A Little More on Peace Poles

You may recall that for the July/August Chimes, Lorna Collins contributed information about Peace Poles and most specifically the Peace Pole located on the front lawn of the Community Presbyterian Church. Her article led me to become more curious about Peace Poles, since the only one that I had seen prior to coming to CPC is located in Angel Canyon, Utah at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, a picture of which is below.

![Peace Pole at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary at Angel Canyon in Kanab, Utah](image)

This particular Pole is four-sided and is located in front of the visitor center of the Sanctuary.
I learned from Lorna’s article that there are over 200,000 Peace Poles planted in over 180 countries throughout the world and since learned that many of these Poles have been planted or dedicated by extraordinary people in some both prominent and unusual places. People like His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, President Jimmy Carter, John Glenn and John Denver have all been involved in Peace Pole efforts. Just a few of the many places where Peace Poles are located are: in Baghdad, Iraq; at the top of Mount Everest in the Himalayas; at the Khyber Pass in Pakistan; on the Allenby Bridge between Israel and Jordan; at Robben Island in South Africa, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned; at the Pyramids at El Giza in Egypt; and at the site of the baptism of Jesus at Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan; in front of many schools, temples and churches as well as in private gardens.

Peace Poles can be four-sided, six-sided or eight-sided with “May Peace Prevail on Earth” written on each side in as many languages, however, one side must be written in the language spoken at the location of the Peace Pole.

Below are some pictures, I thought you might find interesting.
August Session Report

There was no regular Session meeting in July because of Mike’s vacation. Nine elders and Deacon Bernie Schwenck met with Pastor Mike for a called meeting of Session on August 7. There were also two guests from the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry. There will be no other Session meeting in August. The Board of Deacons has made similar schedule changes for July and August.

Bernie Schwenck reported to Session that the Deacons wish to have the “TV Ears” hearing aid system replaced, but are unsure of the best option to select. They also noted that the new CPC website, which will include a page for Deacons’ News, has taken very long to become available. There was discussion about what announcements are appropriate during a worship service and how they are best presented, either on the Power-Point screen, in the worship bulletin, in The Chimes, or in CPC Express. The Deacons wish to expand services available to the needy on a daily basis from the CPC office, but funding, security and staffing issues must be resolved. Bernie left the meeting.

The next business was a presentation by Rev Keith Geckeler (Associate Presbytery Pastor, Presbytery Stated Clerk and member of the Committee on Ministry), about procedures to be followed by Session and the congregation to change Mike Vaughn’s call from “Designated Pastor” to “Installed Pastor.” When Mike was called to CPC about two and a half years ago, it was for a period of four years. Mike left the meeting and Keith Geckeler took over as the acting moderator for a discussion of elders’ thoughts and opinions about changing our Pastor’s Call. It was moved, seconded and voted that Session shall act as the Pastor Nominating Committee and shall recommend a change of the Pastor’s Call to the congregation, who will vote upon it and shall present it to the Committee on Ministry before the end of 2012. Rev Keith Geckeler turned the meeting over to Pastor Mike as moderator when he was summoned back into the meeting. The guests left the meeting.

Pastor Mike reported on his vacation experience. He reminded Session that his job description needs revisions. He called a special meeting of Session, to be led by Paul Larson on Saturday, October 20, to do strategic planning. Staff members Debbie Reeder, Phil Theodorou and Terri T-Beck will be asked to attend. It was moved, seconded and voted that the September 18 Joint Meeting of Deacons and Elders be changed to November 13.

Treasurer Rich Zodnik reported that July Financial Statements are not available, but he was happy to note that the usual summer slump in financial condition is not occurring this year.

The Clerk reported that CPC membership is 153. June and July average attendances were 117 and 105, and communion was served to 111 on July 1 and to 112 on August 5. No home communion was served in June.

The Mission Committee received approval to send funds to “God’s Hidden Treasures” and to “OC Habitat for Humanity.” The missionary for God’s Hidden Treasures” will take part in worship at CPC on Sept 23.

The Personnel Committee reported completion of all staff reviews.

