

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings

Bro. Archie Miller

December 2018



Living Symphonically

It's a neat way to think as we bring 2018 to closure. Paul describes this way to live in...

2 Cor. 13:11 (NLT+MSG)

Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be cheerful. Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Be agreeable. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you ...

Harmony doesn't mean we all think alike. The strings of a baritone ukulele are different in size, length, and voice. The symphony orchestra is a good example of this style of living.

When you take your seats, in a few moments the musicians began to drift out from the stage sides. They might be in their street clothes, and each member will go up to his instrument and start tuning it. The fellows with the fiddles too big to put under their chins saw back and forth, and, it sounds terrible as they twiddle with their adjustments. The fellows with the little ones they put under their chins squeak up and down with those. The ones with the horns, ... well, nothing is in harmony. It is a medley of discordant, confused noise which John McCarten describes "*as cacophonous as a henyard.*"

Then after they get through with that kind of disturbance, they all disappear. All of a sudden the lights in the auditorium will go off, the lights on the platform came on, and the musicians walk out. This time they are dressed in their tuxes. Each one will stand or sit at his instrument. Then there is a hush in the auditorium as a spotlight focuses on the wings, and the conductor steps out. There is thunderous applause for him. He bows. Then he comes up to the podium and picks up a thin little stick. He turns around to the audience and bows, then turns his back to the audience, lifts that little stick, and total silence comes over the auditorium. Then he brings that little stick down. And, Oh, what harmony, what wonderful harmony there is, and we become fascinated with the interweaving of themes, and the harmonious arrangement.

Are you tuned up to play your part in 2019?

Elder Ed Saunders

A Year of Thankfulness



We have the friendliest, most loving people, all whom express their love and show it in so many ways. Yes, we have so much to be thankful for.

All the trees and bushes were cut and/or trimmed just before the 60th anniversary. This improved the looks of the grounds so much. We had the parking lot resurfaced and repainted by Ramsey Asphalt.

The Fellowship Hall was completely repainted. New chairs were generously donated. The kitchen and bathrooms were remodeled after the area was flooded. The Fellowship Hall looks so much better now with updated window coverings. We can be thankful that we were able to put in new flooring in the entire building.

New toilets were installed in all the bathrooms. The bathroom doors in the chapel were replaced and the doors on the west side of the chapel were rebuilt. A plaque with the names of those being honored will be installed in the rear of the chapel.

Everything in the damaged areas of the building is now basically finished.

Attendance has improved almost 75% to 100% the past couple years. We had several baptisms in the past year.

Our 60th Anniversary was quite a success with 46 in attendance of which about one third were visitors. A number of regular attendees were away because of the holidays.

It was only about a year ago we had an average of 20 and now it's 27, and there were times when attendance went below 15.

The current project being worked on is the sign area near the street. The existing pillars holding the sign will be refaced with rock, and a draught tolerant garden will be installed.

The facilities look great and are a place you would like to come and worship the Lord.

We are reminded that **Matthew 1:23 (NASB)** ²³ "the Virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." **Hebrews 13:8 (NASB)** ⁸ "Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever." Therefore, **Philippians 4:4-5 (NASB)** ⁴ "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" ⁵ "Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near."