



Dear Church Family,

Greetings as I pass through Fresno between the General Assembly and my vacation to Oregon. July has been busy but I should be in Fresno for most, if not all, of August.

Thank you to the congregation for making it possible for me to attend the assembly. There were a number of wonderful speakers and I will share more about them over the coming weeks. I had the opportunity to meet with a few friends from seminary and that was good. I appreciated going but I have come away believing that the General Assembly is probably a relic of the past that needs to be drastically altered if it is to be a meaningful gathering for the larger church.

Most of the business sessions were taken up with reports from the divisions of the general church. It was good to know that there are exciting ministries going on through our offerings but those of us there already knew what was happening. The news needs to get to the local congregations more effectively.

We passed several Sense-of-Assembly resolutions which address issues of concern in our churches and in our world. I am sorry that we do not have a format that would allow for more voices to be heard as we discuss these things. In the day of the internet, I think we could set up online discussion groups and actually take time to talk about these things.

Several of these divisions are changing leadership this year. Many have long time heads and they are retiring. The change of leadership means that we, as church, are in for some changes in the way we do ministry. We have been well served by good and faithful servants. It is time for new leaders for this new phase in our life. I am excited to see what happens.

The one piece of business that was done that really felt like it needed to be done in a party setting was the election of the Rev Dr. Sharon Watkins to her second term as General Minister and President. It is a hard job and she has led us admirably. There are those throughout the church who would like her to take more hard line stands but, by and large, I think she picks her battles and works for greater communication and understanding. I am glad to have Sharon back for another 6 years.

On the turn around, you will find a copy of the business items that were addressed at the assembly. I hope you will look at it and I hope you will ask me if you have any questions.

I enjoyed the assembly but many of my seminary and northern California colleagues were not there. It is a very expensive endeavor; it feels a bit like conspicuous consumption and I do hope that there will be some conversation about finding new ways of doing this, too.

By the time you get this, I will be back from Oregon and in the heat of Fresno's summer. May God bless all of you as you find ways to enjoy this summer.

Pastor Natalie

Pastor Natalie



AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Norma Bautista*
- 1 Clyvene Deppe*
- 3 Mable Schiller*
- 3 Pam Pigg*
- 4 Jim Horg*
- 6 Ryan Roesing
- 8 Shawn* & Chan Born (A)
- 9 Fred* & Aretha* Hurt (A)
- 11 David & Anne James (A)
- 13 Earlene Hodgson*
- 14 Fred Hurt*
- 16 Julia Gutierrez
- 16 Loretta Williams*
- 18 Kathleen Bennett
- 18 Geni Dowdy*
- 18 Isaiah Boykin*
- 20 Bob Lewis, Jr.*
- 20 Devin Hallier
- 23 Bearrrr Murray
- 24 Harold* & Clyvene* Deppe (A)
- 25 Randy Jordahl*
- 27 Alicia Vogland*
- 29 Shawn Born*
- 29 Greg Keys*



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Aug 14th

Plan to stay after church for a nice afternoon of visiting and sharing in some ice cream treats! Bring your favorite toppings to make sundaes or floats. We'll provide chocolate and vanilla Ice Creams. Any questions check with Tina.

Save the Dates!

ACTS Class – Ad Ministry
Starts Sunday,
Sept. 11 at 3 pm

Miracle Day
October 8

First Christian Church
Eugene, OR
Centennial Building Celebration
October 29-30

Women's Fall Retreat
Sept 16-18

Interfaith Scholar Weekend
Feb 10-12, 2012
Speaker: Rita Nakashima Brock



CWF/WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Reservation forms for the Regional Fall Retreat at Mission Springs, September 16-18, are available on the turnaround in the sanctuary. Deadline for reservations is August 31. Scholarships are available. See Natalie Hodgson.

The first fall CWF group meeting will be Tuesday, September 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the church.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY:

We will be generating a new church directory soon. Please contact the church with any new addresses or phone numbers you feel we or the members of the congregation would like to know.

HONORED MEMBERS

(Being re-run in it's entirety as some important information was omitted in the printing last month.)

