

The Friendly Visitor – October 2009

# *THE FRIENDLY VISITOR*

“COME AS A CHILD”

ST. STEPHENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

October 2009



## **Volunteers needed for NH Jubilee booth**

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual North Highlands Jubilee is Saturday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the North Highlands Community Center. 6040 Watt Avenue. Get ready for a fun family day with a variety of activities, goodies and community resources for everyone. Bounce houses, clowns, games, great food from local vendors are on the agenda, along with live music! There's something for everybody! Last year 130 booths attracted 4,000 participants. Free health screenings for children through age 5 years, and dental screenings (required for Kindergarten entry), hearing screenings and vision screenings will also be available at the jubilee.

We will once again host a booth at the Jubilee and volunteers are needed for many jobs, from staffing the booth during the jubilee to coordination activities both before and after. Last year, we had the chance to talk to many people in the community, and raised money for the North Highlands Food Closet at the same time.

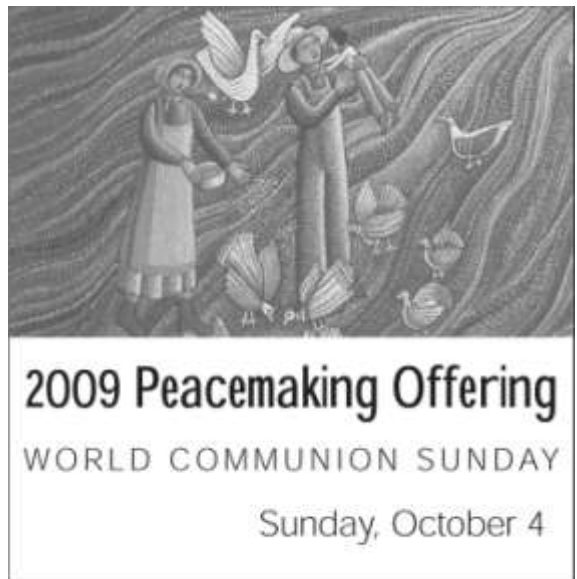
For more information, visit the jubilee's official website at <http://www.northhighlandsjubilee.com/>, and to volunteer for our booth, or just for more information about our booth, contact Sharon Brundage at (916) 331-1934.

## Peacemaking Offering benefits local, national, and global concerns

Once again, our congregation will be collecting the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 4. The Peacemaking Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts given to the Peacemaking Offering are divided in the following manner – 25% retained by congregations for our own peacemaking ministry; 25% used to support presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts; and 50% forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the General Assembly Council so that it can continue to provide assistance and resources for congregations and other bodies of the PC (USA).

Through four major categories – Evangelism, Justice, Discipleship, and Vocation -- the General Assembly Mission Council funds programs that promote the peace of Christ. Currently, there are programs to support our church partners in the Philippines who are victims of human rights abuses, support the Red Hands campaign to end the use of child soldiers, in partnership with the Presbyterian United Nations Office, and provide [resources on caring for those serving in the U.S. military](#) and their families and those returning from military service. These are just a few examples of a host of good works the Peacemaking Offering makes possible.

As always, Peacemaking Offering banks for the youngsters (or not-so-youngsters!) are available on the back table on Sunday mornings.



## Presbytery's 2009 Fall Gathering on Healthy Living registration deadline approaches



The Sacramento Presbytery's Health & Older Adult Ministries Task Force invites you to the **2009 Fall Gathering on Healthy Living**, featuring Dr. Michael McCloud, head of Gerontology, UC Davis Medical School. Dr. McCloud is well known for his down-to-earth sense of humor, along with his knowledge and expertise on all the aspects of healthy living. He will share what changes he has made in his own lifestyle as he is treating an aging population, and make suggestions on how you can do the same, while living in this high-achieving, stress-filled, work hard world in the many different roles we play within our faith community.

The gathering is slated for **Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 3:30-8:00 p.m.** at the Gathering Place at Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Dinner will be provided.

### Event Schedule

- 3:30 pm – Gathering Time/Registration begins
- 4:00 pm - Speaker Dr. Michael McCloud
- 5:30 pm - A "Mindful Dining" experience/Dinner
- 6:45 pm - "Importance of Sabbathing," with Rev. Jay Olson
- 7:30 pm – Event wrap-up

To register for this event, contact Barbara at (916) 414-2080, or [barbara@sierramissionpartnership.org](mailto:barbara@sierramissionpartnership.org), or Wilma White at (916) 727-1492 or [wwhite@surewest.net](mailto:wwhite@surewest.net). A \$10 donation is appreciated. **The deadline to register is October 19, 2009**, and space is limited. For carpool information, contact the church office.

