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Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingerman

November  
2009

Return Service Requested

**Veterans Day BBQ**  
**Saturday, November 7th, at 3:00 pm**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Tickets available after Worship Service  
or in the church office.

\$5.00 per person.

**GOOD FOOD !**

Menu: Hamburgers, hotdogs, Beans,  
Homemade Chili & Dessert.

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**ANNUAL HARVEST SUNDAY**  
**November 15th.**

We ask that you bring non-perishable food items to  
Worship Service on this Sunday, to donate to the  
Menifee Valley Community Cupboard for their holi-  
day food baskets. This year our community food bank  
has been very low due to our economy. Our help is  
needed more then ever. If you have questions, please  
call Donna Goodrich at 679-1312. Thank you !

**Move your clocks "BACK ONE HOUR" on**  
**Saturday, October 31, before going to bed.**  
**Daylight saving time ends November 1st.**

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**FREE**  
**THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
**FOR THE COMMUNITY.**

Thursday, November 26,  
11:00 am - 2:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.  
If you would like to donate time, food items  
etc, please pick up a form in the church office.

This event is sponsored annually by  
His Light on the Hill.

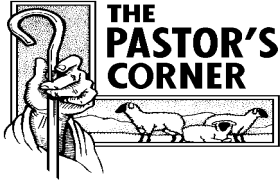
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**Because of the holiday, SONSHINER**  
**deadline for December**  
**will be November 17th.**

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**Please place date on your calendar!**  
**The Annual Meeting is January 26, 2010.**

**Thank you !**  
**(Annual Reports due January 2, 2010.)**



**Remember Always to Thank God !**

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
**give thanks** in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
Do NOT quench the Spirit...;  
hold fast to what is good.”  
**(1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 19, 21b)**



As Thanksgiving approaches, it is important spiritually to take an inventory of all our blessings from the abundant and compassionate Source of all life. Express thanksgiving for the MANY ways that God continues to bless all of us and this church. May your time of Thanksgiving this year bring forth many new avenues of abundance and sharing.

**I thank You, O God, for YOU: the unfailing Source of all our Good !**

**I thank You, O God, for the abiding light of the living Christ awakening the Christ light in each of us .**

**I thank You, O God, for the Company of Heaven, the Celestial Hosts of Angels  
for all the perfected souls and holy ones  
who care about us and encourage us in our earthly lives.**

**I thank You, O God the Good, for all the goodness You inspire in us and in the world.**

**I thank You, O God, for Your life-giving Spirit, flowing through me and all beings.**

**I thank You, O God, for Your daily bread and all Your generous supply for Your creation.**

**I thank You, O God, for the Mystery of Your miraculous, loving Presence.**

**I thank You, O God, for all those lives who have touched my being  
and for my countless opportunities to live, love, serve and be a blessing for You in the world.**

**I thank You, O God, for Your perpetual newness and for Your Power to heal  
all Your children in Your transforming Light.**

**I thank You, O God, for all new breakthroughs and for peace awakening in our times.**

**I thank You, O God, for friends and for those whom I may be able still to befriend.**

**I thank You, O God, for my overcomings and for all that I have learned and will yet discover  
in Your inexhaustible, renewing Spirit.**

**I thank You, O God, for the words of encouragement and blessing that I can speak.**

**I thank You, O God, for the new energies of the Christ and His Company at Christmas,  
now fast approaching and embracing planet Earth.**

**I thank You, O God, for these amazing, transformational times, and for our participation,  
especially for the caring we can give to those who are suffering and in need.**

*The things you do not have to say make you rich.  
Saying things you do not have to say weakens your talk.  
Hearing things you do not need to hear dulls your hearing.  
And the things you know before you hear them—  
Those are you, those are why you are in the world.*

William Stafford

One cannot speak about holy listening without mentioning **things you don't have to say**. *It's the wrong time and the wrong place. Though your face is lovely it's the wrong face...* All say things not needing saying maybe because it's the wrong time and the wrong place, maybe even to the wrong faces. Times abound when we say far more than enough. Entering into conversations, we bring a potential to heal as well as our own powerful weakness and that of another. A word spoken at the wrong time doesn't stand a chance. Wrong words at the wrong time to the wrong person bring damage. Words are not equally meaningful on all and every occasion.

