

COMMUNITIES of JOY

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MISSION CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

Formed as Community by our Communion Together

Michele McGrath, Mission Center Financial Officer

There is a story about a young man and an old man. The young man questions why he should attend church every Sunday. He has listened to many sermons over the years and can recall only one or two.

The old man leans back and considers this. Then he leans forward to speak: "My wife has made me thousands of meals in the years we've been married. Thousands! I can remember only a few of them clearly. But I know those meals fed me and sustained me. With those meals, my wife gave me life. So it is with the church."

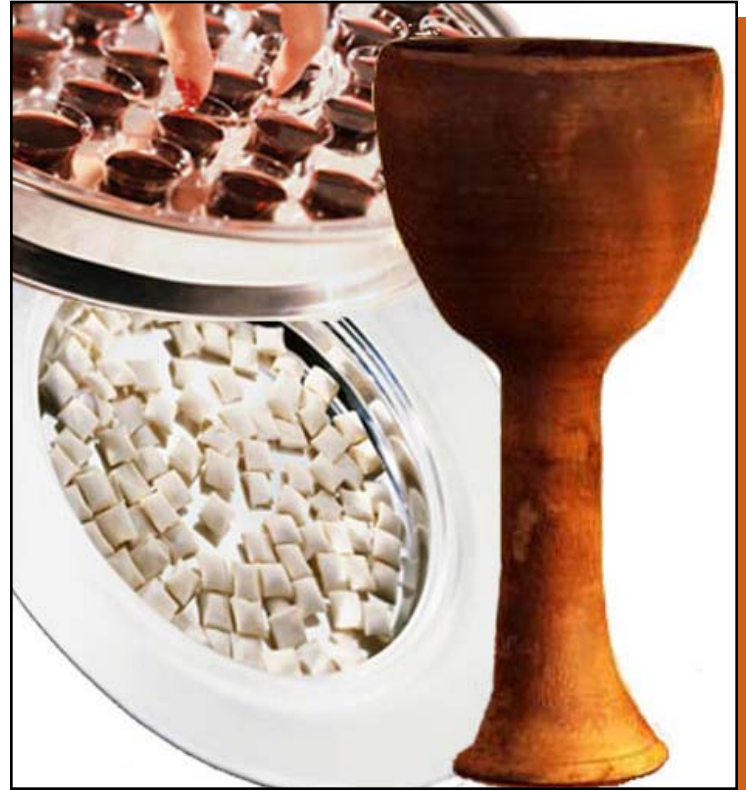
And so it is with our Communion meal. As I consider the call to go deeper in my understanding of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, I have been reflecting on the variety of Communion services I have been a part of the past few months.

In a very traditional worship service, I saw people testifying of the steadfastness and awesomeness of God,

evidenced by the way they revered every element of Communion—the bread and wine, the linens, the processional. Earlier in my life I would not have perceived God's grace, which freely moves throughout creation, moving in this service. Now I celebrate this part of the strong fabric of the church community.

I recently shared in a vibrant celebration of the *Santa Cena*, the Lord's Supper, in the Tecate Congregation in Mexico. I was blessed to share in and serve Communion with these disciples, disregarding all the world's usual divisions of national border, education, socioeconomics, and possibly even theology.

Worship was passionate and vibrant. Response was positive and vocal. I was humbly aware of an overwhelming sense of



gratitude to be part of this gifted group, with Christ so clearly present. How amazing it is when the Spirit weaves us together into sacred community!

My last remembrance comes from SPECTACULAR last summer at Graceland University. We gathered in a dormitory hallway, 23 young women and staff. We ranged up and down the hall, sitting on the floor against cool block walls and in doorways.

The graduating seniors led our worship. We sang, the voices lovely without accompaniment, rising above us and hanging in the sacred space we had created. We broke bread. We poured juice.

We were invited to an agape meal. Each presented a piece of blueberry cake and a Dixie cup of juice to another while expressing how we saw Jesus in them. As we shared the low murmur of words and hugs, I experienced the group transforming into a living expression of Christ.

In these and so many other ways, the Lord's Supper truly feeds us, sustains us, forms us as community in Christ's name and image. 🌸

Thanks

be to

God!

We Share God’s Vision for Creation?

Terry Read, SCMC President

This theme—used this summer at reunion without a question mark—begs the question: do we share our Creator’s vision for the creation in which we live? Or do we take that life for granted, choosing instead to follow our own vision, however comfortable, self-serving, or politically motivated?

