



THE CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of Community Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2009

Community Presbyterian Church, 32202 Del Obispo Street, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

SERVING THE LORD SINCE 1919 ”

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We're Turning Ninety! – We need a Slogan

CPC turns ninety years old this year and we need a slogan or theme for the event. Some suggestions were made during the planning meeting on Sunday, January 12th which included the following:

- Ninety Years and Still Young
- Ninety Years Young
- CPC – Celebrating Ninety Years of Serving the Community
- Ninety Years in Christ's Service
- Come Celebrate with us – Ninety years
- Ninety Years of Christian Service

We're sure you can come up with something even better! Please contact *The Chimes* editor, Larry Collins or Julie Bagg in the church office with suggestions. You may also vote by emailing Larry at lkcollins75@hotmail.com.

Events and Activities

Feb 1 st	Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Annual Congregational Meeting
Feb 3 rd	Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast [Denny's – Ortega Hwy]
Feb 5 th	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Women's Breakfast [Jolly Roger]
Feb 7 th	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Make sandwiches for Habitat – come help
Feb 14 th	Saturday		Valentine's Day
Feb 16 th	Monday		President's Day
Feb 17 th	Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Feb 25 th	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Soup-Supper (see page 9)



Two Months, and Moving Along!



Yes, I have been your Interim Pastor for two months now. December was filled with Advent and Christmas of course, and January was so very unexpectedly filled with the hospitalization and death of my first daughter, Carrie. All through those weeks you have been extremely supportive to the Bell Family and I thank you for your sensitivity. When we needed space to be alone and catch up to the reality of the situation, you gave us space. When we needed to hear of your experiences of loss so that we knew we were not alone, you shared your experiences. And when Carrie died and we planned her service, you were exceedingly giving in providing for our physical nourishment. From your meals to our home, we were sustained a full week, and from the Deacons' ham we fed the family and friends who came from distant places after the service. We have been blessed to be in your midst during this sad time for the Bell family. In the meantime, our second daughter, Kathryn, has been negotiating the final stages of a call to her first pastorate - in Marshall, Missouri. So now we turn our energies to that great event.

At the church things have continued to move along. As of the January Session meeting, some significant decisions have been accomplished. First, Session has offered the position of Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries to Brandon Tatum. He is to begin February 1st, and his job description will be significantly different from the past. One major change is that he is tasked with bringing much greater involvement of the Youth and the Congregation together as one family. I will be working closely with him to accomplish this.

Our other great joy is the decision to hire a staff person to work with the Children. Debbie Reeder has accepted the Session's invitation to be the Director of Children's Ministries. As the name implies, the concept of this position is greater than music, but music and the arts will be a primary medium of this ministry. Debbie is no stranger to this congregation, and from every indication her reengagement at CPC will bring great excitement and growth to the outreach of this church to children from the very early years up through high school. Debbie will begin on Sunday, January 25.

One other accomplishment I want to tell you is that the Session is working diligently to prepare for the pastoral search process. Their first step was taken at the Session Retreat on January 10 as they reviewed the Refocusing results of two years ago. After evaluating the former results, they decided on some alterations to the Vision and Design which will be presented at the Congregational Meeting, February 1. So plan to be present and hear the Session's report and plans for future steps.

CPC is indeed moving along! Even our worship will take fresh new forms as we return to a two-service format on Palm Sunday, April 5. We will share more with you about that next month after a Worship Planning Team develops new ideas for both of these services. We are not returning to the past, but building on the past toward a fresh new future. Our aim is to be God's faithful people - as we NURTURE our faith in worship, TEACH discipleship to Jesus Christ, and SERVE other's in God's name.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dianna Pohlman Bell



Session Report



All eleven elders met with Interim Pastor Dianna Bell for a Regular Meeting of Session on Jan 20. Starting this month, each Session committee presented a written report to Session. Each committee report consisted of a summary of the most recent meeting of the committee, names of members attending the meeting, a list of

concerns discussed, and all issues or motions needing action by Session. This first time, reports varied from brief to multi-page documents. After this initial experience, committee reports are expected to become more uniform in size, structure and quality.

The first item of business was presented by Pat Mueller, Moderator of Deacons, who was invited to Session to answer elders' questions about the recent change in Deacons' policy regarding receptions which follow memorial services. All questions were satisfactorily answered.

CPC rolls now include **183** active plus **28** inactive members, following membership changes voted by Session on Dec 16 and following the death of active member Dorothy Huff on Dec 31. Communion was served to **35** people in the evening service on Dec 31 and to **125** people in the Sunday worship service on Jan 4. Home communion was served to **7** people in December by Rev. Bell and Deacon Bucklin.