Patti Horg was born on September 12, 1956, in Fresno, California. Her father was a postal carrier and her mother was a homemaker. She has five brothers and two sisters. She graduated from Fresno High School. She has four children: Michelle, who is a social worker, Amber who works in a medical office, Jayme who is a professional cake baker, and Jimmy who is a Marine veteran and is now enrolled in college to become a firefighter. She also has 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Patti has worked as a secretary, restaurant manager and at Harrah's in Lake Tahoe. While there, she met the actors, Chuck Norris and Reba McEntire and musicians Kenny Loggins and Kenny G., as well as many other entertainers.

Her hobbies include watching TV, cooking and visiting with family, especially grand children. She also likes playing with her Chihuahuas, Bruiser and Gizmo. She was the primary care giver for her mother and also her father-in-law. In 2009, she had a triple by-pass operation and had to curtail some of her activities.

She met her future husband, Jim, when she was three years old and he was 13. They met again later on in life and have now been married 34 years.

As a child, she attended the Nazarene church. She and Jim passed by our church frequently and decided to attend here. They liked our friendliness. They both were baptized last month. They have joined in our fellowship and have helped out in numerous ways including staying all day helping at our block party.

Jim Horg was born on August 4, 1946, in Fresno, California. His father was also a postal carrier and his mother was a homemaker. He has one brother and one sister. In addition to Michelle, Amber, Jayme and Jimmy, he has

three sons: Scott who is an Army veteran and is now a police detective, Robert who is also an Army veteran and now works as a loss prevention specialist for Save Mart and Rick who is a Navy veteran and is now a Fresno City Policeman.

Jim has worked as manager of a car wash, a carpenter, and for an insulation company. He received his general contractor's license and went into home building before returning to insulation for 20 years. He later moved to Lake Tahoe and worked for Harrah's as a supervisor of slot machine repair. While there he met the actor Bruce Willis, and was at the hotel when Roseanne Barr and Tom Arnold married.

After moving back to Fresno, he has worked for the City of Fresno in the Parks Department and meter shop for the past 11 years. His hobbies include riding his motorcycle, watching NASCAR, wood working and working in the yard. He is a 49ers fan. Please give them a warm welcome.

As a child, he grew up in this neighborhood and attended the Lutheran church. He and his wife attended our church after passing by many times. He also liked our friendliness and openness. He and Patti were baptized last month. He says he feels a calling to work in food ministry and is interested in starting a food pantry. He likes to BBQ and also helped out all day for our block party.

Please welcome this hard working husband and wife team.



Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



MISSIONS

FIRM Family Festivals Were a Success

During the weeks of June 13-17 and July 5-8, FIRM's grounds became a territory of face painting, musical chairs, soccer, crafts, and songs, as dozens of neighborhood children from Hmong, Lao, Cambodian, and Russian backgrounds joined together to celebrate summer and learn about God's love. (Quoted from FIRM Newsletter)

I want to thank the volunteers from United Christian and Primera Iglesia Cristiana who helped out on July 7 with the telling of the story of Jonah and helping the children make folded paper whales and learn a Bible verse. That evening there were approximately 50 children in attendance and they were delightful. We also furnished a large supply of cookies for FIRM to use.

Thank you,
Eddie Lou Kester, Missions Chair

Letters of Encouragement

There's a way we can help encourage people who are in treatment for serious mental illness and addiction issues all around the nation and world. The organization "To Write Love On Her Arms" will distribute letters of encouragement to people who need it, but they need people to write these letters.

Basically, the letters need to be uplifting and encouraging. I would encourage you to share coping techniques that help you or things that have encouraged you. Keep in mind, if the story you want to share has any details of a negative experience, they need to be edited out. These letters have to stay positive for people who don't have positive energy in their lives right now. The letters can be decorated with art, stickers, etc. if desired, so long as they still fit into a regular 8 1/2 x 11 envelope.

A rule that the organization has, which was set for our safety, is that no phone numbers, addresses, or email addresses are to be put in these letters. If you have any questions, or to turn the letters in to be mailed off, please see Beckysue Duran (559-704-2910.)