## Youth Group named #2 Raley's fundraiser

St. Stephens Youth Group is very excited to toot **your** horns (Honk! Honk! Applause! Applause!) During a recent accounting period, Raley's/Bel-Air has identified St. Stephens as their **#2** Quality of Life fundraising group in our area (second only to one of the local schools). Yay!!

And how about this for a grand total update: Your shopping – and remembering to use your card – since we began the program 5+ years ago has been responsible for producing \$4,256 to date in funding that has and will continue to support Youth Group activities and events.

Thank you all!! Your continuing support and generosity through this program is so very much appreciated.

If you, or a friend, relative, or co-worker (we'll take any help we can get) are in need of a new or replacement card, please contact Lyn or Kurt Bagelmann (at worship or online at [kbagelmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kbagelmann@sbcglobal.net)), or call (916) 334-1546. Keep swiping that card and let's shoot for #1 next time!



**YOUTH CONNECTION**

## Choir seeks new voices for new season

Martin Luther said, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

Our small but mighty choir is just starting their new season, and all are welcome to join in. Choir practice is every Wednesday from 7:15-9:15 p.m. at the church office. Just bring a heart filled with joy and a desire to learn. Hope to see you there!

## HAHA Group offers study and fellowship

The HAHA Group (Health And Humor Association) invites you to join them the first Monday of each month to study the Bible, and uplift and encourage one another through life's transitions. Our next meeting is Monday, October 5, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the church office. Bring a sack lunch and an open heart and even a friend, if you'd like. For more information, contact Edith Roberts at (916) 723-9968.



## Learn to knit & crochet with Sharing Stitches

Sharing Stitches, offering classes in knitting and crocheting, has resumed its weekly classes each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Lamplighter Mobile Home Park Community Room, 5040 Jackson Street, North Highlands. All levels of proficiency, ages, and genders are welcome to join in the learning and fellowship – even supplies are provided. All you have to do is show up ready to learn and have fun. For more information, contact leader Paula Ross at (916) 344-5713, or paula5713@pacbell.net, or the church office.

## Men's Fellowship breakfast meets monthly

All men are invited to join the St. Stephen's men's fellowship group. They meet monthly for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on the third Sunday at Perko's Café, 8075 Watt Avenue, for breakfast and conversation, and are always done in time to all go the high school and set up for worship. Our next meeting will be October 18. For more information, contact Todd Brundage at (916) 331-1934, or the church office.

## Heart To Heart offers women's support

All women are welcomed to join Heart to Heart every Thursday at 7:00 pm at the church office, 6400 Watt Avenue, North Highlands. We celebrate our spiritual journeys by sharing Christ's lessons through prayer, stories, Bible study and ministering to others. We top it off with a big helping of fellowship with lots of laughter and conversation. This small group has a BIG personality and we are waiting (and praying) for you to join us! For more information, contact the Church office at 332-2071.



*Heart to Heart*

## St. Stephen's continues Cell Phones for Soldiers Community Mission

St. Stephens church office has been designated a collection site for old cell phones for Cell Phones for Soldiers, a mission to keep our combat troops overseas connected to their families here in the States.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was created to provide every U.S. soldier with a way to call home for free. About half of collected phones are reconditioned in over 40 countries worldwide to be used by soldiers to contact their families back home. Phones and accessories that cannot be reused are dismantled and recycled to reclaim precious metals and other materials. The proceeds are converted into AT&T phone cards and sent to our soldiers overseas so they can call their families and loved ones. There is a box in the church office and phones can be put through the mail slot if the office is not open. If you have any questions, please call Sue Campbell at 726-4826.

## NH Food Closet reports increase in need

Our church's commitment to the North Highlands Food Closet continues to be vital to their ministry. Operations Manager Dave Crandall reports that 1,337 people received over 12,000 meals during the month of August, up from 8,500 meals in January. The number of families with infants is increasing, so disposable diapers in any size are most welcomed. Also, adult socks and size large and x-large T-shirts are needed for the winter months ahead.



