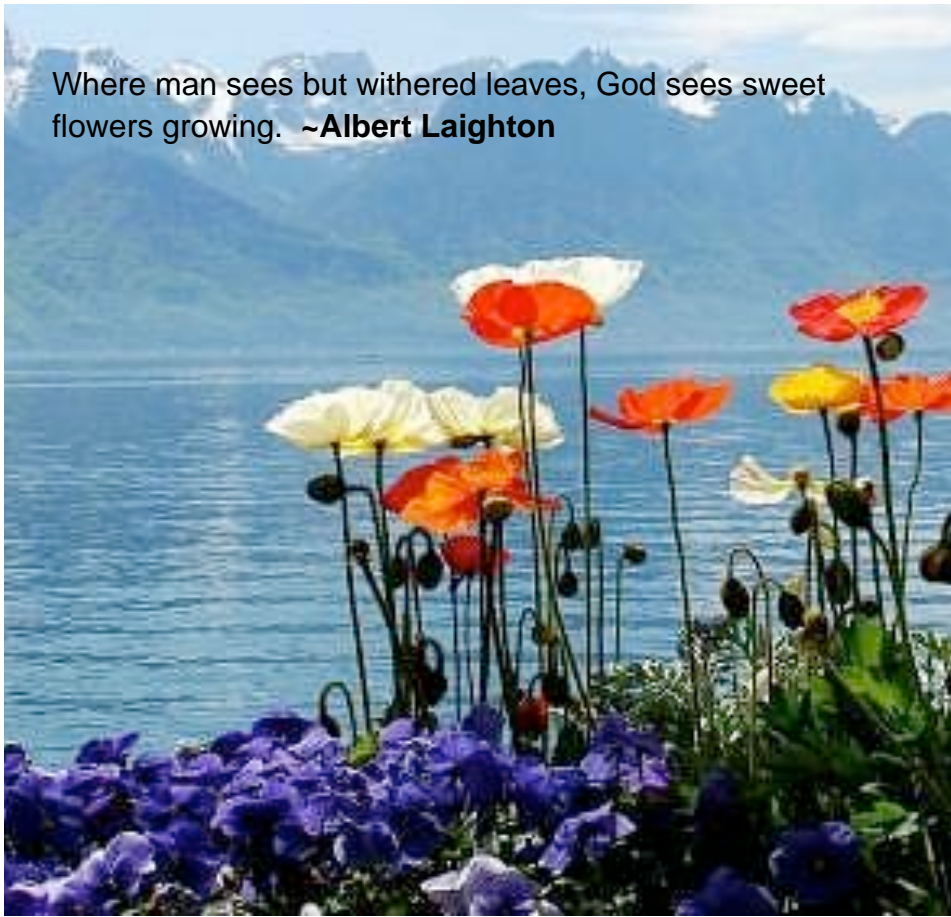


Geneva
TODAY!
 2nd
 Quarter
 2011



Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing. ~Albert Laighton

A Season of Transition, Hope and Possibilities for Geneva

Just as winter yields to spring, Geneva is experiencing its own season of transition as we begin a search for new pastoral leadership.

Your session, with guidance from Presbytery, has determined that before calling a new senior pastor we need to work on becoming a healthier congregation. Only then will we be ready to welcome a new permanent leader. The first step in this process is to hire an interim pastor to love and lead us through this time of reflection and transition.

Why an interim pastor? Interim pastors are specifically trained to serve congregations experiencing great change. A skilled interim will:

- Continue to help us heal.

- Help us discover a clear identity and direction for the future.
- Help to identify and best utilize our resources.
- Assist in assessing and developing current and potentially new lay leadership and areas for growth.
- Prepare us to accept changes which come with new leadership.

Once these steps are realized (usually the process takes from one to two years), the interim pastor will step aside and a new senior pastor will walk into a healthy congregation ready to move forward.

Session has appointed an Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) consisting of eight current and former elders to assess potential candidates. The IPSC is working

diligently and has faith that God will lead us to the right person as soon as possible. In the meantime, your patience and prayers are greatly appreciated throughout this process.

On the next page in the sidebar at left, we've outlined the main qualities the IPSC is looking for in an interim. Progress updates will be published in this newsletter and in Sunday's "Grapevine" insert.

What's inside:
 Pastor's Message 2
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Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) Update

Your IPSC is working hard to find the right interim pastor for Geneva. Here are the top three qualities we're looking for in our candidates:

- **Pastoral Care** - Simply put, we need someone to love us.
- **Leadership** - Equipping us to be more effective leaders, both administratively and spiritually, is paramount.
- **Preaching** - We need someone comfortable with contemporary and traditional worship, to help us grow in our faith journey through biblically sound, relevant and inspiring sermons.

