

PASADENA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The CLARION

Volume 71 Issue 1

September Issue 2011

Fall Homecoming Sunday, September 18

English-Language Worship 10:00 am
Spanish-Language Worship 10:00 am
Luncheon for Everyone 11:15 am
Korean-Language Worship 12:30 pm

See page 3 for details
on this festive day.



Pasadena Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours :

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed for Lunch Hour Noon - 1 pm

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Mark K. Smutny, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

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Parish Associate for Latino/a Ministries

Hyun Sung

Associate Pastor for Korean Ministries

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Adrian Estabrook, *Handbell Choir Director &
Director of Rainbow Choir*

Vena Luthey, *Carol Choir Director*

Margie Madrigal

Children's Outreach Coordinator

Personal Interest Missionaries:

Japan: Ann & Bill Moore

Thailand: Rob Collins & Esther Wakeman

The **Clarion**, PPC's newsletter, is published monthly and can be accessed from PPC's website at www.ppc.net. For members who do not have internet access please call the church office and ask for your Clarion to be mailed to you. A yearly donation of \$15 is asked of non-members.

Submit all newsletter articles no later than the 15th of the prior month to:

E-mail: Anita.Protich@PPC.net

Mail: Clarion Editor

585 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101

A message from Dr. Mark Smutny

Dear Friends,

On the plate for PPC this season are a number of "challenges," that wonderful euphemism that says smile and put our collective nose to the grindstone. We need to organize a capital campaign to pay for the replacement of our air conditioning system. The campaign's active phase will likely occur in early 2012. We also need to weigh whether to include other components such as the sanctuary sound system.

A Mission Study Committee has been established by the Session to examine the future needs and mission of the church with special attention to staffing. It has been nearly fifteen years since PPC has conducted a thorough-going mission study and the changes in PPC's life and ministry have been profound. We are a complicated congregation with many, many ministries and needs. In the coming months, the Mission Study Committee will be hard at work. No doubt you will be invited into the process. My hope is the committee's work will move quickly.

September 11, a Sunday, is the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Every one of us experienced this horrific event in some way and have grieved, felt retribution and responded in a variety of other ways, some having little to do with the teachings of Jesus. In worship and during the adult education hour, we will explore how the Christian faith informs our response through the lens of forgiveness, a most difficult yet essential practice for followers of Jesus.

On a more upbeat note, September 18 is Homecoming. Everything will be casual. Burgers, vegetarian options and the fixings with it, will help usher in a new church year at PPC. Be sure and invite your friends.

On an even more upbeat note, I'm counting the days before the birth of our first grandchild, a baby girl, in late September. Get ready for pictures and to indulge this first-time grandfather!

Faithfully yours,

Dr. Mark Smutny

Preaching Schedule

September 4	Mr. Sterrett Collins
September 11	Dr. Mark Smutny
September 18	Dr. Mark Smutny
September 25	Ms. Renée Roederer

Adult Education

Sundays at 11:20 a.m.



Responding to 9 / 11

September 25 through November 13, 2011

What resources do we have to face our deep despair when we encounter a disaster like 9/11? On this, the tenth anniversary of that attack, we will explore sacred music, poetry, art, and film to help us reflect upon both what has happened to our community and the role hope may have in a time of stark uncertainty. Please come prepared to explore themes that may give us some of the resources needed to live in our troubled times. This class will be facilitated by Doug Dailey, Eric Westrope, and others.

Class Schedule

Week 1 - Where were we when 9/11 happened? In what ways did it change us? But for better or for worse?

Week 2 - How are we to deal with the monsters we sometimes create out of the bitterness of our anguish?

Week 3 - What do we do with the shadow cast by 9/11 on our sense of trust? How can we remain a community of faith if our sense of trust has been undermined?

Week 4 - What do we do with this or that dreaded other person so different than ourselves who may make us feel suspicious or threatened?

Week 5 - Where do you picture God as having been when 9/11 struck? Does your answer challenge or affirm your positive image of God?

