



Pastor's Ponderings

One of the realities of living at Monte Vista Grove Homes is that we live among a lot of really old people. Some may say that there may be a little of the reality in being a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Corona and most mainline churches.

When we arrived in Pasadena a few years ago, there was a shy, diminutive, soft spoken woman named Esther Choi who lived down the street from us. We did not know the story of her life until recently – after her memorial service. She played an heroic role in the history of the Korean Christian community. Esther's father was a pastor in North Korea who opposed both the Communist and Japanese rulers.

Consequently, although she was the brightest student in her class, she was not allowed to finish high school. Nevertheless, after the 10th grade, Esther passed the exam to enroll in medical school in Seoul. She completed medical school, met and married Dr. Chan Choi. She was offered residency in Los Angeles and a scholarship to Fuller Seminary. The Choi's pastor asked if they would, instead, agree to be the first post war missionaries to go from Korea to Thailand. After a night of prayer, they opted for God's call to Thailand.

Later Chan founded the Amity Foundation that published millions of Bibles in China. Eventually Esther did accept a residency in Radiology in Los Angeles and worked in hospitals in the Philippines and in Thailand. Still later she worked in Hong Kong with Vietnamese refugees in the squalid camps where they were held.

Retiring here at MVGH in Pasadena, Chan and Esther continues their relationship with a Korean congregation in Los Angeles. This shy, diminutive, soft - spoken woman overcame great obstacles to serve God and her family, utilizing her medical skill and motivated by her deep love for Christ. The Korean

pastor who offered the benediction at her memorial service said with great emotion, "When I looked at Dr. Esther Choi, I saw God, and that changer my life." He would be only one among many.

Now I think with new depth of the people that went every year from First Presbyterian Church of Medford, where Joyce was pastor, to China to work with the Amity Foundation teaching English to Chinese people of all ages. I remember with deeper appreciation Pastor David Kim, who went from a congregation in the Chicago area to the church in Seoul that had sent the Choi's to be missionaries in Thailand.

At our first Thanksgiving at MVGH we (and all the resident's here) received a most generous gift of food from the Korean Congregation where the Chois had worshiped.

As we approach this Thanksgiving, I am profoundly aware that the First Presbyterian Church of Corona may be a place where people see God, through the Vietnamese congregation that worships here, through the Hispanic congregation that begins worshipping here in November, through the after school Chinese language program that meets here, and through each one of us.

Don Purcell, as I write, is hospitalized, and may be near death. He will be the last of the charter members who began FPC Corona in 1982. We can give thanks that in Don and in the charter members who had the vision to begin this ministry, many have seen God.....and now it is up to us and our multi-cultural brothers and sisters who use this facility to build on that foundation

Grace and Peace,

Henry



The "Mittelstadt Group" providing music and commentary for Food for Thought. Included are Larry Ballenger, Charlie Castles, Pete Mittelstadt, & Judy Ballenger.





Dear Prayer Warriors,

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for praying for us. Leading up to John's trip to Ethiopia many things have happened that caused anxiety and worry about this trip so we have been bathing it in prayer. John and Allen left on Sunday the 15th but their plane from Wichita was late so they missed the Turkish Air Flight from Chicago. They spent the night and a whole day waiting for the next flight but as far as I know they got on it and should soon arrive in Addis. Today our blue van broke down and had to be towed into the garage:) Praise the Lord it happened close to home. God is so good to me. John and Allen have lots of plans for their 5 weeks in Tulegit - churches to repair and build, people to teach and baptize. Pray that the enemy doesn't get a chance to hinder them and that relationships with all workers and fellow Christians will be good. Thank you.

I was able to see my doctor and dentist. Both are very pleased with the results and praised my positive attitude. I got to say both times that God was the one who helped me and that John and the rest of my family including all you pray-ers have kept my spirit positive. Thank you. The side of my mouth is more closed but not completely so when I see the doc in January we will decide if he should try one more time to close it. Please pray about this so that we will both know when to call it quits. I have pictures of before and after that are graphic but show what a great God we have. If you are willing or wanting to see these please let me know. It was certainly an eye opener for me since they didn't give me a mirror in the hospital in South Africa. October 1 was the celebration of three years since the shooting. We've come a long way, Baby. On the Wings of Your Prayers. God bless you all, Gwen and John

GLOBAL RECORDINGS -OUTREACH CAMBODIA & THAILAND 2017-2018 (small portion of article)
rkheck@heckupdate.com

