



*A word from Pastor John*

### **THE GARY BONNER SINGERS IN CONCERT HERE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH, 5 P.M.!**

The world-renowned Gary Bonner Singers will present a program of Christian music here on Sunday, March 9th at 5:00 p.m. The choral group consists of 60 singers with classic as well as original Christian music in their repertoire delivered in a very exciting and dramatic fashion!

The Gary Bonner Singers, although launched in October 1995, have already distinguished themselves as a choral ensemble of musical excellence and versatility; contagious, sparkling performance; and warm, vibrant choral tone. They have completed sixteen recordings, including three, which were produced and distributed by Word Music, three commissioned albums and four Christmas albums.

Ranging in age from 18 to 65, the Gary Bonner Singers represent a wide diversity of backgrounds and occupations. Audiences respond enthusiastically to the voice ensemble's full range of choral music and unique style, which emphasizes communication and relationship with the audience.

Please come Sunday, March 9th! We will be hosting the Gary Bonner Singers in a potluck in Boyd Hall immediately following their performance. Please bring a main dish and dessert or salad to serve ten! Thanks! It will truly be an evening to remember!

Blessings,

Pastor John

### **HOLY WEEK 12:15 P.M. SERVICES**

You are invited to come to the sanctuary from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Monday through Friday before Easter. That is Holy Week and we will gather for Holy Week hymns, prayers and a message either by Pastor Paul or Pastor John on the sacrificial love of Christ.

Holy Week is the final seven days before Easter. It is a time when we think of the price Christ paid on the cross that we might have Eternal Life. As we meditate on His cross let us ask, "You died for me, what have I done for Thee?"

## **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 P.M.**

This Good Friday, March 21st, at 7:00 p.m. we will present, “Tenebrae—A Service of Darkness.” The service of tenebrae has a rich tradition in the church, dating back to the eighth century. Tenebrae is a word derived from Latin meaning “darkness.” Through word and music, this service dramatizes the suffering, death and burial of Jesus Christ.

As the service moves from light into darkness, the diminishing light symbolizes the fading devotion of the apostles as well as the gradual dying of our Lord. At the end of the service, the sanctuary will be in darkness. The congregation is asked to leave silently, contemplating Christ’s suffering and death, in preparation for the joy we will celebrate with Christ’s resurrection on Easter Day. Please come!

## **EASTER LILIES**

Lilies will be purchased for the sanctuary Easter Sunday, March 23rd. If you wish to contribute in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, please place your gift of \$6 in the special flower envelope in the pew racks.

## **PLEASE PRAY**

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities (Minnesota) voted Jan. 26 to restore ordination to an openly gay pastor. The vote was 197 to 84.

Opponents of the decision immediately announced their intention to appeal. The appeal will likely reach the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Council—our denomination’s version of the Supreme Court. The outcome depends on the composition of the Council and its openness to the Bible.

Quite simply the Bible identifies homosexual practice as sin (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10 and Rom. 1:26-28). In addition our Church Constitution G-6.0106b requires ordained church officers to practice, “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and woman or chastity in singleness.”

A Twin Cities minority report states, “We believe that the restoration of ordination to an individual intending to depart in practice from a clearly stated constitutional standard essentially allows the will of the [presbytery] to supersede the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” And the Bible!

Please pray for this Twin Cities vote to be overturned! Soon!

Pastor John

## **Grief Support Class**

A Grief Support Class will begin on Monday, April 14, and will run for six consecutive Mondays. The class will meet in the Fireside Room from 4PM-5:30PM. The leaders will be Delores Newton and Ed Bush with pastoral support from Pastor Paul. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please join us in the class entitled "Putting Your Grief in the Hands of God."

## **EASTER OFFERING**

In the past, our church has been very generous in responding to the needs of disaster victims through the Presbyterian General Assembly. This year, however, since our church (First Pres.) is involved in mission trips and projects to relieve suffering as well as spreading the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Mission Committee was granted the privilege of using this offering to purchase supplies for our mission trips to Mississippi and other areas of need. These funds will be deposited in a designated account, expenditures will be approved by session and none of these funds will be used for personal needs such as transportation, lodging or food. This offering will be received on Easter Sunday, March 23 through the end of March. You may use either the offering envelope in the pews marked "Easter Offering" or include your donation with your regular tithe and mark "Easter Offering Included" on the envelope. Thank you for caring and sharing.

Submitted by Sharon Hankle

## **PRIME TIMERS' March Outing – Pageant of Our Lord**

The tableau presentation begins at 1 p.m. at Rolling Hills Covenant Church on Sat. March 8<sup>th</sup>. Early arrivers can get a tour of the actors putting on makeup. We will meet at the church at 11 am for car pools. Sandy Olmsted will have maps. Tickets have been pre-sold. Any questions? Call Sandy and Don at (714) 775-3350.

## **PRIME TIMERS' April Luncheon**

We will have another great speaker on Wed. April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in Boyd Hall. Susan Garland, psychologist, will speak on "Life Changes and Transitions." There will be a Potluck for this meeting. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for sign up times. Please join us!

## **PRIME TIMERS' FEBRUARY LUNCHEON**

The February meeting was a fun Valentine's event with an interactive program presented by Pastor Paul. We shared thoughts and feelings about Christian Love and saw a short clip of the movie "Passion of the Christ" featuring the ultimate mother's love. A big **THANK YOU to Bob Sands** for preparing Beef Stroganoff for the entrée. 30 people enjoyed the "warm" fellowship.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPRING RETREAT

Ladies, April 19th is the date to set aside to join the Women's Ministry as Shaleen Camery-Hoggatt shares her thoughts on "Women at the Well." Check the Sunday bulletin for additional information regarding times and costs or contact Esther Oakey (714)828-1328. Sign-up sheets will also be available on the patio after the Sunday services.

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" Jesus answered, ***"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life"***

John 4:11 - 14

**The Women's Ministry** will again be sponsoring a BAKE/BOOK SALE. Your support of this worthwhile endeavor is needed . . . so, please save then donate those old "friends" that you have read and re-read. Share the joy of a good read and help the Women's Ministry in the process. Watch the church bulletin and this publication for further details regarding dates and drop-off points.