



January 1, 2012

Our days flow by without much change or newness. We live our lives with one thing after another, and what does it all mean? By grace, God in Christ enters our time and makes the times of our lives into God's good time.

William H. Willimon

The Flowers today are given by the Ansonge Family, wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

The White Rose on the communion table symbolizes our gratitude for the life of Frances Kobata, our sorrow in her death and our trust in the resurrection to life eternal. Fran passed away on December 26. Services will be held at Grace First on Saturday, January 14 (Fran's birthday), at 2:00 PM. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Remembering each other in prayer Each week throughout the year, we remember several of our church members and their families in prayer as continuing evidence of our love and concern for each other. This week, let us remember:

Laura Johnson
Lori Mae Johnson
Megan Johnson
Ross Johnson
Eric & Mary Jones
Nancy Jordan
Jean Kangas
Lucy Katz

Prayer Requests To request prayers for a family member or friend, please contact deacon Marcia LeGault at mlgucci@yahoo.com. You may also leave a request in the offering plate to be given to our prayer teams.

The Point Copies of our quarterly newsletter are available in the kiosk and at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. **The Point** lists a variety of opportunities for Bible study, adult education, concerts and fellowship for January through March.

During Each Communion service, our Deacons receive an offering to help with their ministry of caring, concern and outreach. Please use one of the green Deacon's Fund envelopes provided in the pew rack.

Blood Pressure Screening Our Health Ministries cabinet will be offering blood pressure screenings next week between services in the Library.

2012 Compassion Response

Update

We have received 189 Compassion Response Cards to date for a total of \$656,037 or 87% of our goal of \$750,000 for 2012. We are still waiting to hear from 44 of you who pledged in 2011. Please bring your card to worship or mail to the church office so that together we can reach our goal and plan our 2012 budget.

Tina Arechiga, George Eldridge, Michael Webb
The Stewardship Team

2012 Offering Envelopes may be picked up in the Narthex for the next few Sundays. Please help us save postage by picking your envelopes up. Included in each box is a Per Capita envelope. Other per capita envelopes are available in the kiosk in the Narthex.

What is Per Capita? Per Capita is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers. It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church. This year our Per Capita Apportionment is \$25.23 per member (\$50.46 per couple) for a total of \$13,271. **If you are able to contribute your per capita, it will enable us to use \$13,271 of our budgeted funds for local programs.**

Session

will meet on Tuesday, January 3. Your Session members are Tina Arechiga, Marc Bonner, Janis Bos, Gerardo Castro, Joyce Clark, Melissa Cohea, Susan Debuquois, George Eldridge, Carol Fraser, Cathy Killion, Barbara Lai, Jenifer Lipman, Danny Nakagi Gene Noji, Michael Webb and Liz Wood.



Alternative Christmas Market

Mission Ministry Thank you to all who participated in our Alternative Christmas Market in December. This market is offered annually as an alternative to the commercialism of Christmas and raised a total of \$14,427 this year. Groups who benefited were:

\$	527	African Team Ministries
	355	COA/Lunch
	815	COA Shares
	438	IWA Goods Sold
	525	IWA Shares
	890	Rising Tide Shares
	675	Power 4 Youth Shares
	570	Limuru Orphanage Shares
	305	Mary Magdalene Goods
	315	Mary Magdalene Shares
	850	Church World Service Shares
	190	Hoffman House Shares
	2,735	Heifer Project Shares
	300	Habitat for Humanity Goods
	740	Habitat for Humanity Shares
	895	Janet Ishida Shares to OMF International
	540	Presbyterian Women
	421	Equal Exchange Coffee Sales
	202	Zatoun Olive Oil Sales
	135	Peace & Justice Ministry
	185	Knitting Ministry/Yarn
	7	2 Cards Sold/Funds Donated to the General Fund
	1,787	Heart to Heart Sales
	25	Albanian Mission

2012 Mission Yearbooks have arrived. Copies are available for pickup in the Narthex. Cost is just \$10.00. Thank you to Patti Phillips for encouraging us to use this valuable mission resource from our denomination.

Equal Exchange Coffee We hope your New Years weekend is good and that you are willing to wait for coffee, tea and chocolate until **January 8**. We will be anxiously waiting for you on the patio to share with you all the good things from Equal Exchange. We offer goods carefully grown by farmers all over the world and shared in cooperatives in their area, so that together they can have better education, health care and even transportation. We have some new Chai and Chamomile teas that are definitely worth your trying.

