

Press Newsletter



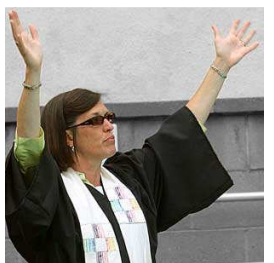
MINISTRY MUSINGS

By Pastor Candie Blankman

Sabbatical, Part 2

The Lilly Endowment provides funding for pastors and congregations to take extended time to reflect on ministry. These are called sabbaticals. The emphasis for the pastor is rest and renewal in order to maximize the potential for longer term ministry. In the May Press Musings I told you about my desire to retrace my father's footsteps as a means of resting from ministry and renewing my own spirit. I have already begun drawing and oil painting in preparation for creatively recording this experience.

But the Lilly funds also provide for a time for the congregation to take time to reflect and learn in preparation for future ministry. Seven members of FPC have worked with me to brainstorm, dream, and write the application for the sabbatical. The reflection and learning time for the congregation is to parallel that of the pastor's, and together, help prepare all of us for the ministry that lies ahead.



JUNE 2009

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MINISTRY MUSINGS CONTINUED...

FPC has made some significant changes in the last few years. More and more our congregation reflects the community around us. Guided by our mission, we have intentionally grown into a very diverse congregation. God has blessed us. Now the question is, "How do we sustain our unity of mission in such diversity?" Becoming a more diverse congregation has not been easy. Developing and maintaining it will take even more intentional work.

During the sabbatical, the congregation will be engaged in activities similar to mine. Already the work has begun. With the help of George Leiva-Ardon and Brian Johnson, our teens are interviewing our older members of our congregation in order to learn their stories. In a sense they are retracing the steps of some of our most faithful members. These stories will be used to help us all appreciate the heritage of FPC. Every member and friend of our congregation has a story to tell! And if we will take the time to hear each other's stories we will be much more able to appreciate our differences and work together in mission and ministry. This will be done through a variety of mediums. When I return with my drawings and paintings of my sabbatical, I will be eager to show you. But I will be as eager to see the ways the congregation will express their stories and what they have learned.

The grant from the Lilly Endowment will be used to resource the congregation in exploring its strengths and weaknesses in lay leadership and organization. People gifted in helping churches reflect on their past, present and future, will be enlisted to help us. The lay leaders of FPC are very gifted and very invested in the church. The sabbatical time allows the church to evaluate and

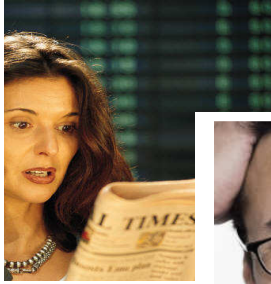
plan for increased lay involvement in ministry.

Our children will be connected with pen pals in the churches that I will be visiting. All of the churches are very diverse, international churches, from whom we have much to learn. Our children will also be assisted in hearing and recording the stories of their families to share with others.

Our most faithful long time members who find it increasingly difficult to get out and about, will be enlisted as prayer warriors during the sabbatical time (some of them are already providing this priceless service for our ministry and mission!).

Along with our lay leaders and volunteers, our very gifted staff are already providing much of the leadership for worship and our ministry programs. Together with some additional assistance from the presbytery they will carry on the work of the church during my absence. Educational opportunities and guest preachers will be provided to enrich our understanding of what it means to be the kingdom of God gathered from many nations. They will facilitate discussion that breaks down barriers and creates bridges of understanding to help us learn how to develop and sustain our diverse congregation.

The sabbatical application was due May 14, 2009. We will find out in October if it is approved. The Sabbatical Team will be working on "Plan B" in case it is not approved. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you can ask one of the members of the team: Elizabeth and Norm Evangelista, David Yusten, Cheryl McCaughan, Alfredo Delgado, Jerry Scott, Carl Wellenstein, and Talip Peshkepia. A copy of the sabbatical application is available in the church office for anyone interested in reading it. This is a very exciting opportunity for all of us. We will trust God to guide us.



