

Faith Presbyterian Church

# Presby News

Volume 33, No. 11 September 22, 2009

625 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831

(916) 428-3439, [www.faithpresby.org](http://www.faithpresby.org),

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

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## Faith Family Night Sunday September 27th

## One Great Big Family Reunion Every Month

Faith Family Night (FFN) kicks off again on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. On the last Sunday of every month this coming school year, families of all kinds will gather together for good food, good fellowship, good fun, and good learning. Our hope is to develop strong friendships among families and to better equip ourselves as parents in this role to which God has called us.

FFN is open to anybody but geared for families with kids still at home (birth—high school). In addition to sharing a meal together, a portion of the time we are together is also reserved for separate gatherings. Children enjoy a fun-filled program coordinated by Melinda Lewis (the littlest ones are in the nursery). Our youth have an opportunity for some hang-out time together. Parents gather for a special program facilitated by pastors Jeff and Patrick.

In our parents program this year we will offer two options. Parents will be encouraged to choose the option that best meets your current situation.

Pastor Jeff will lead a year-long series entitled *Parenting the Early Years: 10 Biblical Traits Your Kids Will Remember You For*. This is a DVD series hosted by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott and will help us wrestle with the truth that who we are as parents matters more than what we do.

Pastor Patrick will lead a year-long series entitled *Dealing With Today's Teens*. This DVD series is hosted by Mark Gregston and includes lessons like "Understanding Your Teen's Behavior" and "Understanding Your Teen's Needs."

Our FFN kick off is September 27<sup>th</sup>. Join us at 5:15 for dinner on the church patio. We'll provide the burgers and dogs. Bring along a salad, side dish or dessert to share. We end by 7:30.

Any questions? Please contact the church office. Come join us!



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

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## Another exciting year for PresbyWomen

The meetings begins again on September 23. All women in the church are invited to participate. With a couple exceptions for holidays, we meet from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. the last Wednesday of each month September through June. Come when you can and join with us in fellowship, mission projects, and Bible study (held at 10 a.m. prior to the meeting). For your convenience, here are our meeting dates for your calendar:

September 23, October 28, November 18, December 16

2010 January 27, February 24, March 24

April 28, May 26, June 23

All meetings except September, December, and sometimes June are held in Link Hall at the church. This year's September meeting will be held at Pastor Jeff's home so please join us.

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## What Are Those Elders Up to Now?

### *Highlights from Our September 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 here at church. Unless otherwise determined, they are open meetings and church members are always encouraged to come listen in. We'll even share our snacks!

**Vision Trip to Ethiopia is in the Works** – Our elders continue to take steps to explore a long-term relationship with World Vision in Ethiopia. World Vision (through whom we do our child sponsorship program) has asked churches in Sacramento to partner with a region in that part of Africa toward the goal of total community transformation. The first step in that partnership is to send a few leaders from Faith, along with leaders from other Sacramento churches, to the particular region we are considering sponsoring. A trip is in the works for sometime in February or March.

**Making More Space in Worship** – At the direction of the Session, Faith's staff has been working hard to find ways to create more space for silence and reflection in our times of worship together. We have recognized that sometimes in worship, just like in life, we cram in so much activity, words and noise that we leave little room for our God (who often speaks with a still, small voice) to speak. Pay attention these coming weeks to some adjustments we have made in our times of worship which we hope will help us move in this direction.

**Fellowship of the Ordained** – Session has decided to set aside at least one time a year to gather all ordained elders here at Faith together for a time of listening and reflection. We're calling this gathering the "Fellowship of the Ordained." Our hope is to give the current Session an opportunity to tap into the collective experience and wisdom of elders who have served before us. Our first meeting will be October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m. here at Faith. All ordained elders are invited to attend. Please RSVP in the church office. Dinner will be served.

**Protecting Our Children** – Under the leadership of children's elder Christine Mendoza and staff members Quinn Vaughn and Melinda Lewis, a team is working hard to develop and refine our policies around the safety of our children. These policies will include appropriate background checks of all those who work here at Faith with children and youth. They will also include training for us all on how we can best care for the youngest members among us.

**Discerning Our Budget** – At our semi-annual Session retreat this coming October 2-3, the elders have made plans to do some extensive discussion around the vision of each area of our ministry and then to consider the budget we need to support such vision. Our hope is to come to the place where we can present to the congregation in late October a proposed 2010 budget which has been carefully and prayerfully examined.

**Who is in Worship** – It was reported to Session that the average Sunday morning attendance throughout the past year here (September to August) at Faith was 346 people. That number has been slowly growing the last several years.

