

Faith Presbyterian Church

Presby News

Volume 34, No. 1 January 19, 2010

625 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831

(916) 428-3439, www.faithpresby.org,

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



Annual Congregational Celebration and Meeting Coming January 24th

*A delicious lunch. Photo slideshow of this past year.
Celebration of ministry highlights. And more!*



Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our annual congregation meeting and celebration on Sunday, January 24th, at 12:15 p.m. in Link Hall. Members are highly encouraged to come and all are welcome! Childcare will be available.

Included on the agenda that day will be the election of our new slate of officers brought by our Nominating Committee. This year's nominees include:

Deacons: Rick Williams, Jane Owen, Roy Chastain, Tanya Anderson, Gail Kinkennon, and David Bilbo

Elders: Rick Stern, Walter Newport, Sarah Ainsworth, and Jim Tracy.

In addition, the Session will bring a motion to change the by-laws to allow us to add a thirteenth elder to the Session. The Session has long felt that a major area of our ministry at Faith that needs formalized leadership is the area of communication. Therefore, the Session proposes that an additional elder be added to the Session who will work alongside a team to develop and enhance this important aspect of our congregation's ministry. This would require changes to the by-laws that are presented below for your review and vote at the annual meeting:

Section 4.1. The spiritual affairs, government, and discipline of the church shall be controlled and directed by a session consisting of any called Pastor, Co-Pastor, or Associate Pastor and thirteen (13) Elders in active service (G-10.0101; Section 9151)

Section 7.5. The Elders shall be divided into three (3) classes of four (4) adults.

Step Into Africa...In Elk Grove! World Vision Experience: AIDS



Can you survive the journey of a child? The World Vision Experience: AIDS exhibit is coming to your area! You and your family are invited join us on this amazing walk-through experience. You will virtually journey to Africa and walk in the steps of a child affected by AIDS.

This FREE interactive exhibit combines a stirring audio tour with captivating photography, transporting you to the heart of Africa and opening your eyes to the AIDS pandemic. This experience is life-changing and not to be missed!

Coming to our area January 23-29!

The World Vision Experience will be at First Baptist Church of Elk Grove from January 23-29. Though the experience is free of charge, you must, however, reserve at time for your tour. (Please allow 20-30 minutes for each Experience tour.) Also, be aware that the optional audio portion of the Experience contains situations that may be disturbing to children younger than 12. Parental discretion is advised.

Visit www.worldvisionexperience.org to find out more about the tour, preview the stories and more.
Or go to the First Baptist web site at www.fbcg.org for more information

First Baptist Church of Elk Grove
8939 Stockton Blvd
Elk Grove, CA 95624
916.685.4821

What Are Those Elders Up To Now?

Highlights from the January 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 2nd 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!



Our Voice Was Heard by the Larger Church – Session enjoyed a wonderful visit from Dan Roth who is one of the commissioners elected by our Presbytery (the local governing body of the Presbyterian Church) to go and represent us at our bi-annual national gathering (General Assembly) this coming June. Dan came to hear from us about our hopes and concerns for the larger denomination so that those might be represented to the larger church.

2010 Operating Budget Approved! – Due to the faithfulness of God and the generosity of this congregation, Session was able to approve the proposed 2010 budget in full. Especially in light of the current economic climate, this is something to be celebrated! The 2010 budget reflects an amazing 16% increase in pledges from the congregation! Full copies of the budget and an opportunity for the congregation to ask questions will be made available at the Annual Congregational Meeting Celebration on January 24th.

Team Appointed to Consider a Sabbatical for Pastor Jim – Pastor Jim Zazzera, having now served here at Faith for over six years, is eligible for a well-deserved sabbatical. A team of Session will be working with Jim in the coming days to refine the content and parameters of that time away.

Building Improvements Task Force Appointed – Under the leadership of elders Dave Williamson and Lori Ravier, Session approved the formation of a task force to immediately begin work on exploring necessary expansions or improvements to our facilities. This group will include one member of the building committee and at least three other members-at-large from the congregation. Their task will be to conduct a thorough study of current facilities expansion needs here at Faith which will include seeking input from both the leadership and the congregation-at-large.