EVERYTHING YOU DID NOT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PASTOR AND HOPED NO ONE WOULD ASK

In the Presbyterian Church when a pastor is hired it involves a three way agreement. The agreement is between the congregation, the pastor, and the presbytery. This is different than many non-denomination churches and other denominations. The pastor is ordained once and that ordination is accepted through the denomination. Ordination happens only once. However, installation can happen as many times as a pastor changes churches or ministries. The “terms of call” is the official contract binding that church and that pastor through the presbytery. This system may sound cumbersome and strange but it is designed to make the process more spiritually discerned and less personal. By having the presbytery involved it tries to ensure a better fit for pastor and congregation. And it prevents powerful individuals in local congregations from controlling the process of hiring and firing. Both the pastor and the church have broader support and more accountability.

For the pastor, the terms of call include anything that the Pastor Nominating Committee and the Personnel Team of the church agrees on. It includes the amount of salary, vacation time, and study leave time. It can also include expenses like auto, or books. Study leave for a pastor is not a luxury, it is a necessity and is part of the terms of call. I am called to preach and visit the sick and nurture Christian disciples, but I am also called to study. This is because ministry is very demanding and requires ongoing continuing education and opportunity for study, prayer and reflection. For the Presbyterian Church the terms of call always includes The Board of Pensions which is our medical and retirement benefits organization. Because pastors often serve multiple churches and develop ministries outside of the local church, the terms of call often includes allowed time for other ministries, as well.

When I came to FPC in June of 2003, I had served one other church in Chicago. But I had also been involved in another ministry for 18 years. Since 1985 I have been an instructor with Dynamic Communicators Workshops, Inc. DCW teaches communication skills to professionals through small groups and video feedback. Through this ministry I have been privileged to assist hundreds of people in ministry all over the country. Through it I also have developed a very strong ministry network. So, when I was negotiating my terms of call with FPC in June 2003, I was given the time to do two of these one-week workshops a year.

Continued on next page...

ABOUT YOUR PASTOR, CONTINUED...

The work that I do with DCW actually provides resources and support and continued learning for me for my ministry in Downey.

May 3-7, 2009 was the most recent workshop I participated in. When I returned several folks asked, “How was your vacation?” Thus this article resulted. I was not on vacation. I was continuing my ministry according to my terms of call. It is a great privilege to work with these people who are trying to be excellent in their ministry. But it is very intensive. Even our meals are spent with the students at the conference. I am grateful to the Presbyterian Church and the local leaders at FPC for their vision and understanding of ministry beyond the four walls of our local church. I am grateful to God for this opportunity to invest in the lives of others. The multiplication potential is extraordinary. I am grateful that ministry is so rich and varied. I am grateful to God for using ordinary people for extraordinary ministry. I am grateful for my terms of call. Even if you didn’t want to know. 😊



Summer Program Needs Volunteers!

KIDZ KONNECTION SUMMER TOUR “GOD’S PROVIDENCE” August 3-7, 2009

To ensure that we can deliver the children an inspirational and educational adventure, we need your help! If you’re available to help in any way, please contact us.

We need volunteers to:

- Lead or assist as a VBS Guides and Study Leaders.
- Assist or oversee crafts and snacks daily.
- Assist with music and entertainment.
- Assist in games and skits depending on the program.
- Chaperones needed for supervision and safety.
- Assist with routine assignments such as mass mailing, computer input, answering the telephone and other scheduled office tasks and more.

We hope you can join us. Further information will be coming soon in the bulletin and here on the Press and website. Please call at (562) 861-6752 for any questions.

COME ALONG & GET CAUGHT UP IN THE EXCITEMENT OF VBS!



FREE RECYCLING! ELECTRONICS EVENT!

Saturday, July 18, 10 p.m. – 4 p.m.

at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 10544 Downey Ave. Downey CA 90241.

More Info: (562) 861.6752 No Appointment Needed

Materials Accepted: Computers, monitors, televisions, LCD panels, printers, other computer related equipment, stereos, cell phones, VCR's, microwave ovens and other household electronics.

Materials Not Accepted: Air conditioners, de-humidifiers, smoke detectors and white goods such as washers, dryers, stoves and refrigerators.

For alternative questions please call: Antwon Guy (310) 604-0200



CAMP CALICINTO

August 10-13, 2009

We are looking for JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (ages 12 and up) who are passionate about serving others and are wanting to make a life changing impact in the lives of the children of prisoners this summer!



CIRCLE 1 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Monday, June 8, 7:00 p.m. ~ In the Parlor Room

Audrey and Dick Meharg are the hosts, and Jeannette Savage will lead the Bible study on Drucilla and Bernice, as we continue to study the women of the Bible.

All women are welcome to join the fun, fellowship and study!