North Highlands  
Food Closet

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual KCRA 3 Kids Can food drive is scheduled for October 12 – November 20, 2009. School children compete to collect non-perishable food for local food closets, and each participating school must designate the food closet they are supporting. Last year, NH Food Closet was not designated by any school, so if anyone has an affiliation with a local K-12 school, perhaps you

could encourage them to participate in the program and designate NH Food Closet as their recipient.

Remember to add the Food Closet to your shopping list, and pick up an item or two every time you visit the store, and then drop off your collection at worship. They always need clean shopping bags for reuse, especially with the large increase in demand. Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in helping, or for more information, please contact Alice Taylor at 331-0345.

## Sunday School offers something new

All are invited to stop by our intergenerational Sunday School and try something new! We meet at Center High School Sundays at 9:30 am. All ages work together on each week's lesson, and have a lot of fun doing it. Helpers are needed at this time. For more information, or if you can lend a hand, please call Paula Ross at 344-5713. We look forward to seeing you there!

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# CELTIC CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH invites you to join us in



Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church  
5839 Dewey Drive, Citrus Heights

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Fellowship Dinner 6:00 -- 6:45 pm

Prayer & Worship 7:00 pm

Dinner is \$2.50. Please RSVP by October 12, 2009

Phone: 916-967-1414

Email: [nancy@celticpc.org](mailto:nancy@celticpc.org)

## *Praise for God's Bounty*

*A time of prayer & worship*

Songs of Praise

Prayers of Repentance

Expressions of Joy

Prayers for Churches

Communities, Schools,

Economy, Families,

And more

In these times of uncertainty,  
He truly is our source of hope!

## Synod sponsors new social giving website: Pacific Mission Exchange



Pacific Mission Exchange, a new website ([www.pacificmissionexchange.org](http://www.pacificmissionexchange.org)) that connects people who want to help make a difference with projects that are just down the street or on the other side of the world, is now on-line and already matching donors with life-changing projects. Pacific Mission Exchange (PMX) is sponsored by the Synod of the Pacific, a regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the projects listed on the website are sponsored by member congregations. The Synod of the Pacific includes 464 Presbyterian congregations with a total of 114,210 members, including St. Stephens.

The idea is simple. “People want to be part of making a positive change in this world,” Kathy Trott PMX Development Team leader said, “but sometimes the day-to-day schedules of our lives get in the way of finding where we can be most effective. PMX is a place for someone who has just a few minutes and wants to find the right project that is effective and works where they want it to work.”

Professionally designed and easy to use, PMX lists projects that are local and diverse because, “People will get involved with projects that make sense to them,” Trott said. PMX not only helps individuals find active projects, but also small groups or families to consider together where to plug in and support mission. “A parent might want to look at PMX with their child as a way to teach the value of giving to others,” Trott pointed out. “Or a youth group might have raised some funds and want to share some of that work with others.”

Because PMX does not deduct any transaction fees, unlike other charity websites, PMX web site donors can be confident that all their money goes directly to their chosen organization. PMX donors can use a credit card or PayPal for a safe and easy donation process.

For more information, contact Kathy Trott at (530) 312-0100.

## Westminster announces Bizarre Bazaar 2009

All are welcome at Westminster's Bizarre Bazaar 2009, which is scheduled for Friday, October 30 from 10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m., at the church, corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and N Streets in downtown Sacramento. Sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Women, the annual Bizarre Bazaar is a fascinating, joyous one-day marketplace:

- Crafts for Christmas gifting & decorating
- Plants for your home & garden
- Cookies, pies, cakes & more
- Jams jellies and pickles
- Candy and nuts
- Gently used clothing, shoes & accessories
- Small furniture, household items & toys
- “Food for the Spirit”, our newest cookbook



All proceeds support Westminster Presbyterian Women's Mission Projects. Items are available at various prices and there's truly something for everyone. Cash or check with ID are acceptable forms of payment.

For more information please call the Westminster church office at (916) 442-8939.



Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## New book review column looks for input from the congregation

This is the inaugural column of a new feature for the Friendly Visitor. Book Look is an informal book review that's driven by recommendations from you, the congregation! We would like to extend a special thanks to Edith Roberts, who suggested the column. This month's recommended books have been contributed by Edith.

