

PresbyNews

(916) 428-3439, www.faithpresby.org, 625 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831

Volume 32, No. 22 Nov. 27, 2007

Sunday Services: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

***Sunday School:
Preschool-5th grades 9 & 11 a.m.
6th thru 8th grades 9 am
9th thru 12th grade 9, 11 a.m.
Adult Class 10-11 a.m.***

***Sunday, December 2
Hanging of the Greens Service
9 and 11 a.m.***

***Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19
Advent Dinner 6 p.m.
Link Hall***

***Wednesday, December 5, 12
Advent Worship 7 p.m.***

***Friday, December 7
Virginia Northrup/Jeff May
Wedding, 7 p.m.***

***Saturday, December 8
Make Christmas Cards!
1:30-4 p.m.***

***Wednesday, December 19
Christmas Caroling 7 p.m.***

***Saturday, December 22
A Walk through Bethlehem
6-8 p.m.***

Don't miss the *Hanging of the Greens* service!

Join us this Sunday, December 2, for our traditional *Hanging of the Greens* service at 9 and 11 a.m. As members of the congregation transform the Sanctuary during the service, you'll learn about the origins and significance of the Poinsettia, Christmas tree, Christmas wreath, the Advent candle, and more. The worship service will feature special music and readings. Please invite a friend, co-worker, neighbor, or family member to join us in this long time Faith tradition.



Make Christmas Cards for Wounded Veterans

Feeling crafty? Enjoy being creative? Like to have fun with folks from Faith? Please join us on Saturday, Dec. 8 in Link Hall anytime from 1:30 to 4 p.m. to make Christmas cards. We'll be sending them to wounded war veterans and to folks in our own congregation who are recovering from illnesses.



This is any activity for all ages! Everyone in the congregation is welcomed to attend. Teens – need community service hours? Come help out! Bring a friend from the community too! You don't have to be artistic at all, just willing to help.

If you have any spare paper, glue, glitter, scissors, stickers, etc. to share, please bring it along. We'll have supplies as well.

What Are Those Elders Up to Now?

Highlights from November's Session Meeting

The following are some of the decisions which were made this month at Session and some of the areas of ministry which were celebrated. We hope you share in the enthusiasm of Session in all that God is doing in our midst. As a reminder, Session meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 in the east wing. Unless otherwise determined, they are open meetings and church members are always encouraged to come listen in. We'll even share our snacks!

Prayer before Business! It is the belief of session that our lives, our faith, our service are directed by the Spirit and so gather before each session meeting for a time of prayer and contemplation. The questions considered this month were “How, specifically, are you most grateful to our King for what He has been doing in our community of Faith” and “As the ordained leaders of this community, what do we need to commit to prayer during this season”?

Growing the Body of Christ at Faith—At the session meeting on November 12, the session welcomed into our membership Bernice and Dean Hopkins (transferring from St. Andrews Presbyterian in Newport Beach) and Rudy Buehler (transferring from Westminster Presbyterian in Fresno). Please wear your name tags so these folks can get to know you.

Deacon Representation at Session—Every month the deacon board sends a representative to the session meetings and report on their activities. This month we welcomed Betty McClure who shared with us about the new Care Notes available in the narthex that address various topics that may help folks through the holiday season. A prayer blanket is being made for Marge Miles and two of our families are blessed with the birth of children: Nick and Katie Kolitsos welcomed Emma and Mike and Lara Roach welcomed twins—a boy and girl.

Sanctuary Building Loan to be Paid Off in November! Because of the congregation's faithfulness in giving their pledges to pay the sanctuary building loan, the session was able to vote to retire the loan in advance of the original pay off date of March 2008. Even so, the congregation is encouraged to continue with the pledges until the end of the 3-year pledge period of March 2008 in order to have the funding to take remedial action with the sound system and acoustical changes needed in the sanctuary. Plans to celebrate this milestone achievement are in the works.

Goals of Session Retreat in Action—On October 5-6, session met together for a time of reflection and planning. Focusing on our mission statement, “A community loving Christ, building disciples, serving all”, the following goals were set for 2008:

1. Discover how we, as a community, can discern, communicate and address the needs of all individuals and families here at Faith
2. Become a congregation which is committed and practiced in the discipline of prayer (as individuals and together)
3. Become a congregation which is committed and practiced in the discipline of the personal/individual study of God's Word
4. Discern specific congregation-wide mission emphases which we can commit to for the long term.

