

PresbyNews

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

Volume 33, No. 3 Feb. 19, 2008

Hear Jim Wallis Speak

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.

Tuesday Nights
Youth group for junior and senior
high students
7—8:45 pm

Feb. 24
Family Night Dinner & Study
5:30 pm

Wednesdays in Lent
Feb. 27, March 5 & 12
Praying God's Agenda
7 pm

March 16 —Palm Sunday

March 20—Maundy Thursday
Dinner 6 pm & Service 7 pm

March 21—Good Friday Healing
Service with Joan Stock

March 23—Easter Sunday

*The Presby News is published
bimonthly
by a team of volunteer writers.
Please send your submissions to
Editor Jim Park at
JamesPark02@comcast.net
Or drop off articles/photos in the
church office.*

Family Promise of Sacramento will present “An Evening with Jim Wallis” at the Crest Theater on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at www.tickets.com or call Family Promise at (916) 443-307. The cost is \$25, and all seating is general admission. Mr. Wallis’ appearance is supported by The Robert and Dorrie Moon Lecture Series and the Sacramento Interfaith Service Bureau.

Jim is a bestselling author, public theologian, speaker, preacher, and international commentator on religion and public life, faith and politics. His latest book is The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America. His previous book, God’s Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn’t Get it, was on the New York Times best-seller list for 4 months.

Jim is President and CEO of Sojourners and editor of *Sojourners* magazine. His columns appear in major newspapers, including The New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times. He regularly appears on radio and television shows and has taught at Harvard’s Divinity School and the Kennedy School of Government. Ticket proceeds benefit Family Promise of Sacramento.

Praying God’s Agenda: An Experience of Lent

All are invited to a study/small group/prayer experience called “Praying God’s Agenda: The Lord’s Prayer for Today” Wednesday nights from 7-8:30p.m. This weekly time of study and prayer is an opportunity to hear a 15 – 20 minute reflection from one of our pastors on The Lord’s Prayer, followed by a time for discussion and reflection in small groups, and concluding with a time of worship with the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

This is an opportunity to grow in your understanding and practice of prayer and to worship with brothers and sisters in faith during Lent. Note: Wednesday March 19 no meeting; Thursday March 20th Maundy Service: dinner 6 p.m. and Service 7 p.m.; Friday March 21st Good Friday healing service with Joan Stock.



A Response to the Sacramento Bee

By Jeff Chapman

Many of you, I know, read the front page story recently in the Sacramento Bee concerning Presbyterian congregations in the Sacramento area which are trying to break away from our denomination (See “Breakaway Churches



Face a New Battle” in the February 10th edition - <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/701100.html>) The article was an attempt to bring readers up to speed on something many of us have been dealing with for some time now. And while The Bee made a valiant attempt to accurately report on a very complicated and nuanced issue, the article missed the mark in several respects. I am using this space this week to offer some clarification in several areas.

What do these Presbyterians believe anyway?

The Bee article accurately points out that two congregations in our area (Fair Oaks Presbyterian and First Presbyterian of Roseville) are frustrated with the current state of our denomination (i.e. Presbyterian Church USA) and would like to be released to join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Henry Wells, pastor at Fair Oaks, is quoted as saying that they want to leave because they disagree with the rest of the denomination on everything from the ordination of gays, to what to call the Holy Trinity and other basic tenets of the Christian faith. It would be easy to see how an uninformed reader might read such a statement and wonder just how far off its biblical foundations the PCUSA has shifted.

The truth is that there are differences in theology and practice from congregation to congregation within our denomination. At the same time, the article is misleading. First, while one may be able to find isolated instances where the constitution has been violated, our constitutional standards for ordination of elders, pastors and deacons have not changed. For instance, they still include a requirement for such leaders to live “either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.” (G-6.0106b) Second, our denomination, and this congregation in particular, continue to affirm the Holy Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as revealed to us through scripture. There are certainly other images and names we use for God, as does scripture – but this way of talking about the Trinity is traditional and primary in our denomination’s language.

In short, while one could undoubtedly find in any denomination isolated examples of where basic tenets of the Christians faith have been abandoned, to suggest that such isolated and individual deviations characterize our denomination as a whole does not square with my experience nor the experience of most others I know in this denomination at this time.

