

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula
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A Newsletter for the Community
Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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831-624-3060 (Shop)

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



**Upcoming Dates
For Your Calendar**

I Help Men's
Dinner for June
Wed. June 8

I Help Men's
Dinner for July
Wed. July 13

June/July 2016



Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Independent and United Church of Christ

Inside

Welcome

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.

Minister
Pg. 2

Birthdays
Pg. 4

Calendars
Inserts

Fellowship
Pg. 6

In our worship and activities beyond Sunday, we invite you to experience the transforming power of God and walk daily with Jesus as you live out your spiritual journey. Welcome to the journey!

Our Mission

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.

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, July 24!

June/July 2016

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.

Please read 1 Thessalonians, chapter 2.

Paul is particularly aware of his human weakness, and his dependency on God (2:1-2). His message is a God-given one, not one of his own devising.

He goes on to deny vigorously certain base motives of which he has been accused. To understand his defense, we need to know that there were plenty of wandering preachers and teachers in his time, "false prophets," who peddled a bizarre concoction of lies, sexual immorality, and trickery. His opposition was trying to destroy his credibility by claiming that he was just another of these wandering hucksters.

Paul's main defense, in this letter as in others, is threefold: (1) he appeals to his commission from God (2:3-4, 7a, 12-13), (2) insists on his intimate relationship with the Thessalonians (2:7b-8, 11), and (3) asks his readers to remember his blameless conduct while he was with them (2:5-6, 9-10). He asks his friends in Thessalonica to recall some specific details of his conduct, among them the fact that, unlike other itinerant teachers, he worked for his living instead of charging a hefty fee for his teaching.

The seriousness with which he took his missionary work and the depth of his love for his converts in Thessalonica helps to explain the heat of his anger toward those Jewish believers who are trying to destroy his message (2:14-16). The suffering which the Thessalonian Christians are undergoing is meaningful because it is the same suffering which the churches in Judea endured and which Paul himself is experiencing.

The "wrath of God" which he mentions in verse 16 is, in his understanding, the fact that those opposed to the Gospel are in the process of denying themselves salvation. To Paul's way of thinking at this time, God will simply ratify the self-judgment of those who will not accept the good news of Jesus. Again, for me (Pastor Paul) this concept of the "wrath of God" stands in tension with the attitude and actions of Jesus himself after his resurrection. As we work through Paul's letters in chronological order, we will see that Paul eventually moves way beyond this notion of God's wrath.

Paul is profoundly disappointed at not yet having been able to visit his Thessalonian friends, and sees this as Satan's doing - Satan, in his understanding, as in the understanding of the vast majority of Jewish people at the time, being a personal, superhuman power of evil irrevocably hostile to God and those who follow God (2:17-18).

At this point (2:19-20) Paul breaks into a celebration of his joy at the steadfastness of the Thessalonian church. He calls them the crown of his ministry. His choice of words here - he uses the word for an athlete's crown of victory rather than a royal crown of status - evokes the image of a vigorous, and sometimes painful, athletic training finally climaxing in a glorious triumph. Piling image upon image, he shares his happiness at being able to offer this crown of the Thessalonian church at the coming of Christ.

The Greek word which Paul uses for "coming" (Parousia) refers to the triumphal procession of a victorious king. By Paul's time (the early 40's of the 1st century), this word was already in the process of being transformed by the early church to mean the triumphal return, or Second Coming, of Jesus. This was one of the most hope-filled words in the theological vocabulary of the early church, expressing as it did a wholehearted yearning for Jesus' return, which was seen primarily as a time of overwhelming joy. Joy is certainly Paul's emphasis in this short little section. He can think of nothing more wonderful than experiencing the return of Jesus with his friends in Thessalonica.

[To be continued next issue.]

Blessings & Peace,



Outreach Unlimited, the organization that oversees the I-Help program for both men and women, has announced that the I-Help for Women program is temporarily paused. Attendance for the women's program was down, and there is need to reorganize the Women's program to better accommodate the needs of the women. Once a better model is put forth, the program will start up again. The very successful men's program is continuing as usual and we will be feeding and sheltering the men on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We also provide shelter on the 3rd Saturday as well as the 5th Monday of the month.

