



Presbyts

March 2010

NEW ORLEANS UPDATE

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...’ ”

Matthew 25: 36

First Presbyterian Church

Of Inglewood

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The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Kidd,
Pastor

MISSION STATEMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Inglewood is a multicultural congregation committed to exalt God through the celebration of **Worship**, to share God’s Good News through **Evangelism**, to nurture our members in an atmosphere of contagious **Fellowship**, to transform lives through **Spiritual Growth opportunities**, and to equip members for servant **Ministry** to people in our community and world which bears witness to the Redeeming love of Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

On February 20 – 27, 2010 nine participants from the Presbytery of the Pacific made the trip to New Orleans, to participate for a third year in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Recovery program.

Our group lodged for the week at the Olive Tree Volunteer Village housed on the grounds of the former Eastminster Presbyterian Church in East New Orleans. After more than four years, the city of New Orleans is still in a mode of rebuilding. It’s estimated that at least 35% of the city has yet to recover; with many homes throughout the region remaining in the same condition as they were after Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of families have yet to return to the area.

Each year our team returns we see signs of new housing and redevelopment, the city coming back to life and living. Partnering with our friends from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Pacifica, CA for a third year, we worked on six housing ‘builds.’ Our work assignments ranged from painting to window replacement, new flooring to

hanging doors, replacement of siding, and many other tasks. The work was difficult but very rewarding.

Our group also had opportunities during free time to visit the French Quarter, view the Brad Pitt homes being built in the Lower Ninth Ward, the Garden District, taking a 2 hour dinner cruise on the Natchez River Steam Boat up the Mississippi River, and other excursions into the city to experience the great culture of the region. On Sunday, February 21, 2010 we worshipped at the Berean Presbyterian Church where I was invited to bring the morning sermon. On the Saturday of our departure, a small group of us visited one of the oldest cemeteries in New Orleans with some crypts dating back to the early 1800’s.

On Thursday evening, February 25, we had the wonderful experience of having dinner with homeowners whose homes are under construction in partnership with Phoenix of New Orleans, Project Homecoming and PDA

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New Orleans continued

volunteer teams. Such a rewarding experience in realizing the short week we spent in New Orleans working to rebuild homes, goes a long way in helping families to eventually return to their homes. In the past two years, two families have returned to homes we have worked to help restore. God is Good!

Our wonderful team of volunteers from Pacific Presbytery included: Karen Ceaser, Rev. Dr. Judy Cuthbertson, Rev. Sue and Frank Fisher, Lois Hines, Rev. Dr. Harold E. Kidd, Richardson Leong, Sandy Tufts, and Theresa Wilson. Thanks to each of you for your continued prayers during our stay in New Orleans.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Kidd



SESSION REPORT

Pastor Harold Kidd was away serving as Team Leader for New Orleans PDA Mission Recovery Work and asked Rev. Dr. Kikanza Nuri to moderate session.

Books of Order were purchased and distributed to each elder. To ease the budget elders will pay for their books, \$10 each, as they are able. The books need to be available for each session meeting and may be taken home or left at church. Chapter 10 was recommended for review.

Jolene Swain accepted the position of assistant clerk to Hal Wessels so she will be trained to

assume the role next year when he retires. Loretta Rogers accepted Vice Chair of Nominating Committee.

Evangelism and Fellowship submitted a review of the Church Roll for action to move names to inactive, delete, under care, undetermined or to remain active that is submitted to General Assembly annually. Active membership as of the end of 2009 was 106 with 5 deaths and 4 new members. Paul Corneil will be thanked for serving as chair last year.

Debbie Hoskins and Jolene Swain reported on the January Presbytery meeting at Gardena. Ruth Hiersemann and Hal Wessels will be delegates to the March 9th Presbytery meeting at Calvary, Wilmington in Harbor City when the Moderator of General Assembly, The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow will be present, an historic first for Pacific Presbytery.

Janie Cuffe and Ruth Hiersemann agreed to two visitations with shut-ins while the pastor is away.

The 2010 budget was reviewed and accepted prior to the Congregational Meeting.



MISSION REPORT

HAITI RELIEF

With the recent transfer of \$101,500 to ecumenical partners in Haiti the **PC(USA)** through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** has now contributed more than half a million dollars to immediate

emergency relief in the island nation for food, water, tents and medical supplies. Immediately after the earthquake \$100,000 was sent from **One Great Hour of Sharing** funds. An emergency appeal brought in another \$109,000. PDA approved a \$200,000 grant for Hospital Sainte Croix and the affiliated nursing school in Leogane, Haiti. Altogether PDA has received donations totaling \$2.8 million and is accepting more on-line or checks.

This past week **FPCI** sent **26 Hygiene Kits** to **Church World Service** along with \$2.00 per kit for handling. **Nellie Yanes** and her assistants are sewing baby clothes, receiving blankets and diapers for **25 Baby Care Kits**. Presbyterians are contributing to Haiti in countless ways.

