

The United Church of Christ
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Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingerman

February
2010

Return Service Requested

Your Church Officers for 2010 !

Moderator: Gary Tidwell
Vice-Moderator: Ken Dukes
Church Clerk: Cynn timer Vannoy
Treasurer: Richard Westlund
Assistant Treasurer: Mary Peterson
Financial Secretary: Mary Lou Snider
Assistant Financial Secretary: Linda Neidert
Historian: J. L. Hisel
Head Usher: Don Ross
Member at Large: Art Peterson
Member at Large: Edward Gross
Member at Large: Gil Scott
Board of Trustee/Endowment: Jim Wilson
Board of Deacons: Don Ross
Board of Deaconesses: Donna Goodrich
Mission Board/Pastoral Relations: Carol Hisel
Human Resources: OPEN
Music Board: Elyce Elyra
Stewardship: Dorothy Flory
Christ -Centered Education: Rev. Ken Carlson
Undershepherds Committee: OPEN
Membership Committee: Rev. Don Vannoy
Special Events: Eleta Tidwell
Legal Committee: Alan Gooding
Prayer Garden: Morris Nyquist

LOVE IS IN THE AIR LUNCHEON

Saturday, February 20, 2009
5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
For more information contact, Eleta Tidwell.

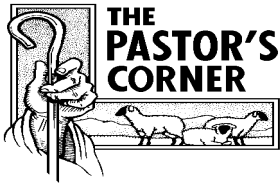
Live Each Day to the Fullest

Live each day to the fullest,
lift up all negatives and transform the daily strife.
Look ahead with faith and confidence in God,
bless all experiences in your life.

Enjoy what is beautiful in every view,
give love with all your heart and soul.
Forget what you have done for faithful friends,
but remember all that they have done for you.

Act as if everything depended upon you,
but pray and live as if everything depends upon God.
Remember, God helps them who help themselves;
Do your best with all of who you are and see life NEW.

BE God's miracle.



HOW ARE YOU LIVING?

**“God is glorified as you become fruitful
 and are being my disciples.
 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
 Abide in my love.”**
 (John 15: 8, 9)

The spiritual life is always meant to be progressive. Each day brings us new opportunities to expand our relationship with God and refine our living in ways that bring Heaven to Earth.

We are here in this dimension of life to explore each day with its grains of sand,
finding gold in our moments and wellsprings in our deserts.

In his superb book, **Power Vs. Force: Hidden Determinants of Human Behavior**, David Hawkins lists various themes that influence our behavior and motivate our daily living. Each human being experiences a wide range of incentives and **ecstasy**, but also must overcome **entropy**, the tendency to fall back or remain stagnant and stuck where we are.

On the ascending ladder of consciousness, rising to deeper union with God,
we move upward from lower and debilitating attitudes and moods into a greater clarity of Light and Love.
From shame, guilt and apathy, we open ourselves to express grief and move through dependency, loss,
sadness, depression and fear into new desires and new feelings.

Our “wants” move us out of apathy. We then may express anger that can release new energy and courage. From being merely “neutral,” we are willing to be taught and trained to improve our skills and deepen our learning. Reaching the point of **acceptance**, we then realize that we shape our own life by our motivations, decisions and actions. We no longer find excuses or blame God or others for our shortcomings. We move out of the box to encounter Mystery.

We reach to make better decisions, and our greatest decision is to **LOVE God and life** with all our being. **Love** releases new endorphins and peptides in our brain, and love overcomes anger, fear, pride, greed and hatred.

Currently, only **.4%** of humanity (**6.5 billion** persons) is living out of **love**.

A loving person often sees what is miraculous in each moment. Vision opens new doors.

Such an individual sees behind current outer appearances to view an exquisite beauty filling all creation.
A deep sense of joy and gratefulness empowers us, and inner peace often brings radiant healing out of illness.

Great works of music and art, poetry, drama and literature, architecture, dance and cinema
transport us, and they also give us new strength to handle our circumstances.