*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/jp\\_faith/?tac=3](http://www.faithpresby.org/modules/jp_faith/?tac=3)*



## Pastor's Pen

# Making Adjustments Loving Christ



Remember Highlights magazines? I think they are still around, probably still sitting in the waiting rooms of pediatricians all across America. When I was a kid that's the only place I ever saw them, in the doctor's office. And even if I was sick, I always enjoyed flipping through those activity-filled pages.

One feature I clearly remember from Highlights was the page where there were printed two seemingly identical pictures. At first glance, the two scenes looked like exact copies. But they weren't. There were subtle differences. And the game, of course, was to spot the differences. One less button in one picture. The old man's ears were bigger in the other picture. It was always a challenge.

I was thinking about that old game this week as we enter into a new season of worship together here at Faith. Because while the changes are subtle, our leadership has been working hard these past few months to make some adjustments in our Sunday morning times of worship. Perhaps you already noticed some of the differences if you were here last Sunday.

This all began with an exercise our Session has been working through this past year. Our elders have been taking each part of our vision statement (A community loving Christ, building disciples, serving all) and exploring together how we, as a church, can practically live into this vision.

Well, when we got to a discussion about how we can more deeply love Christ as a community, one of the things which became clear to us is that loving God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) is the absolute most important thing we, as individuals and as a community, are to be about. If we miss this one, little else matters. Now love, by definition, implies relationship. You cannot love without another. God himself, who we know is love, is by nature in relationship. Even before the creation of the world, God lived in community as Father, Son and Spirit. It was a community of love, with each member of the community (i.e., the Trinity) constantly setting aside their own desires and wants for the sake of the others.

Well, God desires that same relationship of love with his people, a relationship where each party (i.e., God and us) is continually setting aside their own wants and desires for the other. To love God, however, we must know God. We must be in relationship with God. And to develop that relationship, we must find significant time when we can focus our attention on God, listen to God, learn from God, adore God. This is true of our human relationships and it's no less true with God. If we don't invest attention and time in God, how can we know him? Then, if we don't know him, how can we love him?

All this led us, as leaders to ask this question: How can we at Faith find regular and significant times when we can focus our attention on God to know and, thus, love God? And one of the first answers we came up with is that a great place for this to happen is in our times together in worship on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning community worship has always been central to the life of the church. But if our gathering here each week is going to help promote our love of Christ, then we have to make sure that we leave plenty of time in our worship gatherings to know Christ.

With that in mind, the Session has charged the pastoral staff to thoughtfully reconsider how worship times might be restructured to leave space for this to happen. Well, that's exactly what we've attempted to do. And one of things we've learned along the way is that we want to create more space of us on Sunday mornings to be still, even silent, so as to hear God speak. Sometimes worship, unfortunately, can imitate life. It can get busy, and noisy, and crammed full.

And yet our God is one who often speaks to us in a still, small voice. So the adjustments we have made have been to try to create more space to hear that voice.

In the end, the changes are subtle. At first glance, like those two seemingly identical pictures in Highlights, you might not even notice them. Still, pay attention. See if you can recognize our efforts to speak less and listen more, to explain less and reflect more, to control less and surrender more. And if you have questions or comments along the way, know that we'd love to hear from you.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

Grace & Peace –  
Jeff

P.S. If you weren't in worship this past Sunday, you may not know that we began a new sermon series in the New Testament book of Matthew. In the coming months we are going to be working our way through this first Gospel, bit by bit. It will, I'll tell you up front, take some time to make our way through. There's a lot in there! But we'll take some breaks along the way and my hope is that the journey, in the end, will prove to have been magnificently worth it.

## Now is a Great Time to Join a Life Group!

**What are Life Groups?** Life Groups are small groups of people here at Faith (6-10 ideally) that commit to meet regularly to grow together in their Christian faith. A typical Life Group meeting will include Bible study (based on the Sunday morning sermon), sharing, prayer, and often some good food. Put simply, it's a time for friends to seek together how to apply Jesus' teachings to their daily lives.



**Who can belong?** These groups are open to anybody in our church or community who has this desire to grow in faith and is willing to make a commitment to the group.

**How do I sign up?** Easy. Look through the list below of potential groups and choose the one that might work best for you. Just contact one of our pastors or the church office and indicate your interest in that group. We can even help you choose one that might best fit your needs. Then, we'll help get you connected.

