

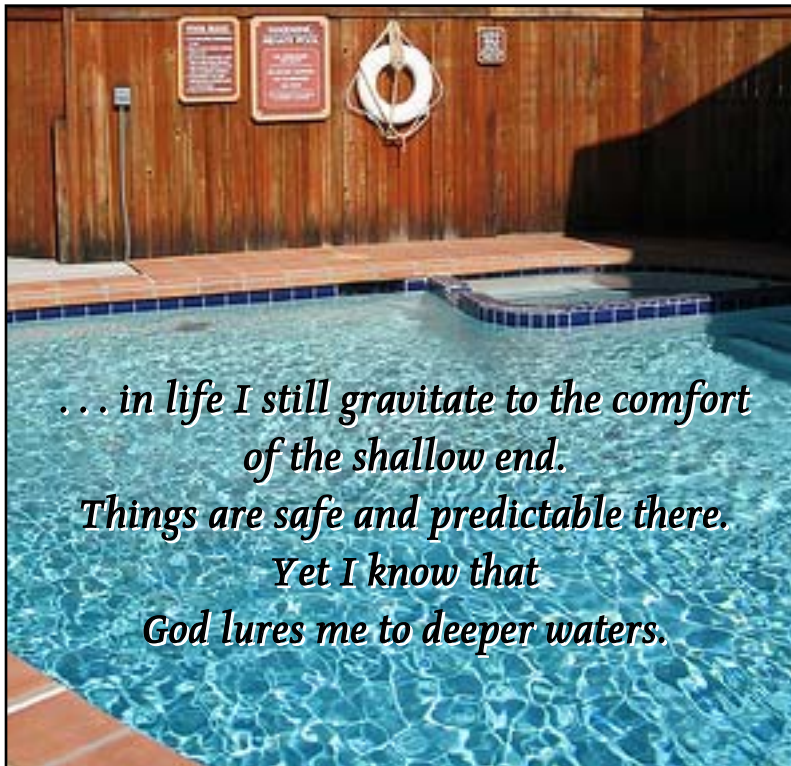
Heading for the Deep End

by Terry Read, SCMC President

When I was ten years old I learned to swim in Mr. Storey's backyard swimming pool. It was a typical pool, rectangular in shape, with a deep end where the diving board was. We were not allowed on the board or in the deep end. I looked forward to each lesson and especially to the end of the hour when we got to play in the pool, practicing what we learned, but even better: using the float toys and splashing each other as though our lives depended on it. Most of that summer's swimming lessons are a blur in my memory, except for one thing: the time I ended up in the deep end. I didn't go there intentionally, just got too close and couldn't manage to tread back to where I could stand on the bottom. I began to bob up and down until Mr. Storey dove in and swam to my side. Then holding me close, he used me as a demonstration tool to show the others what to do in such a situation, I was returned to the security of the shallow end.

The theme for this year's Reunion—June 23-29 at Camp Buckhorn—is Share Christ's Peace: Going Deeper. For the last couple of years in particular, we in the Community of Christ have had our thoughts drawn toward the idea of sharing the peace of Jesus Christ. As President Steve Veazey remarked in his first sermon to us as prophet-president two years ago, "The phrase 'the peace of Jesus Christ' contains all of the promises, hopes, and blessings of the gospel as revealed by Christ and as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, his promised presence with us. In all of the places in our lives where we are afraid, anxious, discouraged, guilt-ridden, or alienated, Jesus Christ speaks 'peace' and opens the way to peace, not just for individuals, but for the whole of creation." To contemplate this notion is to recognize how profound this understanding of the gospel

really is. (by the way, Webster's first listed definition for profound is "very deep.") The peace of Jesus Christ is an idea that begs further exploration, that challenges us to deepen our understanding of it in order to more fully embody its truth in our lives for the sake of our world.



*... in life I still gravitate to the comfort
of the shallow end.
Things are safe and predictable there.
Yet I know that
God lures me to deeper waters.*

Hopefully, the peace of Jesus Christ is becoming much more than a phrase for us. Hopefully it is challenging us to be courageous witnesses of divine grace and compassion, bold promoters of God's shalom—a condition that marks the beloved community of God, where everyone has enough, where each one recognizes their dependence on God, where all are free to become as God intends, where everybody agrees to solve conflict peacefully, in harmony with God's purposes.

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? Reunion is a great opportunity to experience a taste of God's shalom. And this year, it will be a great place to "go deeper" in our understanding of the peace of Christ. When I was ten, I needed the security of the pool floor and a swimming instructor close by for fear of "the deep end." These years later, I am a better swimmer but in life I still gravitate to the comfort of the shallow end. Things are safe and predictable there. Yet I know that God lures me to deeper waters. There, like the time my teacher showed me what to do in the deep end, knowledge is an important part of my security. But even more, when it comes to "going deeper" in my relationship with God and my understanding of Christ's peace, the real sanctuary will come through letting go of my own agenda and letting the Spirit hold me and lead me to where God would have me go.

