CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

August 18, 2019

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here! We pray that you will encounter God as you worship with us.

Today

8am	First Worship Service
9:30am	Bible Classes (all ages)
	"Our Story" (auditorium)
10:45am	Second Worship Service
1pm	Alpha Planning Meeting
1:30pm	Missions Committee Meeting
5pm	All-Church Game Night

Upcoming Events

Aug 25	Kindergarten Blessing
Aug 28	REFRESH Resumes
Sep 1	Fall Kickoff Sunday
Sep 6-8	HS Pismo Retreat

Welcome and Response

Scan above or text (805) 214-8384

Listening Up

By Andy Wall

"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness." **James 1:19-20**

Last Sunday, I introduced a sermon series titled "Listening Ears, Humble Hearts, Civil Tongues." During this series, I'm inviting us to think seriously about the dispositions we need to cultivate as a church family during the upcoming election season. We spent our first week asking, "How may I become a better listener?" In this article, I'd like to reflect further on the question, "What do good listeners have in common?" Some of the following insights were gleaned from the book "Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most."

Good listeners begin with the stance of curiosity. Make understanding the other person your initial goal, rather than advocating for your desired viewpoint. Keep asking yourself, "What else do I need to know for that to make more sense?" If you begin the conversation with "I already know what this is about," you will short-circuit a healthy inquisitiveness that could enrich your understanding.

Good listeners ask questions that minimize defensiveness and elicit a deeper sharing. Here are some example questions: "Can you say a little more about how you see things?" "What information might you have that I don't?" "How do you see it differently?" "What impact have my actions had on you?" "Can you say a little more about why you think this is my fault?" "Say more about why this is important to you."

Good listeners avoid statements disguised as questions ("Are you going to wear that?"). Never dress up an assertion as a question; like most forms of passive aggression, it only creates resentment. If you don't have a question, don't ask a question. The other person will focus on the sarcasm and the real message won't get through.

Good listeners acknowledge the feelings of others before wading into problem-solving. You don't have to agree with their feelings in order to acknowledge them (and you certainly don't need to tell them they are wrong for feeling them). You simply need to help them feel heard. It's a short distance between "Do you understand my feelings" to "Do you care about me?" We can acknowledge the importance of other's feelings even if we disagree with the substance of those feelings.

The most important question that the person on the other side of the conversation has is, "Do you truly want to hear me?" While listening techniques such as eye contact and head nodding are helpful, they will never replace your authentic concern for the person. All of which brings us back to Paul's foundational admonition in Philippians 2:4, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

What's Happening at Conejo

Welcome Maelyn Delaney Opdahl!

Silas, Erin, Sebastian, and Kimmy welcomed Maelyn Delaney into their family Thursday, August 15. She weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces at birth. Our prayer as your church family is that Maelyn will grow in wisdom, stature, and in love and devotion to God and to God's creation.

Bonnie Rockey is coordinating meal delivery for the Opdahl family as they adjust to life with Baby Maelyn.

Our Story: Adult Summer Experience

Our summer adult education experience is a class series titled "Our Story." Each week, we're inviting members of our church community to share significant faith moments during the auditorium class. We will have opportunities for you to share your faith stories in the months of July and August. Please consider what stories you might share and how best you might share them. If you would like to take part in this series, please talk to Andy Wall.

This morning, Jorge Guevara will be sharing part of his faith story with us.

Alpha 2.0 – Meeting Today

As we continue to pursue our goal to "Be the Blessing" in our community, we're laying the groundwork for a special fall outreach ministry called Alpha. All who are interested are invited to attend a one hour meeting this afternoon at 1:00.

What is Alpha, you ask? Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment. It's a ten to twelve week course that is run in churches, coffee shops, prisons, and homes worldwide. Essentially, Alpha is a safe place to explore life's biggest questions.

Alpha groups create an environment of hospitality, where people who might not call themselves Christians can discover and develop a relationship with Jesus. All Alpha groups have three things in common: a shared meal, an Alpha talk, and time for discussion and conversation.

At Conejo, we're exploring the possibility of having several Alpha groups that meet in homes during the months of September, October, and early November. You're invited to be in prayer about unchurched friends and family that you may invite to come and take part of Alpha. We're also looking for a number of volunteers to help prepare meals, set up our meeting spaces, serve as greeters, lead a discussion group, pray, run our technology, help with administration, serve as hosts and helpers, provide childcare (as needed), do cleanup, and more. We're excited for this opportunity to put our trust in God and share Jesus with our community.

