

Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

August, 2010

From the Pastor

What would Jesus do?

Jimmy Buffet has an interesting take on this question. One of his songs includes these lines:

God don't drive a car ...
He'd rather take the bus ...
So he could sit with us.

He may just be right with regard to transportation.

Would God use a PC or a Mac? Would God prefer Microsoft programs or Apple apps?

This is a question that has presented itself to me in two different ways these past two weeks. The first came because I got an iPad. So I have been trying to learn how to think in a different way in order to use this new device. It's been fun, frustrating at times, but for the most part, delightfully challenging. (We had a Mac for a little while about ten years ago but decided that we preferred a PC. Now, though, I'm really beginning to like this iPad.)

This question also came up as I've been studying Paul's second letter to the Corinthians for my sermon series this summer. As I have been preparing the sermons I have noticed that Paul's logic in this letter is softer and less linear than in his other letters such as Galatians, Romans, or 1 Corinthians. The difference is subtle, but Paul's manner of communicating in 2 Corinthians reminds me more of the intuitive, Apple approach than the linear Microsoft approach.

In one sense it is more poetic, not with regard to rhythm, but with regard to metaphor. Because of the importance of metaphor in this letter I spent much of the sermon a few weeks

ago talking about odor and aroma and fragrance so that we could better sense the meaning of 2 Corinthians 2:15, "We are the aroma of Christ to God." And last Sunday I used much of the preaching time to talk about the financial meltdown in order to get a feeling for how the Holy Spirit is like a "down payment" (2 Corinthians 5:5)

I have noticed a subtle but significant shift in Paul's way of thinking between his first letter to the Corinthians and his second. This change seems to be an outgrowth of multiple disagreements with people he calls "superlative apostles." Paul seems to have given up arguing with their theology. He no longer seems interested in convincing others of the truth of his thoughts through the force of his logic. Instead, he seems to have chosen to dive deeper into the truth, to the level of metaphor, and then to invite others to follow him there.

We might be able to learn from this. It might point us to a way through the polarization that seems to have engulfed our politics and religion and many other aspects of our modern culture. Maybe we, too, can opt out of the constantly repeated surface arguments and attempt to sense truth at a deeper level. Maybe it would help if we spent more time trying to sniff out the essence of truth than in framing our arguments so that our side might come out victorious.

What would Jesus use, a PC or a Mac? I, for one, am not going to get into that debate.

Pastor Mark



Coming Up September 7

Save the date!

We have your tickets, please pick them up as soon as possible. Tickets will be available on Sunday before or after Church. Tell your friends and family. Our goal is to presell 300 tickets by the end of August. It takes all of us to make this a success. We did very well last year because of all the presold tickets. So we're aiming to have all the tickets **sold** before we start cooking.

NEED TICKETS

Call Med Hoover 854-6781



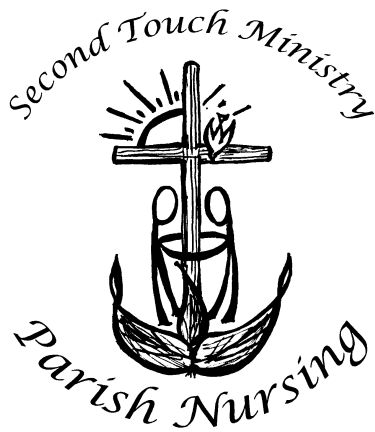
2 Alex Excatel
11 Bobby Wrobble
28 Ray Accord



2 Jane and Jerel Steckling
11 Barbara and Robert Wrobble

A Century of Ministry

Our hundredth anniversary celebration is approaching in October. We are planning a special worship service on Sunday, October 10, with a dinner and program to follow. Plan to join us for that special day. Watch your mail, email, and next month's *Good News* for more information.



“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!”
Isaiah 49:15

What if I described to you a wealthy land which is home to many millionaires, unimaginable natural resources, major research hospitals and universities, and some of the world’s richest and most powerful people? Now imagine a land where babies 3 months of age and younger are dying because of a disease known to be preventable with immunizations. This year alone nearly 1,500 little ones have caught this dreadful disease and seven have died; five times the number of cases by this date last year. 2010 has the worst spread of this highly communicable disease, whooping cough, in fifty years. How sad, you think--we must be talking about an uneducated, impoverished third world country.

Both of the above descriptions accurately describe **one place**. Incredibly, a real-time tragedy is playing out here in our own beloved state of **California. Merced County** alone has identified over 30 cases of whooping cough so far this year. Today’s LA Times reports that pertussis, the scientific name for whooping cough, has officially reached an epidemic level in California.

How can this be, you ask? Two main factors are suggested on www.fiercevaccines.com. First is the reluctance of some parents to fully immunize their babies because they fear that the immunizations might cause autism. Many of these parents are not aware of the grave danger of that decision. Secondly, it is believed that cost of the vaccines may keep some doctors from prescribing

a full series of immunizations for their patients.

Whooping cough spreads through direct contact with droplets from the nose & mouth of infected persons. A typical case starts with a cough & runny nose for one to two weeks, followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that may cause vomiting sometimes end with a whooping sound. Usually, there is no fever. Complications include pneumonia, stoppage of breathing, brain damage, seizures and sometimes death. Adults & young persons in middle school may have lost their full immunization strength due to time elapsed, so babies get infected by people who think they are immune and don’t even realize what they are passing along in their coughs and kisses.

What can we do?

California Department of Public Health has partnered up with the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct an investigation in our Central Valley.

In the meantime, California Public Health has released guidelines recommending immunizations for:

- Infants beginning at 6 weeks of age and then completion of the series of 3 shots
- Children over 7 years of age who did not receive the full series
- Women before during and immediately after pregnancy
- Anyone in contact with pregnant women and infants

The immunizations are usually given in a combination of Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis—known as T-dap.

Please pass the word and encourage anyone you know who fits the above groups to get a booster shot. Let’s also keep this concern in prayer. May cool heads and compassionate hearts reverse this terrifying trend. May God bring comfort to those in need and forgiveness to those who have inadvertently or through neglect caused harm.

Blessings and peace—Nancy

(Phone contact for more info: Center for Disease Control & Prevention: 1-800-232-4636.)

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

399 Sixth Street
Gustine, CA 95322
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Gustine, CA 95322

Sunday School, 9:00 AM — Worship, 10:30 AM

Pastor — Mark Hollingsworth

Treasurer — Dorothy Gray; 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: cpc-gustine@earthlink.net

Web Site: www.wefollowjesusingustine.org

one LORD,
one Faith,
one Baptism....
EPHESIANS 4:5