The session has pledged to spend 1% of their time each day to prayer and reading of Scripture during the Advent season. They will be focusing on various Scriptures from Isaiah and journaling what they discern from the experience and how it can be integrated throughout the entire congregation.

Revised Master Plan to be Presented to the Congregation—Even as we retire the sanctuary loan, the session is looking to the future and seeking to discern the changes that might be made in the master plan for Faith church as we work to fulfill our mission. Look for congregational meetings to start in January when you will be invited to join the conversation.

Pledge Campaign Moving toward Goal—The pledge campaign for the operating budget of 2008 is not yet over and the session is encouraging folks to submit their pledge cards as soon as possible. When the session knows how much has been pledged, it will be able to approve a final budget. At the current time, we are about \$150,000 shy of fully-funding the proposed budget!

Looking Ahead to Christmas Eve—The early Christmas Eve service will start at 7:00 p.m. this year with the traditional late service still scheduled to start at 11:00 p.m.

Pastor's Column

Whose Birthday is it Anyway?

By Pastor Patrick Vaughn

I met a woman at a previous church that Quinn and I were a part of who made a birthday cake for Jesus every year. The family would light the candles and sitting around the table they would all join in singing happy birthday to Jesus. At first glance I thought this tradition to be a bit corny for my own tastes. My thoughts have begun to change.

This advent the Youth Committee and God's Green Earth are providing a booklet called, *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?* My initial thoughts immediately went to the birthday cake and singing and I wasn't sure what it had in store. Was this going to be some silly resource that took away all the Christmas carols and replaced them with choruses of happy birthday to Jesus? Was it going to call me to throw out all my old Christmas traditions? What was this booklet all about? Well, simply put this booklet is about Jesus.



It begins by asking the question, Why a simpler Christmas? The answer:

A simpler Christmas leads to freedom. A consumer Christmas leads to stress and debt. Simplicity leads to generosity. . . We are told thousands of times every day by commercial advertising that we will find meaning and happiness through stuff. Voluntary Simplicity says we will find happiness and meaning in life through relationships—within ourselves, with others, with the Earth and with God.

Who doesn't yearn for freedom this Advent and Christmas? Who doesn't want more joy,

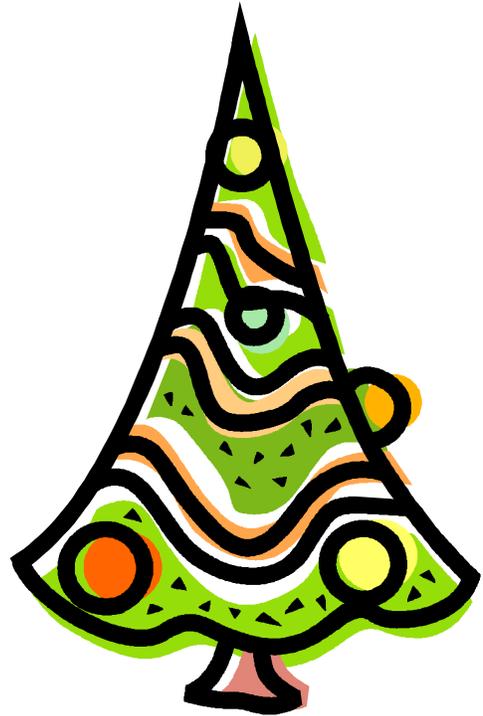
deeper relationships, happiness, justice? Asking the question whose birthday is it, anyway and baking birthday cakes isn't corny. It reminds us that Christmas isn't about finding happiness in an X-box 360, diamond jewelry, a Cuisinart food processor, a skill saw, clothes or toys. In fact often all the formalities of Christmas and the stuff depress and suffocate us more than they free us to be joyful.