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Gleanings from the Ministry Council

The council met on 7/12/11 and approved the following item:

1. It was decided that requests for church use and/or calendaring requests will now go to the Ministry Council Chair for approval. The council chair will determine if there are any calendaring or building use conflicts and then approve or deny the request. It is hoped that this will insure that there are no "double bookings" on the calendar and answer requests in a timely manner. The Chair will reserve for Ministry Council approval any calendar item that is policy related, i.e. rental of space by outside agents.
2. The council also discussed ongoing repairs and upgrades to the church, both through the Miracle Day project and beyond. More details will follow.



JUNE 2011

General Funds	\$217,149
Designated Other	478
Memorial & Honor Funds	7,517
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>1,787</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$226,931

Monthly Offerings <i>(includes 12% for Missions)</i>	
Total June 2011	\$ 5,542
Total June-2010	<u>4,777</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 765

Year-to-Date Offerings <i>(includes 12% for Missions)</i>	
To June 30, 2011	\$ 42,190
To June 30 2010	<u>39,120</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 3,070

Income & Expense Jan .1-June 30,,2011	
Receipts	49,957
Expenses	<u>89,121</u>
6/30/2011	(\$ 39,164)



Miracle Day Update

First of all, I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you who donated items for our silent auctions, as well as all of you who purchased items. For the first silent auction of our children's art work we raised \$80. At our most recent auction we raised \$302. We have also been receiving Miracle Day donations from individuals. We are on our way, but there is still a lot of work ahead. Thank you all for your continued support for this project.

We have begun scheduling work days, they will be held every other Saturday; August 6 & 20th; September 3 & 17th; October 1st and most of the days between October 1st through the 8th. The work days will be from 7 am – noon. Michael and Patrick will be putting together a list of what is being done and what type of skills will be needed on specific dates. .

WOW

First WOW Interest Group to Start

The WOW Wednesday format was adopted to make Bible study more accessible to the congregation. It was also chosen so that there would be opportunities for small interest groups to form and meet at the church. The first such group is about to start.

Wednesday August 17 will be the first meeting of a scrapbooking group. Then in September and the months following, we will meet on the first Wednesday of each month. We will meet from 7-8pm in the classroom.

Everyone who is interested in learning to scrapbook, to help with the church scrapbook, or work on scrapbooking projects for gift giving is welcome to this group. We will accept participants until the table is full.

I will be leading the group. My sister, Cathy, has donated supplies and some project kits. If you have never done scrapbooking or if you are just looking for company as you scrapbook, come. This should be fun.

Pastor Natalie

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Human Rights Celebration 2011

Living Our Legacy...

Driving the Movement

Saturday, August 20, 2011

Doors Open 11:30 am

At New Praise Non-Denominational Church,
1388 W. Indianapolis Ave.

Just off West between Ashlan and Shaw

\$7.00

The Human Rights Celebration is an annual event that unites women and men of ALL faiths in a common worship experience held to honor individuals who have worked in the cause of Human Rights. The theme of this year's Human Rights Celebration is *Living Our Legacy... Driving the Movement* with an emphasis on the history of Church Women United. As we celebrate 70 years of Church Women United, we honor all those who have worked for the cause of Human Rights throughout the history of CWU. This celebration is a time to honor a local person(s) who has worked for the cause of Human Rights, Please come to our luncheon!

YOUTH PAGE

According to "Modern Family," the definition and makeup of the American family is changing and changing fast. We're living in a period of unprecedented and historic change in family composition, family life and family experience. This radical shift in family patterns can't help but affect our kids, creating more stress and confusion. The shift is the result and cause of a growing amount of childhood heartache, pain and difficulty. While these issues are deep and complex, they require our attention and response. How should we minister with sensitivity to kids growing up in a modern family? We must begin by raising our awareness of the cultural shifts and changes taking place in terms of the family and how those shifts and changes are visiting and affecting the kids we know and love. Here are four of the main family shifts that are visiting the homes of kids in our community and church.

The increase and acceptance of divorce: The United States has the highest divorce rate and the highest proportion of children affected by divorce in the developed world. My one-on-one conversations with and observation of children of divorce have led me to a deeper understanding of the toll that divorce takes on our kids. The family was created by God as the basic unit and building block of society. It is the unit into which we are born and where we find our identity, are socialized and are nurtured. As our society changes, husbands and wives increasingly are committed to being uncommitted. The result is that more and more of our kids are suffering.

