

# PresbyNews

Sharing and celebrating the people and events in the life of Faith Presbyterian Church  
(916) 428-3439, www.faithpresby.org, 625 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831

Volume 33, No. 13 August 19, 2008

## 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

September 1  
Labor Day Office Closed

September 4  
Kick-off Choir  
Rehearsal

September 7  
Food Closet Sunday

September 12-14  
All Church Retreat

September 17  
Medieval Christianity  
7pm

September 20  
Youth Ministries Retreat

The PresbyNews is published bimonthly by volunteer writers. Send articles or photos to Editor Jim Park at [Jame-sPark02@comcast.net](mailto:Jame-sPark02@comcast.net)

## SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2008 4:00 PM HARVEST DINNER, AUCTION & RAFFLE



This is the Fellowship Committee's big fundraiser for our Campership Fund. Campership funds are made available to families for children's camp at Westminster Woods, Faith's Fall Retreat and the Women's Retreat.

**Dinner:** Dinner will be catered by Mike Andrade again this year. Our menu will be tri-tip beef, chicken, Texas baked beans, green salad, vegetables, rolls & dessert. Tickets will be on sale in the courtyard starting Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The price of the tickets will be the same as last year: Adults \$10, Teens (13-18) \$5, Kids (12 & under) Free. Please get your tickets early so we can plan accordingly. Invite your friends and neighbors!

**Auction & Raffle:** Please consider donating items for this. New items only, please. Auction forms are available in the narthex. Please fill out completely and leave in the basket. Some ideas for donations: Time/Talent: Babysitting, pet sitting, yard work, handyman jobs, baking, wrapping Christmas gifts, whatever your talent might be. Also, vacation spots, gift baskets, sports tickets, gift certificates, etc. We already have some great donations like a two night stay at Asilomar, gift certificates for Scott's Seafood, Outback, Disneyland, Funderland and more! For auction information, contact Kitty Tatro @ 393-4734. For ticket information, contact Paul Keller @ 392-0304.

## Adult Education this Fall

As usual, we will have a wealth of offerings for adult education this fall. Take a minute to look over these opportunities and consider whether you are being called to a deeper encounter with God through these opportunities for growth and formation. For more information on any of these options, call Bill Frye or Pastor Jim Zazzera



There's a Class for You!

Jim Zazzera, Leader

### **Sunday Mornings 10:05am – 10:55am**

*Exploring the Psalms*

September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26

Some people have called the psalms, the “prayer book of the Bible.” Few books express more passion, more pain, more joy, more real faith. Come and explore with us.

*Nooma Videos*

Leader Jim Zazzera

November 2, 9, 16, 23

Nooma is short films with communicators that really speak to us. Each Nooma touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about, and it comes in a way that fits our world.

*Praying the Scriptures of Advent*

Joan Stock, Leader

November 30, December 7, 14, 21

Praying and thinking through scriptures relating to the Advent season - Mary's story, John the Baptist, and others.

### **Wednesday Evenings 7pm – 9pm**

*Companions in Christ/The Way of Prayer*

Alice Parente & Jim Zazzera, Leaders

10 Sessions, beginning September 24<sup>th</sup>

A ten week study and group experience that leads us to the heart of prayer.

### **Wednesday Adult Study, first Wednesday of each month, 2pm – 3pm**

*Come Thirsty*, a book by Max Lucado Jim Zazzera, Leader

September through June.

Refresh a dry heart and learn how to welcome all that God longs to give us. Max Lucado speaks to his readers right where they are.

### **Wednesday Study, Various Wednesdays, 2pm – 3pm**

*Christianity in the Middle Ages* Bill Frye, Leader

September 17, 24, October 8, 22, 29, November 12, 19

A look at this most interesting period in the church's history – medieval life, ancient popes, the crusades, knights and the meaning of faith for people of those times.

### **Life Groups, Weekly Meetings, various meeting times and places**

Take time each week with a small group to reflect on this week's scripture and sermon, to pray for one another, and to share your life. Join an existing small group or find a group of other people to form your own.