Ultimately, as we move into an ever deeper, transformational, loving union with the Source of all life,
we find our greatest meaning in being willing transmitters for the Great Presence as servers in the world.

Incentives and inspiration drive us forward into ever higher ranges of joy, creativity and sensitivity.
Entropy no longer pulls us back into negative habits and the prisons of our past. Empathy has been born in us.
It is important to keep on moving **AHEAD** each day. Fight resignation. Use these guidelines to keep growing:

Find stimuli and spiritual resources that inspire you and all your relationships.

Keep your prayer life and attunement with God alive and active.

Aspire! Keep growing like a great tree, reaching toward the heavens, but also keep anchored in the earth.

Stay close to meaningful relationships and nurture your friendships.

Deepen creative interests and find beauty and inspiration wherever possible.

Do good deeds as often as you can and be God’s blessing in the world.

Find some fun, variety and newness each day; laugh often. Be flexible amid rapid changes.

Volunteer and be a loving influence for good wherever possible. Enjoy fellowship with others.

Study and keep learning in fields that deepen your awareness and consciousness.

Use your wealth and influence wisely and generously to empower others.

Forgive the past quickly, aim to make peace with all adversaries and be merciful and compassionate.

Climb the ladder of consciousness and remain young in Spirit; be re-created in God, forever new.

Meditations from Our Outgoing Moderator

The Moderator's Report for 2009 pretty well sums up my analysis of the 2009 Church year and suggests future opportunities for growth and service. I will not elaborate on these reflections in this final letter but rather I will iterate a few key words I have used during the past year which I believe are vital as we move forward into a new and promising year.

The first word I have used on several occasions is the word "**reify**". It is one of my favorite words since, in its expanded sense, it means to harden dream of reality. Our dream of sharing all of the good things our church has to offer with an ever greater number of parishioners can be hardened into reality but it will require the activation of some of my favorite word such as "**prudence**," "**heuristics**," "**creativity**" and "**stewardship**."

Prudence of course means being cautious, watchful, and wise. It means for us that we must carefully consider what we can do and how best to accomplish our objectives. As one example, we all long for a youth program that will bring more young people, and their parents, into our church family. There are obviously hundreds of young people who live in Sun City and its environs. True, few live in the "core" where many of our church members live, but in the immediate surrounding area we have noted the increase in the number of schools that have been built to attend to ever increasing educational needs. Thus to be prudent is to understand that these are the young people to whom we must reach out. Eckart Seeber's after school program, still in prospect, is an important way to begin this effort. With the funds now available from the recent gift, funds allotted to Missions (outreach function of the church) can help us seize this opportunity to find a youth minister and in cooperation with Eckart's efforts establish a "beachhead" in this important battle.

Heuristics is another good word that I have always found most helpful in my college presidencies. It is a fancy word for learning by trial and error. As we move forward with our efforts to "grow our church" and to continue to respond with sensitivity to the felt needs of our congregation imagination, understanding and **creativity** can all be part of an enhanced "heuristics."

Creativity is a particular part of growing that Pastor Hall has beautifully described and detailed in a recent sermon. There is a magnificent reservoir of knowledge and wisdom in our congregation and hopefully, in the new year, we can find ways of tapping that reservoir to help us reify our dreams.

We have stressed "**stewardship**" a good bit of late because we realize we must give greater attention to the careful management of church affairs in the financial arena. With the generous gift from Anne Edmondson we are particularly challenged to use these funds wisely. The apportionment of 10% for church operations (such as taking care of any infrastructure needs in the area of buildings and grounds) 20% for Missions (broadly construed as the church's outreach both in our community for youth programs, e.g., and around the world) and 70% to the Endowment Fund carries out the provisions for the dispensation of gifts and annuities in the Church Procedures Manual as revised in 2002. Since there were no specific provisions in Anne Edmondson's Will, the provisions in our Church By-Laws will prevail.

With careful attention to prudence, heuristics, creativity and stewardship, I believe we can reify our dreams and pass on to the next generation of U.C.C., Sun City, congregants a strong and growing fellowship of active believers.

