

University Presbyterian Church

University Press

"Where love of God and love of neighbor live at the heart of our life together."

July/August 2009

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An Intergenerational Church that Worships Together: A Lesson from the Singer Sewing Machine

by Pastor Chris Erdman

As a young child in the 1960s, I remember two sewing machines in the house—an old treadle foot pump, handed down from my grandmother, and a newer, high tech version. Mom used the newer one; the older one was just for show. But both were Singers, and the two, side by side, proved the durability and dominance of Singer as a company. There really was no other sewing machine company that sold its machines to as many homemakers, generation after generation, as Singer did.

Over four decades removed from my childhood, Singer sewing machines are few and far between. And while sewing-with-machines is still an art for many people, there is a whole new generation that hasn't a clue what to do with a sewing machine. There's a whole generation coming to adulthood who've never even heard of that company that was once a household word.

So what happened to Singer and the art that was once a part of every little girl's (and some little boy's) household training? Is it that the younger generation failed to learn to sew? Did the older generation fail to teach them? Did Singer fail to help with the transition of the skill once passed without question from one generation to another? There's plenty of blame to go around, but the fact is, Singer no longer holds the dominance it once held, and much of a new generation no longer knows how to sew.

None of us wants the same thing to happen to the church and the faith we

are commissioned to pass from one generation to another.

A colleague of mine, Dr. Tod Bolsinger, is the senior pastor of the San Clemente Presbyterian Church in southern California. A little over a decade ago, the congregation was in serious decline. Today, it is a vibrant congregation because it learned to make the necessary transition. Listen in to the way he tells the story of how the older members of the congregation helped the congregation not just to survive but also to thrive:

There is perhaps no arena where the dream of an intergenerational church is more controversial than in worship. But very often the greatest obstacle is the short-sightedness of leaders, even pastors, who believe that intergenerational ministry is just one "quick fix" away.

A few years ago our church was visited by the worship committees of a couple of churches wanting to observe our growing multigenerational services. I remember the 11:00 AM praise band-led worship being particularly moving—brilliantly designed by our worship director. Our vocal team was our middle-aged choir director, a young dad, and a college-aged woman, joyfully demonstrating the passion they have for intergenerational worship. The junior high students kept standing and singing their hearts out while the rest of us clapped along enthusiastically (with the relatively limited amount of rhythm we have). It was a wonderful service. We could sense God's presence, and were deeply aware of the joy that comes when we all together give ourselves to God.

When the service was over, members of
(continued on page 3)

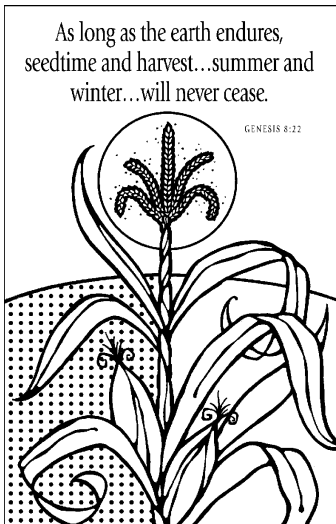
FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Saturday
July 18
6:30-8 pm

Fun For All Ages
Be There!

The Bible and Homosexuality: A Congregational Study (An Update)

by Pastor Chris Erdman



Actions of the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly meeting in June of 2008 seemed to open the way for the ordination of practicing gay and lesbian persons. Those actions prompted some congregations in the denomination to leave our historic denomination. As most of you know, the presbyteries across the nation have recently voted on those actions and overturned them, reaffirming the church's historic stance. However, the extent of inclusion of homosexual persons in the life of the church and public life will continue to be hotly debated across America.

Since last winter, our elders have commissioned an educational forum for adults, that provides us with a balanced study of the issues, theological and pastoral. When all is said and done we want to have a congregation of people who are better able to express their convictions than they were before we started, while living with grace and respect toward those who disagree. While many of us have preconceived and quite firm convictions, we do believe we can hold better informed convictions while honoring others.

Our elders have determined that it is not time to leave the denomination. If we ever get to that point, we must debate such a move, we want to have a congregation that is as fully informed as possible and can express themselves without rancor or anger. If there must at some point be a division, we want to have a people who can find a way to still love each other, honor friendships, while honoring God.

This study will break for the summer after a springtime of learning about biblical authority and interpretation, and after gleaning important lessons from history about the ways the church has faced other controversies throughout time.

This coming fall our educational series will convene on September 13 with a study of Genesis 1, 2, and 19. The remaining schedule is printed below.

