

# Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

September 2008

## From the Pastor

The new school year has begun. So it's time to kick off a new year in the life of our church.

For years, as a student and then as the parent of school-aged children, September was the real beginning of a new year. I would gear up for it, and my life would often take a new direction.

And when I became a Christian, each new school year meant the kick-off of a new year at church, as a Sunday school teacher, and as Sunday school superintendent, and as a pastor. The beginning of September was the time we went back to regular worship times and all the programs that had been dormant for the summer started up again.

But things are different here in Gustine. It is difficult to find a specific time to kick off the new church year. Some of this has to do with *festa* coming in the first half of September and forcing us to worship away from our church building. Some of it has to do with the first day of school coming earlier in the year. Some of it has to do with my life and our church's life becoming less centered on children. For these reasons, and at least five others I could name, it is hard to know when we have begun a new year at this church.

So this year I'm going to try something different. I'm going to kick-off the new year with this article in this newsletter. (I know—both by observation and by personal experience—that it is usually not a good idea to try to start something with an article in the newsletter.)

But we need to have a point when we can say that a new year in our church life has begun. The

publishing of this newsletter will happen at a specific point in time which we can look back on and say, "That's when something new began." (If, of course, something new actually happens.)

And I'm not trying to begin any new program, or reinstitute an old one, or adapt one that works for someone else somewhere else.

What I would like to do now is much more like planting a seed than kicking off a football game. To use a picture from a parable of Jesus: what I'd like to do is to uncover a corner of a treasure which has been buried in a field for way too long. To use a picture from another of Jesus' parables: I want to help you catch a glimpse of a pearl of great worth.

This seed, this treasure, this pearl goes by the name "evangel" or "gospel" or "good news."

And you and I grow this seed, we inherit this treasure, we rejoice in the beauty of this pearl when we become *evangelists*. What I am talking about is *evangelism*.

Now I've said it. Now you've read it. So I think we're at a point where a new year can begin.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Mark*



## Sunday, September 14

Join us at Pastor Mark and Nancy's home, 585 Laurel Avenue. Worship will begin at 10:30 followed by a barbecue. There will be an opportunity to view the *festa* parade and play some games.

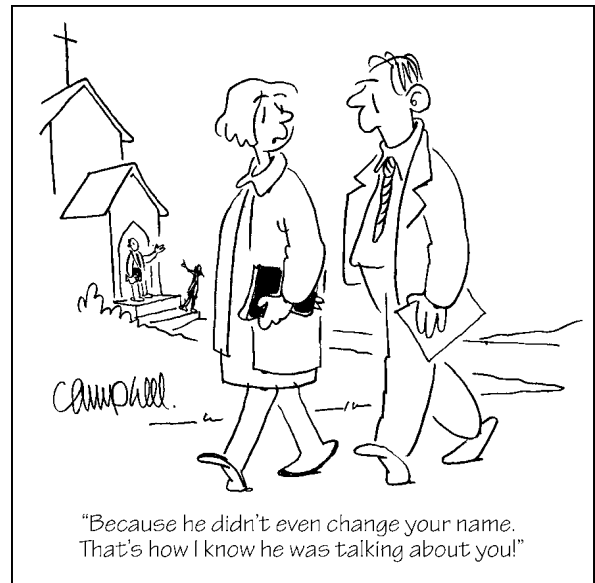
Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be supplied. Bring a side dish to share. And invite a friend.

### Birthdays

- 3 Travis Conrad
- 6 Blair Wallace
- 11 Ruth Haynam
- 11 Kristen Duarte
- 13 Nancy Hollingsworth
- 17 Todd Friesen
- 18 Sarah Mendonca
- 19 Bill Hensley
- 22 Karen Azevedo
- 23 Fran Husman
- 28 James Linville
- 28 Audrey Axe
- 30 Virginia Bingham

### Anniversaries

- 12 Sharold & Betty Adams  
"60 Wonderful Years"



### Thank You

Thank you for the questions and comments that inspired the sermons this summer. Let's plan to do it again next year.

Now we begin a new series with the theme of evangelism.



*“The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.” John 10: 3-4*

Can you recall the sound of someone dear to your heart calling your name? Just before Blair & family came to visit us from NYC recently, I was talking to Blair on the phone when he said “Just a minute Mom”, and a child’s voice said “Hi Grandma!” Since last I knew Harrison called all 4 of his grandparents “Pa-pa” I assumed I was speaking to Madeleine, only to learn that Harrison now could call me Grandma. It was a sweet moment. Being called by our very own name is special indeed. Hearing what others are saying is so important to us all. The focus of this month’s Health Observance is **Hearing Aid Awareness**, nationally celebrated Sept. 29-October 4, 2008.

Having grown up with a father who had an injury related hearing loss, I realize that this may be a touchy subject, so let’s just explore some facts briefly together. Sensori-neural (or “nerve” hearing loss) results from damage to the hair cells, nerve fibers or both in the inner ear. This is the most common type of hearing loss. People can hear speech, but frequently have difficulty understanding it. Hearing aids are the most common treatment. Conductive hearing loss typically involves an obstruction in the outer or middle ear, which reduces transmission of sound vibration through air, bone or tissue to the inner ear. Many times conductive hearing losses can be successfully treated by medical or surgical procedures.

Hearing devices (hearing aids) use a microphone to pick up sound and change it into electrical energy that can be amplified into a miniature speaker/ receiver in the ear, tailored to each person’s hearing loss. The brain needs to be re-trained to block out background noise, so it’s important to keep follow-up & counseling appointments. These devices may be completely in the ear canal; in the ear; or behind the ear. Newer models can be disposable, intended to be replaced when the batteries wear out.

Costs vary greatly, and current research and development include digital and microprocessor technology. Although Medicare does not pay for hearing devices, many times you can arrange for a trial rental of 30 days. There is a current bill proposed to help by giving up to \$1,000 tax credit for the purchase of 2 hearing aids. Avoid mail order purchases of hearing aids because they need to be carefully fitted, and be sure you have a warranty you understand at time of purchase.

**Signs or symptoms that you might have hearing loss:**

1. A family history of deafness or being hard of hearing
2. Repeated exposure to high noise levels such as workplace or loud headphone noise
3. Your perception is that “everybody mumbles” or “people don’t speak as clearly as they used to”
4. Your effort to hear causes you to feel tension, irritability or fatigue
5. You find yourself straining to understand conversations and watch people’s faces intently when you are listening
6. You frequently misunderstand what is said or need to have things repeated
7. You turn up the television or radio volume to a point that others complain
8. You have diabetes; heart, thyroid, or circulation problems; frequent ear infections; constant ringing in the ears; dizziness; or have taken drugs or medications that might harm the ears

For a booklet or list of specialists from the International Hearing Society, go to:  
<http://ihsinfo.org>, or call 1-800-521-5247.

May we hear and respond to God’s and others’ calling of our names...

*Nancy*

# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

399 Sixth Street  
Gustine, CA 95322  
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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](mailto:pastormark@wefollowjesusingustine.org)

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Tuesday, September 2

4:30 to 7:00 PM

Take-out

Call Med Hoover for tickets (854-6781).  
Call Dottie Gray to volunteer (854-6000).