

Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church

Senior Moments



SPECIAL EVENTS CHURCH NEWS RESALE SHOP RECREATION HELPING HANDS

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Looking Forward



Our Fall 2009 assessment process concluded that our church is struggling with the same issue as most congregations in America—the loss of the younger generation.

Here are the denominational statistics gathered in 2009 by a reputable surveying agency. While seniors, 60 and older, make up 27% of American society, they make up 35% of church membership. In other words, this is a very loyal church generation.

On the other end of the spectrum are the young adults, 25 years and younger. While that next generation makes up 6% of our society, they are only 2% of churches. In other words, when the seniors generation of active Christians passes away the next two generations will not replace them in local churches. Over the next twenty years more and more congregations will be closing their doors and selling their buildings. American denominational Christianity is in major trouble!

To tell the truth, most of us can relate to these statistics in our own families. Many of us have children and/or grandchildren who have nothing to do with our faith. The question coming out of our fall congregational assessment process is how to share the gospel with the next generations (40's and younger) without marginalizing the wonderful seniors ministries we already have in this church. Please pray for your pastors and elders as we work on this problem in the coming years.

Dr. Bruce Humphrey

A Year in Review



I always love it when we can discuss a year in review. Seniors Ministry has seen the creation of a Wednesday morning Sermon Review meeting. Prime Time, Windjammers and OWLS have seen new heights in attendance with exciting and informative events. Savvy Travelers had a great year including a wonderful trip to the Holy Land.

Men's Ministry has grown and now meets every week on Thursday morning at 6:00 a.m. Its early in the morning, however, we have had great attendance and studied the *Shack*, *the Book of Nehemiah*, *Man In The Mirror*, Coach Tony Dungy's book, *Quiet Strength* and we are starting a study of Lee Strobel's *The Case For Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity*, on January 14th, 2010.

Missions had an adventuresome and exciting year. Jill Weller came back from a year in Kenya at the Elma Barnett Children's Center. Four new missionaries have been sent on one year adventures, two in foreign lands and two on domestic missions. In addition, two trips to the Dominican Republic, and trips to Kenya, Egypt, and Panama (by our youth) were very successful. Thanks to our generous congregation and the Resale Shops, missions has sent out over \$240,000 this last year, in addition to individual gifts to specific missions.

Missions in 2010 will include even more trips. The committee intends to include Dominican Republic, South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Lebanon, Ecuador and hopefully Mexico in our travels.

God is Great. Blessings to you all and Happy New Year!

Reverend Ray Sparling

Assessment Task Force

Final Report & 100 Day Action Plan



What did we learn from our Assessment Process?

Beginning in June, 2009, more than 200 members, staff, elders and pastors in our church met at different times and varying groups in a four month evaluation of our history and what it reveals about our present and our future. The most visible aspect of the process was the fabulous Journey Wall that took over much of the art gallery for several weeks this fall. Here is a summary of what those groups discovered and what Session agreed was accurate of our past and important for our future.

For a complete report of the Assessment Task Force, including its 100 day action plan, go to our church's website at www.rbcpc.org/news.

The Assessment Process revealed:

Strengths that RBCPC ought to build on in the future.

Obstacles that need to be addressed in order to move into the future.

Patterns to be continued or changed.

<u>Strengths to Build Upon:</u>	<u>Obstacles that could hold us back</u>
1. Willing to step out in faith	1. Role of Elders needs to be better defined
2. Positive "missional" outlook	2. Vision clarity and finalization
3. Empowering Leadership Style	3. Communications
4. Resiliency in face of tough times	4. Better understanding of and taking action towards
5. Diversity in Worship Styles	5. Better engagement with the Community and its needs.
6. Relational, Small Groups	6. Avoid complacency
7. Planning for Growth	

Patterns to be continued or changed

Continue: Christ-centered, Biblically based leadership, preaching and teaching.

Throughout its history, RBCPC has been led by conservative pastors and held to strong Biblical values.

Change: Moving on when problems arise without clarity or closure.

The history of RBCPC indicates that it often does not resolve issues that have hurt or brought confusion.

In Conclusion

Gratefully, the Assessment process revealed no "Smoking Guns," or dark secrets or overwhelming challenges. Instead, it surfaced deeply felt opinions and showed us things to be proud of and things to work on. The way forward is to live by the strengths and courageously address the challenges. A plan can be viewed online at www.rbcpc.org/news which, in conjunction with the work of the Vision Task Force, will overcome the obstacles and embrace the strengths.