A report was given summarizing decisions made at the Session Retreat held at Presbyterian Church of the Master (Mission Viejo) on Saturday, Jan 11. The changes agreed upon will be presented to the congregation at the Feb 1 Annual Meeting.

For 2009, Session elected Paul Larson as Church Treasurer and Al Jessen as Clerk of Session, approved cash counters and check signers, and nominated all other corporate officers for 2009. A listing of all church officers was available in the Annual Report, distributed on Jan 25. The nominated officers and members of the 2009 Nominating Committee will be elected by the congregation in the Feb 1 Annual Meeting.

The Treasurer distributed the CPC Financial Statement for Dec 31, 2008. It shows 2008 total income was more than total expenses by \$81,953.64, an unusually high surplus, because funds budgeted for vacant staff positions were not spent. This surplus will be divided and applied to the 2009 budget as a \$44,000 reserve fund to offset an expected shortfall in 2009 contributions, and a \$37,000 reserve to offset expected 2010 budget needs. Session voted to approve the 2009 Church Budget and 2009 Preschool Budget. Questions about the budgets will be answered at the Feb 1 Annual meeting. Copies of approved budgets to be examined before the Annual Meeting were distributed in the Annual Report distributed on Jan 25 .

The worship committee proposed a return to having two services each Sunday. Times and structure were discussed. Session voted to schedule two services at 9:00 and 10:30 am beginning on Palm Sunday, Apr 5. What to name the services and what worship style to follow have not been decided yet. Communion services in members homes will be held four days during Lent. Dates and places TBD.

Session voted to approve an upgrade of the fire extinguishing equipment installed in the kitchen to meet new California fire codes. Session also approved a contract to thoroughly clean and inspect the sewer line behind the building which has been subject to frequent stoppages.

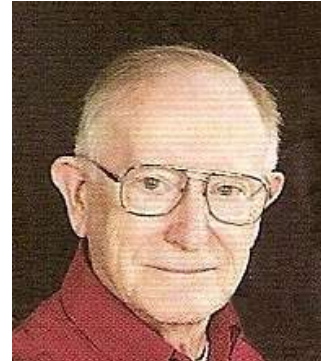
Session voted to approve presenting a job offer to Brandon Tatum who as the Director of Youth Ministry. Session also voted to hire Debbie Reeder to head a Children Ministry featuring musical training and performance. Classes will simultaneously prepare the children to take part in worship services.

A brainstorm meeting held on Jan 11 generated many exciting ideas for celebration on Sept 17 the 90th anniversary (birthday?) of CPC. This, the first protestant church in Capistrano Valley, was started in 1919. A schedule of twelve Fellowship activities for 2009 was approved.

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The Stewardship Committee sadly announced that 2008 pledged actual contributions fell short of total pledges by \$37,341 and that the 2009 total pledges is \$137,716 lower than 2008 total pledges. Total pledges for 2009 is \$100,375 lower than pledged actual contributions received for 2008. Nearly every 2009 budget item was reduced in an attempt to balance the budget.



Two women were received as new members of CPC. Sarah (Sally) Robbins was received by transfer and Lucky Tutor was received by profession of faith. They were presented to the congregation along with Heather Wermers on Jan 25.

Al Jessen, Clerk of Session

From the Deacons

The Deacons have reviewed their policy on providing receptions for Memorial Services at the church, and shared it with the Session. It will be helpful for the congregation to understand what that policy is.

One Deacon is assigned to work with each family and the Pastor at the time of planning for a Memorial Service. The wishes of the family are taken very seriously. What the Deacons provide is the following: coffee, punch, and cookies. This may be served either on the patio outside the Narthex, in the Fellowship Hall, or on the adjacent patio.

If something more is desired, for example a catered meal, the family and/or friends will provide this and the Deacons will be happy to serve.

This policy is intended to serve the members and friends of the congregation with fairness and compassion. The Deacons strive to extend the love of Jesus to those who are in need of various kinds, whether it is physical, emotional or spiritual.

If you have any questions about this policy, you are most welcome to contact us.

Pat Mueller, Moderator of Deacons

Rev. Dianna Bell, Moderator of Session



Per Capita for 2009



Remember: Each Presbyterian Church is charged a per capita fee for each reported member. The amount for Community Presbyterian Church for 2009 is \$22.80 per person. Thank you for assuming your share of these annual dues. A per capita envelope is in the 2009 Offering Envelope Packet or envelopes may be found in the pews

Stewardship Committee

TURNING 90

Continuing in our series on our members 90 and above, this month we interview Vera Mansfield and Willis John.