So, see you in the pool up at Buckhorn? 🐦

Unity in Our Community: First Annual

by Terry Read, SCMC President



Temple City Mayor Judy Wong makes presentation to Terry Read.



Kids enjoy the Duck Pond Booth.



The Basileia Booth. l to r: Carol Kostura, Cynthia Beebe, guest minister Al Cohen, and Hiroshi Matsushita.

There we were: booths readied for their activities, food being prepared, musicians tuning up, the Temple City mayor poised to offer official greetings, and a crowd of around 300 gathering for celebration, fellowship, tamales, and prizes. This was the scene of the first annual *Unity in Our Community: A Celebration of Earth Day*. The languages of Spanish, Mandarin, and English could be heard as the people buzzed with excitement. We had worshiped a short time before, being reminded of our stewardship for care of the creation, a precious gift entrusted to us by the Creator. As I stood there, taking in the scene, about to offer

greetings to all in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ—the One who calls forth our faithful response to life—the question formed in my mind: could this be a glimpse of the Beloved Community of God?

“Don’t get carried away, Terry,” I thought to myself. Things are just going well with this inaugural event; let’s not rush to proclamations of the kingdom. Yet the spirit of harmony, of collective joy, of mutual kindness could not be denied: children of different races being helped on and off the giant inflatable slide; dear friends sitting on a bench catching up on each other’s lives; teenagers joyfully working the fishing booth; a long-time married couple enjoying a delicious chicken tamale; a congregation member helping his young neighbor fix up her hamburger. Everywhere I looked I saw evidence of God’s graciousness and the possibilities of life lived in harmony with God’s vision for our world.

Perhaps the day and its spirit was best summed up in a comment made by Glenn Johnson: “By the end of the day, I was exhausted and exhilarated at the same time. The site of neighborhood families walking down the sidewalk and onto the church grounds [to share in the activities] is something I will never forget. This is what being the Community of Christ is all about.”

If you missed this inaugural event, please join us next year. If you were one of the hundreds who enjoyed the festival, please spread the word so that next year’s festival will be bigger and better.



Anaheim Congregation sponsored the inflatable slide.



Tonia and Tom Cooper dance to the music of the Hodads.



Gary Beebe and Hiroshi Matsushita visit while Bessie Perkins watches the fun.



Francisco Vallejo shows his spin art with help from Charlotte Jones.



Kids enjoy playing in the sand (rice) at the Outreach International Booth.



Glory Star Children's Choir performs at the festival.

Answer to Riddle #1: Eye.



A Note From Linda . . .

Hello Friends!

I can't believe that it is summer time already! SPEC packets have already gone out and anytime now the rest of you will be getting your camp packets!

This is the first year we will be having a Primary Camp. The great thing about this camp is you can bring your parents or another special adult or friend with you if you want. We will have a great time doing lots of cool things together. Watch your mail box for more information!

Our Junior Camp this year will be at Camp Buckhorn and Carla Long will be joining us as Guest Ministry. I hope that you Juniors are marking your calendars right now to attend. Last year we had to cancel because there were so few of us. Let's be sure that doesn't happen this year! We have too many great and fun things planned to let another summer go by, so Juniors...plan on coming!

Junior High Camp will be another great collaborative effort with SWIMC. We will gather at Buckhorn with all our friends and have another amazing adventure with each other and our God.

Love and blessings to each of you,

Linda Read

Congregational Support Minister & Children/Youth Minister
909-606-8636 • 909-631-0393

SCMC Youth Hunger Challenge

Our theme was "End Hunger Fast"!

And We had a Blast—May 18-20!

They Came...They Participated...And They Changed the World!

We were few but mighty and raised over \$2000 for Outreach International! We had a great time learning, serving, worshipping and fasting for our brothers and sisters in another part of God's world.

We have been blessed with so much—it felt good to help others. We took a tour of the LA Regional Food Bank, had a food drive, made a care package for our youth buddy Derek Beck from Covina Congregation, took cookies to a shelter for developmentally disabled young people in Temple City, negotiated a budget for our meager lunch funds, shopped for nutritious, cheap food, made our lunch and then fasted for 24 hours. We kept busy to distract us from our stomachs and all agreed at the end that it wasn't as hard as we thought it was going to be. Plus it was great to break our fast with the good folks of the Simi Valley Congregation who threw an impromptu pizza party for us (special thanks to Nathan and Tina Harris)!

Thanks to Katie, Alec, Trevor and Courtnee for being such great sports and taking this sacred trust so

seriously. The Haitian school children and their families will never forget your gift of life . . . (we did have a great time even in the midst of our fast).