The Preschool and Kindergarten Committee received permission to transfer money from a Scholarship Fund to the Tuition Fund to provide financial assistance for a Kindergarten student. Summer School classes went very well. Some openings remain for fall 2-day Preschool classes. There will be a School BBQ and Carnival on September 28 from 5 to 7 pm. New flooring is being installed in Classrooms D & E. Bids have been received for installation of new retractable awnings in front of the Kindergarten room and Classrooms D & E.

Stewardship dedication Sunday will be on November 4. The Stewardship Campaign theme will be Exodus 35:5 — “Let whoever is of generous heart bring the Lord’s offering.”
The B&G Committee reported that Lifeline Screening will be in Fellowship Hall on October 29. Sign up for Lifeline services before Oct 29 in the church office or call 1-800-324-9458 to receive a $10 discount and CPC will receive a $10 donation from Lifeline Screening. Session gave approval to install a set of railings along the sides of the chancel steps. Installation can begin after Don Mueller approves the design. The cost of the railings is being donated by a member. If you should notice anything in the facility that should be brought to the attention of B&G for maintenance, landscaping or custodial service, please fill out a request form available in the office.

CE Committee received approval to start a program to hire older youths from the church as interns to lead the children’s program under Interim Youth Director Pastor Mike and Children’s Director Debbie Reeder starting in the fall. Potential interns include Luke Reeder, Josiah Devin and Dana Stebbins. A new curriculum was selected and approved by Session.

The Communications Committee did a survey of signs on CPC property and concluded that revisions and additions are in order. Recruitment of people with website design or maintenance skills is underway. Completion of the new CPC website is a high priority issue.

The F&A Committee reported that a failed firewall hardware device was replaced at significant cost. It protects the church network server where it connects with AT&T, our internet service provider. Another fraudulent check drawn against the closed church checking account was intercepted and returned by F&M Bank. CPC has lost no funds through fraudulent checks. There was no financial report for the month of July because the statements were not yet available.

The Nominating Committee begins its work this month to search for candidates for the Session Class of 2014 and the Deacons Class of 2015.

Al Jessen, Clerk of Session

First Friday Feasts to Resume Again

The first Friday Pot Luck feasts will be starting again on Friday, September 7, 2012, at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring an entrée or a salad. Beverages and dessert are provided. There will be a program provided by Pastor Mike Vaughn. We hope you will be able to join us.

Fall Rummage Sale

Our fall rummage sale will be held on two dates, Friday, October 12 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 13, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please start gathering your expendable goodies to contribute to the sale. You may begin bringing your items to the church after October 1st. Please put them on the downstairs porch. If you cannot save your items until then or need someone to pick them up, please call Fran Eagan at (949) 240-6114, and arrangements will be made to pick up and store your articles.

Dates to Save

Church Holiday Boutique, Saturday, December 1st, 2012 and CPC Annual Progressive Dinner, Saturday, December 8th, 2012.

All three above contributed by Fran Eagan
Some of you may know that our CPC Mission Committee has been donating to the cause of God’s Hidden Treasures for several years. This year the Mission Committee has committed $2,000 to this most worthy endeavor.

The mission of God’s Hidden Treasures is to “serve the needs of the poor, afflicted and the orphaned; and to bring God’s love through personal relationships in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Founded in 1997 by Nita Hanson of Thousand Oaks, California, God’s Hidden Treasures is serving the needs of the disabled and orphaned in the country of Ukraine. For the past fifteen years the ministry has expanded in both scope and areas served in response to needs and presently includes:

- Wheelchair Ministry
- Medical Ministry
- Orphan Ministry
- Spiritual Ministry
- Sponsor-a-Family Program
- Mission Opportunities
- Outreach Ministry
- The Village Dream

Nita Hanson

Nita lives in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine and continues to oversee the ministry and staff, visiting the United States twice a year to speak at various churches and organizations across the United States. **Nita has been invited to CPC to speak at the services on Sunday, September, 23.** She will be offering a worship service, and we certainly hope you will all join us to learn about her ministry.

In 1997, Nita began forming her non-profit ministry and raising the $20,000 she would need for the first year. She returned to Ukraine in October of 1997 to begin the ministry now known as God’s Hidden Treasures.

