



First Presbyterian Church
mountain view



Your place for Family, Friends, FAITH

Oak Leaves Newsletter for February 2010

Center On the "CROSS" in the Season of Lent

The CROSS of Christ stands at the center of our observances during the "Lenten Season." As part of our focus during the 40 days that lead to Good Friday, we will focus on making the CROSS something that truly does have a bearing on our day-to-day living.

We will look at the "CROSS" as a reminder.

The CROSS reminds us that we are sinful people who need to confess our sins and receive forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

We will look at the "CROSS" as a guide.

The CROSS guides us to follow God's will in our words and deeds, as Jesus did.

We will look at the "CROSS" as a comfort.

On the CROSS Jesus announced to the repentant thief,

"Today you will be with me in paradise."

We will look at the "CROSS" as a motivator.

In our times of weaknesses and struggles the CROSS stirs us to continue on as Christ did and draws us to HIS power and strength.

The Lenten Season begins February 17th on Ash Wednesday. Mark your calendars and join us in a meaningful gathering at the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Each of the following weeks we will have a Soup Supper and Sharing on Wednesday evenings in Room #103 at 6:30 pm. Please plan to attend, it will enrich your Lenten Season and bring your journey to Easter alive.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Tim

P.S.: See you in worship!

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life." Psalm 54:4

Our Vision: Christ calls us to be a caring, praying community, working actively to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission: Our mission is to love and obey God, to follow Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to share with our community God's love, forgiveness, and unmerited favor. We seek to become a transforming and reconciling force for God through our worship, study, fellowship and service. We strive for everyone to have a relationship with the living Jesus.



Sunday Attendance: The average weekly attendance for January was 84.



December Financials

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Variance YTD</u>
Operating Income	\$ 27,825	\$ 406,390	\$ 433,872	\$ (27,482)
Operating Expense	\$ 48,711	\$ 421,330	\$ 454,598	\$ (33,268)
Difference	<u>\$ (20,887)</u>	<u>\$ (14,939)</u>	<u>\$ (20,726)</u>	<u>\$ 5,787</u>
%	-75.1%	-3.7%	-4.8%	

February 2010 Calendar

Lenten Sermon Series: WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Sunday, February 7: "It's About Unity"

Sunday, February 14: "Knowledge and Insight"

Wednesday, February 17: Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 pm/Chapel

Sunday, February 21: "Father Forgive Them"

Sunday, February 28: "With Me"

February Special Events:

Sunday, February 7: Souper Bowl Sunday, Fellowship Lunch and Ministry Fair

Saturday, February 13: Bluegrass concert with the multi-award winning Nashville Bluegrass Band, 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. For information, visit www.rba.org or call 650-691-9982.

Wednesday, February 17: The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 24: Soup Supper and Sharing, 6:30 PM, Room 103

Thursday, February 25: 11:00 am: Bible Study led by Pastor Tim (all welcome)

♪ Music Notes ♪

Have you ever really looked at our hymnal, other than to turn to the number announced by the hymn leader? There are so many different facets of the hymnal. If you would turn to number 1, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" you could find the name of the hymn tune. Yes, every hymn will have a title. This one is called "Hymn To Joy."

This is found at the bottom of the music, to the right. Underneath the title you will find 8.7.8.7.D. This means that in the first line there are 8 beats – “joy ful joy ful we a dore thee”. The last part of that line has 7 – “god of glo ry lord of love”. The second line reads or beats – “hearts un fold like flowers be fore thee”, 8 beats. Then “open ing to the sun a bove”, 7 beats. This repeats in lines three and four, making the D for double.

On the bottom left hand part of the hymn you will find that the text was written by Henry van Dyke and the music was composed by Ludwig van Beethoven, with the melody from the Ninth Symphony, and was adapted by Edward Hodges. Literally the theme is from the fourth movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Now, was that exciting? You can now look at different hymns of your choice, find the title of the hymn tune, what those numbers mean and who wrote the poem and the music. There are some many things that are interesting in our hymnal. Try finding out about one of your favorite hymns.

If you are still confused, come up to the organ after service and I will try to explain it to you.

-- Katherine F., Director of Music



February 8th is the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. For over 50 years, our scouting units have served the community: Cub Scout Pack 80 (founded 1953) and Boy Scout Troop 80 (founded 1958). The church took over the charters for these units many years ago when the public schools stopped sponsoring the Scouts. If you know of boys in grades 1-5 (for Cub Scouts) or ages 11-17 (for Boy Scouts) who would enjoy and benefit from Scouting, please visit the unit websites at <http://www.pack80-psc.org/> or <http://www.psctroop80.org/>.



On February 7, our High School students will again be collecting for the **Souper Bowl of Charity**. This is a charity was initiated by the senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian, OH, in 1990; three churches participated. Now churches all over the nation participate; it is a non-denominational effort for people to come together for a higher good: collecting dollars and food for the needy. Every dollar is sent directly to a local charity or their choice. Since 1990, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary \$60 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example. This year the funds will go to CSA. Please dig deeply into your pockets on **Souper Bowl Sunday** and make a difference right here in Mountain View and Los Altos.

The **Cart of Good Giving**: in February we will collect supplies for the home, blankets, linens, pots and pans, and books and toys, for Family Supportive Housing. Non perishable food will be taken to the Community Services Agency.

There is more wool available for anyone who would like to knit or crochet squares for blankets.