Your IPSC thanks you for your prayers: Rod Kingston, Edie Robertson, Ed Sanchez, Barb Lorenzen, Tom Jenkins, Elena Bennett, Max Gentzler, Paul Arndt and Keith Geckeler (from Presbytery).

Next Town Hall Meeting - May 1st

Town Hall meetings are held in Simpson Hall after the 9:30 and 11:00 AM services. It is a time for you to hear what your session is working on, and to voice your opinions. Please come!



Pastor Leanne with staffers Gloria Newell and Jane Kingston.

Message from Pastor Leanne

Geneva Staff Constant Support for Congregation

It's hard to believe that it has been almost six months since Linda Flatley and I began here at Geneva. What an exciting ride it has been! I am so thankful for your warm welcome for my family and me. You have been so kind and gracious and have opened your hearts and homes to us. We are truly grateful.

And what a devoted staff! Gloria and Jane are so dedicated to making sure things run as smoothly as possible during this time of transition. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our church office is equipped to meet the needs of this congregation. Hugo

quietly works behind the scenes so that everything is ready to go. We are so fortunate to have such great people, from staff to volunteers, who help keep our church humming along. We are not yet through this season of change, but we can always

rely on our marvelous people to be a constant support in a time of transition. Geneva Presbyterian Church is a treasure in this community. The possibilities here to be the light of Christ to the world are only limited by our imaginations. We have an active congregation, a beautiful facility, Spirit-filled

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”

1 Peter 4:10

worship and a commitment to service. Let's open ourselves up to see where the Spirit leads us! My family and I are thrilled to be a part of the next chapter that God is writing here at Geneva.

Noteworthy Events

April		May		June	
16	Presbyterian Women's Spring Tea	5	"National Day of Prayer" Breakfast	5	Spring Concert
17	Palm Sunday: Pancakes & Combined Service	8	Mother's Day	19	Caravelle Mariners
21	Maundy Thursday: Potato Dinner & Service	15	Homebound Communion	19	Father's Day
24	Easter Sunday 	21	Mission Celebration Banquet (see page 6)	We're trying to discover if you're reading this. If so call 597-0814 and leave this message: Praise Be to God!	
26	Women's Retreat (see page 4)	30	Memorial Day: Office Closed	26	Vacation Bible School Begins (see page 4)

Palm Sunday

Pancake breakfast begins in Simpson Hall at 8:30 AM, closes during the combined worship service at 10:00 AM, and picks up again from 11:00 AM to noon. Purchase tickets on the courtyard or at the door.

Enjoy our **combined worship service** at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt** for children under age twelve. Families please bring empty Easter eggs, stickers and/or wrapped candy to the church office by **Wednesday, April 6th**. The kids at Big Wednesday will be filling them as a service project.

Please Note: There are no education classes for children or adults on Palm or Easter Sunday. Child care is available for children up through age three both Sundays beginning at 9:00 AM.

Maundy Thursday

A **Baked Potato Dinner** is hosted by our Geneva deacons at 6:30 PM in Simpson Hall. No tickets are necessary. After dinner, come hear the passion story as told through live reading of scripture at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Communion will be served.

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, **May 5th**, people of all faiths are invited to help observe this powerful event. Breakfast is served from 7:00 - 8:00 AM in Simpson Hall. No tickets necessary.

Spring Concert

June 5th at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary you are invited to a free concert featuring Geneva's Chancel Choir, Carillon and children's choirs. No tickets are necessary. A freewill offering will be taken to support our music programs.





Easter Sunday

Three service times:

8:00 AM - Sanctuary

9:30 AM - Simpson Hall

11:00 AM - Sanctuary

Educational Opportunities

Community Bible Study

CBS offers women of all ages and backgrounds an opportunity for an in-depth look into God's word. A complete program for children (infant through kindergarten) is also provided so that young mothers can join the group. CBS meets at Geneva every Thursday morning from 9:15 - 11:15 AM, September through May, but newcomers are welcome any time. If you are interested in joining the CBS women please contact Marilyn Popka at 949-360-9592.

Presbyterian Men of Los Ranchos Gathering

Saturday, May 24th all men are welcome to attend the 23rd annual spring gathering of the Presbyterian Men of Los Ranchos at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Los Alamitos. The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Kidd, Pastor of the 1st Pres. of Inglewood, will speak on "A Gathering Place for Men." Breakfast will be served at 7:30 AM. Donations of \$10 are accepted. For more information, pick up a flyer in the church office.

Even God likes to laugh... A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."



