

## Sunday Services

9:00 and 11:00

Sunday School P-5<sup>th</sup>: 9  
and 11

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 9 am

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 11 am

Adult Class: 10:15 – 11

February 8  
Boy Scout Sunday  
A Look @ Faith

February 16  
Presidents' Day Office Closed

February Wed. Feb 10, 17  
February Tues. Feb 24, Mar 3  
Understanding World Religions

February 17  
Helping Villages in Afghanistan

February 27th—March 1st  
Faith Women's Retreat

February 27  
ARCO 7pm game time

March 1  
SSIP Food Closet  
March 6-7  
30 Hour Famine

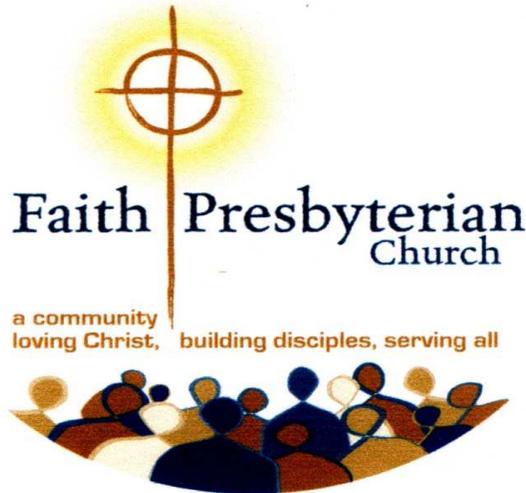
March 7  
"Spring Forward" clocks 1 hour

The PresbyNews is published  
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by a team of volunteer writers.

Please send your submissions to  
Editor Jim Park at

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Or, drop off articles/photos in the  
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Pastors Jeff Chapman, Jim Zazzera,  
Patrick & Quinn Vaughn

**\* \* \* THE RESULTS  
ARE IN \* \* \***

Faith Presbyterian Church  
raised \$1,334.00 for the 2008  
Crop Walk.

The Golden Tennis Shoe award goes to Rudy Buhler who raised \$239.00.  
Second place was Jennifer and Catherine Smith, who together raised  
\$215.00. Coming in a close third was Demetrius Moore, who raised \$208.00.

Please check out Rudy's name along with previous year's winners on the  
Golden Tennis Shoe plaque that hangs in Link Hall.

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in helping to organize the  
walk, collect donations, walk the routes (long & short) and man one of the  
water tables.

All of this is possible due to the generosity of you, the congregation.



## Boy Scout Sunday is February 8th

National Boy Scout Sunday is next Sunday.

Any scouts here at Faith are encouraged to wear their  
uniforms Sunday morning to help commemorate the part  
of the Scout Law that says "A Scout is reverent."



# What Are Those Elders Up to Now?

*Highlights from January's Session Meeting*



The following are some of the decisions which were made this month at Session (elder board) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 a time of devotion spent sharing praise for how God has worked in our lives of faith at Faith and in prayer for events and people in need.

**Vision Action Plan Being Developed** – The vision for Faith has been in place for several years now. We believe we are called to be a “Community loving Christ, building disciples, serving all.” This vision guides us in all we do. Currently, the Session is working on determining exactly how we are to see this vision lived out. In other words, what is it we can do to help foster this vision in our midst. We spent time at this meeting talking specifically about what it means to be a “community” and how we can promote that here at Faith.

**Building Improvements Approved – We're getting new floors!** – Session voted to use funds from our major maintenance fund to redo the floors in all four bathrooms. We've had some safety issues with some of the flooring there which needs to be addressed. Session also voted to use funds from the same account to redo the floor in the narthex (room just outside the sanctuary). Industrial grade carpet will be installed in that area which will help with the acoustics and aesthetics of that space. Maybe now you'll actually hear the other person during coffee hour! Timing on installation of these projects has yet to be announced.



**2009 Budget is Balanced!** – After many hours of dedicated work, and with the phenomenal leadership of Jim Hill (stewardship elder) and Maria Rodriguez (finance elder), the Session succeeded in balancing our 2009 operating budget. Though we were not able to budget for all we had initially hoped for, we are pleased to announce that giving was, once again, significantly increased this year which allowed us to increase our budget from last year as well. Significant increases were given to mission, adult education and personnel. The 2009 budget will be shared with the congregation at our annual meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**New Personnel Manual Close to Being Approved** — After months of hard work by our Personnel committee led by elder Walt McDaniel, Session received a final draft of our new, and greatly expanded, personnel manual. In the coming months, Session will be reviewing this manual for eventual adoption and implementation.

