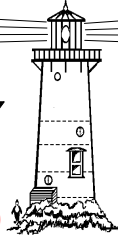


# COMMUNITY BEACON

February 2009



A Newsletter of the Community Presbyterian Church of La Mirada

## PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE HANDS OF THE RISEN CHRIST

“Then (Jesus) said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands.... Do not doubt but believe’” (John 20:27)

Following his graduation from Chapman University, our youngest son David lived and worked in Buenos Aires, Argentina for more than four years. On one occasion, he returned to California for a two-week vacation with family. Excited to see him again, I arranged to be home early in the evening of his arrival. After a couple of big hugs, he held out his hand and said, “Hey, I brought you something!” There in his hand was a stunning, delicate wood carving of two hands. The hands are together, palms up, thumbs and fingers gracefully extended. He said, “It kind of reminds me of how we’re to be open to serve others. I bought it at an art festival and thought you’d like it.”

I did. As I held the little carving in my hands, I thought of an illustration that is dearly beloved by many preachers, the “Christ has no hands but our hands” story. The story goes something like this:

In a little European village, there was a church that had a statue of Christ with arms outstretched to the world. During some battle of a war, the statue was damaged. Both of the hands were broken off. The church made the decision to place a sign at the base of the statue that read, “Christ has no hands but our hands.”

The sign implies that if we do not do the work of Christ with our hands, the work of Christ will not get done. Christ has no means of impacting the world other than through us and our efforts.

Whether or not there is an actual statue of Christ somewhere in Europe with no hands, the story is heretical in the light of Easter. The hands of Christ have not been blown off. The forces of evil tried to end the life and work of Christ. On the cross, they thought they had done so. But Easter vindicated Jesus. He is raised. God will not be defeated by the work of our hands or the lack of work. God is not utterly dependent upon us for righteousness to be done.

Our hands may join with the hands of the risen Christ, but our hands will not replace his hands.

The Season of Lent begins Wednesday, February 25, with a 7:00 pm service of worship and reflection. As we move toward Lent and Easter, I encourage you to place your hands, indeed all of your life, in the hands of the risen Christ. You will receive all that is needed to meet the challenges you face each day. Your life will be that unique witness to the healing love of Jesus Christ that God intended it to be. Praise be to God!

Bless your heart,

*Robert T. Cassell*

Interim Pastor

John 20:24-29

## Sundays in February

### Communion Sunday, February 1

9:40 a.m. Communion Servers Practice

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

“Amazing Grace”

Psalms 111, Mark 1:21-28

10:45 Youth Group (Rm 7)

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

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

### Sunday, February 8

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

“He Comes With Miraculous  
Life-Giving Power”

Isaiah 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39

10:45 Youth Group (Room 7)

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Committee (JH)

4:00 p.m. Bel Canto Concert (S)

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

### Sunday, February 15

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

“There is Always Going to be Some Distance  
Between Us and the Living God”

2 Kings 5:1-14, Mark 1:40-45

10:45 Youth Group (Room 7)

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

### Sunday, February 22

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

“And a Heavenly Glory Shines Through”

Psalms 50:1-6, Mark 9:2-9

10:45 Youth Group (Room 7)

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

### Wednesday, February 25

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

THE DEADLINE for the March issue of the Community Beacon is February 10. Please email your articles, reports and news to the church office or call to have space saved.



## PW Circles Meet in February

All women of the church are welcome to attend any meeting of PW Circles. To fit into your schedule, there are morning and evening once-a-month meetings.

### Joy Circle

Monday, Feb. 2 at 7 pm  
(at the home of Ruth Downs )

### Mary Martha

Thursday, Feb. 5 at 9:30 pm (JH)

### Morning Glory

Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 9:30 am (JH)

### Faithweavers

Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7 pm (FR)

### PWCT (Officers)

There will be no February meeting.  
Next meeting is March 23



Do you know CPCLM has an Endowment Fund?

It can provide long-lasting financial support to CPCLM and could serve as an alternative to memorial fund contributions.

For information, please speak with Scott Waln.