Vera Mansfield believes that there is always enough to share with others. She was a good baker and one of her favorite items to share was a pie when someone was not feeling well or just needed a pick-me-up. Lemon and apple are her favorites. Vera also shared her time with CPC when she moved to Dana Point in 1987. She worked with Virginia Webb and Karen Stone in the office answering the phone, folding bulletins, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday services and helping whenever and wherever needed.



Vera's life began in Saskatchewan, Canada where she was born 91 years ago. Her mother, Minnie, and father, David, were both from Scotland. Fortunately for Vera, the family moved to East Los Angeles when she was one, so her growing-up years were a bit warmer than in Canada! When she was eleven, the family moved again to West Hollywood. She loved music and accompanied her father, who sang semi-professionally and in the Baptist Church in West Hollywood. Vera sang in the choir and played piano for Sunday school there. And she taught beginning piano for many years.

Vera and her dad were very close. He had a nervous breakdown when she was 15. His extended recovery away from his children in Palm Springs and his sudden death due to a heart attack at age fifty-four helped strengthen Vera's strong, independent spirit.

She attended Fairfax High School where she knew many interesting people, including Marge and Gower Champion, Jim Narz and his younger brother, Tom Kennedy. Right out of high school, Vera worked for the Broadway Department Store. While working there, she met Ray Lund, the man who was to become her husband in 1945.

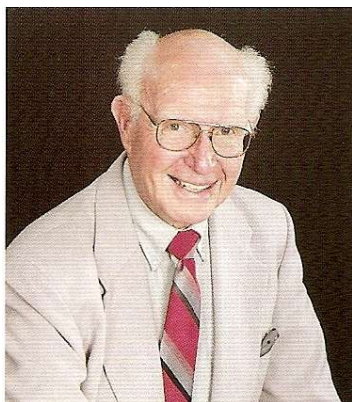
When Ray returned from World War II, the newlyweds lived in a small apartment behind her parents' home. They stayed there until daughter, Lorna was two and they were expecting a second child. They moved to their own home in Alhambra. Son, Ron arrived in 1949. Vera's life was happy. She enjoyed raising her children, taking them to the local Baptist church and being a stay-at-home mom. Then her life made a sudden change. Her husband died of a heart attack at the young age of thirty-seven. In order to earn a living and support her two children, she went to work in the school cafeteria so she would be home at the same time as her kids. She cooked, cleaned, prepared the food, and did whatever was necessary to make sure the children of the school were fed. Later she moved into the insurance industry where she used her skills in filing and typing. Still later, she worked for a food supplement company where she answered phones and served customers. Those are the same skills she would share with us at CPC years later.

Vera's doorbell rang one day and there stood the Avon lady, Letha Collins. Little did these women know how this connection would change many lives! Letha and Vera became best of friends—and family—when Letha's son, Larry, married Vera's daughter, Lorna. Vera continued to live in Alhambra and visit our area until 1987. By then Letha and her husband, Murl, were living in Dana Point as well as Larry, Lorna and granddaughter Kim. It only seemed natural to have Vera join the rest of the family.

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(Turning 90 - continued from page 5)

Those of us at CPC are glad she did! Vera is now at Capistrano Beach Extended Care enjoying visits from friends and family. Vera's belief of always having enough to share has made her a good steward in God's world. We thank her for sharing her musical talents, her time to handle the details of our church, her treasurers which she has so willingly shared—especially Lorna, Larry and Kim!



Willis John celebrated his 90th birthday in Yosemite National Park. Willis has visited many, *many* places in his life, having traveled around the world twice! But he thinks Yosemite is one of the most beautiful places on earth. On May 30, 2007 it was true—the valley was magnificent!

Willis was born in Anderson, Indiana and grew up in Dayton Ohio. His father was a tool and die maker and shared the invention of the starter (ignition) for autos. The first starter was put on a 1912 Cadillac. Willis has never lost his love of cars and watches the auto industry closely. When his parents divorced, he moved with his Mother to Detroit. The call of family and warmer weather brought them to Santa Monica in 1938. Willis went to work in retail sales for Montgomery Ward, moving up to Assistant Manager when World War II began.