God’s Hidden Treasures currently ministers four orphanages. In 1998, the Wheelchair Ministry began as three custom-fitted wheelchairs were taken to the city of Bila Tserkva from the United States. Since that time, more than 1500 wheelchairs have been shipped to Ukraine and distributed by God’s Hidden Treasures. A Wheelchair Repair Center was opened in 2001. With the opening of this Center, God’s Hidden Treasures is able to refurbish, repair, and custom fit wheelchairs right in the Ukraine. They are also able to keep wheelchairs on hand, which enables them to deliver a wheelchair to a prospective candidate within days of learning of his or her need.

For more on this ministry, please visit [http://www.godshiddentreasures.org](http://www.godshiddentreasures.org)
Presbyterian Women

Our Bible Study year has begun. With our salad luncheon kick-off and message from Mike Vaughn, we are off to a good start.

For 2012-2013, our circles will be studying the Epistles of Peter 1 and 2, John 1 through 3, and Jude. These are letters addressed to the Christian family in general. If you do not have the 2012-2013 study guide, Dispatches to God’s Household—The General Epistles, you may purchase it from your circle leader for $9.00.

Hopefully, one of our three circles will fit your schedule and you will be able to join us. There are two daytime circles which meet at the church. Colleen Emery leads the study on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the church, and Valerie Jessen leads the circle on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Center. The evening circle is led by Nancy Powers and meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in individual homes. Call Nancy at (949)495-4262 for the location of the next meeting.

If you are not already a participant in a circle meeting, please consider joining us and bringing a friend. Hope to see you there.

Contributed by Darlene Elliott

Our Amazing Congregation has done it Again!

As you are probably aware, the Mission Committee is in its third year of sponsoring a drive during the months of July and August for iHOPE. iHOPE provides clothing, toiletries and many other benefits to those in our community who are in need. This summer iHOPE requested donations of new men’s socks, T-shirts and briefs. What an overwhelming response we got for them. As of this writing, with still one more Sunday in August to receive donations, you have already contributed 224 pairs of new socks, 101 new T-shirts and 99 new pairs of men’s briefs. In addition, we have received 5 large bags of used clothing, and many assorted toiletries. I could not be more proud to be a part of such a loving and giving congregation!

iHOPE has had a terrific year in 2012 so far. They received a donation that allowed them to purchase a building to be used as a resource center. It is located at 106 West Canada in San Clemente. Also, they have been able to hire their first full-time employee, Cate Murphy, who has become the Executive Director of the organization. The Resource Center is now able to provide crisis management and access to social services; emergency financial assistance – rent, utilities, and prescription co-pays; washers/dryers, phones, lockers, dog crates and a mailing address to receive important documents; transportation assistance – bus passes, gas vouchers, car repairs; skills assessment, vocational counseling, résumé assistance and computer access for job and housing search; assistance in obtaining identification and accessing mainstream benefits including food stamps, cash aid and medical coverage. I am sure the CPC congregation joins me in congratulating iHOPE on their accomplishments.

Sanctuary Choir is Starting its Fall Season

As I sit in church services on Sundays, I hear some beautiful voices singing around me. Mine is not one of them unfortunately, but I know our Sanctuary choir would love to have those voices join theirs. Please do not hide your talent under a bushel, but rather let it shine with the voices of our choir. Fall choir practice begins on Thursday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m. Remember that all choir members do not have to be soloists, but rather lovers of music willing to enhance our gratification to our Maker.
Update on Kagadi, Uganda and CPC’s Efforts There

Dave, Ruth Willett and their daughter, Kristen have been interested and involved in what is happening in Uganda, Africa for several years. Dave has been working since 1999 with Uganda Rural Development and Training Programme (URDT), Home of Innovators in Education and Sustainable Development. Ruth and Kristen made a trip to Uganda in 2009 during which Kristen visited the Special Needs Unit (SNU) in Kagadi, Uganda, an orphanage for differently-abled children. She was so distraught about the conditions there (a lack of so many of the necessities in life) that she and Ruth came back to the United States and encouraged people in our country to assist the SNU. Thus began the involvement of Community Presbyterian Church in this effort, particularly through donations from the CPC Mission Committee. Ruth has shared an update on the progress being made at the orphanage.