## Joys and Concerns

**Pauline Bristow** received the "I CARE" award from Interfaith Food Center. Pauline, who has faithfully served each week at the center for many years, was named the "2008 Volunteer of the Year". Congratulations Pauline!! Pauline also volunteers at CPCLM getting the monthly newsletter ready for mailing, for which we are very grateful.

**Dorothy Ernst** expresses her thanks for all your prayers, good wishes, cards and goodies which all helped her recover from a fall in early December. Dorothy likes to tell the story of "the Angel." The angel, in the form of a young man in a black jeep, was driving south on Biola Ave at 7 a.m. when he saw her in her driveway floundering in an attempt to get up. He turned around, parked on the wrong side of street in front of her house, came to Dorothy's aid by helping her up to a standing position, and got in his jeep and drove away. She is grateful to that angel, whoever he may be. We could call him "Sam," as in Good Samaritan.

**Fran Tyler** is in Park Regency (as of January 21). She has experienced a lot of pain after a fall, but is able to take short calls (562-267-0452) and very short visits. Please keep her in your prayers.

We were sorry to lose **Betty Hampson** who passed away December 28 after struggling with cancer for a few months. Betty served as a Deacon, the accompanist for our preschool, an active member of Presbyterian Women and a special friend to many. Betty lived life with grace, courage and strength. We will miss her.

The Family of **Nick Maloof** wrote, "Many thanks to everyone in the Community Presbyterian Church of La Mirada family for your cards, prayers and calls during the recent passing of our dad. Your support and encouragement have been appreciated very much." Nick passed away on December 6. He was an active member of the church and served as an Elder. We will miss his gentle spirit and smiling eyes. Those of us who are lucky enough to have some of his beautiful pottery will often be reminded of Nick, the artist.

**Bob James**, a long-time member of the Rosecrans church passed away January 13, 2009. Bob was active on the CE committee and served as an elder. We express our sympathy to his family and friends.

We express our sympathy for **Dianna and Donald Bell**, former pastors at the Rosecrans church, upon the death of their daughter, **Carrie Elizabeth Bell**, who died on January 10. Carrie lived a life offering compassion to those who were dying and in great need, and particularly in hospice care and assisted living homes where she served as volunteer, staff, and administrator. Carrie died of hepatitis at age 45. Carrie is also survived by her sister, **Kathryn Bell**, a candidate for ministry who has received her first call. You are invited to send the Bells a note c/o Community Presbyterian Church, 32202 Del Obispo Street, San Juan Capistrano, CA, 92675-3438.

**Donald and Dianna Bell** recently completed two years as Interim Co-Pastors at First Presbyterian Church, Fullerton. Don is trying out retirement (again) and Dianna is the new interim pastor at Community Presbyterian Church, San Juan Capistrano.

# MUSIC NOTES...

Have you made plans to attend the Bel Canto Choir concert? The freshmen ladies ensemble from Azusa Pacific University will return to Community Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 8 at 4:00 pm. After the concert, we will be treated to a wonderful chicken dinner, lovingly prepared by Glenna Billiet and her sous chefs! The cost is \$5.00 per person -- such a deal!! Invite family and friends for a lovely evening of food and song!

And, please make sure to attend church on March 22nd. The choir from Whittier Christian High School will present musical offerings throughout our worship service. What a great opportunity to invite family and friends who may not regularly attend church. We pray God's blessings on both the Azusa and Whittier choirs, and on those present in the congregation. May

He inspire us to love and good works through the music and words we will hear.

In an age when, unfortunately, choral music seems to be fading, we are so blessed to not only have these special opportunities, but to also have a choir of our own every week. What a privilege to direct the Chancel Choir as they lead worship each Sunday. What a wonderful group of people -- so dedicated to God and to you, the Body of Christ in La Mirada. God is so compassionate as He sustains us through illnesses, surgeries, and other adversities. We covet your prayers for the energy and strength needed as we lift our voices in praise of our Savior and Lord.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

