

Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

September, 2010

From the Pastor

The celebration of 100 years as a Presbyterian church in Gustine is rapidly approaching. We are working hard to get things ready. And people are getting excited about it. As I have been thinking about this anniversary I have been lead to think about time and its passing.

When we take time to consider time, instead of simply living it, time can become very interesting and mysterious.

Here's one example I noticed recently. There are literally hundreds of applications for displaying time on an iPad. Some of them relate the time to something else, such as the weather or world population or Zen. Some of them focus on how we view time; we view time differently if we see it as a series of numbers appearing on a screen or if we see it as hands moving around a clock face. This is a description of one app:

Gravity Clock visualizes the passage of time by the permanent destruction and reconstruction of the clock-face. Every second the hand breaks numbers out of the dial and lets them drop to the floor where they get buried by the following numbers and eventually wither away to make room for the endless succession of time.

This sounds like a particularly negative view of time.

Here's another example that came up this past month. How should we display the fact that our church is a hundred years old? When the haiku group I am part of decided to publish a 10th anniversary anthology, this was suggested "2000-2010." But, someone said, that looks like a date on a tombstone; it looks like

2010 is the date of death. So when we printed our banner for our church anniversary we didn't print 1910-2010 but "... since 1910."

As I was thinking about our anniversary I decided to look over some the quotes about time which I have gathered over the years. I found that I kept coming back to this poem by William Stafford:

All your years learning how to live to win,
how others judge you, who counts—you know
its wrong: but those habits cling that brought you
this freedom. You know how to earn it but
you don't know what it is—a friend that you
make is conquered, like an enemy.

Somewhere you'll rest, have faith, even
lose sometimes, accept the way you are, say
easily to the world: "Leave me alone, Hours.
I'm just living here. Let Now win."

In this poem, Stafford associates time with winning and losing, with earning and judging, with the control we attempt to exert over our world.

It sounds right and good to "Let Now win," to live in the present, and not in the past or the future. And I think Stafford is right when he connects this with "rest" and with the fourth commandment, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

But in order to let Now win I will have to accept losing sometimes. If I live in the past, I can exert control by choosing what to remember and how to remember it. If I live in the future I can imaginatively watch things happen the way I plan for them to happen.

But if I live in the present, if I quit reworking memory and previewing possibilities, then I step out of a world of winning and losing, earning and judging, and into a world of grace. As Stafford suggests, that, of course, will take some faith.

Pastor Mark

**God's
here
too**



Sunday, September 12

(Festa Sunday)

Worship in the back yard

at Mark & Nancy's home
585 Laurel Ave., Gustine

10:30 (normal time)

Followed by a barbecue—hamburgers
and hot dogs and drinks provided; please
bring a side dish to share.

And then we'll watch the parade from
the front yard.

Birthdays

- 6 Blair Wallace
- 11 Kristen Duarte
- 13 Nancy Hollingsworth
- 18 Sarah Mendonça
- 19 Bill Hensley
- 22 Karen Azevedo
- 23 Fran Husman
- 28 Audrey Axe
- 30 Virginia Bingham



“A Century of Ministry”

100th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, October 10, 2010

If you haven't made your
reservations, please do so soon.

“A Century of Ministry”

Community Presbyterian Church, Gustine
100th Anniversary Celebration
October 10, 2010

If you have already responded to this request, thank you. If you haven't responded already, we are looking for the story of your experiences with Community Presbyterian Church. Maybe you came to church here as a child, maybe you had friends or family members who were involved with the church or a project in the church. Maybe you have a story to tell, pictures to share, a laugh or general information about our church. We are going to try to gather as many stories as we can to share with those who will be celebrating with us.

Please fill out the following form and return to the address below:

Your Name _____ Ad-
dress _____

Phone Number (____) _____ email address _____

Year(s) you were an active part of the church _____

What I remember about the Gustine Community Presbyterian Church.....

Included with this form Pictures _____ Number of pages (including this form) _____

Come join us in this wonderful celebration of 100 years. It will be a fun time. We will have a special worship service at 10:30 on October 10. We will have a catered luncheon featuring pork tenderloin following the service. If you haven't received a letter of invitation, please contact the church office (209)854-6772 to receive more information or to make reservations for the luncheon.

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

399 Sixth Street
Gustine, CA 95322
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 12
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



This Tuesday

September 7, 4-7 PM

Take out.

\$10 donation

Half chicken, beans, salad, garlic bread and dessert.

Volunteers to help still greatly appreciated.