PRAY FOR SHUT-INS:

Bob Austin, Lakewood Park Manor, Downey

Dolly Fisher, Silverado Sr. Living, Alhambra

Babe Hallier, Lakewood Gardens

Bernardine Hughes, Lapastora Roseland, Downey

LaVaun Davis, Sorenson, Whittier

Virginia Lewis, Buena Park Care Center

Miyo Yokota, Sunrise Senior Living, Hermosa Beach

Anne Bostwick, Terrace View Care Center, Fullerton



AMAZING MOMENTS WORKING WITH...

The Youth

“We need to be in the image of Christ; show love and serve at all times. We can make a difference in this land.” This is a line from Jeremy Camp’s song, “Speaking Louder Than Before.” The lyrics really were speaking louder and coming to full life when I started working with the youth.

Helping them to know God’s Word: I have had some unforgettable moments working with the youth that I know can’t be matched elsewhere. One of them occurred after I gave my lesson about those who had died for us to be able to have the English Bible to read. One particular youth was asking me questions about Moses and basing all her knowledge from what she saw in movies. I told her the best thing to do was to get it straight from the source and read about it in Exodus, and she did. She sat there for about 30 minutes reading her Bible.

Guiding them to encourage others: At another time, some students came up to me and asked if they could write more letters to the Christians who are currently prisoners overseas because of their faith. They asked for profiles of prisoners because they wished to write to them to give them encouragement. Knowing that came from their hearts meant a lot.

Instilling prayer and worship in their hearts: Another amazing moment was when a student, who would before refuse to pray, would actually initiate prayer. This has shown that the Holy Spirit has truly changed the heart. The students would even initiate conversation about a particular Bible topic, or ask to learn more worship songs.

Opening their eyes to Christ: I will never forget Winter Camp this year when I had to hold several students in my arms as they cried because they finally realized the sacrifice that Christ made for them. Sure, the snowball fights, the making of snow angels, and the failed attempt at making a snowman was fun, but knowing that they understood Jesus’ sacrifice...nothing could beat that.

These have just been a small snippet of the amazing moments that occurred as a result of me serving our youth. I have been blessed with being able to serve God and witnessing the students’ journey with Him.

JP, Youth Volunteer Staff



WARM GREETINGS FROM VIETNAM!

Dear Pastor Candie,

How are you doing? How was Easter over there?

I pray and hope that you are doing well.

I am grateful to God for what He has done in my life. Thank you so much for supporting my study in finance and prayer during the last 2 years.

My last semester finished around March 23.

Since starting summer vacation, I organized several activities including:

- Leadership training in Chiang Mai for 30 leaders
- Sports Clinics for 200 kids in Payap
- Helping with Easter service
- Mission trip on the mountain between Vietnam & Laos
(10 people came to Christ after this event)
- Leadership training in Danang, Vietnam
- Youth Leadership training in Vung Tau & YFC meeting
- Church Sports training for Underground churches and C&MA churches
- Meeting to set up Vietnamese Theology
- YFC meeting & planning: My job is setting up the Youth For Christ system in Vietnam, trying to connect all the "VN abroad students" to work together and to develop Youth, Teenager, Children... ministries. We want to establish some new and needed ministries for Vietnam.

I am still preparing for other FCA Camps, Kids Games... will be held during this summer in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. Please keep remembering me in your prayer and support.

Blessings,

Thuan (Anthony)

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP From Jerry Scott, Administration & Finance

¹⁰ And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." (2 Cor. 8:10-15)

We are in tough economic times, and some are impacted more than others. That is why Paul urged the Corinthians to give as they could. He knew that, where some could not give as they wanted, or had planned, others could give more. In this way, the needs of ministry would be met. We have some in our congregation who are not able to meet their pledge. We also have some that have realized that they can give more.

¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

"Giving What You Can"



I encourage you to review your giving to determine if you can increase what you are currently giving. Maybe your income has improved or that tax refund allows for added contributions. If you find that economic hardship has caused you to reduce your gifts, we are grateful for what you can give. **¹³Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.**

Our Session continues to oversee the financial health of the church. Next month, we will conduct a mid-year analysis of our finances, projecting our needs versus our anticipated resources, and making adjustments to our ministry plan as needed. This will include a multi-year review of giving and spending patterns.

