

Community Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 788
7854 Pearblossom Highway
Littlerock, CA 93543

Return Service Requested



**"To Know Christ and
to make him known."**

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Our Purpose Statement

**To know Jesus Christ as Savior and make Him known
through: Spirit-filled worship, passionate evangelism, loving
fellowship, obedience to scripture, support
of worldwide missions, and
service to our community**

Church Office 661-944-3231 Fax 661-944-3894
Church Web Page WWW.CPCLR.ORG
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Grace In The Desert

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"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Give thanks with a grateful heart!

The month of November we will focus on a theme of thanksgiving in our worship services (8am & 10:30am). Our sermon series for the month of November in church will cover four themes; *giving thanks for each other, giving thanks for our neighbors, giving thanks when times are hard, and giving thanks for the world.* Our scriptural theme for the month of November will be from *1 Thessalonians 5:12-18*, "Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you, who belong to Christ Jesus, to live." **(The Message Paraphrase)**

The word thanks means to be actively giving thanks or to express gratitude towards something or someone. In our case as followers of Jesus we express gratitude to God for all that he does for us as his children. Being thankful is sometimes not easy to do. Especially when the world around us seems to be crumbling every time we turn on the news or read the morning headlines of another problem burdening the world.

How does one give thanks appropriately to God? I appreciate Eugene Peterson' paraphrase from *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*. "Be cheerful no matter what, pray all the time, and thank God no matter what happens." Paul gives us three things to do that I know for myself are sometimes difficult to live out.

There is a song we sing in worship by Matt Redman called "Blessed be your name," that is applicable to us especially when we feel like not giving thanks to God when times are tough. May these words be our prayer as we learn to truly give thanks to God with a grateful heart.

Every blessing You pour out , I'll turn back to praise, When the darkness closes in, Lord still I will say; Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name, Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name.

Giving thanks for you!

Pastor K. C.

Volume 1, Issue 7

November 2007

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Grace In The Desert
is a monthly
publication
of the
Community
Presbyterian Church

Fall Happenings (Children, Youth, and Adults)

As I write this I just uploaded a slide show to my blog at www.kcwahe.com from our first annual trunk-o-treat night at the church on Halloween night. It has been rumored that we had over 70 children show up for the event from the community. There were bunches of you from the church family who helped make this night possible by *showing up* and letting us use your car for the kids. There were games in the fellowship hall and plenty of visitors from the community. We even had Glen Shaw come and bring his "gigantic sized portable grill," to cook the hotdogs. Now some of you might have asked, "why is the church doing this event and isn't this something that glorifies Halloween? First, we are called to be in the community. As Jesus was sent by the Father, Jesus sends us into the world. We also need to be a place that is available for those looking for refuge from the things of this world. Halloween all over the country tends to be a night where safety is a concern for children and in a community like ours we need to offer alternatives that are safe and a place where the love of Jesus can be given out by just being examples of God's love. Second, we made sure as volunteers that we opened the evening in prayer before the event began. We didn't celebrate death or anything else for that matter. We celebrated Christ's love and the power of his Holy Spirit. I want to thank all of our volunteers, parents, friends, and members of the church who gave of their time and talents to making this event very successful. Special thanks to Rose and Mike Banfield who organized the event. Special thanks to Gail for providing office support for the event. We pray that we were able to plant seeds of faith and hope as the children came and received a smile and yes...even some sweets.

Another reminder that our worship service schedule has changed. Your worship ministry team (AKA Committee) felt that this was the right time to have two worship services every Sunday morning. The first service starts at 8:00am, with Sunday school as you might already know at 9:15am. The second worship service will start at 10:30am. As for the flow of the services there won't be much change. On the matter of Sunday school, let me encourage you as your pastor to get involved with Sunday school. We have two options. Denece and Terry Parsons are leading a class on the Book of Philippians (the class is for all ages, kids and adults alike) and Rick Whitehouse will continue to lead the Purpose Driven class. As for kids we are still trying to find a couple "brave" souls who would be interested in teaching a youth Sunday school class. Please contact K.C. for more information.

On November 25th after church we will decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season which begins December 2. On December 2 we will decorate Christmas cookies and sing Christmas carols after church during the fellowship time. Contact Rose or K.C. for more information.

Second, Pastor K.C. will do an Advent series of sermons leading up to Christmas. His pastor's study on Wednesday morning's will look at the birth prophecies found in scripture

Pray for our church as we move into a season of thanksgiving and praise and as we begin to prepare for what God has planned for us as a church community.