We don’t own the church?

The article also points out that according to the Book of Order, our constitution, the property of local congregations is held in trust by the denomination. That means that while congregations are certainly free to leave the denomination at any time, it is up to the denomination as to whether or not they can leave with their property. The article states that members of these congregations have been shocked and angered to discover this fact.

In reality, while it may be true that some members at these congregations have experienced shock at this revelation, the fact that property is held in trust has not been a secret. The leadership at Faith, for instance, has long been well-aware of the fact that the buildings which sit at 625 Florin Road do not belong to this congregation. As Presbyterians who are a part of a connectional church, we share a great deal in common: our constitution; our confessions and creeds; our ordination standards; *and* our property. In fact, the property trust clause of our constitution was approved by our denomination as recently as 1983. Congregations, including the ones in question, affirmed their agreement to this clause at that time. Leaders of congregations, including those of us here at Faith, are thus responsible to help their congregations understand these important parts of our life together. Why that didn’t happen at Fair Oaks, for instance, I can’t say.

(continued on page 3 on the right)

A desire to graciously separate?

While the article makes clear that it has been the stated desire of these particular congregations to be allowed by the denomination to graciously separate and go their own way, what the article makes less clear is that most of the Presbytery (the local gathering of PCUSA congregations which makes decisions about such matters) has been willing to see gracious separation take place. In fact, at our Presbytery meeting in December, members of the Presbytery considered these circumstances and then voted overwhelmingly, though many with great sadness, to allow these particular congregations to leave *with* their property. Granted, a different decision might be made with respect to other congregations in other circumstances. What is important is that is our Constitutional right as a denomination to make these decisions within the denomination.

The Bee report, however, was misleading here as it stated that “they’ve been told they can go – but the church property stays with the denomination.” At this point, several things need to be clarified:

- While the article correctly points out that this whole matter is now in California civil court, what the article fails to point out is that the lawsuits were not initiated by Presbytery or the denomination, both of which preferred to avoid the courts and work towards gracious separation in-house. The lawsuits were initiated by these two congregations.
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, as is its right, filed a remedial action with the Synod’s Permanent Judicial Commission (the Synod is the governing body just above the Presbytery), asserting that the Presbytery’s decision to release these congregations violated our denomination’s constitution. The Synod PJC then stayed (i.e., postponed) implementation of the resolution until it could decide the merits of that action.
- Thus the decision is out of Presbytery’s hands at this time. However, Presbytery still has an obligation to defend the trust clause – and to defend our Religious Freedom as a denomination to administer our own affairs.
- Upon learning of the PJC stay, Presbytery’s counsel urged the attorney for the two congregations to continue or stay their proceedings in the Superior Court until the PJC could rule on the challenge. They refused and insisted on continuing the litigation they filed.
- Meanwhile, the civil litigation continues. However, it will soon be informed by a case now pending before the California Supreme Court which is anticipated to affirm a trust clause used by the Episcopalian Church that is similar to the one adopted by our denomination. Whatever the Synod’s decision, therefore, when the matter is returned to the Presbytery by the Synod, the legal landscape may have changed dramatically. It is premature, of course, to predict how those developments will affect further discussions with these congregations. Whatever the outcome, however, many have wondered if the enormous costs of time, energy and money could all have been avoided if there had been more willingness to avoid pursuing civil litigation. Again, in my estimation the Presbytery made every effort to do so.

Complicated? I know.

If you’re confused by all this, know that you’re not alone. That’s why I don’t envy the Bee reporter assigned to make sense of all this. In a current role of leadership at Presbytery, I find myself in the middle of it all and it’s taken even me a year to get it all straight! Nonetheless, I hope my remarks here have been of some help.

If you do have further questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. All of our pastors, and some of our elders, have been intimately involved in this process.

Also, please continue to keep our denomination, our Presbytery, and these congregations in your prayers. In spite of the disagreements and different perspectives we may share, pretty much everybody I meet in these circles seems to be really trying to faithfully follow Christ.

I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday!