Amidst this analysis and these concerns, we are confident in God's provisions for our church and our ministry. Our outreach continues to impact people's life for the Lord and we are privileged to see His blessings each day. We do have challenges, but we are assured of God's promises and God's presence as we strive to follow the call to ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Downey.



Special Thanks

From Cheryl McCaughan, Mission Committee

The Mission Committee thanks you for your support of both special offering and special giving opportunities.

Church World Service — Blankets Program



Recently a thank you letter was received from Rev. John McCullough, Executive Director and CEO of Church World Service for our participation in the Church World Service Blankets Program.

In December a total of \$310.00 was collected. Through your donations, Church World Service is able to provide food, shelter, health care and clean water to families forced to flee from their homes by natural disasters.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

Our monetary gifts collected for One Great Hour of Sharing support the work of The Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian



Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Donations this year totaled \$2,700.00. For 60 years, OGHS has given us opportunities to ensure that our gifts can help others live fuller lives. Today projects supported by OGHS are under way in more than 100 countries.

CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

- 8:00 a.m. Music Rehearsal
- 8:40 a.m. Worship Team
- 9:00 a.m. Education Hour
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

ELEKTUS

- Sundays
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Band Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Elektus Service
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Games
- Circle 1 Bible Study 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
- La Casita Bible Study Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m.
- All Team Night 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
- Deacons 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
- Session 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
- Prayer In the Office Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m.
- Instrumental Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
- Spanish Bible Study Fridays, 7:00 — 9:00 p.m.
- Given Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.
- Kidz Konnection Monday — Thursday
3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.



- | | |
|---|--|
| June 1
Lauren McCaughan | June 18
Noreen Gasdia
Lorraine Lucas
Audrey Meharg |
| June 3
Alfredo Delgado
Robert Quillin | June 20
Elizabeth
Evangelista
Clarice Joy
Margery Persich |
| June 8
Karen Trejo | June 23
Walter Kelley
Brian Regalbuto |
| June 9
Stewart Christie
Elenore Gasdia
Andrew Perez-Renteria
Dean Thomas | June 29
Janet Valdez |
| June 10
Marjorie Marie Hale | June 30
Shirley Potter
Chamine Spence |
| June 13
Cecelia Crane | |
| June 16
Scott Barnes
Glenda Kelpin | |

OUR STEWARDSHIP DISPLAYED

MONTHLY INCOME & EXPENSES: 2009

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET INC/(EXP)	Y-T-D INCOME	Y-T-D EXPENSES	Y-T-D NET INC/(EXP)
JAN	20,134	26,275	(6,141)	20,134	26,275	(6,141)
FEB	27,362	24,871	2,491	47,496	51,146	(3,650)
MAR	24,102	24,541	(439)	71,598	75,687	(4,089)
APR *	25,077	27,122	(2045)	96,674	102,809	(6,135)

* Without transferring of \$10,000 from Operating Cash Reserves and \$1,300 from Payroll Back-up, the balance at the end of April would be a negative \$17,435.

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

- JUNE 28** Romero/Camp Wedding
at First Presbyterian Church, Downey
- JULY 11** Chong Wedding
at First Presbyterian Church, Downey
- SEPT. 12** Ruckman/Atkins Wedding
at First Presbyterian Church, Downey

JUNE SCHEDULE

- JUNE 7** Kidz Summer Tour Volunteer Meeting
- JUNE 11** Kidz Konnection Party
- JUNE 17** Kidz Konnection Recap
- JUNE 13** Senior VIP Luncheon
- JUNE 19-21** Elektus Gospel Bike Project/Mission
- JUNE 21** Father's Day
- JUNE 27** Elektus Car Wash, 10am — 2pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DOWNEY

VISION

We are a multicultural Christian community creating life changing opportunities

MISSION

To know Christ and make Christ known

VALUES

- Worship God
- Grow in faith
- Live in love
- Serve the world

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm

YOU MAY CONTACT US BY:

Phone: 562/861-6752

Fax: 562/904-2173

Email: fpc.downey@verizon.net



STAFF

Pastor:

Candie Blankman

Director of

Multicultural Ministry:

Alfredo Delgado

Director of Student

Ministries:

George Leiva-Ardon

Director of Music Ministries:

Tim Cox

Assistant Worship Leader:

Talip Peshkepia Jr.

Organist/Pianist:

Christopher Martin

Office Manager:

Virginia Macauley

Administrative Assistant:

Joy Hurley

Custodians:

Ken Carlson &

Jose Carreon