Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church

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Seniors Remember:
"when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son…"
Gal 4:4

Seniors, we love you!

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HAVE YOU TALKED WITH GOD TODAY?

SENIORS PONDER

What good is it to me if the eternal birth
of the divine Son takes place unceasingly
but does not take place within myself?
And what good is it to me if Mary is full of
grace if I am not also full of grace?
What good is it for the Creator to give birth
to his Son if I do not also give birth to him
in my time and my culture?
This then is the fullness of time:
when the Son of God is begotten in us.

Meister Eckhart, 14th Century

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORT GROUPS BIBLE STUDY PRAYER CHAIN

HEALTH TIPS

Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church

Senior Moments

HOSPITALITY

SPECIAL EVENTS CHURCH NEWS RESALE SHOP RECREATION HELPING HANDS

VOLUME VII, ISSUE IV Published Quarterly Winter 2008

A Typical Workweek for Pastor Bruce

My typical week includes about twenty hours in meetings. I meet not only with the pastors, but with staff, elders, committees, and individuals. I designate at least five hours each week to remaining connected in the community. Some of my connections are with other church leaders. I also work to keep healthy connections with non-religious groups and individuals. Of course, the most important task each week is still preparation and preaching of the message of God's Word. About twenty-five hours of each week goes into sermon preparations and coordination of the worship experiences. Some may not be aware that Fridays and Saturdays are workdays for me. On those two days I avoid phone interruptions in order to work three to six months ahead in my sermon preparations. For the first time, I am writing ten to fifteen sermons each year specifically coordinated with small group series. This means I am preaching on topics and series selected by not only the worship team but also the small group ministry team. I no longer get to prepare sermons simply because it is something I want to preach. This team-based approach takes much more of my time than sermon preparations of previous years. However, the benefits to the congregation with well thought-out and carefully coordinated worship experiences each week are worth it.

Christmas Candlelight Services

Jesus is the reason for authentic worship celebrations year round. Christmas, however, is the unique moment when we explore biblically-based teaching about the miracle of a baby who became Emmanuel, "God with us." How can God become one of us? Come join us at the stable to discover how this Savior, born in such humble circumstances, can transform your life.

December 23
7 pm
Brass, Organ, Contemporary Band

December 24
1 pm
Children's Choirs, Live Animals

3 pm
Brass, Organ, Contemporary Band

5 pm
Brass, Organ, Contemporary Band

7:30 pm
Youth Choir, Organ

9 pm
Chancel Choir, Orchestra

10:30 pm
Communion

Roger Anderson, Director of Choral & Instrumental Activities

Roger Alden Anderson is well known in Southern California both as an educator and as an instrumental and choral conductor. A native right-coaster, Roger studied music at Westminster Choir College and New York University where he earned a Master of Arts degree.

From 1999-2007, Mr. Anderson was adjunct faculty at Mira Costa College where he directed the San Elijo Chorale. As a freelance conductor, Mr. Anderson has conducted many concerts around San Diego including the American Guild of Organists Vierne Festival, The California Women's Chorus 300-voice Statewide Festival Concert at the Spreckles Theater, an Organ and Brass Concert at Spreckles Organ Pavillion, and the Comic Opera production of H.M.S. Pinafore.

Currently, he is Music Director at Rincon Middle School in Escondido where he directs three bands and two choruses. At RBCPC, Roger conducts the Chancel Choir and the Sanctuary Orchestra, as well as coaching Joyful Noise, our popular mixed vocal ensemble.

"It has been and continues to be a wonderful year working with such amazing people at RBCPC. I am inspired by the true Christian Spirit of the congregation. The greatness of this Music Department is due in no small measure, to the continuous dedication of so many devoted volunteers. I am honored to be a part of the Church experience where the love of music is used to complement and enhance the deep personal connection to Christ," said Roger.

Roger was born in Connecticut and he and his wife, Aida, have two children.

Judy Ronnebeck, Congregational Care Coordinator

I found myself in this position after Pastor Mofid Wasef came to me and said, "I have something very serious to discuss with you". Now, keeping in mind that I was a cop in my "past life", you can imagine what I was thinking. "Uh oh, what did I do that I'm finally getting caught and held responsible for", and "how did he find out", and "he really sounds serious, wonder what he did that he needs legal advice"

For those of you who know Pastor Mofid, you'll agree that he is one of the biggest jokesters around. So how could I refuse when he let me know that he needed help with Congregational Care?

As a police officer with the Escondido Police Department for fifteen years, I had the opportunity to work many specialized assignments, including the Community Oriented Policing & Problem Solving unit (COPPS), the Gang Enforcement Team, the Graffiti Investigations officer, the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team, and of course, patrol.