The Simple Good News of Christmas is that to us a Savior is born. A Savior, the Son of God, a babe born to ordinary parents in a stinky manger in a simple room in Bethlehem. A Savior who comes to bring peace, joy, grace and love. A Savior who is God's greatest gift to us who has restored our relationship with God. A Savior who calls us to follow after him and to live simple lives of love. Love that begins with God's love for us, that reminds us how incredible each of us are in the Creator's eyes, love that frees us to live lives of love for each other to be a community, a church of love, to be people who are so filled with God's love that it overflows into those around us. A love that is simple, that enters into the ordinary and stinky places of our everyday existence. Christmas is a time to simplify and to sit in wonder and amazement of God's love that came down in a babe named Jesus. It's a time to be filled with that love and let it overflow in joy. I invite you to ask the simple question, whose birthday is it anyway? Who knows maybe you'll just bake a cake instead of a seven course meal this year.

Giving Tree Supports Area Non-Profit Agencies

It's long been a tradition at Faith Presbyterian Church to support local organizations that provide for the underprivileged in a variety of ways. Each Sunday during Advent we feature one organization and a list of its needs. You are then invited to provide as many items as you would like to contribute to that organization. You'll place these gifts (unwrapped) under the Giving Tree in the Sanctuary on the Sunday designated for that group. If you miss the designated Sunday, it's ok. Bring your gift when you can. This is a small way to give back, and every gift is truly appreciated and enjoyed.

During our Wednesday night Advent dinners (6 p.m.), Yolanda Torrecillas from Wellspring will join us on Nov. 28 and Eric from Clean & Sober will join us on Dec. 5 to provide information about their organizations.



WELLSPRING WOMEN'S CENTER (Sun., Dec. 2)

Two areas of giving are available:

Routine staples needed all the time include tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate mix, sugar substitute (Equal, Sweet & Low), paper napkins (luncheon), coffee stirrers, paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex, baby wipes, sanitary napkins/tampons, soap, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste/brushes, deodorant.

Wellspring Holiday Store – new unwrapped gift

Babies: clothing blankets, toys, car seats

Children: jeans, hooded fleece jackets, underwear, socks, toys, baby dolls, games, sleeping bags, backpacks, art supplies (please no war toys, Barbie or Bratz dolls)

Teens: jeans, hooded fleece jackets, underwear, socks, jewelry, cosmetic kits, sport balls, backpacks, personal CD players, sleeping bags, art supplies

Adult females: crock pots, coffee makers, blenders, towels, bed linens, blankets, dish sets, silverware sets, cookware, perfume/lotion sets, sleeping bags, sweat suits, jeans, blow dryers

CLEAN & SOBER (Sun., Dec. 9)

Socks, wool caps, shaving cream, deodorant, razors, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, gloves, sweat tops, sweat pants

CRISIS NURSERY (Sun., Dec. 16)

Baby food for infant and toddler, canned vegetables, canned fruits, powdered formula, laundry detergent, stuffed animals, juices

SSIP FOOD CLOSET (Christmas Eve, Mon., Dec. 24)

November 18 ARCO Results

We earned a total contribution to the Youth Ministry support fund (better know as the ARCO Fund) of \$852 during the November 18 Kings game. The ARCOfaithfuls welcomed some new faces and talent to the group. Aaron Dahlstedt, Christie Char, and Erin Clay were quick studies and great new cashiers (Rev. Patrick Vaughn also cashiered for the first time [and did a nice job] although is an ARCO regular), Mike Nichols (who went to High School with Assistant Stand Manager, Donna) did a great job handling our condiment stations, and Jon Coupal was our really cool ice guy. Cindy Canaday managed the runners and started the carpools from the Church. Margi Willey, Pat Tatro, Erin Clay, and Betty Keller came an hour early to help get the stand ready for the game.

The Faith God's Green Earth Committee has arranged to have the proceeds of the next game at ARCO, Saturday, December 1 (Kings versus Rockets and Yao Ming) go toward funding equipment and improvements to the Church buildings to make them more energy efficient. That's a cause that will benefit the entire Church community by saving energy costs and releasing dollars saved to other programs. I'm sure you're all going to want to help out with their game and that effort. Please let me know if you can work December 1st and I will add you to the list and get you a parking pass. Thanks – Paul Keller.