2 Cents Per Meal Hunger

Program is an on-going Mission Outreach Ministry program to help meet the needs of families who need assistance with their food budget. The 2 Cents Per Meal containers are usually placed on the tables during coffee/tea fellowship time. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. This fund is available to help members of Grace First Presbyterian Church family. If support is needed, please make a request to a pastor to learn about how help can be provided.

COA Dinner for the homeless is Tuesday, **January 10**. We begin cooking at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. To volunteer to cook, call Judy Goodrich. To serve, call Pat Sargeant. Homemade cookies may be left on Tuesday morning in our church kitchen. Monetary donations should be marked "COA dinners."

Monday Night Knitting

We usually meet on the first Monday of the month but will meet on **January 9** this month at 7:00 PM in Room 311. We are currently knitting Scarves for Troops, as well as sweaters for World Vision, the Limuru orphanages and others. New knitters are always welcome. For more information, contact Sue or Suzanne in the church office.

Adult Education

Sunday, January 8, 10:30 AM, Rm 405

Chris Untiet, Faith Manager – Habitat of Humanity Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles builds and renovates homes in partnership with God and people everywhere with a goal of eliminating substandard housing by making decent, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action in our communities.

Scripture Seekers You are invited to join our men and women's Scripture Seekers Bible study group on Tuesday, **January 10**, at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Please call Sandy Finstuen for more information.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 PM (Fireside) – Please note the date change

Open to Men & Women

Wednesday, January 18, 9:30 AM (Fireside)

The 2011-2012 Horizons Bible Study is "Confessing the Beatitudes." The Beatitudes are some of the most beloved teachings of Jesus, yet they may well be some of the most pointed. We will study them within their literary, historical, and cultural contexts. This month study focuses on Matthew 5:7 – Greatly Honored Are Those Who Show Mercy! All are welcome.

Ladies' Nite Out All women at Grace First and friends are invited to attend our next Ladies' Nite Out on Monday, **January 30**, at 6:00 PM at Coco's Restaurant. Our speaker, Kathleen Julian, will share her experiences on the Presbyterian Global Exchange trip to India. Cost is \$19 per person. Sign ups begin on Sunday, **January 8**, in the patio. For more information, call Nancy Phillips.

Kimi Sugiyama Human Service Award Nominations

It is now time to submit nominations for the annual *Kimi Sugiyama Human Service Award*, named after the late Kimi Sugiyama, a pioneer member of the Japanese Presbyterian Church in Long Beach and a pivotal figure in the Japanese-American community in Long Beach. The award is given annually to a member of the community in recognition of outstanding creativity and self-sacrifice in extending God's love to others. The award recipient is presented with an award plaque, and receives special recognition during a regular Sunday worship service. The recipients need not be members of the church or the Long Beach area.

There is a change this year in the nomination procedure. To simplify the process, a form will be used. If you would like to nominate, these forms will be available in the narthex (look for the sign on the counter). [Deadline for award submission is January 15, 2012.](#) The award nomination can be left in the church Megumi Kai mail box (please place the nomination in a sealed envelope, attention: Agnes Hikida). If you have any questions, please contact Mits Higa or Barbara Lai in care of the church at (562) 420-3393.

Grace First Presbyterian Church
3955 N Studebaker Rd
Long Beach CA 90808
(562) 420-3393 - FAX (562) 420-6414
www.gracefirst.org

Fellowship Groups

Icebreakers will meet on Saturday, **January 7**, at 4:00 PM. What would you like to do next year? Put your thinking caps on now and share some ideas with us at our annual calendar-planning meeting! Let's bring finger foods to munch on.

Schooners will meet on Saturday, **January 21**, at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for a soup supper followed by bingo. Bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift to be used as bingo prizes. Members will be called. We'd love to have new friends join us! Call Marilyn or Bruce Burdett for more details.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday, January 1 - Worship 9 & 11 AM

Monday, January 2 - Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

10:00 AM Quest IV (FS)

7:00 PM Session (FS)

Wednesday, January 4

1:00 PM Art Fellowship (405)

7:00 PM Fireside Fellowship (Lib)

Thursday, January 5

7:30 PM Choir (405)

Friday, January 6 - Epiphany

Saturday, January 7

4:00 PM Icebreakers (FH)

Sunday, January 8 - Worship 9 & 11 AM

10:00 AM Blood Pressure Cks (Lib)

10:30 AM Adult Ed (405)

You may also view the Church Master Calendar online at www.gracefirst.org

Every Member, Minister
Steven E. Wirth, Pastor
Marion Park, Associate Pastor
Ron Oglesbee, Parish Associate
Stan DeWitt, Minister of Music
Jason McNally, Organist
Anna Ford, Pianist
Abby Carlson, Children's Music Director