**Still have questions?** Contact pastors Jeff Chapman or Jim Zazzera, or any of our life group leaders. They would love to tell you lots more! A list of their names and contact info is on the "spiritual growth/adults" page on our web site – [www.faithpresby.org](http://www.faithpresby.org)

### Existing Life Groups – September 2009

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Sunday Morning mixed (10:30 @ church)       | Tuesday evening women (7:00 in a home in Elk Grove)     |
| Sunday morning high school (during worship) | Wednesday morning men (6:30 coffee shop)                |
| Sunday morning jr. high (during worship)    | Wednesday evening mixed (7:00 in a home)                |
| Sunday evening women (7:00 in a home)       | Thursday morning men (7:00 downtown)                    |
| Monday afternoon men (1:30 @ church)        | Thursday morning women (9:30 @ church)                  |
| Monday evening young adults (7:00/home)     | Thursday afternoon older adults – mixed (2:00 @ church) |
| Tuesday morning men (6:30 @ coffee shop)    | Thursday afternoon women (1:00 in a home)               |
| Tuesday afternoon women (5:00 in a home)    | Thursday evening women (7:00 in a home)                 |
| Tuesday evening mixed (7:30 in a home)      | Thursday evening college group (7:00 in a home)         |
| Tuesday evening women (7:00 in a home)      |   |

## HARVEST DINNER, AUCTION & RAFFLE

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of fellowship and fundraising. Proceeds will benefit Faith's Campership Fund. Campership funds are made available to families for children's summer camp at Westminster Woods, Faith's Fall Retreat and the Women's and Men's Retreats.

Dinner will be catered by Mike Andrade again this year. The menu will include tri-tip beef, roasted chicken, Texas baked beans, rosemary red potatoes, Sloughouse corn, green salad, rolls, dessert & beverages. Tickets will be available Sunday morning in the Courtyard. Cost of tickets: Adults \$10, Youth (11-17) \$7, and Kids (10 & under) free. Please purchase your tickets early so we can plan accordingly.

Please consider donating items for our auction & raffle—new items only, please. Donation forms are available at the ticket sales table. Please fill forms out completely and leave in basket and you will be contacted by one of our committee members.

Some ideas for donations: Time/Talent: Babysitting, petsitting, yard work, handyman jobs, baking, wrapping Christmas gifts, gift baskets, homecooked meals, group donations from life groups, whatever your talent might be. We already have some great donations including a one night stay at the Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley Hilton, 4 rounds of golf at Land Park Golf Course, 4 Tahoe Donner Lift Tickets, Great America Tickets and Gift Certificates from Le Rivage Hotel, Scott's Seafood, Trader Joes, Vics Ice Cream, Nugget Market, Cheesecake Factory and more! If at all possible, please donate early.

For auction/ticket information, please contact Lori Rapier at 267-3614 or [ggl-rapier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggl-rapier@sbcglobal.net).



# Getting Involved at Faith is Easier than Ever!



Are you new to the church or a long-time member looking for a way to get involved, serve God, and meet some new friends? There's so much going on at Faith but how do you find out who's in charge of what?

Look no further than "*Pathways to Service*," a new booklet listing all ministries in the church with a brief description, contact person, and phone number. Sort of our own in-house Yellow Pages!

Pick up your copy of *Pathways* along with 1/2 sheets which provide a listing of each ministry. We ask you to mark which ministries you are active (A) in or which one(s) you are interested in (I). Turn these forms into the office or at the Welcome Center by October 4 and you'll be contacted later in October regarding your area(s) of interest.

Additional copies of the *Pathways to Service* booklets and 1/2 sheets will be available in the Welcome Center and church office. We hope that you peruse the booklet and consider how you might get more involved in the life of Faith Church.

## Men's Retreat 2010 – Dates Announced!

Mark your calendars now for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Men & Boys Retreat at Westminster Woods. We're scheduled for June 4-6, 2010. Make sure you keep this weekend open for a fantastic time



## Israel-Jordan Enrichment Tour

The Chinese Grace Bible Church is planning an eleven day tour of Israel and Jordan, visiting historical sites mentioned in the Bible. These will include the Mount of the Beatitudes, Capernaum, Tiberius, the Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Darden Tomb, Masada, Petra and other places.

The tour will be February 8<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Chinese Grace Bible Church would like members of Faith Presbyterian to join the tour.

Those interested can get a digital brochure.  
Contact Alan Lew at [alanlew727@gmail.com](mailto:alanlew727@gmail.com)  
or phone 916-421-5085.  
Contact Lew before September 30.