*Never be rash with your mouth, not let your heart be quick to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven, and you upon the earth; therefore let your words be few (Eccl. 5:2).* All have spoken words we later regret, words that cannot be unsaid. All have spoken rashly when listening was what was called for. There is no balm that can heal words that will last a lifetime unforgotten. In the wisdom literature of both testaments, emphasis is placed not on obviously bad words or verbal abuse, but more on the damage words can afflict on a person or within a community of faith. We hear of careless and useless words, worthless words, empty and idle words, and divisive words. Words are ordained to be useful, to serve some higher purpose, to bring forth works of love....*my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger...(James 1:19).*

In our contemporary culture, dialogue equals debate, a fight with winners and losers. We live in an atmosphere of constant contention that withers the soul. We assume the opposition always leads to the truth. For me to be right, you need to be wrong. The other side is not the loyal opposition but "the enemy." We practice a politics of personal destruction where compromise is betrayal. Anger and hatred are readily available weapons of choice. Mean spiritedness offers a kind of unity with more immediate results than love and compassion. Those who believe that there are only two places to stand obviously cannot count to three.

Dialogue though rare, is central to soul care. *Dia* means "with each other," and *logos* a word or speech. The two underlying spiritual sense invites speaking a new creation into being with no other motive than to deeply meet each other as our truest self. 90 percent of spiritual health is about honesty. Good speaking arises out of the listening of inner silence. We all carry with us a depth of sadness deepening over time. Layers of unmourned loss mount up. We often suffer without words. We need to know this about those we meet. We welcomed *with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save our souls (James 1:21).*

Conversations that heal require a quality of presence and energy—the energy to be still and know with those who are suffering. Listening becomes an energy point. The energy you bring will be felt by the person to whom you offer your presence. We affect another's capacity to heal by the energy we give when we are with them. Listening requires silence and attention, but there is no self presence without difficulty. We suspend our conversations, outer and inner, paying attention to the movement of the Spirit.

*Our life is a listening...If our life is poured out in useless words, we will never hear anything, never become anything...An old Sufi Proverb asks: Whatever you wish to speak to anybody, let it pass through three gates. At the first gate, the Gatekeeper asks "Is it true?" At the second gate, "Is it necessary?" And the Gatekeeper at the third gate asks "Is it kind?" If what you wish to say to anybody can pass through these three gates, then say it, otherwise, it's best to keep silent. There is nothing so much like God as silence (Meister Eckart).*

When we speak all the time we don't allow God the chance to get a word in. The truest form of prayer is listening for the still small voice of the Spirit. Most prayer is listening. There is no circumstance that prevents us from praying; there are no closed doors in God's presence. On the days when God seems absent, silence becomes the beginning of prayer, not just when we have much to say. We merely listen to what our hearts know of love and longing. We are a great deal more absent than God ever is. God's presence is indelibly imprinted in the center of our being as something indescribable and unforgettable. We simply sit or stand before God that we know in Christ risen and "be with," *to behold the beauty of the Lord (Ps 27:4).*

Ken Carlson, Associate Pastor



## Meditations of the Moderator

Art Peterson

### There is Stewardship and Then There Is STEWARDSHIP !

Since I have been a teacher for the past fifty years you will not be surprised if I tell you I love to examine the meaning of words and concepts. Sometimes, I discover, I am a little careless in my annunciation. Last summer, at Stanford, after I tried to clarify the nature of the American political party system by indicating to my young students that American parties have traditionally been more “win-oriented” than “ideological,” I was somewhat shocked when one student, in an examination, defined American political parties as “wind-oriented”, that is, full of hot air.”

Stewardship Sunday is coming soon and it may be well if we look more carefully at the definition of that word and concept. The word actually comes from the Greek word *oikos*, which means house or household. From this Greek word *oikos* we get the word *oikonomics* which sounds like our word economics. In other words the word stewardship in one sense means faithfully managing our household.

Another favorite stewardship definition of mine is “stewardship is what happens in a Christian’s life after one says, I believe.” Still others would clarify the concept by suggesting Stewardship is “how one shares one’s time, talents and treasures in the service of others to advance God’s Kingdom both in our midst and towards the ends of the earth.”

I think you will agree with me that all three dimensions suggested in these definitions of Stewardship are important: 1. Sharing of (a time, (b talent and )c treasure; 2. Making our faith manifest in good works; and 3. Managing our household of faith so that it can continue to grow and serve.