PresbyNews Will Begin Showing Up Twice as Often – Session voted to begin sending out PresbyNews twice a month beginning in March, 2010, so that we can enhance the communication of our ministries. We will also begin offering an electronic version of PresbyNews for those who would rather receive this publication via e-mail. This will help us not only save paper, but also money on postage. Plus, it comes in color on your computer!

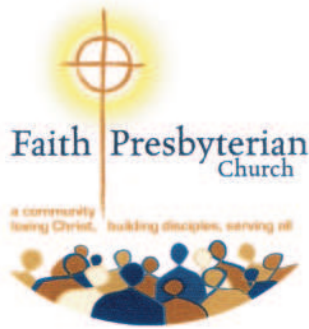
Session Considers How to Handle 2009 Surplus – Amazingly, we ended 2009 with about a \$44,000 net surplus in our budget! Session is aware that we need to prayerfully seek God's direction on how these unexpected funds are to be faithfully used. Therefore, our finance and stewardship teams will be exploring how we are called by God to allocate these extra funds and making recommendations to Session.

No More Committees at Faith – It was enthusiastically agreed that all Session committees will now be referred to as Session "ministries" or "teams". Session agreed with the recommendation of the Lay Ministry Team that these new names better capture the active and Christ-centered purpose of our Session teams. So, no more Stewardship Committee, for instance. Now they are our Stewardship Ministry Team!

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

What Sort of Church Are We Supposed To Be?

Part I ~ A Church Loving Christ



Many churches have Vision Statements, succinct declarations of what it is they believe they are supposed to become. Faith is no different. For several years now, we have publicly stated that we are *A Community Loving Christ, Building Disciples, Serving All*.

Whether you notice them or not, these words appear emblazoned on top of our church stationary, front and center on the cover of our bulletins, and even on the cover page of this newsletter.

For our Session (and perhaps for you as well), these words are becoming so much more than a catchy saying. They are, rather, something we are trying to live. In fact, for this past year our elders have been working hard to prayerfully consider how we can actually *become* this sort of church. This consideration has resulted in something we are calling our Faith Presbyterian Church Vision Action Plan.

Briefly, the Action Plan is an attempt to give definition and intentionality to each of the four parts of our Vision Statement: loving Christ; building disciples; serving all; community. For instance, what does it mean for us to “Love Christ?” And what sorts of things can we intentionally *do* to promote the love of Christ here in our community?

This article is the first of a four part series where I want to share with you what the Session has come up with in their Action Plan. As you read these articles, you’ll gain a clear sense (I hope!) of the vision, passion and plans of your current (and past) leadership here at Faith. Again, this is sort of church we believe God has called us be. These are some of the ways we believe we can, with God’s grace, get there.

First, how can we become a church loving Christ?

Loving God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) is the most important thing we, as individuals *and* as a community are to be about. If we miss this one, little else matters.

Love, by definition, implies relationship. You cannot love without another. God, who we know is love, is by nature in relationship. 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. Trinity) constantly setting aside their own desires and wants for the sake of the others. God wants the same relationship of love with his people, a relationship where each party (i.e. God and us) is continually setting aside our 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; 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?

That leads us to this question as leaders. How can we help the people of Faith to find regular and significant times when we can focus our attention on God to know and love him? Though there are lots of ways to answer this question, our Session has focused on *two ways* we believe we can promote this part of our Vision.

First, we want to intentionally create and promote opportunities for the people of Faith to gather together in worship and together give our focused attention and love to the presence of God in our midst and to the ways God may be leading us.

While this will happen primarily on Sunday mornings, but we also want to offer other special opportunities to worship together (e.g. Lent, Advent, retreat settings, etc.).

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When we do gather to love Christ in our worship together, we want to keep the following in mind:

- We want to invite people into opportunities of solitude and silence, encouraging us all to “be still and know that God is God.” (Psalm 46:10)
- We want to continually evaluate which elements of our services disrupt or distract from this sort of worship (e.g. announcements, frantic activity, rush, etc.) and eliminate or minimize those elements.
- We want to constantly evaluate the language we may use to make sure it does not deter people from attention on God.
- We commit to regularly sharing the good news in worship of God’s love and what God has done for us. Sometimes that good news will be challenging. Sometimes it will be comforting.
- We want to offer regular testimonies in worship from people who can tell us how they have personally experienced the love of God in their lives
- We continually will ask how we feel our hearts expanding to love God.
- We will seek ways we can help people enter into places of reverence before God in worship.