In His Strength,

*Debbie Gault*

Director of Music Ministries

## February Prayer List

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

**February 1, 2009**

**Grace Riesche**

**Aline Oswalt**

**Steve & Judi Harmon**

**Bob & Ann Hampton**

**February 8, 2009**

**David & Susan Hawkinson**

**Eleanor Komisar**

**Onesimo & Daisy Mabini**

**Joshua & Esther Lee**

**February 15, 2009**

**Gil & Pamela Tymoc**

**Ken & Harriett Stutzman**

**June Stickney**

**Fran Tyler**

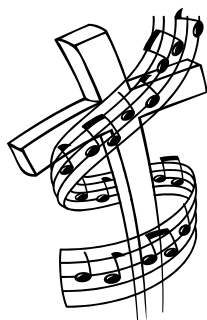
**February 22, 2009**

**Glenna Billiet**

**Connie Arce**

**Thelma Donovan**

**Jane and Don Inman**



Bring your friends, family and neighbors to hear

### Bel Canto Choir

Azusa Pacific Women's Choir

in Concert

**Sunday, February 8**

**4:00 p.m.**

in our Sanctuary

The choir will join us for the dinner following the concert. Please make dinner reservations (\$5.) with Glenna Billiet by Sunday, February 1.

Free-will offering



### Thank You!

As the liaison between our church and the Interfaith Food Center, I would like to thank you, our congregation, for all your donations and support. It is greatly appreciated.

More and more people need our help. Just as an example, in half a day, from 8 am to 12 noon, we see an average of about 170 people going through the line and the center. The count is increasing due to the rising number of jobless people. This is not counting the number of homeless which average maybe 30 people.

I have been told that our food center is the largest in Southern California in the amount of tonnage of food that goes through the line in a year's time.

And we, CPCLM, are the only church in the La Mirada area that donates to the food center.

Again, Thank you all.

*Bill Sykes*



### Did you plant your Christmas Poinsettia?

Years ago, Clarice Minsker told us how to keep our poinsettia plants alive for another year. The thing is, they are a holiday plant. If you will trim them back 50% on St Patrick's Day (March 17) and cut back about 25% on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, they should bloom again next Christmas. Good luck!

### 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 especially if you change your email address.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2009

The theme of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing campaign for 2009 is "WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?" If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, life can be searingly tough. When we care for God's treasured children, we ourselves are transformed. We see more clearly what matters most in life. Our hope rises as we realize new life is possible. Recognizing that our treasure is God's children, One Great Hour of Sharing helps us keep individuals, their families, and their communities central in our hearts.



As is our custom at CPCLM, we will receive and dedicate the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, April 5. Donations from churches around the world are distributed roughly equally among three Presbyterian mission efforts: the Hunger Program, the Disaster Assistance Program, and the Self-Development of People Program.

Please prepare prayerfully for your participation in this important offering.  
Mission & Evangelism Committee

### "Refresh and Renew"

Training Event for Presbyterians  
Saturday, February 7



This annual training event has multiple good workshops in the 10:45 to 12:15 time slot. But the 9:00 am to 10:30 time slot is all about the Future Shape of the Presbytery, as the Odyssey Group will present a New Mission Design for Los Ranchos. Here is a description from the brochure about that Saturday morning Odyssey Report:

#### The Odyssey Group Design

9 am to 10:30 am at "Refresh and Renew";

The Odyssey Group has been working since January 2008:

- \* Finding/articulating a vision for the presbytery's next decade
- \* Reviewing/reframing the presbytery's goals and priorities
- \* Reshaping the presbytery's structure to be consistent with vision, goals, and priorities
- \* Engaging the presbytery in giving life to the future that is envisioned

This plenary is presbytery's first chance to hear about the third and fourth tasks: turning the presbytery upside down--with an opportunity for your input and interactive dialogue during the "Feedback Forum" (10:45 to 12:15).

Please sign up soon for the "Refresh and Renew" event, Saturday am, Feb. 7, 2009.

More information is available at [www.losranchos.org/documents/BrochureFinal1218.pdf](http://www.losranchos.org/documents/BrochureFinal1218.pdf)

# THE COMMUNITY BEACON

A publication of

Community Presbyterian Church

13701 Hillsborough Drive La Mirada CA 90638



The Community Beacon is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about Community people. For weekly updates, visit our web site at: [www.cpclm.org](http://www.cpclm.org)

Dated Material

Deadline for copy: the tenth of each month.