The rise in cohabitation and out-of-wedlock births: A lower view of marriage has combined with changing morals and the experiences of so many adults having grown up in families in which marriages fell apart, leaving a growing number of people ready to live together and have families without the willingness to commit. Since 1970, the number of people living together outside of marriage has increased tenfold. Not only do these trends affect children's well-being as they grow through childhood and adolescence, but they also influence the growing child's own view of marriage as they look forward to being grown up. Clearly, the culture is influencing our kids' values and attitudes toward God's institution of marriage.

The crisis of fatherlessness: Tonight, approximately 34 percent of our nation's children

and teens will go to bed in a home where their biological father does not live. Some estimate that almost 60 percent of the children born in the 1990s will spend some part of their childhood in a fatherless home. These are our youth group kids! Sadly, more and more children don't know who their fathers are. Millions of other children are growing up in homes where their fathers may be physically present but are spiritually or emotionally detached. The consequences are grave.

The decreasing amount of time parents spend with their children: Men and women in high-pressure careers often work more than 40 hours a week and bring home work pressures and economic worries. Children are the ones who get shortchanged. The ongoing myth of "quality time vs. quantity time" often is invoked to justify absence from the kids. When asked about their wishes for a better life, 27 percent of high school students wanted "more money to buy items such as televisions and cars," and 14 percent wished for "a bigger house." The largest percentage of high school students--46 percent--wished for "more time spent together with family." More and more children and teens are victims of family violence. Children who are exposed to or are victims of family and sexual violence are more likely to become perpetrators of violence themselves. Home used to be a place of refuge.

Culture Watch: Redefining Family
by Walt Mueller January 06, 2010

As youth Pastor I have been asking God for direction and leading in the search for activities that will lead our youth towards reaching a **very personal** relationship with God. This summer, many of our youth are absent for one or many reasons... Isaiah is not permanently with us now; Leeah is gone for the summer to Marina Del Rey area; Sandy and Shawn are out of the region mainly during weekends; same is true for Amanda & Taylor; Sierra & Eddie are out of the area and dealing with serious illness in the family... so on so forth.

So, this month, I call on each member of the congregation to seek God's face in behalf of our youth. What we can't do alone, we can certainly do, TOGETHER... Let's continue to pray for them and with them when we get to see them!

Blessings, Pastor Yolanda

August 2011

* Every Friday morning custodial service is being done in the Church and the Church office.

☺ Deadline for Bulletin material is noon, each Wednesday.

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*	Saturday
JULY 31 †9:15 am Adult Bible Study †10:30 am Worship Service	1 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	2 10:00 am O.A. 5:30 pm Miracle Day Meeting 6 pm – 8 pm PIC Bible Study	3☺ <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">6pm WOW</div>	4 10:00 am O.A.	5* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	6 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 7-12 noon Miracle Day Work Day 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30 am O.A. 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
7 †9:15 am Adult Bible Study †10:30 am Worship Service	8 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	9 10:00 am O.A. 6 pm – 8 pm PIC Bible Study	10☺ <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">6pm WOW</div>	11 10:00 am O.A.	12* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	13 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
14 †9:15 am Adult Bible Study †10:30 am Worship Service ICE CREAM SOCIAL!! (Immediately following Worship Service)	15 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	16 10:00 am O.A. 6:30 pm Elders Meeting 6 pm – 8 pm PIC Bible Study	17☺ <i>Staff Meeting</i> <i>11am office closed</i> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">6pm WOW</div>	18 10:00 am O.A. Newsletter Articles Due	19* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	20 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 7-12 noon Miracle Day Work Day 10:30 am O.A. Youth – <u>WORK DAY</u> 7:00 pm A.A.
21 †9:15 am Adult Bible Study †10:30 am Worship Service	22 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	23 10:00 am O.A. 6 pm – 8 pm PIC Bible Study	24☺ <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">6pm WOW</div>	25 10:00 am O.A.	26* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	27 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
28 †9:15 am Adult Bible Study †10:30 am Worship Service	29 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	30 10:00 am O.A. 6 pm – 8 pm PIC Bible Study	31☺ <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">6pm WOW</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Elder on call: Sharon Hughes </div>		