Special Needs Unit, Kagadi, Uganda Update

Especially “blessed, supported, and loved” are the expressed feelings in a letter from the Special Needs Unit in Kagadi, Uganda, felt because of what the CPC has done for them in 2012. Due to the generosity of our church gifts, there is a very large solar panel that has been installed on the roof at the Special Needs Unit which has enabled them to have electricity when the Kagadi electrical grid is not functioning, which unfortunately is most of the time! The vast majority of the children are deaf and communicate using sign language.

Unpacking the solar panel

Francis Oboi, the Special Needs coordinator/head of Unit, wrote. “We had a challenge of our power going off and on putting children in a black-out especially at night, yet most of them depend on light to communicate when its dark, but they are able to communicate and interact and share freely now. We also connected the solar to the Library with this alternative power source, and children do revision and read the books as usual, when the Kagadi power grid is not there.”

Preparing to install the solar panel on the roof

There is also a fence around the entire facility, built with CPC funds, which helps to keep some of the children with decreased mental capacity from wandering away, and it also protects the campus from the intrusion of those who might plan harm to vulnerable children.
The recent outbreak in Uganda of the deadly Ebola virus was centered in Kagadi, where the Kagadi Hospital, which has no flush toilets, in fact no running water, is located. This is the only health facility trying to deal with the virus. Francis Oboi has heaved a sigh of relief now that the virus appears to be contained. This same hospital is where several children were taken after being struck by lightning some few months ago.

CPC’s gifts also went to purchase some large bags of rice and other desperately needed food items last month. “The children all received new T-shirts and felt loved and supported,” Francis Oboi wrote. They were also able to purchase some gardening tools needed to maintain the gardens the differently-abled children tend.

*Contributed by Ruth Willett*
The Session Thanks the CPC Congregation Also

During the summer months of June, July and August the church’s financial receipts tend to be significantly lower due to people being on vacation and being involved in other activities, while CPC expenses remain pretty much the same as during the remainder of the year. This year, however, for the first time in recent memory, our income has stayed level during the summer months, so that CPC is better able to pay its bills without dipping into reserves. When the Session received this report at its August meeting, the elders were moved to say “Thank You” to the congregation for its continued level of giving.

“Penny Fund”

At least half a dozen seminary students have come from our congregation in the last 30 years. Early in that time period, it was suggested that all the loose change in the offering plates be set aside to help support these students. It became a real pleasure to hear the coins plunking into those plates. Surprisingly, some years we received well over a thousand dollars for this support, and it was much appreciated by the recipients. After the last student, Linda Flatley, was ordained, we accumulated almost $3000 in the fund. This is set aside for any future seminarians from our congregation. About two years ago the Session decided to continue setting aside all the coins collected, and to send further receipts to our San Francisco Seminary as they accrued. So feel free to pour your pocket change into the offering plate when it comes around, knowing that you are supporting a struggling seminarian from some other Presbyterian congregation, and enjoy the sound of coins clanking in the offering plate.

Two Articles just above Contributed by Frances Bucklin, Stewardship Committee Chair
September Birthdays

David DeLo               September 1
Samuel Fischel           September 4
Irene McCloskey          September 4
Adelia McCord            September 4
Kimberly Muller          September 4
Fran Eagan               September 5
Carol Leonard            September 5
Donna Sheaffer           September 7
Susan Trant              September 7
John Hourian             September 10
Owen Grulkowski          September 16
Su-Kyung Newton          September 16
Howell Teeple            September 17
Brandon Tatum            September 20
Ann Larson               September 21
Tim Reeder               September 22
Susan White              September 22
Jim Thorpe               September 23
Mary Cushman-Noesser     September 26
Max Harris               September 26
Jack Newton              September 27
Bill Gardner             September 28

September Anniversaries

Downs and Irene McCloskey September 1  56 years
Norman and Shirley Ferguson September 3  63 years
Jim and Susan Grulkowski     September 3  34 years
Larry and Lorna Collins      September 4  47 years
Tim and Debbie Reeder        September 5  25 years
Ken and Judy Ledermann       September 23 12 years