

Community Presbyterian Church
2800 Georgia St. Vallejo, CA 94591
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Email: cpcvallejo@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Jon S. Read
Associate Pastor Bill Lane

CHURCH BELL

February 2011

The Power of Our Words

Have you ever paused to consider the power of words? Whether spoken or written, words have an impact. We have all experienced this power. It may have been in a movie, a book, a speech, a sermon, or simply in a conversation. But suddenly, the words that are spoken affect us, give us chills, or sadden us, or give us joy, or strengthen us. They enter into our being and change us. Why else do we cry, or laugh, or cringe, or become upset when reading a good book, hear someone speaking? It is the power of words – their power to touch the core of our being, stir our emotions and passions.

Most of us seldom think about the power our words have. We use words everyday, yet how often do we stop to think about the impact they have on others, as well as ourselves. It is like switching on a light bulb. How often do we think about the electricity that powers that bulb? Yet the power is still there – ready for us to flip the switch so there will be light. I think it is similar with words. We use them everyday often without thinking about the power they have – sometimes with unintentional results.

Neighbors were talking one day and the conversation turned to people and their ethnicity. The one neighbor remarked how people of certain backgrounds and heritage were far inferior to her own. She stated this as if it were an undisputed fact and went on to talk about how lazy, ignorant and disgusting “those people” were. The words were like a knife in the other woman’s heart, whose

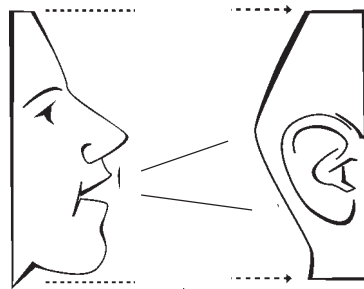
parents were of that ethnicity. She did not say anything. The other woman had no idea the pain her words had caused. Words have the power to hurt and destroy.

Yet words also have the power to enliven and create - when a commander wants to inspire his troops before battle - when a leader wants to touch the hearts and minds of her followers - when a

lover wants to share the depths of his or her love with the person they love - when trying to convince others to agree with your position. The power comes not simply from the word, but what the word represents, how it is used, how it has been used and what images and feelings it arouses in those who

hear the words. The words are selected specifically for these reasons. They can instill fear, anger, confusion, doubt, or they can bring confidence, happiness, joy, peace and much more.

All this brings me to the reason for this topic. We are all aware of the recent shooting in Arizona and the controversy over whether recent political rhetoric was at fault, or contributed to, this tragic incident. If nothing else, simply the controversy is an example of the power words have. Those who see the often bitter and biting words used in politics feel they must have influenced the gunman. Those who do not think this are upset by the words used to describe that rhetoric. I am not trying to say one side is right or wrong. I am saying that the words spoken and



written about this demonstrate the power of words and how much damage they can do.

Jesus Christ knew what words could do – the changes they can bring about. He knew it first hand for he is the Word of God, as the gospel of John tells us. The Word that was spoken and all things came into creation. Through Jesus, the Word of God being Spoken, the world was formed, plants grew up, animals came into being. Later Jesus spoke and people who were caught up in a world filled with hatred, empty promises, violence and caustic political rhetoric flocked to hear him speak of a different way of life - a life in relation to God - a life where people treat others with love as he treated the woman caught in adultery, the woman at the well, or how the Samaritan treated the wounded man along side the road, and the father treated the prodigal son. The words of these stories touched and changed lives because of their power.

As Christians we need to understand not only the power of the words we speak, but also the power of the Word of God in our lives. We need to reflect on how we may have contributed to the polarization of our society and country by the words we have spoken and how we have acted. We need to remember that in Jesus Christ, God is reconciling the world to himself. Perhaps we need to step out and use our words to work to bring reconciliation to our society and country. We need to be an example of how words can bring healing, understanding, grace, forgiveness and hope. We need to use the power of the Word and the power of our words, to show people there is a better way to treat others – a way of love and respect even when we may not agree with them.

Peace,

Pastor Jon

GENERAL OPERATING FUND REPORT through December 31, 2010

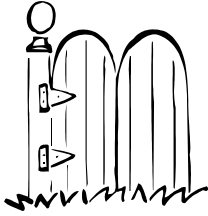
	<u>December</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$36,558.23	\$30,529.50	\$6,028.73	\$355,623.16
Expenditures	\$31,446.83	\$29,853.60	\$1,593.23	\$351,966.43
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 5,111.40	\$ 675.90	\$4,435.50	\$ 3,656.73



Ending Balances

Building Fund Balance	\$11,389.08
Pastor Relocation Fund	\$40,821.10**
Pastor Relocation Loan	\$30,777.72
Deacon's General Fund	\$ 3,867.50
Memorial Fund	\$25,576.38
Roof Loan Balance	\$22,607.13

***Pastor Relocation Fund includes the Pastor Loan of \$30,00.00*

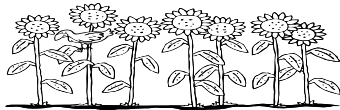


Gardener Needed

Lynne Norberg

Due to my health, I am no longer able to take care of the Memorial garden that we are fortunate to have outside the sanctuary stained glass windows. It takes approximately 1 - 1½ hours per week in the spring, summer and fall to maintain this beautiful garden. Not that much is required in the winter. The azaleas need water once a week (a good flooding), some weeding and fertilizer once a month and of course, trimming. I have done this every Friday for 10+ years. The yard needs a good cleanup two (2) times each year, and I would be willing to help pay for one (1) clean up.

