

UPCOMING NOTES & NEWS

- **November 22:** Thanksgiving Pot Luck following the 11am English Worship service. Everyone is invited, so please come! Bring a dish, if you are able. We offer the following suggestions, but feel free to bring anything in the spirit of giving thanks:
 - Last name A—J: Salad or Veggies
 - Last name K—T: Entrée dish (except for Turkey and Ham)
 - Last name U—Z: Dessert
- **December 6:** Charge Conference begins at 1:00 p.m. at CCUMC
- **December 12:** “Love Changes Everything” Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the CMC Choir. If you would like to help with refreshments, please see Helena or Peggy.
- **December 13:** Alternative Marketplace presented by the Mission Work Area. Shop for a variety of gift items, some handmade, to support missions. If you have new items to donate or would like to help with the sales, contact Becky. Last year, we featured silk/wool Pashminas, jewelry, candies, framed pictures, and other novelty items. Retreat from the flood of high-end commercial marketing and support a worthy cause.
- **Free Guitar Lessons!** Interested in learning to play the guitar? A short lesson (30 min.) will be offered each Saturday at 10:00am. See Aeri or Matthew for details.
- **2009 Holiday Food Drive** has begun! Bring food donations for the Alameda County Food Bank and fill those big red barrels in the foyer and in back of our sanctuary. We will be collecting through Christmas.
- **Asian Health Services (AHS) Toy Drive:** Bring NEW, unwrapped, “non-military” toys for children ages 12 years and younger with an emphasis on toys for Toddlers. Toys will be collected until the first week of December. We are also accepting donations of wrapping paper! If you’d also like to volunteer your time to help, AHS have work dates tentatively scheduled for Tues, 11/24 from 9:30—noon, and 1-3pm; Wed, 11/25 from 9:30—noon, and Mon 11/30 from 9:30am to 11:30am. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board!

THE MESSENGER

Chinese Community United Methodist Church
321 8th Street, Oakland, CA 94607

(510) 452-1020 phone/fax www.chinesecommunityumc.org
9:30am English Sunday School / 11:00am Worship Service

“Making and Keeping Promises”
Rev. Dr. James Chuck



Sunday, November 15, 2009
24th Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S READING: 1 SAMUEL 1:4-20

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters, but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine."

But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time."

Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time, Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

THE SONG OF HANNAH

My heart rejoices in you, Lord.
My God has made me strong.
My mouth now sings your victory
O'er those despising me long.

No Rock, no Holy One like you
No judge, nor wiser one:
The proud now have no words to say
That you have not undone.

You've broken mighty warriors' bows,
And clad the weak with power.
The rich go wandering for food,
The poor all feast this hour.

The Lord brings life where none was found
And closes opened wombs;
Our God has rescued us from death
And freed us from our tombs.

The Lord brings riches to the poor,
And lifts them from the dust;
He makes them sit in princes' seat
And honors them with trust.

The Lord, the Maker of all things,
Will guard the faithful one;
God's thunders scatter wicked schemes.
God's justice shall be done.

Words: Taylor Burton-Edwards, based on I Samuel 2:1-10. The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. Used by permission. Copyright © 2006.

THIS WEEK: MINISTERS AND LEADERS

Sunday, November 15, 2009

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Proclamation of the Word by: Rev. Dr. James Chuck

Ushering: Frances and Gloria

Scriptures read by: Jessica

Prayers of the People led by: Wendy

Sound-tech assistance provided by: Will/Abby

WORSHIP WITH US NEXT WEEK: Sunday, Nov. 22nd

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Thanksgiving Worship

Proclamation of the Word by: Rev. Emily Lin

Scriptural Text: Matthew 6: 25-33

Scriptures read by: Richard

Ushering: Jane and Burt

Prayers of the People led by: Burt

Sound-tech assistance provided by: Kelvin

Altar flowers given by: Ying Chu, Michael Sun

COFFEE HOUR AND ALTAR FLOWERS

Please join us for coffee and refreshments after our worship service. We give thanks for the opportunity to fellowship in the company of visitors, friends, and family. The flowers in church are given to the glory of God by **Elsie Wan** and **Linda Woo**.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. This week, we pray on behalf of and in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the *Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe*. Carry these prayers of intercessions into this new week, and see how you might live out your baptismal covenant.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS *in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*

Give thanks for:

- Christians who continue to witness to their faith even when it is disadvantageous to do so.
- Those who work with people living with HIV and AIDS and who are searching for ways to defeat the disease.
- Albert Schweitzer, and other missionaries like him, who devoted their lives to the health and betterment of the people they served.
- The great tropical forest with its many forms of life.