November Church Calendar

November 3rd – Mariner's Luncheon & Boutique 11:00am to 2:00pm
November 4th - Deacons meeting immediately after church and Session meeting at the Doss'
November 7th - Mariner's Fellowship at 6:30pm - Ad Sorenson Host
November 11th – No Session meeting
November 13th & 27th - Food Bank Distribution 5:00pm to 6:30pm
November 17th – Men's Breakfast 8:00am Deacon's Thanksgiving baskets 10:00am
Youth and family bowling party at Brunswick Lanes (30th St) 11:00am
November 18th - Deacon's Thanksgiving Dinner immediately after church
November 22nd "HAPPY THANKSGIVING"
November 23rd Office CLOSED
November 25th Decorate Sanctuary for Advent

December Church Calendar

December 2nd - Deacons meeting immediately after church and Cookie decorating and Carol singing in the fellowship hall.
December 5th-Mariner's Fellowship 6:30pm, Bob & Jan Wise Host "Tying On" new members
December 9th– Session meeting immediately after church.
December 11th & 18th– Food Bank Distribution 5:00pm to 6:30pm
December 15th-Men's Breakfast 8:00am
December 16th– Deacon's Christmas Dinner immediately after church
December 22nd– Deacon's Christmas baskets 10:00am
December 24th– Christmas Eve Worship and Candlelight Service (Time TBA)

EVERY SUNDAY!

Sunday School 9:15am Worship Service 8:00am & 10:30am
Nuevo Pacto Worship Service Sunday evenings 5:30 pm
Nuevo Pacto Bible Study every Tuesday 7:30 pm
****NEW** Pastors Study Group every Wednesday at 8:30am**
Bible Study every Thursday 5:30pm Choir every Thursday at 6:45pm
Youth Group meets every Saturday 7pm - 8:30 pm

November, December, and January Birthdays

November

04– Bryan Clark
 05– Mike Banfield
 08– Mike Webb
 10– Kyle Wahe
 27– Sara Wright
 30– Michelle Stevens

December

05– Monique Elwell
 06– Eddie Ferry
 07– Bill Grewell
 11– Dotty Davenport
 18– Terry Parsons
 20– Mitchell Garcia

29– Dorothy Bones
 31– Richard Dockus

January

07—Evelyn Beninati
 08—Robert Witt
 08—Joanne Fistman
 20—Pete Ferry
 20—Michael Garcia
 22—Nancy Valdez
 23—Shannon Sexton

**** If we missed your birthday, it is because you have not filled out a YELLOW Card yet. Please pick one up in the Narthex and return to Gail. Thank you!

ALPHA IS COMING!!!



Alpha

The Alpha Program is coming. Alpha is a ten week class that covers questions that are often asked by people looking at what it means to follow Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. It's another avenue for us "to make Christ known," in our community, with family and with friends. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator for the class please contact Pastor K.C. for more information. Information is also available on the Alpha web site at www.alphausa.org.

Treasurers Report October 2007
Income: \$10,377.00
Expenses: \$10,877.00
Deficit: \$500.00

Mariner's Family Fellowship

Thank you to all the volunteers who will be donating crafts, bake goods and soup to the Annual Boutique and Soup Luncheon on November 3rd. And to the volunteers that will be helping with the function. A reminder that the next Mariner's meeting is November 7th at 6:30pm. Please come and join us for Food, Fun and Fellowship, and bring a friend. Your support is very much appreciated.

December will be our annual "Tying On" ceremony. If you wish to join Mariner's please contact Gail at 944-3231 by December 3rd. Again THANKS to all the volunteers.

Worship Services and Choir Reminders

Finally! Starting November 4th we will go back to a two service format. The first service will start at 8am with Sunday school at 9:15am. The second service will start at 10:30am. Don't forget Choir practice on Thursday evenings at 7pm.

New Sunday Morning Schedule

Starting November 4th
 8:00am Worship Service
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30am Worship Service
(Coffee hour from 9:00am—9:15am and 10:15am-10:30am and right after the second service.)

A Poem From Elder Dotty Davenport...

Psalm 118:5—Out of my distress I
 Called upon the Lord; the Lord
 Answered me and set me free.

Call Upon the Lord

When we are rushed and hurrying
 To get where we must go -
 When we are so far behind
 We wonder—"Does it show?"

We need to stop and listen
 To what the Lord is saying.
 We need to call upon Him -
 We can do this by praying.

He is listening to what we pray,
 And always answers our prayer.
 Call out to Him in your distress,
 For He will always be there.

He is there to set us free
 From all of our worries and cares.
 Just stop and call upon the Lord;
 He will free you from your fears.

Visit Our Church Web Page
WWW.CPCLR.ORG

If you missed a recent sermon, you can listen to the sermons online.

Why do we have a confession of sin in worship?

Each newsletter Pastor K.C. has pulled a distinct belief that we as a Presbyterian Church hold to in regards to faith and our relationship with Christ.