## THE FLU: *What You Should Know*

1. More than 36,00 people in the U.S. die every year from "the flu" or complications from the flu.
2. The flu is a virus.
3. It is spread from person to person, from coughs, sneezes and hand-to-hand contact.
4. Adults over 50 years of age, children ages 6 months to 18 years of age, all people with chronic disease such as diabetes, asthma, pregnant women, and caregivers who live with and take care of at risk individuals should get the flu shot every year.
5. You need to get the flu vaccine every year to be protected. Once you receive the vaccine it takes approximately 2 weeks for the vaccine to be effective.
6. Other than getting the flu shot, you can protect yourself and others by covering your mouth when coughing and sneezing.

### **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN.**

These Flu Clinics are for 2009 Seniors and High-Risk people. There will be a \$10.00 for the seasonal flu shot

Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center  
Tuesday, October 20th 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
915 27th St.

Sears "Drive-Thru"  
Friday, October 23rd 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
5901 Florin Mall

Fruitridge Community Center  
Wednesday, October 21st 10:30 a.m.-1:00p.m.  
4000 Fruitridge Road  
Sacramento, CA

Pannell Center  
Thursday, November 5 th 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
FREE COMMUNITY FLU CLINIC  
2450 Meadowview Rd.  
Sacramento, CA



## Tracy Tutoring Begins

The school year has begun, and math tutoring will again be available this year. Sessions will officially begin on Monday, September 21 and be held in Room 2 on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the year with the exception of September 28 and 30 and November 2, 4, and 9. Please note that I am more than happy to set up special sessions as soon as possible for students who run into trouble when I am unavailable. In addition, I am happy to meet before September 21 with any student who started school in August and needs help; just give me a call at 428-0311.

On regular tutoring days, students in grades 4-8 should arrive as close to 3:15 p.m. as possible since the focus will be on their needs until 4:30 p.m. High schoolers should plan to arrive around 4:30 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule can be made by special arrangement. Of course, all students should come equipped with their textbooks, paper and pencils, and any other items (e.g., calculators, rulers, protractors, etc.) that they might need.

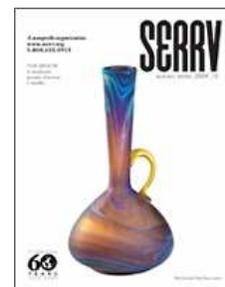
If you would like more information, please feel free to call me at 428-0311. I look forward to helping students be successful in math once again this year.

**Barbara Tracy**

## Have a Just Christmas Faith College Life Group to Host 2nd SERRV Sale

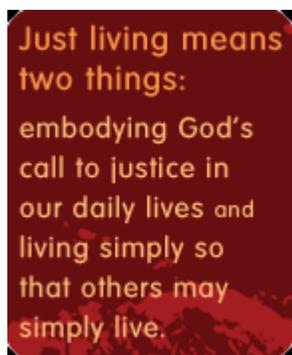
You are invited to shop for beautiful and fairly traded gifts, house wares, accessories and other hand-crafted items from artisans and farmers living in developing regions by visiting our **Just Christmas SERRV Sale** (not for profit!!!).

The sale will run for 4 weeks from **November 8<sup>th</sup> to Nov 29<sup>th</sup>** on **Sundays in the Faith Presbyterian Church Narthex**.  
Bring your holiday gift list! Checks payable to Faith Pres.



Organizing the sale is the Faith College Group - A small group with a big heart for those who suffer from preventable injustices like hunger and poverty. We strive to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8), and one tangible way we participate in this mission of **Just Living** is by hosting a **Just Christmas Fair Trade Table** at Faith.

As Christmas approaches, the largest purchasing month of the year, we want to provide an opportunity for all of us at Faith to consider the power of our purchases. With our gift buying we can uphold the Godly standards of...



*transparency and long term relationships,  
fair pay labor,  
employee empowerment in decision making,  
equal opportunity for women,  
environmental integrity in production,  
respect for cultural identity,  
reasonable working conditions,  
child protection from exploitation and  
life sustaining payment for products.*

The **Just Christmas Table** is hosted in partnership with SERRV, a nonprofit organization with 60 years of experience, dedicated to eradicating poverty by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide.

With each purchase, you help artisans like A. Dowlethbee, a basket weaver who works with SERRV's partner SHARE in India. She says, "Customers who buy our baskets can be a part of creating a future for us."

SERRV at [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)

More info on the Just Christmas Table. Contact [qvaughn@faithpresby](mailto:qvaughn@faithpresby).