

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

Worship the Lord with Us

Sunday Mornings

10:00am Adult Sunday School
10:30am AMPM Sunday School
11:30am Worship Service
12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

Tuesdays

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays

11:00am New Life -Seniors
1st Wednesday of the month
7:30pm Young Adult Ministry
3rd Wednesday of the month

Friday Night Fellowship

7:30pm Adults/Family Fellowship
& Kids Club
7:30pm AMPM Youth Fellowship
for Middle – High Schoolers
8:00pm Ext. 777 College Fellowship
Call church office for information

Cornerstone UMC

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Ewin Grace
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Worship Coordinator
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Missions

by Wei-ling Louie



The Missions Committee introduced the idea of **Care and Share Teams** with the acronym **CASTeams** to the congregation in January. These CASTeams will replace the connection groups and colors we've had for several years. Special thanks to Lydia Chu and Arleen Hasegawa for their leadership with the Connections groups from its inception. Pastor Jerry has mentioned that Our Connection groups have been the Heart and the Hands and the Feet of our church.

Purpose of CASTeams: To serve the church family and community through community and global mission projects, caring for and helping others in their group, help with serving lunch, and other projects at church.

At our February CASTeams Lunch, **Mission and Service Projects Suggestions** were presented for the first half of the year. CASTeams met and made decisions on what their team would like to participate in. Also, each group signed up for two weeks this year to help prepare Fellowship lunch after worship service.

The following projects are scheduled for Spring:

- March: CASTeam #2 – Easter Baskets for the Friendly Center and WTLC (Women's Transitional Living Center)
- CASTeam #3 – Second Harvest Food Bank
- CASTeam #1 – Spring Cleaning (collect gently-used clothing for various agencies)

With our new CASTeams, we will cast our nets on the other side of boat and get to know others in the church, as well as have an opportunity to work together and continue to build on existing relationships. It will be a chance for everyone to Care and Share with others as we serve God together on a team, in a family, in our church, in our Community, and to build relationships with God and each other.

Our Mission Focus and Offering for January was Pathways of Hope and our congregation generously donated \$1045 along with 35 bags of non-perishable foods.

February's Mission Focus and Offering was the Family Support Network, an organization that helps families and children with special needs. Our congregation donated \$859 to help this group's Camp Tender Loving Care.

Thank you all for your generous support of Missions. †

Blessings to you all,
Wei-ling Louie, Missions Chairman

Cornerstone UMC Staff



L-R: Jerry Owyang, Pastor
Wendy Yu, Church Administrator
Laura Terasaki,
Director of Youth Ministry/
Worship Coordinator
Ewin Grace,
Family Life Ministry Director



Waiting on Purpose

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

“Hurry up and wait!” Usually this statement is laced with cynicism when we’ve rushed to the airport only to discover that our flight has been delayed or we have scurried out the door only to sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic on the freeway. Full of irony, it captures the frustration we feel when we realize that any moments we might have gained in all our hurrying have now been lost as we find ourselves going nowhere. Usually, we do not see this as a good thing.

In this season of Lent leading to Easter, we’re invited into an entirely different experience with waiting. During this time of anticipation and angst of change, we can actually choose to hurry up and wait. Rather than allowing our waiting to be

entirely controlled by external forces, we can actually create times of stillness for watching and praying and waiting on God in the places that feel empty and dark, devoid of meaning.

When circumstances force us to wait, we can lean in and lift up our souls to the One whom we trust to do good things in and through us. Rather than caving-in to the inevitable frustration, we can allow ourselves to be changed by looking, loving and praying in whatever is causing us to wait, finding the presence of Christ there.

Almost every story in the Bible had a waiting period: the exodus from Egypt; Abraham longing for an heir; Joseph languishing in prison; all the events surrounding the birth of Jesus; Paul encouraging the new churches—everyone was waiting and watching for something. And all were changed—as much by waiting as by the fulfillment of what they had been longing for. This is their story and it is ours as well.

If we can wrap our heads around

the transformative possibilities contained within this season of change to a new pastor for Cornerstone, we might discover that it is God who keeps us waiting for reasons only he knows. And if we enter into this season with trust and with awe, we might even find ourselves thanking God for the many gifts this waiting time has to offer.