I believe this is a very important study in the life of our congregation and appreciate the broad level of involvement by many people in our congregation. We will be a much stronger congregation because of our study and we will be more capable of entering the debate in the larger society around us, offering a distinctive Christian voice to a contentious, yet vitally important conversation.

Sept. 13	Genesis 1, 2, and 19
Sept. 20	<i>(Missions program in adult education)</i>
Sept. 27	A Christian Psychologist Looks at Homosexuality
Oct. 4	Leviticus 18 and 20
Oct. 11	The work of Christian transformation ministries
Oct. 18	Romans 1.18-2.11
Oct. 25	1 Corinthians 6.9-11 1 Timothy 1.8-11
Nov. 1	A Conversation With a Gay Christian
Nov. 8	<i>Congregational Meeting for the election of officers</i>
Nov. 15	A Christian Theologian Looks at Homosexuality
Nov. 22	A summary of the current situation in the PCUSA. 1: We evaluate: How should we respond to the current PCUSA stance given what we've learned? 2. When this issue comes up again in the future, what have we learned that will help us?



**FOR ALL WHO ARE
LED BY THE SPIRIT OF
GOD ARE CHILDREN
OF GOD.**

ROMANS 8:14, NRSV

An Intergenerational Church... (continued from page 1)

the visiting church's worship committee said their pastor had some questions about how we got to this place in our worship. I said, "I don't know what I'll tell him, but ask away." The pastor had only one question: "So, what did you pay for those screens?"

If my momma had not raised me to be polite, I would have yelled in his face. "Screens? You think this is about screens? You want to ask me about the screens? This is about the people. It is about our worship director spending three years on Saturday nights learning how to lead worship for a new generation. It is about our choir director spending ten years training every choir in this church to be a group of worship leaders, including the bell and children's choirs. It is about the entire Youth Department changing its focus on Sunday morning so that every child and youth can be part of the worship life of the church and not just have a kid's program where they never darken the door of the sanctuary. It's about a group of older worshippers who are more concerned about the glory of God being demonstrated to a watching world than getting their musical preferences. And all you want to know is how much the

screens cost?"

Of course, that's what I wanted to say. What I said was, "About \$30,000—given to us through the estate of one of our oldest members when she went to glory, because she loved to see children worship and grow in Christ."

Our elders have committed our congregation to aggressively find ways to reach and include those who are under-40 years of age. Our elders not only want UPC to survive, they want us to thrive. If we become a congregation that is able to show the next generation the way to God, we'll do both—for when we are able to show another person the way to God, we ourselves must be on that way; we ourselves will be growing, learning, vibrant. I see signs among us that we too have a bunch of older adults who have no intention of letting their beloved congregation go the way of the Singer sewing machine. To love God and love neighbor is an art far more important than sewing.



Prayer Retreat Scheduled For October

You are invited to a Prayer Retreat at the Old St. Angela Bed and Breakfast Inn in Pacific Grove, owned by Dianne and Jerry McKneely. This is our second retreat, and again we will be using *The Psalms as Our Guide to Prayer*, with some new resources to guide us. The retreat will begin on Friday night (October 30) and end at noon on Sunday (full-time participation is required). The cost is \$200 per room, whether for couples or singles. Dinner

on Saturday night will be "an evening out," with each person paying for their own meal. Registration is on a first come basis and will close on August 15. If there are more than can be accommodated, a waiting list will be set up. To secure your registration, full payment must be made, and is non-refundable (but is transferable). For more information, contact Pastor Tedd.

Footsteps Session Helps Deal With Death

Footsteps of St. Agnes Medical Center offers support groups for children and parents who have experienced the death of a loved one. Through the use of expressive arts, children learn to deal

with difficult feelings and develop healthy new coping strategies. For August 20 session registration, call 450-5608.





Convoy of Hope—An Evangelistic Outreach to Those in Need

by Doug Haas, Evangelism Elder

For those with less, we can do more! On November 7 a collective group of churches in the greater Fresno area will come together and reach out to those in our community who are truly in need. University Presbyterian Church can be part of this effort. How do we assist? As member of the congregation you can put this date on your calendar now.

The *Convoy of Hope* is a charitable corporation that moves from community to community and organizes a major outreach to the homeless, to the those with fewer financial resources, and to those in need now. 800 to 1000 volunteers will come together to provide medical and dental screening, haircuts, hot meals, bags of groceries, connections to local churches and community organizations, job placement services, a kids' zone and family entertainment, and prayer at a location near Edison Computech. Typically a several acre plot of land is utilized where the needy can do "one stop shopping" and avail themselves of all the services.

