

PresbyNews

Volume 33, No. 7 May 13, 2008

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

**Sunday Services:
9:00 and 11:00 am**

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

Tuesday Nights
Youth Group 7:00-8:45 pm
junior and senior high students

**Sunday May 18
Ordination Sunday**

**Sunday May 25
Jazz Sunday/Spring Brunch
Faith Family Fun Night 5:30pm**

**May 30-June 1
Men's Retreat at
Westminster Woods**

**May 29 JFK Senior Awards
Program 5:30pm**

June 3 Election Day

June 8 Youth 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

MEN'S RETREAT MAY 30-JUNE 1



It's getting close to the last chance to sign up for the retreat for men of all ages at Westminster Woods. You all should get to know the Rev. Dan Fowler will be our speaker who many remember fondly as our dynamic youth minister.

All of Faith's men from first graders to old guys are invited to participate. We'll talk, pray and listen together as Dan leads us in fellowship and spiritual enrichment. We'll hike, build campfires and worship together outdoors under the trees. Optional activities include the Challenge Course, accompanying Paul Keller on a field trip and hike to Bodega Bay, visiting nearby Occidental, walking the Labyrinth and, for some of us, taking a delicious nap in the afternoon. The food is good at "The Woods" and so are the trees, meadows, refreshing air and mild summer temperatures.

The cost is \$115 per person for two nights and four meals. This is for the standard cabins with bunk style beds. The only optional extra charge is \$40 for the Challenge Course for which a minimum age of eight is recommended. For a few of the seniors we have rented Hilltop House at \$175 a person. It has beds, linens, full bathroom and kitchen – all the comforts of home!

Contact Jim Tracy about registration. Ask Paul Keller about hiking. Talk to Bill Frye for questions or comments?



**Refuge
for the
Homeless**

Family Promise Week Is June 15-22

You can sign up for the week of June 15-22 on the whiteboard. The board is on the wall across from the office. Volunteers are needed for dinner, evening activity, 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 5/18 and 5/25 after the first and second services. If you have not volunteered before and are interested, talk with someone who has or team up with someone who has volunteered before. If you have questions call Cynthia Crow (916)392-9141 or Sue Hooper (916)393-2633.

Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!



This catchy approach to protecting your skin from the sun comes from the American Cancer Society, reminding children and adults to slip on a shirt, slap on sun screen, slap on a hat and wrap on sunglasses to protect your eyes and skin from ultra violet rays. When slapping on sunscreen one thin coat is just not enough. In addition to applying one coat of sun screen about 20 minutes before going out in the sun, the Cancer Society recommends applying a second coat of sunscreen 20 minutes after you are in the sun. Don't forget to apply sunscreen to the ears, back of the neck and exposed areas of the scalp. There are sun screen sprays and sticks which can be helpful in reaching those often forgotten areas.

Presbyterian Women Wednesday, May 28, 2008



Our next Presbyterian Women's meeting will be on Wednesday, May 28. Bible study begins at 10:00 am, lunch is at 11:30 am. Bring your own lunch, we will provide drinks and a dessert. Come help us install our new officers:

Barbara Tracy, Moderator
Ardith Ramsdell Vice-/Moderator
Kathy Pehrson, Secretary
Ruth Collier, Treasurer.

Need Help This Summer?



Jennifer Kincaid will be available this summer for: singing at events, house sitting, babysitting, animal watching, clerical work, and any other odd jobs. Please contact her either by phone (916)949-0298 or e-mail at J_Kincaid@pacific.edu.

Thank You



A big thank you to Erin Ainsworth and Rhonda Hankey who covered the office while Kristi was on vacation. All ran very smoothly.

Pastor Patrick Asks “What does this mean?”

We celebrated Pentecost last Sunday. The day that is described by some as the birthday of the church, is told of in Acts chapter two. Tongues of fire descended upon the disciples while they were gathered in Jerusalem and they started speaking in all different languages. It was amazing, crazy and confusing all at once. The people who had gathered from all around the ancient world on pilgrimage to Jerusalem didn't know what was happening. Acts 2:13 tells us that some thought the disciples were drunk. Also from Acts 2:12, others asked the question, “What does this mean?” To this question Peter responded by telling people about the good news of salvation that had come through Jesus Christ. Many people heard this news, believed and were baptized into God's family.

