

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula
P.O. Box 222811 Carmel, CA 93922



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**Upcoming Dates
For Your Calendar**

**Women's
I-Help Dinners
will hopefully
resume
in the month
of August or
September!
We will announce
date when
we know it!!**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Newsletter for the Community
Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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Visit: 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.
Call: 831-624-8595
831-624-3060 (Shop)

Aug. /Sept. 2016

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Independent and United Church of Christ

Inside

Welcome

Our Mission

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. We are both independent and United Church of Christ, as governed by the members. Openness, independent thinking and inclusivity are critical for our journey together. We encourage individual spiritual exploration and do not require adherence to a creed or a single view of what it means to be a Christian or to follow Christ. We journey by heart and our goal is to love God and all that God loves.

The Mission of The Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula is to welcome independent-minded people of all ages, build a diverse Christian community, and nurture one another to love God, neighbor and self.

Our mission is grounded on ten core values:

- God loves all people.
- We welcome all people, wherever they are on their life journey.
- Worship is the life breath of our community.
- We are the heart and hands of Christ serving others.
- We grow spiritually in Christ.
- We provide creative, open, lifelong Christian education.
- We are stewards sustaining all of God's creation.
- We promote understanding and cooperation among people of all faiths.
- We are a vital democracy and value independent thinking and dialogue..
- We joyfully support our mission with time, talent and treasure.

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Wherever you are
on your
faith journey, you
are welcome here!



Next Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, September 18!

Dear Friends,

We continue our Bible study of St. Paul's letters, considering them in the chronological order in which they were written to get a sense of the maturing over time of Paul's theology. The Bible is not a book of "timeless truths," each verse having the same revelatory value as any other verse. Rather, the Bible is a book which details many examples of spiritual growth, and St. Paul is our greatest example of this.

Please read 1 Thessalonians, chapter 3:1 through 4:3.

Returning to his disappointment at the impossibility of his visiting the Thessalonians in person, Paul finds comfort in the fact that he was able to send them Timothy (3:1-5). He forthrightly shares with them his concern about their perseverance in the midst of persecution. The heartening report which Timothy brought back greatly strengthened Paul in his own suffering (3:6-8). Implicit in the reality of shared consolation which he mentions here is the seed of what will eventually develop into his theology of the Communion of Saints.

Again Paul bursts into thanksgiving (3:9-13). He mentions his prayers for a speedy return to them, and for a healing of certain weaknesses in their faith (he himself will offer some guidance in the remainder of this letter). It is significant that he mentions God as "our Father" in 3:11. This was a much more intimate way of approaching God than the typical Jewish person of that time would have been comfortable with, and shows the personalizing effect which Paul's relationship with Jesus was having on his relationship with God.

The word "now" in 4:1 marks a definite transition; Paul is moving from reminiscence and expectation to exhortation and teaching. His tone is serious. It is noteworthy that he speaks in the name of the Lord Jesus. In using the title "Lord" to preface the name Jesus, he is emphasizing Jesus' role as authoritative moral teacher and ruler. Paul derives his authority as apostle and teacher from Jesus' authority. He refers to the moral teaching which the Thessalonians learned from him when he was with them in person, acknowledges their sincere attempt to live this teaching, and asks for an even greater fidelity to Christian morality.

The fact that he once again reminds the Thessalonians (4:2) of his prior instruction to them points to the seriousness with which he undertook his mission to preach and to teach. In this verse, "You know" can also be translated as "You have not forgotten." Through this letter Paul is recalling his Thessalonian friends to an active remembrance of his previous teaching. The preposition "in" contains a strong sense of instrumentality. It can also be translated as "through the authority of." Thus, verse two in its entirety could be translated as "You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you through the authority of the Lord Jesus."

Paul continues, in 4:3, with a specific reminder of his past teaching in the area of sexual morality. His teachings regarding sexuality must have been some of the most difficult teachings for the Thessalonian Christians to internalize and to follow. The Christian community at Thessalonica was predominately Gentile, and in Gentile society at that time and place promiscuity was the rule rather than the exception. The city of Thessalonica was also the center of two highly promiscuous mystery cults. For these reasons it is not hard to see why sexual purity was a teaching difficult to understand and a commandment nearly impossible to obey. This is the permissive social environment (an environment which influenced the attitudes and actions of the Thessalonian Christians just as our environment influences us) from which Paul challenged his friends to total conversion.