Second, we also want to encourage the people of Faith to be involved in regular times of individual personal worship.

Our hope is to equip each member of our congregation, young and old, to develop a daily discipline of privately giving some focused attention to the presence of God in their midst and to the ways he may be leading them. To promote these times of regular devotion, we will continually provide resources and training which will help people develop this daily discipline. We, as leaders, will also seek to model this in our own lives.

There are, of course, countless ways we as a community can grow in our love for Christ. Our love for Christ can, in fact, be evident in everything we do. As leaders, however, it is in these times of worship, both public and private, that we really hope to help us all deepen in that love. After all, everything else that we are called to do as Christians is rooted, first and foremost, in that love we have for Christ.

I look forward to worship with you this Sunday as we seek to love Christ together.

Grace & Peace, Jeff

SIP THIS to KICK a COLD

If you managed to walk away from the holidays without your nephew's, aunt's, or fellow plane-passenger's cold, good for you. But if not, here's a quick way to feel better.

Brew yourself a cup of hot tea. Sure, it's a psychological comfort. But studies show it might provide more than that when it comes to soothing your symptoms.

A CUPPA COLD RELIEF

In a small study, drinking a hot, fruit-flavored beverage seemed to offer wider ranging cold and flu relief than sipping a room-temperature drink did. Specifically, sore throats were better soothed, and fatigue was kept more effectively at bay. So follow doctor's orders and keep liquids coming—just warm them up first.

HOW HEAT HEALS

Researchers suspect that it was the taste, smell, and temperature of the drink that did the trick, with the heat being particularly helpful at stimulating the production of throat soothing saliva and mucus. It's also possible that there was some placebo effect in drinking a warm, fruit-flavored beverage.

COMING UP

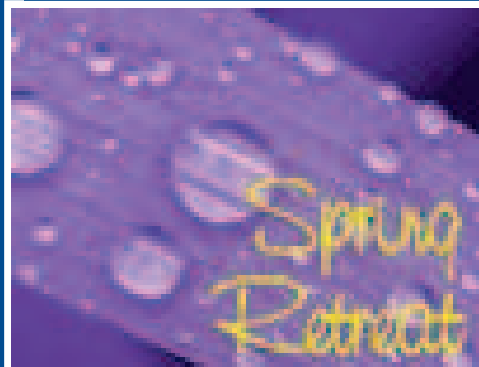
Presbyterian Women



P.W. will be meeting Wednesday January 27 th.

All women are welcome

1. Bible Study at 10:00 am
2. Lunch at 11:30 AM. Bring a sandwich
3. P.W. Birthday Offering
4. Guest Speaker is Geri Beck Projects in Ethiopia



Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Give the gift of retreat to someone special to you.

12th Annual Faith Women's Retreat

March 19 - 21, 2010, Mercy Center in Auburn

"Stories of Friendship: Knowing & Being Known"

Leaders: Joan Stock & Quinn Vaughn

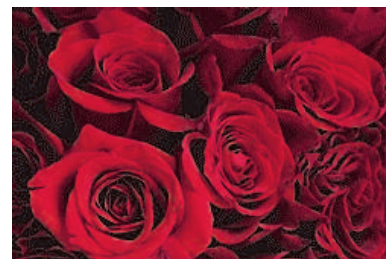
\$165 (we will gift wrap for Valentine's Day)

Last day to register, Sunday February 7, (after 1st and 2d services)

Questions: Laurie Richardson 930-4227 or Dawn Roarity 427-8610

Couple's Weekend

Want to spend a weekend in a romantic Valentine getaway? Sign up for The Couple's Weekend at the Presbyterian Conference Center on beautiful Lake Tahoe. February 5th through 7th. Cost is \$430 per couple for room and board. Much of Saturday is a free day when couples can enjoy the many fun things to do at the South Shore. Ken and Mari Harrower are highly experienced and well-qualified leaders. Brochures are available at church.