Grace & Peace –

What Are Those Elders Up to Now?

Highlights from February'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! The meeting opened with the sharing of happenings at Faith that can only be explained by the movement/hand of God and was followed by a time of prayer for Faith Presbyterian Church.

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. A reading selection was prepared by the pastors for the Lenten season. This was provided to assist congregants in becoming more committed and practiced in the discipline of the study of God's Word. Congregants are asked to spend 1% (about 15 minutes) of their time each day in this reading and study.

Pastors' Study Leaves Approved—It is our privilege and responsibility to ensure that our pastors have time away to study, meet with other pastors and refresh and renew themselves for continued ministry. In addition to the study leaves approved last month, Study leave for Pastor Jim Zazzera to "What's Past is Prologue: Hope, Transformation and Emerging Christianity" Conference on June 21-27 at the Washington Island Forum was approved.

New Ministry Opportunity Considered: Session met with the pastor and members of a small (15-member) Korean congregation that is in need of meeting space. This group is also meeting with the Rev. Jay Olson, Associate for Mission at the Sierra Mission Partnership, as they explore moving toward affiliation with the PCUSA. We are seeking to discern what a partnership with this congregation and Faith might look like.

Annual Meeting of Elders and Deacons Together: This meeting, required by our church constitution, has been scheduled for August 10, 2008.

Compassion Weekend Update: Sue Hooper, chairperson for the Compassion Weekend "A Thousand Little Acts of Caring" ministry, provided an update of the ministries planned for April 19 and 20. Environment, education and humans services are the ministry themes. Approximately 12 opportunities are planned, both at the church and offsite. Watch for the letter in late February explaining in details this terrific ministry opportunity. Registration will be held after both services on all Sundays in March and on April 6. And then plan to attend the celebration services at 6:00 p.m. both days (April 19 and 20).

Way to Go, Natalie!: Natalie Reyes is working toward her Girl Scout Gold Award project (equivalent to the Boy Scout Eagle Award). Session voted to support her in that effort—so watch for information about how you can help out!

Presbytery meeting coming up: The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. We are structured locally in churches, regionally in presbyteries, then synods (we are a part of the Synod of the Pacific) and finally as a General Assembly. Four times a year the Sacramento Presbytery (that reaches from Sacramento to Weed and Nevada to the coastal mountains) gathers together to discuss and act on its mission and ministry. Faith Church may send four elder commissioners to these meetings in addition to all our pastors (who are members of the presbytery). In addition to our pastors, elders Glenda Arellano, Rick Crow, Georgianne Becker will be attending the next meeting in Loomis on February 23.

Children's Ministry

Family fun night Sunday, February 24th. Join us for dinner, games, and programs for the kids and the adults. 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Link Hall.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming July 7-11. Save that week.

Third grade Bible Presentation is coming up in March. If your 3rd-6th grader has not received a Bible please contact Melinda Lewis or Pam Rock.

Bible Study Fellowship meets on Tuesdays at Faith, and has a great program for women and kids ages 2-5. 9-11 a.m. (they also have a men's program in Elk Grove on Monday evenings-- Kids can go to that too. I think there is one at Fremont Presbyterian too.)



Children's Worship and Sunday School:

Thanks to these people who help teach our kids about the Lord. We are blessed.



**THANKS FOR A
GREAT YEAR!**

Melinda Lewis, Greg and Lori Rapier, Marina Chastain, Colby Ainsworth, Lillian Waters, Lena Newman, Maria Rodriguez, Janet Leader, John Warren, Sarah Jimenez, Allison Laybourn, Ilah Turner, Gary Cash, Ileana Maestas, Ann Johnson, Andeen Lovett, Don Lewis, Shari Reyes, Danielle Reyes, Sierra Brown, Tyler Rock, Christine Mendoza, Jessica Mendoza, Nick and Katie Kolitsos, John Popham, Chris and Susanne Fahey, Linda Jacobs, Vicky Chastain, Conney Willis, Amber Keasey, Nate Barton, Joey Healow, Danny Healow, Cathy Healow, and Skyler Brown. Thank you all so much.

(Parents- go in sometimes and give those teachers a hug... They are sharing the greatest gift of all.)