"School on Wheels" Supply Drive

Two weeks ago, I attended the CrossWays youth leadership camp at Pepperdine. One of the most impactful experiences I had during that week was visiting a nonprofit tutoring and support center for homeless children on Skid Row called School on Wheels. The difference this organization has made in the lives of their students is so powerful, and a number of homeless children have now graduated not only high school, but have gone on to successfully complete college degrees. Since this program is completely reliant on the donations of others, I invite us to consider donating new or unused and unopened school supplies as the new school year begins. There will be a table set up in the foyer for any donations from August 18, until September 8. I will be delivering the supplies to them around the middle of September. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity! - *Jadyn de Bruyn*

All-Church Game Night / Tonight

Bring your favorite board and card games to the building this evening for a time of friendly competition, fellowship, and old-time fun! The fun will begin at 5pm and will go until around 8pm. Each family should bring their favorite snacks and munchies to share and a 2-liter bottle of soda, being mindful that some of our members have peanut and tree-nut allergies. All ages are invited to come. There will be tables indoors for board and card games. Kids are welcome and invited to join in the games; *if they need to run off energy, they are invited to do this in the backyard area with parental supervision.*

Address Updates

Ben, Abby, and Ada Wilson recently moved and are beginning a new chapter of life. Please make a note of their new address:

14926 Salamander Place
Tampa, FL 33625

Rachel White has moved to New York to attend Stony Brook University. Her new address is:

2885 Lake Shore Rd.
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Fall Kickoff Sunday

Our Fall Kickoff is slated for Sunday, September 1. Our plan is to share in a backyard potluck breakfast and fellowship time during our Bible Class time (9:20 – 10:30) between the early and late worship services. There will be no Bible classes on this Sunday. Please plan on bringing favorite breakfast foods and beverages to share. Coffee and water will be provided. Cleanup will begin at 10:20. Please make plans to share in this morning of worship and fellowship together as we look ahead to the start of a great fall season together.

Save the Date: Conejo Fall Retreat

Please save the weekend of October 11-13 for our congregational fall retreat, a refreshing oasis in the middle of the business of fall. Stay tuned for more details!

High School + Middle School

Back to School Nite / August 23
Deep Roots: Growing Deeper Faith

On Friday night, August 23, the middle school and high school groups will come together for a Back to School Nite! This is a night of fun and games, but also of introducing the spiritual focus for the 2019/20 academic school year. The goals of this academic school year are for each student to have the opportunity to wrestle with their questions, learn more about the core characteristics of the gospel that encourage a deeper more sustainable faith, and to discover core spiritual practices that help our students live out their faith each day. The event will run from 6pm – 12am and costs $5 per person. This will pay for snacks and help offset nerf war costs.

CVCCYM 2019/20
deep roots
Growing deeper faith...

REFRESH Returns / August 28
Our midweek small group meeting for the youth group will start up again on Wednesday, **August 28**. From 6:30pm to 8pm weekly during the school year, the entire youth group is encouraged to gather at the church building to reconnect and encourage each other in the middle of the week. Bring your own meals and meet for dinner at 6:30. At 7pm, everyone gathers for a variety of activities focused on building community and studying God's Word. Come, connect, and be refreshed!

High School Pismo Retreat / September 6-8
On the weekend of September 6-8, the high school group will be going to Pismo Beach for their annual retreat. The theme for this year is "Renew!" Sometimes our lives get complicated and messy. We lose our focus and make the unimportant things seem super important. In these moments, we would give anything to get back to that newness we had when we first started to follow Christ. To Renew means to turn something that has grown old into something brand new. Just as Jesus healed people who were sick and made them well, he can take our whole lives—our heart, mind, strength, and soul—and make them new again. Loving God with everything that we are renews our entire lives with a new focus that cuts through the mess. It's like turning on the lights in a dark room or wiping the finger smudges from your sunglasses. Jesus wants to renew our lives and help us turn our focus back on him. The cost to attend the retreat is $80 per person. This amount helps offset the cost of the beach rental homes, transportation, and meals. RSVP to Travis by Sunday, **September 1**.

Children's Ministry

Bible Classes
1st-3rd – Matters of Faith Lab

4th-5th – Let There Be Light Theater

See map at children's ministry sign-in table.

Kindergarten Blessing
Our Kindergarten Blessing Celebration will be held next Sunday, August 25, at 5pm at the church building. All children entering kindergarten and their families are invited to come and celebrate this wonderful new beginning with a potluck dinner followed by a family blessing time and a blessing from our church community.

All are invited to come and support our families. RSVP to Penny White (818) 857- 6213 or pennymwhite502@gmail.com

VBS 2019 God is...