**Great Things Happening in our Finance Ministry!** — Elder Maria Rodriguez reviewed with Session the many and varied ministries of our dedicated financial team. It was such an encouragement to hear of all the work being done by people (everyone from tellers to treasurers) to make sure that the finances God has placed in our hands are well managed.

*If you ever have any questions for any of our elders, a complete list of names, areas of ministry, contact info, and even photos can be found on our web page at [http://www.faithpresby.org/modules/fp\\_faith/?tac=3](http://www.faithpresby.org/modules/fp_faith/?tac=3)*



## Pastor Jim's Column

Why should we care? Why should we listen to someone who is trying to build schools in Afghanistan? (See elsewhere in this newsletter for information on this event on February 17<sup>th</sup>.) Why should we spend time every year reviewing California ballot measures – not to tell each other how to vote, but so that we may make informed and wise choices? Why should we learn about other religions in a graceful, open, and intelligent way? Why should we organize mission trips to build houses or clean up after disasters? Why should we collect food or clothing to give to others? Why should we turn our classrooms into bedrooms for those in need?

For some of you, the answer is obvious and expressed well in our congregational mission statement where we commit ourselves to “serving all.” Yet the reality may not be self evident to all those outside (or even inside) the church.

The church has not always had a great history of serving all. We have often been selective in choosing those we sought to love and care for. In many places and times we have served only those who looked like us or thought like us or prayed like us.

We have also been rightly accused of having agenda that may or may not be God's agenda. We have metaphorically asked people to “sing for their supper,” by asking that people to believe and live as we do in response to our “service” to them.

Personally, I find myself less able to serve people when they do not show gratitude in the way I expect or desire it. Yet that in itself is really expecting a sort of “payment” for what I say I am offering freely.

But none of these approaches to service is God's approach. As the old song goes, “Freely, freely you have received; Freely, freely give.” Or more strikingly, the words of the apostle Paul in the book of Philippians offer these thoughts:

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. Philippians 2:5-7*

Jesus very being was the being of a servant (some translations say “slave”) and we are called to have this same “mind.” Out of love, Jesus came to serve. Out of love we are cared for and saved by God. Out of love, we are called to that same life of service.

“For God so loved the world...” Anything less than loving others in total freedom belies God's grace. We are called to love in all the many ways presented to us. Building wells in poor villages. Listening at the bedside of a friend who is dying. Living as responsible citizens in our nation. Offering a warm coat on a cold day or a cold cup of water after a long, hot journey. Sharing the truth of our lives (and faith) to others. Finding ways to end conflict between individuals and nations. Serving no matter what we receive in return.

One last note...you are a congregation who knows this reality and serves others freely. But I, for one, am in constant danger of forgetting this radical grace of God, this love that comes with no strings attached. So humor me a bit. I need to remind myself in public. God loves you. And by God's love and power I pray that I will continue to learn to “serve all.”

Peace & Grace ----- Jim



# COMPASSION WEEKEND UPDATE

The Compassion Weekend committee is currently meeting to select service projects. We have lots of suggestions but no projects yet that involve cooking, education, or the military. If you participated in one of these projects last year and really enjoyed it, please consider giving us your ideas in these areas.

We are looking for project co-leaders too. Perhaps your Life Group would want to be in charge of a project. Or your Youth Group. Let us know your project ideas by mid-February so we can finalize plans and start sign-ups.

Remember, Compassion Weekend is May 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> this year! Contact DiAnne Brown at 395-6129 or [Sierraskymktg@netscape.net](mailto:Sierraskymktg@netscape.net) for suggestions, comments, or information.

## Sign Up For Supper Club!

What is the Supper Club? You may not know. The Supper Club is one of the best ways to get to know others at Faith in a social atmosphere. Supper Club is for couples and singles.

This is how it works. Supper Clubs will take place on the first Sunday evening of the months of March, April, May and June. We have four categories: host, main dish, salad and/or vegetable and dessert. Each month you will be with a different group of people (usually groups of 8). One month you will be asked to host, one month to bring the main dish, one month a salad and/or vegetable and one month a dessert. On the month that you will be the host, dinner will be at your home. As host you will provide beverages, appetizers (if you wish) and bread or rolls. Everything else will be brought by others in your group. When it is your month to host you will contact your guests a week or two before and let them know what time to come and directions to your home. Most of the time people can bring whatever they wish for their category (they may have a specialty) or you may want to have a theme, such as a barbecue. On the other months you will be going to someone else's home. You will bring what is in the category assigned to you. By the time Supper Club is over you will know a little more about and have a connection to a couple of dozen people! Many friendships have begun this way. After all the sign ups are taken I will mail out your assignments for all the months so you can plan accordingly. Hopefully, we'll have a sub list so if for some reason you aren't able to participate one of the months you can call a sub. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have questions. Look for sign up sheets in the Narthex starting February 1st!