Church of Inglewood Intergenerational Women Ministry Meeting

Sat., March 13, 2010

**At the home of
Ms. JEAN USSERY
Inglewood, CA 90301**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PLEASE RSVP to Ms.

Refreshments served

THE MINISTER OF MUSIC CORNER:

February is the shortest month but still a very special month. Being African-American History Month the music at FPCI featured music by African-American composers. Both choirs performed a diverse repertoire, featuring gospels, spirituals, anthems, hymns, and other related music. Music was introduced that was atonal, or having no specific home key. I am sure the listener had to adjust to where the melody and harmonies were going. On the last Sunday the closing hymn was a newly written hymn dedicated to the Haiti crisis sung to the tune of "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

On Sunday, February 21, 2010 the "dlw Chorale" gave a fabulous concert that featured a wide variety of sacred music. During the concert Dr. Don Lee White had the audience participate in learning a hymn from the Presbyterian Hymnal. He suggested teaching the congregation new hymns sometimes during the worship services. Look for this concept to be explored in the future.

I want to highlight a few important contributions that have been made and preserved of sacred African-American music, its origins and stages leading to today's influences and genres. A timeline will indicate the progression.

1619---The first Africans are brought to the British colony emphasizing call and response,

improvisation, polyrhythms, and percussive affinities, one of the origins of gospel music and other A.A. (African-American) musical styles.

1674---Isaac Watts was born. He was a great hymnist and his hymns are used in the A.A. hymnals.

1780---John Wesley published many Methodist hymns. "There is a Fountain" is one that is widely used.

1787---The African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in the United States.

1800's---Christian sacred music defined new forms of music, such as spirituals, shouts, lined-hymns, and anthems.

1871---The Fisk Jubilee Singers choir toured internationally, and became the benchmark choir for many to follow.

1901---Songwriter Charles Albert Tindley published many well known songs, including "Beams of Heaven".

1906---The Azusa Street Revival began in Los Angeles and was associated with pentecostal music which influenced gospel music.

1920---Blues, ragtime, and early jazz influenced gospel blues and holy blues.

1921---The National Baptist Convention published "Gospel Pearls", the first hymnal from a major African-American denomination. Some of these selections became known as gospel.

1931---Professor Theodore Fryre and Thomas Dorsey (father of gospel music) created the first gospel chorus. Dorsey

was a secular musician at first. His wife and child were killed in an accident and he wrote "Precious Lord" in response to this incident.

1940---Golden Age of Gospel--Many soloists such as Mahalia Jackson and groups like the Caravans, Swan Silvertones, and the Clara Ward Singers, to name a few, dominated this period.

1960's ---James Cleveland, the king of Gospel, started to dominate this period.

1967---"Oh Happy Day," was recorded by the Northern California State Youth Choir. They later became the Edwin Hawkins Singers. This song changed gospel music. It was considered almost secular in nature and secular radio stations played it.

Since the "Oh Happy Day" success other sacred musicians and artists began making sacred music to be on both secular and sacred charts. Kirk Franklin's "Stomp," The Clark Sisters' "You are the Sunshine" were played in discos. Now there are similar music genres for sacred and secular music. You have to listen to the lyrics, sometimes to discern if it is sacred.

I hope this little overview will inspire you to check out more information about African-American music. In the meantime, songwriters are still composing anthems, spirituals, cantatas, and other serious sacred musical genres, instrumental and vocal.

Be blessed, Anthony

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Written and presented by **Beatrice Lott** on 2/21/2010

History is a branch of knowledge that records and explains events of the past. Carter G. Woodson is called the father of African American History. In 1926 he decided that there should be a record kept that would serve as a revelation, an understanding, an inspiration, transforming our lives.

Woodson started his documentation with the hope that by revealing the past it would help to prepare for the future.

Today we pay special tribute to the black man's involvement in the making of America. We pause a few moments to thank those who paved the way for us.

Americans of all colors are seeing the visions of our ancestors finally becoming a reality.

We have to give thanks to our founding fathers of the east and west, the creators of cities, the builders of railroads and the makers of American song and dance. Naming only a few, we have to thank the freedom fighters, Frederick Douglas, Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth who never gave up their passion to be free. These are the ones who made this day possible.

The entertainment world can thank W.C. Handy, Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong, Lena Horn, Ethel Waters, Bill Robinson and Marion Anderson who opened doors for us.

We thank our great educators; Booker T. Washington, and Thurgood Marshall, also scientists Benjamin Banaker and George Washington Carver.

We have so many Afro-Americans in the sports world. Athletes can say thanks to Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson and Wilma Rudolph for breaking down the barriers that gave them their place in history.

In the fight for civil rights, lets not forget to say thanks to Rosa Parks, Martin Malcom and Medgar Evers for awakening the cause for which they sacrificed their lives.

To this generation, I would say your grandparents and great grandparents have stories to tell, stories that should inspire and motivate you to use your life to make a difference. Take your history seriously.

There is a lesson we can all learn. Black history should not just be remembered in the month of February but everyday, because when we look at our history we remind ourselves of how much unfinished business there is. You will write the next chapter.