Special thanks to all of you who sponsored our youth. And a big thank you to El Segundo Congregation for matching the funds we raised! Next year our goal is to raise even more and have even more young people participate!

If you would like to contribute to this year's Hunger Challenge, please do so.

Make your check payable to:
Outreach International

Mail to:
Linda Read
15657 Ladera Vista Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709



Bessie Perkins: 90 Years Young

Folks from around the mission center gathered in early March for a special 90th birthday party at the Orange Congregation in honor of Bessie Perkins. It was a festive occasion as approximately 100 people were on hand to celebrate with Bessie. There was a money



tree, presents, balloons, and a delicious catered lunch coordinated by the good people at Orange. Bessie, who lives next door to the church in Orange, worked for many years as a full time bookkeeper in the Stake Office. She remains very active in the congregation and is often seen at mission center events.



Orange Women Host Annual Tea

by Jeanie Kensler

At not quite high tea, but at 2:00PM on Saturday, May 12, 2007, over 60 ladies (of all ages) gathered for "Tea by the Sea" at the Orange Church. There were eight hostesses who decorated their tables to go along with the theme.

We enjoyed food, fun, a raffle (Toshiba portable DVD player) and learned a little swimsuit history from Arlene Weixel. It was really fun to see all the creativity in the decorations, and the food was wonderful, but the best part was being able to gather together in fellowship and sisterhood for the afternoon.

Please save the date for our Mad Hatter's Tea next year . . . May 10, 2008. We already have some fun ideas brewing!



Godspeed to the Campbells

by Rickie Miller

With heavy but grateful hearts, the Ventura Congregation bid a fond farewell to Tom and Earlene Campbell at a luncheon held in their honor on April 22nd. Attended by members of many congregations, memories were shared of baptisms, music, blessings, weddings, preaching, and fun times provided by the Campbells over the years. They will be sorely missed by all of us and we wish them comfort and happiness as they move to Independence, Missouri.



Covina Congregation to Close

After more than 56 years of providing ministry for the sake of Christ, the Covina Congregation will close this July. A service celebrating the life of this faith community will take place on Sunday, July 1, at 11:00AM. Seventy Will Houtchens, past member of the congregation, will be the guest speaker. All in the mission center are invited. Please come and share with your Covina brothers and sisters as they celebrate the life of this congregation.

Women Gather at the Well

by Rickie Miller



Masked ladies!



Women from all over our Mission Center gathered to be “Refreshed in Christ” on April 29 at the mini-retreat held at the church in Simi Valley. The day began with a seminar on Ethical Wills while we enjoyed wonderful strawberries dressed to look like mice with a side of cheese and a selection of muffins for breakfast. After the seminar, the women headed into the sanctuary for a full Edwardian fashion show. Modeling the fashions were Marie Herring, Tina Harris, Sue & Harry Coleman, April Sweeting, and Rickie & Melissa Miller. The fashion show put everyone in the mood for a garden tea featuring scones, fruit, finger sandwiches and pastries provided by members of the Simi congregation. And, of course, the TEA! Pineapple, peach, mint, vanilla, and the everyday favorites were served around a lovely flower-adorned water feature to symbolize the woman at the well. Guests also enjoyed facials and a presentation from Barbara Dragoon from Jafra, a cosmetics company. Special thanks go to Sue Coleman, Gwena Odum, Marilyn Burnham, Barbara Sweeting, and Anita Peterson for all their help. Together for closing worship, everyone felt special and, of course, “Refreshed in Christ.”



Southern California Mission Center Reunion 2007

“Share Christ’s Peace...Going Deeper”

June 23-29
Camp Buckhorn

GUEST MINISTRY

Don & Yolanda Compier
Don is Dean of Community of Christ Seminary

Richard and Barbara Howard
Dick is Church Historian Emeritus; Barb is retired *Herald* editor



Plus—Special Mission Center Conference

Make plans
NOW
to attend this experience in
Christ-centered community!

Answer to Riddle #2: Ticks. Once they find a friend they stick with them!

Special Conference at Reunion

On Sunday, June 24 (during our Reunion), at 1:30PM, a Special Mission Center Conference will be held at Camp Buckhorn. The sole agenda item concerns the proposed multi-purpose building for Camp Buckhorn. This item was discussed informally last November at our fall Mission Center Conference and the formal project has been approved by the Board of Directors. Working drawings of the proposed building will be shown and a resolution will be presented that will detail the funding plan for the \$1.2 million project.

Communities of Joy

Deadline for the next issue of *Communities of Joy* is July 15.