The overseas workers whom FPCMV has supported in Turkey for several years are moving to another town further south. They will work at the International church there. They ask that we pray for a smooth move and good relationship with their new landlord. They expect to enroll their daughter in a pre-school that is right around the corner from their new house. For more information, please see Shirley F.

Haitian Relief: Want to help but not sure which agency? Consider Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA); 95% of your donation goes to Disaster Relief, unlike some of the major organizations which have a higher overhead with salaries and advertising and soliciting costs.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is responding in Haiti. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has already sent funds and is working in cooperation with our ecumenical partners on the ground to provide emergency food, water, shelter and medical supplies. Please pray for those affected and give to the ongoing relief through PDA account number DR000064. Gifts can also be made by phone at (800) 872-3283, and checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thank you, your Missions Team.

New Session ministry teams for 2010

At the January Session meeting, the ministry team responsibilities were reassigned, with some teams being combined, and some having two elders to share the workload. These are the assignments for 2010:

Discipleship and Little Acorn School: Sandy W and Tom P

Facilities: Doug H and Mary S

Fellowship and Outreach: Holly L and Sharon H

Finance/Stewardship: Karl P

Missions: Kathy S

Officer Nominating Committee: Holly L

Worship: Carolyn L and Bruce E

Church Leadership “Advances” at Retreat

Your currently serving Elders, Deacons and church staff met together in the Fellowship Hall on Friday evening January 29th and Saturday January 30th with Pastor Tim in a first-of-its-kind joint retreat. Dr. James Appleton, President Emeritus of the University of Redlands, served as the Retreat Facilitator and guided us Friday evening to produce an agenda for Saturday focused on four goal statements.

The goal statements (produced by the group) included the following key issues: communications; two related to our growth; and one addressing our outreach of service to the community. Together we then generated numerous ideas related to each goal. Acknowledging that the efforts required to address so many ideas could not be accomplished in one retreat, we developed an outline of the process. This process includes: prioritizing the ideas; preparing an implementation plan for the highest priority ideas (and for easily implemented ideas) and developing an accountability process for follow-through.

As the first step in addressing our plan of action, three task forces were formed from the attendees. One task force will address the communications goal, another will prioritize the ideas under the growth and outreach goals, and the third task force will review and refine our identity with the established mission statement in mind. These task forces will report to the Session and the Session will keep the congregation informed of progress being made.

With encouragement and renewed energy and enthusiasm, we closed the retreat in prayer, acknowledging God’s desire to use each of us through our willingness to follow Him and our need to allow Him to use the talents and energy He provides to us. Join your Church leadership in on-going prayer for success as we go forward with the plans generated at the retreat.

Friends, Family and Faith

Psalm 67:1-2 "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us that Thy way may be known upon earth Thy saving power among all nations."

Hello all, and it is never out of date to say "Happy New Year" to our friends.

The Christmas holidays brought a lot of activity and joy to the season and we would like to share some of the happenings.

The **Hendersons** traveled to Southern California to spend Christmas with Caroline, their Granddaughter. She loved the boxes that the presents came in and ribbon chewing was her fun activity, while the actual gift seemed secondary. She will be one year old on the February 1. Caroline wore her Aunts Sarah and Melanie out as she wanted to "walk" from room to room. This is where you are bent over and she holds tightly onto your index fingers and she just trots down the hallway.

Portland, Oregon was the destination for **Kathy S** where she visited her son, Michael and his wife Lacy. They are expecting their first child the end of this month and Grandma is soooo excited.

The starship Enterprise was the destination for **Sharon H and Mary S** and Mary's friend, Dave. The Tech Museum had a great exhibit with the costumes, stories of all the movies and a mock up of the bridge of the Enterprise and the transporter room. If you have been in the Church office, you were able to see a postcard, showing them being "transported" and returning. We are certainly glad that you came back.

Putting up and taking down the Christmas decorations proved to go a lot quicker this year with the able bodied help of **Cameron and Hugh S**. Thank you so much, you saved the Deacons perhaps from some bone crunching. **Mark** was a great help too, as the beautiful new Christmas tree did not come apart as easily as it had gone together and would not fit into the box it came in. We really do not know how he solved that problem.

Disneyland was the destination for **Joey and Jessie L** during the Christmas break. This year they went without their parents and Joey said they had a great time.

Whenever the Stanford Women's Basketball games are played in town, **Gayle R** can always be found there. She is an avid fan and we spotted her cheering them on.

Andrew N traveled to Southern California with the Fleet Street Singers from Stanford. They had a few stops singing along the way – Santa Barbara was one of them – and we believe that the trip was a fund raiser; however, we could not reach him to confirm that.

They may have had mixed feelings in Redlands as our new **Pastor Tim, Laura** and family celebrated what was their last Christmas in their home. We are sure that they have a lot of friends in the area and great memories. Now the Manse will be their new home in Mountain View. We are thrilled God brought them to us!

Good news! **Eleanor R** has been able to return home after her recuperation at the Forum.

Shane D reports that her brothers who were involved in the airplane crash are steadily improving but it will take quite awhile with their back injuries.

Amy C was in a serious car crash and injured her back but is now recovering.

These people mentioned and many, many of our church family members need our prayers. Please continue to remember them in prayer for health issues while others need prayer for job issues, home and family concerns. Thank you.

THOUGHT TO PONDER... Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

THE LAST WORD

Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.