Scripture Memory
So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 NIV

Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

PRAISES

BAPTISMS: **Quintt Landis, Jett Landis, Gwen King, Caroline Wilson, Caitlin Gifford**

PREGNANCIES: **Erin Opdahl** (September); **Lauren Kliest-Blankfein** (September)

NEW MEMBERS: **T.J. and Suzanne Reynolds**

Cielo Iglesias (friend of Grace Price) – cancer in remission

THOSE GRIEVING

Heather Phillips – loss of father, Dick Williams

Gunderson family - loss of Miriam Gunderson

Scarlett Lani – loss of father, John Taylor

Char Hurley – loss of father, Dale DeForest

Buzz Guilbault – loss of step-father, Dan Verbonitz

Sandy Stivers – loss of mother, Nadine Tiner McBee

Grace Price – loss of brother, Mark Poblete

Ron Hall – loss of father, Maurice Hall

Alexis Lasiter – loss of mother, Mary Bell

Tony Alvarado – loss of mother, Linda Marcinkoski

Nicole Montanez – loss of grandfather, Howard Segar

FIGHTING CANCER

Jenna Sepulveda (sister of John Downey) – diagnosed with metastatic thyroid cancer

Clifton Tuggle (uncle of Rene Heard) – diagnosed with prostate cancer

Michael Smith (friend of Coupe family) - 4 year old diagnosed with Neuroblastoma

Shirley Moore (mother of Nicole Montanez) - diganosed with Leukemia, started chemo

Robin Brown (former member) – breast cancer

Ted McAllister (former member) – multiple myeloma

Taneisha Schuman (friend of Buzz Guilbault) – diagnosed with stage IV cancer

Valerie Corbet (sister of Abby Wilson) – inoperable stage IV brain cancer; undergoing chemo and radiation

James Wooley (uncle of Rene Heard) – bone cancer

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – multiple myeloma, loss of job

Ryan Lohoff (Julia Chesson's dance teacher) – stage IV brain cancer

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) – responding well to treatment for stage IV squamous cell thymic carcinoma

Joella Michael – recovery following mucosal melanoma treatments

Yashica Budde's friend, **Ruth** – final stages of cancer

Dana Sheehan (friend of Lisa Scott) – undergoing chemo

Aaron Robinson (friend of the Audeninos) – grade IV glioblastoma multiforme

Marlene Michaels (friend of Lisa Scott) – stage IV cancer

Susie Baston (Cindy Randolph's cousin) – spinal cancer

Justice Howard (Yashica Budde's cousin) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Tom Montanez (father of Nicole Montanez) - fighting a serious infection in lower spine

Tom De Long (father of Ty De Long) – recovering from quadruple bypass surgery

David and Allegro Rankin (uncle and aunt of Daelan Blankfein) – continuing physical therapy

Adria Ballard – relief from chronic pain

Sarah Ballard – relief from chronic back pain

Ashlyn Thomas – continued health issues; pray for answers and successful treatments

Pat Tudor – disease has been identified; pray for energy and healing

Peter Thompson (Pepperdine's Volunteer Center Director) – recovering from brain tumor removal

Kathy Cocke – pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension

Margie Caldwell – heart issues

Vera Davis – aortic valve tear; smooth transition to new home in Vermont

Sam Audenino – recovery from bicycle accident

Harriet Nutter (Daphne Green's mother) – received a defibrillator/pacemaker

Betty Brown – pain relief, healing, and regaining of strength

Carol McNutt – neuropathy

Mary McQuillan (Kay Falletta's sister) – Parkinson's disease

Caleb Rodriguez (son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

MILITARY SERVICE

Tyler Scott – serving in the Navy in Camp Lejuene, NC

Bobby Blackburn – serving in the Navy in Pensacola, FL

Micah Smith – serving in the Army Rangers

Derek Willis (Tim Willis' nephew) – serving in PA in the Army

Michael Warford – stationed in San Diego with the Navy

MISSION EFFORTS

Megan Randolph – teaching in Thailand

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia

Raul & Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama

Charles & Darlene Coulston – mission work in Kenya

Tom Bonner – mission work in Albania

David & Danna Willis – mission work in Samoa

Ryan Campbell – mission work in Philippines

Attendance + Giving

August 11 Attendance	
8:00 Service	35
10:45 Service	135
Total Attendance	**170**

August 11 Giving	$12,536
Weekly Giving Average (2019)	$11,496
Weekly Giving Budget (2019)	$12,995
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$976,985
Wall Settlement	$225,000

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