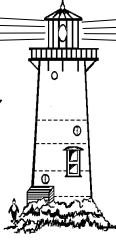


COMMUNITY BEACON

August 2008



A Newsletter of the Community Presbyterian Church of La Mirada

ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE THROUGH MUTUAL ESTEEM

"Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ"
(Ephesians 5:21)

One of the most important – but most frequently neglected – dimensions of a healthy marriage is *esteem*. This is not to say that men and women are lacking *self-esteem*. Instead, they are dreadfully shallow when it comes to letting the other person in the marriage know just how valuable he or she is.

According to psychologist John Gottman, there are four sequential phases of a deteriorating marriage: criticism, contempt, defensiveness, and stonewalling. The earliest damage to a marriage comes in the criticism stage, when objectionable behavior in one mate prompts the other spouse to make critical comments about the other's character. Over time, criticism degenerates into contempt, a stage in which partners level insults or harbor hostile thoughts toward each other.

Christian marriage partners are called to esteem their mates. This only happens when people see their mate as God sees them, and when they recognize that God created and loves that other person. Too often, in the heat of an argument, that realization is shoved aside.

Esteeming one's husband or wife does not happen naturally or automatically. It must be intentional. Partners must commit to avoid actions and responses that devalue the other person, and purposefully take actions that convey their mate's significance as a person.

Communicating worth and value is not very difficult. It involves addressing relationship problems by looking at oneself rather than blaming the other person. Likewise, even small courtesies go a long way in telling a spouse that he or she is valuable.

Bless your heart,

Bob

Dr. Robert T. Cassell
Interim Pastor

Welcome to Worship

Communion Sunday, August 3

9:40 a.m. Communion Servers Practice

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

"Wrestled Into New Life"

Genesis 32:22-31, Matthew 14:13-21

10:20 Youth Group (Rm 7)

11:30 a.m. CE (Fireside Room)

6:00 p.m. Young Adult Fellowship (Room 7)

Sunday, August 10

10:00 am Worship

"Do Something that Seems Impossible"

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Matthew 14:22-33

10:20 Youth Group (Room 7)

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Committee (Jenks Hall)

6:00 p.m. Young Adult Fellowship (Room 7)

Music Sunday, August 17

10:00 am Worship

"I Have Enlarged My Hope"

Psalms 67:1-7, Matthew 15:21-28

Guest Musician: Lauren Ruiz-Mendoza, Vocalist

10:20 Youth Group (Room 7)

6:00 p.m. Young Adult Fellowship (Room 7)

Sunday, August 24

10:00 am Worship

"The Big Question of Faith"

Psalms 138:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

10:50 Youth Group (Room 7)

6:00 p.m. Young Adult Fellowship (Room 7)

Sunday, August 31

10:00 am Worship

"The Cross: Where True Life is Found"

Psalms 26:1-8, Matthew 16:21-28

10:50 Youth Group (Room 7)

6:00 p.m. Young Adult Fellowship (Room 7)

New Church Directory Ready in August

Elders, Deacons and staff will find new church directories in their mail boxes. Others may pick up a new (green) directory in the church office.

Office Hours

Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9-12:30 and 1:30 to 3:00; and Fridays 9-12 noon.

Email Prayer Chain

If you would like to be a participant in our email prayer chain, please be sure to give your correct address to Donna Theeck (at dtheeck@att.net), especially if you change your email address. That's Theeck, T-h-e-e-c-k.



Ice Cream Social and Game Time!!

Saturday, August 9

4:00 PM in Jenks Hall

Eat an early dinner and join us for "yummies" and some Game Time fun!

Joys and Concerns

Phil and Matthew Ordaz, son-in-law and grandson of **Joyce and Fred Pease**, were recruited several months ago to temporarily join another barbershop group who were preparing for the International Barbershop Competition in Nashville. Recently, this group was declared top winner over barbershop groups from all over the world and each member came home sporting International Gold Medals!

Nick Maloof is recovering from a broken collar bone which he suffered in a fall. We wish him a speedy recovery!

Doris Hoyes wrote to say, "Many thanks to all of my church family for the prayers, calls, and words of encouragement after I broke my hip on June 8th at church! I'm really doing fine and am so thankful that things are progressing well. I'm able to be back in church on a regular basis, but still depend on someone taking me there. It is so comforting to have a support group like all of you are to me. Love, Doris"



NEED ASSISTANCE?

CARING CONNECTIONS is a session-approved service provided by our church to connect you with the help you may need to ...

- get to the grocery store
- repair a leaky faucet
- or dozens of other tasks and needs.
- change light bulbs in your home
- move a piece of heavy furniture

CARING CONNECTIONS will arrange for your assistance or refer you to competent, reliable trades people to assist you in solving your problem.

Judy Roberts will take your call and route your request to a church member who is willing to assist. Call Judy at 562- 693-5031



Do you have a key to the church you are no longer using ???

If so please give it to one of the Building and Grounds Committee members (Steve Harmon, Dick Moseley). We want to start a key management program and eventually re-key some specific areas. So please turn in ALL keys not in use. Thanks, B&G

Need a Piano?



There are two pianos the church would like to sell. They are in Rooms 6 and 7. If interested, please call Connie Hershelman at 562-201-4565.



Summer Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, August 20
6:00 in Jenks Hall

Please make reservations in advance with Glenna Billiet

Menu

- Enchilada Casserole (not too spicy!)
- Rice and Refried Beans
- Green Salad
- Black and White Icebox Dessert

MUSIC NOTES...

We pray your summer has been refreshing, and that you are growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Would you keep the music ministry in your prayers this summer? We need his wisdom and guidance as we plan and prepare for the coming season.