Toward the idea of living for the sake of creation I want to hold up the example of our brother Francis Kaufmann of the Temple City Congregation. Francis is the designated “recycler” for Temple City, a role which he performs both faithfully and extensively. We recently had the opportunity to visit with Francis about his dedication to environmental stewardship.

Born and raised in Altadena, Francis, now 86, lives in the same house in which he grew up with his sister and brother. In addition to seeing the changes to the community over such a lengthy span—Francis remembers the street cars and empty fields that were common in his early years—he is blessed to still be part of the same neighborhood and community into which he was born. Indeed, even though Francis retired from one career well over forty years ago (he served 21 years in the United States Army in two stints, including a portion of World War II), he still works fulltime in the community, being employed by the General Services Department of the County of Los Angeles.



Francis Kaufmann

In the late 1970’s, then a member of the Pasadena Congregation, Francis was asked by Brother Inglesmes to take over the practice of gathering discarded materials that could be recycled to support the congregation’s budget (the congregation was recycling newspaper as far back as the 1960’s). Francis willingly responded and has performed this task ever since, transferring his membership and the fruits of his recycling efforts to the Temple City Congregation sometime in the 1980’s. Since beginning this stewardship practice, Francis has collected AND recycled an estimated 550,000 lbs. of newspaper, 28,000 lbs. of CRV glass, 8,500 lbs. of CRV plastic and roughly 62,000 aluminum cans. These numbers do not include extensive amounts of recycled loose paper and cardboard, scrap metal, non-CRV glass and plastic



bottles, and other aluminum. All of these efforts have gone to support Francis’ congregation. While he doesn’t claim scriptural inspiration for these decades of earth stewardship, Francis has tried to live by the maxim, “where you see a need, act upon it.”

I celebrate Brother Francis’ example not only as one of devoted support of and service to his community of faith, but also as testimony of the difference one person can make for the sake of God’s creation by simply seeing and filling a need. Because Francis responded to the need of his congregation, blessings came not only to his fellow sisters and brothers, but also to creation itself.

How do our lives and lifestyles bring blessings to creation? How are we awakening to God’s vision of creation?

The earth, lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish, shudders in distress because creation’s natural and living systems are becoming exhausted from carrying the burden of human greed and conflict. Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences. 🍂

Communities of Joy

Communities of Joy is e-published quarterly by the Community of Christ Southern California Mission Center. Deadline for the next issue is November 30.

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Historic Reunion A Blessing to All

For more than fifty years, Buckhorn Camp has blessed countless members and friends of our congregations in southern California and beyond. A new chapter to this legacy was added this summer when the two mission centers—Southern California and Southwest International—that share Buckhorn held their first joint Reunion. Focused on the appropriate theme, “We Share Community,” more than 250 women, men, girls and boys gathered on these treasured campgrounds for a week that would represent the blending of two similar yet distinct traditions.

Thanks to capable leadership, effective ministry, and most of all, the openness of campers to the Spirit that overcomes fear and unites amid diversity, we enjoyed a blessed week of Christian community formation. Our directors, Lora and Steve Davis, deserve special recognition for their concerted efforts to facilitate this successful blending by thoughtfully including people from both mission centers in worship and other key camp roles. Our guest ministers, Apostle Scott Murphy, and the Harmon-McLaughlins—Katie and Zach—shared their gifts generously and capably, fostering a spirit of connectedness and renewal. But most of all, it was the Spirit evident from the first hours of the camp and throughout the entire week that blessed all with an undeniable sense of unity.

The responses by campers who completed written evaluations were so overwhelmingly positive about the experience that the decision to have our second joint Reunion in 2011 became an easy one. Please accept your invitation now to join us next July 8-15 for another Reunion experience and perhaps another even greater glimpse of God’s beloved community. 🌿



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PRIESTHOOD & LEADERS RETREAT

OCTOBER 15-16, 2010

GUEST MINISTER: Jeri Lauren Lambert
*Family Ministry Specialist***Life Together****SCHEDULE**

Friday

6:30PM Registration
8:00 Keynote Address
Refreshments

Saturday

7:00AM Continental Breakfast
8:30 Devotions
Program
9:00AM-7:30PM
8:00PM Closing Worship**COST**\$75⁰⁰If postmarked by Oct. 4th
\$95⁰⁰ after
(CEPA/camperships available)**LOCATION**Hampton Inn
4250 Riverwalk Parkway
Riverside, CA

951-352-5020

Ask for "Community of Christ"
group rate of \$80)*All the families of the earth shall be blessed. - Acts 3:25***NEED MORE INFO? Contact: Tonia Cooper 714.847.5731 tonia@cofchristla.org****Southwest International & Southern California Mission Centers**PRESENT OUR 3RD ANNUAL MISSION EVENT**Pray Discern Act**

January 14-16, 2011

Buckhorn Camp

GUEST MINISTRY

- ◆ Apostle Ron Harmon
- ◆ President of Seventy Robin Linkhart

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.cofchristla.orgTerry Read • 909-606-8636 • TRead@cofchristla.org
Michele McGrath • 760-900-1700 • MMcGrath@cofchristla.org

Summer of Love and Community

Kyle Logan, *SCMC Children and Youth Minister*

The summer has come and gone so fast this year. Some of the highlights for me and I know for most of the youth were the Journey Takers Caravan, Reunion and SPECTACULAR.