SIGN-UP FOR THE SUPPER CLUB—1st Sunday eve March thru June

The Supper Club may be for you! It is one of the best ways to get to know others at Faith in a social atmosphere. The 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 beginning January 31st!

Elder of Fellowship, Lori Rapier 267-3614

Faith Serves Ethiopia

Where in the World is Abaya?

As you may know, a team from Faith will travel this March to a region of Ethiopia called Abaya. On behalf of our church, elders Walt McDaniel and Maria Rodriguez, and Pastor Jeff Chapman, will go with a group from World Vision to explore the possibility of partnering with others in seeing the transformation of this community which has been devastated by extreme poverty. While Ethiopia is a nation rich in tradition and abundant in beauty, it is also a nation with a troubled history which includes years of famine and unrest which have made farming a struggle on the majority of Ethiopians who rely on the land for survival.

World Vision has been at work in Ethiopia since 1971. Today, more than 187,000 children live in 65 community development areas which World Vision works alongside to improve lives for generations to come. The challenges, which are many, include the following: 119 of every 1,000 children die before they reach the age of five (Compare that to 7 in 1,000 here in the U.S.); 47% of children younger than five suffer from stunted growth; life expectancy in Ethiopia is just 53 years (78 years in the U.S.); per capita income is just \$220 a year; adult literacy rate is only 36%.

These conditions are found in places like the Abaya woreda (or district) in south central Ethiopia to which we will travel. Because the poverty in this region is so severe, and because little development has happened here in recent years, World Vision is seeking to begin work there immediately. World Vision staff has already conducted assessments of the community need in this area of 107,000 people living in 16,766 households. This survey has made clear that the greatest needs in Abaya include the following:

1. Access to safe water: Only 28% of families in Abaya have access to clean, safe drinking water and just 20% have access to adequate sanitation practices.
 2. Food security: Most families in Abaya rely on farming for their survival. They grow wheat, barley, corn, coffee, sweet potatoes and cassava as well as cultivate fruit trees. Many families also rear livestock. Unfortunately, outdated farming techniques, poor soil, environmental degradation, deforestation, crop and livestock disease, and lack of improved seed and animal stock keep productivity low and children without adequate nutrition.
 3. Education: The quality of the existing 13 schools in Abaya is poor and traditional attitudes keep enrollment low. Only 61% of elementary-school aged children are enrolled and the numbers drop to 35% in junior high.
 4. Health Issues: Abaya families are served by just three health clinics and 15 hospital posts. Not one single doctor works full time in the area and families must rely on the care of just 15 nurses and 38 community health agents. Only 40% of the population has access to health services and only 58% of the children are fully immunized.
- Women's Issues: Harmful traditional practices in the area include early marriage for girls, female genital mutilation, lack of gender equality and a low value placed on the education of women.

In response to these desperate circumstances, World Vision hopes to partner with congregations like Faith to aid community leaders in Abaya to develop interventions which will bring about lasting change by addressing physical, social and spiritual needs. It is a conviction of World Vision that when those who benefit from these programs play a major role in their design and implementation that local ownership leads to a sense of empowerment and leads to stability. For this reason, the local World Vision leadership in Ethiopia is made up almost exclusively of Ethiopians.

Our goal on this Vision Trip, then, is to explore whether or not God is calling Faith to join in this partnership and work towards helping these struggling families and communities in Abaya develop the skills, tools and resources they need to thrive. Please stay tuned for more upcoming information about this upcoming Vision Trip, including a special presentation in worship on January 31st. In the meantime, if you have questions about any of this, please feel free to contact our mission elder Rudy Buehler.



Family Promise News

Once again Family Promise arrived on December 13th for our hospitality week. We had a small group with two families consisting of Wenda, Karim, and Jamil, and Mark, Elisha, and Malisha.

Thanks to the 66 Faith volunteers who helped out with this important mission by setting up the church, welcoming our guests with dinner, company, activities, staying overnight and getting the church back in its original order.