Week 6 - Do you feel a need to pray for or forgive terrorists associated with 9/11? For your own sake? For their sake? Is it possible to forgive and/or to pray while we still feel threatened?

Week 7 - What sense do you make of the terrorists' use of religious symbols? Do you know of Christians who seem violent in their judgment of others? How do we compassionately talk with fundamentalists?

Week 8 - What step might we now resolve to take to recover hope, to begin to repair the damage to the spirit of so many individuals and communities since 9/11?

Homecoming Sunday

September 18

"Head home" to PPC's traditional annual kickoff of the new church season sharing good food, fellowship and a chance to explore the hundreds of opportunities for nurture, service and joy at PPC. Lunch will be provided immediately after the English-language and Spanish-language worship services (and before Korean-language worship). Tommy's Burgers will cater the lunch which will include options for vegetarians. Cost of lunch will be \$7 per person.

Many of the church's programs will have information tables with schedules for the year and opportunities for you to participate and/or volunteer. Dress cool and casual. See you there!

Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith

Do you like to read? Are you interested in reading authors you haven't tried before? Then perhaps this class would interest you.

This is the introductory course using the text *Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith - Volume I*. Utilizing the writings of Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, Patricia Hampl, Raymond Carver, Annie Dillard, Alice Walker, Garrison Keillor, and Richard Rodriguez, participants will attempt to understand their theological positions and their journey in faith. In reading and discussing these writings, the class will learn about the ways various contemporary authors address significant religious issues and at the same time examine their own perspectives on these themes in the light of what they have written.



The class will meet once a month on the third Tuesday. The first class will meet September 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Parish House 203. The class will be led by Nancy Nicoll, a new face at PPC. The timing of the class allows enough time to read the selection in the text and to explore other works by the same author.

Interested persons can locate a registration form at the Information Table. Complete the form and return the information as soon as possible so that text books can be ordered. If you have additional questions, contact Nancy Nicoll through the church office.

Reflection: Multi-Lingual Christian Living

by Renée Roederer,
Director of Young Adults

Four summers ago, I had the same dream twice, and it affected me. I dreamed that I was learning to become multilingual in terms of people. I was learning to speak the various “languages” of the people who surround my life. And I wasn’t the only one who was trying to do this. Others were doing it as well. They were intentionally trying to learn how to speak my language too. We were all learning how to converse through one another’s dreams, anxieties, hopes, and experiences.

I think this is a huge part of what it means to share in the humanity of one another, and we certainly share in this way as we engage in young adult ministry. We don’t necessarily come to a full sharing if we can only hear others through the lens of our own language, even though we certainly bring our own dreams, anxieties, hopes, and experiences to the table. We cannot share fully if we simply define others in our own terms. I think in order to share in the humanity of one another, we have to be willing to enter the world of another, even if this causes us to leave our own comfort zone.

Perhaps this type of sharing is like moving to a foreign country. Commonalities between ourselves and others become treasured. We draw upon our common experiences to communicate. But we also move beyond commonalities and begin to treasure the differences in the others as well. We learn to enter a different world. We learn to speak the language of the ones who live there. We know that the best way to do this is to get our noses out of the dictionaries and phrase books and to have an immersion experience. This makes our language learning dependant upon the people who actually speak the language. We can know the phrases from the phrase books all day long, but if we confine ourselves to their use, we’ll probably put up a wall between ourselves and others, never moving beyond benign trivialities no matter how grammatically correct our phrases may be. We need to learn the slang. We also know that no matter how long we live there, our experience will never be exactly equivalent with those who grew up in the region, but as we continue to live among others and speak their language, we learn how to converse in their world. And their world becomes a part of us too. We don’t claim that their experience is our experience, but through immersion, we adopt their experience toward ourselves. It is now a part of us too. And our world will never be the same now. As we go back to our own country - our own life - we will have new ways of understanding what

it means to be human, and our language is enriched because we have known theirs.