University Presbyterian Church is signed on to assist. There are many ways that you can help – both small and large. At the very least, *Convoy of Hope* has requested that we devote

prayer time each day at either 5:15 am or 5:15 pm for a short period of time for families living in situations of human need and for the outreach itself. Other ways to participate include assisting with mailings and correspondence, distributing guest promotion handbills and posters, donating goods and services, giving financially, preparing lunch for site set up volunteers, procuring, picking up and staging equipment and supplies, providing administrative support and leadership and volunteering for site set up and clean up. Finally, you can invite your friends and family to participate.

Councilwoman Sterling, who represents South West Fresno, cited statistics showing there are 5000 homeless people in Fresno and out of that figure, around 500 are children. Putting that into perspective tells us that the homeless population of Fresno is around one percent. What a great opportunity to reach out to the people in our own backyard.

The UPC Evangelism Committee will be conducting ongoing information distribution and the protocol to become part of this effort. Please stay tuned!



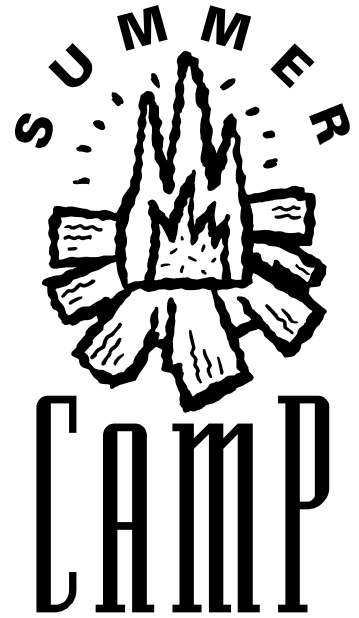
Introduction to Centering Prayer

Do you feel called to a deeper life of prayer? Would you like to learn a method of Christian contemplative prayer to cultivate a relationship of deeper intimacy with God? You are invited to an Introduction to Centering Prayer course at UPC starting on Saturday, September 19, from 9 am to 3 pm, and for six following Mondays from

6:30 to 8:30 pm. Both presenters have been commissioned by Contemplative Outreach founded by Fr. Thomas Keating. Suggested donation for 7 sessions: \$30. Saturday lunch will be provided. (No one turned away for lack of funds). For more information or to register, please call Cathy Wingert.

Summer Camp at Calvin Crest

We are delighted to be sending 21 children and youth to Calvin Crest this summer. We would appreciate your prayers for the well-being of all of these kids as they learn, play, and grow during their time at camp this year.



Encountering the Character of God

Ladies, it's time to begin thinking about our annual women's retreat at Calvin Crest. We will be sending out registration forms soon. Please register even if you plan to only come for 1 day. Save October 9-11 for a time of fellowship, fun, and spiritual growth.

We also want to thank you all for supporting our women's retreat by purchasing cinnamon rolls, truffles, earth bags over the past year. These fundraisers help lower our costs so

more may attend.

Now you will have the opportunity to enjoy the fresh produce that our members grow each year. Any of you gardeners who have extra squash, tomatoes, herbs, flowers, or anything you care to share, please drop them off at the table before service. Those of us who do not have a green thumb can help ourselves and leave a donation.

UPC Prayer Corner

We Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to those facing health challenges, those who've lost loved ones, and those who are struggling. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.



If you would like the UPC prayer chain to pray for you, or someone else, call Sue Vinicor.



Clippers Annual August Barbecue

Join us on Friday, August 14, at 6:00 pm for our annual barbecue at the Kallenbergs' home. Bring something to throw on the grill and let us know if you

are bringing a salad or dessert. RSVP to Ruth and John by August 10.

Reel Theology Going to Who-ville

Reel Theology will get a listening lesson when we view Dr. Suess' *Horton Hears A Who!* on July 25 at 6:30 pm. It is a G rated movie and with free popcorn what better way to spend a summer's evening?

This is the classic story of the elephant Horton who has large ears and a boundless imagination. His friends

think he's lost his mind and begin to ridicule him. Jim Carey is Horton and Charles Osgood narrates.

A question to ponder is in what way does the film's premise mirror Hebrews 11:1, describing a faith that believes despite a lack of physical evidence?

We are having a party to honor



Leslie Stephenson's 13 years of faithful service to our church! Join us as we gather in the Great Room on Thursday, July 23 from 12-1 PM. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by July 22.