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Editor Terry Read

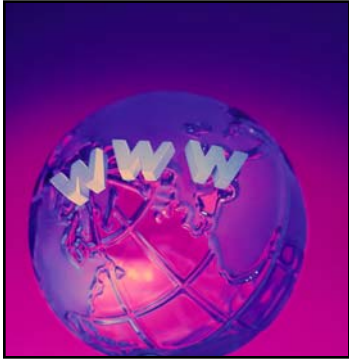
Typography & Layout Jean David

Technical Advisor & Publishing Tonia Cooper

A New Congregation Website

by Greg Barentine

In a congregation where many of our members either don't have or don't wish to use a computer, you might wonder why we would concern ourselves with creating a new congregation website. The simple answer is because everyone is doing it. That may strike you as not a very good reason, but think about it . . . younger adults, youth, and



children in our country make use of the Internet in some form almost every day. Increasing numbers of middle and older adults are joining them. If we want to have opportunities to interact with people in the world we live in, an Internet presence is one of the main ways to do so.

Our goal in creating the website was to create something that will have value or worth to whoever may visit the site. We are interested in providing ministry to all who may come to our website. We also wanted a website with a touch of class—one that is visually appealing, is easy to move around in, and has high quality content. And since the world we live in is dynamic, we hope to keep our website fresh and alive, responsive to the needs and concerns in the world around us and growing in the substance and variety of ministries that we can provide through the website.

We encourage you to visit the congregation website at www.cofchristanaheim.org. Take some time to explore the site and let us know what you think of it. If you have any suggestions for improving the site, please pass on your ideas to Greg Barentine (gbarentine1@adelphia.net or 310-374-3034).

NOTE: The mission center website is being refurbished...watch for details about the launch of the new site.



Canoga Park Celebrates Sacraments

by Glen Harris

On Sunday June 3, 2007 the Canoga Park Congregation met at the home of Herb Williams, Co-Pastor, for a baptismal service. The congregation met for a fellowship brunch, followed by the morning worship during which two sacraments were celebrated: Communion and Baptism. The morning message and charge to the candidates was given by Denise Leichter. Junius Dion was baptized by Herb Williams followed by the recommitment of Edye Holmes in the baptismal waters. Following the service the congregation joined in fellowship with a salad potluck.

2ND ANNUAL
Buckhorn Golf Tournament
September 15, 2007
Moreno Valley Ranch Golf Club
Proceeds used for the development
of the campground.
Make your plans now!
For further details contact:
 STEVE TIGNOR, 760-746-8101
Tignor1@cox.net

Answer to Riddle #3: A nap sack.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 10 Children's Day
- 17 Father's Day
- 23-29 SCMC Reunion, Camp Buckhorn
Including Special Mission Center Conference

JULY

- 4 Independence Day, Offices Closed
- 7- 8 Primary Camp, Temple City
- 20-28 Calizonia SPEC, Lamoni, IA

AUGUST

- 5- 8 Junior High Camp, Camp Buckhorn
- 12-15 Junior Camp, Camp Buckhorn

Another Productive Work Week

by Ron & Debi Norton

Once again we had a great work week, THANKS to you! The West Camp's D bathroom and all the dorms received DAYS of loving labor filling woodpecker holes AND a good coat of paint on the exterior. The trim was also painted to match the dining hall, which was painted during last year's work week. Carpeting was installed in the front and back of dorm #49—just a taste of things to come for all the dorms in the near future. The carpet was donated by Don Varney. The remodel of the West Kitchen was started and nearly completed. New stainless steel counter tops/sinks replaced the old galvanized counters and we have new backboards around the sinks to make for easier cleaning of the walls. The first campers to use the west side, Adventure Risk Management, loved the improvements! We even had a camper that arrived early, pick up a paintbrush and join the fun.

On the east side, all the benches in the East Fire Arena received a good cleaning/sanding and a fresh coat of paint. Many of the benches and tables around the camp were gathered and painted as well. The new east patio, to the right of the dining hall, turned out beautifully! We think you will really enjoy it this summer. The A-frame upgrades have been completed—dropped ceilings, insulation installed, new heaters, new windows and paint inside and out! Whew! Many thanks to the ladies who sewed their hearts out to make curtains and give them that “homey” touch. Two new volleyball courts will be in operation this summer next to the foosball court in the back 80.

At least nine truck loads of pine needles and cones were raked, loaded and hauled from the grounds. Keith Lein once again brought flowers and fruit trees to plant and was our chief gardener. We now have a “rose avenue”.



A new sound system has been purchased for Buckhorn to use this summer at the Chapel of the Pines. Two new speakers were hung during work week. We look forward to hearing the music this summer!

All of the staff at Buckhorn would like to thank each and everyone that was able to come to the Buckhorn Extreme Makeover 2007. We couldn't have accomplished the things we did, in a timely manner, without you! We also wouldn't have the great memories of working together and sharing meals and laughter around the table. In addition, thanks to those of you who support Camp Buckhorn with your financial donations and equipment. Camp Buckhorn thrives because of you.

We look forward to providing this facility to ALL who come this summer, so that they may truly have a great “mountain top” experience! All 8,000 plus camper nights!