How willing are we to enter the world of another? How willing are we to learn to speak the language of another, becoming conversant in the person’s dreams, anxieties, hopes, and experiences? Won’t this require time and focused attention? Won’t we make mistakes and faux pas in the process, at times using the wrong word for the wrong situation? As we do, will we and the other both find that even in our blunders, it is worth sharing our humanity? Do we see the worth of entering that world, not only for ourselves, but for others? Isn’t it true that one of the most affirming experiences is for others to find out that their world is worth entering?

As others have learned to speak my language, I have found that to be true. I have been affirmed because I have found out that my world is worth entering. And I don’t know about you, but I can’t imagine missing out on becoming a world traveler. And there are worlds of discovery - right under our noses at Pasadena Presbyterian Church!

An Exciting New Year!

That’s right! Somehow September is already upon us. (How did that come so quickly?) It’s time for the programmatic year to start at PPC, and as we dive into a new season in our life together, I want to share some exciting celebrations and hopes for Young Adult Ministry at PPC.

Thank you for supporting L.I.F.T. last year as our Young(er) Adult Ministry got off the ground! Thank you for laughing with us through many

announcements about the Second Sunday Sermon Sandwich Symposium. Thank you for hosting our potluck dinners in your homes. Thank you for welcoming new young adults into our congregational fellowship. Thank you for supporting last month’s third Electronic Waste Recycling Event!



This year, we look forward to continuing each of these. We also hope to move forward in ministry in two particular areas.

(continued on page 5)



A message from Rev. Luis Madrigal, Parish Associate for Latina/o Ministries

Latino/a Ministries celebrated its annual “Day at the Lake” at Santa Fe Dam County Recreational Park in Irwindale, on Sunday, August 21st. We had our Sunday Worship service at this park, then we spent the afternoon sleeping, fishing, swimming, bike riding, or just visiting with one another, etc. This annual day at the park has proven to be a real highlight for the folks of Latino/a Ministries.

On **Sunday, September 18th** (also the day of our Homecoming Sunday), Latino/a Ministries will celebrate its annual “Back to School” Sunday. Each year the Children’s Hunger Fund donates some backpacks and school supplies. Latino/a Ministries also purchases some of the backpacks for our kids. The sermon is always about how our Christian faith asks us to prepare ourselves to serve God and our neighbors. We conclude our worship by having all our kids come forth, be anointed with oil and pray over them. This year they will all receive a bracelet engraved with the Scripture of Joshua 1:9, *“The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*



(“An Exciting New Year” continued)

Please keep us in your prayers, and please share ideas!

We are hoping to partner with students and friends of Pasadena City College to open our church doors to that campus. It will be wonderful to add a campus community to our Young Adult Ministry.

We are hoping to partner with young adults of Korean-Language ministry, to build multicultural relationships and engage in fellowship and service together.

Please help us move forward in these ways!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 1
Bibles & Bagels

September 5
LABOR DAY
Campus closed

September 6
Session

September 8
Handbell Choir begins
Kirk Choir begins

September 10
Green & Greener

September 13
Presbytery

September 15
Bibles & Bagels

September 17
Celiac Support Group

September 18
HOMECOMING

September 25
Care Ministry
English Ministry Deacons

September 28
Board of Trustees





Music: the very
breath of God
- Van Cliburn

Friends of Music 2011-2012 Season

Saturday, October 8, 4:00–6:30pm
Season Kick-off Party/ Fundraiser
(see below)

Saturday, October 22, 7:30pm
Cappella Gloriana

Saturday, November 19, 7:30pm
Timothy Howard, organist

Saturday, December 10, 7:30pm
66th Annual Candlelight and Carols

Saturday, January 21, 7:30pm
A 75th Birthday Celebration:
Frances Nobert, organist

Saturday, February 4, 7:30pm
John Weaver, organist
A Hymn Festival

Saturday, March 3, 7:30pm
Choral Favorites from Two Continents
The Pasadena Singers

Friday, April 6, 7:30pm
Annual Good Friday Devotional Concert
featuring John Rutter's Requiem

Saturday, May 5, 7:30pm
Alison Luedecke, organist

Saturday, June 2, 7:30pm
Jazz for the City: The Los Angeles Jazz Quartet

Celebrating the 2011-2012 Season

Friends of Music Kick-Off Party and Silent Auction

Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 4:00 pm

At the home of Timothy Howard and Jerry Beale.
Catered hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

\$35 per person

Contact the church office for more information.