Camp Important for Growing Kid's Faith

The Christian camp experience has led many to a lifetime relationship with Christ. This is why Geneva has always strived to make camp available for our students of all ages. Thanks to many of your contributions, kids have been able to attend over the years who otherwise would not be able to go. This year's winter camp was no exception. Thirteen Geneva youth, 3rd through 6th grade, headed "up the mountain" in February to sing, play games, eat, pray and worship together in an environment and program developed just for them. As one attendee said, "It's cool to learn about God at camp." It's amazing how a single weekend can sometimes change a child's life forever!

Vacation Bible School - Begins June 23rd

Kids will explore a bamboo forest filled with crazy pandas the week of June 23rd during PandaMania at Geneva! Memorable Bible-learning activities, catchy songs and teamwork-building games are all part of the fun. Kids will also dig into yummy treats, experience electrifying Bible adventures, and create Bible Point crafts they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings.

PandaMania is for kids from age four to twelve and will run from **9:15 AM to 12:15 PM** each day. For more information, call the church office at 837-2323, or stop by and pick up a registration form.



Prayer List

Congregation & Friends:

Rhodora Carlos
Beth Coombs
Jeane Day
Kathleen Deason
Brian "Beau" Faunce

William Jarjour
LaVera Jeffries
Jane Johnson
Elizabeth Kudryk
Dave Miranda
Steve Polanchak
Doris Rae
Zack Reed
John Smuk
Jack Vest

Betty Waller
Michael Wenning
Terri Whyatt
Bob Zuzak

Military:

Matthew Garrison
Matthew Gomez
Kyle Hansen

Alex Hathaway
Marissa LaCourt
Ross LaCourt
Clint Land
Suzan Mandell
Erik Olivas
Michael Sahn
David Weaver

Summer Rummage Sale Collection Begins

Last year's rummage sale was so successful (we made over \$12,000!) we decided to do it again! Mark your calendars for Saturday, **July 23rd** to shop 'til you drop in Simpson Hall.

But, before that time we need to be collecting items for the sale. So now's the time to begin going through your garage and closets for items. We are accepting jewelry now and are looking for volunteers to help sort and price. Call the church office at 837-2323 if you want to volunteer to help out with jewelry or if you can help just prior to, or during the sale. All other donations will be accepted no earlier than **July 10th**. Please don't bring in items before this time because storage is an issue.

Thank you all in advance for your service and contributions!



Nancy Sommers helps out at last year's sale.

Congregational Meeting Overview

A congregational meeting was held in Simpson Hall Sunday, March 27th to present the annual report to the membership. Copies are available in the church office. Several church committees also gave reports with the most notable information summarized below.

The Nominating Committee presented four new elders, who were elected by the quorum present. They are: Kathleen Deason, Patty Georges, Emily Tosh and Dan Stark. The Committee also presented the new nominating committee for 2011.

The Personnel Committee reported that our organist Esther Park resigned due to health issues. Additionally, our Director of Student Ministries, Mark Chapman will be leaving us after eight years to become the Chaplain of St. Mary's and All Angels school in Aliso Viejo. Both Esther and Mark have richly blessed us with their talents and we wish them both well in their future endeavors.

Additional information available to the congregation is our Statement of Financial Condition and the results of an Audit Report conducted at the end of last year.

Welcome New Members!

Ted and Jean Abma
San Clemente

William Foster
Transferred from Bel Air Presbyterian. Now Aliso Viejo resident.

Darrell Haugh, Laguna Woods

Jessi Herrera, Laguna Woods

Lisa Kagan, Laguna Woods

Chong and Eun Kim
Originally from Iowa City, Iowa. Now Laguna Woods residents.

Che and Ji Sam Park
Originally from Saginaw, Michigan. Now Laguna Woods residents.

Jaelyn Rogers
Originally from Scottsdale, Arizona. Now Laguna Woods resident.

Kevin Strommen
Husband of Pastor Leanne

Geneva

BLESSINGS & OUTREACH

"...AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED."

GENESIS 12:3



The courtyard comes alive during Mission Celebration Weekend.

Mission Weekend "Go Ye" Celebration May 21 & 22nd

Once again, it's time to learn about the mission work Geneva supports throughout the year and how you can get involved.

Celebration Banquet

Saturday evening, **May 21st** the Mission Commission is hosting a dinner in Simpson Hall. Non-spicy Indian food is on the menu and will be served promptly at 5:30 PM. After dinner, presentations will be made about local missions, including the Beacon Prison Ministry, South County Outreach, South County Adult Daycare and the Boys & Girls Club in the Iglesia Park community.

Tickets for dinner (\$5 each, \$15 family) can be purchased on the courtyard starting May 7th and items

from Kenya will also be sold. There are some great gift choices for Mother's Day!



Rev. Prasad with wife Elizabeth.