A tribute of our history is not complete without a mention of the anthem composed by James Weldon Johnson that asked:

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

We are remembering all of the brave Black-Americans by saying "thank you!"

First Presbyterian Church of Inglewood

Presents

Lauren Smith
soprano

Manuel Arellano
piano

Chris Wood
violin

Ermin Cruz III
tenor

"Love's Many Faces"
SUNDAY, March 21, 2010
3:00 P.M.

Ms. Smith has performed in George Gershwin's "Porgy and Boss" for the LA Opera and Stevie Wonder's "House Full of Toys Benefit". This young singer has scheduled arias by Mozart, Faure, Puccini, Donizetti and Gershwin. This is another opportunity to encourage an up-and-coming singer!



God Is Doing a Wonderful Thing in The Center for Lupus Care

Every time I think that we are not successful in reaching our goals that would satisfy the needs of so many of our lupus patients who are suffering physically and or emotionally, I'm reminded by the Holy Spirit that I am not in control. I just happen to be the one that God gave the vision.

It has always been my desire to educate lupus patients and to offer them counseling. These two components have been extremely important to me during my thirty years of coping with two of the three kinds of the insidious disease called Systemic and Discoid Lupus Erythematosus commonly known as Lupus.

Our doors have been open for seven years and we have educated more than 10,000 women and men as we attend large and small Health Fairs, host our annual "Day of Information" at Centinela Hospital, host our annual Gospel Concert, give radio and television interviews, travel to Washington DC and speak to our Senators, host symposiums, lectures and work shops, and RSVP with a positive yes when we are asked to speak in schools, churches, social groups and in medical settings where health care professionals make up the audience.

We, the leaders of the Center for Lupus Care, (CLC) truly believe that this is a God driven ministry.

We announced to the church that we received \$50,000 from the Presbyterian Women to continue to create our Lupus Library and to begin our outreach in the Latino/Hispanic community because there is a great need and

no one has stepped up to the plate to help. The one obstacle that we had to overcome was to have a bilingual employee to begin the work. The following paragraphs are how God worked it out.

I sat with Jolene Swain during one of our fellowship hours in August of 2009 and we began to talk about the need for counseling for people who suffer from chronic diseases. We both agreed that the need probably had doubled since the economic down turn or the beginning of the recession. I shared with her that we had offered counseling to our patients in the monthly support group but it only lasted a year because the funding ran out. We continued to talk and she asked me how I felt about creating a Counseling Training Center within the Center for Lupus Care. She caught me by surprise. We continued to talk and she explained that she would be instrumental in connecting CLC with USC to allow interns, who are completing their Masters Degree, supervised by a MSW, to counsel lupus patients. My response was, let's talk when CLC get some funding for such a project.

A few months later CLC, requested funds from SDOP to begin a counseling program. SDOP responded by partnering with us for the third time, giving \$10,000 to begin our counseling training center.

On March 1, 2010, two University of Southern California (USC) interns showed up eager to begin counseling lupus patients. They are bursting with energy and each has a strong background in other disciplines that can and will help CLC reach many of its goals. This is a ground breaking phenomenon and will, no doubt,

add a new discipline for counselors to train in.

They are USC Masters Degree candidates in Social Work. LaLee Vicedo, who is a professional fundraiser, is willing to use her expertise to research and contact funders to continue the programs within CLC.

Michelle Carrillo, is bilingual and very creative and is looking forward to doing outreach in the Latino community.

Submitted by
Liz Shaw-Stabler

PS: God is good all the time

CALLING ALL DEACONS

The Deacons have had their share of ups and downs during the last six months but we are all up now.

There will be a Deacons meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 6:30pm. This meeting will take place at the home of Jay and Liz Stabler.

Remember, once a Deacon always a Deacon.

**All Deacons are ask
to be present and on
time**



Lord Hear Our Prayers



TO WASHINGTON DC

Ruth Hiersemann is one of the women selected by Presbyterian Women of the Synod to represent them at the 9th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days to explore A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees and Displaced Peoples. Faith-based advocates and activists from across the U.S. will gather in the nation's capitol March 19–22 to discuss government policies that will welcome immigrants, protect refugees, and prevent displacement of millions throughout the world. Experts will train participants on policy issues and advocacy, culminating on Monday with lobby visits on Capitol Hill.



On a weekday afternoon recently I arrived at the church and saw many little Johnny-Jump-Ups all over the lawn to the right of the entrance to the sanctuary. I was awe struck. These wee pansies had been planted in the dirt last year when Pastor Kidd was installed as moderator. They had survived for that season and later the dirt was turned over. But lo and behold, many seeds had been blown into the grass and these brave little flowers were coming up in the midst of the obstructions. I was so excited!!

A little while later I left the church – seeing the gardener – and he had cut the lawn. There were no more flowers. I almost cried. However, guess what? These determined little blossoms came back brightening the lawn giving us an example of being able to survive in spite of great obstacles. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:28 “even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

In our lives when big or small problems try to knock us down – let us remember, with God's help, we too can overcome and keep blooming.
June Jacobson