In keeping with his positive tone throughout this entire letter, in 4:3 Paul describes holiness, or sanctification, as a process of growth. The implication here is that holiness is not something which is attained once and for all. Rather, since our holiness is really an expression of God's will, its growth lies in our renewing our commitment to God's will in our lives. In other words, as grow in holiness as we grow in relationship with God.

To be continued next issue....

Blessings & Peace,



Earlier this year I volunteered to fill in as church librarian following Ada Morton's resignation. Ada had been actively serving as librarian since its inception in 1991! In April of that year the CCMP Board established a Library Guild and, along with Ada, Mary Helen Wayne, a retired city librarian from South Pasadena, became official librarian.

The Library Guild consisted of volunteer members "interested in the work of the library" and met on a regular basis. Duties included but were not limited to: selecting books "suitable for inclusion in the library & with a wide range of thought & beliefs with emphasis on 'religion' & enrichment of the spiritual life of the church." Over the years many related books (religious & non-religious) were added through purchase or donation and by 2004 the Library included about a thousand books, audio & video tapes, DVDs & CDs. The Guild had set up a cataloging system and followed the Simplified Dewey Decimal System, which continues to be in use.

Although not equipped with computers & updated technology, the Library offers a wealth of material and information available to all of us. I still have a good working cassette player and have enjoyed listening to the THE GREAT COURSES—Teaching that engages the mind—TM. (Tapes on Buddhism helped me get through a major cleanup of my garage!) And I have especially enjoyed reading a number of books including writings by & about Trappist Monk, Thomas Merton. There is a nice section of children's books and Ada tells me there are lots of books with references to Christmastime.

In closing, I invite you to explore or re-explore the contents of our Library. You may be surprised at the wealth of wisdom available to all of us. Additionally, I can use help in cataloging a few new books on hand and an occasional review of new (or old) books. If anyone wants to assist in this work, please let me know. I remain open to your suggestions and guidance. And last but not least, THANK YOU ADA for your many, many years of dedication to our Library. Your invaluable service is much appreciated!

See Dolores Joblon for Tickets

Poetry Corner

To William Shakespeare

("Shakespeare IS NOT A MAN FOR A SEASON. He is a man for ALL seasons." Samuel Johnson

Will Shakespeare wrote:

"There is nothing right or wrong,
but thinking makes it so."

Dare we begin to unimpress the rights and wrongs

Lodged in our very brain matter?

God might toss us another pearl

from his glorious cornucopia.

Another pearl? Yes-The why!

As we start to understand who we were,

When we judged everything to be

Either right or wrong, we'll see the why.

And then, we can ask God to forgive us.

We'll be like a puppy, running along
the seashore,

His tiny wet paws,

Passionately ready to explore.

Just as God has fashioned him.

Oh, my dears,

You'll see,

I'll see,

We'll see!

Dodie Scardina, 2016



Musical Relations Committee

We are proud and happy to have Steven Yoo as our music director. Mary Parsons, under the Worship Committee, has done a great job of introducing him to our needs and routine. Now that he is fully in charge of music selection, a Musical Relations Committee has been set up to deal with any little misunderstandings that might come up, rather than let them fester unattended. Please bring/email to Jane Heider, Peggy Kuck, or Pastor Paul any concerns. Our first meeting will be in July or August, with get-togethers every few months thereafter.



Givingtree Benefit Shop

Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 12-4
Donations welcomed during shop hours.
Open Sundays after church for an hour.

Volunteers welcome!

From Lyn Rosen

Surrender

June 5, 2007

Softly, softly I lay my resistance down

Quietly, quietly I leave this place I have chosen to live yet never wanted to belong.

A place that has ruptured my soul, twisted my heart, tortured my body, stolen my youth, destroyed my faith, added agony to agony, horror to horror; sorrow to sorrow, hate to hate; death to life.

I come to You God in complete surrender, knowing the battle was never between You and me. The devil waged war on me a long time ago. Sometimes I gave in and too many times I came so very close to giving up.

While You, God, continued to stand patiently beside me and when I was willing to ask, provided me with

The weapon of love

The weapon of faith

The weapon of Scripture

The weapon of hope

The weapon of prayer

The weapon of beauty

The weapon of joy

The weapon of mentors

The weapon of Christ

When I would decide to go it alone, You tenderly gathered up these weapons and held them cloaked in Your grace for safekeeping until I had the ability to ask for them again. For years and years this lasted and for Your care I bow to you in deep gratitude and humility.