We focused last year on developing the Senior High youth ministry and now it's time to focus on developing the Juniors' ministry this year with the help of my Senior High leaders. To kick this off we held our first KIDTRICITY at Canoga Park on September 19. More activities will follow. We encourage all kids from K-5 to come and join us. We are also continuing our Senior High Ministry, "Journey Takers" and will be meeting at Gardena Congregation from September 25th -26th for our first weekend this school year. The next upcoming camp is The Boys' and Girls' Retreats in November for Junior High and Senior High youth. The boys will be roughing it and toughing it and the girls will focus on the beauty within.

I want to say a special Thank You to Glen and Joy Harris for lending their van to the Journey Takers for our Caravan. Jerry and Shaunna Webb and Patty Abbott have also been actively involved in Journey Takers and I want to say Thank You to them as well for giving up a week of their vacation to join us on the Caravan. A big thanks to Michele McGrath is needed for all of her hard work in keeping our camping finances together as well as helping at SPEC this year on our staff. I also want to say a HUGE thank you to all of the people from our mission center who have volunteered in our camping ministry this past year: Tony Austin, Karen Bradish, Mark Barentine, Heather Smith, Jerry Webb, Shaunna Web, Dustin Davis, Terry Read, Linda Read, Cynthia Beebe, Gloria Allsman, Jessika Fraga, and April Sweeting. If you have given your time to prayer or given in monetary ways to youth ministry – thank you. We would not be able to thrive without our volunteers.

If you would like to get involved in helping out with youth ministry whether in your congregation or the mission center please contact Kyle Logan @ 909.562.9308 or klogan@cofchristla.org. Information on upcoming camps and other youth activities can be accessed at <http://youth.cofchristla.org>.

Kyle

Kyle Logan

KLogan@cofchristla.org

909.562.9308

Upcoming Activities

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| SEPT. 25-26 | Journey Takers, <i>Gardena Congregation</i> |
| NOV 5-7 | Boys' Retreat, <i>Ventura County</i> |
| NOV 12-14 | Girls' Retreat, <i>Temple City</i> |
| NOV 13 | Mission Center Conference, <i>Temple City</i> |
| NOV 25 | Thanksgiving |
| DEC 11 | Primary/Junior Christmas Day Camp, <i>Temple City</i> |
| DEC 25 | Christmas |

NEWS

A Few Questions to Tease your Brain

QUESTION 1: What is so fragile that when you say its name you break it?

QUESTION 2: Forward I am heavy, backwards I am not. What am I?

QUESTION 3: What object has keys that open no locks, space but no room, and you can enter but not go in?

QUESTION 4: I have five letters. If you take the first and last ones I will still be the same. Even if you take the middle letter I will be the same as before. What am I?

QUESTION 5: A leathery snake, With a stinging bite, I'll stay coiled up, Unless I must fight. What am I?

QUESTION 6: Until I am measured, I am not known. Yet how you miss me, When I have flown. What am I?

QUESTION 7: My posterior is adorned with feathers. I have a rather long neck and quite a pointy nose. I am able to fly, yet I have no wings. What am I?

QUESTION 8: It has no top or bottom but it can hold flesh, bones and blood all at the same time. What is this object?

QUESTION 9: How would you rearrange the letters in the words "new door" to make 'one word'? Note: There is only one correct answer.

QUESTION 10: A word I know, six letters it contains. Subtract just one, and twelve is what remains. Which word is it?

QUESTION 11: What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?

QUESTION 12: My scale is something that does not weigh in grams, ounces, or pounds. However, I may be heavy or light. What am I?

1. Silence 2. TONI When spelt backwards it does become NOT 3. A keyboard 4. EMPTY 5. A whip 6. TIME 7. An arrow 8. A ring 9. Simply rearrange the former to get the latter! 10. Dozens 11. A river 12. Music scales

Brain Teaser Answers



Members of 2010 Journey Takers Caravan: (l to r) Patti Abbot, Kyle Logan, Daniel Martinez, Markus Fluker, Jessica Gunter, Patrick Webb, Jerry Webb, Cassandra Nuñez, Jessika Fraga.