Elder of Fellowship, Kitty Tatro 393-4734



## Starve for food so that others won't starve to death!

Assuming it takes you two minutes to read this insert, 36 children under the age of five will have died by the time you have finished. 36 CHILDREN. And those deaths are from hunger, poverty, and hunger-related diseases – all completely preventable. The good news is that our youth group continues to do something about it by participating in **World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.**

The problem is huge, but the solution is not. Just \$30 a month –roughly \$1 a day – can help feed and care for a child in most developing countries. And the great news is; last year 29,000 children were dying a day of hunger related causes, this year it is 26,000. What we do is making an impact but the fight isn't over.

As students go 30 hours without food (starting Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> at school and ending March 7<sup>th</sup> with a breakfast communion service) they'll get a taste of what it's like to be hungry, all the while reaching out to others in need. And as they do that, their compassion will grow: for people around the world, and right here at home.

### Please help our youth group by:

1. Praying for the Famine participants, and for those they're working to save.
2. Supporting Famine participants with a donation. It's through your gifts that lives are changed forever
3. Joining us for the Break-fast Communion Service at 6:00pm on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks, and God bless!



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

For more information about World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, call **1-800-7FAMINE** (1-800-732-6463), or visit **[www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org)**.

## Family Promise Week Is 3/22 To 3/29 Sign Up 2/22 and 3/8

Come join us as we provide hospitality to our guest families.

Do you like to cook, play games, chat with our families, or "camp out" at the church? Do you like to set up or take down at the end of the week? You can sign up for those activities on the white-board. The sign-up board is on the wall across from the office at the church. You can sign up for dinner, evening activity, and overnight teams, set up, take down, laundry, transporting mattresses to the next church, and to be a Team Leader.



We will take sign-ups in the Narthex on 2/22 and 3/8 after first and second services. If you have questions call Cynthia Crow(3929141) or Sue Hooper(3932633).

## Children's Ministry—Upcoming Events

**Children's Ministry Appreciation Breakfast,**  
Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15.  
for all the people who help with the children.

**Bible Presentation- Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
for all elementary children, third grade and up

**Youth Sunday- May 17 — Vacation Bible School — July 6-10**



## Meet Our Childcare Workers

You may not get to see these faces much because they are often with our littlest ones. We give thanks to them for sharing God's love in a nurturing way.

Preston Tucker is a sophomore at Health Professions High School. He enjoys playing guitar and participating in martial arts. He is also a member of the wrestling team.

Megan Kinkennon is a sophomore at Kennedy High School. She enjoys cooking, baking, writing stories, and watching movies.

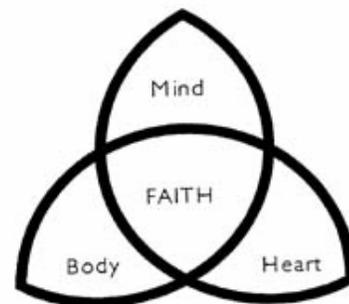
Marina Chastain is a senior at Natomas Charter Performing and Fine Arts Academy. She is looking forward to attending college in the fall. She enjoys playing the piano and visiting with her friends.



## Health Ministries: Stroke Identification

Knowing how to identify the signs of a stroke may save someone's life or prevent serious incapacity.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke. The trick is getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours.



### Recognizing A Stroke: 4 signs to learn

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Sometimes that means disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize a stroke. Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions: And now another (Number 4) symptom has been recognized. Ask the person to **'stick' out the tongue**. If the tongue is 'crooked' or goes to one side or the other, that also indicates a stroke.

### **STR. Read and Learn!**

**S** —Ask the person to **SMILE**.

**T** —Ask the person to **TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE** (i.e., It is sunny out today.)

**R** —Ask the person to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.

**S** —Ask the person to **STICK OUT THE TONGUE**

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher..

**REMEMBER S-T-R-S !!!—THINK “STRESS” [remove the E and use just one S) !!!**



## A Bit about Life Groups...

### Part 1—Part 2 later

You've heard about them and you're wondering what they are like and if you would fit in. Of course you will! Read what some of our Life Group leaders and participants have to say about their Life Groups. And join us, please!