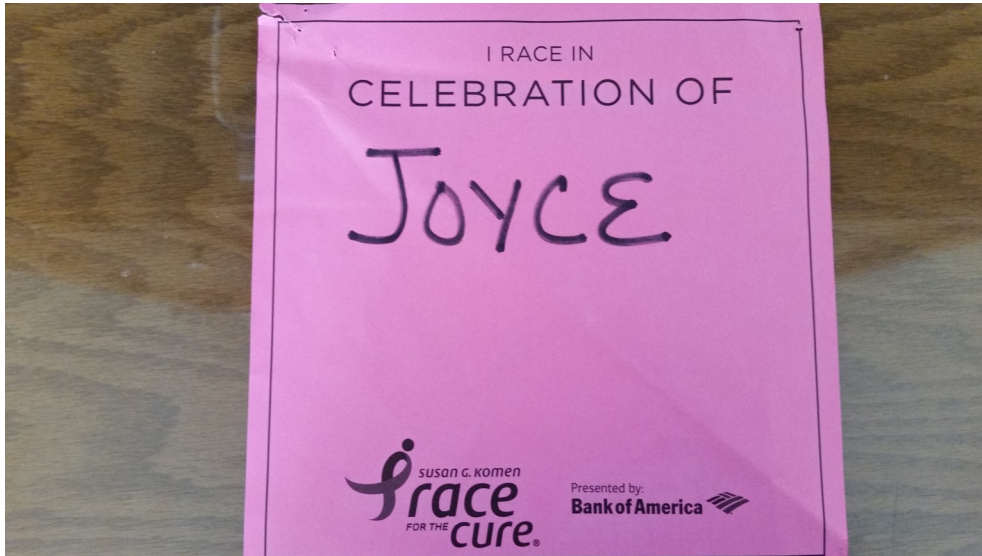
To read entire article and view pictures Judy can forward the email to you

Dear Friends,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying the Fall season! I have exciting news to share with you. Three other Cambodian women from the US and I have a great opportunity to share the life saving message of salvation through Jesus Christ with those living in Bangkok, Thailand and in the villages of Cambodia.

Roland and I led a team last year where in two weeks time around 50 Cambodian construction workers in Bangkok surrendered their lives to the Lord! Many things happened that included starting a Bible study group, sharing micro sd cards and mp3 players with Global Recordings audio messages so many that more could hear and believe in Christ, and a young Cambodian missionary living in Bangkok was trained to reach out to the many Cambodian construction workers there in Bangkok. Also through Facebook Messenger, I have been able to follow-up and disciple some of these contacts!

**Rochelle, Mike & Teri at 19th Annual Susan G. Komen
Inland Empire Race For The Cure October 8th.
Thank you to all who contributed!**





September 29, 2017

First Presbyterian Church Corona
950 W. Ontario Ave.
Corona, CA 92882-5871

Donor ID: 10725

Dear Friends,

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. (Isaiah 40:1) "Comfort my people" is a divine command people of faith are eager to obey. How many times we yearn to fulfill that command when we see pictures of hurricane destruction in the islands, Texas and Florida, a community gathered in candlelight vigil following violence in Charlottesville, or a child playing on hard baked ground between tattered tents in a refugee camp in South Sudan.

We cannot touch them all... but we can pray, and we can give, and when we do, we become a visible witness of the loving heart of God, and the hands and feet of Jesus. What a gift that is to those who need healing and restoration...and to us, who long to be a part of the work of divine renewal and comfort. I am thankful today-and know I represent just one small voice in a mighty chorus of grateful Presbyterians and survivors of disaster from all walks of life-that you have put love into tangible action, giving with such extraordinary generosity to support those in need. As we approach the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent expectation, we recall most of all how powerful it is to feel God's touch in a human hand. Your prayers and gifts enable Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and our partners across the globe to manifest God-with-us, Emmanuel, to those in chaos and despair. Your generous gift is a gift that makes divine comfort real, helping those afflicted by disaster touch the tangible presence of Love. May peace be with you, in all seasons.

In Christ's peace,

Laurie A Kraus

The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus
Coordinator, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Date	Fund Description	Amount
09/08/2017	DR000042 Disaster Relief--South Sudan <i>ck #1508</i>	\$100.00
09/08/2017	DR000169 Disaster Relief--US Hurricane Response (Harvey) Batch Number: 170908-700-612-tdg Check No.: 1510	\$200.00
<i>Hurricanes</i>		<i>+ 326-</i>
		<i>\$ 626-</i>



Presbyterian Mission Agency | 100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202-1396
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*Please retain this receipt for income tax purposes. No goods or services were provided in consideration of this gift.
Your gift has been used in accordance with the Presbyterian Mission Agency gift acceptance policy which can be found at presbyterianmission.org/giftacceptancepolicy*

The Deacons gave \$300 and the congregation gave \$326

From your session

At our October meeting:

- ◇ Becky Bain was approved to be our alternate commissioner to Presbytery.
- ◇ We will have a “giving tree” project in December.
- ◇ The following nominations will be brought to the congregation at the meeting on November 19:
 - Session Becky Bane, Class of 2020
 - Deacon Rochelle Heller, Class of 2019
 - Elaine Lively, Class of 2019
 - Margie Wilkerson, Class of 2020
- ◇ There will be no session meeting in November.



Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, Nov. 19, for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. Your vote is important. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

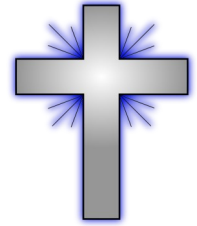


Marcia Twitchel
2665 Clark Ave. #604
Norco CA 92860

GENERAL FUND	October 31, 2017	Year to Date Totals
Income	7,600.24	62,506.02
Expenses	7,701.89	73,210.18
Net Income	-101.65	-10,704.16



DEACONS FUND	October 31, 2017	Year to Date Totals
Income	282.50	3,062.74
Expenses	355.76	3,655.87
Net Income	-73.26	-593.13



News from The Deacons

Fall is here and hopefully we'll have cool weather soon!!

** We have our Chili Chow Down on Nov. 12 after worship. So dust off those Crock Pots and fill them with your best recipe.

**The Christmas Pot Luck will be on Dec.10 after worship. Deacons will provide ham and we'll have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for side dishes and desserts.

We received a news letter from Settlement House. It will be on the bulletin board. The need in our community continues to grow. We sent them an extra gift. We will also be asking for donations of socks in all sizes to take over to them.

We have helped people in our congregation this year financially. Thank you, so much, for your generosity to the Deacon fund.

Thank you, Rochelle Heller

1



We were saddened to learn of the death of Don Purcell on October 26. Don has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since the church was chartered in 1982 and was our last remaining charter member. During the past 35 years he actively and lovingly served both First Presbyterian Church and Riverside Presbytery.

Don was well-loved by all and will be missed, but we rejoice that he is no longer in pain and is with our Lord. Please keep his family and his many friends in prayer for comfort during this time of sorrow.

There will be a memorial service at the church on Saturday, December 2, 1:30 p.m. More details to follow.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4..... Susan Bain
- 6..... Jerry Neumann
- 7..... Jimmy Nyeango
- 16..... Margaret Jameson
- 17..... Jean Neumann
- Amanda Thorne
- Jill Nelson
- 23..... Lynda Rodisch
- 28..... Ana Grozav
- Glen Nelson

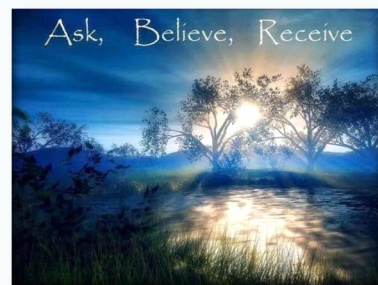
NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2..... Pete & Marilyn Mittelstadt (1974)
- 26..... Mel & Susan Bain (1993)
- 29..... Stan & Elaine Lively (1969)



NOVEMBER PRAYER FAMILIES

- * Virginia Watson & family
- * Squeak & Teri White & family
- * Lew & Corey White & family
- * Margie Wilkerson & family
- * Walt & Deneva Williams & family
- * Caroline Wyser & family
- * Cathy Ironson & family
- * Susan Bain & family





November 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 10:30AM 	3	4
5 Worship 10:30am	6	7 CBS 9:30am	8	9 10:30AM 	10	11
12 Worship 10:30am, chili chow down 11:45am 	13	14 CBS 9:30am	15	16 10:30AM 	17	18
19 Worship 10:30am, cong. meeting 11:45am	20	21 Loving Needles 6:30pm	22	23 	24	25 Women's breakfast, Loving Needles
26 Worship 10:30am	27	28 CBS 9:30am	29	30		

*Vietnamese Church
every Sunday at*

*Adult Bible Study
meets Sunday morning*



*Last Sunday of each
month is Food*



*4th Saturday of each month,
Women's breakfast, Original
Pancake House, Norco, 8am
Loving Needles, 9:30am*





950 Ontario Avenue, Corona CA 92882



*MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS
CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP,
DISCIPLESHIP, FELLOWSHIP,
MINISTRY AND MISSION*

Our Church Staff

Pastor (Transitional)..... Henry DeGraaff
Administrative Assistant Judy Hanson/Marilyn Mittelstadt
Accompanist..... Delia E. Martinez-Samojluk
Church Treasurer Terrie Burbank
Bookkeeper Teri White

**November 2017
Volume 23, Issue 11**



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Pastor: 626-808-7472



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30AM Adult Sunday School
10:30AM Worship Service
Sunday School (nursery care available)

*First Press deadline – 22nd
of every month*

*Editor reserves the right
to edit for content &
space*

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