Pre-school telephone: 562-902-9282

Church Office telephone: 562-902-9035

Dr. Robert T. Cassell	Interim Pastor
Gene & Tarah Petrone	Youth Ministries
Debbie Gault	Music Ministries
Eun Sim Kim	Organist
Pat Hawkinson	Dir. of Preschool
Janet Shoop	Admin. Assistant

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## Lent Begins February 25

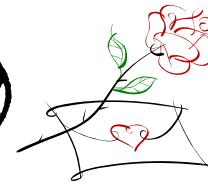
Please join us in worship on February 25 at our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary. Ash Wednesday is the day the liturgical season of Lent begins. During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally.



During Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith.

We have ordered Lenten study guides. Pick up your copy of "Conversations With Jesus", by Eugenia A. Gamble. Ms. Gamble writes "Since childhood I have kept a list of questions that I want to ask God someday. But rarely have I stopped to think about the questions God might want to ask me. During this season of Lent, I invite you to walk with Jesus through this life, ministry and death, and listen closely to the questions he asks you. May this intimate conversation bring you comfort, challenge, wonder and maybe even a few answers."

Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.

# February 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion Sunday 1 9:40 a Communion Servers Practice 11:30 a Christian Educ –FR 6 p Young Adults –7	2 6p TOPS –JH 7 p Joy Circle at the home of Ruth Downs 7 p Boy Scouts –6	3 8-9:30 p AA -Rm 6	4 10 a Preschool Chapel –S 7 p Choir Practice –S	5 9:30 a Mary Martha JH Wedding Rehearsal	6 6-8 pm DIGGS –Rm 7	7 7:30 a Bible Study-JH “REFRESH & RENEW” training event for all Presbyterians Shim-Lin Wedding
8 9 a New Adult Class begins Led by Bob Hampton –FR 10 a Worship, Sunday School, 11:30 Fellowship Committee –JH 4 p <b>BEL CANTO CONCERT</b> and Dinner 6 p Young Adults –7	9 1 p Spiritual Disciplines (FR) 6 p TOPS –JH 7 p Boy Scouts –6	10 <b>BEACON DEADLINE</b>  7 p Bldg & Grnds -FR 8 p AA -Rm 6	11 10 a Preschool Chapel –S 7 p Choir Practice –S	12 7 p Worship Committee –FR	13 6-8 pm DIGGS –Rm 7	Valentine's Day 14 7:30 a Men's Bible Study-JH 
15 9 a Adult Class: Bk of Acts (FR) 6 p Young Adults –7	16 Church Office Closed In observance of Presidents' Day 6 p TOPS –JH 7 p Boy Scouts –6	17 9:30 a Morning Glory Circle –JH 5:30 p Personnel –Pastor's Office 7 p <b>DEACONS</b> –JH 8-9:30 p AA -Rm 6	18 10 a Preschool Chapel –S 7 p Finance-Stewardship-FR 7 p Choir Practice –S	19 7 p Faith Weavers 7 p Wedding Rehearsal –S	20 6-8 pm DIGGS –Rm 7	21 7:30 a Men's Bible Study-JH 12 Noon Hwang-Lee Wedding and Reception
22 9 a Adult Class: Bk of Acts (FR) 6 p Young Adults –7	23 6 p TOPS –JH 7 p Boy Scouts –6	24 8 p AA -Rm 6	25 Ash Wednesday 10 a Preschool Chapel –S 7 p <b>ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b> –S	26 7 p <b>SESSION</b> -JH	27 6-8 pm DIGGS –Rm 7	28 7:30 a Men's Bible Study-JH
Communion Sunday 1 9 a Adult Class: Bk of Acts (FR) 9:40 Communion Practice –S 6 p Young Adults –7	2 6 p TOPS –JH 7 p Joy Circle at home 7 p Boy Scouts –6	3 LM Municipal Election –JH all day 8 p AA -Rm 6	4 10 a Preschool Chapel –S 7 p Choir Practice –S	5 9:30 a Mary Martha Circle –JH	6 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	7 7:30 a Men's Bible Study-JH 9-Noon Choir Rehearsal –S, JH