

Covenant United Reformed Church - Fresno, California

**Our vision for Covenant United Reformed Church:**

**"The faith once and for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)**

To understand this faith, to internalize it, and to work it out into our daily activity, so that we can pass it down to

Pastor:	Reverend Paul Lindemulder, M-Div	<b>Services:</b>
Mailing Address:	1803 W. Arden Dr. Fresno, CA 93703	<b>Location:</b> Mountain View Elementary School 2002 E. Alluvial Avenue (corner of Alluvial and Maple)
Phone:	(559)298-2760	<b>Times:</b> Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. Sunday Afternoon 5:00 P.M.
Elders:	Case Bos, Hizkia Gunawan	
Deacons:	Eric Anderson, Scott Jacobsen	
E-mail:	pastor@fresnourc.org	



**Meet Susan Lange, our Photographer !**



Who is as likely to catch you in a hug as well as in the lens of her camera? Of course, it's Susan Lange! Susan was born and raised in Fresno. She has two older brothers. She and Don met in 1977 (yes, you read that correctly, 1977!) and married a year later. She and Don have attended Covenant United Reformed Church since its beginning in 1998.

For the past nine and half years Susan has worked as a receptionist for a doctor of internal medicine. Susan's hobby, as everyone at CURC knows, is photography. Why does she like photography? Susan says, "The first reason is because it's cool! The second reason is that for that one instant, when you snap that picture, time stops forever and you can look back at the picture years from now and see a memory." Susan has many books of memories now. She even shares those memories

with the rest of us. Susan has documented quite a few people and events during the years since CURC first started meeting in the homes of members until now. We can all be sure that it will be Susan that documents the first building that we will actually own some time in the future. Susan's goal for her photography is to never be satisfied and to keep trying to do better.

What else does Susan like to do? She loves to play guitar, play word games (Scrabble anyone?), create characters with puppets, and make balloon animals. If you have ever attended the women's Bible studies you know that Susan is a master at one liners too. Susan has a quick wit that keeps everyone, including Pastor Paul, on their toes.

How can the church pray for Susan and family? She says, pray that we don't take what we have at CURC for granted and that we would love and

encourage Pastor Paul in any way we can and remember to pray for our covenant family. Susan says, "You guys are all precious to me and I don't ever want you to forget that."



## CATECHISM IN TODAY'S WORLD

As September 11 approached and the media attempted to memorialize the attack on the World Trade Center, we saw all kinds of attempts to explain the events. The dialog included both political and religious explanations. The PBS Frontline documentary titled "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero" highlighted individuals of various faiths who came to the conclusion that they suddenly had no explanations and that their theology made no sense to them.

According to a Modern Reformation article titled Suffering,

Death, and the Hidden God by William Cwirla, (<http://www.modernreformation.org/mr02/septoct/hidden.html>) the framework that many people interpret events through is a theology of *glory*. This theology assumes that people have the ability to discern infallibly the difference between good and evil. It also assumes a fix-it God in a fixer-upper world.

The theology of glory, however, is not the theology of Christ. The theology of Christ is the theology of the *cross*- suffering, death, and then glory in the age to come. How then, should we interpret world events,

personal tragedies, and even daily mundane life in light of Christ's work on the cross?

These questions lead us to why we study the Bible, develop our theological framework, and instruct our families. Catechism gives our families the foundation necessary for interpreting the world. We need a theological framework founded on Christ and the cross.

(CURC Bible studies for men and women have resumed.)

### BOOK REVIEW: WITH REVERENCE AND AWE, BY DARYL HART AND JOHN MUETHER



According to the book, With Reverence and Awe, one common mistake on how to evaluate worship is to play the numbers game, which is commonly used in churches today. This method says that the larger the church, the better its worship. However, followers of Jesus Christ should know better than to equate popularity with truth.

How, then, do we evaluate our worship service? What are the elements of a worship service? Who are the participants and what dialog occurs during the worship service?

Daryl Hart and John

Muether wrote their book as a series of Sunday school lessons delivered by each author in his respective congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. This book first takes a critical look at many of the contemporary styles that are common in many worship services today. In the process the authors clarify questions such as who is the church, what is the world, what exactly is the Great Commission and where does this primarily take place?

This book has many thought provoking statements regarding the seriousness and necessity of worship. For

example the authors remind us that the Reformers were right when they insisted that outside of the visible church there is no ordinary possibility of salvation. Public worship is not optional for believers because it is the time when the church chiefly conducts its ministry and work.

This readable book is an informative primer on the Reformed approach to worship in these days of the so-called "worship-wars."

*"If seraphim assumed the Sunday morning mood that most contemporary pastors try to create, they would be addressing God not as 'holy, holy, holy' but as 'nice, nice, nice'" Edward Farley writing in **Christian Century**.*

*"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire."* (Hebrews 12:28-29 RSV)