By Special Request from a parishioner! OMEGA-3s

The benefits of omega-3s include

- Reducing the risk of Heart Attacks and Strokes.
- Also helps in reducing symptoms of Hypertension, Depression, Joint Pain and other Rheumatoid problems.
- Also research shows that omega-3s can boost the Immune system and help protect us from an array of illnesses including Alzheimer's Disease.



Just how do omega-3s perform so many health 'miracles'? One way, experts say, is by encouraging the production of body chemicals that help control inflammation in the joints, the bloodstream and the tissues.

You can find omega-3s in:

- Fish (salmon, tuna, herring, sturgeon and mackerel)
- If you don't like fish try flaxseed, canola oil, broccoli, cantaloupe, kidney beans, spinach, grape leaves, Chinese cabbage, and walnuts.

Sign Up Your Kids for Summer Camp Today!

Westminster Woods is a fantastic Presbyterian camp located in Occidental (near Sebastopol in Sonoma County). Many of you are already familiar with “The Woods” and understand the kind of impact the ministry there has on young lives. Some of you, in fact, sent your kids up with us last summer. We had a fantastic time!

This summer we are planning to take kids from Faith. Depending on their ages, there are two options. Both options include all the regular camp activities you can imagine, plus some significant time spent teaching kids about the love of Christ.

- **Adventure Camp – A5b (July 23-26):** One of our dads, John Popham, is going to take a group to this three-day camp for incoming 2nd-4th graders. (Note: incoming 4th graders can choose between Adventure Camp and Sherwood Forest).
– **Cost is \$222.50 if you register by April 1st.**
- **Sherwood Forest – SF4 (July 13-19):** Pastor Jeff Chapman will take a group to this week-long camp for incoming 4th-6th graders. He will actually be the camp speaker and will be with them the whole week.
– **Cost is \$445 if you register by April 1st.**
- **Please note that Faith is sending a group of Junior High students and a group of High School students also the week of July 13-19. Our Youth Pastors, Patrick and Quinn, are coordinating this.**

If you are interested in having your child join us, register on line today (www.westminsterwoods.org). You can also contact us in the church office and we can get you a registration form. Also, if the cost presents a financial burden for your family in any way, please let one of our pastors know confidentially. We have a significant amount of scholarship money set aside specifically for that purpose and can make it work for your family. If you have questions about any of this, please contact either of us. And lastly, the camp program directors will be here at Faith Sunday, March 30th, to meet with interested parents and potential campers after worship. By the way, this camp fills up quickly, so please contact me soon (or just register on your own) if you are interested. Questions? Contact Melinda Lewis or Jeff Chapman

A Message from Frank and Marcella Fodor—They have moved to 402 Meadow Oaks Drive, Dripping Springs, Texas, 78620, and here is what they have to say about their new life:

Marcella & I have taken to this country living very well. I decided to take on a part-time job of School Bus driver and the Bus Barn is but 1.5 miles away. Our Son is working at The Tractor Supply Corp, which is 1/2 mile away, and if Marcella wants to work at a Pre-School, 3 miles is probably what she will be commuting. Oh, yes, the church is 3 miles away as well. It is quite nice with about 500-member congregation. They have 3 services (8:30, 9:30, & 11:00) and are considering an additional service in the evening. The closest Presbyterian Church (about 7 miles away) is small (60 or so) and has no Music ministry (something we both sought) or young children programs. We hope to have our children join us in our worship service. They are 18 miles away (it's called a "Comfort Zone") and close enough if we are needed but far enough to give them "Space". Life here in the "Hill Country" is relatively laid back, and maybe that's what we need after 45 years of living in the hustle-bustle of California. Tell Jeff Chapman we miss the camaraderie of Faith, but we were needed here and it's here we must be.

NEXT FAMILY PROMISE WEEK IS March 23rd to March 30th

You can sign up for the week of 3/23-3/30 on the whiteboard on the wall across from the office. Volunteers are needed for dinner, evening activity and overnight teams, set up, take down, laundry, transporting mattresses to the next church and Team Leaders. We will take sign-ups in the Narthex on February 24 and March 2 after both services. If you have not volunteered but are interested, talk with someone who has or team up with someone who has volunteered before.