“Oh they're just drunk” and “What does this mean?” were the two responses that morning when the Holy Spirit went to work. One response is dismissive the other inquisitive. One shrugs this unusual experience off by rationalizing, the other seeks understanding. One required no change in life or point of view. The other required a complete turn around, transformation, a reorientation of life toward God. These two responses to the Holy Spirit at work in Acts 2 make me wonder what our responses are individually and corporately to God at work in the world around us. Do we dismiss or rationalize the Holy Spirit's presence and activity? Or, do we ask “what does this mean?”

To ask, “what does this mean?” requires hard work and openness. To dismiss or rationalize what happens around us is the easy road. It requires no change and no risk. Dismissing and rationalizing allows us to stay put maintaining the status quo. So what kind of work does asking “what does this mean” require of us? First, as followers of Christ or as people seeking God, we are observant. We have our eyes peeled for God at work in our midst. Instead of shrugging things off as mere coincidence or people we meet in our day as random encounters, we ask, “What does this mean?” Implicitly, asking this question is a faith statement. It is faith seeking understanding of how God is at work. God isn't the grand puppeteer in heaven, or Homer Simpson aloof in the control room at the nuclear power plant pushing buttons. Asking, “what does this mean?” signifies that we believe that God is doing something here and now, in the present, through the Holy Spirit. God is doing something in the mundane and the extraordinary events of our lives. So asking this question requires us to be observant and to believe. What if you saw that random person as someone sent to you by God? Maybe as someone to encourage you or as someone who needs to hear and experience the love of God through you?

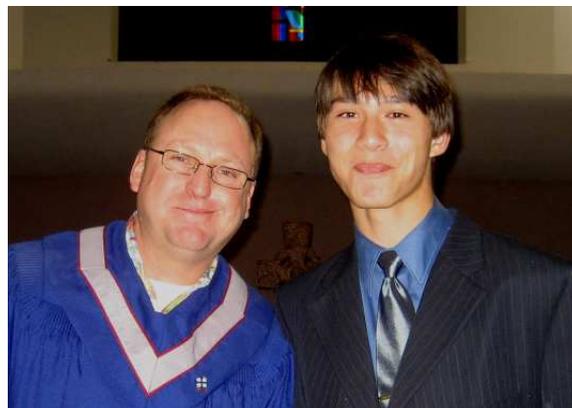
Secondly, asking “what does this mean?” as a church is work because asking the question isn't where we stop. Once we've asked the question, how is God at work in our midst? We must then seek to answer it. The work of discerning the work of the Spirit begins. So how do we do that? What did Peter do? He looked around at what was happening, the tongues of fire, the speaking in different languages, the prophesying and he recalled what the prophet Joel said. He looked back at what God had already done and said in order to interpret what was going on in the present. To begin the work of answering, “What does this mean?” we must know where to turn. We could like some people in acts turn to the culture and say, “well people only act crazy when their drunk.” Or, we like Peter can turn to the scriptures, to our knowledge of Christ and our experiences of God to interpret what is happening around us. As Deuteronomy 6 instructs us, we need to be reciting and re-telling the story of God at work delivering and saving His people. The stories of: God's creating life, Israel's exodus out slavery in Egypt, God's calling His people back to faithfulness through the prophets, the incarnation of God's grace and love in Jesus. The stories of God calling and using ordinary people, fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes and Pharisees to be His witnesses in the world. We need to tell the stories of God's deliverance in our lives. Deliverance from addiction, adultery, greed, pride, neglect of family. When we do the work of learning these stories and recognizing how we are a part of God's story of salvation, we begin to lay the groundwork for answering the question, “what does this mean?” In order to know what God is doing and will do we need to know what God has done in our own lives, in the church and throughout history.