If you would like to write some type of retirement wish to Leslie you can drop off your note or card in the church office through July 23.

Presbyterian Women Fall Boutique

Moving? Down-sizing? If you have "treasures" that you think others would enjoy owning, consider saving them to donate to the Presbyterian Women's annual Holiday Boutique. We also will

be needing your delicious offerings of baked goods, jellies and jams, etc. The boutique will be held November 7 and 8. Contact Ruth Kallenberg for more information.

STARS Invites Everyone To a Musical Afternoon

Music lovers of all ages, join the STARS (Seniors That Are Really Special) on Wednesday, July 15, at 1:30 in the Great Room, for a special musical program. UPC's Patricia Gabel and

Pamela Caldwell will delight us all with songs to please every musical palette. Refreshments too! Everyone come.

Gals' Night—July and August

A Very Merry Unbirthday

It's time for our annual Birthday Party for everyone. Join us on July 23, when we will celebrate all of our birthdays on the same day. Bring a wrapped White Elephant gift and a topping for ice cream Sundaes.

Home And Hearth Night

Looking ahead to August 27, be ready to bring your project to work on, OR—come ready to share your home decorating or cooking tips and ideas. Pictures, magazines, cookbooks, and recipes are welcome.



More Reasons to Celebrate

Here are another batch of high school graduates that we congratulate and with whom we celebrate.

Graduates are not listed in the online newsletter. Thank you for understanding.



Scholarships



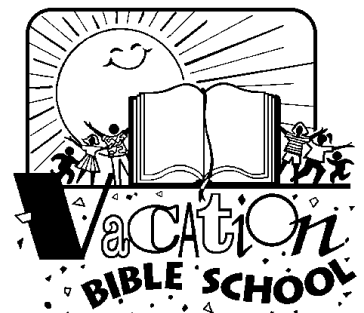
Congratulations to Danielle Khang and Dan Stolling, who have been awarded the UPC scholarships for 2009. Great Work!

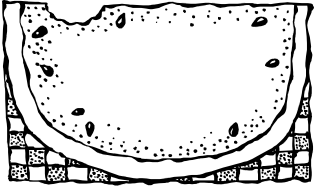
STUDIO GO! Game Show

At Service Showcase kids will learn what it means to team up with God and go serve other people. They will be introduced to people—young and old alike—who serve Jesus through their jobs or through special projects and hobbies. Then kids will participate in large-group service projects as well! VBS will be from July 13 through July 17, from 9 am to 12 pm. Activities will

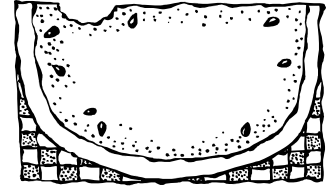
be for ages 3 years to 6th grade. A \$5.00 donation is suggested, but not required

On Friday, July 17, (the last day of VBS) we will have a special celebration and after VBS (from 9 am—12 pm) lunch will be provided from 12 pm—1 pm. There will be Presentations and Music: from 1 pm—2 pm.





JULY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Office Closed For July 4th	4
5 Communion	6	7	8	9	10 Emmaus 7 pm	11
12 BP Screening	13	14	15 ★ STARS 1:30 pm	16	17	18 Game Night 6:30 pm
Vacation Bible School						
19 Serve at Poverello House	20	21 ⊕ Prayer & Healing Service 7 pm	22 Eagle Scout Court of Honor	23 Leslie's Party 12-1 pm Gals' Night 7 pm	24	25 Reel Theology 6 pm
26	27	28 Ministries Mtgs 7 pm	29	30	31	
Sherwood Forest and Jr Hi at Calvin Crest						

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

9:30 Worship
10:45 Teaching Hour
9:30 Lao Worship
1:00 Youth Praise Team

Monday

12:15 Staff Meeting

Tuesday

6:00 Scouts

Wednesday

7:00 GAYG (off site)

Thursday

Friday

6:00 PM Lao Music Team



AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion	3	4 Deacons 7 pm	5	6	7	1 Orchestra Rehear. 10-12
Sr Hi at Calvin Crest						
9 BP Screening	10	11 Session Meeting 6 pm	12	13	14 Emmaus 6:30 pm	15
16 Serve at Poverello House	17	18 Prayer & Healing Service 7 pm	19 STARS 1:30 pm	20	21	22 Reel Theology 6 pm
23	24	25 Ministries Mtgs 7 pm	26	27 Gals' Night 7 pm	28	29 Lao Revival
30	31					

