

CRIBB<S>NOTE-November 2, 2008

60 years of faithful ministry is the legacy of San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ. We are a mission station assigned to this time and place as part of nearly six thousand congregations across the United States of America in partnership with global ministries extending throughout almost hundred countries. From the intersection of Huntington Drive and Del Mar Avenue, it may not appear so obvious that we are much more than a street corner church.

San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ exists in a long line of dedicated, courageous witnesses stretching back to Christ Jesus as Head of the Church. Across centuries and spanning nations, our congregation continues to provide a relevant presence that portrays the living expression of compassion, justice, and care for individuals and families. We continue a tradition of prophetic proclamation and pastoral attention to the needs of our neighbors and congregants.

We strive to honor our heritage as members of the United Church of Christ. We are a faith community dedicated to the acceptance of all persons. We are challenged by societal shifts and temporary issues that sweep in and out of our lives; yet, we remain a people charged with providing opportunities of unification. We seek to discover common ground and mutual respect for the diversity that is our humanity.

Rooted in the Biblical directives to place God above all else and to love one another, San Marino Congregational UCC accepts the call to present an alternative path denied by popular culture and trendy conduct. We believe God's love is available to all people without partiality. We believe God is still speaking and calls all of us to redemption.

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary in San Marino, we look forward to expanding our reach into every sector of the West San Gabriel Valley. We are a people blessed by God's grace. We are not alone. We celebrate the living testament of God's abundant mercy. We are fortunate to have this special period of economic flux and down turn to demonstrate the stability and consistency of God's Truth and preferential option for the poor.

We are not alone in an ancient movement to gather the people of God in response to Jesus' prayer "That they may all be one." The United Church of Christ's motto taken from John 17:21 continues to resonate in these times. We stand in 'solidarity of the other' who exist as the invisible mass and forgotten populace of the miserable sufferers of gross neglect. We believe Jesus Christ is found among the discarded and outcast.

60 years is a good start. We go forward with confidence that our mission is built on a solid foundation. We commit ourselves to extend beyond our grasp with dedication to have our talents, gifts, skills, dreams, and desires exploited by the Infinite Imagination that intends for the whole of Creation to rejoice. We stand in line among those brothers and sisters who came before us and guide our every step as that "great cloud of witnesses" who pray for the success of Christ's ministry.

HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSITY San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ! Let us go on in the name of the Creator, Christ, and the Comfort of the Holy Spirit.