Art Peterson,
Moderator, 2009

**THE PSALMS AND THE SACRED
JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS**

*O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue.
O LORD, you know it completely. (Ps. 139. 1-4)*

If any prayer captured the essence of the Psalms, this opening of Psalm 139 does. Already someone has searched and knows us completely. All prayer begins and ends in this certainty. *Now we know even as we are fully known.* The human heart longs for wholeness and healing. To heal is to make whole. What goes on in the Psalms mysteriously resonates with what goes on in living our lives. The Psalms correspond with seasons in our life of faith. The Psalms bring to speech the whole spectrum of life and feelings from rage to hope. They tell it like it is, within us and among us. They tell all about us with no holds barred. The Psalms give us *the anatomy of all parts of the human soul* (John Calvin).

What do we find when we come to the Psalms? What do we bring out of our own experience? We discover we are both searched and known. And that can be scary. The psalms invite reflection, meditation, and confer a power and relief and healing. The psalms invite us to speak about our experience honestly, in a realistic way, in a freeing way. Our common experience is not one of uninterrupted well-being. To enter the Psalms will require a real change of pace. They do not promote business as usual. They subvert all known visions of an enduring status quo while inviting a change we can believe in.

In the Psalms, deep loss and agonizing gift are held together. We never escape some form of darkness. Denial will not work for long. But even in darkness, there is One to address with bold, courageous and honest faith. In our experience we've also encountered the richness of life. We know first-hand gifts of caring, friendship, gestures of reconciliation and forgiveness: all those risky signs of hope. God has not left the world to chaos. We practice the language of praise and thanksgiving. God intrudes to make all things good. *O LORD, my God, I cried out to you for help, and you have healed me.*

(Ps. 30.1-2)

You are invited to be part of a continuing journey with the Psalms as members of a community of faith. We can trust that what we bring to speech will open up to new life transformed and language transfigured.

NOTE:

We begin our journey through the Psalms on Wednesday, February 10, from 10:00 until 12:00 noon, in the library. You need bring no more than your experience of the faith you trust in and believe.

Ken Carlson,
Associate Pastor

A Letter to the Congregation:

Last Sunday, January 17, Pastor Hal spoke on Christian Unity in Diversity. He spoke of our different ideas that persons affirm because of background in different religions, parents, and other influences.

I agree wholeheartedly. If you attend a Bible class, you will see that Pastor Hal and I often have different ideas and opinions. I suppose this is true for many of our members and myself. But I want you to know that we are brothers and sisters in the Lord. Pastor Hal and I are brothers and love each other and God loves both of us. Pastor Hal, I loved your sermon last Sunday and am in full agreement with you. Thank God, that we are all ONE in Christ Jesus.

Love, Don Vannoy, Volunteer Minister and Chairperson of Church Membership

P. S. Let's invite more people to share our UNITY in diversity!

The Way of the Christ

Practice justice. Do all you can to restore fair, equitable and harmonious relationships in society.

Try to resolve conflicts in a fair and proportionate way;
Do your best to retain full rights of others as members of the family of God.

Practice righteousness. Fulfill your responsibilities to others As the ultimate fulfillment of your responsibility to God.

Practice steadfast love. Love God first, with all your heart, soul, strength and mind (**Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 27: 37 - 40**), and love your neighbor (every life) as yourself.

The ethic of Jesus thus can be summed up as follows:

Treat each person (and each living being) and their needs as HOLY.

(See Obery M. Hendricks, Jr., **The Politics of Jesus**)

STEWARDSHIP

Welcome to all of you in 2010 !
May it be a good year for you, filled with inspiration, prosperity and good health.

We **thank you** once again for your faithful service and giving to your church's ministry.

We hope to reach out to more persons in ministry this year, and we need you help.

Would you please tell your friends about your church and BRING your friends to church with you!

Our church still remains a too well kept secret in the community.

Each week, we provide an inspirational worship service with beautiful music and considerable variety. Children are welcome! Currently, we have 22 choir members, a drummer and a most outstanding Music Director.

