

***Pledge Sunday Report
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Pastor Peter Lau***



Great thanks to all who returned their pledge cards last Sunday. We received 33 in total (23 from CM and 10 from EM). We celebrate the faithful pledgers of old and those new to pledging at CCUMC!

As we lifted up last week, "Pledging is a way to prayerfully, thoughtfully and intentionally to commit to financially supporting the mission and ministry of CCUMC." We invite those who have not yet done so and would like to, to please return your pledge card through the offering plate or by dropping it off in the church office today or before February 1st.

May you be blessed and inspired through this practice of stewardship!

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.



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

*January 31, 2010
Epiphany 5*

"Prophet on the Edge"

***Rebecca Wong,
Certified Lay Speaker
Text: Luke 4: 21 - 30***



Usher/Greeter: Brenda and Jane

Prayer: Hoang-Anh

Scripture: Burt

Music: Aeri

Acolyte: Michael

Hospitality: YAF BBQ

Altar Flowers: Janet Yeh, Theresa Leung

Worship with Us Next Week: February 7, 2010

Preacher: Richard Fong, Certified Lay Speaker

Focus Scripture: Luke 5: 1- 11

Usher/Greeter: Donna and Steve

Prayer: Charlie

Scriptures:

SoundTech: Jenny and Janene

Acolyte: Wendy



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View from the EMC Chair
By Derek Lang



Thanks to everyone for attending our English Congregation's 2010 Congregational Meeting last week. As mentioned during the presentation, our hope is to hold a Congregational Meeting at the beginning of the year to lay out some ideas of our vision for the year and toward the end (or sometime later in the year) to see how we are doing. We all have a vested interest in the direction of the church, so we should all be in conversation with each other about where God is calling us as a community. Thanks to all of our Ministry Area Coordinators for sharing how their lives have been touched or called to these ministries. We pray that something in this sharing hits home for you as you have been reflecting on the question, "How goes your soul?"

But I am hoping that you also left the meeting with a sense that something was missing. I am hoping that you said to yourselves, "That was nice. We listened to some nice sharing. It may, or may not, have touched me. But, what next?" That is the question. Over the course of the next few months, each Ministry Area coordinator will be inviting or welcoming several of you to join in a new group called a Ministry Team. These Ministry Teams will be praying, studying, and visioning about their specific ministry area. Based on those visions, we will move together spiritually and as a church in our ministry to the local community and beyond.

It is fairly common to see churches that do ministries just because they know it something that has to be done. Someone says we need to such-and-such, so a committee is created and the ministry is continued from year to year until ten or twenty years later no one remembers why and people struggle to participate because they are burned out. In contrast, we saw last year through our studies on Vital churches that a church should be thriving and energized doing the work of God. Easier said than done, and we ask "How do we get there?" There are lots of books on the subject, yet the answer is elusive. But two key characteristics seem to prevail: 1) intentionality, and 2) rootedness. EMC is intentionally creating opportunities for our congregation to gather and think about where God is calling us – individually and as a community. We started by reorganizing our EMC and are now taking the next step with small Ministry Teams, where these members share and support each other in thinking about ministry. Rather than being just another committee, these Ministry Teams

will spend time in prayer, study, and discernment to spiritually root themselves and grow their respective ministries. We wanted this Congregational Meeting to focus not on recruiting, but rather to focus on how this ministry has been life-giving to me and could breathe life into others. This is the model that Christ showed His Disciples. People were drawn to Jesus because they saw something in Him that they wanted in their lives.

So, where do we go from here? In Pastor Emily's last sermon, she talked about personal mission statements and spiritual gifts. Our plan is to offer tools and opportunities for to explore where God may be calling you. When we are rooted in our spiritual gifts and acting on our calling, then doing God's work will be life-giving and exciting. I encourage each of you to ask yourselves, "How goes my soul? And how is God calling me to grow

Upcoming News and Notes ~

- **Knitting and Crochet Group** meets TODAY, after refreshments.
- **February 7th - *Health Kits for Haiti*** Party. Please see article.
- **Lunar New Year Pot Luck** will be on **February 14th**. The Chinese and English congregation will welcome in the Lunar New Year together! Pot Luck Assignments are as follows:
A - H Salad
K - L Dessert
M - Z Entrée (Meat Dish)
Please direct any questions to Peggy or Helena
- **The season of Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th**. Please mark your calendars now and plan to enter the season intentionally and together. We will gather for service at 7:30 p.m. We will also be marking the season with a simplified worship order, a special luncheon program as well as an invitation to be a part of a prayer group. You can learn more at the information stand on the refreshment table. All are invited!
- **Coming in April:** Benefit dinner for the **Kumi Boarding School**. Please see article.