Uncle Sam drafted Willis into the Army. He reported to Camp San Luis Obispo for infantry basic training. His rank became Supply Staff Sergeant of 24th Special Service Company, 19th Corp, 1st Army. His company was a morale booster for the troops. They headed across the USA by train to catch a transport ship headed for Liverpool, England. He spent time in England training and waiting for the invasion of Europe. His company landed in Normandy just two weeks after D-Day and was in the combat zone until war's end.

The war led him to southern Holland to a private school where his company could get out of the rain and mud. The school principal, Mr. Borgwat, had a daughter, Nien who was well educated, held degrees in 4 languages, and was very musically talented. In all the terror of war and continually moving toward Berlin with the troops, Willis managed to court Nien, propose marriage from Germany, then marry her just six weeks after the war ended!

Willis returned to California in 1945, and six months later Nien joined him. He had an Assistant Manager job waiting for him at Montgomery Ward in San Fernando. Willis joined Sears, Santa Ana in 1948 and moved Nien and son, Steven, to Tustin. His second son, Kenneth, arrived two years later. Willis stayed with Sears for thirty years, the last seven as a store manager.

The family joined the First Presbyterian Church of Tustin when they first moved to their new home. Willis was ordained as an elder in the church. In 1951, the family moved to Santa Ana. The Presbytery had determined that there was a need for a new church in the growing community. The first service attended by Willis and Nien was in the minister's home. The pulpit was a board placed over a packing barrel! Willis and Nien were #2 and #3 to sign the charter of the Wilshire Presbyterian Church in southwest Santa Ana. Willis attended there for over twenty years, serving as Ruling Elder twice, singing in the choir along with Nien, and shepherding the boys of Boy Scout Troop #940 through the God and Country award.

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(Turning 90 - continued from page 5)

In the 1950's a new hospital was needed in the Newport Beach area. The Presbyterian Church stepped up and Willis joined in the project to help raise funds for construction. He and Nien sang with the church choir for the groundbreaking and dedication of Hoag Hospital. Willis was a member of the first Board of Directors, composed of six Presbyterian Elders, six members of the Hoag Foundation plus California Senator John Murdy.

Willis is a man committed to a cause. His time in Europe gave him his international interest. He and his family hosted over 40 AFS foreign students from 1961-2005. Willis' dedication to foreign students led him to be the President of the Santa Ana AFS. He is still in contact with the students and their families and visits them on his world travels.

Willis and Nien moved to Mission Viejo in 1972 and found CPC just a few months later. He was surprised to see Doris Rinehart, who had been a member of the Wilshire Church, sitting in the pews! Nien and Willis made many new friends and enjoyed CPC's activities. Nien went to be with the Lord in 1981.

Willis continued helping foreign students. He volunteered as the Director of the Mission Viejo Center, South Coast Literacy ESL program for 25 years, retiring in 2008. He enjoyed his foreign students and they appreciated his commitment to them.

Willis gives credit to his diet, discipline, optimism, and following through on commitments for his longevity. Willis has shared his treasures, time and talents with all of us—especially his cooking and pie making skills! Willis has cooked dinner for the LOGOS program and Christmas Progressive dinner. His offer to "make a pie of your choice" sold for \$250 at one Youth auction! Thank you, Willis, for your example of dedicated Stewardship. You have set the mark high for us to aspire to.

New Staff Additions

At its stated meeting on January 20 the Session approved two new additions to the CPC staff.

Brandon Tatum has been invited to become the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. He will begin Sunday February 1st.

Debbie Reeder has been invited - and she has accepted - to be the new Director of Children's Ministries, to start Sunday, January 25th. She wants to begin a Cherub Choir right away, so invite all the families with young children you know to come and participate in the start-up of an exciting new learning and sharing experience with music! Welcome back Debbie.



Debbie Reeder

A helping hand...a caring heart

Family Assistance Ministries

Thank You from FAM

The following letter was sent to each coordinator of the Adopt-a-Family program.



December 20, 2008

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Family assistance Ministries, I would like to take a moment to thank you for adopting a family for Christmas. The joy and gratitude expressed by the family as they received your generous gifts were very heartwarming.

We deeply appreciate your generosity and your thoughtfulness to bring joy to less-fortunate children within our community. Thank you again for your participation in our Christmas Adopt-a-Family program.

We are grateful for your partnership with Family Assistance Ministries. Thank you for giving hope and joy to those who come to us for help.

May God bless you and your families. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and a most happy New Year.

Serving others with you,
Pam Lee, Executive Director

Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Studies will continue at 10 a.m. and repeated Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Beginning next week, the study will be of the Gospel According to Mark. The Rev. Dr. Donald L. Bell, who is well read on the most recent biblical scholarship, will continue as teacher. Classes are in the CE Room.