\$\$\$\$ Your Grocery Money Well Spent \$\$\$\$

We are pleased to announce that Marthe Sweet has volunteered to become the new **Nugget Friendship Receipts Coordinator**. She will be replacing Ruth Burkinshaw who has faithfully served in that position for the past 10 years. Ruth reports that we usually receive about \$200 to \$300 dollars a year from Nugget Markets which we put toward camper ships at Westminster Woods. We want to thank Ruth for her time and talent and welcome Marthe to the job. You can help the church each time you shop at Nugget if you:

1. Use your ATM (debit card), cash or check but **not credit card**
2. Save your receipts.
3. Put your receipts in the wooden box outside the church office.

Marthe will collect the receipts, fill out the form and send them to Nugget. Faith will receive a check for **1% of our purchases** (excluding milk, CRV, alcohol, tobacco, postage stamps and lottery tickets.) All other purchases count. Let's see if we can increase the amount of money we generate from our purchases at neighborly Nugget Markets. Our children who attend Westminster Woods will benefit from your thoughtful grocery shopping habits. **Remember credit card purchases don't count.**

ARCO Results for February 2nd

We earned \$854.98 from Maloof Sports and Entertainment, plus \$35.02 from our appreciative customers in tip for a total of \$890.00 for Youth Ministry.

The Rev. Dan Fowler Thanks the ARCO Faithfuls

Dear Paul and Pat, and everyone else who worked ARCO:

Oh my goodness what a surprise it was to receive the picture, card and check! WOW! I cannot tell you how much it meant to me, suffice to say I read the note in tears, and gave thanks for you all. I will gratefully use this gift to help our ministry: 1/2 to take our mission team to Mississippi in April, and 1/2 to fund our children and youth's campership fund for summer camp at Westminster Woods. This is an amazing, totally unexpected awesome thing you have done! I am so thankful to have been privileged to be your associate pastor back in the day! And, as far as I can recollect, Although I may've had some of those ideas in regards to the Kings games and fireworks, I do believe both Paul and Pat were more instrumental in getting them going, so the credit at best is shared from a human perspective, and from a heavenly one, the glory belongs to God. From the very depth of my being, I am so thankful to you all, and am blown away by your generosity. "I thank my God every time I remember you!" Phil. 1:3

Please share this email with everyone who participated in the game on Dec 23rd :) You guys ROCK! Go Kings!

In Christ's love,

Dan Fowler, Pastor. Fort Bragg

Presbyterian Women Will Meet February 27th

P.W. is meeting Feb. 27th. Bible Study 10:00 am

Lunch will be served at 11:30 am

Our own Melinda Lewis will be our speaker on *Laughter is the Best Medicine*.



JENNIFER KINCALD SINGS IN "LE NOZZE DE FIGARO"

(The Marriage of Figaro)

Performance dates & times--

Wed. February 27 8pm /

Fri. Feb. 29 8pm / Sun March 2 2pm.

Tickets are \$12 and are available at the box office Long theater at the University of the Pacific campus.. For location of theater and maps see University of the Pacific website

Welcome, New Members!

Bill and Rita Kirk

Bill and Rita Kirk have been married for 38 years and 20 of those years were spent living around the world with the US Air Force. Bill is currently retired from the Air Force and works as a freelance writer and children's author. He is also a Certified Massage Therapist with a mobile practice here in Sacramento. Rita works full-time as a licensed clinical psychologist and when they aren't working they enjoy spending spare time with their three grandchildren.

Frank and Maggie Roepke

Frank and Maggie have lived in Sacramento and Northern California most of their lives. They have two children, a daughter, Tatum and Son, Fritz. When not working Frank and Maggie enjoy camping, bird hunting, fly fishing and hanging out with family. Both are avid swimmers.

Kristen Bye

Kristen spent several years in Santa Barbara; she has a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies. She also is an artist who loves painting and visiting art galleries. Her parents were long time members of Faith Presbyterian Church and since she returned from Santa Barbara has enjoyed attending Faith. She adores animals and loves to pet sit.