Pray for:

- An end to violence and instability in the Republic of Congo.
- All leaders, to use their power justly in service to all of the people, and to refrain from corrupt practices.
- An end to autocratic rule.
- Those involved in subsistence agriculture, that their crops may be plentiful and they have enough food to eat and clean water to drink.
- Women, who often bear the brunt of poverty and receive less education than men and fewer opportunities.
- An end to deforestation and desertification, and for the sustainable and responsible use of natural resources.
- The just sharing of these countries' natural resources, particularly oil, so that all the people reap the benefits of what God has given and not just those in power, or international corporations.

Prayer

Lord, if you want that we should love you with all our heart, without distraction or detour, teach us to become constant in your love. When those without faith or law insult us, help us to forgive, O Resurrected One. Jesus, the friend of the people of the Congo, your Father is not a God of the dead but of the living; therefore, guide us in your love, so that we may live in your presence forever.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: BY PASTOR EMILY LIN

PRACTICING A GENEROSITY OF PRAYERS

Two weeks ago when we began to reflect on our practice of stewardship (def. Everything after we say “Yes!” to Jesus) both Hoang-Anh and I shared stories of our grandmothers and their steadfast prayers for us and for our family members. I remember Hoang-Anh calling her grandmother a prayer warrior. Isn’t that a powerful image? I found the picture of Hoang-Anh listening at her grandmother’s bedroom door as her grandmother faithfully prayed for each of her children and grandchildren every single day incredibly moving and empowering. What a comfort, what an encouragement to know that you are being prayed for each and every day of your life! What better gift – really! – is there?



This past week, I spent time with the Tuesday night Prayer Fellowship. This is a group that has been gathering for over 12 years! Surely that’s a ministry and a testament. This past week, they met for the last time as they respond to God’s call to open and transition to a new format and making intentional space for others to participate.

Among the things lifted up and celebrated was story after story of how prayer changed each person and how prayer made a difference in their daily lives, transforming relationships, experiencing healing, encountering grace and hope. I was again moved by the profound witness of these - our very own CCUMC prayer warriors.

John Wesley invited all Methodists to cleave to 3 simple rules, the last being “stay in love with God.” There are many ways we might do this but one of the cornerstone practices is of prayer – daily prayer. So this week, I invite you to reflect on:

- What is a meaningful experience of prayer that you have had?
- Are there people that have prayed for and with you? What has that been like?
- Are you being faithful in your prayer life? What does that look like?

VIEW FROM THE EMC CHAIR, BY DEREK LANG

The Advent Season is almost here. Christmas will be just around the corner. You can tell by the fact that the stores already have Christmas decorations and merchandise on the shelves. And it is not even Thanksgiving yet!

Likewise – though perhaps more legitimately so – we need to start planning for our Advent Season. I am sure you will all be busy with preparations – gift shopping, wrapping, parties, family, trips, etc. But I would like to encourage you to listen and discern whether God is calling you to be involved in our church ministries for this upcoming season. There are plenty of opportunities. I have often felt that doing ministry gets me into the Christmas spirit more than shopping (of course, I hate shopping anyways). So let me offer a few ideas. If you feel the call for any of these events or functions, please contact the people in parentheses:

- Candlelight Service (Aeri)
- Sunday School Christmas Program (Charlie)
- Sunday Worship (Aeri)
- Caroling (Becky)
- Advent Season Devotional (Charlie)
- Christmas Tree/Greening the Sanctuary (Burt/Jane)
- AHS Gift Wrapping (Rich)
- AHS Food Drive and Alameda County Food Bank Food Drive (Rich/Peggy)

INVITATION TO A PLACE AT THE TABLE! THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Are you hungry? How deep is your hunger? Are you lonely? How quiet is your solitude? Are you happy? How far-reaching is your joy? Next Sunday, Nov. 22nd, our church family here at CCUMC will celebrate Thanksgiving, and *everyone is invited to the table!* That day, we will first feast on the Word, the Bread of Life, to nourish our spirits. Afterwards, we will share the meals that nourish our bodies. If you are able, bring a dish for the potluck... and don’t forget the chopsticks!