Faith Presbyterian Church ARCO Kings Games Schedule 2007/2008

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Game Time</u>
1.	11/10/07	Saturday	MINN	7:00 p.m.
2.	11/18/07	Sunday	DET	6:00 p.m.
3.	12/01/07	Saturday	HOU	7:00 p.m.
4.	12/23/07	Sunday	DEN	6:00 p.m.
5.	12/30/07	Sunday	PHX	6:00 p.m.
6.	01/12/08	Saturday	IND	7:00 p.m.
7.	02/02/08	Saturday	CHI	7:00 p.m.
8.	03/02/08	Sunday	MIA	6:00 p.m.
9.	03/28/08	Friday	WASH	7:00 p.m.
10.	04/06/08	Sunday	LAL	6:00 p.m.
11.	04/12/08	Saturday	NO	7:00 p.m.

Faith has a Winner!

Now here is something exciting: Faith Church's own Nancy Streukens won 3rd prize in the Sac Library's Mystery Writers' Contest, and you can read the first chapter of her book online. It is a sequel to the first novel she wrote about these characters, who were inspired by an old photo that came into her possession. Nancy was thrilled to have met John Lescroart in person. Check out:



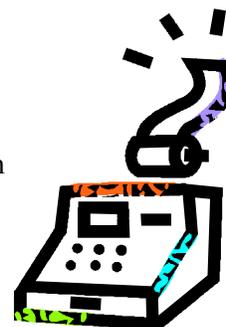
http://saclibrary.org/programs/mystery_winners.html

Family Promise Needs Your Help

Our week for Family Promise is from 5:00p.m. Sunday December 9th to 7:00a.m. December 16th. If you have questions, please plan to attend a brief training session after second service on Sunday December 9th room 5. On Sunday December 16th after the second service there will be a 'debriefing' meeting in room 5. If you have comments or questions about the week, we look forward to seeing you.

Turn in your Nugget Receipts

Ruth Burkinshaw asks that you turn in your Nugget receipts dated September 1st through June 15th. Cash receipts or debit cards are acceptable. No credit cards. This year, Nugget Markets has given Westminster Camperships \$195.00.



Thanks for Helping the Children!



Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support and help with Operation Christmas Child. From shoe boxes, to school supplies, personal necessities to wrapping boxes, the congregation helped with this mission project in amazing ways. Last year we sent 50 boxes and this year we were able to send off 79 boxes. Thank you for helping the children with this mission project. Because of your generosity, I know many less fortunate children will experience God's love in unique and indescribable ways.

In the attitude of gratitude, it is with sincere appreciation that I would like to thank the following individuals for helping recently on Sunday mornings with Children's Ministries: Shari Reyes, Danielle Reyes, Don Lewis, Lena Newman, John Popham, Andeen Lovett, Ann Johnson, Gary Cash, Susanne Fahey, Sarah Jimenez, Ileana Maestas, Laura Zarembski, Christine Mendoza,

Jessica Mendoza, Allison Laybourn, Ilah Turner, Lillian Waters, Pam Rock, Tyler Rock, Sierra Brown, Vicky Chastain, Pat Shepherd, and Ellie Boyce. It takes a whole village to raise a child. Thank you for helping the children grow in their faith! Your gift of time will continue to affect these children in the years to come. If you are interested helping with the Children's Ministry, please contact Pam Rock 393-1493 or Melinda Lewis 725-2810.

Save These Dates for Summer Camp at Westminster Woods

Though it seems like summer just ended, we're already making plans to take children and youth from Faith up to Westminster Woods summer camp in 2008. The dates listed below are the dates when we will aim to take Faith kids. Please know that the Woods has other options if these dates don't work. Go to www.westminsterwoods.org Sometime this winter we will send out more information about registration. As always, we have plenty of campership money available to help families attend camp who need financial help. Questions? Contact Patrick, Quinn, Melinda or Jeff.