Psalm 27:14 says, “Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.” And so we pray: *O God, you keep us waiting for the right time to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do. O God, you keep us looking for the right places to find signs of hope and visions of a new way for our church and better world. O God, you keep us loving through the hard questions with no easy answers so we can make a difference through our faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for this waiting time on purpose. Amen.*

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jerry †

Care And Share Teams



At our first meeting on January 31, 2016, we shared a team-building exercise creating a scene with boats and seascape showing how we will cast out and gather others to the Lord with our missions and caring. †

CASTeam 1

Brachenridge, Mike
Brachenridge, Suzy
Davidson, Roger
Doo, Rick
Eng, Joan
Fukushima, Ron
Fukushima, Teri
Hasegawa, Arleen
Hasegawa, Jeff
Joe, Ed
Joe, Mabel
Louie, Bock
Louie, Wei-ling **
Owyang, Julie
Wong, Allan
Wong, Bing
Wong, Eleanor
Wong, Charlene
Wong, Randy

CASTeam 2

Chow, Dick
Chow, Myrna
Fong, Marylyn
Lee, Anita
Lee, John
Lew, Monty
Lou, May
Lou, Tom
Low, Jennie
Lowe, Calvin
Lowe, Peggy **
Philpott, Keith
Philpott, Laura
Tang, Davis
Wong, Cindy
Wong, Jason
Wong, Kay
Wong, Winston
Yee, Audrey

CASTeam 3

Canche, Angela
Canche, Erick
Fong, Henry
Fong, Sherrie
Hargreaves, Eva
Lee, Bill
Lee, Selene
Lu, Yin
Mitchell, Nell
Owens, Connie
Quon, May **
Quon, Robert
Smith, Linda
Wong, Di
Wong, Ken
Wong, Benny
Wong, Stacey (Jr)
Vidra, Dianna
Yu, Alex
Yu, Wendy

CASTeam 4

Dear, Bessie
Fitch, Pam **
Fitch, Rich
Fong, Benson
Fong, Linda
Lee, Gordon
Lee, Lily
Louie, Rebecca
Louie, Steve
Lum, Danny
Lum, Dora
Park, Helen
Park, Simon
Quon, Virginia
Wong, Al
Wong, Celeste
Yee, Art
Yee, Betty
Young, Jenny
Young, Thomas

CASTeam 5

Chan, Bill
Chan, Helene
Chinn, Brad
Chinn, Byung
Gayle, Pat **
Hom, Diane
Ito, Roger
Ito, Wendy
Kin, Bob
Kin, Marietta
Loh-Chen, Betty **
Lou, Charlie
Lou, Minnie
Low, Gary
Low, Sheree
Okada, Kevin
Rogers, Helen
Wong, Henry
Wong, Joyce

CASTeam 6

Chu, Dick
Chu, Lydia
Contreras, Jimmy
Contreras, Sylvia
Grace, Robert
Hasegawa, Cheryl **
Hasegawa, Kevin
Hayakawa, Judy
Hayakawa, Lane
Lowe, Midori
Lowe, Steve
McGill, Betty
Moy, Scott
Pitts, Bobbie
Wong, Eddie
Wong, Ruth
Wong, Stacey Ying-lei
Wong, Steve
Yee, Robert
Yee, Selina

** Mission Committee Members

Baby Shower for Laura Terasaki

February 19, 2016



A Baby Book Blessings Shower was given to Laura and Michael Terasaki on February 19th to celebrate their upcoming bundle of joy! First, the AMPM kids had fun playing silly baby games. Later, we had a Newly-Parents Game led by Brad Chinn with a panel of parents, including Laura and Michael, who tried to answer questions as first-time parents & parents-to-be! It was a hilarious and fun-filled night which ended with delicious cupcakes and a chocolate cake, too! †



Congratulations to Michael & Laura Terasaki
March 20, 2016



Last Sunday (3/20/16) during lunch, Calvin Lowe, Ad Board Chair, presented Laura & Michael Terasaki with a love offering and a baby prayer quilt from our church. We're sending our prayers and congratulations as they welcome a baby into their family in April. Laura will be on leave for April and May, but will return in June.



New Life Chinese New Year Luncheon

February 3, 2016

HAPPY YEAR OF THE MONKEY!!

To celebrate the occasion, 48 happy, hungry New Lifers and guests met for a wonderful lunch at Kyoto Grill in Brea. The "all you can eat" buffet was so pretty we hated to mess it up by digging into the vast array of cultural foods.

Jin-dao/Shi-tao/Bu! (Scissors/Rock/Paper) was the funniest ice-breaker with finalists Nell Mitchell and Lydia Chu punching their fists in the air for the prize Monkey. It was even funnier when we sang "Xi Nin Hao Ya", a

Happy New Year song, to the tune of "Oh My Darling Clementine" in Mandarin. AIYA!! We murdered our own language!