I hope there is someone who loves gardening that is able to volunteer to keep the memorial garden looking nice. Please call the church office if you would like to become our Memorial “Gardener” (643-3222).



Reporting for ... REPORTING

Do you have an interest in or passion for writing? Well, if you do we have the perfect opportunity for you right here at CPC. We have so many interesting stories to be told, people to meet and history to uncover and unfortunately not enough time to do it.

So, if you would be interested in helping us out, it would be great to be able to share wonderful stories and memories with our church family on a regular basis. This job might be just what you are looking for. Give the church office a call (643-3222) and ask for details.

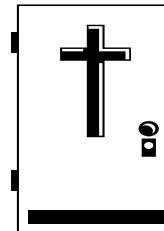
Enquirer's Discussion

- * What is the Presbyterian Church?
- * What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?
- * Is there a difference between being a member of Community Presbyterian Church and one who regularly attends worship?
- * What can one expect from the church as a member?
- * What is expected of one who is a member?

The answers to these and other questions will be explored in the next *Enquirer's Discussion*. We will view the video, *Who Are We Presbyterians* to explore the Christian Faith, take a brief look at the Reformed Tradition, the history of Community Presbyterian Church. We will also have an opportunity to share some of our own faith journey.

All interested are invited to gather in the Fireside Room from 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM on Sunday, February 13 and 20. Lunch will be provided as will child care for those who need it. Please contact Pastor Jon (643-3222) for more information.

The
**Church
Office**



**Will Be
Closed:**

*Monday, February 21
for President's Day*

So That Our Joy May Be Complete

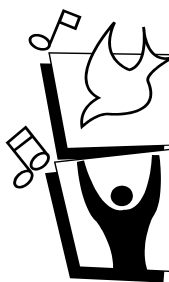
*Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!*

Psalm 150:3-6

There are many ways to make a joyful noise to the Lord. The psalmist not only reminds us that there are many ways to praise God with sound, but also in chapters 66 and 100 calls upon “all the earth” to bring this praise before the Lord.

There are seven of us in the early service praise band (I am joined by Henry Sun, Jane Sexton, Nat and Nancy Davis, and Bob and Donna Lawson). We have led worship primarily with guitars, drums, piano, and voices. So as you can see, we still have more room for trumpets, lutes, harps, and dancing feet! We know

that our church family is rich in both talent and praise, so if you have the inclination to play an instrument or sing with us and wish to glorify God in song, don't be shy. Speak to a worship band member if you have any interest in joining with us to lead early service worship.



We also are interested in knowing what musical talents you have to offer for special occasions if not on a regular basis. Sometime in the near future, we will take a survey to find out what abilities our members have so these gifts can be shared in worship and that “our joy may be complete.” But you needn't wait if you want to contact us sooner. Talk to one of us before or after worship or email me at davidaaronlawson@gmail.com

In His Service,
David Lawson

Souper Bowl of Caring



More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Every dollar donated goes to the Christian Help Center in Vallejo, our 2011 Souper Bowl of Charity of choice. Our youth will hold soup pots at the church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 6. Please drop \$1.00 (or more) and/or a can of soup in the soup pots as you leave the worship service. Be part of this wonderful movement!

Monthly Worship Attendance

December 2010

	<u>9:00 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/5	52	90	142
12/12	62	92	154
12/19	50	105	155
12/26	40	47	87

Christmas Eve Services:

	<u>7:00 PM</u>	<u>11:00 PM</u>	<u>Total</u>
	88	93	181

Average attendance for 9:00 AM: 51

Average attendance for 11:00 AM: 84

SESSION NOTES

The following motions were approved at the Session meeting of December 19, 2010

- to transfer Edith Milnes from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant due to her death on November 22, 2010
- approve the recommended actions from the required annual review of church membership records
- approve expenditure up to \$4,000 from the building fund for lights in Fellowship Hall once the candle power has been determined appropriate by the Stewardship & Administration Committee
- approve the proposed budget for 2011
- to transfer equity of \$11,444.79 from account # 29740 (Presbyterian Investment In/Out Account) to account # 31000 (Budget Fund Balance) as recommended by the Stewardship & Administration Committee

Esther Circle

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 17, 7:00 PM at Karen MacArthur's home, 834 Rose Drive in Benicia (746-7459). We will be continuing our study from our book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. We will be reading Chapter 5: Living Room Intimacy. This chapter will be teaching us that if we let God into our home and take the time to listen and pray with him, we will have a much more intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior. If you would like to join us or have any questions please call Dianne Craft (557-7129) or Chris Kerr (643-8473).