## Story Telling

A few weeks ago, my family and I spent our yearly vacation time at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe. I have mentioned to some of you that this is a regular occasion when we gather with our family from around the United States and our “extended family” from many places and life situations. Though we are not all related by blood or marriage, the 40 (or so) of us are all related in our passionate desire to be together at least once a year. You might guess that this is a time of fun – bike rides, hikes, movies and boating – and you would be right. You might guess this is a time of feasting – Mexican food, burgers, pasta, and lots of desserts – and you would be right.

But for me the heart of our time together is that we tell stories – lots of stories. We tell stories about the past. We tell silly stories that portray our very human side. We tell tragic stories and share each others’ pain. We dream together and tell stories of hoped for futures. We tell family stories - of parents, and siblings, and grandparents, and children. We tell stories of faith and being touched by the Spirit. We tell deeply hidden stories that heal us as we confess who we are to one another. We tell romantic stories of love lost and found. We tell heroic stories of conquering a mountain or an illness. We tell the same stories over and over and rarely grow tired. We invent new stories that deepen our life together.

I wouldn’t miss this time for anything. Some of my family sees this gathering as way above Christmas and Easter in the list of important life holidays. And some of us really do see it that way – as a holiday, a “holy day,” a time that is “set apart.” I think it is the stories that make this time holy. It is the stories that make this time special.

This year, during my time at Tahoe, I find myself reading a book called *What is the What?*, a memoir based on a the true story of one of the “lost boys” of the Sudan. The narrator talks of his life from growing up in a conflicted and impoverished country, to losing his family, to spending years in refugee camps, to coming to the United States. He talks about how easy it is to be overlooked in our world. He reflects on how important it is to tell our stores because in telling our stories we acknowledge that we are God’s beloved creations. As a way of claiming and celebrating his own (often overlooked) life, he ends the book with these words:

“Whatever I do, however I find a way to live, I will tell these stories. I have spoken to every person I have encountered these last difficult days...because to do anything else would be something less than human. I speak to these people, and I speak to you because I cannot help it. It gives me strength, almost unbelievable strength, to know that you are there. I covet your eyes, your ears, the collapsible space between us. How blessed are we to have each other? I am alive and you are alive so we must fill the air with our words. I will fill today, tomorrow, every day until I am taken back to God. I will tell stories to people who will listen and to people who don’t want to listen, to people who seek me out and to those who run. All the while I will know that you are there. How can I pretend that you do not exist? It would be almost as impossible as you pretending that I do not exist.”

We must never forget that each other exist - as we tell our stories we reinforce that. God never forgets that we exist – as we tell our stories we affirm that.

Grace & Peace,  
Jim



## Coffee Talk: It's Good For Your Brain

Want a fun and easy way to power up your brain? Have a chat over coffee, tea, or even warm milk. The key here is the chat, not your choice of beverage. Even if they're brief, occasional bouts of social interaction can help sharpen your wits.

### Keep Chatting for Better Thinking

Whether you engage in conversation with a friend, a family member, or the guy in the express line, keep talking. In a recent study of young adults, a mere ten minutes of face-to-face conversation about a social issue was enough to boost working memory and mental processing speeds. Chitchat was as good as a crossword puzzle, in terms of brain benefits. In fact, the more people socialize, the better their brainpower--regardless of age.

### Mental Aerobics

Conversation requires us to pay attention, remember what was said, deduce the other person's meaning, and come up with an appropriate response--some pretty serious mental gymnastics. And when it comes to mental muscle, it's use it or lose it. Bonus: Socializing can improve your mood, too.



## Refuge for the Homeless

### Oops! 9/21-9/28 is the Correct Date for Family Promise

We will take sign-ups in the Narthex for the week of 9/21-9/28 after both services on 8/24 and 8/31.

Come join us as we provide hospitality for our guest families. Do you like to cook, play games, camp out at the church overnight? You can also help out by being a Team Leader, or help with set up or take down.

If you have any questions, call Cynthia Crow at 392-9141, or Sue Hooper at 393-2633.