Finally, it is hard work to ask the question “what does this mean?” because if we ask the question we must be ready for an answer that calls us to change, to take a risk, to set off in a new direction, to love people we don't like, to be transformed rather than conformed to sinful aspects of our culture. I once heard a seminary professor say that, “change is always an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.” That's what happens throughout the book of Acts. The good news is that we are not called to change alone, we are not called to risk alone or to confront the ways we have conformed to the world alone. The Holy Spirit calls us into the people of God. On Pentecost people were baptized marking them as heirs to the Kingdom, children of God. As Christian's we are called to faith individually but into community. Together we are the body of Christ. Together we encourage, equip and care fore each other. Together we learn the story of God's deliverance and salvation. Together we try to figure out how God is at work here and now. Finally, together we speak and enact the good news of God's grace and love in the world as God's witnesses (Acts 1:8). Asking, “what does this mean?” is doing the work of “Being a community, loving Christ, making disciples and loving all”. Peace --- Patrick

Faith's 2008 Confirmation Class



Mentor Andeen Lovett, Emma Edwards



Mentor Gary Cash, Preston Tucker



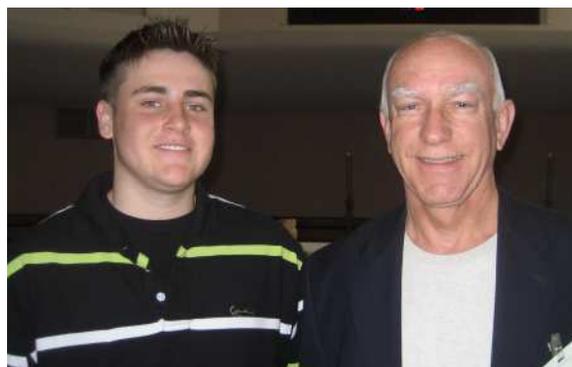
Anthony Lopez, Mentor Cary Kincaid



Bethany Draeger, Mentor Gayle Alexis



Austin Whitted with his parents
(Mentor Al Zarembski)



Greg Rapier, Mentor Hal Turner

Faith's 2008 Confirmation Class



Jessica Mendoza, Mentor Tanya Anderson



Skyler Brown, Mentor Robert Mendoza



Nina Dramer, Mentor Christine Mendoza



Taylor Shahbazian, Mentor Laurie Richardson



Demetrius Moore
(Mentor Roy Bagby)

Dan Fowler's Church and Mission Trip

Dear Pastor Jeff and Faith Presbyterian Church, thank you for your supplying \$1300 in support of Mississippi Mission 2008. Your contribution allowed us to serve our brothers and sisters in Waveland MS according to Isaiah 58:12, touching the lives of Tim Phillips, Miss Florence, Mrs. LaFontaine and Shirley Matheny. Projects accomplished for these clients were: Phillips-completed foundation and sub flooring, Lumberjack Matt felled two pines that were a danger to the house, Lafontaine-completed framing and plywood sheeting of roof to protect the sub floor and frame from rain, Miss Florence-completed vinyl siding and began front steps construction and Matheny-worked with Mennonite team to complete interior framing. We were able to pray and talk with all these clients, sharing our faith and encouraging them as they recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Members of the team were: Rev.



Doug Moyer, Rob Haughwout. Matt Yager of Chapel of the Redwoods; Rev. Dan Fowler, Paula Fowler, Sam Fowler, Abby Fowler, Bud Thompson, Pam Thompson, Lumpoon Botsford and Dale Botsford of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg; Ann Lauha, Michael Beard, John Turnbull, Wendell Rickon, Tim Rickon and Jake Latham of Mendocino Presbyterian Church; and Caleb Word of Bethel Baptist Church of Fort Bragg. We all join in praising God from whom all blessings flow for His provision and protection from heat, injury and illness during our trip.

Yes, you do save
lives.

Adam Bunnell

Survived a brain tumor.
Thanks to the generosity
of BloodSource blood donors,
Adam is a healthy student who
loves to play football and golf.



Not-for-profit since 1948 |
www.bloodsource.org

Faith Presbyterian Church BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, May 25th / 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
On the bloodmobile

All participants receive a FREE T-shirt!

To schedule an appointment, please call
Tammi at (916) 682-5902