are discovering that the harvest they expected from their 401k's has been devoured by pests. I go out to my garden and pick tomatoes, peppers, green beans and squash, the

last of the grapes and the first of the pomegranates, and then come in and check out one of Nancy's retirement accounts online. It has lost more than 25% of its value in the last quarter.

Which is more important? That investors have lost trillions of dollars or that once again, this year, God has provided soil and sun, water and air, and the seed which we have planted has become the harvest which will sustain us? Which is more real? The figures on the web page or the taste of this tomato?

It is right and good that we give thanks to God for the blessings of the earth at harvest time, even, and especially, in the midst of this financial crisis. In hindsight, it was right and good for Abraham Lincoln to proclaim a national day of thanksgiving in the midst of the deadliest war in our country's history. Gratefulness produces more fruit in hard times than in good ones.

So, again this year, let's give thanks to God for the blessings we receive from his hand.

Please join our congregation for our Harvest Dinner (see next page) and have a happy Thanksgiving.

*Pastor Mark*

What  
ARE ..... You  
Thankful?  
for?



## Harvest Dinner

Saturday, November 15, 4:00 PM

We'll begin with dinner. The church will supply barbecued pork tenderloin. Bring a side dish to share. Sign up in the social hall or call the church office.

After dinner we will have our annual meeting to elect officers for 2009. And we'll conclude with a fun program.



### Birthdays

- 1 Leroy Gray
- 1 Brian Gray
- 2 Lori Ford
- 2 Med Hoover
- 6 Tracy Escatel
- 11 Loni Azevedo
- 12 Michael Ray
- 15 Tiki Chawa
- 21 Jenna Acord
- 22 Ardyce Hedlind
- 24 Donna Krogh
- 26 John Schlak, Jr.
- 26 Aaron Hollingsworth
- 26 Danné Hoover
- 27 Jane Steckling

### Financial Report

The session voted to include a brief monthly financial report with each newsletter and a report of weekly giving in each worship bulletin. This is to help the congregation know when our general fund is getting low.

(Note: Due to timing, the report in the newsletter is from the previous month. Full reports from the past month are posted on the social hall bulletin board, usually the second week of the month.)

September income	\$ 5,558.00
September expenses	\$ 6,529.71
Checking acct. balance	\$ 184.30

### Anniversaries

- 11 Med and Richard Hoover
- 18 Jim and Kathy Conrad
- 18 Bill and Sandra Hensley
- 22 Rhonda and Michael Ray

### Bible 101

Introduction to the Bible  
Adult Sunday School  
9:00 AM each Sunday



**“Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her and she will watch over you.”**

**Proverbs 4:6**

Benjamin Franklin is widely regarded as one of America’s smartest people. He served our country in many capacities. As children we learned many of his sage phrases from his almanac such as “A stitch in time saves nine”. With that principle in mind, I refer you to the wisdom of flu shots. I just got mine at work the day before yesterday.

**Merced County’s Adult Flu Vaccine Clinic will be at the Al Goman Center Gustine November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-10AM-(price: \$2 for 60 or older; or younger with chronic illness; others-\$15**

Influenza, also called “the flu,” is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent this illness is by getting an influenza vaccination each year, especially important for:.,

- Adults 50 years of age or older
- Adults and children with chronic medical conditions.
- Children 6 months–to 18 years
- Healthcare workers
- Women who are pregnant during the influenza season
- Household contacts and caregivers of any of the above groups

One in five people in the US get this serious respiratory illness every season. Some influenza infections will cause lost work and school days, but for those at highest risk for suffering from

complications, the results can be more severe.

Influenza is not the common cold. It is serious. Each year, approximately 226,000 people in the US are hospitalized with complications from influenza and an average of 36,000 die from the disease and its complications. Combined with pneumonia, influenza is the nation’s 8th leading cause of death.

Other common respiratory and stomach infections are often mistakenly referred to as “the flu.” However, symptoms of influenza include fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. Stomach symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, also can occur but are more common in children than adults.

Ways to reduce your chance of getting the flu in addition to the flu shot:

**Hand washing.** with attention to areas between your fingers and the back of hands.

**Don’t touch** eyes and nose-easy entryways for viruses to pass into your system.

**Eat a balanced, healthy diet and get enough rest.**

**Keep your distance! Stay at least 6 feet away** if you must be with family or co-workers who have the flu.

(For more info: [www.cdc.gov/flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/) For other Merced Co. clinics, see the social hall bulletin board for full listing.) **Please stay well, and blessings as we begin the winter season**

----- Nancy

# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

399 Sixth Street  
Gustine, CA 95322  
Address Correction Service

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: [emark@inreach.com](mailto:emark@inreach.com)

Web Site: [www.wefollowjesusingustine.org](http://www.wefollowjesusingustine.org)



## Sunday, November 2

Remember to set your clocks  
back one hour.

(Or just show up for church an hour early.)