Incoming 2nd-4th Graders – Adventure Camp – July 23-26
Incoming 4th-6th Graders – Sherwood Forest – July 13-19 (Pastor Jeff will be the camp speaker)
Incoming 6th-9th Graders – Junior High Buccaneer Camp – July 13-19
Incoming 9th-12th Graders – High School Camp – July 13-19



Session Votes To Minimize Bulletin Inserts

As part of our newly formatted worship bulletin, we are making an effort to reduce the number of inserts each Sunday. At the very least, this will help us save paper. Therefore, Session has determined that, in general, inserts will be discouraged. Instead, groups and committees are asked to include their announcements in the bulletin itself, or have flyers available to be picked up in the Welcome Center. Also, the back cover of the bulletin is available each week for special announcements. Sign up for the back cover with Kristi Kampel in the church office. Of course, exceptions will be made on inserts but must be approved at least two weeks in advance by the staff. Thanks!

Advent at Faith

Sundays, Dec. 2-23 – From Creation to Christmas

A special Sunday morning class taught by Rev. Joan Stock.

Wednesdays, Nov. 28, Dec. 5 & 12 ~ Advent Dinner & Worship

Join us at 6:00 for an all-church dinner in Link Hall (food will be provided, donations accepted). At 7:00, we gather for contemplative worship in the sanctuary. Crunchies (Jr/Sr High combined) join us for dinner and worship and then have a special hang-out time afterwards until 8:30.

Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20 – Hallelujah...The Bible & Handel's Messiah

Cheryl Finch will lead this class each Wednesday following our Advent worship.

Sundays, December 9, 16, 23 – Advent Worship

Invite others you know to join us for worship filled with special music and relevant messages on the power and meaning of Christmas.

Saturday, December 22 – A Walk Through Bethlehem

A great experience put on by our children's ministry but geared for the whole church family. Join us from 6:00-8:00 p.m. here at Faith.

Wednesday, December 19 ~ Advent Dinner & Christmas Caroling

We'll have a 6:00 dinner in Link Hall and then travel to sing carols to others in our congregation who are typically unable to get out and join us for Christmas.

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Services

7:00 – Family Service – A celebration geared for the whole family.

11:00 – Candlelight Service - Communion will be served and the chancel choir will sing.



Hal Johnson (second from left) and his string quartet are welcome additions to Faith's music ministry!

November Time & Talent Opportunities

Ministry Opportunity	Date(s) Needed	Approx. Time Commitment	Committee/Coordinator/Contact
<p>Family Promise People needed throughout the week at the church, for multiple tasks: set up, interacting w/families, laundry, dinner team, overnight team, etc.</p>	Sun 12/9 – Sat 12/16	<p>Most tasks: 2 hrs</p> <p>Overnight team (two people each night) 10 hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mission</u> Sue Hooper 916-939-7633 Cynthia Crow 916-392-9141</p>
<p>ARCO Faithfuls People needed to join the team that works a concession stand (and has fun) during Kings' games. The money raised supports youth ministry in many ways – special outings, equipment, youth missions, etc. Must be at least 18 yrs old and able to stand for 3 – 4 hours</p>	There are 11 games scheduled for Faith to participate – mostly Saturday and Sunday	4 – 5 hours per game (sign up for one game or as many as possible)	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ARCO Committee</u> Paul Keller 916 392-0304 or mrpen-tax@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Music Makers 1 – 3 people needed to rotate playing the guitar during Junior High and High School worship time, be a part of the worship team.</p>	Beginning 1/8/08 Tuesdays 6:30pm – 7:45pm	1 ½ hrs plus personal practice time	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Christian Education – Youth</u> Patrick Vaughn 916-428-3439</p>

Health Ministries: *The Real Colon Cancer Deal*



The debate about whether fiber helps reduce colon cancer risk has been almost as hotly contested as the presidential primaries. The latest exit poll? Campaigning for more fiber-rich whole grain breads, cereals, and pasta in your diet is good for your colon. But fiber can't take all the credit for keeping your plumbing clear of cancer. When researchers studied the diets of a large group of older men and women over a 5 year period, only fiber from whole-grain foods brought down colon cancer risk (by 20 percent). Fiber from other sources? Not so much. All of which suggests it may not be fiber per se, but the other good t-for-you things found in whole grains--

like vitamins, minerals, cell-protective phenols, and other plant substances--that make whole grains so good for your colon. That's not to say you don't need to read labels for the richest fiber source. Because we do know that fiber, among other things, lowers the risk of heart disease, helps your digestive system run smoothly, keeps your blood sugar levels steady, and may even boost weight loss.