### The Powell's Give Thanks

A thank you to all the members of our Faith Family who helped make my Daughter, Jeanne's service a special memory. Special thanks to Pastor Joan Stock, Thomas Stahl, Bill Baker, Kathy Ramos, Lori Nichols, Virgie Cornelius and all the Deacons. Bob and I appreciate your guidance and love.  
Barbara Powel

## Kim Char Returns from Zambia

Dear Faith Church,  
Muli Shani? That's, "How are you?" in Bemba!

As you may know by now, I have returned safely from my trip to Zambia! It was such an incredible experience and I met so many wonderful people.



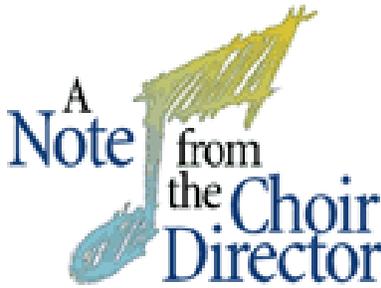
The short twenty-four days I spent in Zambia were packed full of visits to local ministries and sharing in some of their work. We spent a day sewing and reading with women in an adult education program and drove out to a small rural community to help make mud bricks for a school. This included many trips to the creek for water and unsuccessful attempts of carrying it back on our heads (at least for us "muzungu" ladies). We also visited Lifeline in Zambia (LIZ), a care ministry that visits AIDS patients to encourage and pray with them. This was quite a challenging experience for me as I saw first hand some of the tough realities of Africa.

For the camp program, God poured a miracle over us as we were able to get heaps of luggage, camp gear, mattresses, chairs, food, *and* 70 people squeezed into two mini-buses and travel safely to Livingstone in a record-setting seventeen hours, despite breakdowns and numerous military check points.

Camp was an amazing adventure. For ten days I looked after two kids (James, 10 and Josephine, 12). There were many "firsts" had by all. For the kids: the first time leaving Ndola, seeing zebras, giraffes, elephants, and hippos in real life, stepping onto a boat, eating three meals a day, playing silly games and having fun all day learning about God. For the leaders: trying to build friendships with kids using one part Bemba, one part English, one part mime, and a whole lot of love, going without showers and flushing toilets for days at a time, eating nshima and cabbage everyday for three and a half weeks, serving God on a team comprised of people from six different nations and languages, and confronting head on the problems of world poverty, AIDS and homelessness while being open enough to seek and discover the hope and joy amidst these tragedies.

On field, we learned about the meaning of "ubuntu," an African ideal that says, "I am because we are." It's a community-driven concept that we are all one, all connected to each other. In an uncanny way, the world seems a little smaller now. Africa is not just a far away, untouchable world of brokenness, but a home to our brothers and sisters where there is both genuine rejoicing and deep sadness, much like in our own communities. We need them and they need us. It's ubuntu.

I am so thankful to my amazing Faith family for all of your financial and prayer support. This was an experience of a lifetime and I am incredibly grateful for your gift.



## Young Faith Singers

We are currently taking applications for a permanent Director and hope to have one in place by September to begin the new season. If you know of qualified candidates who might be interested, please have them contact the church office for more information.

## Chancel Choir—Serving with Joy

This fall consider a new adventure and become part of the ministry of music at Faith. Join the Chancel Choir, a lively and enlivening group of the church. This year, we we'll continue to expand our musical experience, incorporating a variety of music (Classics Spirituals, Gosper. And Praise Song settings, etc.) we will also have the opportunity to work with guest instrumentalists. As part of the choir experience, we will also expand into a couple of ensemble groups: "The Men of Faith" and "The Women of Faith". If you have any questions, please contact the church office, or Betsy Butler.

## Kick-Off Choir Rehearsal and Dessert Potluck

Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7pm we will have our first choir rehearsal which will be a Dessert Potluck/Rehearsal/Robe Assignment



## The Capitolaires

The Capitolaires joined us to praise God with their voices at both services at Faith Church on Sunday, September 17, 2008.