

The PASADENA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CLARION



Volume 69 Issue 6

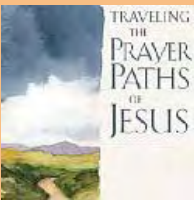
February Issue 2010

lenten small groups 2010

3 choices of study



Hope: Our Longing for Home



Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus



Kaleidoscope: A Multicultural Bible Study

Classes begin the
week of February 21

Sign up for Lenten
Small Groups on the
church patio or call
the church office for
more information.

Deadline to sign up
is February 7

Every year, during the season of Lent, the special season of reflection and study leading up to Easter, PPC has a tradition of organizing small groups whose purposes are to explore dimensions of Christian discipleship, build community, deepen friendships, and nurture our spiritual lives. The groups meet weekly for six sessions from the week of February 21 through the week of March 28.

Hope: Our Longing for Home

What passes for hope too often is little more than wishful thinking, daydreams, false optimism, or “Let go and let God” attitudes. These passive, “warm-and-tingly” beliefs lead us nowhere of value and can actually be harmful to our faith. Authentic hope involves action, and action involves choices. It reminds us of God’s presence and ultimate purposes. This study invites you to be formed by true hope – a journey not only toward God but with God. It’s an attitude of knowing all is well, not wishing that all *will be* well. Are you ready to embrace and live this risky but wildly hope-filled journey home?

Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus

“Lord, teach us to pray.” Who has better insight of prayer than Jesus? The disciples recognized that, and they witnessed Jesus’ prayer life firsthand. Jesus prayed at all times and in all places – in solitude and in the midst of crowds. This study invites readers to follow the example of Jesus and to learn deeper ways to connect with God. Always gentle and inviting, this Lenten study helps readers to see new depth in the prayers of Jesus and new ways that all might pray.

Kaleidoscope: A Multicultural Bible Study

Come together as a fellowship of people to read Scripture, share insights, experiences, hopes, and prayers as Bible passages inspire you. By doing so, we can become a stronger community of people who pray together, help each other with our problems, and reach out to serve others. No familiarity with the Bible is required. Newcomers are especially welcome.

WWW.PPC.NET

Pasadena Presbyterian Church

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Web Site: www.ppc.net

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Closed for Lunch Hour Noon - 1 pm

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Luis Madrigal

Parish Associate for Latino/a Ministries

Hyun Sung

Associate Pastor for Korean Ministries

Art French, *Visitation Minister, Affiliate*

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Sharon Duenas, *Co-Director of Rainbow Choir*

Vena Luthey, *Carol Choir Director*

Margie Madrigal

Children's Outreach Coordinator

Tai Woan Kim, *Korean Ministries Assistant*

Personal Interest Missionaries:

Japan: Ann & Bill Moore

Thailand: Rob Collins & Esther Wakeman

Spain/Portugal: Bryce & Phyllis Little

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 PASTOR DR. MARK K. SMUTNY

Dear Friends,

I have two items to share. The first is that Barbara is returning from Ohio this month, as early as the second week of February. She will be driving our Camry across the country in late winter so the precise time of her arrival depends on the cooperation of Mother Nature. To say that I am excited about her return is the understatement of the century.

The second concerns Lenten small groups and their critical importance in the spiritual formation of the congregation. PPC has a long history of encouraging people to make a commitment of six weeks during the season of Lent to participate in small groups. Small groups are about soul care. They are the opposite of adding another church activity to your life. They are not another program or meeting to attend. They are a way to grow spiritually, emotionally and relationally with God, Jesus and one another. At their heart, they nourish the longing we each have for why we got involved with church in the first place: to connect with God and with others.

If you've participated in a small group before, you know how life changing they can be. If you haven't, perhaps you've heard stories from people expressing how profoundly powerful they can be. My hope is that you will take the plunge this Lent and join one of the small groups being offered. Do something luxuriously compassionate just for you: care for your own soul.

Faithfully yours,
Dr. Mark Smutny

PREACHING SCHEDULE

February 7	Dr. Mark Smutny
February 14	Dr. Dale Morgan
February 21	Dr. Dale Morgan
February 28	Dr. Mark Smutny

SUNDAY SANCTUARY FLOWER DONORS NEEDED

The Deacon Ministry of Pasadena Presbyterian Church asks for donors to sponsor the beautiful flower bouquets placed in our sanctuary every Sunday. Providing sanctuary flowers is your opportunity to give a memorial for a loved one or as a special recognition for a family member or friend. Did you ever wonder what happens after worship with the large bouquet that adorns the chancel every Sunday? Volunteers make smaller bouquets and deliver them to PPC members who are in the hospital or are at home and in need of a little cheer.

The Flower Chart in the entry way of the sanctuary is there for your convenience in choosing an available Sunday. Please help this ministry of your church by signing up this Sunday. Thank You!



**ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS
SUNDAYS AT 11:20 A.M.**

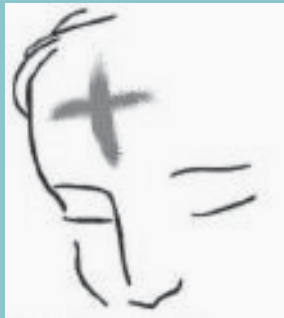
**THE HISTORY OF
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION IN IRAN**

February 14, 21, 28

**WHAT IS GOING ON IN IRAN:
SOME OF THE STORIES BEHIND THE NEWS**

March 14 and 21

Led by Rev. Mehdi Abhari



**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17**

7:00 PM Agape Meal
8:00 PM Worship

Please bring cheese,
bread or fruit to share.
In Fellowship Hall

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PPC

PPC has begun work to replace its aging and dilapidated heating system. To begin, the insulation (asbestos) surrounding many of the pipes was removed; 25 bags of materials were transported away. The old boilers have been dismantled, and will be removed making way for new materials and installation of new boilers.



Plans for the new system have been submitted to the City of Pasadena, parts have been ordered, and installation should begin within the next few weeks. Temporarily, space heaters are being used in Parish House classrooms, and a temporary heating system is working in Kirk House to warm our tenants.

The congregation recently voted to mortgage church property in order to receive a loan of \$981,000 from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program to pay for the new heating system. Begun in December, the project is expected to be completed by March.



1ST SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, February 7, 2010



PPC's Latino/a Ministries will be the chefs for this brunch immediately after the English and Spanish language worship. This is our "table fellowship" meal to be held on the first Sunday each month. Everyone is encouraged to join in the food and fellowship. There is no cost for the lunch but donations are very welcome!

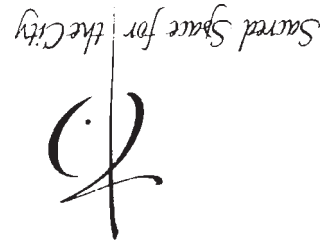
WE GET LETTERS!

Several years ago, PPC was involved with International Students, under the shepherding of Ray Heer. One of those students, Yasukiko Kawashima, recently wrote to some of his PPC friends, Betty and Wally Stearns. Because of the worldwide recession he suddenly was laid off from a job he had held for a long time at a resort hotel. He was shocked and depressed, but then acquired a new, very good job in Tokyo at a hotel where people come from all over the world. He states he got the job because of his knowledge of English. "Say hello to everyone at Pasadena Presbyterian Church. God bless you."



**THANK YOU TO OUR
ROSE PARADE VOLUNTEERS!**

Tournament of Roses volunteers put in hundreds of hours to earn the honor of wearing a white suit on parade day. PPC members and friends sport red scarves to indicate their willingness to get up at 4 a.m. and hie down to church to make sure that 600 guests are ticketed, greeted, fed a nutritious breakfast, and seated as comfortably as possible on cold metal benches. When that's accomplished, they serve pastries and water in the stands and clean up afterwards. This year, we had more than 35 volunteers! We could not have done it without you! Thank you for your time, talents, smiles, and energy!



Forwarding Service Requested

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

From Lisa Webb, PPC Member volunteering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Happy New Year from New Orleans!

I would like to introduce you all to Myrtle C. Jones. She is the homeowner of the house I have been working on since October. I hope to have her work completed by mid-January. She has been such a joy and blessing in my life and has touched every volunteer that has come through her door. Her story is not terribly uncommon, but she is a woman that commands your attention, pours out love and generosity with words and is dedicated to making her renovated home a space of Christian hospitality.

At the time of Hurricane Katrina, Myrtle was at a friend's house in the city a few miles from her home. She was hoping to ride out the storm on higher ground, but the water rose anyway. After two days in the attic and half a day on the roof, a boat came by only to drop her off in the street. She saw so many tragic and terrifying things before she was placed on a plane to Austin, TX. Four years after the storm, Myrtle was encouraged to come home by some friends and she made the calls to hire contractors to get the house in order. The contractors bailed and left Myrtle with an incomplete home and no way to move forward having taken all of the federal funding she had received. She has been living in her unfinished home since July 2009.

I want to make sure that you all know that this rebuilding process happens through a huge network of people and organizations. Project Homecoming is a rebuild organization that provides a labor force of both volunteers and professionals. Some organizations provide materials that we use to rebuild and some organizations provide grants and funding. Some individuals provide free legal services to help prosecute crooked contractors. Some churches provide food baskets to folks like Myrtle. I am one tiny part of a huge effort to get the people of the Gulf Coast back on their feet. There is a sense of community here that is raised up with each new and rebuilt home and it is humbling to be a part of this unique experience. And I am here because of you, so thank you for being a part of the effort and allowing me to be here in your stead.

I hope that you have a wonderful start to your new year, that blessings will overflow in your own homes and in the lives of the ones you love. Please pray for Myrtle and please pray that my work would continue to provide her with a glimpse of hope.



Lisa Webb spent the last few years as an active member of PPC playing many roles including Elder and youth intern. PPC is participating in Lisa's ministry with our encouragement, prayers, and funds. PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers are required to raise one-half the cost of hosting the volunteer on site. You can contact Lisa at lisalangasa@yahoo.com