By Reverend Neal Nybo

The RBCPC Arts Forum



Let there Be Light... is the theme of the winter RBCPC Worship Series, January 2 through March 21. In keeping with those words the Arts Forum will present for the first 2010 exhibit in the village gallery.

“Light Houses”

January 9 though February 19

Replicas of these great structures that have guided and guarded maritime travelers for centuries will be on display.

The installation is from the collections of:
Kristie McKenzie and Bob Christiansen.

Upcoming Gallery Events

February 20 through April 10

Drawing Exhibit Call For Artists: Pencil, charcoal, pastels, pen and ink, and computer images which relate to or express some aspect of the Christian Easter are needed.

Entries will be received for review in the Village Gallery.
Saturday, February 20, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

For information contact *Sheldon Payne (760) 738-8985*

April 10 through May 1 - Pre-School Exhibit

May 1 through June 12 - “License Plates” ... a geographic diversity of RBCPC congregation.



Windjammers

We have many interesting programs planned. All are welcome. All ages and both singles and couples. We meet the second Friday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Center.

On February 12, we are privileged to have Clark Cowden, executive Presbyter of the San Diego Presbytery and an excellent speaker, share with us about his trip this past spring to Nepal and also on the future of the Presbyterian Church.

On Friday evening March 12, Jack Templeton from the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society will speak to us on the rich history of Rancho Bernardo.

Friday evening April 9, our own, gifted Ken McCoy, will be our guest sharing his many talents and experiences.

For information and reservations please sign up; on the Courtyard Sunday mornings, in the Welcome Center, or call Polly Purcifull (858) 487-9002.



Prime Time Returns

When: *Thursday-February 4, 10:30 to 12:30*

Where: *Fellowship Center*

Enjoy warm fellowship, stimulating programs, and great cuisine.

Program: *Secrets of Memory Improvement and Brain Health*

- What causes memory lapses?
- How to create healthier brain cells.
- What exercises will boost your mental focus?
- Research about prevention of Alzheimer's and/or dementia.
- What specific activity will improve health and memory skills?
- Can food choices make a difference in your brain function?

Slipped Discs

Contributions by Jack Mitchell

A man tried to sell his dog to a neighbor for \$5. To sweeten the deal, the man told his neighbor that the dog could talk. Doubting the claim, the neighbor told him there was no such thing as a talking dog.

The dog had a pleading look on its face and suddenly said, "Please buy me, mister. This fellow does not look after me. He never gives me a bath or a bone to play with and he never takes me for a walk. I used to be the richest trick dog in Europe. I performed before kings and I was decorated 10 times when I was in the army."

"Wow!" said the neighbor. "He really can talk! Why would you want to sell such a clever dog for \$5?"

"Because," the owner replied, "I am getting pretty tired of all of his lies."

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97, but we don't know where she is.

It is well documented that for every minute you exercise, you add one minute to your life. This enables you, at 85 years old, to spend an additional five months in a nursing home at \$5,000 per month.

The prospective Father-In-Law asked, "Young man, can you support a family?" The surprised "Groom-to-Be" replied, "I was just expecting to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yours."



"I don't know... just go ask your computer!"

A visiting professor, en route to a university to deliver a lecture, hailed a cab after deplaning his flight and gave instructions to the driver before he settled back to enjoy a short period of rest before his lecture. The trip was a short one but after too much time had passed, he began to wonder if the driver was on the correct route to his destination.

He reached over from the rear seat and tapped the driver on the shoulder to get his attention, whereupon the cab shot off the highway, jumped the curb and plunged down a steep embankment before coming to a stop.

Noticing that neither the driver nor the passenger was injured, the professor asked, "What in the world happened?" The driver, now breathless but relieved answered, "Truthfully, sir, this is my first day as a cab driver. For 20 years I drove a hearse!"



"Let's play doctor - I'll listen to your heart and you give me all your allowance."

DUST TO DUST

On the way home from Sunday school a little boy asked his mother, "Is it true that we are all made of dust?"

"Yes, mother answered, "we are all made of dust."

"And," continued the lad, "is it true that after we die, we all return to dust once again?"

"Yes," that's true, son but why do you ask?"

The lad thought for a moment and answered, "Well, I looked under the bed this morning and guess that I saw someone either coming or going!"