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

9:30 Worship
10:45 Teaching Hour
9:30 Lao Worship
1:00 Youth Praise Team

Monday

12:15 Staff Meeting

Tuesday

6:00 Scouts

Wednesday

7:00 GAYG (off site)

Thursday

Friday

6:00 PM Lao Music Team

A Note from Board of Property & Finance

As we've changed over to our summer schedule and people are at church for longer hours, we have found that doors have been left unlocked until Monday morning. Obviously this creates a potential for theft. We would like to remind everyone to take responsibility for locking up our campus. If you unlock a door, please lock it upon leaving. Please check the doors of unoccupied rooms around the one you

are using to ensure that they are locked. If you are the last one on the campus, it would be appreciated if you would check the entire campus for locked doors before setting the alarm. Working together we can ensure that the campus is secure. Thank you for your cooperation. (If you need help in locking doors for any reason, call Bob Mitchell)



Fall Reminder—Music Groups Make Joyful Noise

All music groups will resume rehearsals and participate in worship in September:

Cancel Choir—First Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 9, 7-8:30 pm

Women's Ensemble—First Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 9, 6:30-7 pm

Men's Ensemble—First Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 9, 6:30-7 pm

Bell Choir—First Rehearsal
Thursday, September 3, 5:30-7 pm

If you would like to join any of these groups, you would be warmly welcomed.



How To Reach Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris has a new phone number. The old number will no longer be in use, so please remember to scratch it out. You can also call the church office,

439-8807, and we can make sure you get in touch with him.

UPC and 1st Presbyterian Joint Orchestra

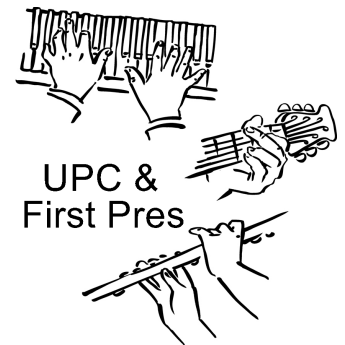
UPC and First Presbyterian Church have joined forces to create an orchestra, much as our respective choirs did last year. Our first joint rehearsal was a big success!

All instrumentalists at both churches and even beyond are encouraged to come and join in. Our next rehearsal will be held Saturday, August 1, from

10 am to noon at UPC.

The orchestra will participate in worship at UPC, on Sunday, August 30.

Call Pamela Caldwell in the church office for more information (439-8807).



UPC &
First Pres

Orchestra

The University Press



University Presbyterian Church
1776 E. Roberts Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
559-439-8807
www.upcfresno.org

Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested

Hours of Worship:

Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 AM One English Service

Sunday Lao Service 9:30 AM

Sunday School 10:45 AM

Pastors:

Rev. Chris Erdman

Rev. Tedd Lyons

Rev. Sharon Stanley

Mr. John Bosavanh

Mrs. Lorna Bosavanh

Mailing Label

Lao Partners & UPC's Southeast Asian Ministries

More than 30 members of Lao Partners, God's Asian Youth Group, and UPC's Lao Worshiping Fellowship had a blessed—and busy—time working together to prepare more than 240 healthy Lao meals on June 6-7. We appreciate your support in purchasing and enjoying these meals. Your support served to generate more than \$1200 to be used to help support the **Living Waters for the World** advance team's trip to Laos this Summer.

John & Lorna Bosavanh, Tony & Tout Tou Bounthapanya, and Mr. Buncherd Supasavat recently returned from the 2009 SEA Lay Institute Training in Austin, TX where they all received continuing lay leadership training.

Subjects included further study of Paul's letters, and studies of Christ & Culture.

By the time you receive this, our **LWW** advance team (John Bosavanh, Cordie Qualle, Sharon Stanley, and Wil Howie) will be in Laos. The purpose of this trip is to lay the groundwork and make preparations for the first **LWW** installation in November.

This advance team has a very full and ambitious agenda that is critically important for this fall's planned installation project in Luang Prabang. Please continue to pray for their safety and success of this critical phase of the water purification project.

UPC Blood Drive meets our Goal!

The Deacons wish to thank all of our donors who beat the heat on June 28th. We met our goal of collecting 13 pints of whole blood.

Please mark your calendars now: the Bloodmobile will return to UPC on Sunday, September 20 from 8 am until 11 am.

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is the newsletter of University Presbyterian Church.

DEADLINE
for the
September
Newsletter is
August 15.