Now the devil will no longer get any of my energy...I will not waste my time with him. I do not underestimate him though. He is too arrogant to realize he is helpless against my renewed heart when combined with Your pure one...and so he will try. He cannot have me; he will not win for I have chosen to step into Your light and I will not look back.



You are invited to our
3rd Quarterly Meeting and Potluck for 2016
after the worship service

on
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28
in Woodhull Hall.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share!



Church Women United

Church Women United meetings will resume after the summer hiatus in September. Our meeting will be on Friday, September 2 at 9:30 a.m. for Local Emphasis Day. We meet at Monterey United Methodist Church, 1 Soledad Drive, Monterey. Please contact Kathy Warthan, our church's representative to Church Women United if you have questions.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. All knitters are welcome! We meet in the Broaddus Room just off Woodhull Hall. Call Pam with questions at 624-8759.

Birthdays In August

10th	Chuck Scardina
12th	Tami Sojka
15th	Jaswina Tulua
20th	Jacklyn Finley
24th	Lloyd Wells
"	Sharon McFarlin
27th	Bonnie Bragg

And September

5th	Virginia Chapman
6th	Alexander Kostera
7th	Elizabeth Blanchard
6th	Lisa Ledin
19th	Richard Gray
23rd	Bessie Linvill
"	Peggy Goering-Kuck
24th	JoAnn Holbrook
29th	Rob Chapman

I- Help Dinner for Men



The I-Help Dinner for Homeless Men will be held on Wednesday, August 10 and Wednesday, September 14 (It occurs on the second Wednesday of each month.) You can help by signing up to bring something for the meal. The men arrive about 5 p.m. and we eat at about 5:30. The sign up sheet is in Woodhull Hall. Thanks to those who constantly support this fine outreach!

Coffee Hour

The kitchen volunteers for the Sunday Coffee Hour for the month of June were Amy Krupski and Ruth Elmgren. In July, Kim and JR Sosky and Traci Reed hosted the first two weeks and the Kostera family: Alex, Jennifer, Preston, Issac and Emeline, hosted the next two weeks. We had such wonderful trays of fresh fruit, muffins, and cookies! Anna Kasper and Bee Blanchard also contributed home-baked goods.

Amy Krupski and JoAnn Holbrook have stepped forward to host the month of August.

Thank you to all these volunteers. It warms my heart to see all the young children taking part in setting the tables, filling trays, and actively helping with the clean-up. Thank you Erika, Preston, Issac, and Emeline!

From The Board Of Governors

We are six months into 2016. Estimates of Giving (pledges) from members are currently at 34% of the amount promised for 2016, instead of the 50% expected to have been received by this time.

Please prayerfully consider your 2016 Expectation of Giving and, if you are able to do so, help us to reach the budgeted expectation. If you need to readjust the amount you offered to give, please contact our accountant, Sheri, at 238-6674. All estimates of giving are confidential.

Property Steward

Peter Sewald

- July 10th - Fellowship Hall and Men's and Women's doors open and/or unlocked and south door (NOT the sliding door) in SS room unlocked.
July 14th - Fellowship Hall door propped open and unlocked. Women's room door propped open; men's closed but unlocked.
July 20th - Women's room door open/unlocked as was Fellowship Hall.

This is an ongoing problem. Whoever is doing this, please stop. We cannot continue to operate under the assumption that someone else will take care of checking/locking doors. When in doubt, lock it. If you have not the means to do so, tell someone that door is not locked.

2. Some may have wondered why we put out requests for various donations to acquire various types of tools; why were they not in budget. First request, this year, was for a new "weed whacker." The present one is getting real old and is a terror to start/operate. Our new one is easier to start and now more work may be accomplished in less time. As for the hedger, the need was because present one was borrowed. MOST people do not care to lend out their tools; especially to the same people over and over ad infinitum. The new hedger allowed Bill and Larry to groom the galvezia (southwest corner of building) in 20% of time it used to take. Also, if one is to look out the east windows of fellowship hall, one will note the ivy is better trimmed. However, we are still short about \$200 on the cost. If you are so inclined to donate, make check payable to CCMP and indicate that check is for the hedger. Thank you!

3. Bill, Larry, and Jerry have been busy with groundwork (started on aforementioned ivy) and lawn (OK weeds). Someday, I will finish off that ice-plant and juniper. Want to help? Come by any Wednesday or Saturday.

From Chuck Scardina