I believe we do quite well in our UCC church here in Sun City in each of these areas but we can do better.

**1. Sharing of time, talent and treasure: (a. Time and (b Talent: This church is remarkable in terms of the loyalty and commitment of its members who serve so faithfully in each of the churches functions of worship, religious education, social events, physical plant enhancement, security, and preservation and in church governance. But we are in constant need of additional help. Stewardship Sunday is a call for each of us to reconsider what talents we have that might be used to strengthen and empower our church; (c. **Treasure:** As our Stewardship Chairman Dorothy Flory has pointed out our churches pledges are honored and honored generally in a timely fashion.” We are all most grateful for that faithfulness but our total income, even with the rents we receive, is not sufficient to meet our current budget.**

We all know these are difficult times. One of my friends told me recently, “I thought my retirement was going to be o.k.. I had a good 401K account but I now discover it has dwindled to a 101K account.” Many of our members are giving as much as their personal budgets will allow. But as we prepare for Stewardship Sunday it is well to attend prayerfully to this question. Could we not increase our giving, even by a small percent for next year?

**2. Good works.** The warm and welcoming inclusivity of our church is a good measure of our desire to reach out to the larger community and minister in any way we can. This manifestation of stewardship is seen in the wide variety of religious faiths who worship regularly with us in our congregation.

3. Stewardship as faithful management of resources. It is in this area of stewardship that we have not been as good stewards as we might have been. As Moderator I must take a share of the responsibility for failures in this area. Out of optimism and desire to grow many of us on the Church Council last year decided to invest in programs and purchases which we believed would help strengthen the church. Unfortunately, these items were not budgeted and therefore were not funded. That was not good “oikonomics.” It was not good household management. Fortunately, because of a substantial trust fund that was left to the church we are going to be able to cove those out-of-budget expenditures and we will finish this Fiscal year “in the black.” The lesson we have learned is that we need to be more realistic in our budget planning for next year and we must not spend funds for unbudgeted items.

Well that is quite a long message from someone who wrote only last month about being succinct. I ask your forgiveness for not being consistent in my suggestions. But, after all, consistency is the product of little minds and I don’t want you to accuse me of that.

**Neighbors in Need Offering  
Greetings from your Board of Missions!**

As part of our annual sharing with those less fortunate, we will receive your "Local NIN Offering" on Sunday, November 15th. This offering will go our local food bank, Menifee Valley Community Cupboard to enable them to purchase the foods they might not receive from our "Harvest Table." Each Thanksgiving they need to purchase turkeys and other perishable foods that go to needy families or seniors, so they may have a holiday meal. This year more than ever, families are out of work, seniors have little food. Please pray about your gift, give what you can. MVCC will be grateful for your generosity! Thank you.

Carol Hisel, Mission Board Chair  
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**SCRIP**

The "season of gifts" is fast approaching and if you are scratching your head wondering just what to buy for the people in your life, please remember, SCRIP makes a wonderful gift. Teenagers love books, music, electronics, and clothes and we can well supply you with just the perfect card for them. Restaurant cards make excellent gifts for those hard to buy for individuals. Prices vary so there is sure to be something for the amount you need. Please stop by the office for a copy of the retailer list. There are over 400 possibilities including See's Candies. Remember to use SCRIP when buying holiday pies too. Its such an easy thing to do and it helps to bring money to your church! Thanks so much, Becky & Eleta

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**Feast of Lights**

Each year in early December, Redlands University presents "The Feast of Lights." This is a religious musical presentation including over 100 voices in the choir and the University and the Community Orchestra. It includes a Tableau of the Nativity and is a unique candlelight event held in the University Chapel. The program is offered December 3rd - 7th, 2009. Tickets are \$19 & \$27 each. If you are interested in attending this magical musical event, please **contact Becky Miller at 679-6525**, or Redlands University Events Office. It would be fun to carpool or have a bus group. Please get your tickets early!



**Stewardship for November 2009**

Thank you for your continuing support of this church's ministry in the spirit of Christ.

Every gift you give means much as we reach out in service to the Lord.

As expenses continue to rise, we are so grateful for your pledges and special gifts to the church.

Next month in the Sonshiner I will have updated information concerning our pledges for this year.

We will soon be mailing out your estimated pledges for 2010.

Please renew your pledge and bring to church on November 8th.

Thank you again for your support and participation.