Just some of the more than 90 youth and children at this year's reunion.



SCMC's 2010 SPEC Delegation (plus some family members at the airport to see off our travelers).



SCMC's 2nd Annual Beach Day featured volleyball, sand castles, campfire, and Moms and babies.



Images from the Hemet-San Jacinto Prayer Walk Celebration including Sergio Juarez and Terry Read, who shared testimonies with the gathering.

Southern California Mission Center Conference

NOVEMBER 13, 2010

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
AT Temple City

GUEST MINISTRY

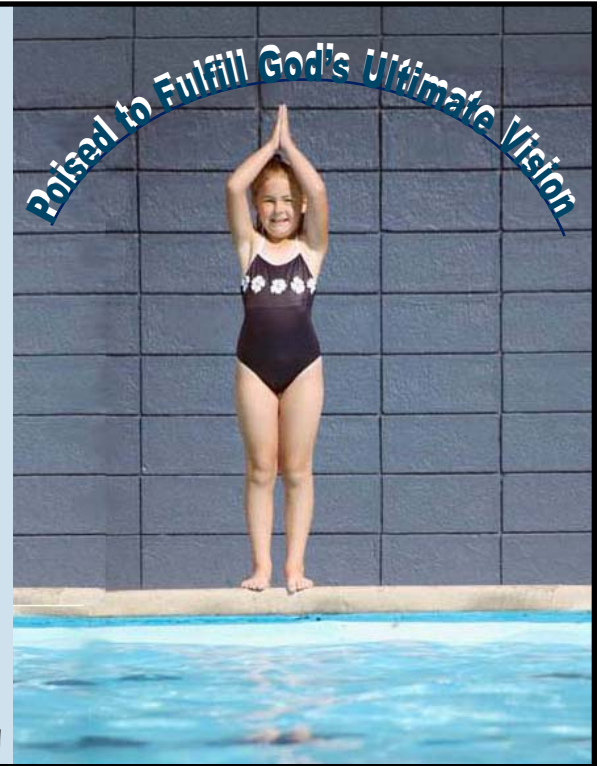
David Nii

Apostolic Assistant, Western Field

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 9:00AM Gathering
 9:30 A Mini-Workshop: Seasons of the Spirit
 10:45 Worship (led by Journey Takers)
 12:00PM Lunch
 12:45 A Pre-Legislative Session
 1:30 A Legislative Session

For more information – www.cofchristla.org
 or contact Terry Read 909-606-8636 tread@cofchristla.org



SHAMROCK/BRIDGE BUILDERS' EVENT

OCTOBER 27-28, 2010

Begins Wednesday at 9:45AM
 Ends Thursday with Lunch

ANAHEIM CONGREGATION
 827 South Walnut Street



Honoring the Past...

Envisioning the Future

Within Sacred Community

COST: \$35 by Oct. 18; \$40 by Oct. 25; \$45 at the door

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Craft Project with Barbara Jones
- ▶ Exploring D&C 164 with Terry Read
- ▶ Annual Banquet with Orange Praise Band
- ▶ Thursday Morning Communion Service

SPECIAL EVENT OPTIONS:

- ▶ Bowers Museum
- ▶ Nixon Library

HOTEL OPTIONS: Contact Denise Leichter

SEND REGISTRATION* TO:

Denise Leichter, 17125 Hart Street, Lake Balboa, CA 91406

CELL: 310-403-9973 HOME: 818-996-4709

EMAIL: deniseleichter@cofchristla.org

* Registration available at <http://cofchristla.org/srministries.htm>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 24-26 Hispanic Ministries Retreat
 25-26 LEADS: Hebrew Scriptures, Dale Luffman

OCTOBER

- 15-16 Priesthood & Leaders Retreat, Riverside
 27-28 SHAMROCK/Bridge Builders Event, Anaheim
 29-31 Peace Colloquy, The Temple, Independence, MO
 31 Leadership Meeting, Electronic. 2:00PM

NOVEMBER

- 5-7 Boys' Retreat, Ventura County
 7 Daylight Savings Ends
 12-14 Girls' Retreat, Temple City
 13 Mission Center Conference, Temple City
 25 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 4 SHAMROCK Advent Gathering, Canoga Park
 11 Primary/Junior Christmas Day Camp, Temple City
 25 Christmas

JANUARY 2011

- 1 New Year's Day
 14-16 3rd Annual Mission Event, Buckhorn Camp