John Brophy and Rebecca Westmore

John and Rebecca are native Californians; they have two children, Johnathon and Samantha. John has been employed with United Airlines in San Francisco since 1974. Rebecca serves as Senior Staff Counsel for the California Dept. of Insurance and also serves on the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento Board of Directors. They both enjoy traveling, reading, long walks and fishing.

Walter Newport

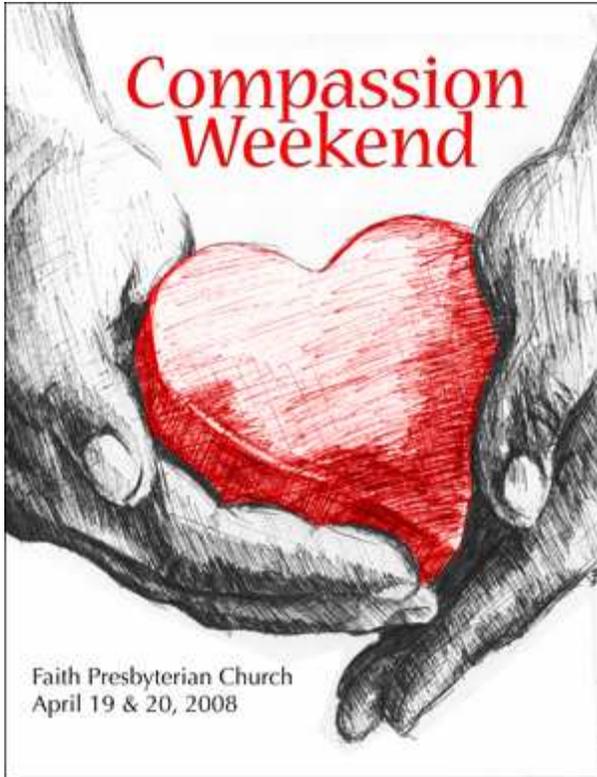
Walter has lived only 10 of the last 40 years in the USA. He spent 23 years in Japan and has traveled all over the world with his children. He is a retired professor of International Cultures, religions and languages. He has recently started a new company in Real Estate Investing, trying to help people who are experiencing foreclosures as well as offering estate management assistance for people going through probate. A few things he really enjoys doing in his spare time are reading theology and working out at the gym.

Dean and Bernice Hopkins

Dean and Bernice met here in Sacramento at the Westminster Presbyterian Church and were married in 1955. They have three children, Lillian, Donna and Stephen. Dean is a retired Aerospace Engineer and while he served in the Air Force they lived all over the country. Bernice enjoys gardening, traveling and genealogy. Dean enjoys home repair projects around his home and his children's homes.

Rudy Buehler

Rudy grew up here at Faith as his father, Peter, was pastor here for many years. He and his wife, Sarah Jiminez, recently moved back into the Sacramento area from Fresno and were naturally led back to Faith. Both are graduates of USC where they were journalism students. Rudy currently works as a local news producer for Channel 13. He also has become an integral part of our high school youth staff.



Support William Land Elementary School

Project Description:

We will be planting flowers in planter boxes and sprucing up patio areas where the START after-school program is held for at-risk kids from the neighborhood.

Who is needed:

Volunteers age 12 and older

What to Bring/Wear:

Wear comfortable work clothes, work gloves, and a hat. Bring water.

Location(s):

William Land Elementary School, 2120 12th St., Sacramento

Date & Time of Project:

Saturday April 19, 9 a.m.—noon, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.

Contact:

Project Leader Joyce Hathaway
Joyce@thehathaways.net

Supporting Senior Citizens And Older Adults In our Community

Project Description:

Our project will provide support to senior citizens living in an Eskaton facility. Eskaton is a not-for-profit company that provides a range of care services to senior citizens/older adults. The project will be painting walls to spruce up the facility.

Who is needed:

Volunteers should be 14 years or older.

What to bring/wear:

Wear appropriate clothing for painting.

Location(s):

Eskaton facilities in Sacramento

Date & Time of Project:

Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.—noon, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.
Sunday, April 20, 9 a.m.—noon, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.