#### **Sunday Night Women's Group**

The Sunday night women's Life Group (7 p.m. at Esther Chapman's house) is filled with women of all ages and all life experiences. We enjoy laughing together, although we also like to get deep when we talk about spiritual matters. We are great at encouraging and building one another up. Each Sunday we share prayer requests and promise to pray for each other throughout the week. Several times a year we go out for a fun time together – a meal or movie – to build on our friendships and enjoy one another's company without any other agenda. We welcome any new members and promise not to put them on the spot if they just want to sit and listen. (*Esther Chapman*)

#### **Sunday Morning Jr. High Group**

I share leadership of the Jr. High life group with Kim Char and Patrick Vaughn, held after the sermon during the early service every Sunday except communion Sundays. It's a fairly short duration (about 20 minutes) meeting—designed to give our younger congregants a chance to pray, think and talk about school, life and the sermon they just heard. It also allows some escape from a prayer and offertory time that can seem like an eternity and tax the patience of a 13-year-old. As a bonus, Manley's Donuts are sometimes consumed. (*Jeff Brown*)

#### **Thursday Night Women's Group**

We are a women's group who meet Thursday evenings in the home of one of our members in either the Pocket or Elk Grove areas. We range in age from 40-70 something. We gather each week hoping to seek God in His word & carry His message in our hearts & into the world, encouraging each other along the way. We laugh and cry & share our joys & sorrows. And as we spend time together, we have become Sisters in Christ & friends for eternity. P.S. We share a common interest in our love of books & reading, thus forming our own book club of sorts. (*Gail Kinkennon*)

#### **Group Monday Afternoon Men's**

We are a men's group, and although most of us are retired, we haven't retired from life! Our time together is engaging and energetic, sprinkled with good humor and wisdom. We laugh a lot, ask hard questions, and continue to wonder how God wants to direct us in our lives. We meet at the church every Monday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. and usually meet for about one hour. (*Jim Zazzera*)

#### **Tuesday Evening Women's Group**

This women's Life Group enjoys reading and discussing books on spiritual formation. We have delved into topics such as healing, mission, prayer, and Christian community---all as a means of drawing closer to God, Jesus, the Spirit, our church, and each other. We currently have nine members ranging in age from 35 to 55 who live in Land Park and Pocket areas. We meet at our leader's house in North Natomas on Tuesday evenings. Sharing our lives (both personal and professional) is a vital part of our Life Group. God has continually guided us in learning, growing, grieving the loss of group members, and embracing the addition of new companions in Christ. (*Alice Parente*)

#### **Monday Night Co-ed Young Adults Group**

I would say that we are twenty-somethings trying to learn to cope with the onset of adulthood in our personal, professional, and spiritual lives. Although most of us grew up in this church, we have a variety of opinions and convictions that make conversations interesting and lively. We exist in the space between children and adults, so we are growing together and strengthening our faith with new revelations and epiphanies each week. We are a fun and social group whose friendship extends outside our weekly meetings: we end our life group discussions on time (at 8:30), but often hang out after to check-in and chat. Learning to be an adult is hard enough; our group tries to make the spiritual part easier. (*Claire Leader*)

# Learn about Helping Villages in Afghanistan

## February 17 at Faith



On Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m. Faith welcomes Budd MacKenzie, founder of Trust in Education (TIE) to speak about TIE's efforts to bring education, healthcare, and economic development to villages in Afghanistan.

Budd is the brother of Faith member Bonnie MacKenzie and brother-in-law of Faith member Bob Johnson.

TIE is a grassroots, non-profit organization founded in May 2003 to provide healthcare, education and economic development programs in Afghanistan. An equal amount

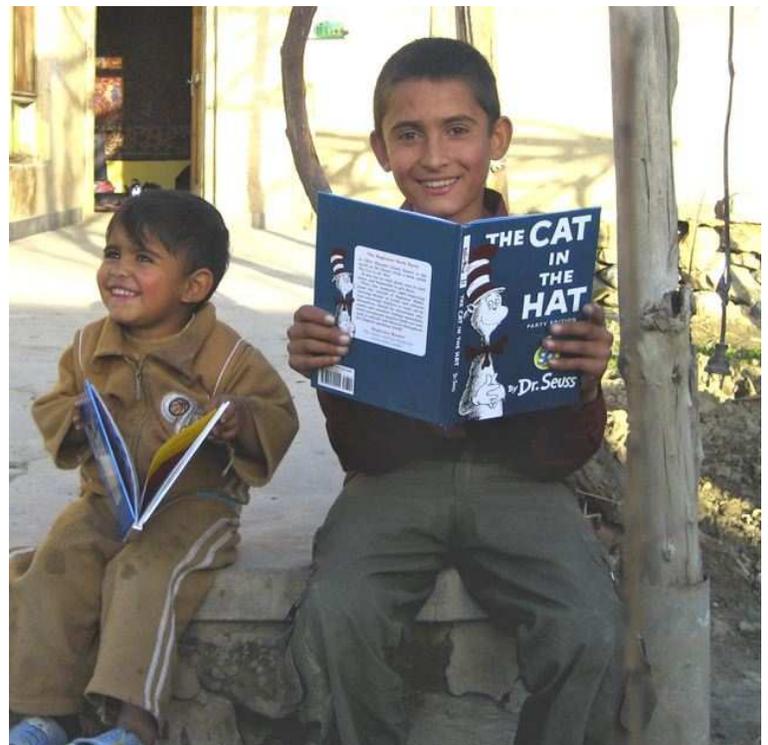
of time is devoted to educating Americans about our involvement in Afghanistan, past, present and future.