Shopping for breakfasts and lunches was taken care of by Glenda Arellano. Sharon and Cary Kincaid, Cynthia Crow, Jeff Brown, Larry and Jo Thommen handled the set up by getting mattresses and bedding and other necessary items into the rooms for the families. Cynthia Crow, Kelly Latimer, Kent Kim, Marthe Sweet, and Debbie Barton arrived early to open up the church for the dinner teams and be there to greet the guests when they arrived from the Day Center. The dinner team then took over, providing meals and desserts. The chefs were Dan, Christa, and Justin Morris, Bimbo, Bunmi (and son) Akinsanya, Kent Kim, Matt Bailey, Rhonda Hankey, Marthe Sweet, Ruth Collier, Mary Nabors, Hilde Telow, Cynthia Crow, Glenda Arellano, Audrey Sherfy, Vicky Chastain, Melody Andersen, Mary Masterson, Joyce Hathaway, Marlene Calbo, Mike, Lori, and Dylan Nichols, Matt Berger, Shari and Natalie Reyes, Janet Sather, John, Kelly, Julia, Claire and Emily Latimer. The families also joined the church at the Advent dinner on December 16th.

When dinner was over and all cleaned up the activities crew who arrived next were Jennifer and Catherine Smith, Erin and Sarah Ainsworth, Janet Leader, Jim and Barbara Tracy, Cynthia Crow, Vicky Chastain, David and Sandi Bilbo, Jordan Larson, Gary and Alyssa Cash, John, Kelly, Julia, Claire and Emily Latimer. Games of chess and foosball were played along with other activities.

The evenings ended with night crews of Dan and Justin Morris, Chuck Bell (2 nights in a row!), Nancy Arkelian, Glenda Arellano, Jo and Larry Thommen, Marianne Jenkins, Michelle Sweeting, and Brian, Maegan, Trevin and Collin Reynolds. Marianne and Michelle also stayed Saturday morning to serve a warm breakfast for the families.

Larry and Jo Thommen, Jim Tracy, Matt Bailey, Lee and Patrick Bush arrived early on Sunday morning to take care of the take down work and get the church back together and got the mattresses ready for Bob and Georgianne Becker to take to Congregation Beth Shalom for the Christmas week.

The faithful laundry crew who washed all of the bedding and returned it to the church nice and clean and ready for the next visit on March 7th-13th is Ann Johnson, Andeen Lovett, Erwina Bush, and Sarah Ainsworth.

Any leftover food was delivered to the SSIP Food Closet so that the food could help others.

P.S. One of our previous families, Nell and her grandchildren, were accepted into the mentor program through the Faith and Homeless Family Initiative where they will be assisted with housing and daily living. Wenda and her boys along with Mark and his family have also found housing! Even with those successes we know new families will be arriving in need of our loving support so we encourage you to join the Family Promise ministry at Faith and participate during their next visit. The white board is hanging in the hallway for sign ups, please join us. ☺



	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Worship Service	9:00am	9:00am	9:00am	9:00am
Worship Assistant	John Coupal	Marianne Jenkins	Janet Leader	Mark Laybourn
Ushers	Don & Jan Sperling	John & Sally Ravas	John & Maria Rodriguez	Hal & Ilah Turner
Greeters	John & Sally Ravas	Bob & Georgianne Becker	Larry & Noreen Freund	Jim & Betty Park
Sound	Bill Baker	Don Sperling	David Nash	Rick Hom
Coffee Preparers	Kathy Ellis Marianne Jenkins	Dick & Beth West	Jim & Betty Park Linda Jacobs	Dave & Teri Williamson
Worship Service	11:00am	11:00am	11:00am	11:00am
Worship Assistant	Tanya Anderson	Mitchell Shabazian	Steve Canaday	Janet Sather
Ushers	Rick & Cynthia Crow	Dick & Betty McClure	Jarvis & Glenda Arellano	Wendy Benjamin Ruth Collier
Greeters	Jim & Barbara Tracy	Bill & Dee Nicholas	Melodi Anderson Dawn Vollmar	Bob & Barbara Powell
Sound	Joe Parente	Lauren Michelson	Ken Finch	Carroll Collier
Coffee Preparers	Greg & Lori Rapier	Tom & Julie Busch	Erwina Bush Victoria Jane Tam	Dan Morris
Tellers	Bob Connett Dick McClure	Kitty Tatro Javis Arellano	Jim Tracy Erwina Bush	Barbara Powell Marvette Swayzer