*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*, by Greg Mortenson and journalist David Oliver Relin, recount the journey that led Mortenson to establish schools in remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. By replacing guns with pencils, rhetoric with reading, Mortenson combines his unique background with his intimate knowledge of the third-world to promote peace with books, not bombs. Edith endorses the book's potential to promote understanding of Middle Eastern cultures.

*The Soloist*, a memoir about the unlikely and rocky friendship that developed between two men, Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez and homeless musician Nathaniel Ayers. When author Lopez meets Ayers in a park dressed in rags, standing next to a shopping cart with all his possessions, Ayers' face was a study in serenity as he played a Beethoven melody on a battered violin that had only two strings. The book, which has since been made into a movie, is an examination of our society's misunderstanding of mental illness. Edith highly recommends it.

If you have a book (or a few books) that's you've read recently and would like to share with the congregation, please contact the Friendly Visitor editor, Robin Thompson, at (916) 786-3875, or [robinthompson4peace@gmail.com](mailto:robinthompson4peace@gmail.com).





CHURCH NEWS

AROUND  
the  
CONGREGATION

We offer our sincere thanks to **Jeanette Laprezioso**, for her service and ministry as Greeting Coordinator. She is ready to pass this ministry on to someone else. Do you feel called to serve? Jeanette even has “helpful hints,” as well as a list of who’s greeted previously to help get you started. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or

want to know more about it, please contact Jeanette at [jlapre@comcast.net](mailto:jlapre@comcast.net), or Peggy at the church office.



October

8 Bert Koppel  
10 Pierce Skibitzki  
11 Steven Willson  
14 Jeanette Laprezioso  
19 Evelyn Jordan  
20 Dorothy Titus  
23 Eric Donnelly  
24 Andrew Koscheski  
25 Kyle Donnelly  
28 Frank Laprezioso  
30 Brittany Cyrus

October

6 George & Thelma Gorrell  
20 Richard & Michalyn Green

# Cookies for Friends

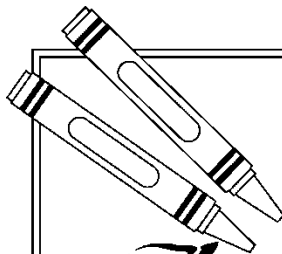
Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

### What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.



Just for **KIDS**

## A harvest of...

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

"But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

C	S	P	E	A	C	E	L	O	V	I	N	G	F
O	U	E	U	X	W	C	E	Y	T	P	R	W	R
N	B	A	U	L	T	J	C	O	R	E	I	I	U
S	M	C	P	R	X	K	F	W	I	A	G	S	I
I	I	E	M	E	R	C	Y	I	I	C	H	D	T
D	S	T	C	E	R	U	D	M	Z	E	T	O	S
E	S	I	V	X	J	C	U	P	W	M	E	M	D
R	I	H	E	A	V	E	N	A	W	A	O	H	P
A	V	M	P	J	M	K	L	R	T	K	U	V	W
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X	H	D	D	R	Q	Q	E	A	Z	S	E	D	B
S	I	N	C	E	R	E	E	L	S	Y	S	O	W
G	I	P	U	R	E	S	O	Y	C	E	S	E	F

## The Friendly Visitor – October 2009

THE FRIENDLY VISITOR  
ST. STEPHENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
6400 Watt Ave.  
North Highlands, CA 95660

“Presorted Standard”  
Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit #4  
North Highlands, CA 95660

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Sunday Worship** – 10:30 am

**Sunday School for all ages** – 9:30 am

Both at Center High School, 3111 Center Court Lane Antelope, CA 95843

**Church Office:** 6400 Watt Avenue, North Highlands, CA 95660

**Office Hours:** Tuesday - Thursday, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm, Friday 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Phone:** (916) 332-2071 **Fax:** (916) 332-0504

**E-mail:** [office@ststephenspres.org](mailto:office@ststephenspres.org); [pastor@ststephenspres.org](mailto:pastor@ststephenspres.org);  
[newsletter@ststephenspres.org](mailto:newsletter@ststephenspres.org)

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### **St. Stephens Mission Statement:**

We believe that we are called to connect all people to God through Christ and to guide them on their journey of faith.

*Note:*

*If you are receiving this copy of the “Friendly Visitor” for the first time, we introduce ourselves to you and want you to know you are most welcome to worship with us.*