New Lifers: Keep your eyes open for announcements for our April 6th excursion. We will take the train in to Chinatown, spend a day absorbing some culture, and end with a lunch at an authentic Chinese restaurant. (No, there are no authentic Chinese restaurants in OC!) Anyone over 55 is invited and encouraged to hop the train to Chinatown! It'll be a fun day! †



Getting to Know You – Ewin Grace *As recorded by Cheryl Hasegawa*



We've gotten to know our Director of Family Ministries, Pastor Ewin Grace, enjoyed his musical talent, vibrant ministry, and his wit. He took time to answer a few questions for me. Ewin grew up in Fort Worth, Texas. He was #7 child of 12 children in his family. Brother Robert was the youngest, #12. Pastor Grace said his first church home was Lakeview Baptist Church, where his parents brought him as a wee one.

What was your first job? "When I was 15, a buddy and I got a job building bridges. We worked in concrete construction." He enjoyed the work, even though Texas summer temperatures reached 115 degrees! Ewin said his first car was a 1966 Chevrolet Bel Air, in blue. But in thinking back, his FAVORITE car was his 1968 Jaguar XKE. Ewin taught Robert to drive, and they have always had a special connection as brothers, which we have been privileged to see.

Ewin took up the drums as early as 6th grade. He was recruited for percussion with the school band, following in the footsteps of an older brother, but Ewin demonstrated particular aptitude/gifts. He pursued music as his major at North Texas College, one of the best state schools for Jazz in the state of Texas. This led him to New York City, where he played with some of the best Jazz musicians of the day, associating with the likes of Miles Davis, Chick Corea, and Elvin Jones (drummer for the John Coltrane Quartet).

Ewin decided to change his focus, and, encouraged by family, pursued law, then received the call to ministry and attended Seminary. It was at University in undergrad that Ewin joined the Baptist Student Union, and began his volunteer work with

International Students from China and other countries, developed a deep appreciation for the Chinese culture, and knew his future path was being laid out. He later did missionary work in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Pastor Grace doesn't regret his investment in his law degree and years in the courtroom, not at all. "We use all that we learn and all that we are given." Having a law background helped open doors in San Francisco's Chinese community and in East Asia, as he had valuable skills and "acceptable credentials", a profession to minister to those in need. His true ministry of faith could follow.

One of Ewin's heroes is a good friend he met in Seminary, Scott Spiess. Scott also had a passion for the people of China and took his skills as a master craftsman and successful large high-end woodworking manufacturing company to Xinjian Province, in the far Northwest of China. In describing Scott's work in China, Ewin says, "He hires a lot of locals, with Islamic or other faiths, and through his example and mentorship, shares the love of Jesus with his workers." He is able to have a strong ministry because of his successful business which benefits the community. Ewin reflected that one of his other heroes is one of his all time favorite drummers, Vinnie Colaiuta. Colaiuta is "one of the best jazz drummers in the world. He is original, down to earth, and, in his later years, became part of 'Drummers for Jesus'." Ewin has attracted famous musicians to Praise Nights at Cornerstone, and has blessed our congregation in this way and with his own musical talent.

Ewin says one of his hobbies is reading. He enjoys "thriller" novels, like those written by British author Lee Child (Jack Reacher). Some of Ewin's favorite snacks are "fried pork skins, chips & salsa, and I love dim sum." But Ewin says he is starting the New Year with some changes in his diet. If Ewin met Jesus for dinner, one of the things he might ask is "Are there other things you, Jesus, would like me to do? What might they be?" And "Lord Jesus, do you prefer us today to exercise our faith like Peter, with healing and prophecy? Or are we to continue ministry as we have been doing?" If Jesus were to come for dinner, Pastor Grace might show him his black book in which friends shared their love for Ewin, and their gratefulness for his ministry.

Some of Pastor Ewin's favorite Bible verses, and there are MANY more than these, are: John 14:6, Romans 8:28, Psalm 37:4, all of Psalm 1 and Psalm 46, Philippians 4:6-7 and, especially when he was working in law, Colossians 3:23-24. You can have fun looking up these scriptures, and meditating on them. Pastor Grace finally reflects, "I consider myself a soldier, kind of Christian special ops. We must go and boldly and tenaciously wage spiritual warfare wherever our Commander in Chief, i.e. Jesus, deploys us. It is a joy, the richest joy of my life, to serve Him (God, our Father)." Pastor Grace feels at home in California, where he raised his own 3 children (they currently live in Berkeley, Missoula in Montana, and Laguna Niguel), and where he has gotten to help plant a number of churches and where he has twice served as senior pastor. We are blessed to have Ewin serving and ministering to our church community. †

Confirmations



3-13-16: Cassie Lynn Philpott, Caris H. Park, Simon H. Park, Ryan Matthew Wong, Jillian Angel Yee
Bck: Laura Terasaki, *Director of Youth Ministry*
Pastor Jerry Owyang



3- 20-16: Allison Fong and Jordan Wong

Baptism Ceremony

March 20, 2016



Benson W. Fong



Allison Sydney Fong



Patricia Gayle



Jordan Seto Louie Wong