A big Thank You to all who helped make the Rose Tea a success! I appreciated everyone's help so very much—from the publicity efforts on the part of Mary and Dodie to Larry's and Carolyn's hard work in polishing the silver. For the actual tea itself I am grateful to the many who contributed sandwiches and treats, to those who came to help set up both on Friday and Saturday, arranging the tables and putting out food. These included Bev, Ruth, Karen, Jane, Lisa S., Jennifer, Kim, Jennifer, Preston, Jan, and Brenda. A special Thank You to Ada for making and serving her wonderful tea, to Amy for providing such wonderful musical accompaniment, and to Jeanne for arranging the beautiful centerpieces. Many thanks to Javier Valdez for having the garden look so beautiful! And Thank You to Tami for agreeing to be our resident photographer for the occasion!

Peggy Goering-Kuck

Fellowship Department

We need a Fellowship Department Chair: Job Description:

- 1) Form a committee of three or four people who can assist when needed.
- 2) Responsible for Sunday Morning Coffee Hour which includes having supplies on hand such as coffee, juice, milk, and paper goods.
- 3) Arrange a Committee to assist with the set-up for the Quarterly potluck luncheons
 - (a) sign up sheet for food
 - (b) set up of tables and chairs
 - (c) help with clean up
- 4) Assist at Memorial Services for Congregation Members. (Also family members of a Congregation Member if required.)
- 5) Inventory once a year of Kitchen supplies. Clean up day for kitchen twice a year with assistance from Congregation Members.
- 6) Attend Board Meetings which are held on the third Sunday of the Month.
- 7) Check with the Church Secretary Carole French to clear any dates on the Church calendar for use of the hall when needed other than Sunday.
- 8) Update Fellowship activities for monthly newsletter 'beyond sunday'.

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Janice and James Akin
Anna Kasper
Jennifer and Alex Kostera
Sharon McFarlin
Traci Reid
Helen and Darrell Rinerson
Kim and JR Sosky
Steven Yoo



They are listed in the 2016 Church Directory.
If you don't have a copy, please pick one up!

OUR HOMELESS OUTREACH



INTERFAITH HOMELESS EMERGENCY LODGING PROGRAM (I-HELP)
The Women's Association collects clothing and toiletries for men. Dinners are 5:30 every 2nd Wednesday. Sign up in Woodhull Hall or call Dolores Joblon .

"CANS FOR CAREERS": Donations of aluminum cans & plastic bottles can be placed in the containers outside our front entrance. No glass bottles! This provides meals and bus passes! Lloyd and Barbara Wells, thank you for initiating this project.!

FOOD BANK: St. Mary's Food Pantry, needs non-perishable foodstuff. Please bring at any time and leave in the food basket in the narthex. Thank you Peggy and Larry Kuck for transporting the food to the Food Pantry at St. Mary's Church in PG.

DOROTHY'S PLACE: CLOTHING CLOSET: We collect clothing for the shelter from our donations and from several of the Carmel benefit shops for the past 5 years. Clothing is sorted for men and women on Saturday. Between 9-12 we open the shop and help them select what they need. Thanks to Peggy Kuck, Patricia Henry, Lisa Ledin and others for their interest. Call Carolyn Gray if you would like to participate.

THE TOWEL TEAM MINISTRY: We continue to provide towels to those taking showers at Dorothy's and Sunstreet's in Salinas. Clean gentle used towels may be left in the office. Speak to Amy Krupski or Ann Blume.

WOMEN ALIVE!: Women Alive! is a program where homeless women come to Dorothy's Place, the shelter in Salinas for dinner, a shower, and a good night's sleep in a safe environment. A shed is maintained for the Women with bedding, underwear and toiletries. We provide a party for the Women about three times a year.

FRIENDS OF THE HOMELESS WOMEN: In December we received a \$2,000 grant to provide emergency needs to Homeless Women of the Monterey Peninsula. In the last 3 months Lois Varner has been able to provide bus passes, food vouchers, grocery vouchers, laundry vouchers, veterinarian service and hotel vouchers to nineteen women. (Four now have part-time jobs at the hotel and one folds laundry). All have felt the love and friendship that Lois has provided in what she calls her "Fast Food Pick Up Ministry".

A Woman Caught in Adultery John 8: 1-12

She is freezing although the day is hot, angry, the wind moving the sand like lava. How would she endure the suffering that is coming? How long does it take to die from stoning? One hour? Two hours? She remembers in the distance the excruciating sounds of women dying by this torture. She tries to think and her battered mind does not allow her. All she recalls is it takes an impossibly long time but that has to be wrong and it is echoes she is imagining.