Please tell your friends about our church and bring them to church whenever you can.

Dorothy Flory,  
Stewardship Chair

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**Gentle Words of Encouragement**

Spend every day preparing for the next.

As you reach forward with one hand, accept the advice of those who have gone before you, and in the same manner, reach back with the other hand to those who follow you; for life is a fragile chain of experiences held together by love.

Take pride in being a strong link in that chain.

Discipline yourself, but do not be harsh.

The pleasures of life are yours to be taken.

Share them with others, but always remember that you, too, have earned the right to partake.

Anonymous

(Shared by Dorothy Flory)

**NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS**  
**GREETERS**

11/01 - Wendy Osborne  
11/08 - Pearl Boyd  
11/15 - Virginia Young  
11/22 - Janie Snyder  
11/29 - Lucia Gallo

**GUEST BOOK**

11/01 - Richard Westlund  
11/08 - Cynnie Vannoy  
11/15 - Jack Young  
11/22 - John Neidert  
11/29 - Ed Gross

**LAY READERS**

11/01 - Judy Carlson  
11/08 - Ken Dukes  
11/15 - Betty Bryant  
11/22 - Shirley Wilson  
11/29 - Richard Goward

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

11/1 - 11/30 - Carol & J. Hisel

**SOUND TECHNICIAN**

11/01 & 11/29 - Todd Ross  
11/08, 15 & 11/22 - J. Hisel

**SECURITY**

11/01 - 11/15 - Wally Hutchison  
11/16 - 11/30 - Don Ross

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**Take My hand  
And  
Learn with ME  
As I lead,  
For I am always here.**

(Doree Evanoff)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Henrietta Russell  
28604 Cloverleaf Place  
Castaic, CA 91384  
1-661-295-8959

**DEATHS:**

Mary Alice Cochrane, Oct 10, 09

**NOVEMBER Birthdays**

Cecile Jimeno (1st)  
Evelyn Kehe, (1st)  
Laura Tutty, (2nd)  
Flo Hallowell, (4th)  
Urwin Kraut, (4th)  
Eleta Tidwell, (5th)  
Diana Williams, (5th)  
Linda Baird, (8th)  
Clara Fredenberger, (9th)  
Sharon Joel, (12th)  
Les Carney, (18th)  
Edward Gross, (19th)  
Concetta Maki, (19th)  
Loretta Rozman, (20th)  
Leroy Beenken, (22nd)  
Vivian Harding, (26th)  
Ruth Pauk, (28th)  
Nathan Baird, (29th)

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**“To the one whom much has  
been given, much shall be  
required.” (Luke 12: 48)**

**Thank You, God, for all  
the MANY blessings You  
have provided for this  
church and for each of us!  
May we go and DO likewise !**

**Treasurer’s Report  
Month Ending October, 2009  
General Funds Only**

**Sept Inc    Sept Exp    Gain (Loss)**

**Year to Date Totals  
9 Mo Inc    9 Mo. Exp    Gain (Loss)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Westlund

**Lectionary Lessons  
for November**

**11/01- Thirty-first Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

(Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost)

Laity Sunday

**Ruth 1: 1-8**

Ps 146

Heb 9:11-14 \* Mark 12:28-34

*WHEREVER YOU GO*

**11/08-Thirty-second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

(Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost)

Stewardship Sunday

**Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 \* Ps 127 or**

1 Kings 17:8-16 Ps 146

Heb 9:24-28 \* Mark 12:38-44

*RISK AND RESTORATION*

**11/15– Thirty-third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

(Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost)

**1 Sam 1:4-20 \* 1 Sam 2:1-10 or**

Daniel 12:1-3 \* Ps 16

Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25

**Mark 13:1-8**

*PRAISE THE HOLY ONE*

**11/22 – Reign of Christ**

2 Sam 23:1-7 \* Ps 132: 1-12,

(13-18) or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Ps 93 \* Rev 1:4b-8

**John 18: 33-37**

*A WISE REIGN*

**11/29 - First Sunday of Advent**

Jer 33: 14-26 \* Ps 25: 1-10

1 Thess 3:9-13 \* **Luke 21:25-36**

*SIGN OF THINGS TO COME*

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*This year, I am especially  
overcome with an amazing  
peace and contentment  
and a heart filled  
with gratitude.*

***(Elisabeth Burton,  
You Never Forget)***