In the Pulpit on Sunday

We welcome Rev. Philip Prasad who will speak Sunday morning, May 22nd. Twenty years ago Rev. Prasad founded Witnessing Ministries for Christ (WMC). The primary work of this mission project is to bring the Good News of Christ to India's 150

million Dalit (Untouchable) people. Today, this ministry builds schools and seminaries, provides medical help, fosters economic independence, and adds nearly 10,000 new Christian converts each month.

Sunday Adult Education

Medical missionaries from our own congregation will be our adult education speakers May 22nd. Evangelina Ho, a nurse-practitioner will speak about her work in China and Irene Lange, a nurse, will speak about her work in Kenya.

Also, don't miss some special activities on the courtyard between the 9:30 and 11:00 AM service for both children and adults!

God Provides through Kenyan Medical Mission

In the past fifteen years, Los Ranchos Presbytery and the Presbyterian Churches of East Africa (PCEA) have worked together to open 20 medical dispensaries throughout Kenya and the ministry continues to grow in new and exciting ways.

Our Friends at Hoag Hospital

We're thrilled that the folks at Hoag Hospital in Newport beach have embraced our efforts in Kenya. With their help we are working closely with one Kenyan hospital, providing goods for seven more,

and are currently designing and building another. Hoag personnel have also become regular fixtures on our mission teams. Our November



medical team featured four surgeons and eight nurses from Hoag, teaching less invasive surgical techniques, prevention, post-operative care, emergency care and rehabilitation at the hospital and Presbytery University.

In fact, the Kenyan government has requested that our next surgical team trains their doctors in the region when we come in November 2011. They also want us to be the ones to operate all dispensaries in the Narok/Masai Area, and the government has agreed to pay for the nurses and buildings. God is providing!

Used Equipment Helps Many

Hoag has been equally generous in donating used medical equipment.

One of these items was a mammogram machine given to Kikuyu Hospital. It is one of only two like machines in Kenya, and was put in use immediately testing 10 people per day. Many women potentially diagnosed with cancer could not afford the mammogram, and would live with cancer until they could save enough for the testing, which is now affordable at the mission hospital.

Another piece of equipment, a laser for eye surgery, was donated from Hoag several years ago. The ophthalmologist who was part of November's team the surgical team thought the machine looked familiar and checked it

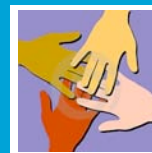
out. As it turned out he had used it at Hoag and his name and personal settings were still saved in the machine!

His Kingdom Grows!

Buoyed by the medical program, Narok, a city of around 40,000 and the site of the Boy's home the partnership opened last year, has started ten new churches and has become their own parish, largely through the efforts of the medical program. Just as exciting, an evangelist was requested to accompany the medical teams as they perform their mobile clinics so now even more people will be hearing the good news of Christ.

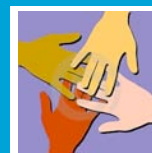
One thing is for certain, God continues to bless this ministry. Thank you for your continued prayers as these dedicated people continue to do God's work.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities



Youth Mission Trip April 29-May 1

College and high school students are invited to participate in a Spring Mission trip. We're headed to the L.A. Center for Student Missions in downtown Los Angeles to work in a soup kitchen, help out at a daycare facility or paint schools - whatever they need. There are spots for 23 students and 5 adults. First come, first served - no exceptions! The cost is \$140 per person and covers transportation, lodging and meals. If interested, please contact Mark at 837-4765, x211 or call the church office at 837-2323.



Kenya 2011 Mission Trips

Here's your chance to see first hand the way God is working through Geneva's partnership with our Kenyan brothers and sisters. Two mission trips are planned: June 24 - July 11 and October 17 - 31. If you are interested in this once in a lifetime trip, please contact Colette Cozean at ccozean@cox.net.

Geneva Blessings

- We have 47 active deacons serving our congregation
- We are blessed every month by the wonderful Geneva Carillon
- Our campus is blooming!

Pastors & Staff

Have information to share in
"Geneva Today!?"? Call Edie
Robertson at 949-597-0814 or email
her at edithrobertson@att.net.



Leanne Strommen
Associate Pastor

Linda Flatley
Minister for Visitation

Michael Wenning
Pastor Emeritus

Mark Chapman
Director, Student Ministries

Jane Kingston
Director, Ministry Support

Gloria Newell
Director of Finance

Eileen O'Hern
Director of Music

Elizabeth Kudryk
Nursery Coordinator



∞ In Remembrance ∞

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." *Matthew 5:4*
We pray for the families of the following Geneva members and friends who have
gone to be with the Lord. They will be greatly missed.

Marilynn Black	January 22	Dotty Felten	February 3
Robert Wendel	January 23	Don Geib	February 13
Elsie Miller	January 27	Norma Dines	March 12
Gladys Shriver	January 28	Warren Wrahlstad	March 14
Phyllis Mangold	January 31	Alberta Kennedy	March 28

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