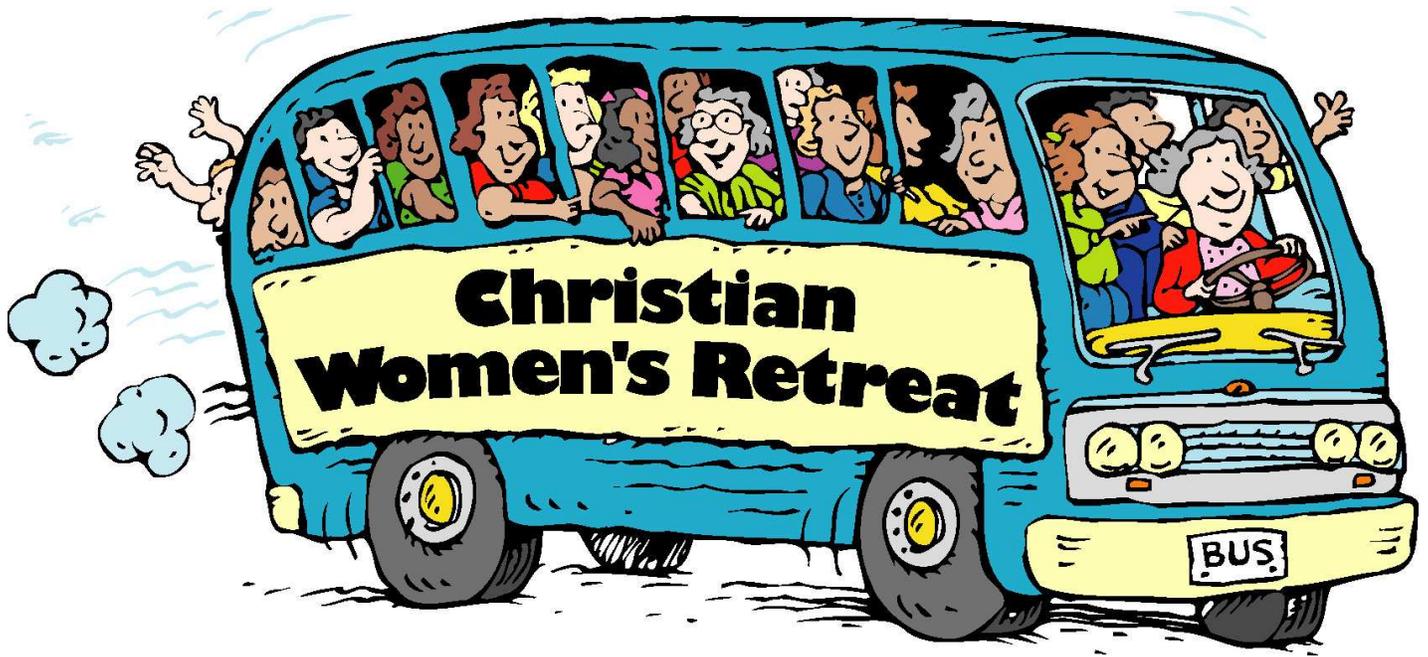
TIE connects American communities and Afghan villages. Through these exchanges everyone discovers that we share more in common than not and experience the joy of making a substantial and long-lasting difference in the lives of thousands.

TIE provides financial and support assistance to dedicated advocates Greg Mortenson (*Three Cups of Tea*) and Sarah Chayes (*The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban*), among others.

Learn more at [www.trustededucation.org](http://www.trustededucation.org).

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this free event.





## Faith Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat scheduled for February 27 thru March 1st has 10 commuter slots available. Commuter attendees will pay \$90 which covers all the retreat sessions and five meals at the Retreat Center. These participants are responsible for their lodging and first priority will be given to those on the waiting list. For those who have paid their deposit, the remainder of the registration fee is due by Tuesday, Feb 10th. The retreat location is the Mercy Retreat Center in Auburn.

Any questions, please contact Ilah Turner at 206-4016.