Reminders



Men's Breakfast – is held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. We meet at Denny's on Ortega Hwy (Just north of the I-5).at 7:30 a.m.

Women's Breakfast – We meet at the Jolly Roger in Dana Point Harbor on the first Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Women

- Ø **Bible Study – Jubilee! Luke’s Gospel for the Poor.** Rev. Dianna Bell, Pastor, will lead the Bible Study Preview - Chapter 6 - on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 from 10:00 – 11:00 in the CE Room.

Lydia Circle meets Wednesday, February 11, 10:00 am at the church. Call Colleen Emery for details 496.7521 – cemery@cox.net

Martha Circle meets Thursday, February 12, 9:30 am at the church – CE Room. Call Val Jessen for details 495.0350 – jessen23@cox.net

Mary-Deborah Circle meets Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 PM at the home of **Marilyn Thorpe**. Contact Anne Larson 493.7098 (pナルソン@yahoo.com) or Bernie Schwenck 493.4971 (robertschwenck@cox.net) for further information

- Ø **The PW Quiltmakers** will meet on Thursday, February 5 at 9:30 after breakfast, and February 19 at 9:00 am at the home of Marilyn Johnson. Call for details 498.2231 – mj1626@aol.com
- Ø **The PW Book Club** will meet Tuesday, February 24, at 7:00 PM at the home of Terri Treemarcki-Beck - 365.0873. Call or email (terri@scpres.org) for directions. The selection for discussion is **Freakonomics**, by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner.



Save the date! Wednesday, February 25th 6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

There is no charge for this supper, but freewill offering baskets will be on the tables



FROM THE EDITOR

Chimes Submissions

Occasionally, I like to remind everyone of the guidelines for submission.

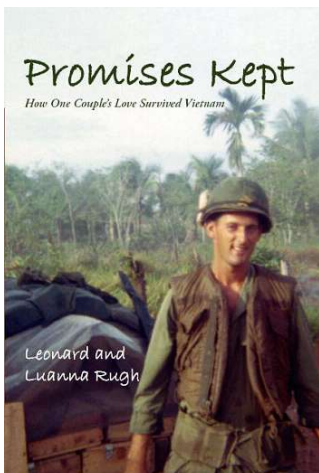
The Chimes is the monthly newsletter of Community Presbyterian Church. Its purpose is to:

- Inform the congregation of upcoming activities, actions of Session, its committees and the work of the Deacons
- Promote personal commitment to Christ and encourage the congregation in its biblical foundation
- Material shall pertain to matters of the Presbyterian Church USA (local, regional or national) and its mission and outreach
- No article may contain a personal attack, jeopardize the CPC non-profit mail privilege or tax status, nor advertise or endorse goods or services

Articles for *The Chimes* need to be submitted in Microsoft Word or compatible format by the fifteenth of the month to the church office or *Chimes* editor to be included the following month’s issue.

Articles may be altered by the editor for format, punctuation, grammar, or length as required to fit the publication.

The Congregation is Invited to Celebrate with Len & Luanna Rugh!



Date: February 21, 2009
Place: Community Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
32202 Del Obispo Street
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Meet the authors!
- Hear readings from the book.
- Len and Lu will both speak about writing the book.
- Ask questions.
- Trade paperback (440 pages) available to have signed!

About **Promises Kept: How One Couple's Love Survived Vietnam:**

- A moving inspirational story of survival, recovery, overcoming obstacles, and the power of love
- A great gift for the Vietnam vet in your life or any history buff
- An encouragement for all handicapped people
- A real-life love story that will make you laugh and cry and remind you of the value of lasting love

For more information, click the link [Promises Kept Home](#)

(Editor's Note: Many of us have followed the progress of this book through the twenty-five years it took to write and are thrilled with the Rugh's accomplishment. Congratulations!)

February Birthdays

1 Alex Verbeerst	13 Christina Carroll
4 Kayla Noble	13 Emily Donovan
8 Tierney Lenahan	15 Dan Gilson
9 Lauren Grulkowski	18 Susan Grulkowski
9 Rich Zodnik	19 Emily Ause
10 Ryan Rodeiguez	19 Ruth Willett
11 Don Seapy	21 Dylan Lawrance
12 Wally Hamme	24 Elizabeth Galbraith
12 Donna Kirk	25 Jenny Dull

Anniversaries

7 Rich and Susie Zodnik
18 Ron and Julie Dull
18 Leonard and Luanna Rugh
20 Phil and Sheri Estrada