In the Service for the Lord's Day, the confession and pardon follow an initial expression of praise in the worship service — usually a hymn and/or prayer of adoration. This adoration of God makes us aware of our own sinfulness. As Calvin notes at the beginning of the *Institutes*, knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves are inextricably linked, so that “we are prompted by our own ills to contemplate the good things of God” (I.I.i) and conversely, contemplation of God's goodness leads us to recognize our own sinful nature. In worship, encounter with God's holy presence comes first, prompting an awareness of human sinfulness. Therefore, we repent of our sin and ask God's forgiveness in the prayer of confession.

Hughes Oliphant Old demonstrates that the pattern of praise and confession at the beginning of worship has its roots in Temple worship in the time of David and Solomon. According to this pattern, the pilgrims of the Temple would process to the gates with a hymn of praise, then would hear a penitential sermon which led them to reexamine their lives and confess their sin. Following this confession, the gates would be opened and they would proceed to the Temple. Old says, “It should be noticed that praise and the confession of our sin go hand in hand. Just as Isaiah when he was confronted by the presence of God in the Temple was first caught up by the seraphic song, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!’ and then prostrated himself on the ground with this humble confession, ‘Woe is me! ... for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell among a people of unclean lips’ (Isaiah 6:5), so we approach God in both praise and confession” (Hughes Oliphant Old, *Worship that is Reformed According to Scripture*. Atlanta: John Knox Press,

1984, 41).

But we can never be worthy of God's mercy. For that reason, the invitation to confession is itself an assurance of God's mercy so that we can come to humble confession before God. We do not earn God's forgiveness through our expressions of remorse; we have already been forgiven, and therefore we freely confess our unworthiness and receive forgiveness anew.

The actions of confession and pardon are deeply connected to baptism. “In the waters of baptism, washed in the name of the triune God, we receive God's assurance of forgiveness and cleansing. Claiming the promises of God sealed in our baptism, we boldly confess our sin and accept forgiveness. We are confident that in our dying to sin and old destructive ways, the God of boundless grace raises us to new life” (*The Service for the Lord's Day: Supplemental Liturgical Resource I*. Prepared by the Joint Office of Worship for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984). It is therefore appropriate to lead this part of the service from the baptismal font or at least to make reference to baptism, since it is at baptism that we first receive the promises of forgiveness and rebirth.

Some argue that confession does not need to be a part of worship every week. Since Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, one might argue that it is an inappropriate time to have prayers of confession. Historically, however, Reformed churches have included confession on Sundays because they did away with private confession at other times during the week. Thus the confession of sin remains a normative part of Sunday worship for most Presbyterian churches.

Building Plan Update...

As many of you know our conditional use permit was approved for one more year on the 87th Street property. We thank God that we have another year of prayerful planning and consideration of the future of our church here in Littlerock. What does this mean now? It means we *pray often and without ceasing* as Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Pray for what you ask? First, pray for our vision of *knowing Christ and making him known* in Littlerock and the Antelope Valley and that this is accomplished with or without a new church. Second, it means that as a church we need to be faithful stewards of what God has given us in regards to the current church. This is why we have done some small things to the current church campus like painting the fellowship hall and the Narthex. The Mariners have helped by purchasing new chairs, tables and blinds. And in November we will have new carpet in the fellowship hall and the Narthex area. These are things that were discussed and planned prior to my coming to the church which I think are necessary to do when you are trying to attract new people.

We also need to be faithful in our giving. I know some of you have either chosen to hold on giving to the building campaign or have already given what you had promised you would give to the building campaign. Once the session decides it is financially feasible to build a new church, we will keep you informed about what we will need to raise financially to begin construction. Third, your session of elders will be prayerfully discussing our next steps in the building of a new church. The question they will be asking is, “*Can we do it?*” We will look at several possible options in regards to financing. We already have been in conversation with the Presbytery of San Fernando and will look at options for using possible grant monies in either the Presbytery or the denomination. Again, the session will listen to God and one another in deciding if and when we will move forward now that the conditional use permit is extended. Finally, it will require that we as a church be faithful at reaching out to our neighbors and friends. One of the easiest methods for evangelism in any Christian church who proclaims Christ and his saving grace is “*friendship*” evangelism. The holiday season is a time where many in the community around us are in need of a friend. The community around us needs people who are willing to *be imitators* of God as Paul writes in Ephesians 5:1. Let me challenge you to invite a friend to worship the Lord with us during the holiday season. I invite you to say something as simple as, “*would you like to come to church with me?*”

We sing the words of that great hymn, “Solid Rock,” and may these words be our prayer as we move into a season of thanksgiving and discernment;

My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

Pastor K. C.