She is terrified when men come in yelling and untangling them...the one she was with now part of the group surrounding her forcing her to face judgment. Caught breaking the law the judge has no choice but condemn her. She is going to die slowly today. Her life gradually leaving her crushed by rocks especially chosen for this purpose and no matter how much she wants to live now soon she will beg to die.

The men holding her prisoner are laughing, shaking their bags of rocks and now and again she hears them speak of a test. She wonders about whom they are talking but since this has nothing to do with her too soon she becomes obsessed with "murder stones" and is overcome with horror. Unable to stand anymore she starts screaming. She begins to believe she is going crazy...she cannot stop screaming, she feels a part of her leaving her body, she vomits, the men are laughing at her and come up and touch her roughly, it is difficult to breathe, she scratches at her arms until they bleed, the closer she comes to the temple area where she will be convicted and the sentence will be carried out the more inhuman her screams become. Then all goes dark and everything moves in slow motion. Her heart pounds rapidly and things that are normally stationary begin to move. Large things she has never seen fly across her vision and with the part of her still barely connected to reality she yells, "Someone help me!"

She feels him before she sees him.

There is a change in her so powerful she does not question it. A feeling of warmth and protection enters her heart and she calms down and comes back into her self. She looks up and sees a young man speaking to a group of people in the distance. Is this her judge? All she knows is she hopes he is the one who will decide. All she knows is she wants to be near him. All she knows is the closer they get to him the calmer she is. All she knows is a feeling of love that is new to her.

Her captors bring her over to him,

"Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

The young man does not answer but bends down and writes on the sand with his finger. Her captors refuse to give up until this teacher straightens up and says in a voice as quiet as early morning dew but with the impact of thunder: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

She closes her eyes and waits. She hears the men leave one by one. She opens her eyes and he is standing next to her and they are alone. He asks:

"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

She replies:

"No one, sir."

He says:

"Neither do I condemn you. Go and from now on do not sin anymore."

She wants this moment to last forever. She wants to ask him to never leave her. She does not want him to go yet and she knows he has to. He looks at her for a moment and her eyes fill up with tears as she realizes he will always live in her heart and she will always let him.



Church Women United

Church Women United is on hiatus for June, July, and August. Meetings will resume the first Friday of September. If you have donations for the Leprosy Fund, the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Nancy's Migrant Ministry or the Blanket Fund, please contact Kathy Warthan, our church's representative to Church Women United. Please see her for information if you wish to attend any of the meetings!

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 June

8th	Janice Griffin
11th	Tom Marshall
17th	Jane Heider-Samuels
23rd	Bo Cisyk
29th	Donald Berry
30th	Lois Varner



....and in July

3rd	Laurie Jackson
"	Jerry Blanchard
8th	Robert Sageman

I- Help Dinner for Men

The I-Help Dinner for Homeless Men will be held on Wednesday, June 8 and Wednesday, July 13. (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!

Property Steward

A big thank you to Larry Kuck for several hours worth of repair to the blinds in Woodhull Hall. Some heavy-handed people tend to pull too hard and break the chains etc.

Anyone who owns tools will eventually resent them being loaned out. Bill's son has reached that point which is why Bill is purchasing a new one. It was originally to have had a 36" blade but that was too heavy and difficult to start. What he has purchased is the 28" blade model. This is another un-budgeted item to the amount of \$450. With that in mind, I am asking church members to contribute toward that purchase. If you put your contribution in the Sunday collection plate, indicate that it is for "hedger." Better yet, give check to Larry Kuck or Bill (when he returns from his vacation), or me when I return..

We seem to be having the same old problem with regards to lights. Monday (May 7) found all overhead Sanctuary lights ablaze. That is 24 hours of lighting an area with no one in attendance. Like-wise, Sunday (May 15), while service was in progress, kitchen and Woodhull Hall lights were all on (at least this time, the heat wasn't on). If you are in doubt whether you are last out of area, turn lights out anyway. If someone is in room, you will be told.

Nitpicker will be away for a month or so!

Givingtree Benefit Shop

Hours Wed. – Sat. 12-4

Donations welcomed during shop hours.

Open Sundays after church for an hour.

Volunteers welcome!

Poetry Corner

Dodie Scardina

O Community Church

Little White box in the living grasses-

O holy minister, blessing Jesus' words,

Proving that we are slivers of God!

O holy church!

O Holy God!

From Chuck Scardina