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Jim Kerr
Hugh & Michele Marquez ♥
Jerry & Judy Sullivan
- 2 Bobby & Constance Howard ♥
- 4 Renee Morley
- 7 Laura Levin
Adriana Zaragoza
- 8 Dave Standafer
Allison Denofrio
Alison Read
- 9 Terry & Margaret Haffner ♥
- 10 Matthew Lawson
- 13 Mary Borgo
- 14 Sandra Collister
Robert Lynch
Howard & Barbara Fortson ♥
- 15 Mabel Lorincz
Maritza Aguilar
- 16 Gladys Phillips-Evans
- 17 Dave Dennis
- 18 Nancy Davis
Amy Bohannan
- 19 Nita Foote
Elvin Valverde
- 20 Fred & Arline Curry ♥
- 21 Mike Samansky
- 23 Ryan Minahan
- 24 Bob Douglass
- 25 Ken Breckenridge
- 28 Leslie Cameron



Taking Suffering Seriously

A Presentation by Dr. Jon Stanger

Tuesday, February 22, 2011
6:00 PM

Wayside United Methodist Church
2309 Columbus Parkway
Vallejo, CA

Sponsored by your Stephen Leaders

The Stephen Ministry Leaders from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Benicia, Community Presbyterian Church in Vallejo, and Wayside United Methodist Church are proud to welcome Dr. Jon Stanger, MD, MDiv, MHS. Dr. Stanger's presentation will be on "*Taking Suffering Seriously*" and is open to all three congregations - not just the Stephen Ministers, but to all who might be interested in this noteworthy subject, including your friends. Light refreshments to follow presentation.

Dr. Stanger is Senior Ethics Consultant for Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) in California. He is a founding member and served for seven years as Chairperson of the Bioethics Committee. He has been a member of the teaching faculty CCRMC for 29 years and served as Residency Program Director from 1986-1990. He holds appointment as Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California, Davis and is a member of the Associate Faculty at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He directs the Medical Ethics & Humanities curriculum for the CCRMC residency program and teaches medical ethics at CCRMC, University of California, San Francisco, the Graduate Theological Union, and David Grant Medical Center.

Dr. Stanger received his medical degree from UCSF, Master of Health Services from UC Davis, Master of Divinity from the Graduate Theological Union, and Certificate in Health Care Ethics from the University of Washington. He achieved board certification in both family medicine and emergency medicine. He has over 25 years of experience in clinical practice and teaching in the areas of emergency medicine and family practice, including medical relief work in the war zone of central Bosnia and in Kosovar refugee camps. Dr. Stanger and his wife, Dr. Diane Dooley, are long-time Benicia residents.

Change of Address!

Matt & Maricel Bohanan
Malina, Matteo
555 Alaska Ave Apt 94
Fairfield, CA 94533

Mark Heise
39800 Fremont Blvd., #277
Fremont, CA 94538

Sheri Pearson
Eva, Lily
248 Newbury Way
American Canyon, CA 94503
652-5432



Our Pastors Will Be Away

Pastor Bill

February 1-6
study leave at the
APCE National
Annual Conference

Pastor Jon

February 28 - March 2
study leave



Evangelism-Hospitality

It is a new year and the Evangelism & Hospitality Committee (EH) hopes you had a wonderful holiday season and are all looking forward to a year of fun activities that the EH Committee has planned.

We are planning the fun events that we have held in the past. The first event is the annual Easter Festival for the children, to be held Saturday, April 23. With Easter being at the end of April this year (April 24), the Mother-Daughter event will be held on Sunday, May 15, the week after Mother's Day. We are hoping to plan some activities for the summer this year, and we would like your input. Would you like a potluck, a church picnic or something we have not even thought about?

We are also hoping to stay within our budget this year. It has been difficult because the cost of the kitchen goods and coffee supplies have increased steadily. To help with this expense, there will be a basket put out each Sunday morning with a sign saying "Donations gratefully accepted". If you feel so inclined, any amount donated would be appreciated.

If you have suggestions for the coming year or questions, please be sure to call Donna Tice (552-7586) or Lani Puzey (645-8269).



Deacon's Prayer List

Continuing Prayers

John DeHoop Sue Lemmon
John Lipsey
Michelle Marquez & family
Larry Roop Martha Ross
Sandy Stevens Audrey Taylor
Larry Vierra Warren Watne

Angel's Crest Home

Irma Changus



Angel's Home

Shirley Love

Aragon Care Home

Louise Duensing

Camino Alto Care Home

Warren Watne

Merrill Gardens Vallejo

Dorothy Allen Janet Bodwell
Joe Bruggman Edythe Morris
Frances Pennington

Oakwood Senior Home

Becky Bosuego

Those Recovering at Home

Dorothy Mayhew Anna Vickers

Those Out of Town

Norene Cornils Stan White

Those in the Military



Eduardo Alverado
Joseph Aton Sean Ruel
Daniel Champaign David M. Scott
Joshua P. Jackson Steven Dale Shiner
Emily Lapp Mark Simmerman
Joshua Martin Bob Stewart
Mike Nunley Mark A. Strong
Tamera Rollf Julie Vosilus

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The Church Bell
February 2011



Return Service Requested