The messages on Sunday are Christ-centered and practical. The aim for each Sunday service is to help seekers to draw nearer to God in Christ, to study the scriptures and to grow in character, creativity and caring service.

Our congregation consists of at least 12 different denominations. We are a caring and welcoming Christ-centered community.

We want to reach out as much as possible to be a meaningful ministry in our community. We welcome your presence, your ideas, your helpfulness, your contributions, and, most of all, your faithfulness to God through your service to this ministry.

YOU ARE THE CHURCH
and also part of the Body of Christ.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

LAYREADERS

2/07 - Shirley Wilson
2/14 - Eleanor Sorenson
2/21 - Jo Pohl
2/28 - Mary Lou Snider

GUEST BOOK

2/07 - Muriel Holmes
2/14 - Donna Goodrich & Gil Scott
2/21 - Richard Westlund
2/28 - Ken & Judy Carlson

GREETERS

2/07 - Ken & Jeanne Dukes
2/14 - Ken Carlson
2/21 - Don Vannoy
2/28 - John Neidert

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

2/1 - 2/28 - Carol & J. Hisel

USHERS

Don Ross, Betty Bryant,
Wally Hutchison, Ken Dukes,
J. Hisel & Linda Neidert

SOUND TECHNICIAN

2/07 & 2/28 - Todd Ross
2/14 & 2/21 - J. Hisel

SECURITY

2/01 - 2/15 - Wally Hutchison
2/16 - 2/28 - J. Hisel

**The very hairs of your head are
all numbered.
Do not be afraid....
(Matthew 10: 30 - 31a)**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mamie Jones
c/o Harry Jones
26511 Desmonde
Lomita, CA 90717-3613

DEATHS:

Anne Edmondson, Nov. 11, 2009

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

Benjamin & Sarah Mensah
(11 years)

Richard & Dorothy Flory
(61 years)

J.L. and Carol Hisel
(58 years)

Bill and Katie Weaver
(58 years)

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Marie Nyquist, (7th)
Nurine Hoke, (8th)
William O'Laverty, (9th)
Gladys Wessaw, (9th)
Helen O'Laverty (11th)
Charles Hinz (13th)
Herb Pauk (15th)
Esther Pia (15th)
Jacob Baird (16th)
Aria Lingerman (17th)
Matthew Mangum (17th)
Audrey Morrill, (17th)
Anne Walsh (19th)
Phyllis Resnick (25th)
June Gregory (26th)
Ashley Tutty (26th)
Eileen Allison (27th)
Angelina Boseant (28th)

**And now I come to you,
and these things I speak
in the world,
that you might have my joy
fulfilled in yourselves....
I am always with you,
even to the end of the Age.**

(John 17: 13; Matthew 28:
20)

**Lectionary Lessons
for February**

**2/07- Fifth Sunday after
Epiphany**
Isa 6:1-8 (9-13) * Ps 138
1 Cor 15: 1-11 * **Luke 5:1-11**
INTO THE DEEP

**2/14 - Last Sunday after
E p i p h a n y /
Transfiguration**
Ex 34:29-35 * Ps 99
2 Cor 3: 12-4:2 *
Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43)
ASTOUNDING GLORY

2/21 - First Sunday in Lent
Deut 26:1-11 * Ps 91:1-2, 9-16
Rom 10:8b-13 * **Luke 4:1-13**
WILDERNESS COMPANIONS

2/28-Second Sunday in Lent
Gen 15:1-12, 17-18 * Ps 27
Phil 3: 17-4: 1
Luke 13: 31-35
STRONG AND TENDER

It isn't that a person has sinned,
Nor one's parents: **BUT THAT**
the works of God should be
made manifest (visible)
in each person.

(John 9: 2)

**Treasurer's Report
Month Ending December 2009
General Funds Only**

Dec. Inc Dec. Exp Gain (Loss)

**Year to Date Totals
12 Mo Inc 12 Mo. Exp Gain (Loss)**

In Process!

Respectfully submitted,