My husband bought me a MOOD RING the other day! When I'm in a good mood, it turns GREEN. When I'm in a bad mood, it leaves a bright red mark on his forehead!

If raising kids was easy, it wouldn't start with something called "labor".

A man was eager to kiss his girlfriend, but she was reluctant. "Don't you know that kissing is good for arthritis?" he told her.

"I don't have arthritis," she replied.

He retorted, "Don't you believe in preventive medicine?"

Deacon's Annual Report

Every month, our Deacons buy, prepare, setup and clean up the communion elements. Every Monday, our flower committee prepares and deliveries unique flower arrangements to those homebound, ill or in special need. Christmas poinsettias and Easter lillies are delivered after each holiday.

At the direction of Judy Ronnebeck, our Congregational Care Coordinator, we visit/call the homebound, hospitalized and retirement home residents. We have contacted 562 individuals through calls, visits or flowers, and 198 with cards. Meals were delivered to 28 families.

Every Sunday, we provide transportation to and from church for seniors and we usually service 15 grateful individuals each week. A total of 780 rides this year.

Donations to Escondido Interfaith Community Services, the Salvation Army, and to Presbyterian Urban Ministries in downtown San Diego totaled \$20,583.

In November, the Treasure Box program was begun on a trial basis. To date, 257 boxes of food have been delivered and of these 38 were donated to congregation and military families.

We support the Healing Ministries (GriefShare, Stephen Ministry, and Confident Kids) and provide salaries for invaluable Parish Nurses. Financial assistance to individuals and families with emergencies has grown this year. We fund mortgage/rent payments, utility and medical/insurance bills, counseling sessions, and gas or food vouchers. Our family assistance total for this year is \$36,120.

A goal to involve the congregation in reaching out to those having difficulty getting to services or activities is continuing. We've communicated with the congregation through letters, the *Lantern* and Senior Moments.

We strive to be good stewards of our congregation's donations (green envelopes). as we are totally supported by these funds.

We pray that what we have accomplished this year would make Jesus smile!

Military Family Ministry

Does anyone ever write letters any more? Augusta Knuth may not be able to hold her hand higher than anyone in the room to affirm the question. She has however written more letters than anyone we know. For close to two years now, Augusta has been sending letters to service members. Her letter writing occurred a year into the Military Family Ministry that was founded by Terry Norwood at RBCPC.

In the beginning one or two letters a month would be placed in the military mail box. As the ministry grew, the prayer list grew, and the letters kept coming in, now in batches of ten. The names of the service members on the envelopes became familiar to the RBCPC ministry members, as did the name Augusta Knuth. Our curiosity reached a peak that made us ask the Congregational Care Committee and the Parish Nurses if they knew Augusta. We found that everyone knows Augusta. She is the 96 year old lady who regularly attends the 8:30 service, Prime Time, and the Sunday Concerts, just to mention a few of her activities at RBCPC.

Along with notes of encouragement and prayers of safety, Augusta also writes about life in America. To offer a sense of home she includes personal interests of hers. Service members and a few family members have commented on how the letters take their mind off the danger for a short period of time. Our military members appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness of someone they do not know wishing them security and safe journey home. What a great role model is Augusta. Do you desire to be like Augusta and continue to be a part of the community as well? The Military Ministry needs volunteers, not only for letter writing, but in other areas as well.

Letters to our troops is an American tradition. It goes back to the Revolutionary War when it raised the morale of our troops.

Please contact Terry Norwood at (858) 385-1443. or email her at militaryfamilies@rbpc.org and inform her of your interests so that you may enrich someone's life, as well as your own.

**Rancho Bernardo Community
Presbyterian Church**

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Seniors Remember:

*“Therefore be careful
lest the light in you
be darknes.”*

Luke 11:35

Seniors we love you!

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Letters to the editors and
Email addresses welcome

HAVE YOU
TALKED
WITH GOD
TODAY?

SENIORS PRAY

O light that never fades, as
the light of day now streams
through these windows and floods
this room, so let me open to
the windows of my life my heart, that
all my life may be filled
by the radiances of Thy presence

Ballie, J. “A Diary of Private Prayer”

A Message From The Editors

Senior Moments is a publication to all
senior members of our RBCPC family
of worshipers: Take a moment to consider the
events and activities that are structured to provide
services, enjoyments and growth to our seniors.
RBCPC’s membership goal has always been
to serve the “whole” family - all genders and ages.