

INTERCESSIONS

Give thanks for:

- The Christian church and its continued presence in these lands associated with the early churches of the apostles.
- Christians who have remained strong in their faith and continue to be a witness to the gospel.
- The wonders of the Church of St Sophia, the chants on Mount Athos, the frescoes of early churches in Cyprus.
- The blue sea and the mountains.
- Baklava, stuffed vine leaves, moussaka, feta cheese.



Pray for:

- Peace and the healing of entrenched hatred between Greeks and Turks.
- Comfort for those who grieve and strength for those who work for justice.
- Survivors of earthquakes and those who assist in bringing long-term relief.
- Refugees who seek shelter and the possibility of new life.
- Kurdish people, and all who face discrimination as minorities.
- An end to the division of Cyprus.

Prayer Quilts ~ By Becky Wong



As we begin the new year, please keep in your thoughts the Prayer Quilt Ministry we began last fall. Currently, we are praying especially for Jenny Chio who is attending UC Riverside. Praise God that she has been able to gradually cut back on one of her medications for rheumatoid arthritis. Continue praying that she can come off of the other drug as well. Elaine Yu is starting her second semester at UC Davis. Please pray for her to be focused on her studies, especially Statistics, which she'll be taking this time around. Joyce Tan is continuing at UC San Diego. Please pray for all the girls to stay healthy and rely on the Lord our God to endure the rigors and stress of the university system (not to mention the increase in tuition!)

Also, the ministry had a special blessing at Christmas by presenting a quilt to Mildred Wong (former youth director and advisor for many who attended CCUMC in the 60's and beyond). Please pray for her as she recovers from a second bypass surgery. She celebrated her 80th birthday on Christmas Eve, and we reminisced over the joy of learning and being mentored by her in our youth. Surely God continues to strengthen and empower her as an ambassador of prayer and servant hood.

The prayer quilt ministry is waiting to receive new requests for 2010. If you know of someone who might want to receive a quilt, along with congregational prayers, please get their permission, and then contact Jane or Becky so we can start stitching. The quilt will be dedicated on a Sunday during worship.



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

January 10, 2010
Epiphany 2

"Bathed, Burned, Beloved"

Pastor Emily Lin

Text: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Usher/Greeter: Donna and Steve

Prayer: Charlie

Scripture: Walter

Music: Matthew

Acolyte: Wendy

Hospitality: Gloria and Frances



Worship with Us Next Week: January 17, 2010

Preacher: Pastor Emily

Focus Scripture: John 2: 1-11

Usher/Greeter: Frances and Charlie

Prayer: Burt

Scriptures: Peggy

Music: Ben

Acolyte: Jason

Altar Flowers: Ben Lang



Martin Luther King Day of Service

On Monday, January 18th, YOU can join others from our church serving at the Alameda County Food Bank! Pastor Emily, along with Wendy, Rich, Becky, and others will be transporting our collected Food Donations to the Food Bank! If you'd like to come and see the inner workings of the Food Bank, connect with Rich or Emily today! If you're unable to visit the Food Bank that day, you can still be of service by bringing more food before Monday, the 18th. The Food Bank is still especially in need of canned fish and meats, canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, tomato sauce, beans, rice & pasta, canned soup, and low-sugar cereal and oatmeal.

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Website: <http://www.chinesecommunityumc.org>

View from the EMC Chair
By Derek Lang



“He is so well behaved.” “He is so smart.” “He is ...” These were the compliments about me that my parents shared from their friends on the drive home from a Chinese dinner banquet or some dinner party. My parents were quite proud. I was quite embarrassed. I was never quite clear how my parents’ friends were so insightful about me, since I generally did not say a peep at the dinner table for the evening. Conversations were left to the adults. Still, it never hurts to have good things said about you. And even more than that, I have found over the years that the environment in which we grow up dramatically impacts the type of person we are as adults. If we grow up in a loving environment, the chances of feeling a sense of safety and security are much higher. Many of the patterns in the way we are in relationship with family, friends, and significant others are derived from the kind of environment we had in our formative stages of life.

“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased,” said God to Jesus in front of a crowd of Judeans in Luke 3:22. How much better can it get to have God give you accolades in public?! This was a grand moment of affirmation for Jesus as he began his ministry. With such a firm grounding, he could be safe and secure in who he was and from that have no inhibitions about being vulnerable to love not just his family and friends, but any stranger – the lost, the sick, and even his enemies. With the love of the God, he had nothing to lose, and instead offered everything for others to gain. And with that love received from Jesus, Disciples were able to perform miracles; the lame could walk; the blind could see; and the outcasts were welcomed.

Last week, our scripture from the Book of John began with the metaphor of “Word” as Jesus incarnate. Word is such a fundamental term that represents an idea, a way of communicating, and a way of thinking. But in more practical terms, we are reminded in this week’s passage about how significant words can be in the life of a person. “With you I am well pleased.” What happens when you tell the person next to you how much you appreciate him/her? When we affirm something about that person and offer a genuine compliment or appreciation, we are telling that person we care. We value that person. We encourage that person. And by doing this, we also enable that person: to realize what God’s love is all about, to utilize that spiritual gift given by God, and maybe even to do act of kindness to someone else. Isn’t that a pretty wonderful way to share God’s love?

In this time of Epiphany when we remember the visit of the Magi and their gifts to baby Jesus, let us commemorate this special season by giving our own gift of love – the gift of a new beginning that starts with a word.

Congregational Care Program ~ By Charlie Ho

Thanks to those of you who supported the Congregational Care Program in 2009. This past year, we visited elder members of our church family who were not able to join us in worship on Sundays. Under Jane’s leadership, we were organized into small teams. Collectively, the small teams made monthly visits to each person on her list. We brought warmth, joy, and simple smiles as gifts; and we shared the love of God. And in return, we received appreciation that is beyond earthly “thank yous”. Through these visits, many of us developed personal relationships with the visitees as well.

If you would like to join us (or continue) in 2010, please contact Jane or me by email (JanePYin@gmail.com or CCUMCCharlie@gmail.com), or let us know at church. We will work with you to form the small teams to carpool, and minimize traveling time and mileage.

For those who feel called but may feel unprepared for this ministry, Jane will provide orientation or training as needed.

Upcoming News and Notes ~

- **Jan. 10th** - We will recognize, pray for and bless all those who serve this church as officers!
- **Jan. 17th** - Highlighting **Human Relations Sunday**: The United Methodist Church sets apart six "special Sundays" each year to raise awareness around important ministries and to take up special offerings for these ministries. The purpose of Human Relations Day is "a call to the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other." Our special offering goes to support the Community Developers program, the United Methodist Voluntary Service and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. You are invited to learn through the UMC website: www.gbgn-umc.org.
- **Monday, Jan. 18th**, Martin Luther King Service Day. Join folks from our congregation as they head over to the Alameda County Food Bank to bring over our donated foods. See article for more info
- **Jan. 24th** - We will observe Pledge **Sunday**. You are invited to prayerfully discern your financial support of the ministries and mission of CCUMC. Please connect with Pastor Emily should you have any questions.
- If you would like to be an **Altar Flower** contributor, please connect with Helena to sign up for your preferred Sunday. Suggested donation is \$10.
- Share your gift of **Hospitality** by signing up with Laura to provide refreshments (and clean up) during our fellowship time after service.
- **Lunar New Year Pot Luck** will be on February 14th. The Chinese and English congregation will welcome in the Lunar New Year together!