We invite you to the Chancel Choir retreat where we start on the music for the fall and winter. We will meet Saturday, September 6, from 9-12 in our sanctuary. High school age and up are welcome!

In His Service,

Debbie Gault

Director of Music Ministries

August Prayer List

Please help your Deacons care for their flocks by remembering the following people in your prayers during the week they are listed.

August 3, 2008

Luis Mendiola

Art & Shirley Neel

Rick Norton

Bob & Carrie Piché

August 10, 2008

Scott & Carla Tipton

Betty Will

Jackie Brazel

Dave Connett

PO Box 1755 LM 90637

August 17, 2008

LuJean Doud

Bobbi Braff

Bob & Judy Cassell

Arlene Doney

August 24, 2008

Joan Cain

Ellen DeHaven

Ellen Farquhar

Don & Elena Gilson

August 31, 2008

Barbara Hastings

Dorothy Holland

Beverly Franck

Lanny & Pat Hawkinson

God's Gift of Music

August 17, 2008 at 10:00 am

At Community Presbyterian Church of La Mirada, we designate the third Sundays of the month as "Music Sundays" in order to honor God's gift of music. Guest musicians from our church and the community are invited to share their talents with us during worship services. Selection of musicians is based on performance ability, musical credentials, personal education in music, contribution to the music education of others and the local community. This month we will honor as our guest musician Lauren Ruiz-Mendoza, a talented young vocalist. She will sing *Alabaster Box* (Nathan Saben), *His Eye Is On the Sparrow* (Civilla D. Martin) and *Remember Who You Are* (Crystal Lewis).

Lauren Ruiz-Mendoza is a native of Los Angeles, where she attends the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. She is finishing her junior year and looks forward to attending a music conservatory upon graduation. She enjoys singing jazz, pop and gospel.



Lauren performed as a member of her high school Vocal Jazz Ensemble at the Monterey Jazz Festival where they placed first in 2007 and second in 2008. She performed at Disney Hall with the school's Concert Choir with actress Christin Chenowith, star of the Broadway musical "Wicked". Lauren has performed at the La Mirada Salute to Veterans as well as at the Forth of July Celebration in the Park for the City of La Mirada.

Please join us August 20 as we celebrate God's gift of music.





Christian Education

We are not offering Sunday School for children in August, but we are preparing to begin our Sunday School Program formally again in September with new curriculum.

Last year we had between two and seven children each week. We would love to have attendance on a more consistent basis. With that thought in mind, we will be having spiritually exciting and thought provoking studies along with crafts, games and attendance incentives starting on September 7th. We are excited about where our Lord is leading us.

We will continue including the Children's Message during worship services in August, but following the message, children will sit with their family or me and receive a Children's Worship Bulletin that has activities in it. Joe (our Dog puppet) and Hazel (our squirrel puppet) may be seen at times too!

Join us! Our next Christian Education Committee meeting is on August 3 right after church in the Fireside room.

God Bless,
Connie Hershelman, Elder
Christian Education



Elders, Deacons and staff will find new (green) church directories in their mail boxes in early August. Others may pick up a copy in the church office.

*Is Your
Pledge?*
Up to Date

Joy or Job... Misery or Ministry

Some people have a JOB in a church. Others get involved in a MINISTRY. What's the difference?

It doesn't matter if you are paid or a volunteer. If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a JOB. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it is a MINISTRY.

If you are doing it just well enough to get by, it is a JOB. If you're doing it to be the best of your ability, it is a MINISTRY.

If you'd do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a JOB.

If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a MINISTRY.

If you quit because no one ever praised you or thanked you, it's a JOB. If you stay with it even though no one seems to notice, it's a MINISTRY.

It's sometimes hard to get excited about a JOB. It's almost impossible not to be excited about MINISTRY.

If your concern is "success", it's a JOB. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a MINISTRY.

Most Christian organizations have many people doing JOBS. A great organization is filled with people who are involved in a MINISTRY.

If God calls you to a MINISTRY, don't treat it like a JOB. If you have a job in a Christian organization, search your heart and make it into a MINISTRY.

God doesn't want us feeling stuck with a JOB, but excited and faithful to him in a MINISTRY.

Author Unknown



Consider Joining a PW Circle!

Presbyterian Women will begin an interesting new study at the September meetings of PW Circles. The new study is the 2008-2009 Horizons Bible Study, "JUBILEE! Luke's Gospel for the Poor" by Dale Lindsey Morgan. JUBILEE highlights some of the unique aspects of Jesus' life and teachings found in the gospel of Luke. We will read how Jubilee came to describe the beginning of the Messianic Age, the "year of the Lord's favor" (4:19), the time when the Messiah would come and turn the world upside down. Through the Gospel of Luke we will come to understand who the poor are, and why the message of jubilee is so important to us all.

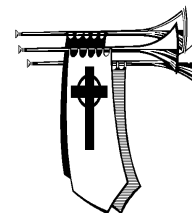
The Gospel has been told by eyewitnesses, so that those who hear the Gospel might also become witnesses who will teach others to witness. The risen Christ told his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Summer Social

Tentative plans are being made for a late summer social on August 22. Save the date and watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin.

September Circle Meetings

Mary Martha Circle will meet September 4 in Jenks Hall at 9:30 a.m.; Joy Circle will meet in the home of Dorothy Ernst September 8 at 7 p.m.; Morning Glory Circle will meet September 16 in Jenks Hall at 9:30 a.m.; and Faithweavers will meet on September 23 in the Fireside Room at 7:00 p.m.



This is a really good time to join a circle.
JUBILEE! means CELEBRATION!