I loved being a cop, and it was rarely boring. I became a cop because I wanted to be able to make a difference in the lives of those who needed help in one way or another. I know I met quite a few folks who made a difference in my life. I had to medically retire after an on-the-job injury, but I still had the drive to help people, so I worked with the kids in the Valley Homework Club, still hoping to make a difference. When that position came to an end in May, Mofid was there to ask if I'd be available to help with Congregational Care. And here I am, here to serve.

Prior to being a cop, I worked in Loss Prevention/ retail security for May Company, Marshall Field's and Lord & Taylor. I ended up there after being unable to find a counseling job with my B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado, Boulder (go Buffs!). I attended Columbine High School, class of 1976, way before a couple of young guys decided to make a name for themselves and Columbine in a very negative fashion. I was born in Davenport, Iowa, but moved around so many times I don't think I could list them all. I'm glad I live here now, and plan to stay for awhile. If I can ever be of help or assistance, please call!

Elders & Deacons

SESSION NEWS

The report of the Vision Task Force was presented and accepted. This report has been presented to the Congregation for study.

The ageing buses need costly repairs so both have been traded in for a "new" used bus. Funds were available from Designated and Endowment Foundation.

The response from the Congregation to the Stewardship sermons has been excellent. More pledges than last year have been received and amounts revised upward.

DEACONS

There is an on-going problem with the church bus, it is working but probably cannot pass inspection. Session has been asked to assist in solving the problem.

Family Assistance resources have been drained because there have been so many needs. Extra monies have been added to the budget to meet the many requests. A decision has been reached to cancel the annual Advent dinner to use the funds to help others.

PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO

The Rev. Jan Cook was honored at Presbytery as she has accepted a call as Associate Pastor at a 3,000 member Hilton Head, S.C. Presbyterian Church.

Budgetary problems were discussed at length, with Dr. Bruce Humphrey presenting a motion that the 2009 budget be returned to Committee for an overall reduction of 5%. Motion passed.

It is necessary to increase per capita amount to $30.00 to bring San Diego in line with the rest of California.

SPLASH

The Christmas Shop
You're A Part Of The Miracle!

We have dedicated the proceeds from The Christmas Shop to the children of Cheppema Children's Home, an orphanage in Kenya.

Our on-site missionary, Jill Weller, a member of Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, made two trips to this region, first in 2006, and again in 2007. During both visits she felt the strong, God inspired desire to return for an extended stay.

On pure faith, terrific organizational skills and passionately persuasive presentations, she was able to realize her dream; living and working among the children of the orphanage.

Jill sends frequent messages to our pastors, her family and friends, telling of large and small miracles occurring on a daily basis. The children are bonding to her, learning from her, understanding that this kind American woman, brimming with "Can-Do" spirit, boundless energy, good humor, knowledge and wisdom will be there to see them through the ups and downs of their daily lives.

What a blessing to assist the children of Kenya through a woman of uncommon faith and action!

"Waters to run down like rivers…" – Psalms 78:16

Savvy Travelers

Plan now to join us on a trip to the Holy Land November 2-11, 2009 with Pastor Ray. Call Roger or Sharon Worman at (858) 653-3624 for more details. Look for the new 2009 Brochure with great travel opportunities.

RBCPC
ARTS
F • O • R • U • M

In many areas of the world the theme for the Village Gallery's first exhibit of 2009 is a seasonally much loved sight.

Environmental activist would say the durability of a snowman existing for any length of time in sunny Southern California is not possible. The Arts Forum has risen to the challenge and will feature a flurry of white in January 2009.

The Art Of The Snowman
This phenomenon will be displayed in diverse sizes, shapes and forms, from the personal collections of RBCPC members.

Arts Forum Mission Statement
The Village Gallery provides a forum for the visual arts within the Church as an expression of our God given creativity and as a reflection of a creative God.

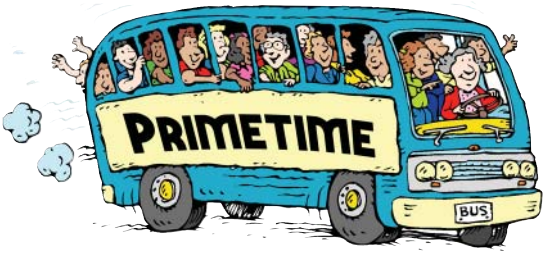
Windjammers

2nd Friday, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Center.

We would like to invite you to attend our Windjammer Potluck Dinners. All are welcome. We have fun and learn new things and pray and have fellowship with each other. Our upcoming schedule is:

Jan. 9	Ray Sparling on Kenya
Feb. 13	Thurman Coss as the Apostle Peter
Mar. 12	TBA
Apr. 10	History of the Native American Population presented by Gregory Erickson.

For questions or reservations please sign up on the church courtyard or call Polly Purcifull (858) 487-9002.