L.I.F.T. Bible Study Goes Intergenerational! (That means YOU!)

For an exciting limited time only (gotta make this sound like an amazing commercial!) the L.I.F.T. Bible study wants to go intergenerational for a



season and invite you to study with us! And it seems like an appropriate time because we are beginning a new study about relationships: How do we function in our relationships - our interpersonal relationships, our intergenerational relationships, our family relationships, our church relationships?

Please join us as we delve into scriptures and an exciting, provocative, healing book of stories which illustrates our relationships: Friedman's Fables by Edwin H. Friedman.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month in PH 201 from 7-8:30pm. Please join us! You don't need to own the book to come, and there will be no reading ahead of our meeting. And if you have any questions, e-mail Renee at renee.roederer@yahoo.com.

Care Ministry is There for You

The PPC Care Ministry wants to get the word out that help is available to congregants who are long-term caregivers of chronically ill, homebound persons, as well as families coping with the loss of loved ones. This group meets monthly (dates announced in Sunday Bulletin), and welcomes caregivers who could use some assistance, or potential Care Ministry members. Meetings are conducted in strict confidentiality.



Here's what the Care Ministry has been up to lately:

- * A PPC workshop for caregivers is being planned for late April 2012. More on that in the days ahead!
- * Support and reading materials for those whose loved ones have passed away, and financial aid for caregiving-related needs are available.
- * News of local caregiver classes is shared. For example, Huntington Senior Care Network (HSCN) presents "Update on Alzheimer's Disease and Current Research Studies" on Sat., Sept. 24, 10-11:30 a.m. HSCN also will offer a six-week class, "Taking Care of You: Powerful Tools for Caregiving" on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Oct. 14 to Nov. 18. Class fee is \$40, but the Care Ministry can provide reimbursement for PPC participants, if needed. For details on both events, call HSCN at (626) 397-3147.

MUSIC AT NOON

FREE CONCERTS
WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10 PM

September 7

Michael Sellers, piano

September 14

Michael Chapdelaine, guitar

September 21

Paul Stein, violin
Roger Lebow, cello
Louise King, piano

September 28

Sean O'Neal, organ

Lunch is available following
the concert for a \$6 donation.

MUSIC AT NOON



Presbyterian Women Study the Beatitudes



The Beatitudes are some of the most beloved teachings of Jesus, yet they may well be some of the most pointed. We may miss their point, however, if we do not study them within their literary, historical and cultural contexts.

Beginning in September, women of PPC are invited to study these well-known teachings of Jesus. Each circle – a small gathering of women – meets once a month for study, prayer and fellowship. Morning Circle meets on the third Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in Gamble Lounge; Evening Circle meets on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rita Lossett. All women are invited. Study books cost \$8 and can be purchased from study leaders at the first meeting.

Sacred Space for the City



Forwarding Service Requested

Pasadena Presbyterian Church
585 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Bring Your Own Picnic! Sunday, October 9

Pack a basket—pick up a sandwich at a local shop—pay a visit to The Colonel—and come on over to Sunnyslope Park on Sunday, October 9 after the adult education class. We'll meet at the park about 12:45 p.m. and break out the food for a relaxing time in the company of fellow PPCers.

Come as casual as you like, stay as long as you want, and bring whatever tastes good to you. Make sure to take a blanket or tablecloth to lay on the grass. There is play equipment for the kids and an off-leash dog park nearby, so bring the family no matter how many legs they have.

Sunnyslope Park is on E. Orange Grove Blvd. and N. Sunnyslope St., about 3 ½ miles from the church. There will be fliers with a map of the location at the Information Table.