Prime Time Returns

Thursdays, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Our spring entertainment lineup commences on February 5. Eight weeks of entertainment featuring a variety of performers. Expect some laughs and playful irreverence from the Pastor and the Rabbi. Bruce McCullough will be at the piano. A full course lunch follows the entertainment.

Introducing our new season discount booklet for the spring. Check with us in January.

Sermon Series on The Shack by William P. Young

Heard the controversy over *The Shack*? Some preachers are telling their people to avoid this book. Some claim it is heresy. Since we think nothing is so scary that it can't be considered calmly, we want to discuss it together. We realize that some people who have doubts about God's goodness or have been turned off by organized religion don't feel like there is a church where they can feel safe to ask their questions. We want to be that church. Come, invite a friend, and explore *The Shack* and the Bible during this upcoming series.

Sermon Series

Jan. 3/4	Missy's Question
Jan. 10/11	Papa
Jan. 17/18	The Great Sadness
Jan. 24/25	Faith & Imagination
Jan. 31/Feb.1	The Garden
Feb. 7/8	Jesus In Jeans
Feb. 14/15	Kate and Nan
Feb. 21/22	Festival of Friends
Feb. 28/Mar. 1	Healing Relationship

Slipped Discs

Contributions by Jack Mitchell

Isn't it interesting that people who have bad coughs rarely go to see a doctor instead, they go to concerts, banquets and church!

Is This How It Happened?
God asked Adam to describe in some detail what kind of partner he would like in the Garden. Adam answered him in minute detail, only to have God reply, "My good man, that would take an arm and a leg - I'm sorry"

"Well", replied Adam, "What could you give me for one rib?"

And we know that God created man first so that he might study the rough draft before he finally created the Masterpiece!

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Music Lessons
Every school invites someone to demonstrate all kinds of musical instruments for the students to determine which instrument they would like study. With demonstration completed, the performer asked a little girl which she would like to take lessons on. "Well," she answered, "I would like to play the piano but I really don't think I could reach the brakes."

Billy had taken violin lessons for a month with questionable results. Worse yet, each practice session made the family dog howl - loudly. Mother stood it reasonably well, but one evening, when dad came home from work, the duet was particularly frightening- "Billy," dad said, "Can't you play something that the dog doesn't know?"

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who had just ' thrown away an old Bible that had been in the family for generations. He told the collector that it had been written by Guten or something like that. "Not Gutenberg, was it" exclaimed the collector. If so it would have been worth hundreds of thousands of dollars." "Yes, that was it" replied the man "but it wouldn't have been worth a thing, because some idiot by the name of Martin Luther had written his name allover it!"

"Go ahead. I'm listening"

Tips For Managers And Bosses
Never give me work in the morning.

Always wait until 4 p.m., then bring it to me. The challenge of a deadline is refreshing.

If it's really a "rush job," run in and interrupt me every 10 minutes to inquire how it's going. That helps.

Leave without telling anyone where you're going. It gives me a chance to be creative when someone asks where you are.

If you give me more than one job to do, don't tell me which is the priority. Let me guess.

Do your best to keep me late. I like the office and have nowhere to go or anything to do.

If you have special instructions for a job, don't write them down. In fact, save them until the job is almost done.

Tell me all your little problems. No one else has any and it's nice to know someone is less fortunate.

A Sunday school teacher asked her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write letters to God and bring them the next week. One boy wrote, "Dear God - We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

A young girl was watching her father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" she asked.
"Why, God tells me," he replied. "Then why do you keep crossing things out?" .

A woman is standing nude looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.' The husband replies, 'Your eyesight's near perfect.'

Her adult children asked their mother to have a full-size oil painting done for them and made arrangements for a well known artist to arrange for the sittings. Mother was 85 and quite beautiful so agreed to have the painting done.

"Just one thing.." she said to the artist. "Before you finish, will you add a multi-carat diamond ring, a diamond tiara, a diamond necklace and large brooch on my gown… and, perhaps a stunning diamond bracelet, as well?"

After several sittings, the artist finally showed his client the finished product even he, himself, was delighted with the results.

The dowager exclaimed, "It's absolutely spectacular. Thank you for acquiescing to my wishes!"
"Certainly, ma'am but may I ask why you wanted all of these additional pieces of jewelry in the painting?"
"Certainly," came the reply. "After I am gone, I want to peer down from heaven and watch my family frantically tearing around my home, my safe deposit box, and my safe, searching for these pieces of jewelry… it should be absolutely hilarious! Thank you so much for a beautiful job. "

The lady stood in line at the Post Office waiting to buy stamps. "I'll need fifty stamps for my Christmas greetings this year, please." "Certainly, ma' am" came the reply "what denomination?"

"Good Lord" she said, "don't tell me it has come to this!… 6 Catholics, 10 Presbyterian, 4 Baptists…